



CHINA SECURITY ANALYSIS REPORT

AI-Assisted Open Source Intelligence Assessment

Analysis Period: June 19, 2026 - June 26, 2026

This report was produced using open-source intelligence analysis. The assessment is grounded in publicly available reporting and should be cross-referenced with primary sources. RSS feed articles are listed in the annex for reference.

Executive Summary

China's security posture during the period of June 19-26, 2026, was characterized by heightened assertiveness in its maritime claims, particularly in the Taiwan Strait and South China Sea, alongside significant diplomatic and military developments. Beijing defended its recent coast guard patrols near Taiwan, which drew alarm from European nations, and continued its activities around disputed features like Scarborough Reef. Concurrently, China engaged in a tit-for-tat trade dispute with the United States, imposing export controls on US entities, while also seeking to stabilize relations with Washington following a recent summit. Domestically, the People's Liberation Army (PLA) leadership underwent intensive ideological training, underscoring a focus on political loyalty and military modernization amidst evolving regional and global dynamics.

Key Security Developments

- Heightened Maritime Assertiveness in the Taiwan Strait

On June 26, China defended its recent patrols in waters east of Taiwan, following expressions of alarm from Britain, France, and Germany regarding "novel Chinese activity". This came as China sailed its newest and most powerful aircraft carrier through the Taiwan Strait, just hours after Taiwan commenced a five-day military exercise to practice its response to a potential Chinese attack. Earlier in the month, Chinese Coast Guard ships were reported harassing commercial vessels near the island by demanding their intended routes. Taiwan also condemned China on June 19 for conducting a marine survey in its exclusive economic zone (EEZ) off the east coast, with a Chinese research vessel, Xiang Yang Hong 22, escorted by two China Coast Guard ships, being expelled by the Taiwan Coast Guard.

- Escalation of South China Sea Disputes

On June 21, concerns were raised over China's apparent installation of a floating structure at Scarborough Reef, a sensitive flashpoint in the South China Sea. This development triggered diplomatic protests from the Philippines and increased vigilance from allies and partners. Philippine officials had begun investigating reports of China deploying such a structure inside the lagoon of Scarborough Reef in late May 2026. The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) tracked 82 Chinese coast guard and naval vessels within the Philippines' EEZ in May 2026, with 39 specifically around Scarborough Reef. Reports also indicated that China has resumed building artificial

islands in the South China Sea after nearly a decade.

- Sino-US Trade and Technology Retaliation

On June 26, China's Ministry of Commerce urged the United States to cease adding Chinese firms to its "military company list" and announced countermeasures. This followed China's announcement on June 22 that it would add 10 US entities, including rare earth and magnet developers MP Materials and USA Rare Earth, to its export control list, prohibiting the export of dual-use items from China to these companies. This move was positioned as a direct response to recent US actions targeting Chinese military-linked companies.

- PLA Ideological Training and Loyalty Reinforcement

By June 25, China's top military brass, including generals, lieutenant generals, and major generals, completed a 10-week ideological training program focused on Xi Jinping Thought. This unprecedented exercise, personally decided by President Xi, aimed to ensure political loyalty and ideological alignment within the People's Liberation Army (PLA) amidst an ongoing anti-corruption drive.

- Naval Presence in the East China Sea

On June 19, the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) observed a People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) Jiangkai-III-class guided-missile frigate (hull number 545) and a Fuyu-class fast combat support vessel (hull number 901) sailing northeastward approximately 140 km southeast of Miyako-jima Island. These vessels subsequently sailed northwestward through the waters between Okinawa Main Island and Miyako-jima Island into the East China Sea.

- Development of Advanced Air-to-Air Missile

A report on June 22 highlighted the development of China's newest air-to-air missile, the PL-16, which experts believe could rival the US AIM-260 Joint Advanced Tactical Missile (JATM). The PL-16 is estimated to have a long total flight distance of 200 to 300 kilometers and features dual-pulse or variable-thrust rocket motor technology, potentially giving the PLA an advantage in Asia-Pacific conflicts.

- China's Vision for Global Governance

On June 24, China published a white paper titled "More Just and Equitable Global Governance: China's Principles, Proposals and Actions," signaling its evolution from a participant to an architect of a new global order. The document advocates for a more genuinely multipolar order, the centrality of the United Nations, and greater influence for the Global South in setting global rules and priorities.

- Sino-Indian Relations Show Signs of Normalization

On June 24, India and China held a meeting between their national security advisers in New Delhi, where both sides noted progress towards gradual normalization of their relationship. India's Ministry of External Affairs stated that the two leaders assessed

progress in bilateral engagement and acknowledged advances made towards restoring normal relations.

- EU-China Trade Tensions and Diplomatic Snubs

China unexpectedly canceled two high-level diplomatic meetings scheduled for June with the European Union, without providing an official reason. These cancellations, reported on June 12, occurred amidst growing trade tensions, with the EU recording its largest-ever trade deficit with China in 2025, reaching €360 billion. EU leaders met on June 19 to discuss a new China trade policy over concerns of a "systemic threat".

- US Military Posture in the First Island Chain

On June 26, it was reported that the US is planning a longer-term presence of a Typhon midrange missile system in Japan, combined with the fielding of Navy-Marine Expeditionary Ship Interdiction System (NMESIS) anti-ship missiles and Marine Air Defense Integrated System (MADIS) air-defense systems by Okinawa-based units. This strategy aims to create a distributed network of strike, air-defense, and targeting capabilities to complicate Chinese military operations around Taiwan and across the western Pacific.

Geopolitical Impact and Regional Dynamics

China's actions during this period have significantly influenced regional stability and its relationships with major global powers. The increased assertiveness in the South China Sea and around Taiwan has exacerbated tensions with the Philippines, Japan, and European nations, who view China's maritime activities as destabilizing and a threat to freedom of navigation. The deployment of Chinese coast guard vessels and the installation of structures in disputed areas like Scarborough Reef directly challenge international rulings and sovereign rights, pushing regional claimants closer to the United States and its allies. The US response, including the planned deployment of advanced missile systems in Japan, signals a strategic shift towards a more distributed deterrence posture along the "first island chain," directly aimed at complicating Chinese military operations in the region.

Diplomatically, China's relationship with the United States remains a complex mix of cooperation and confrontation. While a recent summit between Presidents Xi and Trump aimed to establish a "constructive China-US relationship of strategic stability", the tit-for-tat export control measures underscore deep-seated economic and technological rivalries. China's welcoming of the US-Iran peace agreement, while potentially a move to project itself as a global peacemaker, also reflects its interest in regional stability that could reduce US influence. The cancellation of high-level meetings with the EU highlights growing friction over trade imbalances and industrial policies, indicating a potential divergence in economic relations with Europe.

The strengthening of the Russia-China strategic partnership, reaffirmed by Putin's May visit, continues to be a significant geopolitical factor. This alignment, rooted in shared opposition to Western dominance and a vision for a multipolar world, provides a counterweight to US-led alliances, particularly in the context of North-East Asia where both countries oppose Japan's re-militarization. However, China's new white paper on global governance, while advocating for a new world order, also reveals a cautious approach to financial commitments, suggesting that Beijing's global ambitions are balanced by domestic economic considerations. The gradual normalization of relations with India, as evidenced by the National Security Advisor meeting, could offer a potential avenue for de-escalation in a separate, yet critical, regional dynamic.

Military and Defense Analysis

China's military and defense strategy continues its trajectory of modernization and capability enhancement, backed by a substantial and steadily increasing defense budget. The 2026 defense budget saw a 7% increase, reaching approximately \$277 billion, making it the second largest globally after the US. This funding is directed towards military salary increases, training, maneuvers around Taiwan, cyberwarfare capabilities, and advanced equipment purchases. Premier Li Qiang emphasized the goal of strengthening the military and undertaking major defense-related projects, with the fundamental aim of maintaining peace and safeguarding national sovereignty and development interests.

Force posture in the region reflects an increasingly assertive stance, particularly in maritime domains. The sailing of China's newest aircraft carrier through the Taiwan Strait and the sustained presence of coast guard and naval vessels in disputed waters like Scarborough Reef and Taiwan's EEZ demonstrate a strategy of "gray zone" operations and de facto control. These actions are designed to assert sovereignty claims and test the responses of regional actors and their allies. The PLA's focus on internal ideological alignment, as seen in the 10-week training for senior officers, indicates a strong emphasis on political control and loyalty to the Communist Party, which is deemed crucial for effective military command and execution.

Capability developments are evident in several areas. The reported development of the PL-16 air-to-air missile, with its extended range and advanced propulsion, suggests a focus on achieving air superiority and countering advanced US equivalents. Furthermore, Chinese researchers have detailed a strategy to "swarm" US carrier groups from 3,000 kilometers away using coordinated hypersonic anti-ship missiles, decoy drones, and cruise missiles, indicating a sophisticated approach to anti-access/area-denial (A2/AD) capabilities. While the US is adapting its posture with missile deployments in Japan to counter these capabilities, China's ongoing modernization efforts, including in submarine operations and undersea mapping,

continue to enhance its ability to project power and challenge regional military balances.

Outlook and Forecast

Short-term trends (1-3 months): In the immediate future, China is likely to maintain its assertive maritime posture in the South China Sea and around Taiwan. We can anticipate continued "gray zone" operations, including coast guard patrols, marine surveys, and the potential for further infrastructure development on disputed features. Diplomatic rhetoric will likely remain firm on sovereignty issues, particularly concerning Taiwan and maritime claims. The trade and technology friction with the US is expected to persist, with both sides likely to implement further targeted measures. China will also continue to deepen its strategic coordination with Russia, potentially through joint military exercises or further economic integration, especially as it seeks to counter Western influence.

Critical flashpoints and risk areas: The Taiwan Strait remains the most critical flashpoint. Any perceived escalation by Taiwan or its allies, such as increased military cooperation with the US or a shift in its political status, could trigger a significant Chinese response, including large-scale military exercises or economic coercion. The Scarborough Reef and other disputed areas in the South China Sea are also high-risk zones, where incidents between Chinese and Philippine vessels, or those of other claimants, could quickly escalate. The planned deployment of US missile systems in Japan along the "first island chain" introduces a new layer of complexity and potential for miscalculation, as China views such deployments as a direct threat to its security interests.

Indicators to monitor: Key indicators to monitor include the frequency and scale of Chinese military and coast guard activities in the Taiwan Strait and South China Sea, particularly any new "law enforcement" operations or infrastructure developments. The nature and tone of diplomatic exchanges between China, the US, and EU, especially regarding trade disputes and technology restrictions, will be crucial. Any new announcements regarding China's defense spending, military modernization programs (e.g., new naval assets, missile tests), or the outcomes of high-level political meetings (e.g., with Russia, India) should be closely watched. Furthermore, the internal political stability within China, particularly any shifts in the emphasis on ideological purity within the PLA, could have implications for its external policies.

Strategic recommendations: For regional and international actors, a coordinated and consistent diplomatic approach is essential to deter unilateral actions by China in disputed territories. Strengthening multilateral security dialogues and mechanisms can help manage tensions and promote adherence to international law. Economically,

diversifying supply chains and reducing reliance on single markets can mitigate the impact of trade disputes. Militarily, maintaining a credible deterrence posture, coupled with clear communication channels to prevent miscalculation, is vital. For China, a more transparent and rules-based approach to its maritime claims and a willingness to engage in constructive dialogue on trade and technology issues would contribute to regional and global stability.

Structured Assessment

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## ANNEX: COLLECTED ARTICLES BY SOURCE

### Source: BBC China

- [Dettol apologises after ad to clean up 'toxic men' backfires in China](#) (2026-06-23 08:05)

The ad sparked accusations of sexism in China, after featuring a man looking for a partner who is "not tainted by other men".

- [China's import of custard apples is sparking fears in Taiwan](#) (2026-06-22 04:37)

Taiwan's agriculture ministry is worried that Beijing wants to weaponise a local specialty: the atemoya.

- [China's import of custard apples is sparking fears in Taiwan](#) (2026-06-22 04:37)

Taiwan's agriculture ministry is worried that Beijing wants to weaponise a local specialty: the atemoya.

### Source: CGTN

- [Rare coral reef blue hole found in South China Sea](#) (2026-06-25 08:59)

Rare coral reef blue hole found in South China Sea

- [Summer Davos 2026 highlights China's role in scaling up innovation](#) (2026-06-25 08:29)

The 2026 Summer Davos forum drew to a close on Thursday in the northeastern Chinese city of Dalian, highlighting that innovation matters more than ever in an age of accelerating technological change and rising uncertainty, with China playing a pivotal role.

- ['Dear You' sets attendance record at Sydney premiere](#) (2026-06-25 07:49)

The Chinese film Dear You premiered in Sydney on June 23 as part of its overseas release. Around 1,300 people attended the event, setting a new attendance record for a Chinese-language film premiere in Australia.

- [A town predicted to disappear — until its people planted hope](#) (2026-06-25 07:16)

A town predicted to disappear — until its people planted hope

- [Watch the rare head-first delivery of Yangtze finless porpoise](#) (2026-06-25 07:11)

When most dolphins and porpoises are born, their tails come out first – an evolutionary adaptation that helps prevent newborns from drowning during delivery.

- [Ericsson: AI-5G convergence bridges digital gap, enables AI economy](#) (2026-06-25 06:38)

Ericsson: AI-5G convergence bridges digital gap, enables AI economy

- [Taikobot explores: Inside the future of the supply chain](#) (2026-06-25 06:25)

Taikobot explores: Inside the future of the supply chain

- [China releases report on rare coral reef blue hole in Huangyan Dao](#) (2026-06-25 04:54)

China's Ministry of Ecology and Environment released a report on a blue hole in Huangyan Dao in the South China Sea Thursday, which said the rare coral reef-formed feature is the first of its kind identified in China.

- [National Land Day: Land resources power high-quality development](#) (2026-06-25 04:52)

National Land Day: Land resources power high-quality development

- [Hun Sen arrives in Beijing for official goodwill visit](#) (2026-06-25 04:46)

Cambodian People's Party President and Senate President Samdech Techo Hun Sen arrived in Beijing on Thursday for an official goodwill visit to China from June 25 to 27.

- [What explains the CPC's enduring dynamism and vitality?](#) (2026-06-25 04:17)

What explains the CPC's enduring dynamism and vitality?

- [New evidence shows Unit 731 used animal blood transfusion in humans](#) (2026-06-25 03:51)

A Chinese museum on Tuesday released details of shocking live experiments conducted by the Imperial Japanese Army during its invasion of China, which included appalling accounts of animal blood being transfused into human beings.

- [China's global health logic goes beyond filling the gap](#) (2026-06-25 03:22)

China's global health logic goes beyond filling the gap

- [Graphics: CPC members across all walks of life](#) (2026-06-25 02:42)

Graphics: CPC members across all walks of life

- [Chinese FM calls for early normalization of Hormuz shipping](#) (2026-06-25 00:34)

Normal navigation through the Strait of Hormuz should be restored as soon as possible to ensure the stability of global industrial and supply chains, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Wednesday.

- [The Chinese women who stitched NY fashion into history](#) (2026-06-24 22:35)

The Chinese women who stitched NY fashion into history

- [Chinese dam unleashes water to replenish Yellow River bed](#) (2026-06-24 22:34)

Chinese dam unleashes water to replenish Yellow River bed

- [How China turns bumper harvests into lasting prosperity for farmers](#) (2026-06-24 15:34)

During an inspection tour in Dezhou on Wednesday, Chinese President Xi Jinping stressed that agricultural and rural modernization is vital to China's broader modernization drive and called for concrete measures to strengthen the sector.

- [Economic growth and ecological protection are not an either-or choice](#) (2026-06-24 15:00)

The notion that lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets has long resonated across China.

- [Mainland slams Taiwan authorities for rejecting visit applications](#) (2026-06-24 14:59)

A Chinese mainland spokesperson on Wednesday criticized Taiwan authorities for rejecting applications by tourism industry professionals from Shanghai and Fujian Province, both in east China, to visit the island for business research purposes.

- [Premier Li meets business symposium attendees at Summer Davos](#) (2026-06-24 14:54)

Chinese Premier Li Qiang on Wednesday attended a symposium for international business representatives at the 17th Annual Meeting of the New Champions, also known as the Summer Davos, in the city of Dalian, northeast China's Liaoning Province.

- ["Panda Bond" issuance set to hit record high in 2026](#) (2026-06-24 14:29)

"Panda Bond" issuance set to hit record high in 2026

- [Diverse voices, shared vision: Global youth at 2026 Summer Davos](#) (2026-06-24 14:27)

In the heart of the 2026 Summer Davos Forum in Dalian, a mosaic of young voices comes together shaped by different languages, cultures and corners of the world. From a Chinese cultural promoter and a Latin American policy thinker to a Korean-Canadian tech founder and a Thai consumer AI entrepreneur, the World Economic Forum Global Shapers Community reflects a generation defined not by borders, but by shared vision.

- [AI primarily benefits SMEs, says Black Lake Technologies CEO](#) (2026-06-24 13:50)

AI primarily benefits SMEs, says Black Lake Technologies CEO

- [From full shelves to better lives](#) (2026-06-24 13:29)

From full shelves to better lives

- [How does the CPC implement a 'people-centered' philosophy?](#) (2026-06-24 13:07)

From historical legacy to modern governance, the CPC's people-centered philosophy is reflected in both long-term vision and concrete outcomes. It is a governance approach that translates public aspirations into policy priorities – and policy priorities into tangible improvements in everyday life.

- [Chinese academician awarded top meteorology prize](#) (2026-06-24 12:17)

Chinese academician awarded top meteorology prize

- [US Soybean Export Council CEO on China trade outlook](#) (2026-06-24 12:09)

US Soybean Export Council CEO on China trade outlook

- [A look inside a modern monk's quarters in Xizang](#) (2026-06-24 12:04)

A look inside a modern monk's quarters in Xizang

- [National People's Congress convenes Standing Committee session](#) (2026-06-24 12:00)

National People's Congress convenes Standing Committee session

- [Two Japanese nationals detained for violating Chinese laws](#) (2026-06-24 11:48)

A Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson on Wednesday confirmed that two Japanese nationals have been detained by competent Chinese authorities for violating Chinese laws, adding that China has informed the Japanese side of the case.

- [The long-term orientation of government performance in China](#) (2026-06-24 11:45)

China's long-term approach emphasizes the role of strategic planning and performance measurement in ensuring policy continuity and effective implementation, which is relevant to other developing countries struggling for balanced governance.

- [Taiwan's DPP slammed for threatening farmers over cross-Strait deals](#) (2026-06-24 11:26)

Taiwan's Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) authorities' threats to punish local agricultural and fishery groups over deals signed with the mainland at a recent cross-Strait forum were criticized Wednesday as "arbitrary and overbearing" by a Chinese mainland spokesperson.

- [Mainland spokesperson slams Lai, DPP over Japan-Philippines EEZ talks](#) (2026-06-24 11:22)

The State Council Taiwan Affairs Office spokesperson Zhang Han said the maritime areas that Japan and the Philippines targeted for delimitation are in the waters east of China's Taiwan Island, where China possesses exclusive economic zones (EEZs) and continental shelves.

- [Xi calls for solid measures to modernize agriculture, rural areas](#) (2026-06-24 10:36)

Chinese President Xi Jinping has called for solid measures to advance the modernization of agriculture and rural areas.

- [Meet China's real-life Rapunzels](#) (2026-06-24 08:39)

In Huangluo Yao Village, Guangxi, the world renowned "Long-Hair" Village, CGTN host Julian Waghann and Filipino singer Eliza Arce immersed themselves in the song-and-dance traditions of the Red Yao women.

- [A village hidden deep in the Longji Rice Terraces](#) (2026-06-24 08:38)

More than a scenic destination, Longji is a village where culture, architecture and everyday traditions continue to thrive.

- [Holding on to ideals and dreams keeps the CPC young](#) (2026-06-24 08:14)

Holding on to ideals and dreams keeps the CPC young

- [How 'China Opportunity 2.0' offers potential for global growth](#) (2026-06-24 07:59)

For enterprises worldwide, "China Opportunity 2.0" represents comprehensive innovation-driven empowerment and high-return investment prospects, Chinese Premier Li Qiang said Wednesday.

- [AI transforms 40% of jobs, but Davos panel urges skills over fear](#) (2026-06-24 07:17)

AI transforms 40% of jobs, but Davos panel urges skills over fear

- [Chinese judge brings justice to remote ethnic regions](#) (2026-06-24 07:11)

Chinese judge brings justice to remote ethnic regions

- [Voices of Global Shapers: Scaling innovation through collaboration](#) (2026-06-24 06:49)

Voices of Global Shapers: Scaling innovation through collaboration

- [Space-bred lotus blooms into a bumper harvest in Hainan](#) (2026-06-24 06:28)

Harvest season is in full swing for the space-bred lotus in Tunchang, Hainan. In Jiatang Village, 13 hectares of lotus ponds are bursting with plump seed pods, yielding up to 6,000 kg per hectare.

- [Precision medicine brings hope for pancreatic cancer patients](#) (2026-06-24 04:56)

Precision medicine brings hope for pancreatic cancer patients

- [SCIO briefs on law to promote ethnic unity and development](#) (2026-06-24 04:19)

The State Council Information Office (SCIO) held a press conference on Wednesday regarding the Ethnic Unity and Progress Promotion Law and China's work on ethnic affairs.

- [Graphics: Representation of women advances in the CPC](#) (2026-06-24 04:17)

Graphics: Representation of women advances in the CPC

- [Why US companies are increasingly linked to the Chinese market](#) (2026-06-24 03:42)

Why US companies are increasingly linked to the Chinese market

- [Same venue, smarter vistas: Dalian powers up for AMNC 2026](#) (2026-06-24 03:33)

Same venue, smarter vistas: Dalian powers up for AMNC 2026

- [Chinese Premier Li Qiang addresses opening plenary of Summer Davos](#) (2026-06-24 02:25)

Chinese Premier Li Qiang delivered a special address at the opening plenary of the 17th Annual Meeting of the New Champions, also known as the Summer Davos, in northeastern China's coastal city of Dalian on Wednesday.

- [2026 Summer Davos forum starts opening plenary](#) (2026-06-24 02:14)

2026 Summer Davos forum starts opening plenary

- [Chinese vice premier urges efforts to boost industrial innovation](#) (2026-06-24 01:52)

Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng has called for accelerating efforts to improve the industrial innovation system and continuing to stabilize the scale and improve the structure of foreign trade.

- [Wang Yi meets UAE supreme national security council secretary-general](#) (2026-06-24 01:41)

China's top diplomat Wang Yi met with Ali Mohammed Hammed AI Shamsi, secretary-general of the Supreme National Security Council of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), in New Delhi on Tuesday.

- [China mulls stronger Antarctic environmental protection in draft law](#) (2026-06-24 00:17)

China mulls stronger Antarctic environmental protection in draft law

- [Indian PM meets China's top diplomat](#) (2026-06-24 00:11)

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi met with Wang Yi, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs, on Tuesday in New Delhi.

- [Night biking takes over China](#) (2026-06-23 23:28)

Night biking takes over China

- [Dragon Boat Festival at the Chinese embassy in the US](#) (2026-06-23 22:22)

Dragon Boat Festival at the Chinese embassy in the US

- [Northern China celebrates Dragon Boat Festival](#) (2026-06-23 22:22)

Northern China celebrates Dragon Boat Festival

- [Qinglongmen Grand Bridge achieves main span closure](#) (2026-06-23 15:03)

Qinglongmen Grand Bridge achieves main span closure

- [Premier Li: China to expand all-round cooperation with Montenegro](#) (2026-06-23 14:58)

China stands ready to work with Montenegro to uphold mutual respect and equality, consolidate political mutual trust, firmly support each other's core interests, and expand all-round mutually beneficial cooperation, Chinese Premier Li Qiang said on Tuesday.

- [Chinese premier calls for deepening cooperation with Mongolia](#) (2026-06-23 14:53)

Chinese Premier Li Qiang on Tuesday met with Prime Minister of Mongolia Nyam-Osor Uchral in northeast China's city of Dalian, where Uchral is attending the 17th Annual Meeting of the New Champions.

- [Navigating Alzheimer's: Early signs, diagnosis and care](#) (2026-06-23 14:37)

Alzheimer's disease remains one of the most challenging conditions of our time, often progressive and deeply hidden. Early signs – such as losing short-term memory, struggling with familiar tasks, or undergoing subtle mood shifts – are frequently misunderstood as ordinary aging, which often delays critical clinical consultation.

- [Austrade official: China leads progress in supply chain cooperation](#) (2026-06-23 14:37)

Austrade official: China leads progress in supply chain cooperation

- [Wang Yi urges enhancing counterterrorism, cybersecurity cooperation](#) (2026-06-23 14:34)

China's top diplomat Wang Yi on Tuesday emphasized the role of BRICS countries in countering terrorism and safeguarding cybersecurity at a high-level BRICS meeting on national security held in New Delhi, India.

- [Wang Yi: US–Iran progress shows need to uphold international rules](#) (2026-06-23 14:14)

Wang Yi: US–Iran progress shows need to uphold international rules

- [Chinese vice president meets South African counterpart](#) (2026-06-23 13:50)

Chinese Vice President Han Zheng met with South African Deputy President Paul Mashatile on Tuesday in Beijing.

- [China ready to work with BRICS members to tackle global challenges](#) (2026-06-23 13:45)

Faced with profound and complex shifts in the international landscape, China stands ready to work with other BRICS members to jointly tackle the pressing challenges confronting humanity and stay firmly on the right course of world historical development, the country's top diplomat Wang Yi said.

- [Chinese premier meets ROK prime minister](#) (2026-06-23 13:27)

Chinese Premier Li Qiang on Tuesday met with Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea (ROK) Kim Min-seok in northeast China's port city of Dalian, where Kim is attending the 17th Annual Meeting of the New Champions.

- [Selected works of Xi Jinping on Party building published](#) (2026-06-23 13:12)

The first and second volumes of selected works of Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, on Party building have been published and are available for distribution in China.

- [Cambodia's senate president to pay official goodwill visit to China](#) (2026-06-23 13:05)

Cambodia's senate president to pay official goodwill visit to China

- [Young leaders at Davos discuss innovation at scale](#) (2026-06-23 12:59)

Young leaders from the Global Shapers Community (GSC), known as global shapers, gathered in Dalian to discuss innovation solutions and the social impact those advances can deliver. Their conversations explored how new technologies can be scaled responsibly, reach ordinary people and address real-world challenges.

- [China's top diplomat meets Russian Security Council secretary](#) (2026-06-23 12:47)

Wang Yi, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs, met with Russian Security Council Secretary Sergei Shoigu on Tuesday.

- [China's Sichuan unveils digital supply chain list for global investors](#) (2026-06-23 12:45)

China's Sichuan unveils digital supply chain list for global investors

- [Chinese Premier Li Qiang meets Kazakhstan PM](#) (2026-06-23 12:41)

Chinese Premier Li Qiang on Tuesday met with Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Olzhas Bektenov in northeast China's Dalian, who is here to attend the 17th Annual Meeting of the New Champions.

- [Taoism wisdom inspires new thinking at 2026 Summer Davos](#) (2026-06-23 12:15)

As global leaders gathered in Dalian, northeast China's Liaoning Province, for the 2026 Summer Davos Forum to discuss innovation, technology, and economic transformation, one sideline session turned the spotlight on a much older source of inspiration: Taoist philosophy and tai chi.

- [Tracing the vision: Choices that shaped China's cultural protection](#) (2026-06-23 12:01)

From the ancient city of Zhengding in north China to the prehistoric Wanshouyan Site in Fujian Province, two decisions made decades apart shared a common principle: some things are too valuable to lose.

- [Chinese envoy calls for efforts to achieve ceasefire in Ukraine](#) (2026-06-23 11:09)

As the crisis in Ukraine continues to drag on with the situation on the battlefield intensifying and civilian suffering mounting, every effort should be made to de-escalate the situation and achieve a ceasefire and an end to hostilities, a Chinese envoy to the United Nations said on Monday.

- [CGTN poll on the Summer Davos Forum](#) (2026-06-23 11:05)

The 17th Summer Davos Forum kicks off this week in Dalian under the theme "Scaling Innovation," with the aim of translating tech breakthroughs into productive forces and growth.

- [A lifeline through the ruins: Tian Yuan carved out a path of hope](#) (2026-06-23 10:35)

A lifeline through the ruins: Tian Yuan carved out a path of hope

- [How digital reform is reshaping social governance in China](#) (2026-06-23 10:25)

How digital reform is reshaping social governance in China

- [Chinese Premier Li Qiang meets Guinean PM](#) (2026-06-23 09:34)

Chinese Premier Li Qiang on Tuesday met with Prime Minister of Guinea Amadou Oury Bah, who is attending the 17th Annual Meeting of the New Champions in Dalian City, northeast China's Liaoning Province.

- [China, Britain should continue to improve bilateral ties: spokesperson](#) (2026-06-23 09:28)

China and Britain should work in the same direction and keep up the momentum of improving and developing bilateral ties, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said on Tuesday.

- [How young people are imagining future cities in China](#) (2026-06-23 09:16)

How young people are imagining future cities in China

- [Start the day with rice noodles and oil tea in Guilin](#) (2026-06-23 08:58)

The ancient town of Yangshuo serves up a breakfast that defines Guilin – rice noodles and oil tea.

- [A kung fu film journey with Jackie Chan and his stunt team](#) (2026-06-23 08:31)

What is it like to meet Jackie Chan in person and hear his thoughts on martial arts and action filmmaking? A group of young action film enthusiasts from around the world recently got the opportunity during a five-day cultural exchange program in Beijing.

- [How intelligent systems keep high-speed rail safe, precise and smooth](#) (2026-06-23 08:22)

How intelligent systems keep high-speed rail safe, precise and smooth

- [Shanghai port tops 20 million cross-border trips for 2026](#) (2026-06-23 08:03)

Shanghai port tops 20 million cross-border trips for 2026

- [‘Dear You’ brings a family story from China to global audiences](#) (2026-06-23 07:41)

Chinese film Dear You has started its overseas theatrical rollout after gaining a strong word-of-mouth following in Chinese mainland. Its first international releases began on June 18 in Singapore, Malaysia and Brunei. This is the start of a wider global rollout aimed at both overseas Chinese audiences and international viewers.

- [China launches new communication technology test satellite](#) (2026-06-23 06:55)

China launches new communication technology test satellite

- [Wang Yi meets Egyptian National Security Council secretary-general](#) (2026-06-23 04:30)

Wang Yi, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs, met with Egyptian National Security Council Secretary-General Youssef Alaa El-Din in New Delhi on Monday.

- [China, South Africa urge cooperation among BRICS to boost Global South](#) (2026-06-23 04:22)

Wang Yi, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs, met with South African Minister in the Presidency in New Delhi on Monday, calling for closer China-South Africa cooperation and greater solidarity among BRICS countries to safeguard multilateralism and the interests of the Global South.

- [Wang Yi reaffirms China-India partnership, urges cooperation](#) (2026-06-23 03:25)

Wang Yi, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs, has reaffirmed that China and India should be partners rather than competitors.

- [Four Chinese weather stations added to WMO centennial stations list](#) (2026-06-23 02:45)

Four Chinese weather stations have been included in a new batch of World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Centennial Observing Stations, bringing the total number of WMO-recognized centennial weather stations in China to 22.

- [ASEAN chief urges stronger China ties amid global uncertainty](#) (2026-06-23 02:35)

A stronger ASEAN-China partnership is necessary amid growing global uncertainty, ASEAN Secretary-General Kao Kim Hourn said on Monday in Jakarta, calling on the two sides to deepen cooperation to promote peace, prosperity and sustainable development in the region and beyond.

- [Chinese premier stresses advancing high-end equipment manufacturing](#) (2026-06-23 01:48)

Chinese Premier Li Qiang on Monday emphasized efforts to develop high-end equipment manufacturing and accelerate the building of a modern industrial system to continuously inject new momentum into high-quality development.

- [China's Dragon Boat Festival holiday trips, spending rise year on year](#) (2026-06-22 14:48)

China's cultural and tourism market sustained stable expansion during the 2026 Dragon Boat Festival holiday, with domestic trips and total spending both registering year-on-year growth, according to official data released on Monday.

- [Graphics: Four editions of CISCE in numbers](#) (2026-06-22 14:13)

Graphics: Four editions of CISCE in numbers

- [China's Liaoning aircraft carrier task force wraps up far-sea training](#) (2026-06-22 12:46)

A task force of the Chinese aircraft carrier Liaoning concluded its far-sea combat training and returned safely to its home port on Monday, the Chinese navy said.

- [How the CPC leads China's fight against poverty](#) (2026-06-22 12:36)

In its poverty elimination effort, China has succeeded in lifting nearly 100 million people out of absolute poverty in just eight years, a scale and speed the World Bank has recognized as "historically unprecedented" by any measure.

- [400 Days! Fuzhou Speed: From Shantytown to New Town](#) (2026-06-22 12:20)

Cangxia was once Fuzhou's largest shantytown, where most homes were cobbled together from cheap cedar planks and newspaper lined the walls.

- [The Girl Who "Sows Music"](#) (2026-06-22 12:19)

A young woman from a mountain village first encountered the yangqin in primary school. After graduating from college, she returned to her hometown, where she now plants the seeds of music in the hearts of the village children and nurtures the blossoms of their self-confidence.

- [China urges Japan to reflect on history after new wartime evidence](#) (2026-06-22 12:18)

China on Monday urged Japan to confront its wartime history and fully break with militarism after Japanese media reported newly uncovered evidence suggesting that the Imperial Japanese Army conducted live human experiments involving animal-to-human blood transfusions during its invasion of China.

- [Wang Yi: Implementing US-Iran MoU helps bring peace back to Mideast](#) (2026-06-22 12:17)

Maintaining and implementing the recently signed peace MoU between the United States and Iran will help consolidate the hard-won ceasefire, open up new prospects for Iran-US relations,

and bring peace back to the Middle East, China's top diplomat Wang Yi said on Monday.

- [Opinion poll on the 4th China International Supply Chain Expo](#) (2026-06-22 11:49)

Opinion poll on the 4th China International Supply Chain Expo

- [From Beijing to the world: A journey through books and culture](#) (2026-06-22 11:47)

From Beijing to the world: A journey through books and culture

- [Shanghai weaves culture and commerce to build city's global brand](#) (2026-06-22 11:30)

Shanghai weaves culture and commerce to build city's global brand

- [Xinjiang has just reopened its most breathtaking drive](#) (2026-06-22 11:25)

Snowy peaks, grasslands, and canyons unfold along the route in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

- [Xi's key remarks on correct understanding of governance performance](#) (2026-06-22 11:25)

Here are some of Xi Jinping's key remarks on establishing and practicing a correct understanding of governance performance.

- [A sapphire hidden among mountains in Xizang Autonomous Region](#) (2026-06-22 11:23)

Guess the altitude here.

- [Dalian shell carving at 2026 Summer Davos](#) (2026-06-22 11:21)

As the 2026 Summer Davos Forum brings together global leaders, innovators and entrepreneurs in Dalian under the theme "Innovation at Scale," one of China's most treasured intangible cultural heritages is demonstrating how tradition can evolve for the future.

- [China urges Lithuania to correct mistakes, uphold one-China principle](#) (2026-06-22 10:34)

China hopes that Lithuania will take early and decisive action to correct its mistakes, return to the right track of adhering to the one-China principle, and create conditions for the normalization of China-Lithuania relations, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said at a regular press briefing on Monday.

- [Rarely delivered Yangtze finless porpoise calf turns one month old](#) (2026-06-22 10:34)

Rarely delivered Yangtze finless porpoise calf turns one month old

- [Zhihua Temple music: A living heritage passed down through centuries](#) (2026-06-22 09:36)

Hidden in a Beijing hutong, the Zhihua Temple offers visitors a chance to hear centuries-old music still performed today.

- [Graphics: Summer Davos through the years \(2007–2026\)](#) (2026-06-22 09:29)

Graphics: Summer Davos through the years (2007–2026)

- [Guangxi rice terraces: A landscape shaped by time](#) (2026-06-22 09:10)

In Guilin, Guangxi, rice terraces climb the mountainsides in sweeping layers, reflecting centuries of farming tradition. Among them, the Longji Rice Terraces in Longsheng are the most iconic.

- [Torchlight on the terraces: A thousand-year tradition in Longsheng](#) (2026-06-22 09:09)

Terraced fields cascade down the mountainside, where a fiery dragon dances through the night. In Longsheng County, the Shuyang Festival has lived on for over a thousand years.

- [Bangladeshi PM Tarique Rahman to visit China from June 24 to 26](#) (2026-06-22 08:58)

At the invitation of Chinese Premier Li Qiang, Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Tarique Rahman will pay an official visit to China from June 24 to 26, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson announced on Monday.

- [China hopes Iran, US maintain momentum of talks](#) (2026-06-22 08:57)

China hopes that Iran and the United States will maintain the momentum of negotiations and continue to make concerted efforts to achieve positive progress in the talks, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said on Monday.

- [Horses gallop across Zhaosu's Karkant Grassland in Xinjiang](#) (2026-06-22 08:30)

In Zhaosu County, Xinjiang, the Karkant Grassland put on a spectacular display on June 20 as nearly 10,000 horses thundered across the vast steppe.

- [Lucky lilies by ancient pavilions](#) (2026-06-22 08:26)

Luck is coming through your screen. Tap in to receive it.

- [Harbin glows in gold](#) (2026-06-22 08:25)

Harbin from above during golden hour.

- [China unveils action plan to better utilize foreign investment](#) (2026-06-22 08:24)

China has released an action plan to stabilize and optimize foreign investment utilization.

- [Cross-border trips during Dragon Boat Festival holiday up 12.9%](#) (2026-06-22 08:23)

China saw around 6.67 million cross-border trips during the three-day Dragon Boat Festival holiday, up 12.9% year on year, the National Immigration Administration (NIA) said Monday.

- [Premier Li Qiang to attend Summer Davos in Dalian](#) (2026-06-22 08:22)

Chinese Premier Li Qiang will attend the 17th Annual Meeting of the New Champions (AMNC) in Dalian from June 23 to 24, a spokesperson for the Chinese Foreign Ministry announced on Monday.

- [Treasures in tree holes at Beihai Park](#) (2026-06-22 08:22)

Hidden art in Beihai Park.

- [Lilies in the rain](#) (2026-06-22 08:20)

Rain meets lotus. Summer, but make it poetry.

- [Bridge ahead. Sharp turn. Time to drift!](#) (2026-06-22 08:19)

Dragon boats don't make it easy.

- [China's Three Gorges new shipping channel reaches key milestone](#) (2026-06-22 08:19)

China's Three Gorges new shipping channel reaches key milestone

- [From innovation to value: How AI is empowering China's manufacturing](#) (2026-06-22 08:18)

As artificial intelligence (AI) moves beyond laboratory breakthroughs into large-scale industrial deployment, it is rapidly transforming China's manufacturing system across production, decision-making, human-machine collaboration and supply chain coordination.

- [Fluff to feathers](#) (2026-06-22 08:07)

Fluff to feathers

- [Paddling across borders in Bazhong](#) (2026-06-22 08:04)

Over 300 athletes from 41 countries took to the water for the ICF Canoe Marathon World Cup.

- [Across oceans, a doctor finds the meaning of responsibility](#) (2026-06-22 08:00)

Across oceans, a doctor finds the meaning of responsibility

- [Butterfly explosion. Yes, it's real.](#) (2026-06-22 07:56)

Butterflies everywhere in the valley. The air feels alive.

- [A sacred site, a global stage: Liangzhu's cultural commitment](#) (2026-06-22 07:21)

What is the true measure of a society's progress?

