



CHINA SECURITY ANALYSIS REPORT

AI-Assisted Open Source Intelligence Assessment

Analysis Period: June 23, 2026 - June 30, 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

During the period of June 23 to June 30, 2026, China demonstrated a continued assertive posture across multiple domains, marked by significant military activities, escalating geopolitical tensions, and advancements in strategic technologies. Naval and air patrols in the South China Sea and the transit of a Chinese aircraft carrier near Japan underscored Beijing's persistent territorial claims and power projection capabilities. Tensions in the Taiwan Strait remained high, with Taiwan conducting extensive readiness drills in response to perceived Chinese blockade threats, while China intensified its "gray zone" maritime operations east of the island. Concurrently, China engaged in complex diplomatic and economic maneuvers, launching a new trade consultation mechanism with the EU to manage a substantial trade deficit, even as US-China relations were strained by reciprocal blacklisting and ongoing tariff disputes. A notable development in cybersecurity saw China announce its own "cyber weapon of mass destruction" AI system, signaling a new dimension in strategic competition.

Key Security Developments

- Military Activities and Exercises in East China Sea

On June 23, 2026, the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) observed three People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) vessels, including the Kuznetsov-class aircraft carrier "Liaoning" (hull number 16), a Renhai-class DDG (hull number 104), and a Luyang-III-class DDG (hull number 124), sailing northwestward through the waters between Okinawa Main Island and Miyako-jima Island into the East China Sea. These vessels had previously conducted carrier-based fighter and helicopter takeoffs and landings in the Pacific Ocean from May 26-28. This activity highlights China's expanding naval reach and its routine operations in strategically sensitive international waterways, demonstrating its blue-water capabilities and challenging regional maritime security.

- South China Sea Patrols and Assertions

From June 27 to June 28, 2026, the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Southern Theater Command deployed naval and air forces to conduct routine patrols in the South China Sea. On June 30, China's military and coast guard also carried out patrols in the waters around Scarborough Shoal, which Beijing calls "Huangyan Dao," to safeguard its territorial claims. These patrols were described as a response to the

Philippines "co-opting countries outside the region" for joint patrols, which China views as disrupting regional peace. This signifies China's continued robust assertion of sovereignty in the disputed South China Sea, directly challenging the claims of other littoral states and international freedom of navigation operations.

- Taiwan's Combat Readiness Drills Amid Blockade Concerns

From June 22 to June 26, 2026, Taiwan conducted a five-day "Immediate Combat Readiness Exercise" designed to test its armed forces' and civilian agencies' rapid response to a potential Chinese blockade or attack. The drills, which included rehearsing defensive operations around key port facilities like the Port of Taipei and simulating enemy special forces infiltration, reflected a growing concern in Taipei that a future crisis might escalate rapidly from routine Chinese coercion. Taiwan's Defence Minister Wellington Koo warned on June 24 that the island's warning time for a Chinese attack is shrinking. This demonstrates Taiwan's heightened state of alert and its efforts to adapt its defense strategy to more ambiguous "gray zone" scenarios.

- Chinese Coast Guard Operations East of Taiwan

Taiwan's drills followed a recent Chinese Coast Guard (CCG) operation from June 6-10, 2026, east of Taiwan, where Chinese ships questioned passing commercial vessels, asserted jurisdiction over the waters, and claimed to have inspected almost 200 ships. Taiwan described this as a provocation and a form of cognitive warfare. The CCG's activity in these waters, which China may consider "near-shore," indicates Beijing's intent to erode Taiwanese sovereignty and strengthen its presence around the island, potentially expanding its area of responsibility to facilitate future blockade scenarios.

- US-China Trade and Tech Tensions

On June 22, 2026, China added 10 US robotics, rare earth, and defense-related companies to its Export Control List and blocked 46 other defense companies from government procurement. This was a retaliatory measure following a US Department of Defense decision to designate several top Chinese tech firms as "Chinese military companies." The US-China trade relationship remained in limbo, with uncertainty surrounding a formal tariff agreement by June 30, 2026. This tit-for-tat action highlights the deepening economic and technological decoupling efforts between the two powers, driven by national security concerns.

- China-EU Trade and Investment Consultation Mechanism Launched

On June 30, 2026, China and the European Union (EU) officially established a new trade and investment consultation mechanism, holding its inaugural meeting in Brussels. The two sides identified four priority workstreams: trade and investment balancing, export controls, intellectual property rights, and WTO reform, aiming to strengthen dialogue and cooperation on economic and trade matters. This development signals an effort to manage the EU's substantial €360 billion annual trade deficit with China and prevent potential trade wars, indicating a pragmatic

approach to complex economic relations.

- Development of "Cyber Weapon of Mass Destruction" AI System

On June 29, 2026, Chinese AI company Qihoo 360 announced the development of its Tulongfeng system, an artificial intelligence model claimed to be nearly capable of competing with Anthropic's Mythos, which was described as transformative in finding cybersecurity vulnerabilities. Qihoo's CEO, Zhou Hongyi, controversially compared the AI vulnerability detection race to the nuclear arms race, stating that such capabilities could become the "new strategic deterrent." This announcement underscores China's aggressive pursuit of advanced AI for strategic advantage in cybersecurity and potential offensive cyber warfare, raising global concerns about digital security.

- Persistent Chinese State-Sponsored Cyber Threats

The Office of the Director of National Intelligence's 2026 Annual Threat Assessment highlighted persistent cyber threats to US government, private sector, and critical infrastructure networks from Chinese government-linked Advanced Persistent Threat (APT) actors, such as Volt Typhoon and Salt Typhoon. These actors are assessed to be positioning themselves within information technology networks to enable lateral movement to operational technology systems, allowing them to disrupt critical functions at a time of their choosing. This indicates a long-term, strategic effort by China to gain covert access and potential control over adversaries' critical infrastructure.

- China's Vision for Global Governance

On June 24, 2026, a white paper titled "More Just and Equitable Global Governance: China's Principles, Proposals and Actions" was published, outlining China's vision for reshaping the international order. The document advocates for a more genuinely multipolar order, with the United Nations remaining central, and greater influence for the Global South in setting global rules and priorities. This white paper signals China's ambition to evolve from a participant to an architect of a new global order, challenging the existing Western-dominated international system.

- China-Russia Military Cooperation and Strategic Alignment

The EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Kaja Kallas, confirmed that the EU verified reports of China training Russian military personnel on mine clearing and drone operations. This cooperation allows China to test its equipment, tactics, and doctrine in modern warfare conditions. Furthermore, Russia-China relations continue to be characterized as a "comprehensive partnership and strategic interaction," with both sides supporting India as the BRICS chair in 2026 and strengthening their strategic partnership in political security, economy, trade, finance, and cultural exchanges. This deepening military and strategic alignment between China and Russia poses a significant challenge to Western security interests.

- Australia-Vanuatu Security Pact

On June 29, 2026, Australia and Vanuatu signed a bilateral security and economic treaty that explicitly prevents China from creating a military base on the South Pacific island nation. This pact reflects regional concerns about China's growing military influence in the Indo-Pacific and efforts by allied nations to counter Beijing's strategic expansion.

Geopolitical Impact and Regional Dynamics

The period from June 23 to June 30, 2026, saw China actively shaping regional and global dynamics through a mix of assertive military actions, strategic diplomatic engagements, and technological advancements. In the Taiwan Strait, China's continued "gray zone" operations, including Coast Guard patrols east of Taiwan, have intensified pressure on Taipei. Taiwan's subsequent "Immediate Combat Readiness Exercise" underscored the growing risk of escalation from routine coercion to a potential blockade or attack, reflecting a shrinking warning time for the island. This dynamic keeps the Taiwan Strait a critical flashpoint, with implications for US-China relations, especially given the reported delay in a \$14 billion US arms sale to Taiwan.

In the South China Sea, China's naval and air patrols around Scarborough Shoal and broader routine patrols by the PLA Southern Theater Command reinforce its expansive territorial claims. These actions directly challenge the Philippines and other claimant states, contributing to regional instability and increasing the likelihood of maritime incidents. The Chinese narrative of safeguarding national interests against external interference, particularly from the Philippines co-opting "countries outside the region," highlights Beijing's sensitivity to increased foreign military presence in the area.

Globally, China's relations with major powers are complex and multifaceted. With the United States, the period was marked by escalating trade and technology friction, including China's blacklisting of US defense and tech companies in retaliation for similar US actions. This tit-for-tat approach signals a deepening economic and technological rivalry, impacting global supply chains and fostering a more fragmented international economic order. The ongoing uncertainty regarding a US-China tariff agreement by June 30 further exemplifies the strained relationship. Meanwhile, China's relationship with the European Union saw a pragmatic step forward with the launch of a new trade and investment consultation mechanism. This initiative aims to address the significant trade imbalance and prevent trade wars, indicating a desire from both sides to manage economic disputes through dialogue despite underlying tensions.

The Russia-China strategic partnership continues to deepen, with verified reports of China training Russian military personnel and both nations aligning on a vision for

global governance. This collaboration, including military cooperation and shared diplomatic stances, strengthens an alternative bloc to the Western-led order and has significant implications for global security architecture. China's white paper on "More Just and Equitable Global Governance" further articulates Beijing's ambition to reshape international institutions and empower the Global South, challenging the post-1945 order. Finally, regional efforts to counter China's influence were evident in the Australia-Vanuatu security pact, which specifically blocks China from establishing a military base in the South Pacific, reflecting broader concerns among Indo-Pacific nations about Beijing's strategic expansion.

Military and Defense Analysis

China's military and defense posture during this period reflects a clear strategy of modernization, power projection, and the assertion of sovereignty in contested regions. The People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) demonstrated its expanding operational reach with the transit of the aircraft carrier Liaoning group through the waters near Okinawa and Miyako-jima Island. This activity, following earlier exercises in the Pacific, underscores the PLAN's growing capability for sustained deployments beyond the first island chain, enhancing its power projection efforts and improving joint warfighting. Concurrently, the PLA Southern Theater Command maintained a robust presence in the South China Sea, conducting naval and air patrols to reinforce China's territorial claims, particularly around Scarborough Shoal. These routine patrols, often involving the China Coast Guard, are a key component of China's "gray zone" tactics, designed to assert control without directly triggering armed conflict.

In terms of modernization programs and capability developments, China is making significant strides in advanced military technologies. The official imagery of the DF-17 Medium-Range Ballistic Missile (MRBM) equipped with the DF-ZF hypersonic glide vehicle published on June 22, 2026, highlights China's advanced hypersonic missile capabilities. These systems could be used to target enemy air defense networks and increase the effectiveness of precision strike attacks, posing a substantial threat to regional adversaries and US forces. Furthermore, Chinese researchers have proposed "swarm" tactics designed to overwhelm US carrier groups from 3,000 kilometers away, combining submarines, hypersonic anti-ship missiles, decoy drones, and cruise missiles. This strategy emphasizes overwhelming defenses through scale, speed, and complexity, leveraging China's massive shipbuilding and missile manufacturing capacities.

The integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into military and cybersecurity capabilities is another critical area of development. The announcement of Qihoo 360's Tulongfeng system, described as a "cyber weapon of mass destruction" capable of discovering thousands of vulnerabilities, signals China's intent to achieve strategic deterrence in

the cyber domain. This aligns with the broader assessment that Chinese government-linked APT actors are actively positioning themselves within critical infrastructure networks globally, enabling potential disruption at a time of their choosing. These developments indicate a comprehensive approach to military modernization, focusing on advanced weaponry, asymmetric warfare tactics, and cutting-edge cyber capabilities to enhance China's overall security posture and strategic advantage.

Outlook and Forecast

Short-term trends (1-3 months) indicate a continuation of China's assertive foreign and defense policy, particularly in its near seas. We can expect sustained military and Coast Guard patrols in the South China Sea, with potential for further maritime incidents, especially around disputed features like Scarborough Shoal. The Taiwan Strait will remain a highly sensitive area, with China likely to continue its "gray zone" operations and military exercises, prompting further defensive drills from Taiwan. The outcome of the newly established China-EU trade and investment consultation mechanism will be a key indicator of whether economic tensions can be managed or if they will escalate into broader trade disputes. US-China relations will likely remain strained, characterized by ongoing economic competition, technological decoupling, and reciprocal measures like blacklisting.

Critical flashpoints and risk areas include the Taiwan Strait, where the risk of miscalculation or rapid escalation from "gray zone" tactics to a more direct confrontation remains high, especially given Taiwan's shrinking warning time. The South China Sea, particularly around Scarborough Shoal and other contested features, is another flashpoint where increased patrols and assertions of sovereignty could lead to clashes. The development and deployment of advanced AI-powered cyber weapons, such as China's Tulongfeng system, introduce a new dimension of risk, potentially enabling more sophisticated and disruptive cyberattacks against critical infrastructure globally.

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 east of Taiwan. The progress and outcomes of the China-EU trade talks will reveal the effectiveness of diplomatic mechanisms in managing economic friction. Further developments in US arms sales to Taiwan and any new US or Chinese retaliatory measures in the trade and technology sectors will be crucial. Additionally, monitoring reports on China's advancements in hypersonic missile technology and military AI capabilities will be essential for assessing shifts in its strategic military advantage.

Strategic recommendations for stakeholders should focus on enhancing regional deterrence capabilities and strengthening alliances to counter China's assertive posture. This includes supporting Taiwan's defense modernization and resilience against potential blockades. Diplomatic efforts should prioritize de-escalation mechanisms in maritime disputes and fostering multilateral dialogue to uphold international law. Investing in robust cyber defenses and international cooperation to establish norms around AI in warfare is critical to mitigate the risks posed by advanced cyber capabilities. Finally, a coordinated approach among democratic nations to address China's economic coercion and technological ambitions, while maintaining channels for dialogue, will be vital for managing the complex geopolitical landscape.

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".

### Source: CGTN

- [Movie 'Dear You' brings Chaoshan cuisine into the spotlight](#) (2026-06-29 08:29)

Following strong word of mouth, the Chinese movie Dear You has extended its theatrical run in China through July 31 and is now being released in several overseas markets. Along with its emotional story, the film has also introduced many viewers to the food of Chaoshan, a coastal region in eastern Guangdong Province known for its distinctive culinary traditions.

- [Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud to visit China](#) (2026-06-29 07:55)

At the invitation of Wang Yi, member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and minister of foreign affairs, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud will pay an official visit to China from June 30 to July 1, according to Chinese Foreign Ministry.

- [PLA Navy fleet to visit Hong Kong for open-house events](#) (2026-06-29 07:50)

A Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy fleet, including the guided-missile destroyer Nanning and the guided-missile frigate Hengyang, will visit Hong Kong from July 2 to 6 for a series of open-house events and cultural exchange activities, the Ministry of National Defense said on Monday.

- [A champion's new goal: forging China's young football talent](#) (2026-06-29 07:41)

A champion's new goal: forging China's young football talent

- [China boosts high-end carbon fiber supply with new production lines](#) (2026-06-29 07:31)

China boosts high-end carbon fiber supply with new production lines

- [China makes breakthroughs in fusion, carbon fiber and offshore energy](#) (2026-06-29 07:17)

Over the past week, China has achieved a series of technological milestones spanning fusion energy, advanced materials and offshore renewable energy.

- [Happy Valley: More than Hong Kong's famous racecourse](#) (2026-06-29 06:34)

For many visitors, Happy Valley in Hong Kong is best known for horse racing. The neighborhood takes its English name from the racecourse, one of Hong Kong's oldest landmarks. Today, the racecourse remains a major attraction, but it tells only part of Happy Valley's story.

- [China's satellite production: from one a decade to 300 a year](#) (2026-06-29 06:00)

China's satellite production: from one a decade to 300 a year

- [Dubai expands transport partnerships with China](#) (2026-06-29 05:57)

Dubai expands transport partnerships with China

- [A 'painless' killer hidden in everyday life](#) (2026-06-29 05:12)

A 'painless' killer hidden in everyday life

- [Xi meets Belarusian president](#) (2026-06-29 04:50)

Chinese President Xi Jinping met with Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko in Beijing on Monday.

- [China's Shenzhou-23 crew marks one month of life and work in space](#) (2026-06-29 04:10)

China's Shenzhou-23 crew has marked one month in orbit aboard the China Space Station, as astronauts Zhu Yangzhu, Zhang Zhiyuan and Li Jiaying (also known as Lai Ka-ying in Cantonese) have continued a range of scientific experiments while exploring more new experiences during their journey.

- [Chinese military conducts routine patrol in South China Sea](#) (2026-06-29 04:09)

The Chinese People's Liberation Army Southern Theater Command deployed naval and air forces to conduct routine patrols from June 27 to 28 in the South China Sea, spokesperson Zhai Shichen said Monday.

- [Graphics: China's infrastructure hits new global milestones](#) (2026-06-29 03:54)

Graphics: China's infrastructure hits new global milestones

- [How the CPC led China on its path to modernization](#) (2026-06-29 03:52)

How the CPC led China on its path to modernization

- [Graphics: China builds world's largest healthcare system](#) (2026-06-29 03:34)

Graphics: China builds world's largest healthcare system

- [China adds 20 Japanese entities to export control list](#) (2026-06-29 02:41)

China's Ministry of Commerce announced on Monday that it has added 20 Japanese entities, including the National Institute for Defense Studies, to the country's export control list.

- [China braces for new round of heavy rain, floods in southern regions](#) (2026-06-29 02:14)

China's Ministry of Water Resources on Sunday arranged flood prevention work as a fresh round of heavy rain is expected to affect southern parts of the country.

- [Chinese envoy urges Japan to properly address historical issues](#) (2026-06-29 00:18)

A Chinese envoy has urged Japan to address historical issues properly and with sincerity, saying the forced recruitment of "comfort women" constituted a grave crime against humanity committed by Japanese militarism against women.

- [Knowing China through the Classics: China's Future Seen from Its Past](#) (2026-06-28 15:20)

Decode the logic behind China's development through timeless insights, in "Knowing China through the Classics".

- [Disabled Dancers Redefine Excellence](#) (2026-06-28 15:18)

"Charge at the toughest and aim at the farthest." Taking this sage advice to heart, the members of the China Disabled People's Performing Art Troupe are inspired to constantly push themselves to the limit.

- [C909 accounts for 70% of China's regional aviation market](#) (2026-06-28 12:52)

C909 accounts for 70% of China's regional aviation market

- [World's first 16-MW TLP floating wind platform sets sail](#) (2026-06-28 11:26)

World's first 16-MW TLP floating wind platform sets sail

- [Diamond cooling mania: How a \\$7 billion rally ran ahead of the facts](#) (2026-06-28 11:21)

Diamond cooling mania: How a \$7 billion rally ran ahead of the facts

- [China Weekly News Quiz: June 22-28, 2026](#) (2026-06-28 09:48)

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.

- [Beijing's tallest Ferris wheel opens to the public](#) (2026-06-28 09:33)

Beijing's tallest Ferris wheel, named "Da Yan Jing," officially opened on Saturday at Beijing Happy Valley, adding to the celebrations as the amusement park marks its 20th anniversary.

- [Rizhao hosts 2026 China Sports & Leisure Games](#) (2026-06-28 09:31)

The opening event of the 2026 China Sports & Leisure Games kicked off Saturday at Wanpingkou Square in Rizhao, Shandong Province, drawing over 10,000 attendees keen to embrace all things sports and leisure.

- [Chinese experts: EU misreads trade ties by focusing on trade deficits](#) (2026-06-28 08:18)

Chinese experts and officials are urging the European Union to take a broader view of economic ties with China, arguing that its focus on bilateral goods deficits reflects concerns about Europe's competitiveness and risks encouraging protectionist policy responses.

- [A glimpse of China's Y-20 transport aircraft and its captain](#) (2026-06-28 07:49)

A glimpse of China's Y-20 transport aircraft and its captain

- [Xi Jinping's key remarks on gauging the CPC's governance performance](#) (2026-06-28 07:16)

For the Communist Party of China, Xi Jinping has said the ultimate gauge of governance performance is the improvement of the people's well-being.

- [A Y-20 captain's commitment](#) (2026-06-28 05:53)

A Y-20 captain's commitment

- [9 Years, 60 Villages: Inside China's grassroots governance](#) (2026-06-28 05:36)

9 Years, 60 Villages: Inside China's grassroots governance

- [Rahman's China visit marks new milestone in China-Bangladesh ties](#) (2026-06-28 05:34)

China and Bangladesh are looking to translate long-standing political trust into more concrete cooperation, with a growing focus on emerging industries, connectivity and regional coordination. Against the backdrop, the two countries on Friday agreed to elevate their bilateral ties by building a China-Bangladesh community with a shared future in the new era, marking a milestone during Bangladeshi Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's first official visit to China since taking office.

- [What you should know about colorectal cancer: A doctor explains](#) (2026-06-28 02:45)

What you should know about colorectal cancer: A doctor explains

- [Graphics: CPC members with tertiary education exceed 50%](#) (2026-06-28 02:41)

Graphics: CPC members with tertiary education exceed 50%

- [Q&A: What explains the CPC's governance success?](#) (2026-06-28 02:18)

Q&A: What explains the CPC's governance success?

- [Graphics: China delivers world's largest high-quality education system](#) (2026-06-28 00:28)

Graphics: China delivers world's largest high-quality education system

- [Yangtze river's decade-long transformation](#) (2026-06-27 19:52)

Yangtze river's decade-long transformation

- [From silk to solar, international journalists see Xinjiang firsthand](#) (2026-06-27 15:05)

A press delegation comprising 28 journalists from 19 countries has concluded a week-long reporting trip across northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, where participants visited cities including Hotan, Turpan and Urumqi to learn about local economic development, cultural heritage, ecological conservation and opening-up efforts.

- [How coffee is brewing change in Pu'er, SW China](#) (2026-06-27 13:00)

How coffee is brewing change in Pu'er, SW China

- [World's largest superconducting magnet completed in China](#) (2026-06-27 12:02)

World's largest superconducting magnet completed in China

- [China's biz association head on rescue difficulty of Venezuela quakes](#) (2026-06-27 10:51)

China's biz association head on rescue difficulty of Venezuela quakes

- [Graphics: More affordable childcare, universal preschool in China](#) (2026-06-27 08:56)

Graphics: More affordable childcare, universal preschool in China

- [Firelight, dance, and warmth: A night in Longsheng](#) (2026-06-27 08:47)

As night descends on Ping'an Zhuang Village in Longsheng, Guangxi, a bonfire blazes to life in the central square – and the mountains seem to wake up to the glow. A lively song-and-dance gala unfolds, with colorful folk performances and the captivating lusheng cuitang – a traditional reed-pipe dance – lighting up the stage.

- [Summer sanctuary: Xinjiang's Kuerdening Scenic Area welcomes visitors](#) (2026-06-27 08:28)

Xinjiang's Kuerdening Scenic Area is where summer comes alive – snow-capped peaks, green forests and endless grasslands.

- [3000-year-old bronze boar vessel returns home on tour](#) (2026-06-27 08:27)

Ahead of the 6th Hunan Tourism Development Conference, the Shang Dynasty bronze vessel known as the Shi Zun has returned from the Hunan Museum to Xiangtan – the very place where it was unearthed. It is now on display at the Xiangtan Museum as part of the "Stories of Xiangtan" exhibition.

- [TV series 'Swords into Plowshares' wins big at Shanghai TV Festival](#) (2026-06-27 08:04)

Swords into Plowshares emerged as one of the night's biggest winners, taking home four awards in different category.

- [Art school graduation in the digital age](#) (2026-06-27 07:11)

Every summer, leading art schools around the world open their doors to the public, offering a first look at the ideas and creative ambitions of emerging artists.

- [From classroom to clinic: China-Bangladesh medical cooperation deepens](#) (2026-06-27 06:11)

From classroom to clinic: China-Bangladesh medical cooperation deepens

- [13th APEC Tourism Ministerial Meeting held in Macao](#) (2026-06-27 05:48)

The 13th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Tourism Ministerial Meeting convened on Saturday at the China-Portuguese-speaking Countries Commercial and Trade Service Platform Complex in the Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR).

- [Graphics: China builds world's largest basic elderly care system](#) (2026-06-27 05:06)

Graphics: China builds world's largest basic elderly care system

- [Graphics: Chinese per capita income more than doubled since 2012](#) (2026-06-27 05:05)

Graphics: Chinese per capita income more than doubled since 2012

- ['AI can't surpass' human creativity in voice acting](#) (2026-06-27 04:46)

'AI can't surpass' human creativity in voice acting

- [Drone views over breathtaking highland wonders of China](#) (2026-06-27 03:43)

Drone views over breathtaking highland wonders of China

- [HKSAR govt. extends buyback offer to building spared by Tai Po fire](#) (2026-06-27 03:35)

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) government said on Friday that it will extend the same buyback plan, previously offered to households of the fire-hit residential complex, to residents of the only building spared by the Tai Po fire.

- [Graphics: Increasing number of ethnic minority CPC members](#) (2026-06-27 03:04)

Graphics: Increasing number of ethnic minority CPC members

- [The CPC's 105-year journey: Why it stands strong](#) (2026-06-27 02:36)

The CPC's 105-year journey: Why it stands strong

- [Wang Yi meets Cambodian officials as two countries deepen cooperation](#) (2026-06-26 15:06)

Wang Yi meets Cambodian officials as two countries deepen cooperation

- [Beijing's rapid-response hotline: 5-minute resolution per call](#) (2026-06-26 14:57)

Beijing's rapid-response hotline: 5-minute resolution per call

- [New panda channel aims to tell China's story to the world](#) (2026-06-26 14:50)

New panda channel aims to tell China's story to the world

- [From monomers to flagship phones: A supply chain story at CISCE](#) (2026-06-26 14:49)

From monomers to flagship phones: A supply chain story at CISCE

- [Chinese premier urges mutually beneficial cooperation with Cambodia](#) (2026-06-26 14:48)

China is willing to work with Cambodia to deepen and solidify mutually beneficial cooperation in various fields and better enhance the well-being of the people of both countries, Chinese Premier Li Qiang said Friday.

- [I went to a supply chain expo. I did not expect this](#) (2026-06-26 14:43)

The future doesn't arrive with a keynote. It gets built, piece by piece, across a supply chain you've never heard of.

- [Q&A: Six facts about the CPC to better understand China](#) (2026-06-26 14:41)

Q&A: Six facts about the CPC to better understand China

- [China's top legislator meets Bangladeshi PM](#) (2026-06-26 14:33)

Zhao Leji, chairman of China's National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee, met with Bangladeshi Prime Minister Tarique Rahman on Friday in Beijing.

- [China to double EV charging infrastructure to 40 mln by 2030](#) (2026-06-26 13:58)

China to double EV charging infrastructure to 40 mln by 2030

- [Xi's special envoy to attend Seychelles' Golden Jubilee Celebrations](#) (2026-06-26 13:35)

Xi's special envoy to attend Seychelles' Golden Jubilee Celebrations

- [Hiking at 4900 meters in the 'heart' of Xizang](#) (2026-06-26 13:23)

Hiking at 4900 meters in the 'heart' of Xizang

- [How CPC pursues peaceful development, contributes to world stability](#) (2026-06-26 12:40)

China, under the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC), is committed to a path of peaceful development, and advocates a vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security, contributing to lasting global peace and stability.

- [China co-develops first global regulation for automated driving](#) (2026-06-26 12:37)

China co-develops first global regulation for automated driving

- [Full text of joint communique between China and Bangladesh](#) (2026-06-26 12:37)

China and Bangladesh on Friday released a joint communique between the two countries.

- [Xi extends condolences over deadly earthquakes in Venezuela](#) (2026-06-26 11:50)

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Friday sent a message of condolences to Venezuelan acting President Delcy Rodriguez over the strong earthquakes that rocked the country.

- [China fuels nationwide science boom with mobile outreach](#) (2026-06-26 11:41)

China fuels nationwide science boom with mobile outreach

- [China's power demand to rise by 600 bln kWh annually through 2030](#) (2026-06-26 11:40)

China's power demand to rise by 600 bln kWh annually through 2030

- [China to provide emergency humanitarian aid to Venezuela](#) (2026-06-26 11:14)

China to provide emergency humanitarian aid to Venezuela

- [China's historic landmark achievements in poverty alleviation](#) (2026-06-26 10:35)

China's historic landmark achievements in poverty alleviation

- [World-class hydropower station in SW China starts operation](#) (2026-06-26 10:35)

World-class hydropower station in SW China starts operation

- [Relocated Hainan Eld's deer population exceeds 50](#) (2026-06-26 09:47)

In south China's Hainan, a relocated herd of Hainan Eld's deer is thriving at a protected site near a reservoir. Several deer can be seen dashing across the open grassland, while others pause to scan their surroundings.

- [Lhasa-Nyingchi Railway celebrates fifth anniversary](#) (2026-06-26 09:34)

June 25 marked the fifth anniversary of the Lhasa–Nyingchi railway – a milestone that comes just days before the 20th anniversary of the full opening of the Qinghai-Xizang Railway on July 1.

- [Shuyang Festival: Farming meets festivity](#) (2026-06-26 09:24)

On thousand-year-old terraces, a single comb invokes a bountiful harvest. The Shuyang Festival is a centuries-old tradition in Ping'an Zhuang Village of Longsheng County in Guilin, Guangxi, held annually around the Grain in Ear solar term of the traditional Chinese calendar.

- [How Zimbabwe's ruling party views the CPC](#) (2026-06-26 09:13)

How Zimbabwe's ruling party views the CPC

- [China-Eurasia Culture Showcase Week welcomes international artists](#) (2026-06-26 09:06)

The China-Eurasia Culture Showcase Week, a key side event of the 9th China-Eurasia Expo, opened on June 25 with a Silk Road theme in Urumqi.

- ['Crossing': Surviving against the odds, creating the impossible](#) (2026-06-26 08:58)

As China marks the 90th anniversary of the victory of the Long March, Chinese film "Crossing" offers a fresh look at a historic turning point – and why its lessons still resonate today.

- [Graphics: China builds world's largest housing security system](#) (2026-06-26 08:42)

Graphics: China builds world's largest housing security system

- [A peek inside Xinjiang's International Grand Bazaar](#) (2026-06-26 07:21)

The Xinjiang International Grand Bazaar in Urumqi is one of northwest China's best-known cultural landmarks. Inspired by the historical markets along the ancient Silk Road, it brings together local traditions, crafts, food and performances in one place.

- [The Desert "Power Bank" That Never Sleeps](#) (2026-06-26 07:02)

The vast Gobi deserts of northwest China are now emerging as new high grounds of the green energy revolution. This 100MW molten-salt tower CSP plant in Dunhuang, Gansu Province, employs over 12,000 heliostats to concentrate sunlight onto a 260-meter tower.

- [Tracing the Vision: Listening to the Grassroots](#) (2026-06-26 07:02)

In 1988, while serving as Party Secretary of Ningde Prefecture in Fujian Province, Xi Jinping spearheaded an influential initiative.

- [All you need to know before you see a respiratory doctor](#) (2026-06-26 06:59)

Misunderstandings about respiratory illnesses remain widespread among the general public, and common misconceptions often prevent people from seeking timely medical treatment.

- [Pinglu Canal's Qingnian hub begins integrated wet commissioning](#) (2026-06-26 06:39)

Pinglu Canal's Qingnian hub begins integrated wet commissioning

- [Smarter, closer, more connected: China's strategic healthcare upgrade](#) (2026-06-26 05:59)

China's strategic healthcare upgrade aims to balance equity and efficiency for its 1.4 billion population through targeted structural reforms. The initiative focuses on strengthening grassroots community healthcare, integrating a nationwide digital imaging cloud to eliminate redundant testing, and standardizing cross-provincial medical insurance sharing to ease families' financial burdens.

- [Media: Imperial Japanese Army collected civilian blood for experiments](#) (2026-06-26 05:21)

The Imperial Japanese Army collected blood from prisoners of war (POWs) and local Chinese residents for "research on battlefield blood transfusion techniques" during its invasion of China, Kyodo News reported on Thursday.

- [China seizes over 4 tonnes of drugs in border anti-drug operations](#) (2026-06-26 04:44)

China's immigration authorities have seized a total of 4.07 tonnes of drugs in 186 drug-related cases at border ports and in border areas so far this year, according to data released on Friday.

- [Global Shapers discuss AI: How can we find our place in the age of AI?](#) (2026-06-26 04:41)

During the week of the World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting of the New Champions, widely known as Summer Davos, Global Shapers gathered to discuss AI, innovation and the future of work. Global Shapers are young people working to drive positive change in their communities worldwide as part of a World Economic Forum initiative. CGTN's Song Chunni, herself a Global Shaper, interviewed them and shares their perspectives on AI and innovation.

- [Xi meets with Hun Sen in Beijing](#) (2026-06-26 04:00)

Xi meets with Hun Sen in Beijing

- [Bangladeshi commerce minister eyes closer economic ties with China](#) (2026-06-26 03:32)

Bangladeshi commerce minister eyes closer economic ties with China

- [President Xi Jinping meets Bangladeshi PM Tarique Rahman](#) (2026-06-26 02:58)

President Xi Jinping meets Bangladeshi PM Tarique Rahman

- [How the CPC contributes to global governance](#) (2026-06-26 02:52)

With a global vision, the CPC strives not only for the well-being of the Chinese people, but also for the progress of humanity.

- [The CPC and the governance of a civilizational state](#) (2026-06-26 02:36)

The CPC and the governance of a civilizational state

- [Supply chain expo: Car chip race intensifies as AI debuts](#) (2026-06-26 02:36)

Supply chain expo: Car chip race intensifies as AI debuts

- [Loyal dog stops car to seek help for injured friend](#) (2026-06-26 02:22)

Loyal dog stops car to seek help for injured friend

- [Stress test in the storm: Enterprises double down on innovation](#) (2026-06-26 01:57)

Stress test in the storm: Enterprises double down on innovation

- [Hussein Fahmy's Shenzhen color walk](#) (2026-06-26 01:43)

Hussein Fahmy's Shenzhen color walk

- [China condemns tariff abuses under pretext of 'forced labor'](#) (2026-06-26 01:30)

China delivered a joint statement on behalf of a group of nearly 20 countries at the 62nd session of the United Nations Human Rights Council on Thursday, to expose and condemn the hegemonic practice of unilateral tariff under the pretext of "forced labor."

- [Graphics: Over 80% of new CPC members aged 35 and under](#) (2026-06-26 01:01)

Graphics: Over 80% of new CPC members aged 35 and under

- [PandaMaxxing](#) (2026-06-25 21:15)

PandaMaxxing

- [Sichuan opera dancer delights onlookers](#) (2026-06-25 21:15)

Sichuan opera dancer delights onlookers

- [Chengdu crowd celebrates Dragon Boat Festival cultural experience](#) (2026-06-25 17:40)

Chengdu crowd celebrates Dragon Boat Festival cultural experience

- [Davos Focus: How do we understand "innovating at scale"?](#) (2026-06-25 15:53)

Davos Focus: How do we understand "innovating at scale"?

- [Powering the future of energy](#) (2026-06-25 15:50)

Powering the future of energy

- [Global jurists gather in Hangzhou on empowerment of green development](#) (2026-06-25 15:47)

Global jurists gather in Hangzhou on empowerment of green development

- [From hope to reality: Hainan opens doors to advanced care for all](#) (2026-06-25 15:07)

Located in southern China's Hainan Province, the Boao Lecheng International Medical Tourism Pilot Zone – the country's only "medical special zone" – is transforming patient access to the world's latest pharmaceuticals and medical devices. With visa-free entry for citizens of 86 nations, Hainan stands as one of China's most accessible destinations for international medical travel.

- [How the CPC promotes exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations](#) (2026-06-25 14:54)

Political parties play a vital role in advancing exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations. With an open vision and a broad mind, the CPC engages in exchanges and mutual learning on an equal footing with political parties around the world, and promotes equal

dialogue and mutually beneficial cooperation with an inclusive attitude.

- [More than a run: How running clubs in China are building community](#) (2026-06-25 14:38)

More than a run: How running clubs in China are building community

- [Chinese, Austrian foreign ministers hold talks in Beijing](#) (2026-06-25 14:13)

Chinese, Austrian foreign ministers hold talks in Beijing

- [Premier Li calls for expanded practical cooperation with Bangladesh](#) (2026-06-25 14:11)

Chinese Premier Li Qiang said on Thursday that China stands ready to work with Bangladesh to consolidate strategic mutual trust, expand practical cooperation, and bring more benefits to the people of both countries.

- [China targets clean, low-carbon new energy system by 2030](#) (2026-06-25 13:59)

China targets clean, low-carbon new energy system by 2030

- [China-Bangladesh economic ties in focus as PM Rahman visits China](#) (2026-06-25 13:59)

Bangladeshi Prime Minister Tarique Rahman arrived in Beijing on Wednesday for an official visit through June 26, his first overseas trip since taking office.

- [China urges United States to stop expanding 'military company' list](#) (2026-06-25 13:26)

China urges United States to stop expanding 'military company' list

- [Everything you need to know about myopia surgery](#) (2026-06-25 13:09)

Everything you need to know about myopia surgery

- [China's top legislator meets Cambodia's Senate president](#) (2026-06-25 12:26)

Zhao Leji, chairman of China's National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee, met with Cambodian People's Party (CPP) President and Senate President Samdech Techo Hun Sen on Thursday in Beijing.

- [China extends condolences and offers aid to quake-hit Venezuela](#) (2026-06-25 12:25)

China extends condolences and offers aid to quake-hit Venezuela

- [China, US to discuss reciprocal tariff cuts under trade council](#) (2026-06-25 11:11)

China and the United States have agreed to establish a trade council under which the economic and trade teams of the two sides will discuss cooperation, including reciprocal tariff reductions, China's Ministry of Commerce said Thursday.