- [China's movie market sees record screenings for Dragon Boat Festival](#) (2026-06-22 07:18)

The three-day Dragon Boat Festival holiday delivered robust box office performance nationwide, with cinemas setting a record for the number of screenings.

- [Dragon Boat Festival travel boom: Traditions meet with new trends](#) (2026-06-22 06:52)

China's Dragon Boat Festival holiday is increasingly becoming more than a celebration of ancient traditions. This year's three-day break saw millions of travelers embracing hands-on

cultural experiences, chasing sporting events and seeking cooler destinations. Across the country, the growing fusion of cultural heritage and modern lifestyles is reshaping the tourism market.

- [The fourth China International Supply Chain Expo kicks off in Beijing](#) (2026-06-22 06:45)

The fourth China International Supply Chain Expo opened on Monday in Beijing, attracting 676 companies and institutions from 85 countries, regions and international organizations to join the event.

- [What to expect from the 2026 Summer Davos in Dalian](#) (2026-06-22 06:29)

Under the theme "Innovating at Scale," the 2026 Summer Davos will examine how emerging technologies can be transformed into broad-based economic and social progress.

- [Chen Jia: A Life Shaped by Music](#) (2026-06-22 06:18)

Recently, a Teochew-language song, "Brew Tea Under the Moon," the theme song of the Chinese indie film Dear You, has been gaining significant attention online.

- [Yellow River water-sediment regulation operation begins for 2026](#) (2026-06-22 06:03)

Yellow River water-sediment regulation operation begins for 2026

- [A technology changing how we see biological tissue](#) (2026-06-22 03:59)

A technology changing how we see biological tissue

- [China bans purchase from 46 US companies in government procurement](#) (2026-06-22 02:52)

China's Ministry of Finance on Monday announced a notice prohibiting the purchase of products manufactured by 46 designated US companies in government procurement.

- [Do EVs make you carsick? Scientists are working on a solution](#) (2026-06-22 02:33)

Do EVs make you carsick? Scientists are working on a solution

- [Paul Chan: HK supports Chinese mainland tech's overseas expansion](#) (2026-06-22 02:26)

Hong Kong is emerging as a strategic global foothold for Chinese mainland hard-tech enterprises, said Paul Chan, financial secretary of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) government.

- [China adds 10 US entities to export control list](#) (2026-06-22 02:22)

China adds 10 US entities to export control list

- [China warns of high flood risks amid heavy rain](#) (2026-06-22 01:51)

Chinese authorities on Sunday called for enhanced precautions against mountain torrents, geological disasters, flooding of medium and small rivers, and urban waterlogging, as heavy downpours are expected to hit multiple regions over the next three days.

- [Rewi Alley: The New Zealander who chose to side with the CPC](#) (2026-06-21 15:24)

Rewi Alley: The New Zealander who chose to side with the CPC

- [Unboxing China: Why mugwort hung on Chinese doors for 2,000 years](#) (2026-06-21 14:39)

Unboxing China: Why mugwort hung on Chinese doors for 2,000 years

- [APEC CEO Forum opens to unlock business growth opportunities](#) (2026-06-21 13:07)

APEC CEO Forum opens to unlock business growth opportunities

- [When Italy meets China through ports](#) (2026-06-21 13:05)

When Italy meets China through ports

- [A look at China's supply chain connections ahead of CISCE 2026](#) (2026-06-21 12:16)

A football produced in Yiwu, a freight train bound for Europe and an AI system designed to manage logistics may seem unrelated. Ahead of CISCE 2026 in Beijing, they offer a window into the supply chains that move goods, data and technology across borders, connecting manufacturers, transport networks and global markets.

- [Chinese scientists design new technology for semi-cloning in zebrafish](#) (2026-06-21 11:56)

Chinese scientists design new technology for semi-cloning in zebrafish

- [Why has mugwort been hung on Chinese doors for 2,000 years?](#) (2026-06-21 10:40)

Why has mugwort been hung on Chinese doors for 2,000 years?

- [Summer solstice: How people mark the longest day of the year](#) (2026-06-21 09:19)

June 21 marks this year's summer solstice in the Northern Hemisphere, the day with the longest period of daylight and the shortest night of the year. Across cultures, the occasion is celebrated with a variety of customs and festivities.

- [Nanning's hanfu and fish lantern night parade](#) (2026-06-21 08:44)

Luminous 100-meter-long fish lanterns and elegantly robed hanfu figures cast intertwined reflections on Min'ge Lake in Nanning, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, as locals and tourists gathered to celebrate the Dragon Boat Festival on June 20.

- [Protecting Fuzhou's ancient architecture](#) (2026-06-21 08:42)

In the heart of Fuzhou lies the Three Lanes and Seven Alleys, a historic district that carries half of China's modern history.

- [Ancient town in Hunan revives Dragon Boat Festival traditions](#) (2026-06-21 08:13)

Hongjiang Ancient Commercial Town in Hunan Province came alive on the Dragon Boat Festival with a zongzi-making competition.

- [China's Dragon Boat Festival spending gets a modern makeover](#) (2026-06-21 08:12)

China's Dragon Boat Festival this year is reflecting a consumer market in quiet transition, where traditional holiday spending is being reshaped by regional inventions, health awareness and cultural creativity.

- [Japanese scholars urge return of Chinese relics looted during wartime](#) (2026-06-21 08:02)

A group of Japanese scholars and civic activists has called on the government to confront its history of aggression and return Chinese cultural relics that were taken to Japan during wartime.

- [Life in orbit: Busy schedule for China's Shenzhou-23 at space station](#) (2026-06-21 07:43)

While people on Earth enjoy the Dragon Boat Festival holiday, China's Shenzhen-23 crew – Zhu Yangzhu, Zhang Zhiyuan and Li Jiaying (also known as Lai Ka-ying) – remain busy working at the space station at an altitude of more than 400 kilometers.

- [China Weekly News Quiz: June 15-21, 2026](#) (2026-06-21 07:33)

Do you know what happened in China last week? Take our weekly news quiz to test your knowledge and get up to speed on the latest developments in case you missed something.

- [Inspired by his father, Xi Jinping centered his governance on people](#) (2026-06-21 06:25)

"No matter what your job title is, serve the people diligently, consider the interests of the people with all your heart, maintain close ties with the people, and always stay approachable to the people." These were the heartfelt words that Xi Zhongxun shared with his son, Xi Jinping. His advice would later become a guiding principle throughout the Chinese president's political career.

- [Talent exchange drives China-Myanmar agricultural cooperation](#) (2026-06-21 04:28)

Talent exchange drives China-Myanmar agricultural cooperation

- [Advanced steering technology from China-European cooperation](#) (2026-06-21 04:25)

Advanced steering technology from China-European cooperation

- [6 dead in residential fire in central China's Hunan Province](#) (2026-06-21 03:12)

6 dead in residential fire in central China's Hunan Province

- [Health Talk: Children of the stars paint their world for us](#) (2026-06-21 02:54)

Health Talk: Children of the stars paint their world for us

- [China's Tech Mosaic: Smart cars shine at Chongqing auto show](#) (2026-06-20 14:54)

Smart mobility and intelligent vehicle technologies were among the main highlights of the 2026 Chongqing International Auto Exhibition.

- [China tests direct-to-cell satellite calls from standard smartphones](#) (2026-06-20 14:52)

China tests direct-to-cell satellite calls from standard smartphones

- [500-meter-long golden dragon parade dazzles Suzhou's ancient waterway](#) (2026-06-20 14:15)

500-meter-long golden dragon parade dazzles Suzhou's ancient waterway

- [Gen Z's next quest: Agriculture](#) (2026-06-20 13:43)

Gen Z's next quest: Agriculture

- [Performance legitimacy: China's governance blueprint for Global South](#) (2026-06-20 12:30)

Performance legitimacy: China's governance blueprint for Global South

- [Unboxing China: Dragon Boat Festival nights tell a bigger story](#) (2026-06-20 11:48)

Unboxing China: Dragon Boat Festival nights tell a bigger story

- [Exclusive: How a Chinese man helped Vozinha's mother get to Miami](#) (2026-06-20 11:34)

Exclusive: How a Chinese man helped Vozinha's mother get to Miami

- [Hot Take: How China prepares robots for real jobs?](#) (2026-06-20 11:30)

China wants humanoid robots to enter "work mode" across more than 100 real-world application scenarios before the end of this year. Here are three reasons why that target may be achievable sooner than many expect.

- [Traditional crafts open new doors for people with disabilities](#) (2026-06-20 09:59)

Traditional crafts open new doors for people with disabilities

- ['Toy Story 5' leads China's Dragon Boat Festival box office](#) (2026-06-20 09:12)

"Toy Story 5" is racing ahead at the 2026 Dragon Boat Festival holiday box office, grossing over 60 million yuan (about \$8.3 million) in just two days since its nationwide release in China.

- ['Journey to the West' comic inks English co-publishing deal](#) (2026-06-20 07:48)

An ongoing book fair in Beijing has seen a surge in copyright deals between Chinese publishers and their international counterparts.

- [Secret haircare of the 'long hair' village](#) (2026-06-20 07:19)

High in the mountains, the Red Yao – a branch of China's Yao ethnicity – keep their hair healthy with fermented rice water – brewed from spring water, rice and wild herbs.

- [Dragon Boat Festival thrills: Grand races wrap up in Guizhou](#) (2026-06-20 07:07)

Celebrating China's Dragon Boat Festival, a spectacular two-day traditional dragon boat race concluded in Tongren, Guizhou, blending thrilling sports competitions, unique folk customs and local tourism charm.

- [Experts call for human rights governance reform at UN meeting](#) (2026-06-20 06:47)

Officials, scholars, and civil society representatives have called for reforming the global human rights governance system and improving its effectiveness at a United Nations meeting in Geneva, stressing the need to strengthen cooperation, reduce politicization, and ensure human rights are better integrated into global governance through development-oriented approaches.

- [China prepares territorial spatial plan east of Taiwan Island](#) (2026-06-20 06:47)

China prepares territorial spatial plan east of Taiwan Island

- [West Lake's transformation reflects a true people-first philosophy](#) (2026-06-20 06:32)

This initiative, known as 'returning the lake to the people,' stands as a shining example of a simple yet profound philosophy: that the ultimate goal of governance is to bring real benefits to the people.

- [China's highest-altitude dragon boat race held in Lhasa](#) (2026-06-20 06:07)

At an altitude of 3,645.9 meters, this dragon boat race held on Friday in Lhasa, Xizang, is officially the highest of its kind in both China and the world.

- [World Refugee Day: How can the world address the growing crisis?](#) (2026-06-20 05:51)

As the world marks World Refugee Day, the latest figures from the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) paint a sobering picture of a crisis that continues to deepen despite decades of international humanitarian efforts.

- [A better home, a better life: Shanghai's neighborhood renewal](#) (2026-06-20 03:55)

A better home, a better life: Shanghai's neighborhood renewal

- [World-Class Delicacies Nurtured by Lucid Waters and Lush Mountains](#) (2026-06-20 03:35)

Tucked along the Wuxi River in Quzhou is a unique cold, fast-flowing water ecosystem ideal for aquaculture.

- [Xinchang: A Small County Home to Big Technology](#) (2026-06-20 03:35)

Nestled in eastern Zhejiang Province, Xinchang is an ancient city with a history spanning over a thousand years.

- [How a young American doctor chose revolution – and became Chinese](#) (2026-06-20 03:19)

Would you, a 23-year-old American doctor with a degree from Geneva, choose to go to the toughest corner of China to heal the sick? That is the question at the heart of Dr. George Hatem's life. Few foreigners have been so thoroughly woven into the fabric of China's revolution. Fewer still have looked back from their last breath and smiled, convinced they made the right choice.

- [How a 'one-square-meter' upgrade transforms Shanghai lives](#) (2026-06-20 02:58)

For decades, the morning ritual of emptying chamber pots was a common sight in Shanghai's old alleyways – a stark reminder of inconvenient living conditions. But that era has officially come to an end. Following years of relentless urban renewal, the city has successfully completed its mission to install private bathroom last September.

- [China calls for stronger international humanitarian action at UN](#) (2026-06-20 02:19)

China's Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Sun Lei, called on the international community to unite and take stronger humanitarian action on Friday, warning that growing global crises are outpacing available resources.

- [Water races heat up across southern China's Guangdong Province](#) (2026-06-20 02:10)

Water races heat up across southern China's Guangdong Province

- [Symposium on China-Canada relations calls for more exchanges](#) (2026-06-20 02:07)

Symposium on China-Canada relations calls for more exchanges

- [Chinese Embassy in US celebrates Dragon Boat Festival](#) (2026-06-19 22:32)

Chinese Embassy in US celebrates Dragon Boat Festival

- [Chinese Ambassador sees new opportunities for China-US cooperation](#) (2026-06-19 20:14)

Chinese Ambassador to the U.S. Xie Feng highlights a pivotal year for China-U.S. relations, pointing to upcoming high-level meetings and economic summits as key opportunities for engagement, business cooperation, and mutually beneficial partnerships between the two countries.

- [Pfizer CEO sees China replicating its industrial success in Pharma](#) (2026-06-19 20:12)

Pfizer Chairman and CEO Albert Bourla says China's success in industries such as electric vehicles, batteries, and solar energy demonstrates the impact of long-term planning and strategic investment.

- [How will cancer be cured?](#) (2026-06-19 19:59)

USCBC President Sean Stein emphasizes that major breakthroughs in healthcare and innovation, such as curing cancer, will come through international collaboration.

- [China adds tariff on Australian beef imports as quota reached](#) (2026-06-19 15:15)

China's Ministry of Commerce announced on Friday that it will impose an additional 55% tariff on beef imported from Australia, effective Saturday, on top of existing tariff rates.

- [South African youth shine at 2026 'Chinese Bridge' Finals in Durban](#) (2026-06-19 14:54)

The 19th Chinese Bridge Chinese Proficiency Competition for Secondary School Students and the 6th Chinese Bridge Chinese Show for Primary School Students concluded at the Durban University of Technology (DUT) on June 12.

- [How the CPC makes grassroots governance work](#) (2026-06-19 14:24)

Through its extensive network of primary-level Party organizations, the CPC is able to identify people's needs, bring together resources and encourage broad participation, helping transform public's concerns into practical solutions.

- [Vibrant cultural, sporting events fuel China's holiday travel boom](#) (2026-06-19 14:13)

As China welcomes the Dragon Boat Festival, the three-day holiday is emerging as a barometer of both cultural resonance and consumer spending, as tourism-integrated festivities fuel new growth.

- [Chinese doctors help Zambian hospital through technology transfer](#) (2026-06-19 12:20)

Chinese doctors help Zambian hospital through technology transfer

- [Unboxing China: More than Dragon Boats](#) (2026-06-19 11:30)

Unboxing China: More than Dragon Boats

- [China's financial regulators pledge to safeguard financial stability](#) (2026-06-19 09:02)

China's financial regulators pledge to safeguard financial stability

- [500-year-old dragon boat heritage](#) (2026-06-19 09:01)

Dubbed "Water F1," the dragon boat drifting races in Diejiao, Foshan have become a viral sensation for their high-speed drifts on narrow waterways.

- [Wrap, row, celebrate! Dragon Boat Festival fun with Manio](#) (2026-06-19 08:59)

Wrap, row, celebrate! Dragon Boat Festival fun with Manio

- [Dragon Boat Festival fires up Hangzhou animation scene](#) (2026-06-19 08:23)

Dragon Boat Festival fires up Hangzhou animation scene

- [Huangluo Yao Village: The tradition of long hair](#) (2026-06-19 08:22)

In Huangluo Yao Village, Guangxi, generations of Red Yao women have preserved a unique long-hair tradition, earning their village the nickname of "Long Hair Village."

- [Chinese film 'Dear You' expands global release to Southeast Asia](#) (2026-06-19 08:09)

Chinese film "Dear You" officially expanded its global release on June 18, opening in cinemas across Singapore, Malaysia, Brunei, as well as China's Hong Kong and Macao SAR.

- [Dragon boats take to the water in Enyang, Sichuan](#) (2026-06-19 08:00)

The Enyang River roared with excitement as the China Dragon Boat Race Bazhong Enyang Station got underway at Enyang Dragon Boat Sports Park in Sichuan on Thursday.

- [Beijing's Chaoyang District hosts Dragon Boat Festival celebrations](#) (2026-06-19 07:22)

On June 18, one day ahead of China's Dragon Boat Festival holiday, Beijing's Chaoyang District hosted a celebration, inviting expat residents to wrap zongzi (a kind of traditional sticky rice dumpling), perform diabolo tricks, and even try their hand at dragon boat racing.

- [Bamboo rafting on Yulong River in Guangxi](#) (2026-06-19 07:18)

CGTN host Julian Waghann and Filipino singer Eliza Arce took a bamboo raft trip along the Yulong River. Surrounded by green peaks and gentle ripples, they sang as they drifted through the layered landscape, taking in the scenic beauty of the riverside scenery.

- [China-Europe freight train trips up 10.8-fold in a decade](#) (2026-06-19 07:02)

China-Europe freight train trips up 10.8-fold in a decade

- [Yining dragon boat races unite tradition, tourism and ties](#) (2026-06-19 06:50)

Held from June 17 to 19, the 2026 Ili River Dragon Boat Festival in Yining, Xinjiang.

- [Dragon boats race into Kashi with record participation](#) (2026-06-19 06:49)

From June 18 to 19, a record 61 teams and 420 racers – nearly double last year – splashed onto East Lake for Kashi's third annual dragon boat race in Xinjiang.

- [Graphics: China's contribution to the provision of global public goods](#) (2026-06-19 06:21)

Graphics: China's contribution to the provision of global public goods

- [China, Myanmar agree to deepen pragmatic cooperation across the board](#) (2026-06-19 06:13)

Marking a new milestone in bilateral ties, President of Myanmar Min Aung Hlaing completed his first state visit to China from June 15 to 19, opening a new chapter of in-depth, multi-field pragmatic cooperation between the two neighboring countries.

- [CPC members urged to implement Xi Jinping Thought on Party Building](#) (2026-06-19 06:12)

The Central Leading Group for Party Building of the Communist Party of China (CPC) has issued a notice on studying and implementing Xi Jinping Thought on Party Building.

- [China unveils plan to boost integration of real and digital economies](#) (2026-06-19 03:52)

China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology and six other departments have jointly issued an action plan to promote coordinated development of large, medium-sized and small enterprises in the platform economy from 2026 to 2028.

- [Chinese scientists achieve comprehensive neuron profiling](#) (2026-06-19 03:46)

Chinese scientists achieve comprehensive neuron profiling

- [China welcomes ROK's reaffirmed stance on one-China principle](#) (2026-06-19 01:27)

China views the remarks by a Foreign Ministry official of the Republic of Korea (ROK) positively, who has publicly reiterated in its entirety the language on Taiwan in the China-ROK joint communique on the establishment of diplomatic relations, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson said on Thursday.

- [China unveils measures to boost 'AI plus consumption'](#) (2026-06-19 01:24)

China unveils measures to boost 'AI plus consumption'

## Source: China Defense Blog

- [PLAAF Unit Of The Day: 4th Transportation and SAR Brigade, Central Theater Command Air Force](#) (2026-06-26 03:37)

The 4th Transportation and SAR Brigade recently ran a low key, routine search and rescue drill featuring the usual suspects: Z 8K and Z 9 helicopters working under a standard MOOTW (Military Operations Other Than War) scenario. Nothing flashy, nothing dramatic, it was just the kind of bread and butter training that rarely makes headlines. But one detail did jump out. For the first time in a

- [Old and New: Flamethrowers Meet Unmanned Ground Equipment](#) (2026-06-25 03:40)

The PLA has always had a soft spot for flamethrowers, their close in “BBQ solution” of choice for clearing trenches, bunkers, and anything else that needs a decisive application of fire. The affection runs so deep that even the PAP has been known to break them out for policing duties, which tells you everything about the institutional mindset. Of course, the old saying still applies: a

- [Video of the day: J-15 refueled by Y-20A, birds from the Liaoning](#) (2026-06-23 01:28)

It is a rather ordinary People's Daily YouTube video (link), the editors serve up the usual montage of carrier aviation: J-15s launching, trapping, taxiing, folding wings, and doing all the familiar deck ballet that appears in every PLAN promotional package of the Liaoning as of late. Intercut with that is the standard amphibious warfare highlight reel built around 075 LHD Anhui (Hull 33) showing

- [Happy 72nd Birthday to the PLAN Submarine Force — This Year's Guest of Honor: 406, the Xia class SSBN](#) (2026-06-21 05:19)

This year's featured boat for the PLAN Submarine Force's 72nd birthday is... 406, the lone Xia class SSBN. Yes, that Xia. China's first boomer, the one that has been "almost retired" for two decades but somehow keeps showing up like Uncle Larry who refuses to leave the family hot pot dinner. So what's actually confirmed about 406? According to yesterday's CCTV segment, she's still around, still

## Source: China | The Guardian

- [Xi Jinping has hosted more than a dozen leaders this year, as 'middle powers' look beyond the US](#) (2026-06-26 01:28)

China's leader wants to promote his alternative to the current world order, and his efforts are being assisted by a capricious US Xi Jinping meets Bangladesh's new prime minister on Friday, the latest in a wave of world leaders to visit Beijing this year as the Chinese leader builds his influence and economic ties, and seeks to "shift the balance of power" away from the west. Xi's meeting with Tarique Rahman comes less than two weeks after the Chinese leader welcomed Myanmar's military chief-turned-president, Min Aung Hlaing, in Beijing. Continue reading...

- [UK to halve tariff-free steel imports to counter glut of cheap Chinese metal](#) (2026-06-25 11:53)

Duty on imports outside new quota will double in move echoing similar changes in EU limits Business live – latest updates The UK government will halve the amount of tariff-free steel imports allowed in an attempt to counter a global oversupply of cheap Chinese metal and bolster its beleaguered local industry. New "safeguards" will be introduced on 1 July and will coincide with similar new limits being introduced by the EU for the same purposes. The UK said it and the EU had agreed an approach that reflected each other's "highly interconnected supply chains" after months of negotiations over retaining tariff-free access between the markets. Continue reading...

- [What is China's SpaceSail, and could it rival Elon Musk's Starlink?](#) (2026-06-25 01:02)

The company has just a few hundred satellites in low Earth orbit but has state backing and is already reportedly negotiating with dozens of countries Elon Musk's Starlink has long

dominated the satellite internet industry, but a Chinese government-backed project is aiming to challenge its position. SpaceSail has just a few hundred satellites in low Earth orbit compared with Starlink's 10,000-plus. But the company says it now has enough satellites to begin its first commercial application, is scaling up at speed, and is reportedly negotiating with dozens of countries to provide satellite internet coverage. Continue reading...

- [Dear You review – enjoyable Chinese romdram crosses generations as it tracks down a missing husband](#) (2026-06-24 08:00)

Director Lan Hongchun's family saga feels like a good old-fashioned novel as it goes in search of a man who has disappeared in Thailand. With a story that ranges from the 1940s to the present and, although mostly set in Bangkok, revolving largely around Teochew-speaking Chinese from Guangdong, this generations-spanning drama feels like a good old-fashioned novel. A romantic beach read, perhaps, the kind in which coincidences and random accidents cause misunderstandings that last for decades until the truth is finally revealed. It's sentimental in places, sure, but there's also a fair bit of salty, bawdy humour to cut the sweetness, lashings of period colour, and impressively naturalistic performances from a mostly non-professional cast. All that has helped to make this an unexpectedly large box-office hit in the People's Republic last month; and for non-Chinese or Thai rom-dram aficionados anywhere, it's well worth looking out for. As the story opens in the 21st century in the Chinese city of Shantou, octogenarian Shurou (Iap Sok-jiu) is celebrating her 87th birthday, surrounded by adoring friends, family and neighbours who revere the matriarch, not least for managing to raise three kids on her own in the 1940s and 50s. Her shifty grandson Xiaowei (Hiau-ui), however, is less of a solid citizen and, having got into debt, he decides to travel to Bangkok to find out if Shurou's husband Zheng Musheng, not seen for decades, could help out since he's reputed to have made a fortune out there, endowed schools all over Thailand, and had a second family after abandoning Shurou. Continue reading...

- [Dettol apologises after 'toxic men' advert sparks backlash in China](#) (2026-06-24 07:16)

British disinfectant brand withdraws advert about a man's efforts to find a 'clean and untouched' woman. The British hygiene brand Dettol has apologised after an advertisement released in China, which it said was intended to criticise "toxic men", was widely condemned on social media as offensive to women. The five-minute advert for a multipurpose disinfectant, released across many online platforms at the end of May, features a man comparing his girlfriend with his former partner. Learning that his former girlfriend previously lived with someone else, the man likens their relationship to a "secondhand service". He then tells his friends that he intends to find a "clean and untouched" woman for whom he can be the first sexual partner. Continue reading...

- [Chinese supercomputer leapfrogs best US machines to be ranked world's fastest](#) (2026-06-24 01:18)

China's LineShine debuts at number one in Top500 – a list sometimes viewed as a national measure of global tech prowess. A supercomputer in China now outranks its US counterparts as the world's most powerful. It is the first time since 2017 that a Chinese computer has topped a list sometimes viewed as a measure of a nation's technological prowess. The LineShine computer in Shenzhen displaced top-ranked US computer El Capitan in the Top500 rankings released on Tuesday. It was LineShine's debut on the list. Continue reading...

- [Francis Markus obituary](#) (2026-06-23 16:22)

My friend the former BBC Shanghai correspondent Francis Markus, who has died aged 65 of cancer, was a talented journalist whose compassion for those he reported on led him to spend the last two decades of his life working for humanitarian organisations throughout Asia. After being posted to Shanghai in 2002, Francis demonstrated not just an unerring news sense, covering protests in Hong Kong and social change in China, but a deep interest in human stories, from the suicide-watchers patrolling one of China's highest bridges over the Yangtze River, to the lives of those dealing with HIV. Continue reading...

- [US supreme court ends lawsuit alleging Cisco helped China pursue Falun Gong](#) (2026-06-23 14:22)

Suit alleged California-based company developed technology that allowed China to surveil members of movement. The US supreme court further limited the reach of a federal law used to hold corporations liable for human rights abuses committed abroad, as it issued a ruling on Tuesday ending a lawsuit by members of the Falun Gong movement accusing Cisco Systems of facilitating religious persecution in China. The justices reversed a lower court's decision that had breathed new life into the 2011 lawsuit, which was brought under the Alien Tort Statute of 1789. The suit had alleged that Cisco knowingly developed technology that allowed China's government to surveil and persecute Falun Gong members. Continue reading...

- [‘A hunting ground for foreign regimes’ : why violent attacks on dissidents are on the rise in Britain](#) (2026-06-21 12:00)

Iran and China among those accused of targeting critics living in the UK, as arson attack on prime minister Keir Starmer's properties linked to Russia. As Pouria Zeraati was crossing the street between his Wimbledon home and his car in south London in March 2024, he was confronted by two men. One held him firmly as the other stabbed him three times in the leg before they both fled. It was later said to be a targeted attack on behalf of the Iranian regime in Tehran. A punishment for Zeraati's work as a journalist covering Iran. He survived, but the ambush is one of dozens of violent incidents in recent years linked to foreign states.

Russia, China, India, Saudi Arabia and Iran have all been blamed for targeting critics and dissidents living in the UK in the past decade, and linked to incidents involving physical assaults, attempted kidnap, stabbings and an acid attack. Continue reading...

- [Petrol prices in Australia are now lower than before the Iran war began. Is the oil crisis over and what happens next?](#) (2026-06-20 20:00)

Fuel suppliers outside the Middle East have proved to be much more flexible than analysts expected – and China surprised everyone. Australians were warned soon after the Middle East conflict started that the country could run short on fuel, with prices rising to record levels owing to disrupted oil supplies. Now, amid an uneasy peace deal and continued supply disruptions, petrol prices are lower than they were before the conflict began and official warnings over fuel usage have largely disappeared. Continue reading...

- [For women in China frustrated by sexism, female comics are offering a release](#) (2026-06-19 01:33)

Standup comedy gives women a space to talk about certain topics that have become more sensitive, while performers remain wary of censorship limits. Packed into the upstairs theatre of a small performing arts space in east Beijing, more than 100 people, mostly women, are giddy with anticipation. “Who did you come to see?” asks the MC, fashionably dressed in a faded denim two-piece suit. The answer is bellowed in unison back to him: “Fang Zhuren!” Fang Shaoli, AKA Director Fang (Fang Zhuren), has built a cult following in China in the past two years. Decidedly less fashionable than the evening’s host, Fang is dressed in a yellow hoodie and dark blue jeans. Her everywoman attire is part of the appeal. With a stout frame and short, sensible haircut, Fang, who was born in 1975, hails from rural part of east China’s Shandong province. Before discovering the art of standup comedy she worked in factories and on construction sites, but mainly lived as a housewife to a difficult husband. Her jokes riff on the deep sexism that permeates Chinese culture, particularly away from the big urban centres like Beijing and Shanghai. Continue reading...

## Source: China - Foreign Policy

- [The Geopolitics of SpaceX and Elon Musk](#) (2026-06-25 22:10)

Should one company—and one person—have this much power?

- [The Middle East’s Great Divergence Is Underway](#) (2026-06-24 17:58)

With economic and security interests split between great powers, the region is beginning to consider a third path.

- [China’s De-Dollarization Drive Has Hit a Wall](#) (2026-06-24 14:25)

Beijing can create financial instruments, but it cannot decree demand.

- [Why the World Cup Keeps Eluding China](#) (2026-06-23 20:00)

Xi has spent billions of dollars trying to turn Beijing into a soccer powerhouse.

- [China Flexes Its Rare-Earth Muscle—Again](#) (2026-06-22 21:09)

New export restrictions underscore Beijing's supply chain grip in ongoing tensions with Washington.

- [Why Is Alibaba on a Pentagon Blacklist?](#) (2026-06-22 21:08)

Washington doesn't know how to untangle China's military-civil fusion.

- [Don't Let China Stack the Deck](#) (2026-06-22 11:00)

To combat Beijing, Washington needs a program to spread its AI worldwide.

## Source: Financial Times China

- [DeepSeek plans hiring spree in escalation of China's AI talent war](#) (2026-06-26 05:12)

Advertised roles suggest company focused on commercialising frontier research

- [Chinese carmakers 'knocking at US gate' from Mexico and Canada](#) (2026-06-26 04:00)

Beijing-subsidised vehicles emerge as flashpoint in North American trade relationship

- [The reason China is building most of the world's robots](#) (2026-06-25 00:51)

The country's workforce is set to fall to 300mn by the end of the century. Beijing wants humanoids to narrow the labour gap

- [Anthropic accuses Alibaba of obtaining 'illicit' access to Claude](#) (2026-06-24 21:36)

AI company says the Chinese ecommerce giant used fake accounts to 'extract' chatbot's capabilities

- [China detains two Japanese nationals over alleged rare earth smuggling](#) (2026-06-24 11:42)

Escalation of dispute with Tokyo comes as Beijing opens whistleblower hotline for violations of critical mineral exports

- [China's premier defends subsidies and lauds innovation at 'Summer Davos'](#) (2026-06-24 05:50)

Li Qiang dismisses trading partners' complaints at annual World Economic Forum conference

- [Struggling European carmakers have options, none of them good](#) (2026-06-24 04:00)

Forging alliances with China would help the struggling sector offload some of its bloated costs. It may be the pick of a bad bunch

- [Nvidia's banned AI chips double in price on China's black market](#) (2026-06-24 00:15)

US crackdown on illicit exports has made it riskier, harder and more expensive to buy tech giant's processors

- [Alibaba sues Pentagon over inclusion on Chinese military blacklist](#) (2026-06-23 19:16)

Ecommerce giant claims US defence department's 'arbitrary and capricious' decision lacked evidence

- [US Supreme Court limits scope of foreign human rights claims](#) (2026-06-23 17:25)

Justices refuse to consider complaint alleging Cisco enabled Chinese surveillance of banned religious group

- [Renewable energy group to raise \\$3.6bn in China's biggest IPO for 4 years](#) (2026-06-23 08:10)

China Resources New Energy Holdings attracts strong interest from retail investors ahead of Shenzhen debut

- [China's CATL to offer battery swapping for Europe's electric trucks](#) (2026-06-22 09:36)

Partnership with Octopus Energy to launch more than 30 stations for electric lorries in Europe by 2035

- [Robots will replace 700,000 delivery workers 'sooner or later', warns JD.com boss](#) (2026-06-22 06:34)

China's rapid adoption of technology threatens millions of gig-economy jobs, policymakers fear

- [China restricts trading with some US rare earth companies](#) (2026-06-22 05:56)

Beijing introduces more export controls in retaliation for Washington's 'wrongful' actions

- [Iran war supercharges electric vehicle uptake in Africa](#) (2026-06-22 04:00)

Boom in demand for electric motorbikes and buses on continent is a boost for China

- [Why sinodollars outweigh the petroyuan](#) (2026-06-22 02:51)

China's currency is becoming a more important part of the global financial system but the dollar is still in control

- [Philippines fears China may move to seize full control of disputed atoll](#) (2026-06-21 20:19)

Defence secretary warns of heightened Chinese military activity around Scarborough Shoal

- [China wanted western tech. Now, the tables have turned. With John Minnich](#) (2026-06-19 04:00)

Should the US and EU take a leaf out of China's investment playbook?

- [Xi wants China to boost demand. Why isn't it working?](#) (2026-06-19 03:12)

Activity is sputtering midway through 2026, undercutting efforts to galvanise the economy

- [EU delays trade confrontation with China](#) (2026-06-19 01:35)

Leaders opt for dialogue with Beijing rather than immediate action over fears of retaliation

## Source: New York Times China

- [Medical Journal Retracts Study Claiming Cancer Therapy Is More Effective When Given in the Morning](#) (2026-06-25 21:09)

In a notice flagging a series of problems with a clinical trial, the journal Nature Medicine said its editors “no longer have confidence in the integrity of the results.”

- [Chinese A.I. Models Gain Ground on Anthropic and OpenAI](#) (2026-06-25 15:34)

Silicon Valley engineers recently flocked to new technology from a Chinese company, Z.ai, that is almost as good as its American competitors but much cheaper.

- [A Puppy-Abuse Case in China, Caught on Video, Prompts Rare Public Protest](#) (2026-06-25 04:00)

After a man was filmed torturing dogs, hundreds gathered in a rare demonstration that the police tried to break up. For many, the sit-in was their first civic action.

- [Alibaba Sues Pentagon Over China Military Label](#) (2026-06-24 11:39)

The Chinese tech giant said it had no ties to China's military and that the U.S. government had violated the law by making that claim.

- [China Detained 2 Japanese on Suspicion of Smuggling](#) (2026-06-24 11:32)

The Japanese nationals were detained in May in the northeastern Chinese city of Dalian, Japan's government said, amid tensions between the two countries.

- [What to Know About Myanmar's Chaotic War](#) (2026-06-24 04:01)

The Southeast Asian nation recently experienced its highest monthly civilian death toll since the war began in 2021.

- [China Takes Supercomputer Crown From U.S. For First Time Since 2017](#) (2026-06-23 09:02)

A supercomputer in Shenzhen was declared the world's fastest. It uses only standard microprocessors and not the special-purpose chips called graphics processing units.

- [This Megafactory Is a Test Case for the U.S.-China Tech Race](#) (2026-06-23 09:00)

Chinese firms have some of the world's most advanced technology. But U.S. officials say relying on it could come with a downside.

- [China Tightens Rare Earth Grip on U.S. Firms, Threatening Trade Clash](#) (2026-06-22 11:53)

The move targets two U.S. manufacturers at the center of the Trump administration's effort to rebuild the domestic supply chain for critical magnets.

- [With No Team in the World Cup, China's Fans Celebrate a Referee](#) (2026-06-22 10:33)

Most people watching Curaçao play Ecuador focused on the team's goalkeeper. For some fans in China, the draw was Ma Ning, the tournament's highest-ranking Chinese referee.

- [You Can't Be a Superpower Without Allies](#) (2026-06-21 10:00)

Even the most powerful state in the world is not all that powerful when it decides to go it alone.

- [While the World Scrambles for Oil, China Sits on Full Tanks](#) (2026-06-21 09:01)

The possible reopening of the Strait of Hormuz may not prompt China to return quickly to prewar levels of oil purchases from the Persian Gulf.

- [There Are Two Trump Administrations Right Now. And an Empire?](#) (2026-06-19 15:00)

The center is not land but a collection of interlocked state agencies and their business constituencies

- [The World Is Full of Chokepoints, and Iran Just Showed How to Exploit Them](#) (2026-06-19 09:00)

Tehran is the newly empowered gatekeeper of the world's most important waterway for energy. Other countries will take note.

## Source: South China Morning Post

- [Japan's women-only carriages turn 25](#) (2026-06-26 10:00)
- [Why East Asia could be the new centre for peace and economic growth](#) (2026-06-26 06:00)

At a time of worsening global security, East Asia could eclipse a Europe “no longer worth emulating” and become the benchmark for peace and economic growth, according to a prominent Chinese political scientist. Yan Xuetong, honorary president of the Institute of International Relations at Tsinghua University in Beijing, also said the widening rift between the United States and its European allies would elevate East Asia's global standing. He told a media event in Beijing on Thursday that...

- [‘Imitation genius’ : China influencer overcomes abusive dad to self-fund US education](#) (2026-06-26 06:00)

A 19-year-old influencer in China has announced he has been admitted to top-tier Boston University, with tuition and living costs to be covered entirely by himself, as he has earned money through his online activities in recent years. Zhong Meimei, born Zhong Yusheng, shot to fame in May 2020 when he released his first batch of videos in which he mimicked female teachers at primary and middle schools, the National Business Daily (NBD) reported. His works quickly captivated internet users, who...

- [CK Asset sells penthouse in Hong Kong' s Mid-Levels for US\\$48.5m, sets pricing benchmark](#) (2026-06-26 05:30)

A penthouse at CK Asset Holdings' luxury residential project in Hong Kong' s Mid-Levels has been sold via tender for HK\$380.77 million (US\$48.5 million), according to a statement from the flagship property developer of tycoon Li Ka-shing, underscoring the rebound in the city' s high-end residential segment. Unit 10 on the 20th floor of 21 Borrett Road in the upscale district in Central fetched HK\$126,000 per square foot, the highest price for the development and for new home sales this year,...

- [Malaysia' s Umno in tough spot ahead of Johor vote after veteran claims royal interference](#) (2026-06-26 05:12)

Malaysia' s ruling Malay party was pulled into a sensitive palace row on the eve of Johor' s nomination day after a veteran figure quit Umno and accused the southern state' s royal household of influencing the timing of a snap election. The controversy lands at a difficult moment for the United Malays National Organisation, the Malay nationalist party that anchors Barisan Nasional (BN). It is trying to defend Johor, its birthplace and one of its last major strongholds, without allowing the campaign...

- [Hong Kong police arrest minibus driver after cyclist killed in collision](#) (2026-06-26 05:12)

Hong Kong police have arrested a minibus driver for dangerous driving after his vehicle fatally hit a cyclist in North district. Police received a report of the incident in Ta Kwu Ling at 6.27am on Friday. Emergency personnel found the man unconscious at the scene, having sustained serious head injuries. He was taken to North District Hospital in Sheung Shui, where he was pronounced dead at 6.59am. The 74-year-old minibus driver was travelling along Man Kam To Road towards Sheung Shui at the...