- [Multinational firms on China: "We can't be separated"](#) (2026-06-25 10:27)

Multinational firms on China: "We can't be separated"

- [China slams Japan for distorting Nanjing Massacre history](#) (2026-06-25 10:18)

China slams Japan for distorting Nanjing Massacre history

- [What China's healthcare breakthroughs tell the world](#) (2026-06-25 10:09)

How does healthcare innovation move beyond pilot projects to create real-world impact? At the 2026 Summer Davos Forum in Dalian of northeast China's Liaoning Province, Head of Health Systems Transformation at the World Economic Forum Andy Moose shared his perspective on one of the most important challenges facing global healthcare today: not just how to innovate, but how to scale innovation so it reaches the people who need it most.

- [China, Bangladesh deepen infrastructure, energy and tech cooperation](#) (2026-06-25 10:08)

China and Bangladesh elevated bilateral ties to a comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership in 2024, strengthening cooperation across infrastructure, energy transition, digital economy, healthcare, agriculture and people-to-people exchanges.

- [Rare three-toed kingfisher pair spotted bathing and feeding each other](#) (2026-06-25 09:21)

Wildlife photographers have captured rare high-definition footage of a pair of three-toed kingfishers in the Wuzhishan area of Hainan Tropical Rainforest National Park in south China.

- [Stunning starry sky above southwest China's Lugu Lake](#) (2026-06-25 09:12)

Nestled in the highlands on the border of Yunnan and Sichuan, Lugu Lake offers breathtaking views after dark.

- [Xizang Temples: Living Museums of Religious Freedom](#) (2026-06-25 09:11)

Xizang Temples: Living Museums of Religious Freedom

- [A village chicken feast in Guangxi brings mountain flavors to life](#) (2026-06-25 09:10)

CGTN host Julian Waghann and Filipina singer Eliza Arce recently visited Ping'an Village in Longsheng County, south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, to experience a festive chicken banquet.

- [The living legacy of 600-year-old Sera Monastery](#) (2026-06-25 09:05)

The living legacy of 600-year-old Sera Monastery

- [Austria participates in supply chain expo for the first time](#) (2026-06-25 09:02)

Austria participates in supply chain expo for the first time

- [Evidence confirms Unit 731's brutal human blood transfusion tests](#) (2026-06-25 09:00)

Evidence confirms Unit 731's brutal human blood transfusion tests

- [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 Hamed 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.

## Source: China Defense Blog

- [Hi Res Photos Of The Day: J-20 mid air refueling probe, mid air](#) (2026-06-30 03:00)

When it comes to refueling solution, clearly there's a difference between PLAAF's J-20 and the USAF's F-22. F-22 photo credit goes to <https://www.acc.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/202122/jefx-08-demonstrates-f-22-raptor-sensor-capabilities/>

- [Just PR Photos: 10xY-20B, elephant walk](#) (2026-06-29 01:27)

In a rather short spin, the 37th Regiment, 13th Transport Aviation Division, Central Theater Command Air Force HQ now has at least 10 Y-20B domestic WS 20 high bypass turbofan. PLAAF Unit Of The Day: 37th Regiment, 13th Transport Aviation Division, Central Theater Command Air Force HQ Home to 28 Y-20 Heavy Transport of the PLAAF as of Oct 11th. Tuesday,

- [China Defense Blog Recommends: China Maritime Report #55 – Loading the Well Deck: The PLA Navy's Maturing Role in Projecting Joint Ground Forces](#) (2026-06-27 03:46)

The China Maritime Studies Institute's China Maritime Report series remains one of the most consistently valuable resources for anyone tracking China's maritime development. CMSI's

work stands out for its disciplined methodology, heavy use of primary Chinese language sources, and the academic rigor long associated with the U.S. Naval War College. (link)The latest installment, China Maritime

- [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

## Source: China | The Guardian

- [Chinese tycoon Guo Wengui sentenced to 30 years in US prison for fraud](#) (2026-06-30 04:22)

Guo Wengui, who gained fans for criticising China’s Communist party, was found guilty in 2024 on nine charges including money laundering. A US federal court has sentenced exiled Chinese tycoon Guo Wengui to 30 years in prison, after he was convicted of defrauding thousands of people out of more than \$1bn. In July 2024, a jury unanimously found Guo, also known as Ho Wan Kwok and Miles Guo, guilty on nine of 12 charges, including securities offences, wire fraud and money laundering. The FBI arrested Guo, who is in his fifties, in March 2023 at his luxury Manhattan apartment overlooking Central Park. Continue reading...

- [EU sets up three months of talks with China over €360bn trade deficit](#) (2026-06-29 18:33)

Two sides agree to try to make bilateral relationship ‘more balanced’ after weeks of threats  
The EU and China have agreed to enter three months of talks to try to avoid a trade war over the bloc’s €360bn (£310bn) annual import/export imbalance. In their first joint statement in seven years, the two sides agreed in Brussels to open a formal trade consultation after weeks of threats and recriminations from China if the EU imposed any measures to stop the flood of goods and components into the bloc. Continue reading...

- [Weather tracker: Heatwave expected to bring Germany and Poland to 40C](#) (2026-06-26 08:22)

Austrian Grand Prix declares heat hazard as dramatic rise in temperatures forecast in central and northern Europe  
Temperatures are forecast to rise dramatically in parts of central and northern Europe this weekend as the intense heatwave continues. In Germany and Poland, highs up to or exceeding 40C (104F) are expected on both Saturday and Sunday, days after swathes of France experienced similar extreme temperatures. The Austrian Grand Prix, taking place this weekend in Spielberg, has declared a heat hazard, the first race to do so this season. Temperatures are expected to rise into the low 30s celsius during the race, almost 10C warmer than usual for the venue. Across Europe, the intense heat has led to severe thunderstorms. In the Sverdlovsk region of central Russia, a strong tornado was reported on the evening of 22 June. Rated a 3 out of 5 on the international Fujita scale, the twister injured 16 people and destroyed or damaged about 100 homes and businesses in the town of Kushva. Emergency services have been working on restoring power to the town. Tornadoes are not unheard of in Russia but are rare. Forecasters say they may become more common in future as the climate breaks down. Storm warnings remained in effect in the southern part of the country on Friday. Continue reading...

- [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 prowessA 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...

## 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.

## Source: Financial Times China

- [EU and China buy time to avoid trade fight as Brussels demands deficit cuts](#) (2026-06-30 05:00)

Also in this newsletter: Far-right petition pushes Meloni over mass deportation plan

- [The young Chinese choosing life in 'ghost cities'](#) (2026-06-30 02:22)

Urban castaways are making homes in half-empty towers left over from the world's biggest housing boom

- [Supermicro Taiwan offices raided in chip smuggling probe](#) (2026-06-29 20:17)

Server maker's shares fell about 8% after news of the investigation

- [How China wriggled free when Trump closed a tariff loophole](#) (2026-06-29 11:31)

Chinese sales platforms and delivery services have adapted to survive the end of the 'de minimis' allowance

- [China grounds light aircraft after Beijing tower crash](#) (2026-06-29 09:47)

Flight operators say authorities issued indefinite nationwide airspace controls

- [China says it can withstand trade freeze ahead of EU talks](#) (2026-06-29 07:03)

State media increases pressure in advance of high-stakes negotiations with Brussels

- [China targets more Japanese companies with export controls](#) (2026-06-29 06:48)

Further restrictions on sales of 'dual-use' items with both civilian and military purposes

- [European producers press Brussels to shut Russian aluminium loophole](#) (2026-06-29 05:00)

Also in this newsletter: Pharma sector push EU to close life sciences funding gap

- [Chinese tech hub's shift into robotaxis leaves drivers by the wayside](#) (2026-06-28 02:53)

Shenzhen expands driverless vehicles as growing automation drive threatens gig economy workforce

- [Owner of car searched by police after Beijing tower plane crash identified](#) (2026-06-27 04:53)

Vehicle was at airfield from where aircraft that hit Citic Tower took off

- [Apple seeks to buy memory chips from blacklisted Chinese company](#) (2026-06-27 02:17)

iPhone maker wants Trump administration to sign off on purchases to ease pressure from rising semiconductor prices

- [‘Tit-for-tat’ trade warfare threatens global economy, says IMF chief economist](#) (2026-06-26 21:59)

Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas, who is leaving the fund, warns attempts to gain small advantages will be ‘self-defeating’

- [Hong Kong billionaire explores sale of Harvey Nichols](#) (2026-06-26 18:39)

Struggling luxury department store owned by Sir Dickson Poon is in active talks with multiple parties over a deal

- [Small plane crashes into Beijing's tallest building](#) (2026-06-26 16:17)

Debris seen falling from Citic Tower after propeller aircraft hits skyscraper in Chinese capital's central business district

- [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

## Source: New York Times China

- [Former Chinese Billionaire and Bannon Associate Is Sentenced for Fraud](#) (2026-06-30 00:19)

The businessman courted U.S. conservatives as an anti-Communist crusader while using his supporters' money to buy lavish homes and a Bugatti supercar.

- [China Emerges as a Relative Winner From Strait of Hormuz Crisis](#) (2026-06-29 09:03)

A report examines how the war in Iran has weighed on Asian economies, but left China in a more advantageous position.

- [Kazakhstan’ s Leader Deepens U.S. Ties, Saying Trump Was ‘Sent by Heaven’](#) (2026-06-28 09:39)

The Central Asian nation is aggressively courting President Trump’ s Washington to counterbalance its powerful neighbors, Russia and China.

- [China Confirms Death of Pilot Who Flew Small Plane Into Beijing’ s Tallest Tower](#) (2026-06-28 05:48)

The statement came a day after online images showed falling debris and plane parts. Another 13 were injured in the incident five miles from Communist Party headquarters.

- [The Real A.I. Race Isn’ t America vs. China](#) (2026-06-28 05:00)

Washington is starting to follow a similar playbook to Beijing when it comes to artificial intelligence policy.

- [Chinese Dissident Who Fled to South Korea by Rubber Boat Lands in Canada](#) (2026-06-27 10:48)

Dong Guangping, a critic of the Chinese government who fled to South Korea by sea last month, has reached Toronto, where his family lives.

- [Debris Falls From the Sky After Plane Crash in Beijing](#) (2026-06-26 21:15)

A lightweight aircraft registered to the airline Shuangyue General Aviation crashed into the Citic Tower in Beijing on Friday. The cause of the crash is unknown.

- [Small Plane Crashes Into Tallest Building in Beijing](#) (2026-06-26 14:57)

Crowds in the capital’ s central business district fled as the crash sent debris falling into the streets below.

- [I Was Kicked Out of China](#) (2026-06-26 09:00)

Our Times correspondent, Vivian Wang, was expelled from China as part of Beijing’ s crackdown on foreign journalists. She explains how a pressure campaign by the authorities made it challenging to do her job.

- [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.

## Source: South China Morning Post

- [Carved in history: how dragon motifs tell the tale of the rise and fall of Chinese empires](#) (2026-06-30 06:00)

The dragon's serpentine forms have adorned Chinese pottery for millennia, and this mythical creature has come to symbolise power, strength, and good fortune. Dragon motifs on pottery date back nearly as far as Chinese written history itself, with the earliest example discovered on a vessel from the Yangshao culture (5000 BC–3000 BC). The association between dragons and ceramics persisted for centuries, with the mystical creature now closely linked to Chinese porcelain. Early depictions of...

- [Singapore catches PMD rider in viral 'Superman' stunt video](#) (2026-06-30 05:58)

Singapore authorities have caught a rider seen in a viral video striking a "Superman" pose while riding a personal mobility device (PMD) in the latest of a series of crackdowns. In the video, taken in the early hours of May 23 outside Keppel MRT station, the rider is caught on

camera going faster than cars on his PMD. At one point, he even lies on his tummy with his legsextened as if he is flying. Based on the 170 metres he covered in about 8 seconds, his speed iscalculated to be almost 80...

- [Border security stepped up after 2 Malaysians hurt in roadside bomb in Thai south](#) (2026-06-30 05:58)

Security around the Malaysia-Thailand border has been tightened after two Malaysian men were wounded in a roadside bomb blast in Narathiwat province, an area riven by a deadly insurgency against Bangkok. While police say the men – Abdullah Syarapi Abd Rahman, 45, and Muhammad Yusri Udin, 38, both from Kelantan – are not believed to have been the target of the improvised explosive device (IED), the incident highlights the dangers of the ongoing conflict in Thailand’ s southernmost...

- [Why a light plane crash in Beijing created a security dilemma for authorities](#) (2026-06-30 05:30)

Flight schools across China said they had been told to suspend training and undergo safety inspections by authorities after a light sport aircraft crashed into Beijing’ s tallest skyscraper on Friday. The pilot was killed when he flew the two-seater plane into the building near the East Third Ring Road, injuring 13 people, the Chaoyang district government said in a statement on Saturday. There were no passengers on board the plane. It comes as the “low-altitude economy” has been identified as an...

- [Nepal’ s bird flu outbreak spreads, breeding pandemic mutation fears](#) (2026-06-30 05:00)

Nepal has culled more than 600,000 birds and destroyed around 1 million eggs as an H5N1 bird flu outbreak spreads across the Kathmandu Valley, shutting the capital’ s only zoo and raising fears among scientists over the virus’ potential to mutate into a form transmissible between humans. The outbreak began in eastern Nepal in March before reaching the densely populated valley around mid-June – a development that health experts say raises the risk of human exposure. More than 60 poultry farms...

- [Ex-opposition lawmaker Wu Chi-wai released after serving time for subversion](#) (2026-06-30 04:52)

A former Hong Kong lawmaker who previously headed the city’ s largest, now-defunct opposition party has been released from prison after completing his sentence in a landmark subversion case. Wu Chi-wai, former chairman of the Democratic Party, which dissolved last year, was released from Stanley Prison on Tuesday morning. He boarded a seven-seater car which took him to Fung Tak Estate in Diamond Hill. Dressed in a white shirt, he alighted with two bags of belongings and did not take questions...

- [Chinese tourists high on Malaysia, why Europe is praising Lee Kuan Yew: 7 Asia highlights](#) (2026-06-30 04:46)

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. Malaysia has never had so many Chinese tourists. It wants more As Thailand loses its allure, Malaysia turns to viral algorithms to entice millions of independent Chinese travellers. 2. Pakistan rattles India with new Chinese-built stealth submarine The last time...

- [Passenger jet reports striking drone approaching JFK airport to land](#) (2026-06-30 04:39)

A passenger jet reported striking a drone while approaching JFK International Airport on Monday, and just hours later, a helicopter pilot alerted a close call with a remote-control plane near the same airport. The Federal Aviation Administration is investigating the first incident that happened as a JetBlue plane passed through 3,000 feet (914 metres) Monday morning while it was crossing the coastline. The plane landed safely in New York without any additional help, and no damage was found when...

- [No plans on handover day? SCMP breaks down Hong Kong's biggest July 1 deals](#) (2026-06-30 04:00)

Hong Kong is rolling out a series of discounts, shopping perks, giveaways and countless deals to celebrate the 29th anniversary of the city's return to Chinese sovereignty on July 1. To get you in the public holiday spirit, the South China Morning Post unpacks what is on offer, from deals on food and drinks to retail goods and public transport. 1. Someone mentioned food? Restaurants are taking the latest anniversary to heart with a 29 per cent discount or special deals on selected menu items...

- [How Chinese forensics team ruled out murder in mystery of a dismembered woman](#) (2026-06-30 04:00)

When a villager in the southern province of Guangdong was walking near his home on a mild day shortly after Christmas in 2019, he noticed a yellow suitcase beneath an expressway embankment. Inside was the headless body of a woman. When police arrived and searched the area, they found the head inside a red travel bag alongside the highway, about 1km south of the villager's discovery. Nearly seven years later, details of the forensic investigation have been revealed in a peer-reviewed paper that...

- [Japan's family firms turn to M&A; when heirs are not so apparent](#) (2026-06-30 03:27)

Diners at a sleek teppanyaki restaurant in Tokyo's Asakusa district wait happily as chefs sear marbled Kobe beef over open grills. Expectations are high at Kisshokichi, one of the world's largest Kobe beef chains. But behind the brand's success lies a dilemma shared by businesses across Japan. Founder Kiyomi Akagi, now in his mid-sixties, faced a question confronting a growing number of ageing owners: who would take over? With no successor prepared to manage the company's 50 restaurants, Akagi...

- [Hong Kong' s first batch of free PLA ship tour tickets gone within 4 minutes](#) (2026-06-30 03:27)

Hongkongers have snapped up the first batch of free tickets to visit two PLA naval ships within minutes of their release for a weekend port call in the city. A South China Morning Post reporter observed that the initial batch was gone within four minutes after being released at 10am on Tuesday. On Monday, China' s Ministry of National Defence said a People' s Liberation Army naval task group would visit Hong Kong waters from Thursday to next Monday to mark the 29th anniversary of the city' s return...

- [Chinachem Group steers first-of-its-kind blueprint for Hong Kong' s green and silver future](#) (2026-06-30 03:08)

Like other advanced cities, Hong Kong faces a range of clearly defined challenges that must be directly addressed in the next few years. Two that stand out are the effects of climate change and the consequences of an ageing population, which, one way or another, will impact every section of society. This means concerted action and practical solutions are required from each branch of industry – and every government department. The route to real and rapid progress is through constant and...

- [Funding option: royalties giant opens Hong Kong base as mainland China biotech deals surge](#) (2026-06-30 03:00)

The world' s largest buyer of biopharmaceutical royalties has set up its first Asia-Pacific base in Hong Kong, joining a string of multinational corporations in the pharmaceutical sector establishing offices in the city as out-licensing deals by mainland Chinese biotechnology firms hit record highs. Royalty financing gives drug developers an alternative way to raise capital even as US investment restrictions loom, according to an expert. “Chinese biotech firms would need royalty financing as an...

- [How Philippine ube farming can cash in on 'purple gold rush'](#) (2026-06-30 03:00)

Esmeraldo Maligsa, a farmer and president of the Bohol Ube Growers Association, harvests 2,000kg (4,400lbs) of ube, the purple tuber native to the Philippines, every seven months. He and the other farmers in his group manage a collective yield of between 5 tonnes and 8 tonnes, fetching prices of 90 to 100 pesos (US\$1.50 to US\$1.70) per kg. Such is the price the ubi kinampay, dubbed the “Queen of Philippine yams” , fetches. It is grown in Bohol province and nearby areas in central Philippines, and...

- [Hong Kong positioned to link Asean, Greater Bay Area amid geopolitical shifts: John Lee](#) (2026-06-30 02:02)

Hong Kong is uniquely positioned to connect Asean with the Greater Bay Area and build a “powerful and complementary partnership” amid a shifting geopolitical landscape, the city' s leader has said. Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chiu made his remarks at the South China Morning Post' s GBA-Asean Summit 2026 on Tuesday, which also saw the launch of a new

chamber of commerce for the 11-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations in the city. The summit brought together government officials, business...

- [Hong Kong IPOs ride China's tech wave, but Nasdaq leads way with SpaceX tsunami](#) (2026-06-30 02:00)

Hong Kong has surrendered its IPO fundraising crown to Nasdaq following SpaceX's blockbuster listing earlier this month, but it did so while seeing its IPO proceeds register a year-on-year rise of about 84 per cent in the first half of 2026 – consolidating the region's position as a primary offshore financial hub for Chinese issuers. A total of 83 companies raised US\$26.42 billion on the Hong Kong stock exchange's main board from January to June, according to LSEG Data & Analytics. The figure,...

- [Just how far are China's local officials going in falsifying performance data?](#) (2026-06-30 02:00)

Beijing has publicised three cases of local governments falsifying achievements to boost their records, which involved manipulating revenue data, misusing special-purpose government bonds and concealing off-balance-sheet debt. Chinese state news agency Xinhua reported on Sunday that a central working group and the Communist Party's top anti-corruption watchdog had announced cases highlighting typical misconduct in official duties and performance evaluations. The announcement came from the...

- [Japan aims to catch up on drone warfare by tapping Ukraine's experience](#) (2026-06-30 01:30)

Japan is accelerating plans to acquire and develop drones for its military by stepping up cooperation with Ukraine and learning from Kyiv's wartime experience against Russia as it seeks to deploy more unmanned systems across its territory in the Pacific. To complement this strategy, Japanese companies are boosting cooperation with their European counterparts to manufacture anti-submarine drones. “The entire international community has witnessed how warfare has changed since the outbreak of the...

- [Time to establish workplace support for Hong Kong's high-risk carers](#) (2026-06-30 01:30)

Nearly a year has passed since Hong Kong launched the first phase of its carer support data platform last July, linking the Social Welfare Department, Hospital Authority and the Housing Authority into a single alert system for “high-risk carers”. These include those receiving a living allowance as low-income carers of the elderly, carers of the disabled and carers of those who live in public housing estates. To date, the platform has flagged over 3,100 cases through hospital alerts. Care teams...

- [Prime suspect: Australia sues Amazon over 'unfair' streaming ad terms](#) (2026-06-30 01:16)

Australia's competition regulator said on Tuesday it had taken Amazon's Australian unit to court, alleging its Prime subscription contracts contained unfair terms that allowed the company to add advertising to its video streaming platform. The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) alleged that between November 2023 and August 2025, Amazon Australia used unfair Prime Video contract terms to make negative changes for over 1 million annual subscribers without offering...

- [Train game that sparked 35-year separation: deaf Chinese man finally returns home](#)  
(2026-06-30 01:00)

After playfully sneaking onto a train and being transported away unexpectedly, a deaf and non-speaking man from central China was finally reunited with his biological family recently – following 35 years away from home. On June 11, Lei Zeqing joyfully reunited with his father, older brother, and sister, who made the journey from their hometown in Henan province to Shenzhen, in southern China's Guangdong province. Lei was overwhelmed with excitement to finally see his long-lost family, for whom...

- [Hong Kong beauty operators warn tighter rules may deal 'blow to our trade'](#)  
(2026-06-30 00:30)

A Hong Kong government plan to tighten regulations on prepaid beauty and fitness contracts has sparked concern among operators, who warn that a rigid refund window and caps on administrative fees ignore operational realities. The government on Monday launched a two-month public consultation on proposed amendments to the Trade Descriptions Ordinance, aimed at strengthening consumer protection amid persistent complaints about unfair practices and high-pressure sales tactics. Key proposals include...

- [Self-exiled Chinese billionaire Guo Wengui jailed for 30 years in US for fraud conviction](#)  
(2026-06-30 00:05)

A self-exiled billionaire Chinese business tycoon once believed to be among China's wealthiest men was sentenced on Monday to 30 years in a US prison for a massive financial fraud that a federal judge said cost over 1,000 people worldwide hundreds of millions of dollars. Guo Wengui, who fled China a decade ago and reinvented himself as a US-based Communist Party critic, was sentenced in a Manhattan courtroom packed with his supporters by Judge Analisa Torres. She said he “preyed on those seeking...

- [How South Korea's AI megaprojects aim to 'maintain edge' over China, meet demand](#)  
(2026-06-30 00:00)

South Korea's US\$518 billion semiconductor push aims to tap the artificial intelligence boom into a durable industrial advantage and keep up with leading rival China, according to observers. The plan is intended to secure supplies of advanced memory chips needed for AI data centres and computing infrastructure, while easing pressure on the Seoul metropolitan area by creating a second major chipmaking base in the country's southwest. President Lee

Jae Myung on Monday unveiled the government' s...

- [Shanghai should step up as finance hub, as Hong Kong 'not enough' , proposal says](#) (2026-06-30 00:00)

Shanghai has been urged to build itself into a hub serving the rising outbound investment needs of Chinese firms, potentially increasing rivalry with Hong Kong as both cities race to augment their status as financial centres. The suggestion by Liu Xiaochun, vice-president of the Shanghai Finance Institute and a senior banker with three decades of experience, was made in mid-June at a closed-door meeting hosted by China Finance 40, a Beijing think tank comprising many top Chinese financial...

- [US parents charged with murder in death of 7-year-old son who weighed 116kg](#) (2026-06-29 23:17)

The parents of a seven-year-old Michigan boy who weighed 116 kilograms (255 pounds) when he died have been charged with murder, torture and child abuse, prosecutors said. “Clearly the parents were feeding the child improperly, to say the least,” Genesee County Prosecutor David Leyton said on Monday. “He wasn’ t getting the nutrition he needed.” Casper O’ Brien died in November after first responders were called to the family’ s home in Flint because he had stopped breathing, prosecutors said. His...

- [Police hunt fugitive in Monaco after 3 wounded in 'deliberate explosion'](#) (2026-06-29 22:56)

Three people were seriously injured, two of them critically, on Monday in an explosion at a residential building in Monaco, which authorities described as a “deliberate” act. A source close to the investigations who asked not to be named told Agence France-Presse that one of those wounded was a Ukrainian oligarch, Vadym Yermolaiev. The territory’ s Minister of State Christophe Mirmand initially told Agence France-Presse the blast at a residential building appeared to be “an attack” , but later...

- [Peruvian political heir Keiko Fujimori wins presidency](#) (2026-06-29 22:26)

Peru’ s conservative president-elect Keiko Fujimori vowed on Monday to restore “order and hope” after defeating left-winger Roberto Sanchez in the latest victory for a resurgent Latin American right. Fujimori won the June 7 presidential run-off by the slimmest of margins, outpolling Sanchez by fewer than 50,000 votes out of the more than 18 million ballots cast, the final results showed. “Each time we draw closer to starting on the path of order and hope for all Peruvians,” she wrote on X after...

- [Over 100 Venezuelans deported from the US hours before the earthquakes are missing](#) (2026-06-29 22:02)

More than 100 people just deported from the United States were being held in a hotel when earthquakes struck Venezuela, setting off a scramble to find survivors and bodies buried in the

rubble, according to survivors. A deportation flight from Miami arrived in Caracas hours before Wednesday's earthquakes. On board were 146 Venezuelans, including 19 women and seven children, according to ICE Flight Monitor, an initiative of Human Rights First, which tracks deportation flights. Lisbeth Portillo,...

- [Why Chinese-American success stories still provoke prejudice and fear](#) (2026-06-29 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, Ling Xin and Meredith Chen look at how the fight against discrimination continues to this day. The rise of the United States to superpower status was fuelled by the untold millions of immigrants who arrived from foreign...

- [Chinese Venezuelans turn community networks into lifeline after earthquakes](#) (2026-06-29 21:51)

Lutao Cen was swimming off Margarita Island, where he has lived for four decades, when twin earthquakes measuring above magnitude 7 struck northern Venezuela within two minutes. Only after returning to shore did he learn what had happened. Messages flooded his WeChat feed. Friends in Caracas, Valencia and Maracay described buildings collapsing and streets filled with dust. Then came the news he had feared most. A close friend in La Guaira, chairman of the local Chinese association, had been...

- [How the Northern Metropolis university town can deliver on innovation](#) (2026-06-29 21:30)

The recent visit of Xia Baolong, director of the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office, carried the task of accelerating the development of the Northern Metropolis. This is not another urban expansion, but a strategic test of whether Hong Kong can reinvent its role in the nation's innovation landscape. At its core, the Northern Metropolis bears a dual mission. For Hong Kong, it must become a growth engine, creating a third curve of development, beyond finance and real estate, by nurturing original...

- [Alex Murdaugh returns to US court for murder retrial hearing as true-crime saga continues](#) (2026-06-29 20:53)

Alex Murdaugh was back in court Monday on charges he killed his wife and son, appearing silently at a pretrial hearing that was mostly short on substance but long on spectacle as the true-crime sensation continues to captivate. Murdaugh's murder convictions and sentence of life in prison were overturned last month by the South Carolina Supreme Court. On Monday, a new judge laid out a timeline for hearings set the retrial to begin April 5. She also nailed down deadlines for making sure the...

- [Switzerland returns famed Benin Bronzes to Nigeria](#) (2026-06-29 20:21)

Swiss authorities on Monday returned 18 Benin Bronzes to Nigeria in a ceremony at the National Museum in Lagos, the latest addition to the nation's growing collection of repatriated treasures. Countries across Africa have been pushing in recent years for the restitution of artefacts and artworks taken during the colonial period – including Nigeria's famed Benin Bronzes, which were looted as spoils of war by the British and today are scattered in museums and private collections across the...

- [‘Torture memos’ professor joins DOJ probe into alleged conspiracy against Trump](#) (2026-06-29 19:33)

A conservative law professor known for his expansive views of presidential power and for decades-old memos that justified harsh interrogation techniques after the September 11 terror attacks says he will be advising a team of prosecutors investigating whether former police and intelligence officials conspired against US President Donald Trump. John Yoo confirmed in an email to Associated Press on Monday that he would be helping Joe diGenova, the former Justice Department prosecutor who was...

- [Couple detained in France after 15-month-old twin girls die of dehydration](#) (2026-06-29 19:03)

French police on Monday detained a couple after their 15-month-old twin daughters died of suspected dehydration, a source close to the investigation said. The couple's four other children, aged three, four, five and six, were hospitalised with dehydration but were not in life-threatening condition, the source said. The parents alerted emergency services in the northern town of Beuvrages after discovering the twins in their beds, a police source said. Preliminary findings indicate that the...

- [EU sets October deadline for ‘tangible results’ on China imbalances after key trade talks](#) (2026-06-29 18:12)

In a bid to cool searing trade tensions, the European Union and China have launched a new ministerial-level platform for solving grievances, with Brussels insisting that disputes over trade imbalances, export controls and intellectual property must deliver “tangible results” by October. On Monday, in the middle of marathon talks in the Belgian capital, the sides issued a rare joint statement, in which they announced four initial workstreams, focused on trade and investment balancing, export...

- [Penelope Keith, star of classic British sitcom The Good Life, dies at 86](#) (2026-06-29 17:54)

Penelope Keith, a comic performer who shone as flinty but lovable upper-crust characters in British sitcoms *The Good Life* and *To the Manor Born*, has died aged 86. Keith's family said on Monday that she had been diagnosed with cancer and died at her home in Surrey, near London. Keith began her acting career onstage and joined the Royal Shakespeare Company in 1963 but she found her greatest fame on television. She won a Bafta (British Academy of Film and Television Arts) award in 1977 for *The Good...*

- [Belarus' Lukashenko courts Moscow and Beijing as Ukraine tensions simmer](#) (2026-06-29 17:28)

Belarusian leader Alexander Lukashenko has visited Russia and then China following a series of public exchanges with Ukraine, meeting President Xi Jinping in Beijing and Russian President Vladimir Putin at his Valdai residence. Lukashenko told Xi that being in China was for him “like coming home”, Belarusian journalists accompanying the delegation reported on Monday. Xi said China supported Belarus in preserving its state sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, according to...

- [US Supreme Court rejects Trump' s unprecedented bid to fire Fed governor Lisa Cook](#) (2026-06-29 16:53)

The US Supreme Court refused on Monday to let President Donald Trump fire Federal Reserve Governor Lisa Cook as it stood firm to preserve the central bank' s cherished independence against an unprecedented challenge. The court, in a 5-4 ruling, blocked Trump' s bid to become the first president to remove a Fed official since Congress created the central bank in 1913. In his second term as president, Trump has tested the limits of presidential power in numerous other ways as well. Conservative...

- [Hong Kong cocaine haul hits 361kg in days after police raid another yacht](#) (2026-06-29 16:45)

Hong Kong police have seized a second cache of suspected cocaine worth about HK\$90 million (US\$11.4 million) from a pleasure boat in Aberdeen, days after uncovering HK\$180 million of the drug in another yacht at the site. Officers from the narcotics bureau on Sunday raided the six metre (20-foot) yacht moored near boats targeted in last week' s operation and found about 120kg of cocaine bricks on board. Together with the previous seizure of 241kg of cocaine in a yacht in Aberdeen Typhoon Shelter...

- [Supreme Court rejects Trump' s push to throw out Carroll sex abuse verdict](#) (2026-06-29 15:43)

The Supreme Court on Monday rejected a push by President Donald Trump to throw out a jury' s finding that he sexually abused the writer E. Jean Carroll at a New York City department store in the mid-1990s and later defamed her. The High Court declined to take up the case in a brief, unexplained order, as is typical. There were no noted dissents. Trump' s lawyers had argued that allegations leading to the US\$5 million verdict were propped up by “highly inflammatory” evidentiary rulings, including...

- [Hong Kong proposes sweeping overhaul of sex crime laws](#) (2026-06-29 15:33)

Hong Kong authorities have proposed a major overhaul of outdated sexual offences laws, including criminalising same-sex rape, introducing new offences and establishing a uniform age of consent at 16 while removing gender-specific provisions and increasing penalties. In a

59-page consultation paper submitted to the Legislative Council on Monday, the Security Bureau proposed a series of measures to strengthen protection for minors and mentally incapacitated people from sexual exploitation and...

- [What signal is China sending with first official footage of sixth-generation fighter?](#)

(2026-06-29 15:00)

China's military apparently released the first official footage of its sixth-generation fighter over the weekend – a move that analysts said might suggest Beijing was ahead of its competitors, including the US, in developing the next generation of warplanes. China Military Bugle, the official press account of the People's Liberation Army, published a four-minute video on Sunday marking the 10th anniversary of China's first heavy transport aircraft, the Y-20, entering service. In the video's...

- [Russian strikes on Ukraine kill at least 11, injure 40, as heatwave attacks too](#) (2026-06-29 14:57)

Russian missiles and drones killed at least 11 civilians and injured 40 others in Ukraine on Monday in what President Volodymyr Zelensky described as “horrific attacks”, while the nation's energy grid buckled under temperatures in excess of 36 degrees Celsius, hit by the deadly heatwave that has afflicted much of Europe. Russian drone and missile attacks have decimated Ukraine's energy network since Moscow invaded in February 2022, causing tens of billions of dollars worth of damage and leading...

- [Why is Taiwan's KMT calling for the government to spend billions more on drones?](#)

(2026-06-29 14:00)

After rejecting a government spending package, Taiwan's opposition Kuomintang (KMT) has submitted its own proposal worth several billion dollars more to boost the military's unmanned vehicle capabilities and the island's broader drone sector. The move reflects growing consensus across Taiwan's political spectrum that unmanned systems will be central to the island's defence in the future. Defending its decision to reject the government's proposal for the sector, KMT officials on Monday said the...

- [China's cooling, e-commerce giants see sales surge as scorched Europe scrambles for relief](#) (2026-06-29 13:39)

A heatwave sweeping across Europe has triggered a massive surge in sales for Chinese home appliances, with e-commerce giant Alibaba recording triple-digit growth for air conditioners and fans on its overseas platforms. On AliExpress, Alibaba's international retail site, the June debut of air conditioners in Germany saw warehouse inventory for a 2.35-kilowatt Midea model completely wiped out by Thursday, according to data from Alibaba. The trend was also stark in southern Europe. Fan sales in...

- [6 die in Germany shooting at welfare centre, several wounded, suspect arrested](#)

(2026-06-29 13:35)

Six people were killed in a shooting on Monday at a youth welfare facility in the northern German town of Stade, police said. Five people – four women and a man – died at the scene of the shooting. A sixth, also an adult, died later in hospital. A main suspect was arrested, while another two people were subject to “police measures” on suspicion of involvement, police said in a statement without elaborating. They said several people were wounded, some of them seriously, German news agency dpa...

- [China revives desert moss in space lab as it tests hi-tech tools for future missions](#)

(2026-06-29 13:00)

China has tested a desert moss that may one day be used to colonise Mars by reviving it inside a mini space laboratory, state broadcaster CCTV said on Monday. The plant, a highly drought-resistant species called *Syntrichia caninervis*, was revived after being subjected to a series of extreme space conditions – including microgravity, intense radiation and severe dehydration – showing it is remarkably resilient in space, according to the report. Chinese scientists had previously established in...

- [Is the Chinese dream replacing the American dream?](#) (2026-06-29 12:30)

For much of the 20th century, the “American dream” was perhaps the most successful export in human history. It reached far beyond American borders. Millions of people around the world, including generations of Chinese families, believed in its promise. Study hard. Work hard. Build a career. Buy a home. Raise a family. Create a better life than the previous generation. The dream was never about becoming rich. It was about becoming comfortably middle class. For decades, that vision helped define...

- [78 arrested as Hong Kong police bust HK\\$5 million online shopping scams](#) (2026-06-29 12:18)

Hong Kong police have arrested 78 people in a citywide crackdown on online shopping fraud, solving 165 cases involving more than HK\$5 million (US\$637,565) in losses, including one victim who was cheated out of HK\$1.2 million while seeking cheaper medicine. Officers arrested 59 men and 19 women aged between 15 and 73 during the operation code-named “Blacksword”, which ran from June 15 to 26. Of them, 69 were suspected holders of mule accounts used to transfer or process illicit proceeds, with the...

- [Heatwave grips Eastern Europe after Germany weather breaks records](#) (2026-06-29 12:15)

The deadly heatwave that’s set temperature records across western Europe for more than a week has shifted east to scorch Hungary, Romania and the Balkans. Hungary’s Budapest is expected to top 40 degrees Celsius (104F) on Tuesday, according to models from the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts. Belgrade in Serbia and Bucharest in Romania will reach 38 degrees and 37 degrees, respectively, on Monday. Red warnings for extreme heat have

been issued in Poland, Hungary, Romania,...

- [2 PLA navy ships to visit Hong Kong for 5-day port call](#) (2026-06-29 12:11)

Two People's Liberation Army (PLA) naval vessels are set to visit Hong Kong for a five-day port call from July 2, during which residents will be able to board them and take part in cultural exchange activities. China's Ministry of National Defence said on Monday that a PLA naval task group would visit Hong Kong waters from Thursday to next Monday to mark the 29th anniversary of the city's return to Chinese sovereignty. The guided-missile destroyer Nanning and the guided-missile frigate Hengyang...

- [China conducts ground test of hypersonic ramjet that can change shape in flight](#) (2026-06-29 12:00)

At a test facility in China, a hypersonic engine that reshapes its internal airflow channel – much like a throat tightening and relaxing – has operated continuously from a relatively modest Mach 1.8 (nearly twice the speed of sound) all the way to Mach 6 without failing. And the material that kept superheated gases from escaping? Essentially the same black mineral found inside a pencil: graphite. For years, engines of this type could not ignite until the aircraft had already reached Mach 4 –...