- [Hong Kong to raise share of Medical Council lay members to 31%, set inquiry time](#) (2026-06-26 04:50)

Hong Kong authorities have proposed overhauling the city' s medical watchdog by raising the proportion of lay members to more than a third and requiring the time frame for handling complaints to be made public, which may help slash the inquiry process from 42 to 29 months. Unveiling the proposed amendments to the Medical Registration Ordinance on Friday, Secretary for Health Lo Chung-mau said the reform aimed to foster more diverse participation in the city' s Medical Council. "We aim to maintain...

- [Why having more foreign-trained doctors in Hong Kong won't threaten local ones](#)  
(2026-06-26 04:30)

As Hong Kong marks the 29th anniversary of its return to Chinese rule on July 1, the South China Morning Post talks to the city's senior officials about the administration's achievements so far and what may lie ahead. Allowing all doctors without permanent residency to work in Hong Kong will not threaten the careers of local practitioners, the health minister has said as he defended a proposal to revamp the medical registration regime. In an exclusive interview with the South China Morning Post,...

- [Hong Kong downgrades red rainstorm warning to amber after class suspensions](#)  
(2026-06-26 04:28)

This story has been made freely available as a public service to our readers. Please consider supporting SCMP's journalism by subscribing. New users who download our updated app get a seven-day free trial. The Hong Kong Observatory has downgraded the red rainstorm warning to amber within an hour of issuing it, after the warning prompted the suspension of afternoon classes. The forecaster switched rainstorm signals three times within 90 minutes on Friday, reissuing the amber signal at 1.20pm to...

- [Breakthrough in US-Iran talks; Japan visa fee hike to affect Chinese: SCMP's 7 highlights](#)  
(2026-06-26 04:12)

We have selected seven stories from this week's news across Hong Kong, mainland China, the wider Asia region and beyond that resonated with our readers and shed light on topical issues. If you would like to see more of our reporting, please consider subscribing. 1. A crisis 'defused' as blockade lifted, assets to be returned to Iran after Swiss talks Statements from the US and Iran following talks in Switzerland have cooled tensions that nearly derailed the peace process, signalling an intention...

- [Can China's strict policing model 'silence the guns' in Africa?](#) (2026-06-26 04:00)

As China's relationship with African countries deepens, the country's influence is spreading into more areas. In this series Jevans Nyabiage looks at an initiative to help control weapons and reduce conflict in a region where Beijing has vast economic interests. China is marketing its strict policing and arms control expertise as a blueprint to stabilise Africa's conflict-torn Great Lakes region, leveraging its reputation as one of the world's safest countries. Earlier this month, China and the...

- [Too young to ride, Malaysian teen pedals dream by building fake Yamaha motorcycle](#)  
(2026-06-26 03:54)

A Malaysian teenager's dream of owning a Yamaha Y15 motorcycle has pushed his imagination to the next level. Too young to actually ride one, the 13-year-old instead converted his bicycle by mounting motorcycle parts with cable ties. His innovative invention drew laughter

from police officers – and social media users. In a viral video, officers can be seen inspecting the “motorcycle” he is proudly showing off. “I want to ride this motorcycle but I can’t [yet],” he tells them. Apart from the...

- [2 storms barreling towards Japan spark over 100 flight cancellations](#) (2026-06-26 03:11)

Japanese airlines cancelled on Friday more than 100 flights as two tropical storms barreled towards the archipelago, with authorities advising evacuations in some areas because of possible flooding and landslides. Severe tropical storm Mekkhala, downgraded from a typhoon, was packing gusts of up to 144km/h (89mph), according to forecasters, with heavy rain already pounding parts of southern and western Japan. The weather system was expected to skirt the islands of Kyushu and Shikoku over the...

- [New York City freezes rents for 1 million flats in win for Mamdani](#) (2026-06-26 03:08)

A New York City housing board voted on Thursday to freeze the rents for about one million regulated flats for up to two years, fulfilling a central campaign promise of Mayor Zohran Mamdani only months into his term. The 7-1 vote by the city’s Rent Guidelines Board set increases at zero on both one-year and two-year leases from October. Hundreds of tenants who crowded into a Manhattan museum auditorium cheered and blew whistles at the result. “This is a historic victory for New York City...

- [Labour authorities probe case of worker fatally crushed by construction vehicle](#) (2026-06-26 02:35)

Hong Kong’s labour authorities are investigating a fatal accident in which a worker died after being run over by a construction vehicle at a sports ground. Police received a report at about 8.58am on Friday that a man had been hit by a vehicle at Kowloon Bay Sports Ground at Kai Lok Street and was trapped beneath it on the running track. The victim’s colleague reported the incident to emergency services. Firefighters arrived to free the victim, but he was pronounced dead at the scene after...

- [Hong Kong’s big economic dreams: what’s the reality and where do the poor fit in?](#) (2026-06-26 02:30)

In the first of a two-part series on the economy as Hong Kong marks 29 years since its return to Chinese rule, Denise Tsang and Vivian Au look at efforts at transformation, including the city’s bet on the Northern Metropolis, and the challenges ahead. Molly Lam lives alone in a public housing flat in Tsuen Wan but fear is a constant companion as she worries about losing her job. The restaurant worker in her sixties has seen how her company is shrinking its operations amid an industry...

- [Will Dear You’s smash success push Singapore to ease dialect film policies?](#) (2026-06-26 02:18)

Singaporean Hong Weilun was left disappointed after he failed to secure tickets for limited Teochew screenings of the Chinese film Dear You when they were released on Monday. “It is important to watch the original version because the mood, nuances and emotional weight of the film are best conveyed through the actors’ expressions, accents and subtle vocal cues,” Hong said. The 40-year-old, who is Teochew and had initially planned to travel to Malaysia to watch Dear You, may now get the chance to...

- [Chinese man changes locks on vacant flat, sells it to unsuspecting couple for US\\$103,000](#) (2026-06-26 01:00)

A man in eastern China deceived long-time friends out of over 700,000 yuan (US\$103,000) by changing the lock on a random vacant flat and posing as its owner to sell it to them. Sun, a Shanghai resident who previously owned two shops that went out of business, had a history of serving time for fraud, according to the mainland media outlet Xinmin Evening News. Following his release from prison in 2017, a married couple he had known for nearly three decades consistently provided him with meals,...

- [China’ s award-winning 6G tech turns every wall and pipe into a sensor](#) (2026-06-26 01:00)

China’ s 6G engineers have built a special metasurface system that can bounce wireless signals around like a precision mirror to fill in dead spots, while still sensing people moving about – just like a radar. The innovation earned a gold award at the International Exhibition of Inventions in Geneva in March, the online results of which were announced on June 14. The innovation is named Distributed Integrated Sensing and Communication Metasurface (DISACM). It uses intelligent reconfigurable...

- [‘Do or die’ for small carmakers: China market braces for 156 new models as price war looms](#) (2026-06-26 01:00)

A record 156 new models are expected to hit the Chinese automotive market in the second half of 2026, intensifying concerns about small players’ profitability as a new price war looms. The mass-market segment would see an influx of intelligent electric vehicles (EVs) priced at around 100,000 yuan (US\$14,740), but only leading carmakers were expected to secure large orders thanks to their brand awareness and production advantages, analysts said. “Demand for new cars has rebounded but it is not...

- [How Chinese philosophy influenced US founding fathers](#) (2026-06-26 01:00)

“Founding Father, Benjamin Franklin, published the sayings of Confucius in his colonial newspaper and today’ s sculpture recognising that ancient Chinese age is carved into the face of the United States Supreme Court very proudly,” said US President Donald Trump in Beijing last month. It took two-and-a-half centuries for an American president to explicitly acknowledge the profound Chinese impact on the US founding fathers. Trump’ s recent declaration could be a historical first. Unless archival...

- [Hong Kong's own drug regulator pushes ahead with hiring, seeks WHO recognition](#) (2026-06-26 00:30)

As Hong Kong marks the 29th anniversary of its return to Chinese rule on July 1, the South China Morning Post talks to the city's senior officials about the administration's achievements so far and what may lie ahead. Hong Kong is on a global talent hunt for its own drug approval body which is expected to be launched by the fourth quarter of this year as the city bids to achieve its international biomedical hub ambitions, the city's health minister has revealed. In an exclusive interview with...

- [North Korea's border build-up opens a Seoul-UN Command rift](#) (2026-06-26 00:00)

A public row between Seoul and the US-led United Nations Command (UNC) has revealed a fresh fault line over how the two interpret North Korea's recent border fortification activities. South Korea views its arch-rival's actions as a violation of the 1953 Korean war armistice agreement. The UNC does not. The dispute follows a separate disagreement over which authority should govern access to the demilitarised zone (DMZ), while analysts say differences also persist between Seoul and Washington over...

- [US Supreme Court paves way for Trump's mass deportation of Haitians and Syrians](#) (2026-06-25 23:39)

The US Supreme Court on Thursday backed a Trump administration move to strip deportation protections from some 350,000 Haitians and 6,000 Syrians living in the United States. The conservative-dominated court, in a 6-3 ruling, said the Department of Homeland Security's decision to end Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haitian and Syrian immigrants was not subject to judicial review. TPS protects its holders from deportation and is granted to people deemed to be in danger if they return home...

- [IPO Connect pitched as Hong Kong's next move to boost finance hub role. But hurdles loom](#) (2026-06-25 23:00)

Hong Kong is seizing every opportunity to consolidate its role as a global financial centre, leveraging unique advantages and national strategies. This piece, the second in a miniseries focusing on the city's financial industry ahead of the handover anniversary, explores the likelihood of an "IPO Connect" that could inject much-needed liquidity into the market and deepen international investors' access to top-tier China assets. At every summer's Lujiazui Forum, attended by China's top financial...

- [Venezuela earthquakes draw aid from governments that cut ties with Caracas](#) (2026-06-25 22:52)

Venezuela received offers of rescue teams and humanitarian aid from across the Americas on Thursday, including from right-wing governments that had broken off diplomatic relations with Caracas less than two years ago, after two earthquakes killed at least 188 people. The quakes, of

magnitude 7.2 and 7.5 and 39 seconds apart, struck the north of the country on Wednesday evening and were the strongest to hit Venezuela in more than a century. Interim President Delcy Rodríguez declared a nationwide...

- [UK's King Charles breaks tradition to reveal US\\$17 million tax bill](#) (2026-06-25 22:21)

King Charles will not live at Buckingham Palace after its 10-year refurbishment finishes next year, royal officials said on Thursday, ending nearly two centuries of the central London landmark serving as the British monarch's primary residence. Officials at the same time disclosed the king paid £12.9 million (US\$17.04 million) in tax in 2024/25 – the first time the figure has been made public – placing him among Britain's top 100 taxpayers. Members of the royal family have promised greater...

- [HKEX pushes deeper into index business as AI reshapes Hong Kong market](#) (2026-06-25 22:00)

Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing (HKEX) is expanding into the index business with plans to launch more proprietary benchmarks and related investment products, as traditional market gauges have lagged regional peers during the artificial intelligence-driven technology rally. The operator of Hong Kong's stock exchange will debut the first exchange-traded fund (ETF) tracking its HKEX Tech 100 Index on Friday. The index, launched on December 9, tracks the 100 largest technology companies listed in...

- [Is the US banning drones from China until it can make better ones itself?](#) (2026-06-25 22:00)

As the United States marks the 250th anniversary of its founding, it confronts a new world order dominated by its relationship with China. In this wide-ranging series, we examine the pressure points and possibilities in those ties, from hard tech to soft power. Here, Khushboo Razdan separates the signals from the noise in the US debate over drones. Whether responding to a wildfire or searching for a missing person, Battalion Chief William Marsiglio of Chesterfield, Virginia, relies on one tool...

- [EU pitches Brazil a 'more beneficial' rare earths deal than US or China](#) (2026-06-25 21:37)

The European Union is offering Brazil a “more beneficial” partnership on critical minerals than the United States or China, the bloc's international partnerships commissioner said on Thursday, promising investment in domestic refining and technology as Brussels works to cut its dependence on Chinese supply chains. European Commissioner for International Partnerships Jozef Sikela made the case during a week-long visit to Brazil that included a stop on Saturday at a rare earth research and...

- [Why Hong Kong's bilingualism is uniquely indispensable in the AI era](#) (2026-06-25 21:30)

Last week, while preparing a lecture on the visual culture of the Global South, I caught Google's Gemini in a double hallucination. Cross-referencing a historical event between English and Chinese data sets, I found the English AI to be authoritative but inventing citations. In Chinese, the fabrications vanished but so did global context, replaced by an insular perspective. Disturbingly, the system cloaked Chinese content in English citations, creating a deceptive authenticity that made the...

- [Venezuelans search rubble for survivors after twin earthquakes kill at least 188](#)  
(2026-06-25 20:33)

Venezuelans searched for survivors beneath collapsed buildings on Thursday and rescue teams raced to northern areas rocked by a pair of powerful earthquakes that officials say killed at least 188 people and left more than 200 trapped. More were feared dead. The 7.2- and 7.5-magnitude earthquakes that struck on Wednesday evening were among the strongest in Venezuela in more than a century and were felt throughout the region. Some 1,500 people were injured, thousands were reported missing across...

- [US hearing warns Chinese economic espionage now targets AI](#) (2026-06-25 20:17)

The United States has been asleep for decades as China undercut US economic strength by stealing ideas, technologies and, more recently, artificial intelligence advances, with the Chinese military first in line to benefit, according to testimony heard by a congressional committee on Thursday. The hearing by the House Select Committee on China, which focused on economic espionage and Chinese efforts to exert influence at state and local levels, was held amid mounting bilateral tension over export...

- [‘Alligator Alcatraz’ migrant detention centre has closed, Florida governor DeSantis says](#)  
(2026-06-25 18:33)

“Alligator Alcatraz”, the remote Florida immigration detention centre that faced harsh criticism for its conditions, has shut down nearly a year after opening, Governor Ron DeSantis said on Thursday. DeSantis said the centre at an isolated airstrip in the Everglades was always meant to be only temporary until more permanent detention facilities could be secured, and federal officials now have that capacity. “It served its purpose for the time,” the Republican governor said at a news...

- [Trump backs ‘Six Assurances’ to Taiwan but no arms sale timeline, US diplomat says](#)  
(2026-06-25 18:14)

The top US diplomat for East Asia sought to reassure Taiwan that Washington stood by its “Six Assurances” despite US President Donald Trump's earlier dismissal of the policy, but offered no timeline for approving a stalled US\$14 billion arms package to the self-ruled island. Michael DeSombre, assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, told a House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing on Thursday that US policy on Taiwan had not changed, maintaining Washington's commitment to...

- [Liner of Trump’ s reflecting pool was cut with sharp blade, National Park Service says](#) (2026-06-25 17:59)

A liner along the bottom of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool was cut with a sharp knife or razor this month, causing damage to the foam sealant installed as part of a US\$16 million rehabilitation project, a top official at the National Park Service says. The agency reported the June 9 incident to US Park Police, said Frank Lands, deputy director of operations for the park service. Lands made the statement in a court document filed late on Wednesday as part of a lawsuit filed by a non-profit...

- [US is ‘superhero’ , China ‘supervillain’ in global AI contest, American officials warn](#) (2026-06-25 17:49)

US House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Brian Mast warned that “America is the superhero” and China the “supervillain” in the contest for global artificial intelligence (AI) leadership on Thursday, just two days after US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said America’ s “biggest risk” on AI is China getting ahead. The United States and China remain locked in an increasingly competitive race for worldwide AI supremacy, with many American officials concerned that China is eroding the US’ early...

- [Singapore-flagged cargo ship hit by ‘unknown projectile’ while crossing Hormuz](#) (2026-06-25 17:28)

A cargo ship reported a suspected attack as it attempted to pass through the Strait of Hormuz close to the coast of Oman on Thursday, British navy agency UKMTO said. The UN’ s International Maritime Organisation is currently assisting ships escape the Gulf, hundreds of which have been stranded there since the Iran war began at the end of February. “A cargo vessel has been hit on the starboard side by an unknown projectile, causing damage to the bridge. Master has reported no casualties and no...

- [US assures India over AI ‘kill switch’ as ‘Pax Silica’ expands in bid to counter China](#) (2026-06-25 17:09)

The United States has assured India that future artificial intelligence models will not be “cut off” days after Washington abruptly banned Anthropic’ s advanced models on national security grounds, a senior Indian official told the South China Morning Post on Thursday.

“There was an understanding, and something that they [US officials] certainly mentioned, that access to technology, once it is provided, will not be cut off. I think that was an assurance,” said S. Krishnan, secretary of India’ s...

- [Weinstein’ s New York rape charge dropped after accuser says she can’ t endure fourth trial](#) (2026-06-25 16:57)

Harvey Weinstein avoided a fourth trial on a New York rape charge after his accuser said she could not endure testifying again, leading prosecutors to drop the #MeToo-era case on

Thursday. The film mogul still stands convicted of another sexual felony in New York and others in California, and he remains behind bars. But the New York rape charge had remained unresolved after an overturned conviction followed by two hung juries. The judge formally dismissed the charge on Thursday. Weinstein had a...

- [DeepSeek hiring spree: Chinese AI firm seeks newcomers as it pursues AGI](#) (2026-06-25 16:38)

DeepSeek is looking to “at least double the size of every department” in a new hiring spree, according to an announcement made by the Chinese AI champion on Thursday. The firm announced openings in 33 positions across seven major categories, including full-stack development and algorithms, artificial intelligence (AI) core system R&D, deep learning research, and model data strategy product management and engineering. “DeepSeek’s hiring philosophy is to let newcomers take on the most core and...

- [US-led relief effort puts Washington’s post-Maduro strategy in Venezuela to the test](#) (2026-06-25 16:25)

The United States is mounting a large-scale humanitarian operation in Venezuela after twin earthquakes devastated the South American country, putting to the test Washington’s role as the most influential international partner in the country’s post-Maduro transition. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Washington was deploying search-and-rescue teams, military logistics and humanitarian help after Wednesday’s magnitude 7.2 and 7.5 earthquakes, which have killed at least 164 people and injured...

- [US shifts South China Sea reconnaissance towards drones and Philippines: think tank](#) (2026-06-25 15:00)

US “freedom of navigation” operations in the South China Sea declined last year, as it relied more on the Philippines and uncrewed drones for reconnaissance flights over the contested waters, a Beijing-based think tank found. The think tank said that as large American vessels such as aircraft carriers and amphibious groups faced growing maintenance and deployment constraints such as the Middle East conflict, Washington had changed the nature of its presence in the Asia-Pacific region. Yet, the...

- [Asia treads cautiously on Iranian oil exports despite US sanctions waiver](#) (2026-06-25 14:44)

Asian economies are expected to exercise caution in buying oil from Iran following a 60-day sanctions waiver for the Gulf country’s oil exports that took effect from Sunday, as they weigh compliance, financial risk and a potential return of hostilities between Washington and Tehran. Global markets have been looking for signs of progress that the United States and Iran could reach a lasting peace agreement despite concerns over the sustainability of a 60-day ceasefire that began earlier this...

- [US inflation rises to 3-year high, spending picks up](#) (2026-06-25 14:33)

US consumer spending accelerated in May even as prices rose at the fastest pace in more than three years, suggesting Americans are powering through the fallout from the Iran war. The personal consumption expenditures price index rose 4.1 per cent last month from a year earlier, the most since April 2023, Bureau of Economic Analysis data out on Thursday showed. Excluding food and energy, prices were up 3.4 per cent from a year earlier. Inflation-adjusted consumer spending rose 0.3 per cent from a...

- [Beijing slams US, European concerns over coastguard patrols near Taiwan](#) (2026-06-25 14:12)

Beijing on Thursday rejected criticism from the United States and three European nations over its recent coastguard operations east of Taiwan, declaring the patrols were lawful and necessary to safeguard its maritime rights and regional order. The rebuke came a day after the US, Britain, France and Germany expressed concern over the coastguard deployments, saying the activities “threaten regional stability and the freedom of navigation and safety of international shipping” . Chinese foreign...

- [Chinese physical AI start-up proposes new paradigm that bypasses OpenAI, Meta road maps](#) (2026-06-25 14:00)

A Chinese physical AI start-up has launched a new world model designed to simulate reality by embedding the laws of physics directly into its code – a departure from the data-driven approaches favoured by American tech giants like OpenAI and Meta Platforms. Shanghai-based Fysics AI announced the launch of the Fysiverse, which it described as a “new-generation physics-based world model that adheres to real-world physical laws” , in a post on its WeChat social media account on Wednesday. The...

- [Swedish minister brings baby to EU meeting, a first for the bloc](#) (2026-06-25 13:03)

EU governments’ ministers gathered for a long day’ s discussion of climate change policies on Thursday were surprised by a fresh-faced participant at their negotiating table: a three-month-old baby. Swedish Climate Minister Romina Pourmokhtari brought her son, Adam, to the EU council meeting in Luxembourg, to highlight the benefits of parental leave policies which do not force women to choose between work and family responsibilities. “I wanted to showcase being an example of not having to make...

- [China vows to seek tariff cuts with US while decrying its ‘malicious’ trade acts](#) (2026-06-25 13:00)

Days after imposing fresh restrictions on dozens of American firms in response to earlier US actions, Beijing has vowed to keep pursuing tariff cuts and “win-win” cooperation with Washington, illustrating how cooperation and confrontation now run in parallel between the world’ s two largest economies. Both sides will continue discussing reciprocal tariff reductions within the framework of a newly established trade board while encouraging cooperation in

aircraft and agricultural products,...

- [China' s cybersecurity industry needs its own Mythos model, 360 founder warns](#)  
(2026-06-25 13:00)

China must develop its own equivalent to Anthropic' s Mythos model to counter the cybersecurity risks posed by the artificial intelligence era, according to 360 Security Technology founder Zhou Hongyi, who likened the powerful US technology to a “cyber nuclear weapon” . Released in April with the ability to autonomously identify software vulnerabilities, Mythos has accelerated vulnerability discovery a hundredfold while slashing costs – a “terrifying change” that had effectively “democratised” ...

- [Ethnic rifts flare in Malaysia as Johor polls threaten stability of Anwar' s unity coalition](#)  
(2026-06-25 12:53)

Fissures along ethnic lines are being opened ahead of the Johor state election in Malaysia next month, as the Malay-nationalist Barisan Nasional (BN) moves to box in the Chinese-dominated Democratic Action Party (DAP), and political imperatives pit key government coalition members against each other. Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim helms an uneasy coalition of erstwhile political rivals. He is seeking to keep his Pakatan Harapan unity government – with the DAP as a core member – on an even keel...

- [German doctor admits to killing 12 patients in high-profile trial](#) (2026-06-25 12:52)

A German doctor admitted to having killed 12 patients nearly a year since the start of his high-profile trial at the Berlin Regional Court on Thursday. The 40-year-old palliative care doctor is charged with killing 15 patients in total – 12 women and three men – between September 2021 and July 2024. He is alleged to have administered a “lethal mixture of various drugs” to the victims, who were between 25 and 87 years old. Prosecutors also believe he set fires in some cases to try to obscure his...

- [For many outside China, Dear You reflects family history, not politics](#) (2026-06-25 12:30)

When a modest Chaoshan-dialect film about an indebted grandson, a missing grandfather and a bundle of yellowing remittance letters opened quietly in China in late April, few expected it to become one of the biggest films of the year. Yet Dear You has earned more than 1.8 billion yuan (US\$265.75 million) at the Chinese box office. It has done so without major stars or heavy promotion – an unlikely triumph for a film told largely in Teochew or Chiu Chow. As the film is released across Southeast...

- [US' Rubio wraps up Gulf tour as allies share concerns over Iran peace accord](#)  
(2026-06-25 12:26)

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio told Gulf allies on Thursday that any deal with Iran would take their interests into account, as he wrapped up a Middle East trip aimed at winning over regional partners with deep reservations about the preliminary accord. Speaking at a meeting

of Gulf Arab foreign ministers in Bahrain – home to the US Navy’s Fifth Fleet – Rubio said Washington was seeking an enduring peace with long-time foe Iran that would not come at the expense of the security of allies in...

- [Hong Kong porn star Erena So arrested over promoting overseas gambling website](#) (2026-06-25 12:03)

Hong Kong police have arrested model and porn actress Erena So Hoi Lam on suspicion of promoting or facilitating bookmaking after she appeared in advertising videos for an overseas gambling website. Officers from the force’s West Kowloon regional crime unit detained So in Sham Shui Po on Thursday, saying they had uncovered an illegal betting website that had hired local personalities as brand ambassadors to attract gamblers. So was later released on bail and must report back to police in late...

- [China ‘on track to surpass United States’ in global goals for human, planet health: UN](#) (2026-06-25 12:00)

China is “on track to surpass the United States” in its efforts to eradicate poverty and protect the planet, according to a new report from the United Nations. The “Sustainable Development Report 2026”, which tracks global progress on the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), was launched on June 23. Also known as the “Global Goals”, the framework is intended to be a comprehensive worldwide blueprint for ending poverty, protecting the planet and ensuring prosperity by 2030. “Owing to its...

- [EU releases €3 billion loan for Ukraine’s recovery](#) (2026-06-25 11:45)

The European Union has disbursed the first €3 billion (US\$3.4 billion) tranche of a €90 billion loan to Ukraine, the country’s prime minister announced on Thursday at the opening of a conference on Ukraine’s post-war recovery in Poland. The conference, attended by key European leaders including German Chancellor Friedrich Merz and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, is both a fundraising forum and a message to Russia that Ukraine’s Western supporters are in it for a long...

- [Hong Kong is world’s most unequal society for wealth distribution, study finds](#) (2026-06-25 11:24)

Hong Kong has become the world’s most unequal society in terms of wealth distribution, a study has found, as the core drivers of income inequality in the city have shifted from wage disparities to capital concentration, reducing social mobility. The findings of the study, which analysed the evolution of income and wealth inequality in the city between 1981 and 2021, were presented by Yang Li, a research fellow at the World Inequality Lab at the Paris School of Economics, during a seminar hosted...

- [Hong Kong police bomb squad dispatched to check suspicious object in Quarry Bay](#) (2026-06-25 11:14)

Hong Kong police's bomb squad has been called in to investigate a suspicious object discovered in Quarry Bay, with sections of Pan Hoi Street and King's Road cordoned off in the process. The force was alerted at 4.52pm on Thursday to a suspicious object discovered on Pan Hoi Street in Quarry Bay. "The explosive ordnance disposal bureau has been summoned to investigate the object," a spokesman said. A source said the object was not believed to be a bomb. Another source said the object was about...

- [3-year-old found dead in car during France heatwave](#) (2026-06-25 11:07)

A three-year-old has died after finding himself trapped in a car in the Paris region in extreme heat, a prosecutor said on Thursday, the third such fatality this week. The boy had slipped into the family car while his father thought he was napping, then found himself unable to get out with the child lock in the town of Saint-Gratien, the prosecutor said, after a police source and civil defence also reported the death. France on Wednesday recorded the hottest day since measurements began in 1947,...

- [Did the Iran war just prove that China's ageing DF-15Bs are still big guns?](#) (2026-06-25 11:00)

Lessons from the Iran war suggest that China's ageing Dongfeng-15B short-range missiles may be more useful in penetrating modern missile defences than previously thought, according to military analysts. The suggestion surfaced this month in an article published by Ordnance Science and Technology which said that missiles with biconic manoeuvring re-entry vehicles (MRVs) could achieve a penetration effect close to that of hypersonic projectiles. The article, written under the byline Ma Lihua,...

- [HK Electric raises fuel charge by nearly 34% and further increases expected](#) (2026-06-25 10:37)

HK Electric has announced a nearly 34 per cent rise in its fuel charge, after a double-digit increase last month, as the war in the Middle East contributed to a "significant rise" in global fuel prices. The utility, which mainly serves Hong Kong Island and Lamma Island, also warned on Thursday that the charge was expected to continue rising. HK Electric announced it would adjust its fuel charge for July to 41.9 HK cents (5.3 US cents) per unit of electricity, up from 31.3 HK cents in June, an...

- [Kuaishou chip spin-off taps new funding for in-house designs amid US export controls](#) (2026-06-25 10:30)

Chinese internet giants are increasingly moving beyond software and into semiconductor design, betting that proprietary chips will give them greater control over computing infrastructure as artificial intelligence workloads surge and geopolitical tensions hamper access to advanced foreign technology. Short video giant Kuaishou is the latest to ride the wave, after its chip spin-off TranStreams raised an undisclosed amount in a Series A+ financing round this week led by QF Capital, according to...

- [‘Looming dangers’ under China-US ties: AI and rare earths reveal a fragile floor](#) (2026-06-25 10:29)

Deep-seated structural rivalry and lingering regulatory barriers are likely to limit any thaw in China-US ties, even though last month’s summit put a temporary floor under the fragile relationship, an expert from China’s top state-affiliated think tank has warned. Speaking at the World Economic Forum’s annual meeting in Dalian on Thursday, Zhao Hai, of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), struck a cautious note on the trajectory of the world’s most consequential bilateral relationship,...

- [Hygiene brand Dettol faces PR crisis in China after ad aimed at critiquing misogyny backfires](#) (2026-06-25 10:24)

British hygiene brand Dettol faced significant backlash in China for an advertisement perceived as objectifying women, prompting an apology and the removal of the commercial. Legal experts indicate it may have violated local laws and could face potential penalties. Dettol issued an apology on June 22 regarding its latest advert for laundry sanitiser. The four-minute commercial, presented as a micro-drama, was released in late May but gained notoriety on Chinese social media after segments were...

- [Wang Fuk Court fire result of ‘systemic failure’ in policy, experts tell hearing](#) (2026-06-25 10:19)

Hong Kong’s deadliest inferno in decades was a result of a “systemic failure” in public policy, two fire engineering experts have said, citing the lack of strategies to fight flames on the facades of high-rise buildings and the prolonged use of combustible materials in “temporary” works. An independent committee inquiry heard on Thursday that last year’s Wang Fuk Court fire was unprecedented in magnitude, with flames moving upwards along the buildings’ facades at more than 10 metres (32.8 feet)...

- [1 in 5 coffees sold in Europe contains pesticides: report](#) (2026-06-25 10:12)

There is a one in five chance that a packet of coffee beans sold in Europe contains residues of pesticides thought to have been erased during roasting, and in some cases include banned sprays that cause cancer, according to new research. There is a “systemic pattern” of pesticides showing up again and again in beans from most major production regions, says Coffee Watch, a US-based non-profit organisation seeking to reform the global coffee industry. Coffee Watch partnered with Pesticide Action...

- [Laser aimed at Punch the monkey in Japan prompts zoo’s ‘unacceptable’ warning](#) (2026-06-25 10:08)

A zoo in Japan has issued a stern warning after a visitor is seen aiming a laser pointer at Punch, the baby macaque who became a viral sensation, in an online video. The Ichikawa City Zoo and Botanical Gardens in Chiba prefecture told The Japan Times on Thursday that it received a call a

day earlier about a YouTube video posted last week showing someone shining a laser on Punch. “It’s unacceptable,” Takashi Yasunaga, who is in charge of the city’s zoo division, told the newspaper. Pointing...

- [China discovers rare coral reef blue hole in disputed Scarborough Shoal](#) (2026-06-25 10:06)

China has identified a rare coral reef blue hole within Scarborough Shoal, a hotly contested feature in the South China Sea that is now a major flashpoint in the region. A marine blue hole is a deep, circular sinkhole in the ocean and is typically bright turquoise or emerald green. Unlike most of the world’s known blue holes – which were once caves on land thousands of years ago during the last ice age – the newly discovered marine blue hole within the Scarborough Shoal lagoon was formed by the...

- [Actress Barbara Chan remembered for ‘unconditional love’ as sons lead tributes](#) (2026-06-25 09:55)

Late Hong Kong actress Barbara Chan Man-yee embodied “unconditional love”, her son said at her memorial service on Thursday, attended by leading figures from the city’s entertainment industry, including director Johnnie To Kei-fung and actress Ada Choi Siu-fun. A private service for the veteran actress was held at St Andrew’s Church in Tsim Sha Tsui, the same venue where her husband, actor Liu Kai-chi, was commemorated five years ago. Chan died of illness earlier this month at the age of 66. A...

- [Indonesia’s immigration chief urges rethink on wider visa-free access](#) (2026-06-25 09:12)

The Indonesian tourism ministry’s proposal to expand visa-free entry to more countries risks bringing in “low-quality tourists”, its immigration chief has said, asking the government to reconsider the decision. “We do not want visitors who do not contribute positively. When visas are waived, we effectively give up a source of state revenue. We must also protect the dignity of the nation,” Immigration Director General Hendarsam Marantoko told the Jakarta Globe newspaper. On Wednesday, the tourism...

- [Watchdog seeks HK\\$250,000 for family of late helper sacked during cancer battle](#) (2026-06-25 09:02)

Hong Kong’s equality watchdog is seeking about HK\$250,000 (US\$31,900) in compensation for the family of a domestic helper who was sacked by her employer in 2019 after being diagnosed with advanced cervical cancer and later died. The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) launched legal proceedings under the Disability Discrimination Ordinance in 2020 against Jamil Bushra for firing Baby Jane Allas in February 2019 while she was on medical leave. According to the ordinance, it is unlawful for an...

- [Hong Kong exports rise by nearly 41% in May as AI keeps fuelling demand](#) (2026-06-25 08:49)

The recent bumper growth in Hong Kong exports spilled into May, expanding by 40.8 per cent year on year, as artificial intelligence-related products continued to fuel already robust demand overseas. Provisional figures released by the Census and Statistics Department on Thursday showed that the total value of exports rose to HK\$611.2 billion (US\$77.95 billion) last month, following a nearly 43 per cent increase in April. The May figure marked the second month in a row that export growth exceeded...

- [Is investors' love affair with India ending?](#) (2026-06-25 08:30)

In July 2024, India's weight in the MSCI Emerging Markets Index, a leading gauge of stocks in developing economies, hit a record high of 19.99 per cent. At the time, this was less than three percentage points below China's weight, which at one point was as high as 43 per cent. Between 2022 and 2024, India was the darling of emerging market equity investors. The combination of the country's fast-growing economy, strong corporate earnings, the Covid-19 pandemic-induced boom in retail trading and...

- [Could China's photonic chips help it leapfrog US on AI?](#) (2026-06-25 08:01)

China opened a top-level optical computing laboratory in Shanghai in June after a string of breakthroughs in the field that could help get around US curbs on its development of artificial intelligence (AI). A decade after optical computing and next-generation photonics were made national priorities, China last year began limited production of locally designed photonic chips. These transmit and process data using photons – particles of light generated by lasers – whereas silicon chips such as the...

- [Huawei and Cambricon lead China's AI server chip surge, piling pressure on Nvidia](#) (2026-06-25 07:59)

Chinese chip suppliers led by Huawei Technologies and Cambricon Technologies, together with tech giants developing their own silicon, are set to capture nearly 80 per cent of the domestic AI server market this year, further squeezing global rivals such as Nvidia, according to TrendForce. Geopolitical tensions continue to erode the position of Nvidia, Advanced Micro Devices and other foreign suppliers, whose combined share of China's AI server market is forecast to fall to 21 per cent in 2026...

- [As US wavers, ex-minister says Japan and South Korea 'only have each other'](#) (2026-06-25 07:59)

Japan and South Korea should build a stronger security alliance to anchor regional stability as US commitment to East Asia becomes less certain, former Japanese foreign and defence minister Taro Kono said on Wednesday. "I think it is indispensable for peace and stability for East Asia that Japan and Korea create a very strong security alliance, not just the economy. Japan and Korea need to sit down and discuss security in the region," Kono said during the "Asia-Pacific in the age of American..."

- [New Zealand offered Chinese tourists an easier path to visit, and they' re loving it](#) (2026-06-25 07:03)

New Zealand has seen a surge in Chinese tourists since it began testing an easier pathway for visitors via Australia. The government began a 12-month trial in November that exempted Chinese and Pacific people from visa requirements if they were travelling from Australia. Officials estimated that after six months the new option has resulted in a 40 per cent increase in Chinese visitor arrivals, Tourism Minister Louise Upston said on Thursday in Wellington. Tourism is New Zealand' s second-largest...

- [Philippines foils second planned high school attack in Leyte in days](#) (2026-06-25 06:55)

Philippine authorities successfully foiled another possible school attack in Leyte province just two days after Monday' s deadly shooting in Tacloban City, thanks to a timely tip from Senator Bam Aquino. The senator, nephew of former president Corazon Aquino, informed Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla of the threat on Wednesday night. "At 8 o' clock last night, Senator Bam Aquino called me up and gave me a tip that there was chatter in Tacloban that there was an impending mass shooting that was...

- [Crocodile discovered on balcony triggers arrest after 100 more reptiles found](#) (2026-06-25 06:32)

Hong Kong police have arrested a woman after the discovery of a 1.5-metre-long (4.9 feet) crocodile on her balcony led to authorities finding about 100 more reptiles in her home, the South China Morning Post has learned. A source said police officers and staff from the Agricultural, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) returned to the flat at midnight on Wednesday after finding the crocodile hours earlier, only to discover more reptiles. "Officers discovered a large number of animals...

- [Cash-strapped Chinese man requests extra rice; restaurant owner surprises him](#) (2026-06-25 06:05)

A financially strained, unemployed man in China who ordered a set of fried rice on a food delivery platform not only received a larger portion of rice but also an apprenticeship offer from the restaurant. The young man, surnamed Wan, shared his experience on social media in mid-June, with the video attracting 40 million views and nearly four million likes as internet users praised the restaurant owner' s kindness. Living in Wuxi, in eastern Jiangsu province, Wan placed an order for the fried rice...

- [Woman in Singapore goes undercover to expose ex-boyfriend in porn group, gets him jailed](#) (2026-06-25 06:03)

A man in Singapore posed as his ex-girlfriend and shared her nude photos in a sex chat group with a religious theme, but was exposed when the victim caught wind of it and went undercover to investigate. The victim, who was a teenager when she shared the photos with the culprit, was horrified to discover that the chat group contained many obscene images and videos of women

clad in religious garb, including the tudung (headscarf). She filed a police report. Abdul MarzuqWaliyuddin Abdul Majid, a...

- [China-Japan flights drop 57% for summer travel peak amid geopolitical tensions](#)  
(2026-06-25 06:00)

The number of China-Japan flights scheduled by airlines for the upcoming summer travel period – the peak months of July and August – has dropped by 57 per cent versus a year ago following a political flap and a price hike in Japanese visas, according to industry data. A total of 2,629 round-trip flights were expected next month between the two Asian countries, down from 6,317 in July last year. In August, 2,641 were scheduled, a drop from the 6,127 flown in August 2025, data compiled by British...

- [Is EV battery technology nearing an inflection point? CATL boss expresses doubts](#)  
(2026-06-25 06:00)

Robin Zeng Yuqun, head of the world’s largest electric vehicle (EV) battery maker, has played down expectations for the much-hyped solid-state battery technology, predicting an inflection point would not take place until 2030. The founder and chairman of Contemporary Amperex Technology Ltd (CATL) also warned on Tuesday that commercial viability of the next-generation batteries was yet to be established. “Based on a measure of level one to nine, the technology has only reached level four so far,” ...

- [Is Prabowo’s Trump moment a sign that China is losing its favourite partner?](#)  
(2026-06-25 06:00)

Last October, at a Gaza peace summit in Egypt, Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto leaned towards his US counterpart Donald Trump and asked, “Can I meet Eric?” Prabowo was referring to the American president’s son. Trump responded warmly in the exchange that was picked up on a hot microphone. “I’ll have Eric call. He’s such a good boy.” Eric and his brother Donald Trump Jnr both serve as executive vice-presidents of the Trump Organisation, which has already built its first golf club in...