- [UK's Andy Burnham, nation's likely next leader, promises 'number 10 north'](#) (2026-06-29 11:37)

Andy Burnham, Britain's presumptive next prime minister, has set out details giving more powers to local government as part of a plan to spread wealth and economic growth. Saying Westminster "is not working" and is "broken", he set out a sweeping economic vision in a key speech from Manchester – where he was mayor for nine years – to bring voters, colleagues and financial markets up to speed with his ideas during his rapid progress towards power. He set out a 10-year vision for "good growth in...

- ['Queuing gangs' exploited Hong Kong driving licence ticketing system: ombudsman](#) (2026-06-29 11:30)

The Hong Kong government watchdog has slammed the Transport Department over systemic deficiencies that allowed "queuing gangs" to abuse public resources, along with digital shortcomings that left overseas and mainland Chinese applicants with a negative impression. An investigation by the Office of the Ombudsman, released on Monday, revealed that a group of seven agents exploited the ticketing system to submit 135 applications for the direct issue of Hong Kong full driving licences in a single...

- [South Korea's World Cup early exit sparks fury, death threats, restaurant bans](#) (2026-06-29 11:16)

South Korea's World Cup squad is set to be greeted on arrival by heightened police security rather than the usual airport welcome ceremony, as fury over head coach Hong Myung-bo's

failed campaign spills into online death threats, viral restaurant bans and renewed calls for sweeping changes inside the country's football establishment. Hong and eight players, including Kim Min-jae, Hwang Hee-chan, Hwang In-beom and Lee Kang-in, were due to arrive at Incheon International Airport on Tuesday morning...

- [‘Deficiencies’ in maintenance, repairs at Hong Kong parks mar visitor experience](#) (2026-06-29 11:13)

Inadequate monitoring, lengthy repairs and poor information for hikers are among the “deficiencies” that have undermined public safety and visitors' experience at Hong Kong's country parks, according to the city's ombudsman, which urged relevant authorities to overhaul how they manage and maintain facilities. In a report released on Monday, the Office of the Ombudsman said it made 42 recommendations to the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), all of which had been accepted...

- [China warns popular phone games may provide map data to train foreign military AI models](#) (2026-06-29 11:00)

China's top anti-espionage agency on Monday warned gamers that a company with overseas defence ties may be obtaining geospatial data via an augmented reality game. The warning quoted media reports about “the militarisation of civilian data” that said billions of environmental scans from a popular mobile phone game were being used to train AI models with potential battlefield applications. In a social media post, Beijing's Ministry of State Security (MSS) cited reports that said an AI company...

- [Confirmed Ebola cases in Congo at 1,274, including 360 deaths](#) (2026-06-29 10:47)

As more patients recover from the world's largest recorded Bundibugyo Ebola outbreak, doctors are beginning to piece together how the rare virus behaves, offering the clearest picture yet of one of the disease's least-studied strains. The number of recoveries reported by Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) health authorities almost doubled in a week, rising to 148 on Thursday from 80 on June 18, even as treatment centres admit dozens of patients daily. The DRC said late on Sunday that...

- [China pledges extra US\\$14.7 million in earthquake relief to Venezuela](#) (2026-06-29 10:29)

China is providing an additional 100 million yuan (US\$14.7 million) worth of relief items to Venezuela after two earthquakes last week left at least 1,450 dead, including eight Chinese citizens. Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun on Monday said Beijing had decided to furnish the relief items in addition to cash aid already extended to the country. China had also provided satellite images of the affected areas to support Venezuela's relief operations, he added, noting that Chinese...

- [Hong Kong proposes cooling-off period for beauty, gym deals to curb hard-sell tactics](#) (2026-06-29 10:18)

Hong Kong has proposed a statutory seven-day cooling-off period and a 14-day refund window for prepaid beauty and fitness contracts as part of efforts to strengthen consumer protection amid persistent complaints about unfair trade practices and high-pressure sales tactics. The measures form part of three major policy recommendations suggested by the government as it launched a two-month public consultation on Monday aimed at addressing enforcement gaps under the Trade Descriptions Ordinance in...

- [82% of Wang Fuk Court flat owners accept buy-back offer before priority deadline](#) (2026-06-29 10:17)

More than 80 per cent of owners of the fire-ravaged housing estate, Wang Fuk Court, have accepted the Hong Kong government's buy-back offer, a day before the deadline for them to secure priority flat selection under a special sales plan. The Housing Bureau said in a statement on Monday that it had received a total of 1,635 signed letters of acceptance, accounting for about 82.4 per cent of the total number of flats in the estate's eight blocks. "Among them, 1,429 letters came from the seven...

- [Malaysia narrows hunt for replacement missiles after Norway axes contract](#) (2026-06-29 10:00)

Malaysia has narrowed its search for a replacement anti-ship missile system to four potential suppliers after Norway revoked an export licence for a deal that Kuala Lumpur said was already more than 90 per cent paid for. The cancellation came after Oslo tightened arms-export rules in a shift that analysts say reveals how access to advanced arms can depend as much on supplier-country politics as on signed contracts. Turkey, South Korea and two unspecified European nations were being assessed as...

- [‘You are a hero’ : Yunnan’s sole female anti-drug chief champions women in drug war](#) (2026-06-29 10:00)

An anti-narcotics police officer in China who has been working on the frontline without obscuring her identity for the past nine years, incurring more than 10 injuries, has won massive admiration from the mainland public. Li Xiangli is the only female police station chief in Yunnan province, located in the southwestern part of the country. She and her 47 colleagues are stationed at a checkpoint in Yongren county on the border between Yunnan and Sichuan province, where their main duty is to...

- [36 Afghan civilians die in Pakistan air strikes, 160 injured: officials](#) (2026-06-29 09:57)

Overnight ground operations and strikes by Pakistani forces have killed at least 36 civilians and injured more than 160 others, Afghan officials said on Monday, as tensions between the neighbours further escalated. One official said the attacks would be met with retaliation. Pakistani security forces carried out a ground operation along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border late on Sunday, followed by strikes against militant hideouts and safe havens, killing 29 fighters, Pakistan's Information...

- [From invention to impact: Hong Kong Science Fair gives young innovators a wider stage](#)  
(2026-06-29 09:27)

[The content of this article has been produced by our advertising partner.] This year's event drew more than 60,000 visits over two days at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. Around 120 shortlisted teams from primary and secondary schools presented inventions that combine AI with other technologies to tackle everyday challenges. Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry Professor Sun Dong described the Hong Kong Science Fair as an annual flagship innovation and technology...

- [Hong Kong physiotherapist loses HK\\$5m in scam involving 'beautiful assistant'](#)  
(2026-06-29 09:26)

A Hong Kong physiotherapist has been scammed out of HK\$5 million (US\$637,570) after falling victim to an online investment trap that involved helping a virtual "beautiful assistant" hit sales targets, police have said. The case, revealed by police on Monday via their Facebook page, was among more than 80 reports of online investment scams received in the past week, with total losses exceeding HK\$86 million. Details released on police's CyberDefender page on Monday showed that the local...

- [Chinese vessels shadow US-Philippine naval drills in South China Sea near disputed shoal](#)  
(2026-06-29 09:08)

The People's Liberation Army said it dispatched vessels and aircraft to the South China Sea in response to a joint US-Philippine maritime drill in the waters near Scarborough Shoal over the weekend. The PLA's statement came a day after Manila said four Chinese vessels monitored a US-Philippine maritime exercise near the disputed shoal, which was reported by Philippine media on Monday. A week ago, a rare stand-off between the Chinese and Philippine navies took place near the atoll. Over the...

- [Singapore's migrant worker wage saga spotlights potential loopholes](#) (2026-06-29 09:07)

A labour saga in Singapore involving migrant workers going unpaid for months after a contractor fled the country has raised questions about wage policies for unskilled staff, even as authorities respond with the city state's characteristic speed and efficiency. Last week, hundreds of migrant workers in services such as air conditioning, plumbing and construction showed up at the Ministry of Manpower building in a rare labour confrontation in the city state. On Sunday, Minister of State for...

- [Why Myanmar's closer ties to India are unlikely to give China cause for concern](#)  
(2026-06-29 08:03)

Myanmar President Min Aung Hlaing's back-to-back visits to India and China have been described as an effort to avoid becoming overdependent on either country, but analysts said there was little reason to think it would erode Beijing's "overarching influence". The former

military leader's visit to India was his first trip abroad since assuming the presidency in April and saw the two countries agreeing to increase cooperation in areas such as trade, energy and defence. They also pledged to renew...

- [How Malaysia's tourist board plans to entice Chinese travellers](#) (2026-06-29 08:00)

Malaysia's push to attract Chinese tourists is increasingly being shaped by the same forces influencing their itineraries: short-form videos, lifestyle apps, online personalities and newly opened routes from cities beyond China's largest travel hubs. Tourism Malaysia confirmed the focus in a statement, saying its Visit Malaysia 2026 campaign in China encompassed "digital marketing, key opinion leader (KOL) collaborations, short-video content and themed initiatives". The agency's response...

- [Police officer admits taking upskirt footage and trying to grab colleague's gun](#) (2026-06-29 07:48)

A Hong Kong national security police officer has admitted filming upskirt footage of a woman and attempting to grab a colleague's handgun in an apparent bid to harm himself after his arrest last year. West Kowloon Court heard on Monday that Constable Ko Chun-chung, 40, felt ashamed and was unable to face the consequences after being caught for the offence against the woman on January 15, 2025. He pleaded guilty before a deputy district judge to operating equipment with intent to record or...

- [Critical rescue window passes in quake-hit Venezuela as death toll nears 1,500](#) (2026-06-29 07:44)

The critical 72-hour window for finding survivors of the powerful twin earthquakes that struck Venezuela had completely closed by Monday, leaving international teams facing a grim race against time to pull anyone else alive from the debris. The death toll has surpassed 1,450 and nearly 200 buildings have completely collapsed. On Sunday, a man and his teenage son were found alive under the rubble by French and American rescue teams in Caraballeda, a town about 40km north of Caracas. The rescue...

- [Hong Kong eases licensing criteria for rural guest houses and campsites](#) (2026-06-29 06:58)

Hong Kong has relaxed its licensing requirements for rural holiday camps and village guest houses, allowing greater flexibility in building and fire safety requirements for some properties to encourage more tourist accommodation options outside urban areas. The Home Affairs Department on Monday published two new licence application guides: a first-of-its-kind stand-alone guide tailored specifically for village houses, and an "enhanced" guide for holiday campsites which includes buildings,...

- [Paris mortuaries overwhelmed as Europe's record heat drives up death toll](#) (2026-06-29 06:24)

Every few minutes, the mortuary owner's phone rings. Since a record-smashing heatwave started taking lives and storage space for bodies in Paris and beyond, the funeral directors and mourning families calling him mostly have the same question: do you have room for one more? With all 32 places in his cold room taken, Zouhaier Hertelli reluctantly has to gently say “Non”, over and over and over again. “We’re facing a really catastrophic situation,” he said. “I’m getting hundreds of calls.” As the...

- [Malaysia acts to avert Singapore causeway chaos amid Johor state election](#) (2026-06-29 06:23)

Malaysia has set up a special task force to tackle potential disruptions on the causeway linking Johor to Singapore ahead of a state election next month. Home Minister Saifuddin Nasution Ismail has said ensuring smooth cross-border movement is his ministry's “highest priority” as tens of thousands of Malaysians are expected to return home to cast their votes in the Johor state election on July 11. “We are not taking any chances. We have Plan A and Plan B ready to go. That is the directive I have...

- [School activates crisis team after boy dies from heatstroke on weekend run](#) (2026-06-29 06:18)

A Hong Kong school has activated its crisis management team to provide counselling support in response to the death of an 11-year-old boy during a training run over the weekend, while the institution's leaders are set to meet education officials. Hong Kong Adventist Academy, a private Christian school in Sai Kung's Clear Water Bay, confirmed on Monday that one of its students had died from heatstroke on Saturday after falling unconscious at the Tseung Kwan O Sports Ground. The Education Bureau...

- [South Korea unveils US\\$576 billion megaprojects to dominate global AI, chip market](#) (2026-06-29 06:09)

South Korea rolled out sweeping chip and AI megaprojects on Monday, as President Lee Jae Myung pledged to cement overwhelming industry leadership with investments worth more than US\$576 billion over several years. The announcement marks Lee's boldest push yet to align South Korea's AI and chip ambitions with his pledge to narrow regional disparities and revive economies beyond the Seoul metropolitan area. Lee was joined by the leaders of Samsung Electronics and SK Hynix, the world's two...

- [China teenager cracks panel on tourist site's glass bridge; public questions structural quality](#) (2026-06-29 06:00)

A panel of a glass bridge at a popular tourist site in central China was cracked by a teenager wielding an umbrella, raising concerns about its quality among the public. On June 20, a visitor at the Baoquan Cliff World Scenic Area, a national 5A-rated tourism destination in Henan province, reported being evacuated by staff as soon as they stepped onto the signature glass bridge. This rating is the highest and most prestigious in the official tourism rating system. A

spokesperson for the scenic...

- [Nasa turns to robotic spacecraft to save telescope from falling back to Earth](#) (2026-06-29 05:27)

Nasa is racing to save an ageing telescope from falling back to Earth with a daring rescue mission. The US\$30 million salvage operation gets under way as soon as this week with the planned launch of a robotic lifesaver. Nasa hired start-up Katalyst Space Technologies to boost the Swift Observatory to a higher orbit where it can continue hunting for some of the universe's biggest explosions. A three-armed spacecraft built by Katalyst will chase after Swift once it takes off from an atoll in the...

- [Kennedy Town walkway plan needs rethink to match local vibe: harbourfront body](#) (2026-06-29 05:25)

The head of Hong Kong's Harbourfront Commission has called for improvements to the proposal to reclaim land for a popular tourist selfie spot in Kennedy Town, saying the current design failed to fit the neighbourhood's ambience. Ivan Ho Man-yiu, the advisory body's chairman, said on Monday that the design of a proposed offshore walkway at Kennedy Town Praya should reflect the "city mood" of the district. "On its design, commission members have raised a lot of suggestions, and one of the biggest...

- [M+ museum offers free entry to customers caught in design exhibition bottleneck](#) (2026-06-29 05:11)

Hong Kong's M+ museum has offered ticket holders one free entry in the next three months after poor crowd management led to hours-long queues for an exhibition that opened at the weekend, prompting a wave of customer complaints. The venue's "Design Ah! Experience the Wonder of Everyday Design" exhibition in West Kowloon Cultural District drew thousands of visitors on Sunday, who paid either HK\$190 (US\$24) for a standard price ticket or HK\$400 for a combo admitting two adults and one child, among...

- [Chinese tech makes desalinating seawater cheaper than producing bottled water](#) (2026-06-29 05:00)

Desalination has always been an energy-hungry way of turning saltwater into freshwater, making it largely the preserve of wealthy countries with abundant fossil fuel reserves. Yet, an outdoor demonstration prototype in China has managed to exhibit year-long stability with zero utility energy costs, thanks to a new type of photothermal material. The researchers developed an innovative method to weave nanoparticles into a three-dimensional photothermal evaporation material, significantly boosting...

- [Vanuatu-Australia security pact bans 'foreign' military bases](#) (2026-06-29 04:39)

Australia and Vanuatu signed a sweeping economic and security agreement on Monday that bars the establishment of any foreign military base on the Pacific island. Vanuatu is at the

centre of strategic rivalry between China and US allies in the South Pacific, and Australia has expressed concern that Beijing is seeking a permanent security presence in the region. The agreement commits Australia to greater economic support for Vanuatu, whose largest external creditor is China, and it stops a foreign...

- [Japan's new AI police chief takes on US\\$2 billion scam epidemic](#) (2026-06-29 04:15)

She has a young woman's voice, a friendly face and a police chief's badge. Her name is "Aiko" and she may be Japan's most unconventional weapon in a war against fraud that cost the country a record US\$2 billion last year. Aiko – a blend of the abbreviation for artificial intelligence and "ko", the Japanese feminine name suffix – made her public debut in late May on Osaka Prefectural Police's YouTube channel, warning viewers about the tactics used by scammers posing as police officers,...

- [China's aircon scarce in Europe, Wu Chun's luggage ordeal: 5 weekend reads you missed](#) (2026-06-29 04:12)

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. China's AI-powered laser mosquito zapper goes viral after crowdfunding success 2. Why Malaysia's tourism boom lives and dies on a Chinese app 3. As Europe sizzles amid extreme heat, the hunt for China's aircon remains elusive 4. Cathay Pacific says sorry to actor Wu Chun over 3-day luggage delay...

- [Housing minister talks accountability, how to prevent another Tai Po fire](#) (2026-06-29 04:00)

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 step up building renovation inspections and consider spot checks following lessons from the deadly Wang Fuk Court blaze, the housing minister has said in her first remarks addressing accountability for the disaster. In an exclusive interview with the South China...

- [Sheikh Hasina vows to return to Bangladesh 'this year' despite death sentence](#) (2026-06-29 03:36)

Ousted former prime minister Sheikh Hasina has vowed to return to Bangladesh this year, brushing aside a death sentence handed down in absentia and denouncing the ruling as "illegal, unconstitutional and politically motivated". Hasina, 78, who fled to India after a student-led uprising ousted her government in August 2024, said in an interview with Indian broadcaster NDTV that she was undeterred by the risk and would overcome "every obstacle and every conspiracy" to return home. "I want to...

- [China's first AI-powered cancer vaccine production line set to launch in Beijing](#)  
(2026-06-29 03:00)

China has broken ground on what developers say is the country's first production line for AI-assisted personalised tumour vaccines, raising hopes for millions of new cancer patients every year – a disease that ranks as the nation's second-leading cause of death. By October, Beijing-based Likang Life Sciences is expected to complete a new drug research and manufacturing centre in the Beijing Economic and Technological Development Zone, with a total investment of about 110 million yuan (US\$16.1...

- [AI agents that provide 'economic value' are next frontier, says Meta AI research chief](#)  
(2026-06-29 03:00)

The next frontier of artificial intelligence will be agents that can perform “economically valuable” work across a broad range of real-world domains, according to Dawn Song, Meta Platforms' new vice-president of AI research. “The goal is not to replace humans,” Song told the South China Morning Post last week on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Dalian, also known as Summer Davos, days before joining Meta. “But we want these AI agents to be more effective in these important real-world...

- [Worker killed, another unconscious after excavator tips over in Hong Kong](#) (2026-06-29 02:56)

A worker has died and another has been left unconscious after an excavator fell on its side at a Hong Kong construction site. Police said on Monday that they received a report at 9.42am that an industrial accident had occurred on the site on Liberty Avenue in Ho Man Tin. The force said at least one worker had become trapped when the excavator fell on its side. One worker was certified dead on scene, while another was rushed to Kwong Wah Hospital in Yau Ma Tei in an unconscious state, it...

- [Philippines becomes world's top solar spender amid Middle East energy crisis](#)  
(2026-06-29 02:37)

People in the Philippines are flocking to install solar power on rooftops and escape the burden of soaring electricity prices, making it the world's biggest spender on solar panels since the war in Iran started. Top power distributor Meralco has raised prices by 10 per cent since the Middle East conflict began in late February. Now, a median household spends around 12 per cent of monthly income on electricity, assuming it consumes 200 kilowatt-hours – around the monthly average for three...

- [China adds 20 Japanese entities to export-control list over remilitarisation concerns](#)  
(2026-06-29 02:15)

The Ministry of Commerce said on Monday that to deter Japan's “remilitarisation” and its attempts to “acquire nuclear weapons”, it has added 20 Japanese entities “involved in enhancing Japan's military capabilities” to an export-control list. Twenty Japanese entities

have also been added to a separate watch list. The moves were made to safeguard China's national security and interests and to fulfil international obligations such as non-proliferation, the ministry added. A ministry spokesperson...

- [High ceiling to clear? First rectified subdivided flat to be approved soon](#) (2026-06-29 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's first rectified subdivided home is expected to be approved by authorities in the next two months, while about 19,000 flats have already registered for the renovation policy's grace period, the housing minister has revealed. Secretary for Housing Winnie Ho Wing-yin said...

- [EU confronts 'China shock' ahead of pivotal Brussels trade talks](#) (2026-06-29 02:00)

European Union leaders had a week to bask in their rare, relatively united stance on China policy before news broke to remind them of the urgency of their task: German car giant Volkswagen was reportedly planning up to 100,000 job cuts in the face of cutthroat Chinese competition. Seven days previously at a European Council summit in Brussels, leaders from the EU's 27 member states had instructed the European Commission to accelerate its efforts to fight back against what is seen as a damaging...

- [Why would Filipinos holiday at home if abroad is cheaper?](#) (2026-06-29 02:00)

Earlier this year, a screenshot of a domestic airfare went viral in the Philippines for all the wrong reasons. The flight was from Manila to Batanes, the country's remote northern tip. The price: 27,000 pesos (US\$440) – enough to fly to Taipei or Hanoi, check into a decent hotel and still have money for dinner. That disconnect sits awkwardly alongside Manila's latest effort to rev up domestic travel. On Friday, the Department of Tourism launched “Discover More to Love”, a campaign of discounted...

- [Vietnam dissident arrests double under leader To Lam, report says](#) (2026-06-29 01:53)

Vietnam is increasingly using broadly written laws to arrest activists, dissidents and others that authorities consider a threat to the Communist Party's rule, according to a new analysis released on Monday by a human rights group. The 88 Project, which focuses on rights issues in Vietnam, documented 56 such arrests last year, the third consecutive year of increases and double the number in 2022. The report included only arrests where the defendant could be identified by name and the case...

- [To boost birth rate, Hong Kong needs to deliver quality housing](#) (2026-06-29 01:30)

The public consultation for Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chiu's last policy address of his current term is under way. Will he, for example, listen to the people about whether the baby bonus, one of the initiatives aimed at raising the birth rate and which is set to expire in October, should continue? Lee did say in an exclusive interview with the South China Morning Post that his

government plans to “collect wisdom” before deciding. According to the chief executive, Hong Kong experienced a 10 per...

- [‘Pass on the warmth’ : blind Chinese teen aces gaokao, chooses medicine to help others](#) (2026-06-29 01:00)

A teenager from northern China who lost his sight in a brutal attack has emerged as one of the top scorers in the national college entrance examination for students with disabilities. Thirteen years ago, Guo Bin was just six years old when a middle-aged woman lured him away from his home in Shanxi province. After threatening to gouge out his eyes if he continued to cry, the woman attacked him with a tree branch, resulting in permanent blindness. Guo was later found conscious but covered in...

- [Australian energy exploration hits 10-year high as Asian gas demand surges](#) (2026-06-29 00:58)

Energy exploration has picked up sharply in Australia, driven by growing Asian gas demand, technological advances and an improved investment climate, with the Iran war underscoring the urgency to develop supply after years of sluggish spending. Quarterly oil and gas exploration spending in Australia, the world’s No 2 liquefied natural gas producer, hit a 10-year high of A\$471 million (US\$324 million) in the March quarter, government data released in June showed. Energy investment sentiment has...

- [Bigger space, better living: what Northern Metropolis public flats have to offer](#) (2026-06-29 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. New homes in Hong Kong’s Northern Metropolis will offer 10 per cent more space than standard public flats, the housing minister has said while revealing plans to integrate more than 30 estates with the area’s environment, heritage and technology. In an exclusive interview with the...

- [No future at home? Inside the endless Filipino exodus](#) (2026-06-29 00:00)

Victor Lee is not the kind of man to leave behind his family without a reason, but the 34-year-old Filipino has done the sums and decided where life must take him next: Lithuania. His wife does not want him to go. She will be left to care for their child, with a video call standing in for a husband, while Lee hauls cargo through the seaports of the Baltic. His paperwork is nearly done. He has finished his training as a heavy transport operator. He is going. “It’s getting harder and harder to...

- [Sovereign investors with US\\$29 trillion pivot to energy assets, flag dollar fears](#) (2026-06-28 23:29)

Sovereign wealth funds and central banks managing US\$29 trillion in assets are turning to energy assets, and raising concerns about the dollar, in a portfolio reassessment driven by unprecedented geopolitical shifts, according to a survey published on Monday by independent global investment management firm Invesco. The survey of 90 sovereign wealth funds and 54 central banks showed an increasing focus on diversification, and investment portfolios that can “take a hit and still hold it together” ...

- [Chinese farmer’ s forest of cameras fails to bear fruit in compensation bid](#) (2026-06-28 22:30)

A Chinese farmer has generated a buzz online by planting a forest of more than 170 surveillance cameras on his land in the hope of boosting his compensation under a land purchase scheme. Footage circulating on social media – which showed the poles standing almost shoulder to shoulder on a hillside in Badong county, Hubei province – prompted rampant speculation about what could possibly warrant such heavy security for an ordinary orchard. On Friday, the local village committee explained the man...

- [Iran warns ships not to bypass its chosen Hormuz route](#) (2026-06-28 22:27)

Iran’ s top diplomat warned on Sunday that any attempt by ships to bypass its preferred route through the Strait of Hormuz would “increase tensions” in the Middle East, as US and Iranian forces again traded attacks. The exchanges underscored the fragility of a Pakistan-brokered agreement aimed at ending the war launched by the United States and Israel in February that disrupted shipping through the strait and rattled global energy markets. Although a ceasefire took effect in April, sporadic...

- [Trump bashes Washington’ s likely next mayor as he touts Potomac golf course project](#) (2026-06-28 22:02)

US President Donald Trump lashed out on Sunday at Washington’ s presumptive next mayor, calling her a communist who would destroy the capital city, even as he touted grandiose building projects including the refurbishment of a golf course. Trump said in the Truth Social post that he would meet Janeese Lewis George, who prevailed in the Democratic Party mayoral primary on Tuesday which all but assures that she will win November’ s election in the heavily Democratic city. But Trump warned that he...

- [UK’ s likely next leader Andy Burnham to unveil plan to shift power from London](#) (2026-06-28 21:36)

Andy Burnham, the Labour lawmaker expected to replace Keir Starmer as British prime minister, will outline his vision for Britain on Monday, his office said, promising to change how the nation is governed with power moving from London to the regions. Burnham, who returned to Westminster earlier this month after winning a parliamentary seat, is currently the only declared candidate to take over from Starmer and could be installed in Downing Street within weeks. Starmer announced last week he...

- [To tackle elderly poverty crisis, Hong Kong needs to rethink retirement](#) (2026-06-28 21:30)

Hong Kong faces the prospect of a tsunami of elderly poverty sweeping over society in the coming decades. The question is what to do about it. The good news is that there are ways to reduce the severity of the problem. The bad news is that these will take time to be effective, so we need to start work immediately. An important sign of the severity of the situation was provided by a recent study jointly conducted by the Hong Kong Retirement Schemes Association and prominent pension consultant...

- [Serbians keep up protests after President Vucic says he will step down](#) (2026-06-28 21:05)

Thousands of protesters descended on the Serbian city of Kraljevo on Sunday, keeping up pressure on President Aleksandar Vucic a day after he said he would step down within weeks to pave the way for early presidential and parliamentary elections. Although many protesters expressed satisfaction with Vucic's resignation, they fear he may not fully relinquish power. Analysts say he may try to run for prime minister and install an ally in the presidency so he can continue to wield power. "I cannot...

- [Princess Kate scales Britain's highest mountains to raise money for cancer charity](#) (2026-06-28 19:41)

Kate Middleton, Britain's Princess of Wales, said on Sunday she had scaled the three highest peaks in Britain in 24 hours to raise money for a cancer charity and "as a chance to explore life beyond diagnosis and to give something back". Kate, 44, the wife of heir to the throne Prince William, is in remission after undergoing chemotherapy for an undisclosed form of cancer and, while she has returned to royal duties, she has spoken of the toll the illness has taken on her and her family. In a...

- [Ukraine drone assault ignites Russian oil refinery as Putin recognises 'difficult period'](#) (2026-06-28 18:16)

Ukraine kept up its heavy drone assault on Russia, setting fire to a major oil refinery in the south and killing at least two people, Russian authorities said on Sunday, as President Vladimir Putin acknowledged his country is going through a "difficult period". Ukraine has markedly stepped up its long-range attacks on Russian military industries and energy facilities in recent months, aiming to cut Moscow's revenue for its invasion – now in its fifth year – and make Russians feel the...

- [Police in Turkey detain dozens at Istanbul Pride event after authorities banned march](#) (2026-06-28 17:42)

Turkish police on Sunday detained at least 50 people, including a journalist, during a Gay Pride event in Istanbul that went ahead despite a ban by local authorities and the lockdown of the city's main gathering point, organisers said. Police stepped up security around Istanbul's famed Taksim Square, erecting iron barriers, while local officials banned demonstrations in key

rallying areas, including the Asian-side district of Kadikoy. The governor's office also restricted subway transport in...

- [5 members of Israel's Arab minority killed in suspected crime spree](#) (2026-06-28 16:27)

Israel was shaken on Sunday by an unusual series of suspected criminal acts of violence that left five members of Israel's Arab minority dead in a single day. Two people died in explosions involving car bombs in the Tel Aviv district of Jaffa and in the suburb of Holon. Three others were killed in two separate killings in Israel's Arab communities. All four incidents are linked to organised or criminal violence, according to the police's findings so far. Criminal violence has escalated among...

- [HKU student publication Undergrad shuts down after 74 years amid recruitment woes](#) (2026-06-28 15:43)

The Hong Kong University Students' Union publication Undergrad, founded more than 70 years ago and one of the city's longest-running campus news outlets, has ceased operations after failing to recruit enough members to form a new editorial board. In a statement on Sunday, the student union's 2025 editorial committee said it had twice attempted since last September to recruit members for this year's board, but in vain. As a result, the publication stopped operating with immediate effect. "Today,...

- [Pupils as young as 7 hooked on online games as expert warns of alarming trend](#) (2026-06-28 15:19)

Hong Kong school pupils as young as seven are being referred for addiction counselling for online gaming, with requests for help involving increasingly younger children, a digital habits workshop has heard. Crystal Leung Chui-ye, officer-in-charge of the Sunshine Lutheran Centre, a counselling and treatment centre for problem gamblers, revealed the alarming frontline trend at the workshop organised by Young Post and the South China Morning Post's student business, SCMP Learn, which about 70...

- [How is China shaping up in the global competition to sell air defence weapons?](#) (2026-06-28 14:00)

Chinese firms joined their global competitors at Eurosatory, the recently concluded arms fair, where the latest air defences were the centre of attention in a market made more important by the drone warfare seen in Ukraine and the Middle East. Experts said China could anticipate sales from the Global South thanks to its cost efficiency, but geopolitical constraints would continue to bar it from US-allied countries that were looking for combat-proven and interoperable systems. China's largest...

- [The final insurance frontier: Hong Kong spots opportunity in mainland China's space boom](#) (2026-06-28 13:00)

Elon Musk's recent record-breaking SpaceX IPO has thrust the space economy into the financial mainstream, but mainland China's trillion-yuan commercial space sector remains strikingly underinsured – a gap industry insiders say presents a rare opportunity for Hong Kong. On the mainland, only third-party liability insurance is mandatory for commercial space activities. Coverage for research and development, manufacturing, testing, launches and in-orbit operations remained largely optional,...

- [Skydiving plane crash kills 11 in northeastern France](#) (2026-06-28 12:57)

Eleven people, including a pilot and 10 parachutists, were killed when a small plane crashed in the northeastern French town of Tomblaine on Sunday, narrowly missing nearby homes, local officials and a witness said. The aircraft, used by a parachuting school and carrying five trainee skydivers and five instructors, went down soon after take-off, officials said. The students were a group of nurses, according to a source close to the case and confirmed by the head of Meurthe-et-Moselle's...

- [China isn't Europe's real problem](#) (2026-06-28 12:30)

Generals losing a war examine the enemy, battlefield and their own forces. Brussels prefers a different sequence, ordering new weapons first and worrying about the diagnosis later. That instinct was on display at the recent European Council meeting. Faced with a trade deficit it cannot close and dependencies it cannot shake, the European Union agreed on a new label: “global macroeconomic imbalances”. To solve them, European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen was reportedly directed to...

- [UK man arrested after woman's body found in suitcase in Colombia](#) (2026-06-28 12:29)

A British man has been arrested in Ecuador after the body of a woman was found inside a suitcase despite him telling The Sun newspaper that he was watching England at the time. Matthew Ashley Foster-Smith is alleged to have caused the death of 36-year-old Natalia Villalba in a flat in the Chico neighbourhood of Bogota, Colombia, on June 18, local authorities said. But the 46-year-old from Bournemouth reportedly rang The Sun a day before his arrest and said: “I was watching England vs Croatia on...”

- [Saudi Aramco helicopter crash kills 14 near Strait of Hormuz](#) (2026-06-28 12:19)

A helicopter belonging to Saudi oil giant Aramco crashed on Sunday in Ras Tanura on Saudi Arabia's eastern coast on the Gulf, west of the Strait of Hormuz, killing 14 Saudi nationals, the state news agency reported, adding that the cause was unknown. Aramco had resumed crude oil loadings on Friday at its Ras Tanura terminal in the Gulf after they were halted for nearly four months. “The relevant authorities have launched a full investigation to determine the cause of the crash,” the...

- [China leads in GPS-style, reconnaissance and anti-satellite abilities, US report says](#) (2026-06-28 12:00)

China has leapfrogged the United States in a few mighty important sectors of space technologies: GPS-style navigation, spy-in-the-sky reconnaissance and even the ability to knock satellites out of orbit, according to a report from a US think tank. The report from the Washington-based Information Technology and Innovation Foundation said China had rapidly built a powerful commercial space sector under strong state backing and was narrowing the innovation gap with the US. “If the United States...

- [‘I see hope’ : how mindset shifts help Hong Kong cancer patients cope with diagnosis](#) (2026-06-28 11:00)

In the fifth instalment of a six-part Health Matters wellness series on cancer in Hong Kong, Elizabeth Cheung looks at the hidden psychological burden patients face and how support programmes are reshaping treatment. The battle with multiple cancers since the summer of 2024 has taken a mental toll far beyond what Sasa Hui Yuen-sim felt she could manage. The 67-year-old retiree was first diagnosed with breast cancer in June 2024, followed by lung cancer the following year. Between the two...

- [1 dead, 2 seriously injured after minibus mounts pavement, crashes in Hong Kong](#) (2026-06-28 10:44)

One pedestrian was killed and two people seriously injured after a minibus mounted a pavement and crashed in Hong Kong’s Kowloon City district on Sunday. Police received a report at around 5.48pm that a minibus travelling along Argyle Street had mounted the pavement outside Kowloon City Court, injuring three pedestrians, 13 passengers and the driver. Police said three people were seriously injured in the crash, including a 44-year-old pedestrian who was rushed to Kwong Wah Hospital in Yau Ma...

- [‘Heart of Kwun Tong’ : hundreds say goodbye to old Yue Man Square in Hong Kong](#) (2026-06-28 10:36)

Hundreds of Hongkongers gathered in Kwun Tong overnight on Saturday to bid farewell to the streets around a historic town centre before they faded into history, with many stopping to capture one last photograph of a neighbourhood that had been part of their lives for decades. Families, couples and former residents queued beneath the Yue Man Square and Tung Yan Street signs, while others lingered at the busy junction to watch traffic pass through the last time before the roads were permanently...

- [Net result? How a Hong Kong dim sum restaurant went big on the World Cup](#) (2026-06-28 10:20)

At a century-old teahouse in Hong Kong, a crowd of about 30 people huddled around tables packed with dim sum on a Thursday morning as they watched South Africa score against South Korea in the World Cup. Lin Heung Lau’s branch in Sheung Wan has become one of the city’s most unlikely venues for catching football after it opted to capitalise on the World Cup, with its design and marketing director saying the establishment had reaped several benefits. The

business spent more than HK\$200,000...

- [China fires up world’ s biggest superconducting magnet for nuclear fusion project](#) (2026-06-28 10:00)

The world’ s biggest superconducting magnet for a nuclear fusion reactor has passed final tests as part of China’ s CRAFT “artificial sun” project, eclipsing international performance benchmarks. The assembly comprises two coils: a toroidal-field magnet that acts as a magnetic cage, and a central solenoid that serves as the igniter. The results, achieved by researchers with the Institute of Plasma Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, clear a major engineering hurdle on the path to confining a...

- [Singapore’ s Pritam Singh wins vote of no confidence by landslide](#) (2026-06-28 09:48)

In his greatest test since taking the helm of the Workers’ Party (WP) in 2018, secretary general Pritam Singh has survived by a landslide a vote of no confidence within his party, inside sources have confirmed. The Aljunied MP, who leads Singapore’ s most prominent opposition party, faced a special conference on Sunday morning called by 25 cadre members who were pushing for him to step down for breaching the party constitution. Sources confirmed that about 79 per cent of the 107 cadres present...

- [3 held as Hong Kong police seize HK\\$180m of suspected cocaine at typhoon shelter](#) (2026-06-28 09:45)

Hong Kong police have seized 241kg of suspected cocaine estimated to be worth HK\$180 million (US\$23 million) from a typhoon shelter, marking the largest bust in the past year. Acting Senior Superintendent Kwan Chun-hin from the narcotics bureau said on Sunday that police arrested three individuals – the suspected mastermind and two key members of the trafficking syndicate – during the raid at the Aberdeen Typhoon Shelter on Friday. The operation dismantled the group and disrupted its supply...

- [France sees 1,000 excess deaths during record-breaking heatwave](#) (2026-06-28 09:32)

France has recorded 1,000 excess deaths during the blistering heatwave sweeping Europe, the public health agency said on Sunday, warning that the true figure was likely to be higher. Detailing its preliminary count of excess deaths, Sante Publique said most of the fatalities involved older people and that it expected the mortality rate to rise as more information became available about deaths in residential care and homes. Europeans have been enduring blistering conditions during a heatwave...