- [Trump casts doubt on US striking Iran school on war’s first day](#) (2026-06-25 05:37)

US President Donald Trump said on Wednesday it may never be known who was at fault for a deadly strike on a girls’ school in Iran on February 28, the first day of the Iran war, that killed scores of children. Reuters first reported in March that an initial internal US military investigation showed US forces were likely responsible for the fatal strike in Minab in southern Iran. The Pentagon has since elevated the probe but it has not acknowledged any preliminary findings. “I don’t know that they...

- [John Lee to begin public consultation on term’s final policy address on Monday](#)  
(2026-06-25 05:12)

Hong Kong's leader has announced that a public consultation for the final policy address of his term will begin on Monday, with the exercise also set to gauge views on the city's first five-year plan. Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chiu said on Thursday, after meeting tertiary education leaders to discuss the plan, that consultation for the final policy address of his five-year term would start next week. "The consultation will collect opinions on both the five-year plan and the policy address,...

- [Repentant protesters will be given priority case review, minister says](#) (2026-06-25 05:00)

As Hong Kong marks the 29th anniversary of its return to Chinese rule on July 1, the South China Morning Post talks to the city's senior officials about the administration's achievements so far and what may lie ahead. Protesters arrested during Hong Kong's 2019 social unrest will be given priority for case reviews if they demonstrate remorse and a sense of national identity, the security chief has revealed, even as investigations continue. In an interview with the SCMP, Secretary for Security...

- [Malaysian doctor in Australia remanded over 33 child sex offence charges](#) (2026-06-25 04:09)

A Malaysian paediatrician based in Perth has been remanded on 33 charges of child sexual offences and possession of child exploitation material, widening a case that Australian prosecutors say involves multiple children. The case adds to a list of child sex-related prosecutions involving Malaysian medical practitioners overseas, including a child psychiatrist jailed in Ireland in 2024, and another doctor convicted in Australia last year. Saw Chia Liang, 41, remains in custody after his latest...

- [As large language models enter China's legal profession, which lawyers will lose out?](#) (2026-06-25 04:00)

A major legal database affiliated with Peking University has launched a large language model tool it says can accurately retrieve statutes and automatically generate contracts, sending ripples through the legal profession in China. AI-powered legal tools can draft convincing documents in seconds, yet without rigorous oversight they are equally adept at inventing statutes and fabricating precedents – a liability that has kept them on the sidelines in medicine and law. However, lawyers cannot...

- [UBS prepares to open its next chapter of growth with a new Hong Kong home in West Kowloon](#) (2026-06-25 04:00)

With the formal handover of its new Hong Kong premises already complete and plans well under way to start moving all local staff there in the fourth quarter of this year, UBS, the world's largest wealth manager, is showing long-term confidence in the city's future as an international financial centre. The new headquarters is located near the West Kowloon Cultural District, one of the world's largest cultural and arts quarters spanning 40 hectares (99 acres) and home to renowned institutions such...

- [Trump shrugs off Britain’ s incoming leader: ‘I hear he’ s extremely liberal’](#)  
(2026-06-25 03:52)

US President Donald Trump was dismissive of Andy Burnham, who is set to become the next UK prime minister, saying he was unfamiliar with him and has only heard that he is “extremely liberal” . The US president was asked by a reporter on Wednesday about what he knew about Burnham, the former mayor of Greater Manchester who is poised to succeed Keir Starmer in Britain’ s latest leadership shake-up. “I don’ t know anything. I see that he was, I guess, the mayor of a town. I hear he’ s extremely...

- [Hong Kong parents may lose battle over daughter Lily amid fight for baby Danny](#)  
(2026-06-25 03:30)

Hong Kong social welfare authorities have classified baby Danny as a “high-risk” child and recommended he remain in protective care, while Sweden has moved to permanently transfer custody of his elder sister Lily to a foster family, according to the children’ s parents. The developments come ahead of a hearing at West Kowloon Juvenile Court on Friday over a protection order for Danny, the two-month-old whose home birth and delayed registration triggered a child neglect investigation earlier this...

- [Trump opens 250th US birthday party with a campaign-style rally](#) (2026-06-25 03:25)

US President Donald Trump opened 16 days of celebrations for America’ s 250th anniversary Wednesday with a rally-style speech – turning a national commemoration into a highly politicised showcase for his second-term agenda. The address, on Washington’ s National Mall, underscored how Trump has reshaped the anniversary around his own brand of politics and showmanship, blurring the line between official celebration and campaign-style spectacle. The Republican leader eventually invoked the grand...

- [Tai Po fire probe: Experts propose tighter rules and wider reforms – as it happened](#)  
(2026-06-25 02:55)

This story has been made freely available as a public service to our readers. Please consider supporting SCMP’ s journalism by subscribing. An independent committee will wrap up hearing testimony from experts on the factors behind Hong Kong’ s deadliest fire in decades, with the legal representatives to make their closing remarks in mid-July. Polytechnic University professors Asif Usmani and Jiang Liming are scheduled to testify at the final session of a public evidential hearing on...

- [Is Malaysia risking its world-class coral reefs for offshore oil?](#) (2026-06-25 02:34)

Every booking inquiry that lands in dive operator Richard Swann’ s inbox these days carries the same undertow of anxiety. Before his clients commit to a dive trip off Kota Kinabalu, they want reassurance: are Sabah’ s reefs still worth the journey? It is a question that would have seemed strange a generation ago, when the waters off Malaysian Borneo were simply assumed

to be among the finest on Earth. Now it is one of the first things visitors ask and the answer, according to a new environmental...

- [Loss of fugitive transfer deals a ‘pity’ and only helps criminals, Chris Tang says](#) (2026-06-25 02:00)

As Hong Kong marks the 29th anniversary of its return to Chinese rule on July 1, the South China Morning Post talks to the city’s senior officials about the administration’s achievements so far and what may lie ahead. Resuming extradition agreements with some countries is up to the ones that suspended them, Hong Kong’s security chief has said, calling the loss of such transfer deals a “pity” and something that only benefits criminals. Secretary for Security Chris Tang Ping-keung said in an...

- [Inside China’s ideological training camp where PLA top brass study Xi’s speeches](#) (2026-06-25 02:00)

Hundreds of China’s top military officials have spent weeks at an unprecedented ideology training camp – studying President Xi Jinping’s speeches, reading corrupt cadres’ confessions and marching in formation – as the anti-corruption drive in the military deepens. The details of the training camp, which concluded last week, were published in the People’s Liberation Army Daily, the military’s official newspaper, on Wednesday. Xi personally decided to launch the exercise, which began on April 8,...

- [Southbound Stock Connect flows surge to record US\\$152b driven by Hong Kong’s IPO revival](#) (2026-06-25 02:00)

Southbound Stock Connect flows, through which mainland Chinese investors buy Hong Kong listed shares, hit a record high in the past year, reflecting strong confidence in the city’s market on the back of a booming pipeline of initial public offerings (IPO). In the 12 months to March this year, mainland investors snapped up HK\$1.19 trillion (US\$151.8 billion) worth of shares in Hong Kong, according to the Securities and Futures Commission’s (SFC) annual report published on Wednesday. Average daily...

- [Malaysian student dies after collapsing during rugby training at school](#) (2026-06-25 01:46)

A Form Two male student died after collapsing during a rugby training session at a secondary school in Telok Mas, Malaysia’s Melaka state. The 14-year-old is believed to have lost consciousness at about 6pm on Wednesday shortly after a break while listening to a briefing by his coach. The victim’s granduncle, Yahya Endut, 64, said he rushed from Alor Gajah after receiving news of the incident involving the teenager, whom he had raised since childhood. “I was informed that the victim had only...

- [Power of Hong Kong’s new national security regulation must be exercised prudently](#) (2026-06-25 01:30)

The recent enactment of the Safeguarding National Security (Procedural Matters) Regulation has generated significant interest and commentary on Hong Kong's legal landscape. It is recognised that maintaining national security is of paramount importance and that there is a constitutional responsibility on the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region to do so. Under the Basic Law, that responsibility falls to a large extent on the city's chief executive. It is also recognised in many common law...

- [Hong Kong can take the regulatory high road amid US-China AI decoupling](#) (2026-06-25 01:30)

The market realignment over the past week starkly captures the self-defeating logic of America's technology containment strategy. The momentum began on June 15, when the shares of Chinese artificial intelligence pioneer Zhipu AI, which trade in Hong Kong under Knowledge Atlas Technology, surged by 48 per cent intraday after it announced the open-source release of its GLM-5.2 foundation model. The rally continued this week, with Zhipu's shares trading at an intraday high of HK\$2,980 (US\$380) in...

- [Chinese boy destroys US\\$30,000 worth of phones in home fire; dad's response shocks everyone](#) (2026-06-25 01:00)

A boy in southern China accidentally ignited dozens of mobile phones while playing at home, but his father's remarkably calm reaction has garnered praise online. The father, surnamed Peng, operates a mobile phone shop in Shenzhen and utilises part of his home as a workshop for storing devices, according to the mainland media outlet First Scene. The fire began when Peng's five-year-old son noticed sparks from a short-circuiting power strip and, intrigued, used them to ignite a tissue. The flames...

- ['No limits' to accountability over Tai Po fire, security chief Chris Tang says](#) (2026-06-25 00:30)

As Hong Kong marks the 29th anniversary of its return to Chinese rule on July 1, the South China Morning Post talks to the city's senior officials about the administration's achievements so far and what may lie ahead. Authorities will arrest and prosecute anyone if there is evidence of their wrongdoing in the Tai Po fire tragedy to ensure justice is served without needing the independent committee to become a legal commission of inquiry, Hong Kong's security chief has vowed. In an exclusive...

- [Hong Kong Science Fair marks five years of youth innovation](#) (2026-06-25 00:30)

[The content of this article has been produced by our advertising partner.] For five years in a row the Hong Kong Science Fair has worked to build up the talent pipeline that will support scientific discovery and innovation in Hong Kong and across the country. By sparking ideas in children and instilling an entrepreneurial spirit in their formative years, it helps turn young curiosity into real-world solutions that support scientific discovery and innovation. The government is fully committed...

- [Hong Kong prime office vacancy hits 7-month low on Central spillover demand](#) (2026-06-25 00:00)

Hong Kong's overall prime office vacancy rate fell to a seven-month low in May, driven by spillover demand from Central, where premium offices were close to full occupancy, according to JLL. With Central's grade A office vacancy rate holding steady at 9.2 per cent, tenants appeared to have found their way to neighbouring Wan Chai and Causeway Bay. Vacancy there edged down to 9.8 per cent in May from 10.4 per cent in April, the lowest in 10 months, the property consultancy said in its latest...

- [Buildings collapse as earthquake rocks Venezuela](#) (2026-06-24 23:59)

A strong earthquake shook north-central Venezuela on Wednesday afternoon, west of Caracas, bringing down buildings in the capital, though authorities did not immediately report any casualties. The earthquake registered at a magnitude 7.1, about 160km (100 miles) west of Caracas, at a depth of 13km (eight miles), according to the US Geological Survey. "Some buildings have been brought down [in Caracas], houses have collapsed," Interior Minister Diosdado Cabello said on state television. He did...

- [General who was last US soldier out of Afghanistan suddenly steps down](#) (2026-06-24 23:34)

The US Army's commander of its forces in Europe and Africa – who was famously the last American soldier to leave Afghanistan in 2021 – is unexpectedly stepping down from his post after just 18 months in the job, the Army confirmed late on Tuesday. General Christopher Donahue, commanding general of US Army Europe and Africa and commander of Nato's Allied Land Command, will relinquish his command on July 2, according to an Army statement. He is the latest in a line of nearly two dozen top military...

- [Keiko Fujimori vows to unite a Peru 'split in two' as run-off lead holds](#) (2026-06-24 23:00)

Right-wing candidate Keiko Fujimori said on Wednesday she would seek to unite a Peru "split in two" if she takes office, after razor-thin election results gave her enough votes to secure what appears to be an insurmountable lead in the presidential run-off. Fujimori, a four-time presidential hopeful and the daughter of late former president Alberto Fujimori, said she would make an "open call" to experienced technocrats to form her first cabinet, as she seeks to fulfil campaign promises to...

- [Hong Kong to reform Medical Council to improve handling of complaints](#) (2026-06-24 23:00)

Hong Kong authorities intend to reform the city's medical watchdog by raising the proportion of lay members to more than a third and requiring the time frames set for handling complaints to be made public, the South China Morning Post has learned. The proposed amendments to

the Medical Registration Ordinance follow a 15-year delay in the Medical Council’ s handling of a complaint against Dr Sit Sou-chi, who was accused of a blunder that left a boy permanently disabled in 2009. The case was...

- [US delegation snubs Apec meeting in Macau due to China visa requirements row](#) (2026-06-24 22:12)

The United States did not send high-level officials to an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) tourism ministerial meeting in Macau, citing China’ s restrictions on American diplomats’ ability to provide emergency consular help. Washington did not send “high-level participants” to the meeting, which runs from Wednesday to Sunday in China’ s Macau Special Administrative Region, according to a US State Department statement released on Wednesday. The US had repeatedly asked China to lift the...

- [Why the Vietnam ‘detour’ for US-bound Chinese goods hit a dead end](#) (2026-06-24 22:00)

Nearly a decade ago, one of China’ s largest textile exporters concocted a plan to hedge against trade barriers championed by US President Donald Trump during his first term. Its owners were convinced that moving their primary production base from China’ s east coast to Vietnam would be a permanent workaround – bypassing complex supply-chain pitfalls by hunkering down in a tariff lowland and continuing to stock Walmart shelves with socks and towels. Trying to get the jump on Trump in 2017, from...

- [8 takeaways from the US-Iran war](#) (2026-06-24 21:30)

The war in Iran is effectively over. Although the dust has yet to settle, some lessons are already visible. First, US President Donald Trump has waged a personal war at the world’ s expense. Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu warned that arms are ill-omened tools, employed only as a last resort. Trump, who has admitted he doesn’ t like to read, may not realise this. Few people know why he ordered a strike on Iran. Maybe kidnapping president Nicolas Maduro in Venezuela was too easy or Israeli Prime...

- [These 3 Brazilian sisters have lived to over 100. Scientists want to know their secret](#) (2026-06-24 21:20)

What is the secret to a long life? Three Brazilian sisters with a combined age of 316, who were named by Guinness this month as the oldest living trio of siblings in the world, may help researchers find out. The DNA Longevo Project, a study led by scientist Mayana Zatz from the University of Sao Paulo, aims to investigate the biological factors behind ageing. Findings from the three sisters’ case could help scientists better understand why some people remain physically and cognitively...

- [With no team in World Cup, China fans root for Ronaldo, Messi ... and a referee](#) (2026-06-24 21:13)

On a sunny day in Brooklyn's Dumbo neighbourhood, punters piled into the fifth floor of Time Out Market to Portugal House – part food court, part bar, full-blown World Cup party. The room was awash with Portuguese team jerseys, filled with fans sipping cold beer and soft drinks, proudly singing Portugal's national anthem before their match against DR Congo. “Hopefully, one day I can sing the Chinese national song in a World Cup stadium,” said Zhai Yibo, a 20-year-old Chinese student studying in...

- [Brazil detains Spanish woman for racism, in latest high-profile arrest](#) (2026-06-24 18:35)

Brazil's federal police detained a Spanish citizen in Sao Paulo's international Guarulhos airport for racism on Wednesday, the latest in a series of high-profile arrests of foreign tourists on similar grounds. Brazil has some of the strictest anti-racism laws in Latin America. Insulting a person on the basis of race carries a penalty of imprisonment from two to five years and a fine. The crew of a Latam airlines flight arriving from the northeastern city of Sao Luis called police, who arrested...

- [Trump's name is gone from the Kennedy Centre. Why is the tarp still up?](#) (2026-06-24 18:02)

A US federal judge asked on Wednesday for an explanation for why a tarpaulin continues to cover the facade of the Kennedy Centre where President Donald Trump's name was recently removed. District Judge Christopher Cooper gave the board of trustees of the performing arts venue until the end of July to explain “the purpose for and status of the tarp and scaffolding that defendants have erected on the front portico of the centre”. Trump's name was removed from the Kennedy Centre on the orders of...

- [French woman rescued in Pakistan after husband allegedly held her captive for 12 years](#) (2026-06-24 17:44)

Pakistan police said on Wednesday that they had rescued a French woman and her five children after she told authorities she had been held captive by her husband for more than a decade and subjected to years of domestic abuse in the country's northwest. The woman, identified as 54-year-old Sylvie Yasmina, was rescued earlier this week from a mud-brick home in Bara, a town in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province near the Afghan border, district police chief Waqar Ahmad said. He said Yasmina's husband,...

- [National security police arrest 2 people at Hong Kong bookshop](#) (2026-06-24 17:03)

Hong Kong national security police have arrested the owner and another person at an independent bookshop for alleged sedition and money laundering. Officers searched Hunter Bookstore in Sham Shui Po on Wednesday and arrested the owner, former district councillor Leticia Wong Man huen, and a local man. They were detained on suspicion of committing acts with seditious intent, a police source said. Wong, formerly of the now disbanded Civic Party, also allegedly laundered money in breach of the...

- [Trump cancels signing of key US housing bill until Save America Act is passed](#) (2026-06-24 15:16)

President Donald Trump cancelled his plan to sign a bipartisan affordable housing bill on Wednesday in an effort to pressure his fellow Republicans to pass a long-stalled package of US national voting restrictions that has aggravated party fissures and shown the limits of his power. Trump has said he will join Senate Republicans at a closed-door lunch on Wednesday afternoon to lobby them to pass the voting measure called the Save America Act, his top legislative priority. The act would require...

- [France confirms Ebola virus in doctor who worked in Congo](#) (2026-06-24 14:32)

A positive case of Ebola virus has been identified in France in a doctor travelling back from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the French Ministry of Health said Wednesday. The individual, who has not been identified, returned from a humanitarian mission in one of the virus transmission zones in the DRC and was taken into care at a specialised facility in France. The person is in stable condition, the ministry said. The Congolese health ministry said on Wednesday there are 1,094 confirmed...

- [PLA's advanced aircraft carrier Fujian transits Taiwan Strait amid military drills](#) (2026-06-24 14:00)

The People's Liberation Army's most advanced aircraft carrier, the Fujian Type 003, transited the Taiwan Strait on Tuesday, a day after Taipei launched a combat readiness exercise. Song Zhongping, a military commentator and former PLA instructor, said the Fujian could be heading back to its home port in the southern island province of Hainan for a break before it headed out to the South China Sea for more training. Taiwan's armed forces closely monitored the vessel throughout its passage using...

- [Indian tech hub names road for Trump, draws flak from PM Modi's party](#) (2026-06-24 13:55)

A key road named after US President Donald Trump in India's opposition-ruled tech hub of Hyderabad has drawn criticism from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ruling party, which dismissed the move as "hypocrisy". US-India ties have deteriorated during Trump's second term, with Washington imposing high tariffs on Indian goods, punishing New Delhi for purchasing Russian oil, and engaging closely with India's arch-rival Pakistan. The road in the capital of the southern state of Telangana, ruled by...

- [Elderly man found hanging in Hong Kong flat last week dies from injuries](#) (2026-06-24 13:28)

An elderly man has died in hospital after being found hanging in his Hong Kong flat, where his wife was discovered with her head covered and declared dead shortly afterwards. The couple's daughter visited their flat in Fung King House at Lai King Estate in Kwai Chung on Friday and found her 70-year-old stepfather hanging by several phone charging cables in the

living room. She found her 78-year-old mother on a bed with her head covered. The couple were rushed to Princess Margaret Hospital in...

- [Rescuers snap into action after crocodile found in Hong Kong building](#) (2026-06-24 12:51)

An injured 1.5-metre-long (five feet) juvenile crocodile has been found in a Hong Kong residential building, prompting a rescue operation by an animal concern group. At about 1pm on Wednesday, police alerted the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) that a member of the public had reported spotting the reptile at a residential block on Tai Po Road in Sham Shui Po. It was later confirmed to be a juvenile hybrid of a Siamese crocodile and a saltwater crocodile. The SPCA said...

- [UK's revolving door of prime ministers reveals a deeper malaise](#) (2026-06-24 12:30)

The resignation of Prime Minister Keir Starmer has once again plunged British politics into uncertainty. Britain is now poised to welcome its seventh prime minister in a decade: after David Cameron, Theresa May, Boris Johnson, Liz Truss, Rishi Sunak and now Starmer, yet another successor is waiting in the wings. For a country that often presents itself as a model of political stability and democratic governance, such an extraordinary turnover of leadership raises questions about the...

- ['War of words' won't stop Iran nuclear inspections, says IAEA](#) (2026-06-24 12:19)

The international nuclear watchdog responsible for verifying Iran's stockpile of near-bomb-grade uranium dismissed the conflicting signals from Tehran and Washington overnight and said it expects to resume full monitoring at some stage. "There's a war of words here," said International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Rafael Grossi, referring to White House statements about monitoring that were disputed by Iran. In Washington on Tuesday, President Donald Trump threatened to halt...

- [China offers rewards for reporting rare earth export control violations](#) (2026-06-24 12:07)

Beijing is sharpening the tools it uses to police rare earth and other strategic mineral exports, announcing fresh measures that will reward companies and individuals for reporting suspected violations. The announcement came on Wednesday, the same day Tokyo confirmed that two of its nationals had been detained in China over alleged attempts to smuggle rare earth-related goods out of the country. "Any organisation or individual has the right to report conduct suspected of violating relevant laws..."

- [At Summer Davos in China, Mideast firms look to next generation to repair the Gulf](#) (2026-06-24 12:00)

China may be seen as a potential mediator in the Middle East but economic integration within the region is more likely to drive change there, according to observers at the World Economic Forum's annual meeting in the northeastern Chinese city of Dalian. The "Summer Davos" gathering in Liaoning province this week comes as Washington and Tehran try to reach

agreement on Iran's nuclear programme and the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz. The twocountries have agreed to halt fighting "on all...

- [29 arrested in crackdown on loan sharks who charged victims 3,000% in interest](#) (2026-06-24 11:52)

Hong Kong police have arrested 29 people in a crackdown on a loan-sharking and money laundering ring that charged victims annual interest rates as high as 3,000 per cent. Police said on Wednesday that the syndicate had set up a secret call centre in Tsuen Wan and posed as licensed finance companies, randomly phoning people in an attempt to lure them into borrowing money. In the process, they extracted personal information, including occupations, repayment ability and family background. Small...

- [Singapore aims to lead Asia's wellness race with US\\$770 million complex](#) (2026-06-24 11:49)

As Singapore bets on becoming Asia's leading wellness destination, tourism experts say the city state must prove that its attractions can draw international visitors in a region replete with spas, retreats and hot springs. A S\$1 billion (US\$770 million) waterfront complex scheduled to open in 2030 is expected to be a major driver of the country's wellness sector. European developer Therme Group is slated to start work on the project in the third quarter, after being awarded the tender in...

- [Reducing fire risk to zero would cost huge amount, Tai Po blaze inquiry hears](#) (2026-06-24 11:09)

Requiring that only incombustible materials be used for large-scale renovations at housing estates is unrealistic and fails to take into account risks that arise after prolonged use, a public inquiry into Hong Kong's deadliest inferno in decades has heard. The use of polyfoam boards to seal windows was among five key factors that led to the death toll of 168 people at Wang Fuk Court in Tai Po last year, experts said at the public inquiry session on Wednesday. An expert appointed by the...

- [How Indonesia's coal policies left its own citizens in the dark](#) (2026-06-24 11:07)

A wave of power outages across Indonesia's Java island has left millions of residents and business owners in the dark, igniting public fury and raising questions as to how the world's largest coal exporter is failing to keep its own lights on. The answer, analysts say, lies less in a coal shortage than in the rules and incentives governing who gets to buy it, at what price and when. Hours-long blackouts since last week have disrupted the lives and businesses of millions of subscribers of...

- [China's telecoms giants bet on 'air-space-ground-sea' networks for future AI needs](#) (2026-06-24 11:00)

China's telecoms giants are pushing for "air-space-ground-sea" networks amid Beijing's push to expand artificial intelligence infrastructure, as SpaceX's market debut has ignited the industry's focus beyond the Earth. At the opening of the Mobile World Congress (MWC) Shanghai on Wednesday, telecommunications executives framed the next phase of infrastructure as one that needs to encompass both the skies and oceans to meet skyrocketing demand for AI computing. Wang Tao, rotating chairman of...

- [Ukraine drones knock out power in Russia-held Crimea's biggest city](#) (2026-06-24 10:31)

Ukrainian drones knocked out power in Sevastopol, the biggest city in Russian-held Crimea, on Wednesday and targeted facilities in central and southern Russia, local officials said, underscoring the reach of Kyiv's attacks on energy infrastructure. Ukraine has intensified strikes on Russian oil refineries, depots and supply routes this year, pushing up petrol prices in Russia, where authorities have limited sales in some regions. Fuel shortages have been particularly acute on the Crimean...

- [Morgan Stanley raises China humanoid robot shipment forecast to 50,000 units](#) (2026-06-24 10:30)

Morgan Stanley has again raised its forecast for China's humanoid robot shipments this year, lifting its estimate to 50,000 units from 28,000 as commercial validation, policy support and supply-chain momentum accelerate adoption. The investment bank had already doubled its projection to 28,000 units in January. In a report published on Tuesday, it said the latest upgrade reflected a growing number of Chinese companies, including electric-vehicle maker Xpeng, announcing plans for mass production...

- [China targets face of international space cooperation in corruption crackdown](#) (2026-06-24 10:30)

Senior Chinese defence industry official Bian Zhigang is under investigation for corruption, the latest high-profile target in Beijing's sweeping crackdown on its military sector. Bian, deputy head of the State Administration of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defence (SASTIND), was suspected of "serious violations of discipline and law", the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI) said on Wednesday, using its usual term for corruption and bribery. The CCDI is China's...

- [Hong Kong records 91 suspected student suicides in 3 years, majority boys](#) (2026-06-24 10:11)

Hong Kong education authorities have revealed that 91 students were suspected to have died by suicide between 2023 and 2025, with most cases involving secondary school students and boys. The Education Bureau told lawmakers on Wednesday that the numbers of suspected fatal cases among primary and secondary students were 32 in 2023, 28 in 2024 and 31 in 2025. An advocacy group said youth suicide was rarely caused by a single factor, but identified family issues as a leading underlying cause in Hong...

- [Wife of ALS-stricken China e-commerce tycoon refuses divorce despite request](#)

(2026-06-24 10:00)

China's most renowned amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) patient, Cai Lei, has been battling the illness for seven years following his diagnosis. His wife, Duan Rui, has supported him in her own way, also becoming a pillar for other families affected by ALS. After the former vice-president of Chinese e-commerce giant JD.com received his ALS diagnosis in 2019, Cai, now 48, emerged as one of the world's most determined advocates against the disease, investing over 100 million yuan (US\$15 million)...

- [Chinese-Filipino groups downplay Sinophobia over earthquake aid in Philippines](#)

(2026-06-24 09:30)

Chinese-Filipino business groups have sent aid to earthquake-hit residents in the southern Philippines, continuing their tradition of providing disaster relief at a time when worsening Manila-Beijing ties have complicated public perceptions of people and organisations linked to China. In General Santos City, among the areas hardest hit by the devastating 7.8-magnitude earthquake that struck the country on June 8, local officials and survivors said politics had little place in disaster recovery...

- [Philippines' worst school shooting puts social media, games in the dock](#)

(2026-06-24 09:00)

After two teenagers opened fire at a Philippine high school this week, the first question lawmakers asked was not about gun control, but the internet. Three pupils were killed and 20 injured at San Jose National High School in Tacloban City, Leyte province, on Monday – the highest total casualty count of any Philippine school shooting. It has renewed calls to restrict Filipino children's access to social media and online games, coming months after police said they had disrupted a school shooting...

- [Drowning desert: how Xinjiang's infrastructure could fail under record rain](#)

(2026-06-24 08:59)

Rare but intense rainfall in China's biggest desert that triggered flooding – and damage – across parts of Xinjiang has underscored the growing risks posed by extreme weather in the country's arid northwest. According to China Weather Network, the public information platform of the China Meteorological Administration (CMA), two major flood events have occurred along the margins of the Taklamakan Desert, a once-arid region, this month. While warmer, wetter conditions in recent decades made...

- [Bid-rigging trial over HK\\$700 million in renovation work set for 2028 at earliest](#)

(2026-06-24 08:45)

Eight companies and 12 individuals suspected of rigging bids for at least 11 building maintenance projects in Hong Kong, including at Wang Fuk Court where 168 people died in a

fire last year, are expected to face a month-long trial no earlier than 2028. The Competition Tribunal held its first hearing on Wednesday for the companies and individuals accused by the Competition Commission of acting as a bid-rigging syndicate for building maintenance projects worth nearly HK\$700 million (US\$89.4...

- [Hong Kong pioneers world's first robotic living-donor liver transplant](#) (2026-06-24 08:42)

Hong Kong doctors have performed the world's first robotic living-donor liver transplant as part of a pioneering microsurgery programme, researchers have revealed. Sharing the results of the clinical trial on Wednesday, the University of Hong Kong (HKU) team said surgeons at Queen Mary Hospital had completed 48 procedures since June 2025, with no long-term or post-operative complications. Microsurgery, which requires surgeons to operate under high-powered magnification on structures as fine as...

- [EU and China need a grand bargain to avoid a trade war](#) (2026-06-24 08:30)

As European leaders convened at the European Council meeting in Brussels this month, the spectre of a full-blown trade war with China cast a long shadow over the proceedings. Amid ongoing anti-subsidy probes into Chinese green technology and the looming threat of retaliatory tariffs, the economic bedrock of the China-EU relationship appears increasingly fragile. Yet, beneath the hawkish political rhetoric, recent high-level meetings between European officials and their Chinese counterparts...

- [2 Japanese held in China over alleged rare earths smuggling](#) (2026-06-24 08:04)

China has detained two Japanese nationals over alleged attempts to take rare earth-related products out of the country. Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Minoru Kihara said on Wednesday that one of the two was detained by Chinese authorities on May 18 and the other a week later, accused of violating Chinese laws governing the import and export of restricted goods. Tokyo confirmed the detentions, without giving further details, citing privacy. One of the detainees is an employee of a Japanese...

- [Hidden cost of China's electric car boom, record-breaking week for sales: 7 EV reads](#) (2026-06-24 07:30)

We have put together stories from our coverage on electric and new energy vehicles from the past two weeks to help you stay informed. If you would like to see more of our reporting, please consider subscribing. 1. The hidden cost of China's electric car boom: a spiralling roadworks bill China's rapid transition to electric vehicles (EVs) has been widely hailed as an economic success story. But it is also creating a serious headache for the country's local governments, which are tasked with...

- [Singaporean woman jailed for slapping, punching helper over job performance](#) (2026-06-24 07:29)

Upset with the way that her domestic worker had performed tasks such as hanging the laundry or cleaning bottles, a 67-year-old woman slapped, punched and scratched her, drawing blood. The victim, who earned S\$470 (about US\$360) a month, told staff members from Singapore's Centre for Domestic Employees (CDE) during a routine call about the abuse, and a police report was made. Hazel Phang Fong Yen, a 67-year-old Singaporean woman, was sentenced to four months' jail on Wednesday. She was also...

- [Keiko Fujimori edges closer to winning Peru's presidency](#) (2026-06-24 07:29)

Keiko Fujimori is poised to become Peru's next president after running her fourth consecutive campaign, according to figures published late Tuesday by the elections regulator after weeks of adjudicating disputed ballots. With 43,386 votes between Fujimori and leftist rival Roberto Sanchez, and no more than 39,300 votes in dispute, the conservative had enough of a margin to secure her lead. Fujimori had 50.1 per cent of the vote while Sanchez had 49.9 per cent with 99.8 per cent of ballots...

- [Beijing's brokerage probe to stop 'leakage', Paul Chan tells Davos Dalian event](#) (2026-06-24 07:23)

Beijing's recent investigation into three brokerages – Futu Securities, Tiger Brokers and Long Bridge – was partly driven by concerns over foreign exchange “leakage” and the need to protect mainland China's vast base of retail investors, Hong Kong's finance chief has said. At a closed-door C-Suite roundtable organised by the South China Morning Post on Wednesday, Financial Secretary Paul Chan Mo-po said Beijing was overall “supportive” of Hong Kong's role as an international financial...

- [Thai officials caught altering exam scores for bribes of up to US\\$24,000](#) (2026-06-24 07:11)

Thailand's Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul has ordered an investigation into allegations of mass cheating in civil service exams to attain government jobs, after thousands of tests were allegedly tampered with to boost scores in exchange for fees of up to US\$24,000 each time. The scandal erupted after police and anti-corruption officials raided a company address in Nonthaburi outside Bangkok on Tuesday and found at least 10 officials on site tampering with computerised scores “to help...

- [Hong Kong police arrest 15-year-old driver and his father in Wan Chai](#) (2026-06-24 07:03)

Hong Kong police have arrested a 15-year-old boy and his father in Wan Chai after officers intercepted the teenager behind the wheel at a late-night traffic checkpoint. Officers from the force's Hong Kong Island traffic section set up a roadblock at the junction of Marsh Road and Hung Hing Road at around 10pm on Tuesday. During the routine traffic enforcement operation, police stopped a car and found the driver was a minor. The 15-year-old non-Chinese boy was arrested on suspicion of driving...

- [Chinese car sales accelerate in Europe as Brussels weighs putting on the brakes](#)

(2026-06-24 07:00)

Chinese carmakers continued their rapid expansion in Europe last month according to industry data released on Tuesday, as Brussels reportedly weighs fresh tariffs aimed at slowing their advance. Geely Group was the highest-placed Chinese carmaker, ranking eighth among all manufacturer groups in May, according to the latest sales data released by the European Automobile Manufacturers Association (ACEA), covering the European Union, the United Kingdom and the four European Free Trade Association...

- [US Pacific Command name change risks damaging India ties: ‘senseless’](#)

(2026-06-24 06:43)

A Pentagon decision to strip “Indo” from the name of its largest unified military command eight years after it was initially added has raised questions about the United States’ continuing commitment to India. In a statement announcing the Indo-Pacific Command’ s name change on June 16, US officials portrayed the move as a matter of “honour” , “pride” and respecting “historical roots” . But analysts told This Week in Asia that New Delhi would likely read the reversion to Pacific Command (PACOM) as...

- [Outrage erupts after distressed tourist-carrying camel in China is forced to its feet](#)

(2026-06-24 06:00)

A camel was seen crying out continuously while carrying a tourist on its back at a major attraction in China, sparking public outrage. The camel drew significant attention online after a blogger released a video on June 15, showing that the skinny animal was forced to stand despite appearing exhausted while carrying a female tourist who was taking photos, as reported by the news portal The Cover. The incident occurred at Devil City on the Sea in Fuhai county, Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region,...

- [New poll shows eroding global trust in Trump and America](#)

(2026-06-24 06:00)

Global confidence in US President Donald Trump’ s leadership remains low around the world, while views of his country as a reliable partner continue to decline, a new survey from the Washington-based Pew Research Centre showed on Tuesday. The survey of 42,151 adults across 36 countries was conducted between February and May 2026, a period marked by geopolitical competition with China and the US-Israeli military conflict with Iran that began in late February. On average, just 23 per cent of adults...

- [Hong Kong to send welfare cash to retirees’ mainland Chinese bank accounts from July](#)

(2026-06-24 05:54)

Hong Kong will allow elderly welfare recipients retiring in Guangdong and Fujian to have cash assistance directly sent to their mainland Chinese bank accounts from July as part of a much-awaited arrangement, the city’ s leader has said. Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chiu announced the launch in a social media post on Wednesday during a visit to Fujian, where he

met elderly Hong Kong residents living in the province at a tea party. He said the new servicewould “further facilitate the elderly in...

- [Malaysian police officer faces disciplinary probe over viral ‘smelly’ Chinese video](#) (2026-06-24 05:45)

Malaysia’s police chief has opened a disciplinary inquiry into a woman who appeared in viral videos mocking people in China as “smelly”, after the clips triggered anger in both countries and forced her into a public apology. Inspector-General of Police Mohd Khalid Ismail said on Tuesday authorities had begun an internal investigation into the personnel involved, identified by her lawyer as Nur Asyiqin Mohd Dalil. “I have received information on the matter and we have recently opened a...

- [Anti-war protesters jeer Japan’s Takaichi over softening pacifist stance](#) (2026-06-24 05:32)

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi was heckled at a World War II memorial event by protesters angry about Tokyo’s further shift away from its decades-long pacifist stance, television footage showed. Close US ally Japan in April loosened rules on lethal arms exports and Takaichi, long seen as a security hawk who last year riled mainland China with comments about Taiwan, has said she wants to revise the constitution. A small but vocal number of demonstrators shouted slogans throughout...

- [Mamdani-backed candidates win Democratic congressional primaries in New York](#) (2026-06-24 05:32)

Three candidates endorsed by Zohran Mamdani swept to victory in Democratic congressional primaries on Tuesday, showing that the coalition which powered the New York City mayor to a surprising victory last year is gaining strength. Some of the city’s most established political figures were toppled in races that highlighted divisions within the party over ideology, Israel and immigration. Former New York City comptroller Brad Lander defeated two-term Congressman Dan Goldman in New York’s 10th...

- [Banks are rushing to recruit AI leadership – but how will the tech be implemented?](#) (2026-06-24 05:07)

Both regulators and clients could motivate banks to adopt artificial intelligence for greater efficiency gains in the coming years, an Amazon Web Services (AWS) executive has predicted, adding the trend could intensify the global race to embrace the cutting-edge technology. Over the past few months, multinational banks have approached AWS about how to grow their business in innovative ways, said Shaown Nandi, vice-president of technology at the US cloud computing giant, in an interview with the...

- [Hong Kong school rearranges overnight World Cup watch party after feedback](#) (2026-06-24 04:53)

A Hong Kong primary school that earlier suggested hosting an overnight World Cup viewing event has watered down the plan and opted for a weekend morning timeslot in response to feedback from parents. The school clarified that its initial circular, which slated the event for the very early hours of July 15, sought to gauge parental interest, while its shift to daytime aimed to allow for more parents and students to watch the match together. In a statement on Wednesday – about a week after the...

- [As Europe bakes in early heatwave, fan and air-con sales skyrocket](#) (2026-06-24 04:37)

Europe braced for more of an unprecedented heatwave that has smashed records in many countries and sent air-conditioner sales zooming in a continent unused and ill-equipped to handle searing heat. The extreme weather was being driven by atmospheric and circulation patterns that keep hot air trapped in place for days, causing the mercury to slowly rise, with these factors exacerbated by global warming, experts say. France’s national temperature indicator – an average of daytime and nighttime...

- [Chinese scientists love Blackpink’s Jennie so much they named a fish after her](#) (2026-06-24 04:00)

A popular K-pop star has found an unlikely place in the scientific record after researchers in China named a newly discovered fish species after her. Jennie Ruby Jane, from Blackpink, was “a constant source of inspiration” for the master’s student who discovered the tiny black-and-yellow fish – shorter than an average human fingernail – near southern China’s Pearl River estuary. The fish, named *Brachygobius jennie*, is the first bumblebee goby found in China and could provide a model for studying...

- [Man arrested over impersonating ride-hailing driver, breaching visa terms](#) (2026-06-24 03:35)

Hong Kong police have arrested a 41-year-old mainland Chinese man on suspicion of impersonating a registered ride-hailing driver and working in breach of his visa conditions. Officers from the force’s traffic New Territories North headquarters carried out the undercover operation on Tuesday afternoon, disguising themselves as passengers in Yuen Long before intercepting two private cars in Sheung Shui. The force said the suspect and a 24-year-old local man were arrested for allegedly using motor...

- [Rebuking Trump, US Senate joins House in vote to end Iran war](#) (2026-06-24 03:31)

The US Senate backed legislation on Tuesday directing US President Donald Trump to halt US military action against Iran, the latest rebuke of the Republican president from an increasingly restive Congress. The Senate voted 50–48 in favour of the war powers resolution, which passed the House of Representatives early this month, reflecting growing concern even among some of Trump’s Republicans about the unpopular conflict that began on February 28 when the US and Israel launched an attack on...

- [Airbus to inspect 16 A380 planes after cracks found on wings](#) (2026-06-24 03:05)

Airbus on Tuesday said it would inspect 16 A380 planes, five of them immediately, after cracks were found in a key wing component on aircraft used by the Emirates and Qantas airlines. The European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) has ordered urgent inspections requiring airlines to examine the wing-spar structure on the affected jets after inspectors found cracks during routine maintenance checks. The cracks appeared in a structural beam that runs along the wing and carries much of the...

- [Property was Australia's favourite wealth builder. A tax overhaul aims to end that](#) (2026-06-24 03:02)

Just a short stroll from Sydney's famous Bondi Beach, auctioneer Clarence White struggles to drum up bids for an airy three-storey home that boasts five bedrooms and an alfresco lounge – price tag, A\$5.2 million (US\$3.64 million). “We know everyone's cagey at the moment, but that's OK ... all power to those who are registered and those who take action,” the veteran auctioneer tells a small group of prospective buyers and onlookers, none of whom bids. Failed auctions like this were once the...

- [America's 'biggest risk' on AI is China getting ahead, Bessent says](#) (2026-06-24 03:00)

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent on Tuesday said China surpassing the United States on artificial intelligence was the “biggest risk” of the technology – outweighing concerns over safety or job losses. “The biggest risk to AI is China getting ahead of us,” Bessent said at the Economic Club of New York, adding that China's willingness to discuss AI underscored America's technological lead. “I am one of the point people on our AI policy. I am the point person in terms of the economic...

- [India's military self-reliance push hits private sector tech deficit](#) (2026-06-24 03:00)

India's private defence companies are poised to expand their footprint in the sector, but analysts warn they still lack the technology and capabilities needed to produce cutting-edge weapons for the country's military or export markets. In the 2025-26 financial year, the private sector accounted for 24 per cent of India's defence output, or US\$4.4 billion out of a record US\$18.7 billion, according to a defence ministry statement released last week. The figures reflect a gradual shift away from a...

- [ASML EUV in China? The rumour is ridiculed but it reveals a tougher reality on the ground](#) (2026-06-24 03:00)

For anyone closely watching the semiconductor industry, the recent saga around ASML's denial of possible EUV (extreme ultraviolet) lithography shipments to China, in an apparent response to US concern, may sound almost absurd at first. The machine at the centre of the discussion is not a laptop-sized piece of equipment that can be easily packed into a shipping carton. ASML's EUV lithography systems weigh about 180 tonnes, contain a vast number of precision components, are shipped to customers in...

- [Deadly Hong Kong blaze fuelled by combustibles, non fireproof materials: expert](#) (2026-06-24 02:12)

This story has been made freely available as a public service to our readers. Please consider supporting SCMP's journalism by subscribing. As a judge-led panel continues its public inquiry into Hong Kong's deadliest fire in decades, experts are set to give evidence on factors that contributed to the rapid spread of the blaze. Richard Yuen Kwok-kit, chair professor of architectural engineering at the City University, will testify on Wednesday before the independent committee regarding the fire at...

- [Hong Kong's focus on rankings distorts universities' true mission](#) (2026-06-24 01:30)

"Hong Kong is the only city in the world with five universities ranked among the global top 100." This talking point has become one of the Hong Kong government's favourite slogans. It has appeared in government press releases and official speeches, including Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chiu's policy address last year. Though pleasing to the ear, this distorts our education priorities. Hong Kong is also an outlier in attaching such political significance to university rankings. Once the Hong Kong...

- ['Durian tsunami' sweeps Malaysia, making premium Musang King dirt cheap](#) (2026-06-24 01:30)

Malaysia's durian lovers are in for a treat as prices for the "king of fruits" will remain low from now until August. This is due to a bumper harvest, leading to a situation known as "durian tsunami" where an oversupply in the market causes prices to tumble. Administrative executive Lim Mei Ling, 34, said the price drop is a welcome surprise. "Normally, I would think twice before buying Musang King. But now, I can enjoy this premium durian and keep some for later," she said. Engineer Kelvin Tan,...

- [12-year-old Chinese boy caught after 6-hour highway joyride, claims dwarfism when stopped](#) (2026-06-24 01:26)

A 12-year-old boy from southern China was detained after driving solo for six hours on the highway, claiming to have adult dwarfism, which shocked social media. The boy, surnamed Luo and hailing from the Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region, was discovered by a highway toll collector on June 15 due to his unusually short stature. He insisted he was an adult with dwarfism, but the toll collector was sceptical and contacted the police. Upon investigation, the police determined that he was merely a...

- [As China plans for demographic crisis, some sectors see opportunity](#) (2026-06-24 01:07)

As China moves towards becoming one of the world's fastest-ageing economies – a trend causing worry over future productivity and a widening gulf between the country's working and retired populations – Goldman Sachs said the pharmaceutical and biotechnology sectors could end up the biggest winners from the demographic divide, while carmakers and technology

hardware manufacturers may see fiercer headwinds. Hong Kong and mainland China are both expected to enter the top 10 ranking for the world's...

- [Does Lithuania's Taiwan pause signal a wider European shift towards pragmatism?](#)  
(2026-06-24 01:00)

Lithuania's decision to suspend negotiations on an economic cooperation plan with Taiwan has cast fresh doubt over one of Taipei's most celebrated foreign relations breakthroughs as the Baltic state's incoming government seeks more pragmatic ties with Beijing. Lithuania's foreign ministry said on Monday that negotiations on an economic cooperation action plan with Taiwan had been temporarily suspended by mutual agreement because of changes in the European country's domestic political environment...

- [China's medical AI breaks ground as surgical robot wins EU approval, model tops benchmark](#) (2026-06-24 01:00)

Medical AI from China has reached new milestones, with a teleoperated surgical robot gaining access to the European Union market and a clinical-grade model topping a major healthcare benchmark developed by OpenAI. Shanghai MicroPort MedBot said its Toumai Remote robot, which allowed surgeons to remotely conduct laparoscopic surgeries, had received the "CE mark" from the European Union, a mandatory requirement to enter the market, according to its Hong Kong stock exchange filing on Monday. The...

- [City leader's new national security powers will not affect appeals: justice minister](#)  
(2026-06-24 00:30)

As Hong Kong marks the 29th anniversary of its return to Chinese rule on July 1, the South China Morning Post talks to the city's senior officials about the administration's achievements so far and what may lie ahead. A new piece of subsidiary legislation that allows Hong Kong's leader to certify a case as involving national security is unlikely to affect appeals, as the reclassification will not help authorities succeed in legal challenges, the justice chief has said. Secretary for Justice Paul...

- [Creditors in aggressive push to sell 2 Hong Kong hotels amid banks' drive to cut losses](#)  
(2026-06-24 00:00)

Receivers and agents of the Sheraton Hong Kong Tung Chung Hotel and the Four Points by Sheraton have expressed confidence in finally finding a buyer for the dual-branded complex – which together make up Hong Kong's third-largest hotel by room numbers – as creditors move to dispose of the asset. Sole agent Savills is holding a formal tender that is expected to close on August 31 for the 1,219-room property on Lantau Island, near the Tung Chung MTR station and the Hong Kong International...

- [Kim says North Korea to arm navy with nuclear weapons, build bigger warships](#)  
(2026-06-23 23:49)

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un said his country was “equipping the Navy with nuclear weapons,” state media reported Wednesday, as he also unveiled plans to build 10,000-ton (9,000-tonne) warships. The remarks came at the commissioning of the Choe Hyon – one of two 5,000-ton (4,500-tonne) class warships the nuclear-armed state launched last year – in the port city of Nampo on Tuesday, the official Korean Central News Agency reported. “The programme of equipping the Navy with nuclear weapons is...

- [‘China Initiative 2.0’ : US crackdown on Chinese scholars intensifies](#) (2026-06-23 23:11)

Leading immigration lawyers and activists say the US government has intensified its crackdown on Chinese scientists and researchers – a campaign they argue is even more aggressive than the controversial “China Initiative” launched during US President Donald Trump’s first term. “I think now we are clearly in an era of China Initiative 2.0,” said Robert Fisher, a former Assistant US Attorney and a partner at Nixon Peabody, a Boston-based international law firm. The initiative, launched by the...

- [Trains stopped across Germany over technical glitch](#) (2026-06-23 22:51)

A problem with a communications system forced Germany’s railway system to halt all trains late Tuesday, leaving passengers stranded across the country. The main national railway operator, Deutsche Bahn, said all trains were being held at stations because of a nationwide problem with the GSM-R digital communication system, which is used for internal communication on the railway network. Deutsche Bahn said in a statement at midnight, 1½ hours after it first announced the problem, that the cause...

- [US Anthropic ban is best advert for Chinese AI](#) (2026-06-23 21:30)

Bankers working for JPMorgan Chase and Goldman Sachs in Hong Kong must have been miffed when they were shut off from using artificial intelligence (AI) models from Anthropic, a pioneering American firm in the field. Goldman Sachs and JPMorgan Chase pulled the plug in April and last week respectively, based on a strict interpretation of Anthropic’s terms of use, which reflect Washington’s stringent restrictions on China’s access to frontier American AI models. The banks’ decisions are seen as a...

- [US stocks slide, as Wall Street gets AI wake-up call](#) (2026-06-23 20:53)

Wall Street got a reality check as a bruising sell-off in several technology giants fuelled concern the artificial intelligence frenzy that has powered the equity bull market might be overblown. The tech rout engulfed global stocks as worries about frothy valuations ignited a fresh bout of volatility after a nearly three-month surge in riskier assets. The S&P fell 1.4 per cent. The benchmark index is coming off 11 weekly gains out of the last 12, led largely by technology stocks. The Dow Jones...

- [Alibaba sues Pentagon over China military blacklist](#) (2026-06-23 20:52)

Chinese technology and e-commerce giant Alibaba Group Holding has sued the US Department of Defence, seeking to be removed from a blacklist of companies deemed to support China's military. In a lawsuit filed on Tuesday in a district court in San Jose, California, the Hangzhou-based company said the Pentagon had added Alibaba to a list of companies that allegedly aid the People's Liberation Army without providing substantial evidence or explanation. The Pentagon's move violated constitutional due...

- [US targets Cuba mining sector in move with implications for China-linked supply chains](#) (2026-06-23 20:33)

The Trump administration expanded its sanctions campaign against Cuba on Tuesday, targeting a state-owned mining company and other key economic entities in a move that comes as Washington seeks to build alternative supply chains for critical minerals and reduce reliance on geopolitical rivals. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio announced sanctions against five entities and one individual, including state-owned mining company GeoMinera, which oversees foreign-backed mining ventures and manages...

- [Rastafarian man can't sue prison guards who shaved him bald, US Supreme Court says](#) (2026-06-23 20:11)

The US Supreme Court refused on Tuesday to let a Rastafarian man sue state prison officials in Louisiana after guards held him down and shaved him bald in violation of his religious beliefs in a case brought under a federal law protecting incarcerated people from religious discrimination. The Supreme Court, in a 6-3 ruling powered by its conservative majority, upheld a lower court's decision to dismiss Damon Landor's lawsuit, agreeing that he could not sue the individual prison officials and...

- [Ransom note says Nancy Guthrie is dead, prompting plea from daughter Samantha](#) (2026-06-23 18:30)

Today show host Savannah Guthrie made an emotional appeal to viewers on Tuesday to come forward with any information about her missing mother, a day after news organisations said a ransom note received months ago had indicated that she was dead. "We are in agony, and we cannot be at peace ... We love our mum. We'll never stop looking for her," Guthrie said at the Today desk in New York, holding a tissue in her left hand. Nancy Guthrie, 84, who lived alone, was reported missing from her Tucson-area...

- [Pummelled by Ukraine, Russia says US hasn't delivered on Trump-Putin 'understandings'](#) (2026-06-23 17:54)

Russia has accused the US of failing to deliver on "understandings" reached between presidents Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump at a summit in Alaska last August, a shift that suggests growing frustration in Moscow. In the space of three days, three senior Russian officials have said, without providing specifics, that Washington has not followed through. Their comments follow an intensification of Ukraine's drone strikes deep inside Russia – including

two attacks last week on a Moscow oil...

- [Trump touts Iran inspection deal as Tehran disputes terms](#) (2026-06-23 16:54)

US President Donald Trump on Tuesday insisted that Iran has agreed to “highest level” nuclear inspections even as Iranian officials disputed his claim, exposing how much remains contested even with a tentative agreement in place. “Despite their protestations and false statements to the contrary ... Iran has fully and completely agreed to highest level Nuclear inspections long into the future (Infinity!!!),” Trump wrote on social media on Tuesday morning. “This will insure ‘Nuclear Honesty.’ If...

- [Return to the top: China’s LineShine beats US El Capitan in Top500 supercomputer rankings](#) (2026-06-23 16:37)

China has reclaimed the world’s fastest supercomputer crown for the first time since 2017, according to the latest TOP500 rankings released at the International Supercomputing Conference in Hamburg, Germany, on Tuesday. LineShine, built by the National Supercomputing Centre in Shenzhen, achieved 2.198 exaflops of performance – nearly 2.2 quintillion calculations per second – surpassing the previous champion, El Capitan, at California’s Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, which reached 1.809...

- [Construction stands to get an AI boost](#) (2026-06-23 16:00)

[The content of this article has been produced by our advertising partner.] Hong Kong’s construction industry and the broader building sector will be presented with a range of AI systems and robotics capable of automating parts of building sites and improving worker safety and efficiency when the Construction Industry Council (CIC) hosts a new industry event this week. Scheduled for June 24 and 25, the first ever Global AI and Smart Construction Conference and Exhibition (GASCCE), taking place...

- [Australian town crier crowned as world’s loudest person, at 122.4 decibels](#) (2026-06-23 15:33)

Joseph McGrail-Bateup, an Australian professional air conditioner cleaner and honorary town crier, has been recognised as the world’s loudest person. Guinness World Records last week acknowledged the 58-year-old Canberra resident recorded the loudest ever shout by an individual. He yelled “now” at 122.4 decibels. That broke the previous record of 121.7 dB set by Northern Ireland teacher Annalisa Flanagan in 1994. She had yelled an ear-piercing “quiet” . That is in the noise range of a chainsaw, a...

- [American envoy in Hong Kong upbeat on US-China ties, aims to engage city officials](#) (2026-06-23 15:05)

The United States’ top envoy in Hong Kong has expressed optimism about US-China relations and pledged to continue seeking pragmatic and constructive ways to engage with the city’s officials. US Consul General Julie Eadeh made the remarks at her first media briefing since

assuming the post last August, held during an American Independence Day event on Tuesday. The reception, marking the 250th anniversary of the country's independence, was also attended by Jonathan Burke, US assistant secretary of...

- [Will Andy Burnham shake up the UK's China policy if he becomes prime minister?](#)

(2026-06-23 15:00)

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer's likely replacement could continue the outgoing leader's pragmatic approach towards China, though addressing economic challenges at home would remain the most immediate priority, observers say. Clearing the way for the selection of the UK's seventh prime minister in a decade, Starmer announced on Monday his intention to step down, succumbing to mounting pressure within his Labour Party as his popularity dwindled. Shortly after Starmer's resignation, Andy...

- [Russia considers fuel imports amid Ukraine's strikes on refineries: newspaper](#)

(2026-06-23 14:04)

Russia is considering fuel imports and corresponding subsidies to cap prices as ways to mitigate supply disruptions of petrol and diesel caused by Ukrainian strikes on oil refineries, Vedomosti daily reported on Tuesday, citing two unnamed sources. Numerous regions across Russia, the world's third-largest crude oil producer, have reported restrictions on fuel sales, rising prices of oil products and long queues at filling stations due to supply shortages. Apart from supplying crude oil...

- [What fuels global trade imbalances: China's overcapacity or America's failure to adapt?](#)

(2026-06-23 14:00)

China's industrial overcapacity should not be singled out for blame amid trade imbalances, as economies worldwide are struggling to adapt to shifts in the global economy, contributing to mounting pressures, a prominent Chinese scholar said in comments directed at the United States. "The reason why our imbalance is becoming a bigger problem is that the rest of the world is having a bigger problem in adjusting the economic structure," said Huang Yiping, dean of Peking University's National School...

- [Ex-Chinese official's son remanded in Hong Kong over HK\\$64m money laundering case](#)

(2026-06-23 13:43)

The son of a former mainland Chinese official has been remanded in custody in Hong Kong pending sentence for laundering more than HK\$64 million, including a 4 million yuan bribe his father allegedly sought from a merchant a decade ago. Xiao Rui, 37, will also be penalised for using bogus bank records to deceive the Immigration Department into granting him the right of abode in Hong Kong through a cash-for-residency scheme in 2013. The District Court on Tuesday rejected Xiao's assertion that he...

- [Don't restrict AI in sports, ensure fair access, Hong Kong lawmaker urges](#) (2026-06-23 13:19)

Hong Kong's lawmaker for the sports sector has urged authorities to focus on ensuring fair access to AI rather than attempting to restrict its use, arguing that the technology has increasingly reshaped athlete development and competitions. Speaking at a World Economic Forum panel in mainland China's Dalian on Tuesday, Kenneth Fok Kai-kong said that artificial intelligence (AI) was transforming sports in ways that differed from past technological advances. Such changes had made it difficult to...

- [China builds record-breaking 100-metre observation tower in South China Sea](#) (2026-06-23 13:00)

China has built the tallest environmental observation tower in the South China Sea, the country's meteorological administration has said. Standing at 100 metres (330 feet) tall, the tower is almost three times higher than the previous tallest structure in the South China Sea and built to withstand super typhoons with wind speeds of over 200km/h (125mph), heavy waves, high humidity and high levels of salinity. It is equipped with sensors to collect round-the-clock, real-time data on wind speeds,...

- [China's trading crackdown seen boosting Hong Kong as official capital hub](#) (2026-06-23 13:00)

China's crackdown on cross-border securities trading could strengthen – rather than diminish – Hong Kong's financial role, according to economists, as Beijing steers more capital through official channels and reinforces the city's status as an offshore yuan hub. “I would argue that these moves make the importance of Hong Kong even bigger,” Diana Choyleva, founder and chief economist at Enodo Economics, said on Tuesday at the World Economic Forum's annual “Summer Davos” meeting. Referring to...

- [Anxious West seeks to rewrite global trade rules to counter China](#) (2026-06-23 12:30)

At the recent Brussels summit, the leaders of all 27 European Union states called on the European Commission to expand the bloc's trade defence toolbox against “global macroeconomic imbalances”, widely understood to refer to China's so-called overcapacity. Measures under discussion include mechanisms for sector-wide tariffs and other restrictions in industries such as chemicals and green technology. Europe, long a critic of Washington's Section 301 tariffs, is now considering instruments that...

- [Former Scottish National Party chief Peter Murrell jailed for embezzling party funds](#) (2026-06-23 12:10)

Former Scottish National Party chief executive Peter Murrell was jailed for just over five years on Tuesday after admitting embezzling more than £400,000 (US\$540,000) of party funds to buy items such as cars, a motorhome and luxury goods. Murrell, 61, is the estranged husband of ex-SNP leader Nicola Sturgeon, who suddenly resigned in 2023, shortly before she was arrested

as part of the probe into the party's finances. She was cleared of wrongdoing in March last year. He pleaded guilty last...

- [What is China's aircraft carrier Liaoning testing – and why does it matter?](#) (2026-06-23 12:00)

China's first aircraft carrier tried new tactics in its latest drill – including working with land-based tanker aircraft and coordinating with an amphibious assault ship – amid a push to strengthen military combat capability. The Liaoning aircraft carrier strike group returned to its home port in Qingdao on Monday after completing more than 40 days of far-sea combat training, according to state broadcaster CCTV. During the extended deployment, the Liaoning conducted combat exercises at multiple...

- [Royal succession crisis strains Malaysia's governing alliance ahead of polls](#) (2026-06-23 11:57)

Malaysia's rare postponement of a meeting of its royal council has pushed a throne dispute in the state of Negeri Sembilan beyond palace walls, threatening to turn a customary succession row into an electoral liability for Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim's uneasy governing alliance ahead of snap polls. The June 23–25 meeting of the Conference of Rulers – a council of Malaysia's hereditary Malay rulers and state governors – was called off at the eleventh hour amid concerns that allowing Negeri...

- [AI to help Hong Kong bookworms find a whole new world of words](#) (2026-06-23 11:55)

Hong Kong's annual book fair returns in July with a renewed focus on cultural exploration, tourism and the role of AI in reading, with the organiser hoping to break last year's visitor turnout. The Trade Development Council (TDC) said on Tuesday that the 36th Hong Kong Book Fair would be themed on “Reading the World: Cultural Legacy | Joyful Journeys,” running from July 15 to 21 at the Convention and Exhibition Centre in Wan Chai. “Through this theme, we hope to encourage residents to read works...

- [China's new 'super fuel' could help Long March rockets increase payload by 10%](#) (2026-06-23 11:00)

A Chinese Long March-12 rocket launched last week used a new super fuel that boosted the rocket's payload capacity by 10 per cent, according to its developer. As China expands its role in space with a series of ambitious lunar missions and puts growing numbers of commercial satellites in orbit, demand for larger payloads is increasing. Instead of designing bigger, more expensive airframes, The Beijing Aerospace Test Technology Research Institute, a subsidiary of the China Aerospace Science and...

- [Indonesia hails China's backing for panda bond amid investor concerns over rules](#) (2026-06-23 10:51)

Indonesia's efforts to woo back Chinese investors may be gaining traction after Finance Minister Purbaya Yudhi Sadewa returned from Beijing with a multibillion-dollar funding commitment and political backing for the Southeast Asian country's debut yuan-denominated sovereign bond. Whether the bilateral talks translate into lasting investor confidence in Indonesia's economic fundamentals remains to be seen, as global companies continue to weigh Jakarta's shifting rules, challenging budget outlook...

- [Israel purposely targeted Gaza children: UN](#) (2026-06-23 10:45)

Israeli authorities and security forces deliberately targeted Palestinian children, resulting in genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes in Gaza, and war crimes in the occupied West Bank, an independent UN inquiry said on Tuesday. The report by the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel examined violations against Palestinian children since the start of the war between Israel and Hamas on October 7,...

- [Hong Kong's Cathay Pacific to cut fuel surcharges again as costs ease](#) (2026-06-23 10:26)

Hong Kong flag carrier Cathay Pacific Airways will lower fuel surcharges on most passenger flights for the second time in less than two months, with the revised rates taking effect from July 1 as fuel costs ease from highs triggered by the Middle East war. Under the new rates announced on Tuesday, passengers departing from Hong Kong on long-haul flights to destinations in North America, Europe, the Middle East, Africa and the Southwest Pacific will pay HK\$1,164 (US\$148.48) per sector, down 14.5...

- [Hong Kong police arrest 69 over laundering HK\\$200m from cross-border fraud](#) (2026-06-23 10:15)

Hong Kong police have arrested 69 people linked to a syndicate suspected of laundering about HK\$200 million (US\$25.5 million) from cross-border investment fraud affecting more than 170 victims. The force said on Tuesday that 54 men and 15 women, aged between 18 and 60, were arrested on Monday in a joint operation with mainland Chinese authorities for money laundering, involving "mule" bank accounts. Losses from investment scams in Hong Kong reached HK\$920 million between January and March, a 17...

- [Chinese man jailed after flat's high electricity usage exposes breeding of 300 snakes](#) (2026-06-23 10:00)

A man living alone in eastern China was sentenced to jail for breeding over 300 pythons at home. This shocking incident was revealed by state media CCTV in late June as a case of "serious" harm to rare and endangered wildlife. Pythons are classified as Grade Two protected animals in China, and laws prohibit the buying, selling, breeding, and transporting of this species without official permission. The violator came to police attention after a senior citizen in Taizhou, Zhejiang province,...

- [Australia refuses release of climate fund reports for Pacific nation Tuvalu](#) (2026-06-23 09:47)

Australia has refused to release internal papers about a trust fund for a climate-vulnerable Pacific nation, telling Agence France-Presse (AFP) that the documents could inflict diplomatic “damage” . Gravely threatened by rising seas, low-lying island nation Tuvalu relies on a US\$200 million trust fund to help foot the ballooning costs of climate change. The trust has been invested on Tuvalu’ s behalf in funds exposed to coal mining, gas exploration and the world’ s largest crude oil refinery, an...

- [60% of Hong Kong schools using AI for teaching and admin work, survey finds](#) (2026-06-23 09:31)

About 60 per cent of surveyed Hong Kong schools are using artificial intelligence (AI) for teaching and administrative work, with the researchers behind the poll calling for educators to improve their knowledge of the technology so they can better guide students. The Education University of Hong Kong shared its findings on Tuesday, with the survey showing about 20 per cent of primary and secondary schools were actively exploring the use of AI in teaching, learning and administrative...

- [China and Philippines have a rare naval stand-off near disputed Scarborough Shoal](#) (2026-06-23 09:14)

Four Chinese warships reportedly confronted a Philippine Navy vessel near the disputed Scarborough Shoal in a rare stand-off on Saturday, the same day Manila wrapped up a joint drill with the US and its allies. The confrontation coincided with the end of Salaknib 2026, a nearly three-month joint military exercise involving more than 7,000 troops from the Philippines, the United States, Japan, New Zealand and Australia. Beijing has not commented on the incident. According to a report by 24 Oras...

- [Are India-US trade talks nearing ‘last-mile bargaining’ amid strained ties?](#) (2026-06-23 09:10)

US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer’ s two-day visit to India this week could bring both sides closer to clinching a broad trade bargain after months of tariff wrangling, even as the South Asian nation’ s protected farm sector remains a major sticking point. Analysts say the visit could centre on finalising tariff rates and giving the relationship a political reset after a year of strain over trade, Indian workers and the Strait of Hormuz. A United States Trade Representative statement on...

- [China targets US rare earth miners as Pentagon faces restocking rush](#) (2026-06-23 09:04)

China put two US rare earth miners on its export control list, along with eight technology companies, in response to the US Department of Defence blacklisting Chinese businesses for their alleged ties to the People’ s Liberation Army. MP Materials and USA Rare Earth will both be banned from buying Chinese exports with dual civilian and military uses, the Ministry of

Commerce said on Monday. Motor maker Aveox and drone companies Red Cat and Teal Drones were among the other companies included in...

- [China' s evolving political economy, as seen through gaokao scramble](#) (2026-06-23 08:30)

This week, the results of China' s National Higher Education Entrance Examination, or gaokao, will be released. Within days, candidates will submit their prioritised preferences for universities and majors. Families will have to make the most consequential choices with imperfect information amid uncertainty. It is a sorting mechanism. Candidates need to find the right match by choosing programmes their gaokao results can gain them entry to. Historical admission marks only serve as indicative...

- [Li Qiang' s tech blueprint: turn China' s old industrial hubs into high-value powerhouses](#) (2026-06-23 08:00)

During an inspection of shipbuilding and nuclear power firms in China' s heavy industrial hub in the northeast, Premier Li Qiang pushed state-owned firms to achieve breakthroughs in high-end equipment manufacturing and to bolster the nation' s core industrial competitiveness. “Dalian' s shipbuilding industry boasts a long history and a solid foundation in developing high-end equipment manufacturing,” Li was quoted as saying by Xinhua during his visit to a state-owned shipbuilder in the harbour city...

- [US tops Philippine tourism market, propelled by strong ties, even stronger dollar](#) (2026-06-23 08:00)

The US has overtaken South Korea as the Philippines' top source of foreign tourists this year, helped by diaspora travel and closer ties between the long-time allies, giving Manila a boost as it tries to close the gap with more popular destinations in Southeast Asia. Figures from the Philippines' Department of Tourism (DOT) showed that between January and May, 531,859 visitors came from the US, while 501,789 were from South Korea – comprising 19.4 per cent and 18.3 per cent of the total tourism...

- [Driver, passenger hurt as taxi collides with truck in Hong Kong](#) (2026-06-23 07:57)

A taxi driver and a passenger were injured after the vehicle collided with a truck on Kwun Tong Road in Hong Kong on Tuesday afternoon. Police said the crash occurred at about 12.25pm on the eastbound carriageway of the road, near Ping Shek Estate in Ngau Tau Kok. The taxi was headed towards the public transport interchange in Choi Hung when it struck a medium goods vehicle that was travelling in the third lane, according to preliminary findings. The cab driver, a 27-year-old woman surnamed Yip,...

- [Singapore hotel rates skyrocket ahead of sold-out BTS concerts](#) (2026-06-23 07:36)

Hotel bookings in Singapore are surging ahead of K-pop boy band BTS' highly anticipated concerts in December, with some reporting demand jumping by as much as 50 times. The spike mirrors a broader trend across Asia, where cities on BTS' tour schedule have recorded

significant increases in accommodation searches. Some booking platforms reported search volumes rising by up to 10 times in certain concert destinations like Kaohsiung in Taiwan. Alltickets for the Singapore leg of BTS’ Arirang tour...

- [Hong Kong declared Sars-free in 2003 – SCMP archive](#) (2026-06-23 07:30)

This article was first published on June 24, 2003. WHO gives the all-clear by Jimmy Cheung, Chow Chung-yan and Benjamin Wong Hong Kong is ready to spend \$1 billion to rebuild its battered image and lure back tourists and businesses after it was officially declared free of Sars by the World Health Organization yesterday (June 23, 2003). Officials said the announcement had given the go-ahead for a campaign aimed at promoting Hong Kong as the best place for visitors and business in Asia. The...

- [Malaysian MP takes swipe at ‘most Hollywood’ populist label](#) (2026-06-23 07:20)

Malaysian lawmaker Syed Saddiq Syed Abdul Rahman has responded with a thinly veiled jab at Tunku Ismail Ibrahim after the Johor crown prince hinted at the former sports minister being the “most Hollywood” among populist politicians. Tunku Ismail told a podcast show over the weekend that he “liked people who carry out their duties and show full care and concern for the people” . “Before making any decisions, make an assessment first because we have many ‘Hollywood’ types among us. The most...

- [After 6 prime ministers in 10 years, can anyone fix the UK?](#) (2026-06-23 07:19)

On Monday morning, Keir Starmer emerged into the sunshine in Downing Street flanked by his staff and wife, his voice thick with emotion as he said he was no longer the right person to lead Britain. Starmer, who won one of the biggest landslides in British political history, is out after less than two years. The sixth leader to quit in 10 years. The highest rate of political turnover in almost two centuries. Like his predecessors, Starmer failed to stem popular anger over living standards,...

- [How Japan seeks to win over allies by refuting China’ s militarism claim](#) (2026-06-23 07:03)

Japanese Defence Minister Shinjiro Koizumi’ s pushback against China signals a calculated bid to fend off accusations of Tokyo’ s “new militarism” by Beijing to ensure that the label does not stick and slow Japan’ s security reforms. His comments in recent weeks on separate instances are aimed at shaping the perceptions of Tokyo’ s state partners, according to analysts. Speaking in his first published interview with foreign media as defence chief on June 17, Koizumi questioned the accuracy of...

- [Is China’ s risk tolerance reaching its limit with pause of African mine deal?](#) (2026-06-23 07:00)

As China’ s relationship with African countries has deepened, the country’ s influence is spreading into more areas. In the latest of a series of articles, Dulue Mbachu investigates the

extent of Chinese investments in the continent and Beijing's growing wariness about their security. Chinese regulators balked at Zijin Mining's planned US\$4 billion acquisition of Canadian company Allied Gold, placing it on hold to scrutinise the potential risks. As a result, the agreement for the deal, already...

- [New China dog rental trend draws warnings of animal stress from frequent handler changes](#) (2026-06-23 06:00)

A dog-rental platform has sparked both curiosity and concern as China's urban pet economy takes an unexpected turn. Launched on social media in March, the mini-programme known as "Wangbu," which loosely translates to "dog walk," enables residents in first-tier cities like Beijing, Shanghai, and Shenzhen to rent dogs by the hour for walks. After owners create profiles for their pets, renters coordinate pickup and return details directly with them. Fees typically range from 10 to 60 yuan (US\$1.5...

- [China's EV brands have Europe's luxury marques in their sights: Zeekr executive](#) (2026-06-23 06:00)

Luxury electric vehicle (EV) brands from China are poised to enter the same elite tier as established European marques by leveraging their disruptive technologies, according to Chinese EV maker Zeekr. "There is a gap between the demand for electric luxury cars and the supply, where Chinese carmakers have an edge," said Zeekr vice-president Mars Chen. "I believe there will be one to two Chinese brands among the global top five [luxury vehicles]." With German giants Mercedes-Benz, BMW and Audi...

- [Chinese scientists create battery that works comfortably way above water's boiling point](#) (2026-06-23 06:00)

Chinese scientists have developed a tiny, ceramic-based lithium-ion battery that can withstand extreme heat, offering a safer power source for smart sensors, aerospace gadgets and military applications. Unlike flammable traditional lithium-ion batteries, this rechargeable solid-state battery operates stably up to 150 degrees Celsius (302 degrees Fahrenheit) and can withstand brief thermal shocks of up to 300 degrees Celsius without compromising performance. The Tsinghua University-led team said...

- [Hong Kong urged to export food culture as Cantonese restaurants hit hardest by slump](#) (2026-06-23 05:57)

Hong Kong must step up efforts to export its food culture and promote its culinary heritage, industry leaders have said after a recent study found that Cantonese restaurants have borne the brunt of the sector's slump. Data released this month by the Legislative Council Secretariat's research office showed earnings for Chinese restaurants in the first quarter suffered the sector's steepest contraction in revenue, plunging 27.9 per cent from HK\$13.44 billion (US\$1.7 billion) in 2018 to HK\$9.7...

- [China and Africa’ s evolving partnership](#) (2026-06-23 05:52)
- [Why Singapore lawyers don’ t last beyond courtship phase: ‘so much pressure’](#) (2026-06-23 05:34)

The breaking point for former Singaporean lawyer Dominic Low was when he had just got home past midnight and his boss asked him to respond to an international client. This meant he had to return to the office and work till 2am. He was into his second year of a corporate law career and decided that very night that the job was not for him. “Everyone was under so much pressure and just expected to deliver at the cost of their personal life and mental health,” Low, 35, said. Despite leaving the...

- [Algae-filled Washington pool to be drained for repairs after US\\$14.7 million renovation](#) (2026-06-23 05:28)

The Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool on Washington’ s National Mall is set to be drained again for repairs after algae and peeling paint appeared just weeks after a US\$14.7 million renovation, while President Donald Trump threatened prison time for anyone caught damaging the pool. The DC Water authority issued a permit to drain the 609-metre rectangular pool, it said on Monday, while the repair company said it would fix the pool as part of its warranty. Peeling paint and algae growth have been...

- [EU and Hong Kong in talks on new financial services dialogue, envoy says](#) (2026-06-23 05:10)

Senior officials from the European Union and Hong Kong are in talks to launch a financial services dialogue, with companies from the bloc keen to explore opportunities in the Northern Metropolis, its top representative in the city has said. Ambassador Harvey Rouse, head of the EU Office in Hong Kong, made the remarks at the Greenway 2026 forum on Tuesday, where he highlighted opportunities for cooperation on sustainable innovation and the green transition. In a keynote address, Rouse said Hong...

- [Tourists in China call locals smelly, Philippine school shooting: 7 Asia highlights](#) (2026-06-23 05:00)

We have selected seven stories from the SCMP’ s coverage of Asia over the past week that resonated with our readers and shed light on topical issues. If you would like to see more of our reporting, please consider subscribing. 1. Malaysian tourists in China scorned for calling locals ‘smelly’ A group of Malaysian tourists is facing intense backlash for filming strangers and mocking locals in China as “smelly” , sparking debate on travel etiquette and national image. 2. Indonesia market sell-off...

- [Thailand auctions US\\$18 million superyacht linked to supersized fraud](#) (2026-06-23 04:18)

A luxury superyacht seized from fugitive financier Benjamin Mauerberger is due for auction at a starting price of US\$18 million on Tuesday, as authorities seek to claw back money from powerful money laundering networks across Thailand. Mauerberger and his wife, Cattaliya

Beevor, are wanted by Thai police on fraud and money laundering charges, linked to what prosecutors allege was a bogus investment scheme stretching back to 2016. The highly connected South African businessman is also believed to...

- [From paint to petrol bombs: Malaysian loan sharks get more brazen](#) (2026-06-23 04:05)

Victims of violent acts and threats by loan sharks have been urged to come forward under a nationwide initiative led by the Malaysian Chinese Association's Public Services and Complaints Department. MCA chief Michael Chong said the party's youth and women's wings have also been roped in to collect data and provide aid to loan shark victims. "Throwing paint at homes is now considered lenient, as we are seeing loan sharks throwing petrol bombs. They are getting rampant with no regard for the law..."

- [Study shows 4,000-year battle of Eastern and Western genes in China's heartland](#) (2026-06-23 04:00)

Ningxia is a perfect example of how the East meets the West. Located in the northwest inland region of China, it is the intersection of the Eurasian steppe and Chinese farmlands. Fudan University, in collaboration with the Ningxia Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology and Northwest University, has recently conducted the largest ancient genomics research project in Ningxia. The researchers found that human genes from the East and the West have fused through wars and trade in this narrow...

- [Malaysian woman's moving hospital honour walk spurs conversation on organ donation](#) (2026-06-23 03:05)

A Malaysian donor whose organs and tissues went to five patients has drawn tributes online after a local hospital corridor send-off was shared widely on social media. Normah Sabar, remembered by Malaysia's national mapping agency as the country's first female surveyor, died at Hospital Sungai Buloh in Selangor on Saturday. She was 72. The next day, hospital staff and medical teams held a walk of honour, a ceremonial procession in which health workers line hospital corridors to pay tribute to an...

- [Hong Kong needs visionaries to run Kai Tak Cruise Terminal: Rosanna Law](#) (2026-06-23 03:00)

As Hong Kong marks the 29th anniversary of its return to Chinese rule on July 1, the South China Morning Post talks to the city's senior officials about the administration's achievements so far and what may lie ahead. Hong Kong's next Kai Tak Cruise Terminal operator must be "very visionary" and do far more than simply manage cruise berthing operations, the city's tourism minister has said, revealing that prospective bidders sought extra time to work on their proposals before the government...

- [How Hong Kong plans to tap popular films, historic buildings to lure tourists](#) (2026-06-23 02:00)

As Hong Kong marks the 29th anniversary of its return to Chinese rule on July 1, the South China Morning Post talks to the city's senior officials about the administration's achievements so far and what may lie ahead. Hong Kong will build on the popularity of the old Yau Ma Tei police station exhibition by developing more heritage attractions that combine historic buildings with cultural experiences, the tourism chief has said, identifying Haw Par Mansion as one of the city's next major...

- [North Korea's Kim says 'defeated' Japan transforming into a 'war state'](#) (2026-06-23 01:40)

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un criticised Japan as turning into a “war state”, in a speech during a three-day meeting held through Monday, according to official news media. “Japan, a defeated country in Asia, has openly turned itself into a war state by taking the present disturbing circumstances as an opportunity to get rid of all shackles restricting its moves to become a military power,” he said, the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported on Tuesday. “This is inviting a strong backlash...