- [Australian arrested after Thai teen girl found dead in suitcase](#) (2026-06-28 09:03)

The family of a 17-year-old Thai girl whose body was found in a suitcase in Pattaya said they were devastated by her death, for which an Australian man has been arrested and charged with murder. Thai police said they arrested an Australian man in his 40s at Bangkok’ s Suvarnabhumi airport early on Saturday in connection with the killing in Pattaya, about 150km

(93 miles) east of Bangkok. The suspect, identified as Simon Peter Carman, faces charges of murder, concealment of a body, moving or...

- [For an Africa seeking growth, China is proving a reliable partner](#) (2026-06-28 08:30)

On June 4, at a packing facility in Limuru near Nairobi, Kenya, avocados were being prepared for the Chinese market. The scene may seem mundane, but the politics behind it is significant. China has removed tariffs on imports from 53 African countries. African exporters are beginning to think about Beijing less as a distant buyer than as a market that could reshape their margins. When the UN projected 4 per cent gross domestic product growth for Africa for 2026, the figure landed quietly. No...

- [Hong Kong can drive ‘China Opportunity 2.0’ push for global growth: Paul Chan](#) (2026-06-28 08:16)

Hong Kong is uniquely positioned to add value to Beijing’s “China Opportunity 2.0” narrative, serving as a bridge and catalyst for the global expansion of mainland Chinese enterprises, the city’s finance chief has said. Financial Secretary Paul Chan Mo-po also identified the Northern Metropolis megaproject in his weekly blog on Sunday as a destination that would empower mainland firms to commercialise their research outcomes and deepen technological development of both sides. “In the face of...

- [Outrage as China dad forgives girlfriend who killed his son by kicking him in the belly](#) (2026-06-28 08:00)

A father from southern China has sparked public outrage after signing a letter of understanding to forgive his girlfriend, who killed his 18-month-old son by kicking him in the belly. The case, which occurred in Guangdong province, received widespread attention after the boy’s mother, the man’s ex-wife, called for a thorough investigation. The ex-wife, surnamed Xie, stated that she separated from her husband in April last year. They were married for over a decade and had two sons together. She...

- [Japan and South Korea scramble fighters in response to Chinese-Russian bomber patrol](#) (2026-06-28 07:00)

Japan and South Korea scrambled fighter jets in response to a joint Russian-Chinese bomber patrol on Saturday. The People’s Liberation Army Air Force said the patrols passed over the Sea of Japan, the East China Sea and the western Pacific, adding that they showed the two countries’ resolve and ability to safeguard regional peace and stability. It was the 11th patrol of this kind since 2019, but the first this year. Japan’s defence ministry said it had tracked two separate flights involving...

- [Experts offer tips to secure data after Mirror star Stanley Yau loses phone](#) (2026-06-28 06:34)

Hong Kong boy band Mirror member Stanley Yau Sze-chun recently lost his iPhone in the city and was surprised to discover it had surfaced at a market in neighbouring Shenzhen, sparking heated discussions on the internet. Information technology experts noted that retrieving lost or stolen devices from mainland China can be difficult. The South China Morning Post talks to experts for advice on how to handle the immediate frustration of losing a smartphone, and how to prevent data breaches before it...

- [Liberal Islam in Indonesia is sliding into irrelevance](#) (2026-06-28 05:00)

It has been 25 years since Indonesia's Liberal Islam Network (Jaringan Islam Liberal or JIL) was established in March 2001, just three years after Reformasi. The intellectual network has been in disarray for much of the past decade, reflecting the current state of Indonesia's broader liberal and progressive Islamic movement. The old guard, represented by the establishments within Nahdlatul Ulama (NU) and Muhammadiyah, faces elite co-option as they seek access to state resources while also...

- [Steeper prices ahead after Qatar gas supply cut off, HK Electric tells customers](#) (2026-06-28 04:55)

Customers with one of Hong Kong's top energy firms have been forced to bear the brunt of steeper supply costs after the conflict in the Middle East cut off gas from Qatar earlier this year, the company's CEO has said. HK Electric's Francis Cheng Cho-ying said on Sunday that the firm had not received any gas from Qatar since March, after Iranian strikes damaged production facilities that accounted for a significant portion of the contracted gas supply for the Lamma Island power plant. The company...

- [Inside the Singapore travel trend that's swarming China's furniture capital](#) (2026-06-28 04:24)

For a growing number of Singaporeans, furnishing a new home has become reason enough to book a holiday. Not the sort involving beach clubs or Michelin-starred restaurants. Instead, these design-savvy travellers are flying to China armed with camera rolls full of sofa and cabinetry photos, meticulously curated Pinterest boards and floor plans marked with dimensions down to the centimetre, all in pursuit of custom-made furnishings for their homes. Blame it on our collective obsession with our...

- [Widen mental health support for Hong Kong youth beyond high-risk cases, adviser urges](#) (2026-06-28 04:00)

Hong Kong should broaden mental health support beyond high-risk students amid the growing impact of social media on young people, a government adviser has urged, as a prominent tycoon pledged to empower more young philanthropists to tackle the problem. Children who had not shown any of the usual signs of intense difficulty at home or school were taking their own lives, according to Dr Lam Ching-choi, a member of the city's key decision-making Executive Council and the chairman of the Advisory...

- [Why are Chinese audiences going for Korean musicals rather than Western shows?](#)

(2026-06-28 04:00)

As the lights dimmed in the Shanghai theatre, the string quartet struck up once more for the encore. Tina Zhang was fully drawn into the psychological thriller, but it was not until after the show that she found out that the musical was originally from South Korea. Zhang, 39, saw the official Chinese adaptation of Interview for the first time last year. “The logic was tight, the plot was well-structured and interwoven, and it was genuinely engaging,” she said. Over the past few years, a number...

- [Pakistan rattles India with new Chinese-built stealth submarine](#) (2026-06-28 04:00)

The last time Pakistan’s navy operated a submarine in the Bay of Bengal, India sank it. That was 1971. Fifty-five years on, Islamabad is signalling its intent to go back. The vessel delivering that message, PNS Hangor, arrived in Karachi on June 11, the first of a class of eight attack submarines – four built in China, with the remainder to be constructed in Pakistan to develop its shipbuilding capacity. PNS Hangor is named after an earlier Daphne-class submarine that sank the Indian frigate INS...

- [Hong Kong Observatory issues amber rainstorm signal, warns city to brace for rain](#)

(2026-06-28 03:16)

This story has been made freely available as a public service to our readers. Please consider supporting SCMP’s journalism by subscribing. The Hong Kong Observatory has issued the amber rainstorm warning, advising residents to brace for wet weather under the influence of a low-pressure trough along the southern Chinese coast. The forecaster issued the lowest of a three-tier rainstorm warning at 11.10am on Sunday, signalling widespread heavy rain would affect Hong Kong soon. The signal means that...

- [Bangkok votes for governor as Chadchart eyes record term amid urban woes](#) (2026-06-28 03:16)

Bangkok residents began voting on Sunday for governor of the Southeast Asian megacity, with Chadchart Sittipunt tipped to return to City Hall to steer a capital blighted by floods, traffic and pollution. Over 4.5 million Bangkokians are eligible to vote for the governor and 50 council members who will run the city authority. Chadchart, 60, a former transport minister and engineering lecturer, led the polls ahead of Sunday’s ballot, as a man affectionately dubbed “Hulk” seeks a second four-year...

- [China’s big trucks go electric and abroad as subsidies help pave road to net-zero freight](#)

(2026-06-28 03:00)

Domestic makers of heavy-duty trucks are emerging as the latest beneficiaries of accelerating electrification on China’s roads, as technological gains and lower ownership costs are bolstering overseas sales amid a global energy crisis. Southeast Asia and Africa, where Chinese

makers have already established overseas assembly hubs, were expected to serve as new growth engines for companies ranging from FAW Jiefang to Foton Commercial Vehicles, according to analysts at S&P Global Ratings. The two...

- [Iran strikes Bahrain, Kuwait amid US offensive, straining ceasefire](#) (2026-06-28 02:10)

Iran and the US continued their attacks in the Gulf as each accused the other of violating an interim deal signed less than two weeks ago to end their four-month-old war. Shortly after President Donald Trump warned the US might “militarily complete the job”, Iran early on Sunday launched missiles and drones on US military sites in Kuwait and Bahrain, continuing a series of escalating attacks. The US military said earlier it had struck Iran again, hours after a tanker was hit in the Strait of...

- [What Beijing hopes to achieve with new ethnic unity law that targets people overseas](#) (2026-06-28 02:00)

A new Chinese law that pledges to hold overseas individuals and organisations responsible for undermining ethnic unity is mainly intended to have a “deterrent effect”, according to analysts. The Law on Promoting Ethnic Unity and Progress was passed in March and is set to take effect next month, with Article 63 at the heart of the controversy about targeting people outside China. The law provides a new framework which analysts said was designed to counter Western ideological influence and provide...

- [‘Too late’: why some Malukans say a Dutch apology isn’t enough](#) (2026-06-28 02:00)

A recent apology by the Dutch prime minister to the Netherlands’ Malukan community for systemic mistreatment by the state has met with mixed responses; some welcomed the remorse while others demanded concrete action over symbolic words. On June 21, Rob Jetten formally apologised to members of the 75,000-strong Malukan community for the state’s mistreatment of the first generation of Malukans who arrived in Europe 75 years ago from the Maluku Islands in Indonesia, historically known as the Spice...

- [Hong Kong’s AI push needs a broader vision and more realistic goals](#) (2026-06-28 01:30)

Hong Kong cannot be faulted for not working hard enough to catch up in the global artificial intelligence (AI) race. Government funding is flowing generously towards projects focused on AI adoption. In recent years, the government has pumped billions into building the necessary infrastructure, including HK\$2.84 billion (US\$364 million) for a semiconductor centre, HK\$3 billion for an AI subsidy scheme and another HK\$1 billion allocated for an advanced AI R&D institute. In March, the government...

- [Devoted police dog moves millions in China by waiting for injured handler, refusing food](#) (2026-06-28 01:00)

A police dog in southwestern China, who continuously refused food and water while awaiting the return of its injured handler, has captured the hearts of millions online after their emotional

reunion went viral. According to Yunnan police, the officer, known by the alias Awei, hails from Chuxiong in Yunnan province. He is the handler of Bulu, a four-year-old German shepherd specially trained for narcotics detection in complex operational environments. The extent of their partnership and Bulu's...

- [Financial products or illicit gambling? Can Hong Kong regulate prediction markets?](#)

(2026-06-28 01:00)

The legality of prediction markets in Hong Kong has been called further into question, with at least one international brokerage firm operating such a platform in the city, prompting the market regulator to say certain activities may be considered “financial products”. Lawyers were also split on whether the delineation between financial products and illegal gambling was clear under the city's existing laws given the nature of prediction markets, with one saying the latest case highlights a “grey...

- [Will Japan's tourist visa fees, interest rate policy impact its booming property market?](#)

(2026-06-28 01:00)

With Japan imposing higher visa fees for tourists from July while moving away from an ultra-loose monetary policy, foreign investors must prepare themselves for both direct and indirect impacts on their real estate assets, according to agents and analysts. There is a dearth of data on the total number of homes bought by non-residents in Japan, but agents said the two main reasons for purchasing were to either use them as a primary base while they explored the country's tourist destinations, or...

- [Why Malaysia's tourism boom lives and dies on a Chinese app](#) (2026-06-28 00:00)

Stand on the pedestrian crossing outside McDonald's in Bukit Bintang, Kuala Lumpur, and you will understand something about how travel works in the 21st century. To the office workers and taxi drivers streaming past, it is just another junction in Malaysia's biggest city. Yet Chinese tourists will often stop at the side of the intersection, phones raised, capturing a sight only RedNote taught them to see. This is the new geography of Malaysian tourism: shaped less by guidebooks or travel agents...

- [Serbia's President Vucic says he'll resign within weeks, amid student protests](#)

(2026-06-27 21:11)

Serbia's populist President Aleksandar Vucic said on Saturday that he would resign his post within weeks, paving the way for early elections following youth-led protests that shook his tight grip on power. Vucic did not specify exactly when he would resign or when an election, either for parliament or for a new president, could be held. He has said in the past that he could leave the post amid speculation that he would try to switch to the formally more powerful position of prime minister of the...

- [Dan Sullivan can challenge US Senator Dan Sullivan in Alaska primary, judge rules](#) (2026-06-27 19:30)

A man with the same name and party affiliation as Alaska Republican US Senator Dan Sullivan is eligible to challenge the senator in the August primary, a judge ruled on Friday. Superior Court Judge Thomas Matthews' ruling overturns a June 15 decision by Division of Elections Director Carol Beecher to disqualify the challenger and keep him off the primary ballot. Matthews' ruling can be appealed to the state Supreme Court. Lawyers for the state have said Tuesday is the deadline for a final ruling...

- [Venezuela quakes kill almost 1,500, with millions more in need](#) (2026-06-27 19:02)

The death toll in Venezuela's twin earthquake disaster reached 1,430 Saturday, and millions more were feared to lack sanitation and other basic needs, as the first US aid flights trickled into Caracas. Facing public outrage at the response by local officials, US-backed interim Venezuelan leader Delcy Rodriguez said the country was "not alone". The US said one runway at Simon Bolivar International Airport was now functioning and that C-17 US military planes were landing there, while a naval ship...

- [US, Mexico Catholic bishops call for humane treatment of migrants](#) (2026-06-27 14:59)

More than 100 Catholic bishops, nuns, priests and parishioners joined a procession across the US-Mexico border on Friday evening, urging the US government to treat migrants with dignity and respect. The procession, from Nogales, Arizona, to its sister city in the Mexican state of Sonora, was planned to coincide with commemorations of America's 250th anniversary. "We want to be well together. This is what the Church is all about," Bishop of Tucson, Arizona, James Misko said as he celebrated mass...

- [Australia PM: 'too many children on social media', ban too easy to avoid](#) (2026-06-27 13:21)

Australia said on Saturday it would double the maximum penalty it can impose on tech firms found to have failed to uphold a groundbreaking social media ban for children, as evidence mounts that the ban has had little effect on teen use. The government will also strengthen the information-gathering powers of its internet regulator, the eSafety Commissioner, allowing it to compel social media companies to provide evidence of what they have done to stop under-16s from getting an account. Under the...

- [Boy, 11, showing signs of heatstroke dies after run at Hong Kong sports ground](#) (2026-06-27 12:33)

A boy who showed signs of heatstroke, including vomiting and fainting, after completing a 400-metre training run at Tseung Kwan O Sports Ground in Hong Kong has died. A police spokesman said the force was alerted at 5.11pm on Saturday that the boy, 11, had vomited and was displaying signs of heatstroke at the sports complex. "He was sent to Tseung Kwan O Hospital unconscious," the spokesman said. The boy, a Hong Kong identity card holder, was

certified dead in hospital at around 6.50pm. A source...

- [Rise in elite civil servants leaving prompts calls for hiring rethink](#) (2026-06-27 12:01)

The number of elite Hong Kong public servants who resigned or retired climbed by a third in the past financial year compared with the previous one even as overall civil service turnover declined, prompting calls to expand open recruitment for senior posts. Figures from the Civil Service Bureau show that 36 administrative officers left the government in 2025-26, up by 33 per cent from 27 a year earlier. Of the departures, 20 resigned, compared with 18 in 2024-25, while retirements climbed from...

- [‘This is an unhealthy environment’ : Arctic researcher Li Xueke leaves the US for Hong Kong](#) (2026-06-27 12:00)

For climate scientist Li Xueke, the decision to leave the University of Pennsylvania for Hong Kong was a pivot to the front lines of the global green economy. As climate change turns the Arctic into a seasonally navigable ocean, Li’s research on critical new shipping routes could shed light on the economic impacts of a warming planet. Li joined City University of Hong Kong (CityU) last month as an assistant professor in the school of energy and environment, following a decade of study and work...

- [China urges easing of travel barriers as Apec tourism ministers meet in Macau](#) (2026-06-27 11:53)

China will strengthen coordination with other countries to remove bureaucratic barriers and make travel more convenient for international tourists, Beijing’s tourism chief has told an Apec meeting attended by ministers from Hong Kong and other jurisdictions. Sun Yeli, China’s minister of culture and tourism, also called for closer cooperation within the Apec community to promote tourism as a regional economic driver. He highlighted that the “high-quality development of cultural tourism” was a...

- [US ally Bahrain claims Iran attacked navy base as Hormuz closed](#) (2026-06-27 10:13)

Iran said it struck targets linked to US forces on Saturday in response to US air strikes on its southern coast, as each side continued to accuse the other of violating last week’s agreement meant to end the four-month-old war. Iran’s foreign ministry did not identify the locations of its “defensive” attacks, which it said were a response to “the barbaric air strikes” by the US on its coastal surveillance facilities, which it said also violated the UN Charter. Later, Bahrain, which hosts the US...

- [AI K-pop video pulled after anti-drug message backfires for Hong Kong prison service](#) (2026-06-27 10:13)

Hong Kong’s prison service has withdrawn an anti-drug video featuring a beautiful AI-generated virtual K-pop girl group from social media and revised it after internet users said it resembled a promotion campaign for illegal substances. The Correctional Services Department

uploaded the controversial video, titled “Obsession: The Sugar-Coated Trap” , to its socialmedia platforms on Friday. In the video, four pretty AI-generated virtual K-pop idols in fancyclothes sing and dance. One, named...

- [Discovery of fish-eating raptor in Argentina points to prehistoric links with China](#) (2026-06-27 10:00)

Scientists have uncovered a new species of raptor in Argentina that sports the same telltale curved claw as the velociraptors found in China, some 19,000km (11,800 miles) away. Though they were found on opposite ends of the world, these two dinosaurs were close kin – tracing back to a common ancestor from an era when the continents were knitted together to form one big land mass. This discovery, published late last month in the Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology, has prompted scientists to...

- [French heatwave packs hotels as city dwellers struggle to sleep](#) (2026-06-27 09:42)

As France sweltered under one of the worst heatwaves ever recorded this week, city dwellers scrambled for any escape they could find, with many checking into hotels to benefit from air conditioning and access to pools. Temperatures in Paris hit a June record of 40.9 degrees Celsius on Wednesday, a day after France recorded its hottest day since records began nearly 80 years ago. But few private flats in the country have air conditioning, particularly those in the densely populated capital....

- [Why are Hong Kong, mainland universities rising in global rankings as US ones fall?](#) (2026-06-27 09:37)

The global higher education landscape has shifted markedly over the past five years, with universities across Asia, particularly in Hong Kong and mainland China, climbing international rankings while more than 70 per cent of US institutions slipped, a South China Morning Post analysis has found. UK-based education data firm Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) said the trend signalled that excellence in higher education was no longer dominated by a handful of Western countries, attributing the improved...

- [Hong Kong football clubs acknowledge arrests linked to illegal betting, match-fixing](#) (2026-06-27 09:30)

Two of the 19 people reportedly arrested this week as part of a major crackdown on an illegal bookmaking ring in Hong Kong have been identified as prominent football coaches in the city. Lo Kwan-yee, head coach of local first division champions Supreme, and Poon Man-chun, coach of the under-18 and under-22 teams at local Premier League champions Kitchee and father of Hong Kong international Max Poon Pui-hin, were said to be among those linked to a group involved in match-fixing and handling...