- [China zoo offers US\\$15,000 annual salary for bear costume performer with strict silence clause](#) (2026-06-23 01:01)

A recruitment advertisement from a zoo in central China seeking individuals to pose as black bears, offering an annual salary of 100,000 yuan (US\$15,000), has gone viral on social media, generating a wave of humorous responses among internet users. Luohe Wildlife Zoo, located in Luohe city in Henan province, posted the job ad on June 13, looking to hire people to wear black bear costumes, roam the zoo, and interact with visitors, according to Jiupai News. It is unclear if the costumes come with...

- [Japan's visa fee jump to hit Chinese tourists hardest, adding friction to tense ties](#) (2026-06-23 01:00)

Chinese tourists are expected to be among the hardest hit by Japan's fivefold visa fee increase, a move analysts warned could further strain already tense relations between Beijing and Tokyo. For the first time since 1978, the Japanese government has decided to raise visa fees. The cost of a single-entry visa will increase from 3,000 yen (US\$18.54) to 15,000 yen, while multiple-entry visas will jump from 6,000 yen to 30,000 yen. The new policy, which will come into effect on July 1, has been...

- [The I Ching, Leibniz and AI: how old China-West links shaped modern science](#) (2026-06-23 01:00)

The advent of artificial intelligence (AI) appears sudden and revolutionary, yet its origins stretch deep into history, revealing a profound and forgotten intellectual exchange between China and the West. Long before Alan Turing, Claude Shannon, or even Charles Babbage and Ada Lovelace, there was Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz – the German polymath born exactly 380 years ago next week. Among his monumental contributions to science is the binary numeral system, which

serves as the bedrock of modern...

- [Competing for tourists? Then Hong Kong must be ‘bigger and better’ : Rosanna Law](#) (2026-06-23 00:30)

As Hong Kong marks the 29th anniversary of its return to Chinese rule on July 1, the South China Morning Post talks to the city’s senior officials about the administration’s achievements so far and what may lie ahead. Hong Kong should focus on becoming “bigger and better”, rather than expecting neighbouring cities such as Shenzhen to “stand still”, the city’s tourism chief has said, as the government prepares its first five-year plan and seeks to raise the sector’s contribution to the...

- [Indian man jailed for molesting flight attendant on Singapore Airlines plane](#) (2026-06-23 00:17)

A passenger on a Singapore Airlines flight molested an air stewardess, with his friends laughing in response. When the woman went to report the incident to her supervisor, the culprit followed her into the galley, stood extremely close to her and cornered her. The flight captain reported the incident and a police report was lodged, leading to the man’s arrest when he arrived at Changi Airport. Akash Tiwari, a 35-year-old Indian national, was sentenced to six months’ jail on Monday. He was also...

- [Why South Korea’s AI chip boom is a ‘serious concern’ for its economy](#) (2026-06-23 00:00)

South Korea’s AI-driven semiconductor boom has sent exports, corporate profits and stock prices to record highs, but a senior policymaker has warned that the windfall could fuel property speculation and deepen inequality if its gains remain narrowly concentrated.

“Looking solely at the numbers, it is something to cheer about. However, strangely, a corner of my heart feels heavy,” Kim Yong-beom, chief of the Presidential Policy Office and one of South Korea’s most senior economic policymakers,...

- [How Keir Starmer will be replaced as UK PM and will anyone stand against Burnham?](#) (2026-06-22 23:43)

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer conceded on Monday that he had lost the support of his rank-and-file Labour Party members in Parliament and that he will step down once his successor as party leader is chosen, possibly as soon as the middle of July. Andy Burnham, the former mayor of Greater Manchester whose resounding victory in a special UK election last week set in motion Starmer’s resignation, has confirmed he will put himself forward to be his successor. Burnham is seen as the...

- [Former Gotti hitman-turned-New Jersey councillor has returned to crime, prosecutors allege](#) (2026-06-22 23:15)

A notorious mob hitman who once testified against John “Junior” Gotti before cleaning up his life and becoming a councilman in New Jersey has been arrested on extortion and loan sharking charges that, if proven, reflect a return to the lifestyle of his youth. John Alite, 63, was arrested on Friday in New Jersey, where he was sworn in early last year as a councillor in the borough of Englishtown. Released after a court appearance on Saturday, Alite is scheduled to return to court for a detention...

- [Trump criticises UK’s Starmer after PM announces resignation](#) (2026-06-22 22:18)

US President Donald Trump criticised outgoing British Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Monday after the Labour leader announced he would resign, saying he had “really hurt himself” over energy, immigration and his handling of relations with Washington. “I think he’s a lovely man,” Trump told reporters at an Oval Office event, before accusing Starmer of mishandling Britain’s energy policy by failing to exploit North Sea oil and allowing “windmills all over the place” . “The UK buys much of its...

- [Japan’s defence outreach to counter China’s military rise hits hidden roadblocks](#) (2026-06-22 22:00)

Japan seized the spotlight at last month’s Shangri-La Dialogue, stepping into a vacuum left by the Chinese defence chief – who skipped the forum for a second year – and using the stage to sharpen its warnings over Beijing’s military rise. Speaking in Singapore on May 31, the final day of the security forum, Japan’s Defence Minister Shinjiro Koizumi pushed back against Beijing’s accusation that Japan is engaging in a “new militarism” and instead took aim at China’s growing military capabilities...

- [‘I will do what I have to do’ if Iran does not stick to deal, says Trump](#) (2026-06-22 21:37)

US President Donald Trump said on Monday “I will do what I have to do” if Iran does not stick to its agreement with Washington. “If Iran doesn’t live up to their agreement, or if they’re not behaving, I will do what I have to do,” Trump told reporters. Trump and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian signed an interim US-Iran deal last week, more than three months after the US and Israel attacked Iran and Iran responded with its own attacks on Israel and Gulf states with US bases. Trump said on...

- [Can Quad break China’s mineral monopoly amid US-India rift?](#) (2026-06-22 21:35)

The US strike on an oil tanker in the Gulf of Oman earlier this month did more than kill three Indian sailors and severely undercut US-India relations. It has also cast further doubt on the unity of the Quad, an informal bloc made up of the United States, Japan, Australia and India, and the group’s ambitious agenda aimed at loosening China’s dominant grip on critical minerals. Despite the persistent US-India fissures that could slow down the Quad’s momentum, however, a counter-unifying force may...

- [What Hong Kong can learn from mainland cities’ 5-year plans](#) (2026-06-22 21:30)

The Hong Kong government has launched a two-month public consultation for the city's first five-year plan, marking an important milestone in its development. The blueprint provides the city with a clearer vision for the future and a systematic approach in pursuing further growth under the auspices of the "one country, two systems" framework. It also puts Hong Kong in a better position to align with China's overall national development. Over the past few months, various sectors of Hong Kong...

- [Shooting in Montreal, Canada leaves 3 dead including suspect](#) (2026-06-22 21:13)

A midday shooting in Montreal killed three people on Monday, including a police officer, a civilian and the alleged gunman, triggering rare levels of shock across the Canadian city. The bloodshed took place in a partly Jewish neighbourhood that includes kosher markets and restaurants but police declined to comment on what the motive might have been and whether the incident amounted to a hate crime or act of terror. French language public broadcaster Radio Canada said the shooter was connected to...

- [China closing in but US leads in biotech quality and commercial reach, survey finds](#) (2026-06-22 20:50)

China, which now conducts more clinical drug trials than the US, still lags in the quality and commercial reach of its biomedical science, according to a recent survey of senior US leaders in industry and academia. The poll, conducted by Cure Innovation Index, found that China is seen as the clear leader in two out of six sectors: clinical development and supply chain. It found that the US leads in moving experimental products through to large-scale production, capital, and commercialisation...

- [US-China rare earth clash 2.0? Fragile truce tested as tit-for-tat moves return](#) (2026-06-22 20:42)

Beijing's latest restrictions on US rare earth companies, imposed in response to the Pentagon's designation of leading Chinese firms, are testing the durability of the fragile US-China truce, analysts said. China's export controls, targeting 10 US entities including national giants MP Materials and USA Rare Earth, mark one of the most significant escalations since Washington and Beijing reached a temporary truce last October in Busan – an understanding that was reaffirmed during the recent...

- [2 young children found dead in locked car during France heatwave](#) (2026-06-22 20:15)

Two young children, aged two and four, were found dead inside their family's car in the southern French town of Carpentras on Monday. According to initial findings, the siblings had accidentally locked themselves inside the car, the local prosecutor's office said. The children's mother found them in the car, which was parked in the driveway of the family home. Emergency services attempted to resuscitate the children but were unable to save them. The prosecutor's office has opened a preliminary...

- [China signals openness to Colombia's Trump-backed president-elect despite US tilt](#)  
(2026-06-22 18:52)

Beijing congratulated Colombia on its presidential run-off and said it would work with the incoming government of Abelardo de la Espriella, the far-right lawyer who has promised to pull the country back towards the United States. Foreign ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun made the remarks on Monday, a day after a preliminary count put de la Espriella narrowly ahead of his leftist rival, Senator Ivan Cepeda. “China ... congratulates Colombia on the smooth second round of presidential elections,” he...

- [European Central Bank's President Lagarde urges talks on yuan undervaluation](#)  
(2026-06-22 18:13)

European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde on Monday urged global leaders to discuss undervaluation of the Chinese currency as a facet of the imbalances endangering the global economy. China has consistently denied that it manipulates its currency for trade advantage but its surging trade surpluses are one of several macroeconomic mismatches worrying leaders of the Group of Seven (G7) nations who met last week in France, along with chronic US deficits and Europe's...

- [Mexican president seeks to restart oil shipments to Cuba as island's crises deepen](#)  
(2026-06-22 17:57)

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum said on Monday that her country seeks to restart oil shipments to Cuba soon, a move that could provide much-needed relief as the island's crises deepen given a lack of petroleum. Sheinbaum said her administration would seek to send the oil via commercial and privately owned firms instead of state-owned companies as it has done in the past. Mexico became a key fuel supplier to Cuba after the US attacked Venezuela in early January and halted critical oil...

- [Clive Davis, towering music executive who reshaped American sound, dies at 94](#)  
(2026-06-22 17:24)

Clive Davis, a former corporate lawyer who became one of the most influential figures in American rock and pop music as he fostered the careers of Bob Dylan, Whitney Houston, Janis Joplin, Aretha Franklin, Bruce Springsteen and other stars, died on Monday at the age of 94, The New York Times reported, citing his family. Davis, who was known as “the man with the golden ear” for his ability to identify potential hit songs, died at his home in Manhattan, the daily reported, having recently been...

- [Fatal shooting exposes 'systemic failures' in Philippine schools](#) (2026-06-22 15:30)

A rare shooting at a public high school in the central Philippines that left three students dead and seven injured has gripped the country amid concerns over campus safety and the mental well-being of young people. Two Grade 9 students, aged 14 and 15, were arrested over the incident at the San Jose National High School in Tacloban City, Leyte province. The weapons

involved were a .38 revolver and a 9mm pistol – the latter of which was traced to a police officer who was one of the suspects’ ...

- [Survivors fear scrutiny gaps as Hong Kong fire probe declines statutory powers](#)

(2026-06-22 15:26)

An independent committee investigating Hong Kong’ s deadliest fire in decades has ruled out seeking statutory powers to compel witnesses to testify, a move that has left some survivors concerned that key figures may avoid scrutiny. Committee chairman Justice David Lok Kai-hong said the panel would not ask the chief executive to convert it into a statutory commission of inquiry during the ongoing investigation into last year’ s Wang Fuk Court blaze, which resumed on Monday after a six-week...

- [Russia-held Crimea suspends summer camps as Ukraine strikes squeeze fuel supplies](#)

(2026-06-22 15:09)

Russian-held Crimea, a popular tourism destination, suspended children’ s summer camps and tourist activities until September 1, its governor said on Monday, as the peninsula reels from a fuel crisis due to Ukrainian attacks on its supply routes. Supplies of fuel and other products to Crimea have become strained as Ukraine has targeted both sea routes and supply roads from the north. The availability of petrol and diesel in Russia, the world’ s third-largest oil producer, has also been undermined...

- [As Europe rearms, can it decouple its military supply chains from China?](#)

(2026-06-22 15:00)

Europe’ s defence industry would gradually reduce its reliance on China during the continent’ s ongoing rearmament drive, rather than decouple completely, analysts said. On Wednesday, during the Group of Seven summit in Evian-les-Bains, France, the leaders of France, Germany, the UK, Italy, the US, Canada and Japan signed a declaration on securing supply chains for critical minerals. Without naming China, the leaders agreed to “significantly reduce” their dependency on a “single supplier outside...

- [Hong Kong, Fujian sign 6 deals to deepen finance, tourism and education ties](#)

(2026-06-22 14:12)

Hong Kong has signed six agreements with Fujian to step up collaboration in finance, trade, tourism and education, with Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chiu encouraging businesses from the mainland Chinese province to list on the city’ s bourse for overseas expansion. At the fifth Hong Kong-Fujian Cooperation Conference on Monday, the two sides finalised 28 collaborative projects across 11 areas, including aviation and shipping, logistics, innovation and technology, legal and dispute resolution, and...

- [Iran agrees to invite IAEA inspectors back, says US](#)

(2026-06-22 13:49)

Tehran has agreed to invite International Atomic Energy Agency inspectors back into the country, US Vice-President J.D. Vance said on Monday, after a first round of US-Iran talks towards ending the Middle East war. “The Iranians have agreed to invite IAEA inspectors back into their country,” Vance told reporters at Switzerland’s isolated Burgenstock resort, where his talks with Iran’s chief negotiator Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf opened on Sunday. “That is a major milestone for the American people...

- [Frozen Iranian assets could be used to buy US soybeans in ‘classic Trump deal’ : Vance](#) (2026-06-22 13:48)

Iran should use funds unlocked by Washington to buy US agricultural products, according to Vice-President J.D. Vance, who said on Monday it would help feed the country’s population while making American farmers richer. Iran has not indicated whether it would accept the terms. Vance credited US President Donald Trump’s son-in-law Jared Kushner with the idea, which he described as a “very, very good, and very classic Trump deal”. The White House is seeking export markets outside China ahead of the...

- [Hong Kong cockatoos could help save Indonesia’s endangered species, study shows](#) (2026-06-22 13:40)

Hong Kong’s wild yellow-crested cockatoos may hold genetic traits that could help save the critically endangered species in Indonesia, a study has found. The study, published in the *Evolutionary Applications* journal in May, underscored the importance of conserving the city’s cockatoo population. Lead author Astrid Andersson from the University of Hong Kong’s school of biological sciences described these birds as a “backup”, preserving lineages of subspecies that may no longer exist in the...

- [China’s green exports to the US surge as AI boom, Iran war lift demand](#) (2026-06-22 13:30)

China’s exports of green-energy and battery products to the United States have accelerated amid demand in America’s fast-expanding AI sector, as cooling trade tensions and energy-security fears linked to the Iran war boost global appetite for renewable-energy equipment. Energy-related products posted some of the strongest gains among Chinese exports to the US last month, according to the latest customs data. Exports of unassembled photovoltaic cells surged 346 per cent year on year to US\$39.96...

- [China says it warned off multiple Japanese ‘provocations’ during aircraft carrier drills](#) (2026-06-22 13:00)

China has accused Japanese warplanes and ships of carrying out multiple “provocations” and surveillance operations during a carrier group’s deployment to the western Pacific for live-fire exercises. State broadcaster CCTV released a video on Monday showing at least four “close-range” encounters, and said the Liaoning carrier group had “warned off” the warships and surveillance planes. It included footage of Japanese warships as well as clips of

aircraft, at least one of which appeared to have...

- [Doctor boyfriend of sacked Hong Kong medical intern also fired for misconduct](#) (2026-06-22 12:53)

A doctor at Tuen Mun Hospital in Hong Kong has been fired for conducting an unauthorised procedure on a patient, in an incident linked to his medical intern girlfriend who was earlier dismissed and arrested for allegedly accessing patient data without permission. The Hospital Authority (HA) said on Monday evening that an investigation found the resident doctor had acted dishonestly and committed serious misconduct, in breach of professional ethics and integrity. The resident doctor was involved...

- [Australian public cooling on Trump' s US while thawing on China, survey finds](#) (2026-06-22 12:30)

Australian trust in the United States has hit a record low, while the public mood towards China has warmed for the fourth year in a row, according to a new opinion poll. In an unprecedented shift, 51 per cent of those surveyed said the country' s relationship with China was more important than that with the US, compared with 45 per cent who said America should take priority. Only 31 per cent of those questioned in the Lowy Institute' s annual poll said they trusted the US to act responsibly in the...

- [What does US Pacific Command name change mean for China and India?](#) (2026-06-22 12:30)

In a layered signal to Indo-Pacific nations and America' s domestic audience, the Trump administration last week said the US Indo-Pacific Command would revert to its long-used name, the US Pacific Command. The Honolulu-headquartered command was renamed in 2018 during Donald Trump' s first presidency. The administrative order by the Department of Defence was justified to honour the legacy of America' s oldest and largest unified combatant command, established in 1947. In the run-up to the 250th...

- [Boy, 5, starved to death was half normal weight for age, Hong Kong court told](#) (2026-06-22 12:29)

A five-year-old boy died after his mother physically abused, confined and starved him until he was a mere 9.7kg (21.38lbs) – half the normal weight for his age – a Hong Kong court has heard. The 38-year-old mother, only identified as “LST” at the High Court, on Monday pleaded guilty to one count of manslaughter and another of cruelty to a child over the death of her son in September 2022. An autopsy report showed the boy had starved to death and had also suffered 129 injuries to different parts...

- [Alan Greenspan, former US Fed Reserve chair, dies aged 100](#) (2026-06-22 12:22)

Alan Greenspan, hailed as the greatest Federal Reserve chairman when he retired in 2006 but derided for a severe financial crisis that followed barely two years later, died on Monday aged

100, NBC News reported. Greenspan, who exerted a powerful influence on the US economy during his tenure at the helm of the Fed from August 1987 to January 2006, died at his home from complications of Parkinson's disease, NBC reported, citing his wife Andrea Mitchell, who is the outlet's chief Washington...

- [Amid PLA pressure, Taiwan starts drill to simulate rapid deployment in a crisis](#) (2026-06-22 11:04)

Taiwan began a combat readiness exercise on Monday that aims to boost the military's ability to quickly move to a wartime footing, amid sustained pressure from the mainland. The Chinese mainland's increasingly frequent air and naval operations in the region have blurred the line between peacetime and wartime and mean that the Taiwanese military will have less time to respond to a crisis, according to officials. The Immediate Combat Readiness Exercise, which runs through Friday, was designed to...

- [Malaysian woman sorry for 'excessive' behaviour in video mocking locals in China](#) (2026-06-22 10:55)

A woman who appeared in videos allegedly showing a group of Malaysian tourists mocking locals in China as "smelly" has apologised after days of criticism from social media users in Malaysia and China. Nur Asyiqin Mohd Dalil came under scrutiny after the clips went viral, with users criticising the remarks as insulting to locals in China and saying they reflected poorly on Malaysians abroad. In a statement posted on her TikTok page, @ekyn.wong, on Saturday, she said she took full responsibility...

- [Elephants' transfer to Japan sparks Malaysia's corruption inquiry](#) (2026-06-22 10:48)

Three elephants whose transfer from Malaysia to Japan earlier this year sparked public anger over their alleged mistreatment are now at the centre of a corruption investigation over claims that Putrajaya did not receive the money linked to the move. The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) said on Monday it had opened a formal investigation into the movement of the elephants – Dara, Amoi and Kelat – from Zoo Taiping in the northern state of Perak to Tennoji Zoo in Osaka. MACC said it was...

- [Ex-hospital director opens China's only school for HIV-positive children to provide shelter](#) (2026-06-22 10:15)

A former hospital director in northern China has dedicated over two decades to creating an educational sanctuary for children living with HIV. Guo Xiaoping, 63, a former director of an infectious diseases hospital in Linfen, Shanxi province, began his mission in 2004 after discovering children in hospital's Aids ward who had reached school age but lacked access to proper education. He transformed a ward into a makeshift classroom, where he and the nurses taught Pinyin and multiplication...

- [Will Philippines' new bill entrench the political dynasties it aims to curb?](#) (2026-06-22 10:00)

A long-delayed bill meant to curb political dynasties in the Philippines – where powerful families dominate elected offices from Congress to local government – has moved closer to becoming law, but critics say the measure could end up protecting the clans it claims to restrain. The House of Representatives approved the measure in early June, a rare advance for an anti-dynasty law, nearly four decades after the 1987 constitution directed Congress to define and prohibit political...

- [Japan' s latest live-fire drill is about offence, not defence: PLA Daily](#) (2026-06-22 10:00)

China' s military mouthpiece on Monday warned that the weapons and operational methods seen in Japan' s largest annual live-fire drill symbolised the Self-Defence Force' s acceleration towards offensive capabilities as part of its military expansion. “Japan' s military forces will become more offensive, more dangerous and more oriented towards actual combat. Japan will race forward on the road of ‘re-militarisation’ ,” according to the article in PLA Daily. The warning came as tensions between...

- [4 more suspects arrested over HK\\$7 million gold bar robbery at Hong Kong airport](#) (2026-06-22 09:59)

Police have arrested four more suspects linked to a high-profile knifepoint robbery in Hong Kong following a joint cross-border operation, though the stolen gold bars remain missing. The robbery occurred early on Thursday at Hong Kong International Airport' s car park 3, where a 36-year-old local man, carrying a backpack loaded with six gold bars weighing about 6kg and valued at HK\$7 million, was ambushed by three knife-wielding assailants. The attackers slashed his arms and legs before escaping...

- [China rejects trade criticism after Merz backs global yuan action](#) (2026-06-22 09:19)

China pushed back against criticisms of its trade practices after the German chancellor became the latest world leader to voice complaints amid surging trade imbalances. “China never actively pursues a trade surplus,” Vice-Premier Ding Xuexiang said on Monday at the opening of a supply-chain expo in Beijing. “The greatest obstacle to China increasing its imports does not lie within itself, but rather with certain countries that abuse export controls.” German Chancellor Friedrich Merz on Friday...

- [Chinese ride-hailing giants back Hong Kong plan to cap permits at 10,000](#) (2026-06-22 08:43)

Two mainland Chinese ride-hailing operators in Hong Kong have backed a controversial plan to regulate the industry by capping vehicle permits at 10,000, a figure the city' s largest American business chamber considers insufficient. In submissions to the Legislative Council on Monday and in recent days, Amap and Didi Chuxing said they supported the Transport and Logistics Bureau' s proposed cap as part of a new regulatory regime scheduled to be passed by

lawmakers in July. Amap said the...

- [Starmer announces resignation, making way for UK's seventh prime minister in a decade](#) (2026-06-22 08:38)

Keir Starmer announced his intention to step down as Britain's prime minister on Monday, succumbing to intense party pressure as his popularity plummeted and rivals manoeuvred to challenge him. "Every decision I have taken has been about putting the country I love first. That is why I will resign as leader of the Labour Party," an emotional Starmer said in a short speech outside 10 Downing Street in London. Starmer, who up until Monday had resisted calls to stand aside, said he would remain...

- [Singaporean man traumatised over ex-schoolmate's AI photos of them as family](#) (2026-06-22 08:36)

At first glance, the images looked like those of a happy family in Singapore. There were photos of the couple during their school days and on dates, the woman pregnant and the man holding their supposed newborn with a caption that read: "My boys". Except the family did not exist – the images were all AI-generated. The man in the photos did not even know about them until a friend alerted him in December last year, The Straits Times reported on Sunday. In real life, he was not married or in a...

- [What retail apocalypse? Southeast Asia's malls are sitting pretty](#) (2026-06-22 08:30)

A cursory look at the ranking of the world's largest shopping centres shows the scale of the decline in the US retail property market. The US has only one, the Mall of America near Minneapolis, Minnesota, among the top 20. This is not surprising given that virtually no shopping centres were built in the last two decades. A succession of shocks – which included the disruptive impact of e-commerce, the financial woes of department stores that served as anchor tenants for most malls and the damage...

- [1 year in prison for gang member who forced 2 Thai women into prostitution in Hong Kong](#) (2026-06-22 08:30)

A Hong Kong court has sentenced a 70-year-old gang member to a year in prison for forcing two Thai women into prostitution, after they fell for job scams claiming to be hiring massage therapists and were trafficked from Thailand to the city in 2023. The District Court heard on Monday that Chiu Hon-leung ordered other gang members to lock the two women in a flat in Yau Ma Tei's Temple Street and forced them to engage in sex work after they arrived in Hong Kong on February 7, 2023. The two women,...

- [Bangladesh urges Malaysia to ease labour hiring curbs amid exploitation concerns](#) (2026-06-22 07:49)

Bangladesh's new leader has urged Malaysia to reopen its labour market to more Bangladeshi workers, even as migrant rights groups warned that both governments must first address years

of recruitment abuse, debt and stranded-worker cases. Prime Minister Tarique Rahman made the request to Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim during talks in Putrajaya on Monday, his first foreign visit since taking office, while seeking to broaden bilateral ties. Tarique said he had asked Anwar to consider...

- [South Korea's ex-justice minister jailed for 25 years over martial law bid](#) (2026-06-22 07:38)

A court has sentenced a former South Korean justice minister to 25 years in prison for his role in ex-president Yoon Suk-yeol's brief and disastrous declaration of martial law in 2024. Park Sung-jae was found guilty of involvement in "insurrection", the Yonhap news agency reported from the Seoul Central District Court on Monday. Yoon's December 2024 martial law declaration lasted only about six hours as lawmakers raced to the assembly building and voted it down in an emergency session. He has...

- [24 drivers arrested, over 4,000 tickets issued in crackdown on errant road users](#) (2026-06-22 07:05)

Hong Kong police have arrested 24 drivers and issued more than 4,000 tickets during a two-week crackdown on distracted driving and jaywalking, after the number of deaths in road accidents surged more than 40 per cent in the first five months of the year. During the two citywide operations from June 5 to 19, officers deployed unmarked traffic enforcement vehicles against dangerous driving behaviour such as using mobile phones behind the wheel, speeding, tailgating, unsafe lane changing, and...

- [In China, some researchers are attending academic conferences that do not exist](#) (2026-06-22 06:54)

Scammers in China have traditionally preyed on young people looking for quick cash or older individuals seeking health and longevity. However, they have found a new target: academics. Liu Xia, a lecturer in economics and management at a private university in Wuhan, capital of Hubei province in central China, is still indignant when she recalls the experience in 2024 of a paper submission-based scam. Needing to publish a conference paper for a professional title evaluation, she found an event...

- [China defends role in global supply chains amid Strait of Hormuz crisis](#) (2026-06-22 06:20)

China's proactive role in stabilising global energy and fertiliser markets amid the Strait of Hormuz crisis shows the country is a defender of global supply chains, rather than a disruptive force as "hyped" by the West, Vice-Premier Ding Xuexiang said on Monday. "The fact that Chinese manufacturing never falters or fails at critical moments fully proves that China is a participant, a builder and a defender of the global supply chain," Ding said during the opening ceremony of the fourth China...

- [Why Wong-Putin meeting doesn't mean Singapore's going soft on Russia](#) (2026-06-22 06:18)

Singapore Prime Minister Lawrence Wong's trip to Russia as part of an Asean delegation to meet Russian President Vladimir Putin was a pragmatic move that showed the city state could uphold its sanctions against Moscow while keeping diplomatic channels open, analysts said. They said the approach reflected Singapore's need to balance its principled stance on the Ukraine war with its responsibilities as next year's chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the region's search for...

- [Mature Chinese women rent their time, experiences to young counterparts for support](#) (2026-06-22 06:00)

Mature Chinese women are “renting” themselves to younger counterparts to listen to their worries and share life experiences. This service, commonly known as “sister commission,” has gone viral on social media platforms after some women in their 30s and 40s advertised such services. According to the posts, they offer “younger sisters” a listening ear, advice drawn from their richer life experiences, or simply companionship in a cosy atmosphere. Some women charge a commission fee ranging from 150...

- [Hong Kong primary school to host late-night World Cup semi-final watch party](#) (2026-06-22 05:34)

A Hong Kong primary school's decision to invite pupils to watch one of the World Cup semi-final matches on campus late at night has triggered a wave of excitement on social media, with some internet users saying it will be a “once-in-a-lifetime” experience. According to a circular issued to parents by Chi Lin Buddhist Primary School in Tseung Kwan O, the event, to be held on campus in the early hours of July 15, was meant to allow students to experience the lively atmosphere of a mega sports...

- [Did Myanmar-China talks spawn a more emboldened junta?](#) (2026-06-22 05:32)

A recent meeting between the leaders of Myanmar and China has given the military junta an opening to persuade Asean to allow it to return to the bloc's summits. Analysts also say, however, that Myanmar's regime could feel emboldened to escalate action against resistance forces, revving up its “military approach” to deal with the country's civil war. Last Tuesday, Chinese President Xi Jinping met his Myanmar counterpart Min Aung Hlaing in Beijing, providing vital political endorsement to the...

- [Hongkongers aim for self-sufficiency in old age, but survey finds ‘clear readiness gap’](#) (2026-06-22 05:30)

While nine out of 10 Hongkongers aim to remain as self-sufficient as possible in their old age, they also expect 14 years of care dependency and 17 years of financial dependence, among the highest totals in Asia, according to survey results released on Monday. Based on the responses of 1,000 Hongkongers aged 18 and above, the Manulife Asia Care Survey 2026 found clear gaps

between awareness and action in both preventive healthcare and financial self-reliance. Respondents said they expected to...

- [Hong Kong parents in welfare custody case say 2-month-old baby sick in hospital](#) (2026-06-22 04:32)

The two-month-old baby of a Hong Kong couple involved in custody battles for their two children has been hospitalised after falling ill and could be tested for meningitis, according to his parents, who earlier caused controversy for failing to register the infant's birth in the city and were arrested for alleged child neglect. The father of two-month-old Danny, Tsang Wai-bong, said on Monday that he and his partner Kwan Pui-sin were only allowed to visit their child in a shelter once a week and...

- [3 dead, 5 injured in Philippine school shooting](#) (2026-06-22 04:24)

Three people have died and five injured in a school shooting in Central Philippines, police said. Two persons of interest – one of them a 15-year-old Grade 9 student of the school – are now in police custody, the Inquirer reported. The shooting occurred at around 9am on Monday morning at San Jose National High School in Tacloban City. “The victims were immediately transported to nearby medical facilities for treatment and appropriate medical intervention,” regional police said in a...

- [‘Lying flat’ goes mainstream, Singapore mall finds God: 5 weekend reads you missed](#) (2026-06-22 04:15)

We have put together stories from our coverage last weekend to help you stay informed about news across Asia and beyond. If you would like to see more of our reporting, please consider subscribing. 1. How ‘lying flat’ went from a niche subculture to mainstream phenomenon 2. The hidden cost of China's electric car boom: a spiralling roadworks bill 3. Sin to salvation: how Singapore's most notorious mall found God 4. Hong Kong TV host Lillian Sze loses battle with ovarian cancer 5. 100kg dad...

- [Driver escapes as Ferrari catches fire near Hong Kong light rail stop](#) (2026-06-22 04:07)

A Ferrari caught fire near a light rail stop in Hong Kong's Tin Shui Wai on Monday morning. Police said the driver reported the fire at 10.41am after exiting the black vehicle, which had no passengers on board, near Ginza Station. Photos and videos circulating online show firefighters extinguishing the blaze as traffic builds up behind the car, with smoke billowing from the scene. The fire was later put out. The front left side of the vehicle sustained the most damage, with half of the...

- [Malaysia's nationwide diesel subsidy gets citizens all pumped up](#) (2026-06-22 03:34)

Malaysian consumers and small business owners have welcomed the government's decision to introduce subsidised diesel at 2.10 ringgit (50 US cents) per litre (0.3 gallons) nationwide from July 1, although some are seeking greater clarity on fuel allocations under the

MyKad-based scheme. Malaysian Tamilan Tow Truck Association president Matheva-ananMohanaraja said the effectiveness of the initiative would ultimately depend on how much subsidised diesel each identity card holder was entitled to...

- [Blast at Qatar gas facility leaves at least 54 hurt, 18 missing](#) (2026-06-22 02:52)

An explosion tore through Qatar's key natural gas export terminal Sunday night as workers tried to resume operations there after Iran bombed it during the war, causing a fire that hurt at least 54 people as another 18 were still missing hours later. The blast at the Ras Laffan industrial area could cause further chaos in global energy markets, particularly as Qatar remains one of the world's top natural gas producers. Qatar shut down its production after Iran's chokehold on the Strait of Hormuz...

- [Zhipu AI market cap tops HK\\$1 trillion as shares of GLM-5.2 developer soar](#) (2026-06-22 02:32)

The market capitalisation of Hong Kong-listed artificial intelligence pioneer Zhipu AI surpassed HK\$1 trillion (US\$128 billion) on Monday, fuelled by investor optimism as the company goes head-to-head with its American rivals. Shares of Zhipu, which trades under the name Knowledge Atlas Technology, skyrocketed as much as 42 per cent on Monday morning to a peak of HK\$2,980. The surge follows the release of Zhipu's open-source GLM-5.2 model last week. Featuring a massive 1-million-token context...

- [Hong Kong's Tai Po fire probe rules out statutory powers, says evidence sufficient](#) (2026-06-22 02:27)

This story has been made freely available as a public service to our readers. Please consider supporting SCMP's journalism by subscribing. A judge-led panel investigating Hong Kong's deadliest fire in decades has resumed its public inquiry after a six-week break to hear expert evidence on the cause of the blaze that killed 168 people last year. The independent committee probing the Wang Fuk Court inferno began its fifth round of hearings on Monday, with panel chairman Justice David Lok Kai-hong...

- [Blockade lifted, assets to be returned to Iran in Swiss talks breakthrough](#) (2026-06-22 01:58)

The US-Iran talks in Switzerland have led to the lifting of the blockade and the release of frozen assets for Iran, Tehran said, but the real test remains deconfliction in Lebanon. "Tireless Pakistani and Qatari mediation has delivered major progress to end Lebanon War," Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi said in a social media post on Monday. "Oil and petrochem exports are waived, blockade lifted, some frozen assets released, and major reconstruction & development plan launched for..."

- [Moving the goalposts won't fix sources of Hong Kong poverty](#) (2026-06-22 01:30)

Last week, Xia Baolong, Beijing's point man on Hong Kong and Macau affairs, made a two-day trip to the city to review the Hong Kong government's progress across many areas. Everything seems to have been orchestrated with precision. Ahead of Xia's arrival, the government launched its two-month public consultation on the city's first five-year plan. The day after Xia concluded his visit, the government released its 200-plus page report on the impact of its targeted poverty alleviation...

- [Australia makes record cocaine bust after 2.7 tonnes found buried in Sydney](#) (2026-06-22 01:28)

Australian police seized a record 2.7 tonnes of cocaine hidden in plastic tubs buried underground on the outskirts of Sydney, detectives said on Monday. It was the largest cocaine haul in Australian history, a joint organised crime investigation force said in a statement. Police allege a Sydney-based organised crime group arranged for a foreign vessel to offload the cocaine in northern Queensland before moving it to Sydney for distribution. "Investigations into the origin of the drugs remain...

- [Hong Kong aims to offer more investment options for mainland Chinese: Paul Chan](#) (2026-06-22 01:00)

As Hong Kong marks the 29th anniversary of its return to Chinese rule on July 1, the South China Morning Post talks to the city's senior officials about the administration's achievements so far and what may lie ahead. More mainland Chinese investors could gain access to a broader range of products in Hong Kong under a review by authorities, the finance chief has said, dismissing concerns that a recent crackdown on illegal cross-border stock trading could dent the city's appeal. Financial...

- [Chinese woman suffers red, itchy skin after extreme full-face coverage, sunscreen use](#) (2026-06-22 01:00)

A Chinese woman developed rashes and itching after applying extreme sun protection measures, including wearing a sunscreen product that covers her whole face. The woman from eastern China's Jiangsu province was recently reported to have developed red and itchy skin while travelling. She applied sunscreen before wearing a hat and mask that covers her whole face, to screen herself from the strong sunlight. At the end of the day, she felt hot and had redness on her facial skin. The next morning,...

- [Canada steps up at Rimpac to rebut Trump's freeriding charge](#) (2026-06-22 00:01)

Canada is deploying two frigates and a submarine to the world's largest multinational naval exercise this week, in what analysts describe as both a display of Indo-Pacific seriousness and a pointed rebuttal to Washington's "freeriding" charge. HMCS Ottawa, HMCS Regina and submarine HMCS Corner Brook are slated to join the biennial Rim of the Pacific Exercise (Rimpac) from Wednesday to July 31, which is expected to draw more than 25,000 military personnel from 31 countries, including Australia,...

- [Trump-backed candidate wins razor-tight Colombia presidential vote](#) (2026-06-21 23:54)

A flamboyant US-backed lawyer who has never held public office narrowly won Colombia's presidential run-off on Sunday, swinging the country hard to the right on a promise to wage war against drug-running guerrilla groups. With more than 99 per cent of polling centres reporting, Abelardo de la Espriella had 49.65 per cent of the vote, an unassailable lead over his rival, left-wing Senator Ivan Cepeda who trailed at 48.70 per cent, according to official results. Cepeda said on Sunday he will await...

- [Where is Hong Kong 29 years after handover?](#) (2026-06-21 23:03)
- [Hong Kong to roll out measures boosting offshore yuan trading in July: finance chief](#) (2026-06-21 23:00)

As Hong Kong marks the 29th anniversary of its return to Chinese rule on July 1, the South China Morning Post talks to the city's senior officials about the administration's achievements so far and what may lie ahead. Authorities are expected to roll out measures to strengthen Hong Kong's role as an offshore Chinese yuan hub next month, the finance chief has revealed, with the government pushing to increase the number of listed firms trading stocks in renminbi. Financial Secretary Paul Chan...

- [Nie Huihua on the non-Westernness of Chinese government and the challenge to innovation](#) (2026-06-21 22:00)

Nie Huihua, a professor of economics at Renmin University, discusses how an effective understanding of China's development requires a shift from Western-centric frameworks to an integrated perspective that recognises how formal institutions, informal grass-roots mechanisms and cultural collectivism couple to create a self-consistent and adaptive governance system. SCMP Plus readers get early access to articles in the Open Questions series. You received economics training at Harvard, but your...

- [People caught vandalising Washington Reflecting Pool to be fully prosecuted](#) (2026-06-21 21:41)

People caught vandalising the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool on Washington's National Mall will be fully prosecuted, US Attorney Jeanine Pirro said on Sunday. US President Donald Trump has blamed vandalism for recent problems with the newly renovated pool, including its new blue paint peeling off. Citations for vandalism have been issued, Pirro said on Sunday, adding that even minor crimes must be prosecuted to keep the US capital safe. The peeling paint was visible in the 610-metre-long...

- [China-Asean relations are bigger than mere geopolitics](#) (2026-06-21 21:30)

China-Asean relations are usually described in two ways. One emphasises danger: the South China Sea, US-China rivalry, military pressure and risk of Southeast Asia being pulled into China's orbit. The other emphasises opportunity: trade, infrastructure, investment, supply

chains and shared growth. Both are true. Neither is enough. I recently joined a study tour by the University of Hong Kong's Centre on Contemporary China and the World to Chengdu, Kuala Lumpur and Jakarta. During the trip, I was...

- [Revolutionary Guard claim is 'outright lie', says Iran's football federation](#) (2026-06-21 20:38)

US claims that an individual with ties to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) tried to join the Iran team's flight to the United States on Saturday are "fabricated and entirely baseless allegations", the country's football federation (FFIRI) has said. Markwayne Mullin, the US Homeland Security Secretary, told Fox News on Sunday that someone under the guise of being the Iranian federation (FFIRI) president tried to board the team's flight to Los Angeles from Mexico for Sunday's World Cup...

- [Castro ally Ramiro Valdes, lauded as a hero of Cuban revolution, dies at 94](#) (2026-06-21 19:44)

Ramiro Valdes, one of Fidel Castro's earliest collaborators who was lauded at home as a hero of the Cuban revolution, has died at the age of 94, President Miguel Diaz-Canel said on social media on Sunday. The president did not provide a cause of death. A top government official for decades after Castro's rebels came to power in 1959, Valdes held the honorary titles "Hero of the Republic" and "Commander of the Revolution" and formed part of the powerful Political Bureau of the ruling Cuban...

- [Thousands rally in Prague against government's public broadcasting overhaul plan](#) (2026-06-21 19:00)

Thousands of Czechs rallied in the capital on Sunday to condemn a plan by the government led by populist Prime Minister Andrej Babis to overhaul funding for public broadcasters that is considered dangerous for their independence. The protesters gathered in front of the Czech public television offices in Prague, Czech Republic, to voice their support for the media a day before their staff plan to go on a warning strike, and after recent protest marches in the regional capitals and...

- [Iran-US talks to continue through the night after Iranians walked out over Trump threat](#) (2026-06-21 18:26)

Iran's delegation is still at the Swiss venue for talks with the United States on ending the Middle East war, and the US delegation expects to keep working with them through the night, a senior US diplomat said early on Monday. The talks included "clarifying some of the confusing messaging from Iran on the Strait and building deconfliction mechanisms to ensure the Strait will remain fully open", the diplomat, who is involved in the talks, said. On Sunday, the Iranian delegation walked out in...

- [Pope Leo exalts first American saint as a model for Christians for her care of migrants](#) (2026-06-21 17:29)

Pope Leo on Saturday exalted the first American saint, Mother Frances Cabrini, as a model for Christians today to care for migrants in need, as he visited her birthplace during a day trip to northern Italy. Leo, who has clashed with the Trump administration over its migrant crackdown, urged young people in particular to learn about Cabrini's life and service, once again confirming history's first US pope as the heir to Pope Francis in prioritising the plight of migrants. Leo prayed before...

- [Ethiopian PM's party secures landslide win in national election](#) (2026-06-21 16:56)

Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's Prosperity Party (PP) won a landslide victory in legislative polls held June 1, the election commission said on Sunday, giving it almost 90 per cent of the seats. Abiy has led Ethiopia since 2018, and is increasingly criticised for growing authoritarianism, in contrast to his early years when he won the Nobel Peace Prize for mending relations with neighbouring Eritrea. The PP was considered the overwhelming favourite in the country of 130 million, facing a...

- [Europe hits 40°C as heatwave threatens tourism industry, wildlife](#) (2026-06-21 15:21)

A severe heatwave gripped much of Europe on Sunday, with temperatures nearing 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit), prompting nationwide warnings, transport disruption and signs of strain on wildlife and at tourist hotspots. The heat surge on June 21, the summer solstice in the northern hemisphere and typically the start of the three hottest months of the year, raised concerns of an early and persistent onset of extreme conditions. After several days of temperatures above 35 degrees,...

- [Red Hawk rising: how the Z-20 family is plugging China's chronic defence gaps](#) (2026-06-21 15:00)

Telling a Harbin Z-20 and a Sikorsky UH-60 "Black Hawk" apart can be challenging – the two helicopters look almost identical and their dimensions are very similar. The striking resemblance underscores China's decades-long effort to close the technological gap with the United States and Russia in the important aviation sector of helicopters. Yet, there are differences: the Z-20 has five main rotor blades compared with the UH-60's four, and its cabin features two front windows instead of the...

- [Bolivian lawmakers approve state of emergency as protests choke supply chain](#) (2026-06-21 14:04)

Bolivia began showing signs of returning to normalcy on Sunday, a day after President Rodrigo Paz declared a state of emergency to resolve a 50-day social crisis that had blocked the nation's main highways. Early on Sunday, the Legislative Assembly overwhelmingly approved Paz's decree, which aimed to restore transit and supply essential goods after protesting groups cut off key roads for weeks, stranding trucks and choking supplies of food, fuel and

medicines to many areas. Sunday’ s vote in...

- [Hong Kong father, son arrested after parking ticket thrown at traffic wardens](#) (2026-06-21 14:04)

Hong Kong police have arrested an elderly man and his son for allegedly assaulting public officers after they threw a parking ticket at two traffic wardens in Tuen Mun, the South China Morning Post has learned. A source said on Sunday that police arrested the 61-year-old man and his 31-year-old son outside cooked food stalls in Sam Shing at 11.40am. Earlier, at around 11.30am, a traffic warden had issued a parking ticket when the two men returned and disputed the penalty. During the...

- [Hong Kong man, 54, dies after e-bike plunges from goods platform](#) (2026-06-21 13:10)

A 54-year-old Hong Kong man died after reportedly losing control of an electric bike and falling from an unloading platform in Yuen Long early on Sunday, with the incident only discovered more than five hours later. Police received a report at 9.21am that a man was lying unconscious on Tong Yan San Tsuen Road. Officers arrived at the scene and found the man, surnamed Lam, with head and hand injuries. He was pronounced dead at the scene. According to the force, Lam was riding the e-bike eastbound...

- [Cancer-on-a-chip pioneer Chen Weiqiang returns to China from New York University](#) (2026-06-21 13:00)

Chen Weiqiang, formerly a tenured professor of mechanical and biomedical engineering at New York University (NYU), has joined the school of biomedical engineering at Nanjing University as a distinguished professor. “Professor Chen has long been deeply engaged in top overseas universities, achieving remarkable results in cutting-edge fields such as cellular biomechanics and organ chips,” Nanjing University assistant president Jiang Tian said, while introducing him. “He chose to join Nanjing...

- [China’ s Iran strategy an exercise in power without projection](#) (2026-06-21 12:30)

The spectacle of US President Donald Trump thanking China for staying “neutral” with regard to the US-Israeli war against Iran would have been unthinkable a year ago. Yet at the Group of Seven summit in Evian-les-Bains, France, on June 17, he credited Beijing – alongside Moscow – with preventing a full-blown catastrophe. His observation that China “could have sent in an oil ship with six destroyers alongside of it, on each side” but chose restraint, captured the essence of Beijing’ s strategic...

- [KMT accuses DPP of targeting Taiwan’ s farmers over trade ties with mainland](#) (2026-06-21 12:00)

Taiwan’ s main opposition Kuomintang (KMT) has hit out at the island’ s government for launching investigations into five agricultural groups over participation in a mainland forum. Taiwan’ s Mainland Affairs Council (MAC) referred the five groups to the Ministry of Agriculture

for investigation after they were accused of signing cooperation deals at the Straits Forum insoutheastern Fujian province earlier this month. The move triggered a backlash from oppositionpoliticians and farming groups,...

- [Israeli ‘smear campaign’ targets journalists, threatens safety, Al Jazeera says](#) (2026-06-21 11:47)

Al Jazeera on Sunday rejected Israeli accusations that one of its journalists, killed in Gaza a day earlier, was a Hamas operative, as family and colleagues mourned the cameraman in the Palestinian territory. The Qatar-based network said in a statement that it “condemns the Israeli occupation army’ s baseless accusations, which seek to justify its crimes against Al Jazeera journalists and cameramen in Gaza, most recently the killing of cameraman Ahmed Wishah” . The Israeli military said in a...

- [Hong Kong TV host Lillian Sze loses battle with ovarian cancer](#) (2026-06-21 11:42)

A Hong Kong television host who spoke four languages and frequently emceed fan meetings for Korean stars has died from ovarian cancer, less than a month after revealing her diagnosis. The death of former ViuTV host and content creator Lillian Sze was announced on her social media page on Sunday, sending shock waves online and prompting an outpouring of tributes from celebrities and fans. “Lillian faced everything in life with a positive attitude, whether at work or in her daily life. Even in the...

- [What signal is China sending with footage of DF-17 hypersonic missile launches?](#) (2026-06-21 11:00)

China’ s state broadcaster CCTV has aired footage showing the launch of a DF-17 hypersonic missile, a weapon that analysts believe could strengthen deterrence across the first island chain. On Saturday, a military news programme carried footage of two live-fire exercises, one of which showed a Dongfeng-17, or “east wind” , missile launcher by the side of a road, followed by a vertical launch. The other segment showed training exercises involving multiple branches of the People’ s Liberation Army...

- [No more painful biopsies? How a new blood test will transform cancer detection in Hong Kong](#) (2026-06-21 11:00)

In the fourth instalment of a six-part Health Matters wellness series on cancer in Hong Kong, Elizabeth Cheung examines how city researchers are developing new blood tests to detect the disease earlier, and what they could mean for screenings and diagnoses. Retired Hong Kong businessman Peter Wan Ying-keung still remembers the uncertainty and discomfort of his months-long journey to a prostate cancer diagnosis 13 years ago. It began with a routine blood test in 2013 that showed elevated levels...

- [Colombians vote for president amid corruption fears, polarisation](#) (2026-06-21 10:02)

A deeply divided electorate will choose Colombia's next president in a run-off on Sunday that pits a progressive against a conservative outsider, with both candidates tapping into fears of renewed internal conflict in the country. Voters will choose between businessman and lawyer Abelardo de la Espriella and Iván Cepeda, a lawmaker and heir to the political movement of outgoing President Gustavo Petro, the nation's first leftist leader. The two defeated nine other contenders in a May 31...

- [4 injured after 2 taxis and private car collide on Hong Kong's Shenzhen Bay Bridge](#) (2026-06-21 09:27)

Two taxis and a private car have collided on Hong Kong's Shenzhen Bay Bridge, injuring four people and resulting in the partial closure of a slip road leading to the nearby land border crossing. A police spokesman said officers were alerted at 2.36pm on Sunday about the crash, which caused the private car to overturn, leaving four people, including the two taxi drivers, injured. "All four injured persons suffered from minor injuries, such as abrasions," the spokesman said. It was unclear which...

- [Iran, US claims conflict over Hormuz as 3 Indian crude tankers emerge](#) (2026-06-21 09:04)

Three fully laden India-linked supertankers have re-emerged in the Gulf of Oman, adding to increased reports of traffic moving both ways across the northern and southern routes of the Strait of Hormuz, while conflicting narratives over the status of transits persist. The Dosh Vibhor, Dosh Vaibhav and Sanmar Herald were observed in the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea on Sunday, after having been last seen signalling their attempt to cross the Strait of Hormuz late on Friday, according to...

- [The US town, the Chinese company and the bankrupting battle over a battery plant](#) (2026-06-21 09:00)

Less than three years ago, residents of a small rural township in the US state of Michigan packed a community hall to celebrate what many saw as a victory for local democracy over a Chinese-headquartered battery manufacturer. The residents of Green Charter Township prayed, cheered and congratulated one another for overturning a town board that had supported Gotion's proposed US\$2.36 billion electric vehicle battery project. As the new board quickly rescinded the Gotion plan, the residents...

- [Teahouse scores big as Hongkongers celebrate Father's Day with yum cha, football](#) (2026-06-21 08:45)

Hong Kong families cheered for Japan as it beat Tunisia 4-0 during a Sunday lunchtime broadcast of the Fifa World Cup, making for a memorable Father's Day that combined the family tradition of yum cha with live football. The occasion highlighted the catering sector's creative efforts to boost business, as a World Cup match coincided with a major family celebration, filling a local Cantonese teahouse to capacity. At Lin Heung Lau in Sheung Wan, thunderous applause and roars erupted when the...

- [For Hong Kong to succeed in AI, energy cannot be an afterthought](#) (2026-06-21 08:30)

The artificial intelligence competition is by nature an energy competition. The conventional narrative focuses on faster chips, yet training and inference consume vast amounts of power. The harsh geographic paradox is that the regions most advanced in artificial intelligence (AI) often face the most acute power constraints. Hong Kong has emerged as a premier global AI hub. According to the Global AI Competitiveness Index, the city ranks third globally as an AI financial powerhouse. The chief...

- [US and Iranian negotiators arrive in Swiss resort for latest round of peace talks](#) (2026-06-21 08:19)

Top negotiators from the United States, Iran and Pakistan have arrived in Switzerland ahead of talks that aim to secure a fragile ceasefire and reach a deal on the future of Iran's nuclear programme. The US team was led by Vice-President J.D. Vance, who arrived in Burgenstock near Lucerne, the resort hosting the talks on Sunday. He joined special envoy Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, President Donald Trump's son-in-law, who were already on the ground, Associated Press reported. Before setting...

- [China cabby drives against traffic, runs red lights to rush unconscious toddler to hospital](#) (2026-06-21 08:00)

A taxi driver in central China won widespread praise online after racing an unconscious child to the hospital, running red lights and driving against traffic. The incident unfolded in Wuhan, Hubei province, on June 5, according to the mainland media outlet Ping An Hubei. The three-year-old girl, identified by the pseudonym Yanyan, had developed a fever at home before suddenly losing consciousness. Her family called the emergency services, but were told an ambulance would take at least 20...

- [Hong Kong 'strategic adaptation ground' for mainland Chinese tech giants: Paul Chan](#) (2026-06-21 07:41)

Mainland Chinese firms at the cutting edge of technology are increasingly using Hong Kong as a "strategic adaptation ground" to transform themselves into multinational companies, the finance chief has said. Following his trip to attend a forum and visit tech companies in Shanghai and Nanjing last week, Financial Secretary Paul Chan Mo-po said on Sunday that mainland tech companies expanding into international markets had moved beyond simply exporting products. "By bringing in international...

- [Dementia patients, carers of severely disabled may be flagged for priority outreach](#) (2026-06-21 07:37)

Hong Kong will consider expanding priority community care to include dementia patients and residents aged over 60 who care for people with severe disabilities in a bid to better identify high-risk cases, the city's welfare chief has said. Secretary for Labour and Welfare Chris Sun

Yuk-han said on Sunday that authorities were reviewing the screening criteria used to identify high-risk elderly individuals. The move follows a tragedy in which a 70-year-old man was found hanging in his Kwai Chung...

- [Residents in 2 villages can turn houses fully into tourist sites under pilot scheme](#) (2026-06-21 06:47)

Hong Kong residents living in the villages of Ho Sheung Heung and Yin Kong in Sheung Shui will be allowed to convert their entire houses into restaurants, guest houses or shops without prior application under a pilot scheme aimed at boosting rural tourism. The necessary planning work is scheduled to begin in the third quarter of this year, and the government will consider expanding the scheme to other village-type development zones depending on its effectiveness. In a policy paper made public on...

- [South Korea jostles with Germany for US\\$39 billion Canadian submarine deal](#) (2026-06-21 06:34)

The South Korean government and defence players are making last-ditch efforts to win Canada's next-generation submarine project worth up to 60 trillion won (US\$39.14 billion), as Ottawa is expected to select a preferred bidder by the end of this month. Under the Canadian Patrol Submarine Project, the Royal Canadian Navy's ageing fleet of four Victoria-class submarines will be replaced with 12 new 3,000-tonne diesel-electric vessels. The comprehensive contract includes long-term maintenance,...

- [How Benin is on the road to reshaping its cotton industry, with China's help](#) (2026-06-21 06:00)

For decades, moving Benin's cotton harvest from the north of the country to its southern ports was a slow, difficult journey along unpaved roads. Benin is Africa's largest cotton producer, but it lacked the infrastructure needed to connect its northern cotton-growing belt to the coast and processing plants in the Glo-Djigbé Industrial Zone (GDIZ) near Cotonou, the country's largest city and economic capital. The GDIZ – part of the government's efforts to end raw cotton exports – now processes a...

- [Korean drama Teach You a Lesson serves up a reality check on education](#) (2026-06-21 05:30)

Within a week of its release, Netflix's new Korean drama Teach You a Lesson, directed by Hong Jong-chan, topped the platform's global non-English rankings for the week of June 1 to 7. Adapted from the popular webtoon Get Schooled (2020), the 10-episode series about a government-backed vigilante unit trying to fix the wrongs in schools has quickly become a highly rated breakout hit. Described in a Forbes article as “one of the most addictive feel-good dramas of the year”, the series has exploded...

- [Vance in Switzerland for US-Iran talks as Strait of Hormuz closed again](#) (2026-06-21 05:19)

A new round of negotiations over the Middle East war was set to kick off on Sunday as Iranian negotiators and US Vice-President J.D. Vance arrived in the Swiss host city, even as Tehran said it was closing the Strait of Hormuz again over Israeli attacks in Lebanon. Before boarding his flight to Europe, Vance told reporters he hoped to “make progress on the nuclear issue, make progress on the Lebanon ceasefire issue. Those are the two big things that I think we’ re going to be focused...

- [Hong Kong only place in China that can adopt model akin to SpaceX, CY Leung says](#)  
(2026-06-21 04:49)

Hong Kong is the only place in China capable of replicating the financing model of US tech giant SpaceX, which leverages market forces to grow rapidly, former leader Leung Chun-ying has said, urging the city to develop professional services for the emerging aerospace industry. Leung, a vice-chairman of the Chinese People’ s Political Consultative Conference, the country’ s top political advisory body, also called on Hong Kong to make trade-offs when formulating its first five-year plan,...

- [Dear You gets 8 extra Teochew shows in Singapore after ‘overwhelming’ demand](#)  
(2026-06-21 04:15)

Theatre chain Golden Village (GV) and film distributor Clover Films have added eight more screenings of Dear You in its original Teochew language in Singapore. The additional screenings will take place from June 25 to 29 at GVmax at GV VivoCity. Tickets will go on sale at 3pm on June 22 via GV’ s box office counters and online channels. The move comes after all eight of the Chinese film’ s previously announced Teochew-language screenings, held from June 18 to 21, sold out. Directed and co-written...

- [Hong Kong parents turn to summer school options in Asia amid soaring airfares](#)  
(2026-06-21 04:00)

Hong Kong families are turning away from long-standing summer school favourites in Britain and North America amid soaring airfares, with education consultants reporting a sharp surge in demand for alternatives in Asia. Applications for British summer schools fell 35 per cent this year as Hong Kong parents balk at soaring airfares, fuelled by the war in Iran, according to Samuel Chan Sze-ming, founder of education consultancy Britannia StudyLink. The firm acts as an agent for programmes in the...

- [Singaporean men are fighting to be heard. A movement is letting them do just that](#)  
(2026-06-21 04:00)

Danny Loong did not fully grieve his father’ s death until he became a parent himself. For two decades after his father’ s passing, Loong remembered him mostly as a provider and disciplinarian: a man who pushed hard, cared quietly and offered little by way of tenderness. “He would ask me, ‘How come you’ re not this, or that? How come you’ re not studying hard enough?’ So when he passed away, I missed him, but I somehow couldn’ t really grieve

for him,” said Loong, 54. “It was only after I had my own...

- [Thai property crackdown: Foreign buyers hit pause on villas as nominee loophole closes](#) (2026-06-21 03:30)

Thailand’s crackdown on a loophole that effectively bypasses its restrictions on land ownership by foreigners is causing prospective buyers to delay purchase decisions on luxury villas in resort destinations such as Phuket and Koh Samui, according to agents. Bangkok has stepped up its scrutiny of business and property ownership in the country, with the Department of Business Development (DBD) flagging 11,426 companies on Koh Phangan and Koh Samui where foreigners hold stakes, accounting for...

- [Italy’s Meloni let Trump’s jibes slide for so long. Now, she’s hitting back](#) (2026-06-21 02:02)

US Donald Trump has sparred with most of his fellow Group of Seven leaders at some point. But Italy’s Giorgia Meloni this week did something none of them dared: she escalated. Unlike Spanish Socialist Pedro Sanchez, one of the few leaders in Europe who has made political capital of being berated by Trump, the Italian prime minister had stood out as one of the few Europeans he actually liked: an outspoken conservative at ease talking Maga. But Meloni has also transitioned from a populist...

- [China-led team develops AI system to track radar-disrupting space hurricanes](#) (2026-06-21 02:00)

A China-led team has developed an AI system to detect space hurricanes, a phenomenon in the Earth’s upper atmosphere that can disrupt satellite signals, radar and radio communications. While the hurricane-like atmospheric phenomenon can have major space weather effects, detection has so far relied on a tedious process of studying satellite images manually. The team said it had developed a new deep-learning system that could automatically detect and pinpoint space hurricanes through ultraviolet...

- [Cross-border biotech deals grow more complex as US targets China investment links](#) (2026-06-21 01:30)

Cross-border biotech deals between China and the United States are becoming more complicated and could face a modest slowdown as Washington steps up efforts to restrict investment and technology transfers, according to industry analysts. “There will be more geopolitical scrutiny going forward. This scrutiny may lead to slightly fewer deals than without it,” said Diederik Stadig, senior healthcare economist at ING Research. Despite the growing regulatory hurdles, Stadig said the broader trend of...

- [To lead in global education, Hong Kong must go beyond narrow metrics](#) (2026-06-21 01:30)

Hong Kong’s universities are often celebrated for their global rankings, research output and international reputation. Yet behind these achievements lies a quieter, more fundamental

question: how do we define academic excellence and are we measuring the right things? Academic life is driven by intrinsic motivations. Scholars are guided by curiosity, a pursuit of excellence and a commitment to professionalism: integrity, responsibility and accountability. Many see their work as part of a larger...

- [Concerns raised as Hong Kong stops compiling voter turnout data by age and sex](#) (2026-06-21 01:00)

Hong Kong election authorities have stopped compiling voter turnout data by age and sex, citing a lack of operational need, in a move that has raised concerns about undermining the transparency of polls. Analysts and politicians said such statistics were valuable for election hopefuls in understanding voter demographics and formulating policy suggestions, while authorities could use the data to improve governance. The South China Morning Post asked the Registration and Electoral Office last...

- [‘Only death can stop me’ : terminally ill Chinese tycoon works 12 hours daily to cure ALS](#) (2026-06-21 01:00)

A former Chinese e-commerce executive in the final stages of a rare disease is still working 12-hour days, devoting what time he has left to accelerating the search for a cure. Cai Lei, 48, a former vice-president of JD.com, one of China’s largest e-commerce companies, has spent seven years battling amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), an incurable disease that progressively attacks motor neurons. His condition has recently deteriorated to an advanced stage. Unable to move or speak, Cai can now...

- [Japan confronts the dark side of its teenagers’ AI addiction](#) (2026-06-21 00:00)

She was among five girls in Japan believed to have beaten a boy so severely that he required hospital treatment. Yet her most pressing concern was how much money the group should demand from him. To find an answer, she turned to artificial intelligence. The alleged assault took place in January in Hachioji, a city in western Greater Tokyo. For experts, the case has exposed a disturbing pattern: Japanese adolescents instinctively turning to AI to guide their actions, including criminal ones,...

- [How Singapore’s most notorious mall found God](#) (2026-06-21 00:00)

Orchard Towers, a building in Singapore once notorious enough to earn the nickname “Four Floors of Whores”, has found an unlikely new tenant. On weekends, the site of former nightclubs, illegal massage parlours and at least one murder is now flooded with church-goers. Cornerstone Community Church officially opened weekly services at the Orchard Road landmark in January after buying six units on the fourth floor – formerly a nightclub – for S\$54.5 million (US\$42.3 million) in 2025. Experts say...

- [Report says UK PM Starmer ready to quit, but source says he is still focused on the job](#) (2026-06-20 22:14)

Britain's Observer newspaper said UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer was expected to resign on Monday and set out a timetable for his departure, though a government source said the leader remained focused on getting on with the job of governing. The threat to Starmer's position, which has been building for months, increased sharply on Friday when his rival Andy Burnham won a seat in parliament that would allow him to launch a formal leadership challenge. The Observer report said Starmer was...

- [How 'lying flat' went from a niche subculture to mainstream phenomenon](#) (2026-06-20 22:00)

In late April, China's top intelligence agency claimed that foreign forces were weaponising the concept of "lying flat" to dispel young people's "belief in striving" and undermine social values. Once a niche subculture, "lying flat" has evolved into a mainstream phenomenon over the past five years. "Lying flat" became a buzzword on Chinese social media around 2021 during the coronavirus pandemic. At the time, the phrase was usually applied to people who had completely dropped out of the rat...

- [Zelensky says Ukraine drones hit oil refinery in Russia's Tyumen, now have 3,000km range](#) (2026-06-20 20:39)

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said on Saturday that Ukrainian drones had struck an oil refinery in Russia's Tyumen Region in western Siberia, more than 2,000km (1,200 miles) from Ukraine. He also said Ukraine had developed new long-range drones capable of operating over more than 3,000 km. Speaking in his nightly video address, Zelensky offered thanks to the Ukrainian military's special operations which "have reached Tyumen Region in Russia, including an oil refining facility. More...

- [Trump blames reflecting pool woes on vandalism, but offers no proof](#) (2026-06-20 19:53)

The paint is peeling from Washington's reflecting pool after the renovation ordered by President Donald Trump, and he is now alleging that someone damaged it intentionally.

"We've had some real problems with Vandalism at the beautiful Reflecting Pool," he posted on his social media site on Friday night. "Just like three days ago, they destroyed the grass outside of the Pool, they've also done everything possible to hurt the inside surface that was just installed." He offered no details to...

- [Ubisoft co-founder Claude Guillemot dies in plane crash in France](#) (2026-06-20 19:37)

Claude Guillemot, who co-founded French video-game publisher Ubisoft with his brothers in 1986, has died, the company said on Saturday. "Ubisoft was deeply saddened to learn of the death of Claude Guillemot, co-founder of the group and chairman of Guillemot Corp, in an accident," the statement said. "Our thoughts are with his family and loved ones during this difficult time. No further statements will be made at this time," it added. Guillemot, 69, died on Friday in a plane crash in La...

- [Russia frees 24 Filipinos after Marcos speaks with Putin](#) (2026-06-20 17:28)

Russia has freed 24 Filipinos who have been detained for months without charges in a Siberian city, after Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jnr raised concerns about them in a meeting with President Vladimir Putin, Philippine officials said on Saturday. The 24 were scheduled to arrive in Manila on two flights early on Sunday, with the first batch to be welcomed by Philippine Foreign Secretary Theresa Lazaro, who accompanied Marcos in his talks with Putin on Wednesday in the Russian city of...

- [Iceland resumes whale hunt amid protest](#) (2026-06-20 16:31)

One of Iceland's two remaining whaling ships set out this week to hunt the giant mammals after a two-year hiatus, local media and campaigners reported on Saturday. Iceland is one of only three countries that still openly permit whaling, alongside Norway and Japan – despite international opprobrium from the public and animal welfare organisations. A protester chained himself to the mast of the vessel before it left the port of Reykjavik on Friday. He climbed down in the evening and was escorted...

- [Man suspected of 3 burglaries in Hong Kong arrested at airport](#) (2026-06-20 16:23)

Hong Kong police have arrested a man in connection with three burglaries in Ma On Shan involving losses of more than HK\$700,000 (US\$89,750). Police said on Saturday that they received three burglary reports between April 26 and June 3, concerning two flats at the Sausalito private residential estate on Yuk Tai Street and a house in nearby Tai Shui Hang Village. All three homes showed signs of ransacking, with valuables, including gold ornaments and jewellery, and cash missing. The combined loss...

- [Tehran closes Strait of Hormuz ahead of US-Iran talks in Switzerland](#) (2026-06-20 15:35)

Iran dealt two quick blows to the interim agreement with the US on Saturday, angered by Israel's continued attacks in Lebanon, saying it had closed the Strait of Hormuz and announcing that while its negotiators were going to Switzerland for talks, not much was likely to happen there. Key mediator Pakistan, meanwhile, said the technical-level talks would begin on Sunday in Burgenstock, Switzerland, with Qatari mediators also taking part. In Tehran's first salvo, Iran's joint military command said...

- [MTR Corp investigates after woman injured by falling ceiling panel at plaza](#) (2026-06-20 15:00)

Hong Kong's rail giant has launched an investigation after a woman was injured when a ceiling panel fell and hit her leg at Telford Plaza in Kowloon Bay. The MTR Corporation, which also manages the shopping centre, said on Saturday that a section of the ceiling near an entrance to Phase One had become loose and fallen shortly before midnight on June 18. Shopping centre staff immediately attended to her, called police and accompanied her to hospital for treatment, according to the MTR...

- [As the US dismantles its global hegemony, will China step up?](#) (2026-06-20 14:00)

As the US voluntarily dismantles its global hegemony, China has neither the will nor the capacity to fill the role, a prominent Chinese foreign policy expert has argued. Beijing was forging an alternative path rooted in sovereign equality and multilateralism, rather than a quest for global dominance, said Da Wei, director of Tsinghua University's Centre for International Security and Strategy. "I believe America's global institutional hegemony is coming to an end," Da told a public seminar at...

- [Trump escalates spat with Italy's Meloni over G7 photo claim](#) (2026-06-20 13:37)

US President Donald Trump escalated a diplomatic row with Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni on Saturday, accusing her of repeatedly seeking a photograph with him and linking the dispute to tensions over Iran and Nato. The clash has opened an unusually personal rift between Trump and one of Europe's most prominent right-wing leaders, who had sought to cast herself as a bridge between Washington and the continent during Trump's return to power. Trump had initially told Italian broadcaster La7...

- [Motorcyclist dies after collision with double-decker bus in Hong Kong](#) (2026-06-20 13:30)

A motorcyclist was killed in Hong Kong following a collision with a KMB double-decker bus on Saturday afternoon. Police said the crash occurred at about 4pm on New Clear Water Bay Road outside the Shun Lee Disciplined Services Quarters in Sau Mau Ping. The rider suffered multiple injuries and was left unconscious. He was rushed by ambulance to United Christian Hospital in Kwun Tong, where he was later certified dead. The bus was operating on route 290A from Tsuen Wan West Station to Choi Ming...

- [And Apec makes 4? Trump pencils in another 'big' China trip as US midterms loom](#) (2026-06-20 12:59)

US President Donald Trump's announcement that he will visit China "at some point" this year sets the stage for an unusually frequent series of face-to-face meetings between the American and Chinese leaders – potentially up to four encounters in 2026. The two leaders have already met once this year for a summit in Beijing and Xi is expected to travel to the United States in September for a state visit and again in December for the Group of 20 meeting. Unveiling a new US presidential plane on...

- [Spanish court bans PM's wife from leaving country](#) (2026-06-20 12:38)

A Spanish court has ordered the wife of Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, Begona Gomez, to stand trial by jury for corruption and banned her from leaving the country, according to a court order released on Saturday. The case is one of several corruption affairs that have embroiled the Socialist leader's family and former allies, threatening to topple his minority coalition government. Judge Juan Carlos Peinado ordered Gomez to hand in her passport and to appear before the court twice a month until a...

- [Guinea pushes Simandou on iron ore exports to feed China's 'green steel' mills](#) (2026-06-20 12:00)

Shipping services in Guinea are being upended as the West African country ramps up iron ore exports for China's "green steel" production lines to take advantage of much higher prices. Vessels that usually ship bauxite from Guinea have been diverted to iron ore to maximise exports before heavy seasonal rains grind production to a halt, according to international shipbroking and maritime research firm Ifchor Galbraiths. Analysts say that shoring up supplies from Guinea helps China with its broader...

- [Suspect arrested after man attacked with rock in alleged attempted robbery](#) (2026-06-20 10:57)

Hong Kong police have arrested a man in connection with an attempted robbery at Kai Tak Cruise Terminal, where the victim was allegedly attacked with a rock early on Saturday. Police said that a 36-year-old man reported that he had been assaulted while parking his car at the terminal at about 4.10am. The assailant allegedly hit him with a rock in an attempt to rob him but fled empty-handed, police said. The victim later drove to Tsing Yi Road in Tsing Yi and called police. The victim sustained...

- [Beijing planning more surveys east of Taiwan to assert sovereignty, state media reports](#) (2026-06-20 10:31)

Beijing will make maritime surveys in the waters east of Taiwan a routine matter as it seeks to assert its sovereignty following talks between Japan and the Philippines, state media reported on Friday. An article published by Yuyuan Tiantian, a social media account affiliated with state broadcaster CCTV, said mainland China was "diversifying" its claims to the waters with a range of activities, ranging from military drills and coastguard patrols to natural resources surveys. It added that more...

- [At least 30 deaths at DR Congo camp show Ebola could be spreading fast](#) (2026-06-20 10:21)

At least 30 people have died since the start of May in one camp for displaced civilians in northeastern Congo, a death rate that camp officials said was unprecedented, with some confirmed to have died from Ebola in a sign the disease could be spreading fast there. It was not possible to confirm the causes of all the deaths because patients or their relatives in Kigonze camp in Bunia – the epicentre of the Ebola outbreak in Democratic Republic of Congo – had until Thursday refused testing, a...

- [1 killed as freight train plunges from bridge in Germany after crash](#) (2026-06-20 10:07)

One person died after two freight trains collided on a bridge in Munich overnight, causing loaded cars to plunge to the road below, police said on Saturday. Two cars of one train fell about 5 metres (16 ft) from a bridge and came to rest at round 1.40am, according to a spokeswoman. It was unclear what caused the collision on the bridge, which caused one of the

trains to derail. The nature of the cargo was initially unclear, however police stated it was nothazardous material and that there was...

- [How a prize-winning Taiwanese novel could stoke Beijing' s worries over history](#) (2026-06-20 10:00)

Taiwan' s first International Booker Prize-winning novel has reignited debate over the island' s shifting identity, with its portrayal of a distinctly Taiwanese historical experience at odds with narratives long promoted by Beijing. The attention surrounding Taiwan Travelogue comes at a sensitive time in cross-strait relations, as rival interpretations of Taiwan' s history increasingly shape public discussion over the island' s future and its relationship with mainland China. Set in Japanese-ruled...

- [Hong Kong police arrest 7 over HK\\$7 million gold bar robbery at knifepoint](#) (2026-06-20 08:37)

Hong Kong police have arrested seven people in connection with a robbery involving six gold bars worth HK\$7 million (US\$893,102), with some suspects believed to have fled to mainland China. The force said on Saturday that four men and three women were arrested on Thursday after a 36-year-old man reported that he had been robbed at about 12.30am that day at a car park at the airport. According to the victim' s account, he had been hired by a Chinese businessman to transport six 1kg (2.2lbs) gold...

- [Japan' s G7 rare earth proposal risks further regional tension](#) (2026-06-20 08:30)

Led by Japan, East Asia seems to be setting off along a road to nowhere – beyond tension and maybe eventual conflict. This may seem a harsh indictment yet consecutive Japanese leaders have shown a lack of vision on the constructive role their country could play in achieving regional peace and economic integration. The latest manifestation of this is Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi' s proposal this past week to G7 leaders in France to coordinate the stockpiling of critical minerals,...

- [Last professional letter writer in Chinese city pens 100,000 missives over 59 years](#) (2026-06-20 08:00)

A 77-year-old man in southeastern China has spent nearly six decades turning homesickness, hardship and family duty into letters sent across the sea. Jiang Mingdian, from Quanzhou in Fujian province, is regarded as one of China' s last active professional letter writers, though no public figures show how many still practise the trade. Over 59 years, he has reportedly written more than 100,000 letters for local families to relatives overseas, reaching countries including the Philippines,...

- [What is Hong Kong' s role under China' s new vision for better global governance?](#) (2026-06-20 07:53)

Hong Kong could position itself as a magnet for international organisations and lead on setting standards, according to analysts who have weighed in how the city can contribute to Beijing's global governance reform after the publication of a new white paper expanding on that initiative. The white paper published by China's State Council on Wednesday, titled "More Just and Equitable Global Governance: China's Principles, Proposals and Actions", outlines the country's vision for reshaping...

- [Bolivia's president declares state of emergency, paving way for troop deployment](#)  
(2026-06-20 07:50)

Bolivia's crisis intensified on Saturday as President Rodrigo Paz declared a state of emergency, enabling wider military deployment to clear blockades and restore order after protests brought the economy to a halt over the past 50 days. The emergency declaration gives Paz broader constitutional tools to restore order, such as sending armed forces to clear blockades. While the order goes into effect immediately, the president must notify Congress of the state of emergency within 24 hours of...

- [After another tragedy, Hong Kong to review age threshold covering elderly needy](#)  
(2026-06-20 07:33)

Authorities will review the age threshold defining older residents in need to better identify priority cases and prevent more tragedies from happening, the welfare chief has vowed after an elderly Hongkonger was found hanging in his flat. Secretary for Labour and Welfare Chris Sun Yuk-han made the pledge on Saturday after a 70-year-old man was found hanging in his flat in Lai King Estate in Kwun Tong by his daughter the day before. Police said the man's wife, 78, was found unconscious in the...

- [When the US comes for Cuba, what can Vietnam do?](#) (2026-06-20 07:00)

The Trump administration's indictment of former Cuban president Raul Castro and sanctions on his successor, Miguel Diaz-Canel, suggest Washington now views regime change in Havana as a viable policy objective. This adds to Cuba's mounting woes. The fall of Venezuela's Nicolas Maduro in January severed the subsidised oil lifeline that had long kept the island nation afloat, plunging Cuba into its worst socio-economic crisis since the 1990s. For most countries, this is a distant problem. For...

- [More of Northern Metropolis set to benefit from eased flow of cross-border resources](#)  
(2026-06-20 06:35)

More areas within the Northern Metropolis could benefit from new measures to ease the cross-border flow of data, materials and capital, with pilot initiatives set to launch this year in the innovation zone Hong Kong shares with Shenzhen. The details were revealed in a paper submitted to the Legislative Council by the Development Bureau, which provided an update on drafting dedicated legislation to accelerate development of the 30,000-hectare (74,131-acre) megaproject near the border with...

- [Thousands visit PLA barracks in Hong Kong to celebrate city's return to Chinese rule](#) (2026-06-20 06:25)

Thousands of residents have flocked to the PLA barracks on Hong Kong's Stonecutters Island as part of celebrations marking the 29th anniversary of the city's return to Chinese rule on July 1, with many drawn by the display of military equipment and skills. The Ngong Shuen Chau Barracks opened to visitors at 9am on Saturday, with hundreds of people queuing early. Among them were families with young children, students and older residents, including Jennifer Shao Xia and her 16-year-old son Harry...

- [Can Russia secure 'third power' status in Southeast Asia with energy push?](#) (2026-06-20 05:30)

As Southeast Asia grapples with energy supply uncertainty, fallout from the Iran conflict and intensifying rivalry between the United States and China, Russia appears to be presenting itself as a viable "third power" option for the region, analysts say. Moscow's pitch was on display at the Asean-Russia Commemorative Summit in Kazan on Thursday, where Russian leader Vladimir Putin met regional counterparts, and the two sides agreed to bolster political and economic ties, alongside several...

- [US envoy Witkoff, Iranian minister to meet in Switzerland for talks](#) (2026-06-20 05:12)

US envoy Steve Witkoff and Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi were both headed to Switzerland for talks, Axios said on Friday, as a ceasefire in Lebanon appeared to revive efforts to turn an interim Iran war pact into a lasting regional deal. Israel and Hezbollah agreed to a ceasefire in Lebanon on Friday after escalating fighting cast doubt over US-Iran talks critical to reopening the Strait of Hormuz and stabilising oil supplies. That followed a 14-point memorandum the two sides signed...

- ['Tap your cultural foundation', Shangri-La's Kuok Hui Kwong tells Hong Kong tourism trade](#) (2026-06-20 04:00)

Hong Kong should do more to leverage its traditional festivals to draw international visitors and build its competitive advantage in cultural tourism, Shangri-La Group chairman and group CEO Kuok Hui Kwong has said. Kuok, the daughter of Malaysian tycoon Robert Kuok, said Hong Kong had done well since the Covid-19 pandemic to entice international visitors back to the city, but could go even further in tapping its "cultural foundation" amid fierce competition for tourists. She made the remarks to...

- ['Isn't it hot?': latex fan aims to stretch Malaysia's conservative fashion norms](#) (2026-06-20 04:00)

Celty arrives at a cosplay venue in Kuala Lumpur and does not look the part yet, dressed in jeans and a plain t-shirt. He finds a toilet, locks a cubicle door, transforms his looks and is ready to turn heads – dressed from head to toe in a helmet, boots, choker, corset and a glossy black

latex catsuit. The Kuala Lumpur-based latex enthusiast has rehearsed the worst-case scenario in his head. If people were to stare at him or mock him for his outfit, he would leave the AnimeFest Plus event at...

- [China puts world's first smart squid fishing robot to the test](#) (2026-06-20 04:00)

China has tested what it calls the world's first intelligent squid fishing robot that can mimic the motions performed by humans to attract the deep-water creatures to the surface. The smart machine is currently undergoing sea trials aboard the Song Hang scientific research vessel, which is expected to conduct a survey in the northwestern Pacific Ocean until September. The robot – which can adapt its behaviour based on how squid bite – can offer more humanlike precision than the automated...

- [Horses originated in America and reached Europe through China, fossil DNA reveals](#) (2026-06-20 03:22)

Everyone knows the story: when Spanish conquistadors rode into the New World, Native Americans were stunned by a towering, four-legged creature they had never seen before. Horses, the theory goes, were a European import to the Americas. But a new fossil DNA study indicates that horses actually originated in North America millions of years ago and only reached Europe thanks to an unexpected genetic middleman in China. An extinct lineage called the Dalian horse, once dismissed as a local oddity in...

- [Australia reports first case of H5 bird flu, virus spreads to every continent](#) (2026-06-20 02:11)

Scientists have detected the H5 strain of bird flu in Australia for the first time, meaning the highly contagious variant has now spread to every continent. Australian Agriculture Minister Julie Collins told a press conference on Saturday that the disease had been found in a migratory sea bird, a brown skua, in remote Western Australia, and the result was confirmed by the national science agency. Samples from another sick bird, a giant petrel, had also shown as a suspected positive result, she...

- [Germany blurs defence lines with bet on Philippines' old US base](#) (2026-06-20 02:00)

The runway at Clark International Airport was built to launch American air power across Asia. Now, it is being repurposed to project German industrial ambition. Analysts say the multimillion-dollar deal to develop the former US military base in the Philippines illustrates how economic investment has become the new language of strategic power. The deal, struck last week during German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier's milestone visit to Manila – the first by a German head of state since 1963 –...

- [China's e-commerce platforms help unlock global markets for South Korean brands](#) (2026-06-20 02:00)

South Korean e-commerce companies are increasingly turning to Chinese platforms to help sellers tap rising demand for Korean products, offering a lower-cost route into China and other overseas markets without building local operations. 11street, one of South Korea's major online marketplaces, recently opened a storefront on JD Worldwide, JD.com's cross-border e-commerce platform, where about 700 million consumers have made at least one purchase over the past year. The store carries products from...

- [What the I Ching is really about](#) (2026-06-20 01:30)

Carl Jung was a big fan of the I Ching, also known as the Book of Changes. He was also a close friend of Richard Wilhelm, whose German translation was probably the most influential Western version of the ancient Chinese text in the last century. But over the years, I have become convinced that the great Jung didn't really get it. A red flag is that he thinks it is very difficult for the Western mind to grasp what I will call the Chinese spirit of the I Ching, which he claims is completely...

- [Norway imposes near AI ban for junior school pupils, curbs use for older children](#) (2026-06-20 01:17)

Norway is imposing a near ban on the use of generative AI tools by elementary school pupils while also restricting their use in the education of older children to prevent a negative impact on learning, the country's prime minister has said. Facing a broad decline in education test scores, the government in 2024 banned smartphones from schools and has given teachers back more powers to enforce discipline in the classroom. Using artificial intelligence increased the risk that young children...

- [Easy money or risky business? What can Hong Kong do as prediction markets boom?](#) (2026-06-20 01:00)

In the second of a two-part series tracing new trends in illegal betting in Hong Kong amid excitement over the football World Cup, Connor Mycroft looks at the rise of prediction markets and the risks. Read part one here. When 25-year-old Jean Pierre\* started betting on Polymarket last year, his reasoning was simple: "I was just looking to see if I could make some money easily," he told the South China Morning Post. The French freelance video creator, who has lived in Hong Kong for five years,...

- [Chinese infant admitted to ICU for toxicity after being fed vegetable juice formula](#) (2026-06-20 01:00)

A three-month-old infant in China suffering from poisoning had to be admitted to an intensive care unit (ICU) after his parents fed him with baby milk formula prepared with vegetable juice. The baby boy was rushed to Zhongshan Women and Children's Hospital in southern Guangdong province when his body turned purple, his mouth turned purplish-blue and he was short of breath, Zonglan News reported. His parents said the symptoms appeared shortly after the baby consumed milk. They added that they...

- [Asia' s shaky food supply shudders as 'super' El Nino arrives](#) (2026-06-20 00:00)

In the mist-wrapped hills of northern Thailand, where cacao trees erupt from the rich, nutrient-dense soil, three little words are spreading fear through a community of farmers.

“There is no way to know for certain,” Koranut Rattanayanyong told This Week in Asia. “But it could be a total wipeout.” The weather event Koranut is dreading? A “super” El Nino. Earlier this month, the climate phenomenon officially started to form over the Pacific, with a bloom of ocean heat running 2.5 degrees Celsius...

- [As populations fall, nations that can tap human potential will succeed](#) (2026-06-19 21:30)

For much of the 20th century, many were accustomed to thinking of people as an ever-expanding resource. As the number of people grew, so did labour markets, consumer markets, scientific communities, production systems and armies. In 1950, the world' s population was about 2.5 billion. In 2026, it is reaching 8.3 billion. In just 75 years, the population has increased more than 3.3 times. In this sense, the current human population may turn out not to be a permanent norm, but a historical anomaly...

- [2 trains collide north of London, killing 1 and injuring dozens](#) (2026-06-19 21:11)

Emergency services rushed to the scene of a collision between two trains north of London on Friday afternoon that killed at least one person. A passenger reported that he was thrown forward by the impact then saw fellow travellers with broken bones and bloody injuries. Both trains were travelling south to London St Pancras station when they collided outside the town of Bedford around 5.15pm, according to information on rail tracking websites. Emergency services deployed a number of resources to...

- [Trump unveils new Air Force One, as he plans trips to China and Turkey](#) (2026-06-19 20:00)

A new Air Force One gifted by Qatar as a replacement aircraft for ferrying US presidents was unveiled Friday by the US Air Force. “The Air Force' s VC-25B Bridge aircraft has officially arrived at the Presidential Airlift Group and will commence its initial commissioning flights, marking the successful delivery of a secure, modified executive platform,” the Air Force said. “The workmanship of this plane is, when you see it, you won' t believe it,” Trump said from inside the massive Andrews Air...

- [Poland' s president strips Ukraine' s Zelensky of top award](#) (2026-06-19 19:29)

Poland' s nationalist president Karol Nawrocki announced on Friday he was stripping Ukraine' s Volodymyr Zelensky of the country' s top award, escalating a row between the neighbours and allies over World War II massacres. Relations between Warsaw and Kyiv have been tense for days over Zelensky' s naming of a Ukrainian army unit after a WWII nationalist insurgent army that took part in massacres against Poles. Nawrocki' s decision landed days before Poland is due to host the annual Ukraine Recovery...

- [UK PM Starmer braces for cabinet showdown, with Burnham ready to pounce](#) (2026-06-19 19:01)

A clear majority of Keir Starmer's cabinet believe it is now inevitable Andy Burnham will take over as prime minister, according to people familiar with the thinking of more than 15 cabinet ministers, who spoke on condition of anonymity on Friday. However, as of late in the afternoon, most remained unwilling to do anything about it. Most the cabinet was still not ready to tell Starmer to set out a timetable for his departure, the people said, preferring to wait and see how developments...

- [Zelensky warns Belarus to remove equipment used in Russian attacks or Ukraine will do it](#) (2026-06-19 18:17)

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said on Friday that a week should be enough for Belarusian leader Alexander Lukashenko to remove equipment from his country used by Russia in its attacks on Ukraine, adding a threat of Ukrainian action if Lukashenko did not do so. Zelensky said signal relay stations were located in two Belarusian regions bordering Ukraine that were used by Russian forces to help with steering during attacks on Ukrainian civilians. Reuters could not verify his claims...

- [Iran floats insurance fees and asserts control over Hormuz](#) (2026-06-19 17:12)

Iran sought to assert control over Strait of Hormuz by saying that ships need its permission and mandatory insurance to cross, even as the US said that 20 ships sailed through overnight via a route it recommends along Oman's coast. The conflicting signals come as the shipping industry tries to assess whether it is safe to transit the world's most important energy chokepoint and what sort of system will emerge after the US and Tehran reached an interim peace deal to reopen the strait. The number...

- [Germany hews EU's tough China line with call for 'Plaza Accord' talks on yuan](#) (2026-06-19 16:32)

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz signalled a major shift in Berlin's economic relations with Beijing on Friday, saying the Chinese currency was undervalued by 30 per cent, well above the International Monetary Fund's estimate of "about 16 per cent". Speaking in Brussels after a European Council summit, Merz said China was "flooding markets" through the use of "high subsidies", adding that "subsidising overcapacities" along with a "currency that isn't convertible freely ... is not...

- [Taxi fleet severs ties with driver who made mid-road stop to let passengers out](#) (2026-06-19 16:02)

A Hong Kong taxi fleet has terminated its collaboration with a driver after a cab stopped in the middle of the road in Tsuen Wan for two passengers to alight and take their suitcases out from the boot, with authorities requesting a report from the operator. A video circulating on social media on Friday shows the two passengers, each with two suitcases, crossing two lanes of

traffic on Castle Peak Road near Global Plaza to reach the pavement. Buses and other vehicles are seen passing by both...

- [Ukraine drone strike brings war to streets of Moscow: ‘this is the new reality’](#) (2026-06-19 15:58)

In the Moscow district of Maryino on Friday, shopkeeper Andrei Kondratyev braced for more Ukrainian attacks and possible petrol shortages, saying Russians needed to “get used to” a new reality. A day earlier, Kyiv set an oil refinery ablaze in the nearby Kapotnya area in its biggest drone attack on Moscow in years, engulfing the Russian capital in smoke. Such scenes were unthinkable when Moscow launched its full-scale offensive against Ukraine in 2022, but have in recent months become part of...

- [Illegal gambling in Hong Kong](#) (2026-06-19 15:50)
- [Indonesian police foil turtle-smuggling ring in Bali, rescue 21 live animals](#) (2026-06-19 14:53)

Authorities in Indonesia’s tourist island of Bali foiled an attempt to illegally trade 21 protected green sea turtles, police said on Friday. Bali police seized the live animals during a raid on the Pegametan coast of the island on June 10, after local residents reported suspected illegal turtle trading activity in the area, said Nanang Pri Hasmojo, head of law enforcement at the force. Police arrested a 67-year-old man identified only by his initials KS, who is suspected of storing the...

- [Could China make a sea-skimming hypersonic missile a real nightmare for the US?](#) (2026-06-19 14:00)

A Chinese hypersonic missile faster than five times the speed of sound, racing just above the sea surface, while staying below the radar horizon. Could this be a new nightmare for the US Navy? Possibly, if a new ambitious low-altitude hypersonic flight research programme launched by the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) on Monday yields results. The programme will look into the technology that could support the development of such weapons. The project, funded under CAS’ Stable Support Programme...

- [Will hosting Hyrox World Championships add muscle to Hong Kong’s tourism trade?](#) (2026-06-19 13:51)

Hosting the Asian debut of the Hyrox World Championships could bring more high-spending visitors to Hong Kong and the city’s selection as host may have been driven by its proximity to the vast mainland China market, experts have said. The announcement that the pinnacle event of the fitness race would take place at the AsiaWorld-Expo in June next year was made on Thursday in Sweden, which is hosting the championships this weekend. An estimated 1.5 million athletes are expected to have competed in...

- [University town framework unlikely to be unveiled before five-year plan released](#)

(2026-06-19 13:08)

Hong Kong's education authorities are likely to miss the deadline for unveiling a concept plan for a proposed university town in the first half of this year, as the project must align with the city's inaugural five-year plan, which is set to be released in the third quarter. A source familiar with the development said on Friday that at least two higher education institutions tipped to be granted space in the first phase of the university town in the Northern Metropolis megaproject had been told...

- [Ukrainian, Romanian jailed in UK over Starmer arson plot ordered by mystery Russian](#)

(2026-06-19 13:06)

A British court sent two men to prison on Friday for setting fire to property linked to Prime Minister Keir Starmer in a plot orchestrated by a mysterious Russian-speaking figure. Ukrainian national Roman Lavrynovych, 22, and Stanislav Carpiuc, a 27-year-old Romanian citizen, were jailed for seven years and two years, respectively, after being found guilty of conspiracy to damage property by fire. The men targeted a car and two properties linked to Starmer over three nights in May 2025 on the...

- [Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi at 81: son pays tribute to mother's spirit that 'cannot be caged'](#) (2026-06-19 13:05)

The son of Myanmar's jailed pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi has said his mother's "spirit cannot be caged", in a moving video greeting for her 81st birthday – a milestone she again marks while confined by the junta. Suu Kyi, Myanmar's de facto leader until the 2021 coup removed her administration, was jailed for 33 years following that military takeover on charges including election fraud and corruption. International observers and her pro-democracy supporters say the allegations were...

- [China's private-jet market finding level flight path after sell-offs: source](#) (2026-06-19 13:00)

An exodus of private business jets from China since the days of Covid-19 appears to be stabilising this year amid a potential shift in demand across industries, suggesting that sales by cash-strapped owners of the multimillion-dollar assets have largely run their course, according to an aviation-services firm. While a few deliveries of new business jets in China are currently "pending", very few were made last year, said Alud Davies, director of business operations and analytics at Hong...

- [AI has been known to hallucinate. So have financial markets](#) (2026-06-19 12:30)

We've never had it so good. The S&P 500 and Nikkei 225 have hit record highs this month. SpaceX had its spectacular initial public offering, the largest in history. The company raised an eye-popping US\$75 billion and saw a sharp rise in its share price to a mind-blowing valuation of US\$2.5 trillion in two days. The US-Iran deal on reopening the Strait of Hormuz caused petrol

prices to drop back to below US\$4 per gallon. Global stock markets are creating seemingly unstoppable wealth for...

- [Italian minister cancels US trip after Trump claims Meloni begged him for photo](#) (2026-06-19 12:14)

Italy's foreign minister on Friday cancelled a visit to the United States over reported comments by US President Donald Trump that appeared to mock Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni. "The grave and offensive words of President Trump ... offend the whole of Italy," Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani, who had been due to visit the US on Sunday and Monday, said on social media. Meloni said she was "stunned" by Trump's comments to Italian channel La7 in which, according to a transcript provided by the...

- [Rise of the robots: China releases plan aimed at increasing consumers' AI options](#) (2026-06-19 12:00)

Chinese authorities will promote the further integration of AI and consumption, according to a plan released by the Ministry of Commerce and seven other ministries. It includes 17 new measures that aim to create new drivers of consumption growth by embedding artificial intelligence in consumer goods, services and the retail and commerce sectors through new smart products, robots, subsidies, infrastructure and standards. "Accelerating the development of 'AI Plus Consumption' helps create new...

- [Iran waives Strait of Hormuz fees during 60-day peace negotiation period](#) (2026-06-19 11:43)

Iran's Strait of Hormuz body said on Friday it would waive planned fees to use the strait during a 60-day negotiation period under the memorandum of understanding signed with the United States this week. Ships seeking passage through the strait while the interim agreement was in force must submit transit requests at least 48 hours before arrival, Iran's Persian Gulf Strait Authority said in a notice. Iran will waive fees for security, safety, environmental services and related...

- [9 arrested after HK\\$2.7 million in cash, goods stolen from Hong Kong farm](#) (2026-06-19 11:30)

Hong Kong police have arrested nine people in connection with two burglaries at a farm in Tin Shui Wai, with some of the stolen items already pawned in Macau and the total losses exceeding HK\$2.7 million (US\$344,500) in cash, watches, jewellery and gold. Senior Inspector Lam Ka-kit of Yuen Long district's crime squad said the suspects, comprising eight men and a woman, allegedly belonged to a syndicate, with each member assigned a detailed role in the burglaries. "The force believes that some...

- [Vietnamese sent to South Sudan under Trump's third-country deportation scheme goes home](#) (2026-06-19 11:13)

A Vietnamese national deported to South Sudan by Donald Trump's administration under its controversial third-country deportation programme was repatriated to Vietnam on Friday after spending more than a year in detention. South Sudan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced the repatriation of 44-year-old Tuan Phan at a press briefing on Friday. "We are grateful that while in our custody Mr Phan was very disciplined, joyful, and importantly, he remained healthy," spokesman Agok Anyar said. Phan...

- [‘Bury me with them’ : animal-lovers want same cemetery plots as their pets](#) (2026-06-19 11:00)

Hong Kong's pet funeral service providers have urged the government to allow animal ashes to be placed alongside those of their owners, citing a growing demand for such arrangements amid a rapidly expanding afterlife market for furry friends. Petmento, part of local group Sage laGreen Funeral Services, said it had been asking the government to relax regulations by allowing animal ashes to be placed in niches hosting the remains of their late owners. "Now, many shopping centres are open to pets,...

- [Chinese embassy in UK denounces jailing of 2 Hongkongers for spying](#) (2026-06-19 10:20)

The Chinese embassy in the UK has called on the British government to "stop its acts of slander and suppression" after a court jailed two men linked to the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in London for up to 10 years for spying on activists. Bill Yuen Chung-biu, a manager at the office, was sentenced on Thursday to eight years behind bars for assisting a foreign intelligence service, while co-defendant Peter Wai Chi-leung, a security firm operator and former part-time UK Border Force...

- [Deadly Philippines quake permanently alters Mindanao coastline](#) (2026-06-19 10:13)

Arsenio Butil Jnr fell to his knees and began to pray when last week's deadly 7.8-magnitude earthquake began shaking his home on the coast of the southern Philippines. When he opened his eyes, he saw a once-familiar shoreline changing in real time, with swathes of previously submerged coral suddenly pushing above the waterline. The June 8 quake, driven by a shifting of the nearby Cotabato Trench, toppled buildings, triggered landslides and killed at least 76 people on the southern island of...

- [Philippines taps ‘smarter, cheaper’ Australian drones to deter China](#) (2026-06-19 10:00)

Australia has supplied the Philippine coastguard with a new batch of aerial and underwater drones that could significantly enhance Manila's capability to monitor activities in the disputed South China Sea. The systems would help the coastguard gather evidence and enhance deterrence across the contested waters, including areas within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone, where Manila has faced repeated confrontations with Chinese vessels, according to analysts. Based on images released by the...

- [China showcases portable laser weapons for a single soldier to shoot down drones](#)  
(2026-06-19 10:00)

A defence fair in Beijing has shown portable laser weapons that can be carried by a single soldier to shoot down drones, realising a vision that was once the domain of science fiction. The Lijian series, meaning “sharp swords”, developed by Chinese defence supplier Harbin Xinguang Optic-Electronics Technology, was displayed at the Defence Information Equipment & Technology Exhibition 2026, a three-day event that started in Beijing on Tuesday. The Lijian series uses high-energy lasers to shoot...

- [Chinese man marries woman 3 days after blind date video call, regrets 9 days later](#)  
(2026-06-19 10:00)

A Chinese man whose dating of a woman consisted of a five-minute video call before marrying her within three days regretted what he had done just nine days later. The 32-year-old man, surnamed Gu, who is from the eastern province of Zhejiang and is a single child, blamed parental pressure for his rash decision. He spent 200 yuan (US\$30) to register with a local matchmaking centre, which introduced him to three local women. They were not interested in him. The matchmaker suggested women from...

- [Worlds apart? London mayor's Singapore visit triggers clash over city reputations](#)  
(2026-06-19 09:57)

A social media post by London Mayor Sadiq Khan calling his city and Singapore global powerhouses has ignited scrutiny of both places, with critics arguing that they are worlds apart. Khan, who was in Singapore this week, posted a picture of himself standing in front of the Marina Bay skyline on Sunday with the caption: “This is what it looks like when two global powerhouses unite. Delighted to be here to bang the drum for London and supercharge the strong ties between our countries.” Social...

- [‘It was scary’: 300 evacuated, 10 injured after fire breaks out at Japanese primary school](#) (2026-06-19 09:24)

A fire that broke out at a primary school in Tokyo on Friday, injuring eight pupils and two teachers before being extinguished, authorities said. The fire was reported around 11am, according to the local fire department. It started in a room next to the music room on the top floor of Takinogawa Dai-san Elementary School in the Kita area of the Japanese capital. It was extinguished at around 1.45pm, with 75 fire engines and dozens of firefighters at the scene. Most of the injured suffered from...

- [2 wars later, US-Iran nuclear diplomacy returns to square one](#) (2026-06-19 09:01)

After two wars in the space of a year, diplomacy over Iran's nuclear programme has come back to much the same place it was before the fighting began. The memorandum of understanding signed by US President Donald Trump and his Iranian counterpart, Masoud Pezeshkian, on Wednesday sets up talks that non-proliferation experts said would largely

resume the US-Iran diplomatic track Washington broke off in February. That track had built on Oman-mediated talks – part of a wider Gulf diplomatic effort...

- [G7 rare earths, US-Iran peace deal, Summer Davos](#) (2026-06-19 09:00)

The Group of Seven nations this week agreed to pare their reliance on China for vital raw materials, while European leaders struggled to reach a consensus on how to respond to a flood of low-cost Chinese imports. No single country should supply more than 60 per cent of the G7 nations' rare earths and permanent magnets by 2030, their leaders agreed during a summit in Evian, France. The nations will subsequently aim for a 50 per cent limit as quickly as possible. Targets for other critical...

- [Hong Kong singer Eason Chan snaps up US\\$23m home as celebrities flock to luxury property](#) (2026-06-19 09:00)

Hong Kong actor and singer Eason Chan bought a HK\$182.53 million (US\$23.29 million) property in the city's Southern district, according to official records, joining a list of the rich and famous who have recently snapped up luxury homes. Chan, whose full name on the official record was Chan Yick Shun Eason, purchased the home in Shouson Hill in a deal registered on Wednesday, records from the Land Registry showed. Agent listings showed that the property had four rooms and a garden, with a...

- [Beijing details rare marine survey east of Taiwan after Tokyo-Manila talks](#) (2026-06-19 09:00)

A mainland Chinese research vessel has conducted a marine environmental survey in waters east of Taiwan, the latest sign of Beijing's bid to reinforce its jurisdictional claims in the area following Japanese-Philippine maritime boundary talks. The survey, which ran from Tuesday to Thursday, was conducted by the Ministry of Natural Resources' East China Sea Bureau, which deployed the oceanographic research vessel Xiangyanghong 22. The goal was to “gain a comprehensive understanding of the natural...

- [More and more Africans want to learn Chinese. But who will teach them?](#) (2026-06-19 08:56)

As China's relationship with African countries has deepened, the country's influence is spreading into more areas. In the first of a series of articles, Jevans Nyabiage explores how a drive to expand Chinese language education in Africa is being stymied by a shortage of teachers. For years, Chinese language training in Africa has been provided mainly through Beijing-backed Confucius Institutes at universities and independent schools run by Chinese nationals. Now, several African nations have...

- [Fighting flares in Lebanon: 18 die in strikes, Israel says soldiers killed](#) (2026-06-19 08:50)

Lebanon said 18 people were killed on Friday in Israeli air strikes in the south, while Israel's military reported its first soldiers killed there since the sealing of a US-Iran deal to halt the

Middle East war, including in Lebanon. Israel had said it was striking Hezbollah targetsovernight and into the morning, while the Iran-backed militant group said it was attackingIsraeli forces around the southern town of Nabatieh. “The intensive Israeli air strikes carriedout from midnight until this...

- [Sunny spells for Dragon Boat Festival, day after 2 black rainstorm warnings](#) (2026-06-19 08:09)

This story has been made freely available as a public service to our readers. Please consider supporting SCMP’ s journalism by subscribing. Hong Kong enjoyed a few sunny spells on the Tuen Ng Festival, just a day after the city issued its top-tier black rainstorm warning twice only hours apart, as some hiking experts warned outdoor enthusiasts to be mindful of safety hazards. The Hong Kong Observatory said that Friday, the day of this year’ s Dragon Boat Festival, would see sunny intervals and hot...

- [Filipinos do not trust the news. Are they sick of divisive politics?](#) (2026-06-19 08:00)

Filipinos are losing faith in the news faster than audiences almost anywhere else in the world, as analysts attribute the decline to years of sustained attacks on the Philippine media industry and the growing reach of influence operations on social media. Only 28 per cent of Filipinos said they trusted news most of the time, down from 38 per cent in 2025, according to the latest Reuters Institute Digital News Report – the steepest decline among respondents across 48 markets. The figure placed...

- [Lululemon apologises for China event with actor beating Japanese drum on Great Wall](#) (2026-06-19 06:00)

The sportswear brand Lululemon has apologised and withdrawn its latest marketing video in China because of a controversy surrounding a big Japanese drum and the Great Wall. The video was designed to promote a yoga-themed event the brand held on the world-renowned historic site in suburban Beijing on May 30. The activity, which was supposed to salute Chinese culture, featured top-tier Chinese actor Zhu Yilong and the mainland’ s leading Fanxiang Drum Corp, who played the drums together during the...

- [Poverty line a limited marker, Hong Kong minister says, as aid focus expands to carers](#) (2026-06-19 05:31)

Hong Kong’ s welfare minister has defended the government’ s earlier decision to drop the poverty line as an indicator for allocating assistance, saying it was a limited “statistical concept” that failed to identify needy groups beyond those with low income, such as carers. A day after the government unveiled a new 21-indicator framework to identify vulnerable groups in a report, Secretary for Labour and Welfare Chris Sun Yuk-Han on Friday said authorities would expand their focus to include how...

- [Greece unveils Parthenon’ s facade whole for first time in 220 years](#) (2026-06-19 05:03)

Visitors to the Acropolis can now see the Parthenon's western side looking whole for the first time in about 220 years. Officially unveiled Thursday, restorers have slotted two new marble blocks into long-empty gaps high on the temple's western end – the view visitors see when they first enter the ancient monument in Athens. The 25-century-old monument overlooking the Greek capital attracted about 4.6 million visitors last year. Long-term restoration projects address damage caused by war,...

- [US, Iran sign peace deal; China's C919 jets grounded for safety checks: SCMP's 7 highlights](#) (2026-06-19 04:34)

We have selected seven stories from this week's news across Hong Kong, mainland China, the wider Asia region and beyond that resonated with our readers and shed light on topical issues. If you would like to see more of our reporting, please consider subscribing. 1. Iran and US sign peace deal, Strait of Hormuz to immediately reopen: Pakistan Iran and the US have signed a peace deal that will take immediate effect, with Iran reopening the Strait of Hormuz and the US lifting its naval blockade,...

- [Dragon Boat Festival drums up a buzz as unsettled weather fails to dampen spirits](#) (2026-06-19 04:18)

Drumming, powerful paddling and the cheers of thousands of competitors and revellers electrified Hong Kong's shores on Friday as dragon boat races went ahead during the Tuen Ng Festival despite unsettled weather. Just a day after a black rainstorm warning was issued twice, competitors and spectators were in high spirits. Beaches and waterfront areas across Stanley, Aberdeen, Sha Tin's Shing Mun River, Tai Po, Tai O and Sai Kung were packed with crowds. In Stanley, 185 teams and about 4,000...

- [EU leaders ask Brussels to come up with new trade weapons to counter China shock](#) (2026-06-19 04:12)

European Union national leaders have asked Brussels to come up with new trade instruments to deal with the economic threat posed by China, following a rare summit debate about Beijing late on Thursday night. After a two-hour discussion, the EU's executive branch was told to engage with China to try to fix the persistent trade problems, according to a Brussels official. But it was also instructed "to develop and eventually complement the toolbox in the area of trade defence and industrial policy..."

- [Plastic chokes Indonesian islands as policies, enforcement slip through ghost nets](#) (2026-06-19 04:00)

Ghost nets and plastic pollution plague Indonesia's Anambas Islands, harming marine life and exposing the gap between regional pledges and enforcement. This environmental crisis is further worsened by rapidly surging growth-driven consumption, campaigners say. Devina Mariskova, head of Yayasan Anambas, said the nets are often thrown from vessels off the coasts of surrounding countries, largely placing the burden of collecting them on the small island

chain' s coastal communities and...

- [Malaysia' s World Cup betting crackdown nets major cash seizure](#) (2026-06-19 03:49)

Malaysian police arrested 58 people and seized more than half a million ringgit (US\$124,000) in illicit proceeds in a World Cup gambling sweep as authorities in Southeast Asia crack down on illegal football betting during the tournament. Malaysia, where unlicensed betting is a criminal offence, has been bracing for a rise in illegal sports wagers, with the quadrennial spectacle attracting punters to betting sites and apps. Bukit Aman Criminal Investigation Department director M. Kumar said...

- [Security gaps muddy waters for Malaysia' s blue economy ambitions](#) (2026-06-19 03:00)

Foreign trawlers slip into waters off the Malaysian state of Terengganu under cover of darkness, local fishermen say, working near Pulau Redang and Pulau Bidong before leaving by dawn to avoid detection. The incursions have become a recurring problem for fishermen along the eastern coast of Peninsular Malaysia, where the South China Sea separates Malaysia from Vietnam by just hundreds of kilometres. Alias Yahya, who sits on the board of the Terengganu fishermen' s group Penentu, said members had...

- ['King of the North' Burnham wins seat, setting up bid to oust UK' s Starmer](#) (2026-06-19 02:52)

Labour mayor Andy Burnham cleared a path to be able to attempt to oust British Prime Minister Keir Starmer after winning a parliamentary seat in northern England on Friday in what could be the most consequential local election in more than six decades. Burnham, the Greater Manchester mayor nicknamed the "King of the North", won the contest in Macclesfield in northwest England with 24,927 of the votes, while the candidate for Nigel Farage' s populist Reform UK party came second with 15,696...

- [US-Iran talks in Switzerland delayed, White House says Vance remains ready to go](#) (2026-06-19 02:06)

Plans for US Vice-President J.D. Vance to travel to Switzerland for a new round of talks with Iran have been delayed, the White House said on Thursday. In a statement, the White House said the arrangements for the "technical talks" had not yet been finalised and that the US delegation remained prepared to depart at the first available opportunity. "The logistics of these negotiations have never been simple or predictable," the statement said. Meanwhile, a report by Hezbollah-affiliated Al...

- [Drowning of Indonesian teen at tourist spot spurs calls for tighter safety rules](#) (2026-06-19 02:00)

Yusran first learned about the danger facing his teenage cousin, Elmi Febrianti, at an Indonesian tourist attraction in South Sulawesi when he got a phone call from a family member who sounded frantic. Elmi, a 17-year-old Indonesian student, had been at a popular photo spot in

Apparalang, Bulukumba Regency, and had fallen into the sea in the afternoon on June 7 while taking a selfie on the picturesque limestone cliffs there. A friend who was with the teen at the time had called her family...

- [Hong Kong property sales more measured as interest rate increase looms](#) (2026-06-19 01:59)

Hong Kong homebuyers showed interest in 130 flats put on sale by developers on Thursday evening, but the pace of buying was more measured after an interest-rate increase later this year became more likely. Agents said 30 of the 75 units put on sale at Phase 4B of La Montagne at the Southside project at Wong Chuk Hang MTR station sold on Thursday. The two-bedroom units had saleable areas ranging from 484 to 546 sq ft, with prices starting at HK\$13.4 million (US\$1.7 million) after discounts. With...

- [Hong Kong surgeon misidentified organs in fatal blunder, hospital probe finds](#) (2026-06-19 01:42)

A Hong Kong surgeon who operated on the wrong organ of an elderly patient had shown “confirmation bias” in identifying structures in the abdominal cavity, an investigation into the blunder has found, prompting a former lawmaker to call for his dismissal. Tseung Kwan O Hospital on Thursday released a cause analysis report on the February 7 incident involving an 85-year-old woman with obstructive sigmoid colon cancer, who died three weeks after the operation. She had undergone what was intended to...

- [Hong Kong’ s local brands hold key to city’ s creative future](#) (2026-06-19 01:30)

As a cultural strategist, my work takes me across the region as I explore new markets, mine local insights and connect with new consumers. Most recently I was in Seoul, a city voted for four consecutive years by millennial and Gen Z readers of a US-based travel media outlet as their favourite place to visit. Walking the streets of cool-kid neighbourhoods such as Hannam-dong, Seochon and Seongsu-dong on my usual market visits, I noticed something. Locals and tourists alike were walking around...

- [Why West doesn’ t understand China, according to ex-Harvard Chinese author](#) (2026-06-19 01:01)

Nie Huihua, a professor of economics at Renmin University, discusses how an effective understanding of China’ s development requires a shift from Western-centric frameworks to an integrated perspective that recognises how formal institutions, informal grass-roots mechanisms and cultural collectivism couple together to create a self-consistent and adaptive governance system. SCMP Plus readers get early access to articles in the Open Questions series. You received economics training at Harvard, but...

- [South Korean police detain 12-year-olds in rare crackdown on young offenders](#) (2026-06-19 01:00)

South Korean police have taken the rare step of placing three 12-year-old boys in juvenile facilities after they allegedly stole cars and drove without licences in two separate incidents within a week, underscoring growing concern over serious offences committed by children too young to face criminal prosecution. Police in Cheonan, a city about 90km south of Seoul, said on June 17 that the boys had been placed in juvenile protection facilities following a series of car thefts in May. “These...

- [The Chinese scientists hoping to use a space solar plant to power the world](#) (2026-06-19 01:00)

Using a few mirrors, solar panels and a microwave transmitter, Fan Guanheng and his team can send power over 100 metres (330 feet) through the air. But they are dreaming much bigger – 36,000km (23,460 miles) bigger. The team at Xidian University in Xian, capital of northwest China’s Shaanxi province, are testing hardware that could one day be used to generate power in space and send it back to Earth. On a sweltering June morning, the team were measuring how well light was concentrated by a...

- [Chinese AI improves forecasts as Hong Kong braces for super typhoons](#) (2026-06-19 01:00)

An artificial intelligence model recently deployed at the Hong Kong Observatory and mainland China’s National Meteorological Centre can solve one of the toughest challenges in weather forecasting: predicting when a typhoon will rapidly intensify. Li Qinglan, a professor at the Shenzhen Institutes of Advanced Technology (SIAT) who is leading the project, said the system was installed around three weeks ago and had provided “real-time updates on the progression of Typhoon Jangmi” . Jangmi, which...

- [China’s ‘soy sauce’ intestinal detox scam swindles over 100 seniors out of US\\$1.5 million](#) (2026-06-19 01:00)

A Chinese health centre scammed more than 100 elderly people out of a total of over 10 million yuan (US\$1.5 million) by putting soy sauce in an intestinal cleansing liquid to dupe them into thinking they had toxins in their bodies. The Beijing police have arrested more than 30 people involved on suspicion of fraud. They cracked the case after the family of a woman in her 60s discovered she had spent 700,000 yuan (US\$103,000) in the health centre. The victim, surnamed Li, bought numerous...

- [‘Harder to quit than drugs’ : illegal online gambling fuels Hongkongers’ growing addiction](#) (2026-06-19 00:30)

In the first of a two-part series tracing the new trends of illegal betting in Hong Kong amid excitement over the World Cup 2026, Edith Lin looks at how social media has become a new channel pushing the youth to engage in unlawful bookmaking activities. Ken Chan\* started betting on football matches when he was 18. He started betting through legalised channels, spending a third of his income for a few years. But he was soon enticed to bet on illegal platforms with their promises of tips and 100...

## Source: The Diplomat China

- [Amid a Slowing Economy, China Is Changing How It Judges Local Party Leaders](#) (2026-06-25 13:34)

Longstanding metrics – particularly rapid GDP growth and infrastructural expansion – are no longer sufficient to sustain political legitimacy.

- [Not Just the Military: Xi Jinping's Other Senior Party Purge](#) (2026-06-24 11:59)

Xi has ruthlessly gone after former Politburo Standing Committee member and one-time economic czar Wang Qishan.

- [The Structural Limits of the EU's China Policy](#) (2026-06-23 13:11)

The European Council's latest mandate pairs dialogue with prospective new trade defense tools, institutionalizing an approach that complicates long-term ties with Beijing.

- [Why the China-Iran Relationship Has Been Friendly But Distant Since Ancient Times](#) (2026-06-23 05:57)

The two civilizations have consistently found each other to be useful, yet they haven't invested heavily in their partnership.

- [Beijing's Nepal Anxiety](#) (2026-06-22 07:59)

Chinese analysts say that while the core concerns of a "close neighbor," i.e., China, are sidelined, Kathmandu is making every effort to accommodate the "distant relative," i.e., the U.S.

- [The 'Tibet Aid' Cadres System as a Mechanism for Political Control in Tibet](#) (2026-06-19 15:12)

The system, supposedly meant to aid Tibet, actually serves to sideline local Tibetan personnel while boosting the careers of Han Chinese cadres from other regions.

- [In China, Christianity Is Treated as a Cult](#) (2026-06-19 12:47)

The CCP has decided some fundamental tenets of Christianity mark out the world's largest faith as a cult, and one that needs vigorous suppression.

## Source: US-China Perception Monitor

- [The Missing Variable w/ Dylan Loh](#) (2026-06-25 13:54)

China's rise has become one of the defining phenomena in the study of international relations. Yet, scholarly and policy analyses of Chinese foreign policy tend to converge on the same... The post [The Missing Variable w/ Dylan Loh](#) appeared first on U.S.-China Perception Monitor.

- [Why U.S.–China Competition is Losing the Lithium Triangle](#) (2026-06-24 15:11)

This essay won the 1990 Institute Prize at the recent essay contest jointly organized by The UCSD China Focus, The Carter Center, The 1990 Institute and The 21CCC. See more... The post [Why U.S.–China Competition is Losing the Lithium Triangle](#) appeared first on U.S.-China Perception Monitor.

- [Narrow but Not Peripheral: Submarine Cables and U.S.–China Guardrails](#) (2026-06-24 15:08)

This essay won the Jimmy Carter Prize at the recent essay contest jointly organized by The UCSD China Focus, The Carter Center, The 1990 Institute and The 21CCC. See more... The post [Narrow but Not Peripheral: Submarine Cables and U.S.–China Guardrails](#) appeared first on U.S.-China Perception Monitor.

- [What is Global China? w/ Jessica DiCarlo](#) (2026-06-23 20:32)

The post [What is Global China? w/ Jessica DiCarlo](#) appeared first on U.S.-China Perception Monitor.

- [What is Global China? w/ Jessica DiCarlo](#) (2026-06-23 11:46)

The post [What is Global China? w/ Jessica DiCarlo](#) appeared first on U.S.-China Perception Monitor.

- [From the Tiananmen Square to the State Department w/ Jonathan Fritz](#) (2026-06-20 10:43)

Following the recent Trump-Xi Summit, many questions have been raised about the future of diplomatic relations between the US and the PRC, particularly around Taiwan. From the contentious pending arms... The post [From the Tiananmen Square to the State Department w/ Jonathan Fritz](#) appeared first on U.S.-China Perception Monitor.