- [Thousands pack Hong Kong’s Tsim Sha Tsui promenade for annual dragon boat races](#) (2026-06-27 09:00)

Thousands of spectators and paddlers have descended on Hong Kong's Tsim Sha Tsui promenade to cheer and compete as the 50th anniversary of the city's annual International Dragon Boat Races gets under way. More than 220 teams comprising over 4,500 paddlers from 16 jurisdictions, including Hong Kong, Australia and Qatar, are competing in the two-day event that started on Saturday, drawing tourists and locals alike to cheer on their favourite teams as they race across Victoria Harbour. Visitors...

- [China confirms death of pilot in Citic Tower plane crash](#) (2026-06-27 08:48)

Authorities in China have confirmed the death of the pilot of a light sport aircraft that hit Beijing's tallest skyscraper on Friday. In a statement on Saturday, the Chaoyang district government said the pilot was alone in the two-seater plane when it hit Citic Tower. In addition, 13 people were injured in the incident. The statement, issued after hours of silence, said the crash took place at 5.55pm on Friday and the circumstances surrounding the incident were still under investigation. It did...

- [Can Andy Burnham fix Britain's essential services and debt problem?](#) (2026-06-27 08:30)

Nowadays, prime ministers and even presidents cower before the mighty bond markets. These have the ability – in democracies, at least – to have leaders ejected from office via the ballot box, as even US President Donald Trump appears to acknowledge. However, it is not enough to simply offer dismissive gestures towards the bond markets, as some political leaders have discovered to their cost. It is much more important to ask why it is that bond markets have become so powerful. It is refreshing in...

- [Time runs out for thousands missing after Venezuela earthquakes](#) (2026-06-27 08:24)

The situation has grown more desperate by the hour in Venezuela as people dig through the rubble of collapsed homes and flat blocks three days after the devastating one-two punch of 7.2 and 7.5-magnitude earthquakes, knowing time is running out to find survivors. Authorities announced on Friday night that they would block access to La Guaira, the epicentre of the destruction, as chaos and traffic began to hamper search efforts. Officials said anyone who wanted to enter would now have to seek...

- [India's late monsoon rains leave cities and fields parched](#) (2026-06-27 08:15)

The late arrival of India's monsoon season and below-average rainfall have caused problems ranging from planting delays for farmers to water restrictions for construction sites in its largest business hub, Mumbai. Water shortages have been reported around the country due to the late start of the rainy season, which typically begins in June but has grown erratic in recent years. Climate experts said El Nino, a warming of the Pacific that affects weather around the globe, combined with an already...

- [Cathay Pacific says sorry to actor Wu Chun over 3-day luggage delay ordeal](#) (2026-06-27 08:03)

Hong Kong flag carrier Cathay Pacific Airways has apologised to actor and singer Wu Chun after the star, who was featured in its recent promotional campaign, vented his frustration online at the airline's failure to find his missing luggage despite his "countless" phone calls over three days. The incident sparked a public outcry against the airline, reportedly prompting the company to apologise and take immediate action to track down his luggage. The airline confirmed the incident on...

- [China 'Spider-Woman' single mum cleans, repairs high-rises to support disabled son, ailing mother](#) (2026-06-27 08:00)

A single mother in eastern China has won widespread admiration online for her remarkable dedication, braving a job suspended hundreds of metres in the air to support her family. In Hefei, Anhui province, Xu Junyun works on the exterior walls of high-rise buildings, secured by two safety ropes. Known online as "Spider-Woman," this 36-year-old cleans, repairs, and waterproofs structures to fund her son Xiaoyu's treatment, who has cerebral palsy. After graduating from university, Xu initially...

- [Thousands flock to PLA airbase amid Hong Kong handover celebrations](#) (2026-06-27 07:32)

Thousands of residents have braved the scorching heat to watch helicopter demonstrations and try out military equipment at a PLA airbase near Hong Kong's border. Military enthusiast Kin Man arrived at Shek Kong with his mother from Tai Po more than an hour before the 9am opening on Saturday. They were among the first ticket holders in line for the open day, part of celebrations marking the 29th anniversary of the city's handover on July 1. "I'm interested in everything military, especially the..."

- [Malaysia's Johor election campaign begins as federal allies clash](#) (2026-06-27 07:24)

Malaysia's southern Johor state was braced for a bruising 14-day election campaign on Saturday after 172 candidates were cleared to contest a poll pitting Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim's federal allies against each other in one of the country's most economically important battlegrounds. The state, which borders Singapore, goes to the polls on July 11, with 2.72 million voters eligible to choose representatives for 56 seats. Analysts said the contest would test both the reach of federal partners...

- [When Hong Kong hosted its first International Film Festival in 1977 - SCMP archive](#) (2026-06-27 07:15)

This article was first published on June 28, 1977. Film festival off to impressive start by SCMP reporter Hongkong's First International Film Festival got off to an impressive start last night (June 27, 1977). It was not quite the glittering social occasion as the Cannes Film Festival and there certainly was not the profusion of topless models and eager starlets that the Mediterranean occasion produces. But the cocktail party that opened the festival in City Hall yesterday did bring together...

- [How does this NGO help Hong Kong fire victims, needy people get a dignified farewell?](#)

(2026-06-27 07:00)

On a drizzly, windy morning in June, a family gathered before a tombstone at Wo Hop Shek Cemetery in northern Hong Kong to bid farewell to a loved one who died in the Wang Fuk Court fire. Beneath the muddy grave and scattered stones lies a man surnamed Hung, in his forties, among the 168 victims of the city's deadliest fire in decades. Last November's inferno also displaced nearly 5,000 residents. Unlike many victims who were cremated, Hung's family insisted on a burial. "He passed in the blaze,...

- [Filipino teenager, 17, drowns after falling from Peng Chau bridge in Hong Kong](#)

(2026-06-27 06:24)

A Filipino teenager has drowned after losing his balance while walking on a bridge and falling into the sea off an outlying island in Hong Kong, the South China Morning Post has learned. According to a source, the 17-year-old boy, who held a Hong Kong identity card, was chatting with two friends while sitting on the railings of Chau Tsai Bridge on Peng Chau on Friday evening. At around 7.18pm, he stood on the railings and walked a few steps before losing his balance and falling into the sea, the...

- [China removes 6 generals from legislature as military anti-corruption drive continues](#)

(2026-06-27 05:47)

China has removed six senior PLA officers from the country's top legislative body, a sign that President Xi Jinping's military anti-corruption campaign is not slowing down. According to a late-night notice issued by the National People's Congress Standing Committee on Friday, 13 members of the legislature had been removed and one had resigned. Away from the military, those removed included a former top financial regulator and the ex-Xinjiang party chief. There had already been indications that...

- [Dozens arrested in Indonesia after anti-government protest turns violent](#)

(2026-06-27 05:46)

Indonesian police have arrested dozens of protesters following a rally against President Prabowo Subianto's policies in the country's second-largest city, a rights group said on Saturday. Around 100 people gathered near a government building in Surabaya on Friday, journalists on the scene estimated, to protest a fuel price increase and Prabowo's flagship free meals scheme. Some demonstrators hurled rocks towards police and set fire to rubbish in the middle of the road, prompting officers to...

- [Baby Danny's 3-year care order can be cut short if in best interests: Hong Kong minister](#)

(2026-06-27 05:18)

Hong Kong's welfare minister has said a three-year guardianship order granted for home-born baby Danny could be shortened, but only based on professional assessments and the child's best interests. Secretary for Labour and Welfare Chris Sun Yuk-han said on Saturday that the

two-month-old had developed a fever and was admitted to hospital. He is expected to remain under observation for a period before being transferred to a care home. Sun said the government would take good care of the baby...

- [Iran survived 3 months of war. Can it survive the aftermath?](#) (2026-06-27 05:00)

Three months of war with the United States and Israel may not have broken Iran's resistance, but its economy has been brought to its knees. Forty days of American and Israeli bombing in March and early April – targeting energy grids, steel mills, petrochemical plants, ports and transport corridors – were followed by a two-month US naval blockade that sealed off much of what remained. The damage bill has reached an estimated US\$270 billion against a gross domestic product of US\$371 billion in...

- [Hong Kong to expand southbound travel scheme to all 21 Guangdong cities as demand surges](#) (2026-06-27 04:43)

Hong Kong authorities have planned to expand a scheme allowing mainland Chinese motorists to drive into the city for leisure to all 21 Guangdong cities by the first quarter of next year, after applications reached about three times the daily quota. Secretary for Transport and Logistics Mable Chan said on Saturday that about 15,000 motorists had applied through mainland authorities for next month's Southbound Travel for Guangdong Vehicles scheme. The scheme will be extended to all nine mainland...

- [Prediction markets: Hong Kong ban alone will not solve risks, legal experts say](#) (2026-06-27 04:00)

Prediction markets occupy a grey area under Hong Kong's gambling laws, with experts warning that the increasingly popular betting platforms could pose risks related to market manipulation and consumer protection. Lawyers and a legislator said that while a ban could restrict access to these largely unregulated betting platforms, authorities would face challenges in gathering evidence and prosecuting cases. “If there were such a ban, we foresee there would be practical challenges for the...

- [From Kuantan to ‘Oscars of science’ : top Malaysian scientist is constantly adapting](#) (2026-06-27 04:00)

For Dr Thein Swee Lay, the only Malaysian scientist to have won the Breakthrough Prize, cracking a code in gene therapy was easier than hunting down an authentic version of her hometown popiah – or spring rolls – in the US, where she has been based for years. “I have not come across a Malaysian restaurant that sells good popiah. I miss it,” Thein told This Week in Asia in an exclusive interview where she fondly reminisced about her childhood in Malaysia's coastal town of Kuantan. Thein, the...

- [Singapore graduates settle for half pay in brutal jobs market](#) (2026-06-27 03:18)

As the class of 2026 join the race to find jobs, unemployed college graduates in Singapore are taking a last-ditch shot at getting ahead via temporary government-funded gigs that earn them half the median first pay cheque. The government's Graduate Industry Traineeships, known as GRIT, offer a stopgap for graduates to gain industry-relevant experience with government agencies or private businesses, earning between S\$1,800 to S\$2,400 (US\$1,400 to US\$1,850) per month. The lowest end of that range...

- [Hong Kong's Tiu Keng Leng residents win landmark case in 1996 – SCMP archive](#) (2026-06-27 03:15)

This article was first published on June 28, 1996. Rennie's Mill residents win battle for damages by Cliff Buddle and Ng Kang-chung Rennie's Mill residents won their marathon battle with the Government yesterday (June 27, 1996) when a judge ruled they had been treated unfairly and must be paid damages. Mr Justice Raymond Sears said the Government abused its powers by breaching a 35-year-old promise to allow the refugees to stay at the Tseung Kwan O site indefinitely. But the residents were told...

- [Asean's side deals in Myanmar risk missing where the power truly lies](#) (2026-06-27 03:00)

As Asean foreign ministers prepare to meet in Manila from July 21-22, a quiet but significant shift is under way in the bloc's approach to Myanmar. Although the Association of Southeast Asian Nations remains formally committed to the "five-point consensus", several member states appear to be reconsidering the collective pressure strategy adopted since the 2021 coup. Rather than abandoning the consensus outright, they argue that more direct engagement with Naypyidaw may be necessary to encourage...

- [As China's tech firms adapt to AI era, workers worry they'll be 'optimised' out of a job](#) (2026-06-27 03:00)

When a friend checked in on a Meituan employee late last month to see if he had survived the latest round of corporate culling at the food delivery giant, he responded drily: "I don't know whether it will be me next." Anxieties were running high at the company then, after chat screenshots circulated on Chinese social media claiming Meituan planned to slash up to half of its product roles by the end of June, coupled with deep cuts to other departments. While Meituan quickly denied the rumours,...

- [US eases ban on AI model Mythos feared to aid cyberattacks](#) (2026-06-27 02:50)

The US government has allowed Anthropic to release its powerful Claude Mythos 5 artificial intelligence model to some "trusted" US organisations, partially reversing an order two weeks ago to suspend access over national security risks. More than 100 companies and institutions will now have access to Mythos 5, including many Fortune 500 companies, according to a source familiar with the new directive, declining to be identified due to the sensitivity of the matter. Concern that powerful AI...

- [Bangkok's 'Hulk' governor wants a second chance to smash it](#) (2026-06-27 02:00)

You hear “The Hulk” before you see him: Chadchart Sittipunt’s voice carries as he canvasses for a second term as Bangkok governor in the tight, twisting alleys of a working-class canalside community. The nickname, affectionately bestowed upon him by Thai internet users for his muscular frame and passion for running, suits the 60-year-old well. He has been out hustling for votes daily ahead of Sunday’s election, which he appears all but certain to win. Meeting residents in poor communities,...

- [Talking when you eat is bad for you, and other Chinese beliefs](#) (2026-06-27 01:30)

“What did your family talk about at the dinner table?” Snug under the Tuscan sun, at a writing retreat on a permaculture farm outside Florence, I was ready to mine my fondest food memories. For a moment, scenes from films and television flashed across my mind: a montage of vivid dinner conversations and emotional check-ins, stitched together from various coming-of-age stories. The only problem was that I could not claim any of those vignettes as my own. I squinted and dug deeper, into countless...

- [Hong Kong is betting on integration with mainland China but what are the risks?](#) (2026-06-27 01:00)

In the second of a two-part series on the economy as Hong Kong marks 29 years since its return to Chinese rule, Lo Hoi Ying and Leopold Chen look at the city’s efforts at closer integration with the nation and the opportunities and obstacles it presents. Part one can be found here. A question from his niece about how face masks should be recycled prompted materials scientist Eddie Yu to rethink sustainability and inspired him to develop biodegradable materials when he started his company,...

- [Coffee, chillies and cashews: a new recipe to spice up China-Africa trade relations](#) (2026-06-27 01:00)

As China’s relationship with African countries deepens, the country’s influence is spreading into more areas. In our series Jevans Nyabiage looks at how Beijing’s blanket import clearance for three African food products will affect ties between them, and the potential effects for other governments around the world. Beijing is rewriting its trade playbook by bypassing years of protracted bilateral negotiations to grant continent-wide market access for African coffee, chillies and cashews. The...

- [Chinese grandpa works as beauty influencer to fund disabled grandson’s costly treatment](#) (2026-06-27 01:00)

A 75-year-old grandfather became a beauty influencer to raise money for his grandson with a rare disease, saying he did so out of love for his only daughter. Zhu Yunchang, from eastern China’s Jiangsu province, looks after his nine-year-old grandson Cao Jingyan during the day and live streams at night. Zhu usually live streams until midnight, and his wife stays up to keep him company. Zhu is doing this to raise money for Jingyan’s treatment in the form of

injections, which cost around 1.4...

- [Trump unveils new US passport with his own face inside](#) (2026-06-27 00:20)

President Donald Trump on Friday unveiled a rendering of a new limited-edition US passport to mark the country's 250th anniversary of independence, featuring his stern-faced likeness.

"The U.S.A.'s New Passport, which says, 'Welcome, but be good!'" Trump said in a post on his Truth Social platform featuring the passport mock-up. The image features a glowering Trump leaning on his desk and his signature, with the text of the Declaration of Independence in the background. It appears to be based on...

- [Growth agenda: Hong Kong vows stronger exchange with reforms, bond futures and gold push](#) (2026-06-27 00:00)

Hong Kong is pressing ahead with an overhaul of listing rules and the launch of new product initiatives, the city's deputy finance chief said on Friday as the bourse operator marked 26 years as a publicly traded company. Speaking at the anniversary ceremony of Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing (HKEX), Deputy Financial Secretary Michael Wong Wai-lun outlined reforms under review, including optimising weighted voting rights, easing secondary listings by overseas issuers, and expanding flexibility...

- [Malaysia has never had so many Chinese tourists. It wants more](#) (2026-06-27 00:00)

Jane Lyu flew to Malaysia on Tuesday to visit a city that she had never heard of until recently. The 32-year-old engineer from Guangxi, southern China, first spotted it on Weibo. Now, standing outside the pink-domed Putra Mosque in Putrajaya, she explains through a translation app how the country's administrative capital, a planned city barely three decades old, ended up as the first stop on her Malaysian itinerary. Lyu, who arrived as part of a company trip that began in Singapore, is one of...

- [Bible passages to be required reading in Texas public schools](#) (2026-06-26 23:45)

The Texas Board of Education on Friday approved mandated reading lists for public school children that include passages from the Bible – the latest effort by leaders there to infuse the education system with conservative and religious ideals. The Republican-dominated board, in a 9-5 vote with one member absent and not voting, approved the reading lists for over 5 million public school students beginning in 2030. Texas had already mandated that the Bible's Ten Commandments be displayed in all...

- [Young Americans feel more threatened by AI than young Chinese. Why?](#) (2026-06-26 22:08)

My four-year-old son has become fascinated with his new friend, who has endless patience and an answer for everything. She is an artificial intelligence assistant on Doubao, one of China's most popular AI applications. My son, obsessed with space, black holes and galaxies, keeps asking Doubao for related videos. When the video is of low quality or inaccurate, I would stop it and explain it may not be reliable. Despite my concerns about AI-generated information, I let

him interact with AI within...

- [Is the US trying to sway Taiwan's KMT by receiving its legislative speaker?](#) (2026-06-26 22:00)

A high-profile visit to Washington by Taiwanese Legislative Speaker Han Kuo-yu reflects a broader US effort to strengthen ties with the island's main opposition Kuomintang (KMT), according to analysts. Han's trip follows visits to the United States by Taichung mayor and KMT member Lu Shiow-yen in March and KMT chairwoman Cheng Li-wun earlier this month. The succession of arrivals suggested Washington was preparing for political uncertainty after Taiwan's 2028 leadership election by cultivating...

- [Burkina Faso cuts diplomatic ties with ex-ruler France](#) (2026-06-26 20:02)

Burkina Faso's ruling junta on Friday severed diplomatic ties with former colonial ruler France, accusing Paris of persistently acting against its interests. The military regime led by Captain Ibrahim Traore, in power since a coup in September 2022, is pursuing a policy repressive towards critical voices and hostile to Westerners, particularly France. "The government of Burkina Faso hereby informs the national and international community that it has decided to sever diplomatic relations with...

- [US billionaire Leon Black defends US\\$158 million paid to Epstein](#) (2026-06-26 18:12)

Billionaire investor Leon Black said on Friday that Jeffrey Epstein deceived him during a years-long relationship in which he paid the disgraced financier US\$158 million, but insisted he committed no criminal wrongdoing as he appeared before the House Oversight Committee. Black is the 16th person to appear before the committee as part of their broader investigation into the web of wealth and influence around Epstein. Before entering the closed-door deposition, congressman James Comer, the House...

- [Trump threatens 100% tariff on countries that impose digital services tax](#) (2026-06-26 17:48)

US President Donald Trump on Friday threatened a 100 per cent tax on imports from any country that imposes a tax on digital services from American companies. In a post on social media, Trump took aim at European countries that he said are discussing "imminent" implementation of taxes on US companies. The president has repeatedly sought to use tariffs as a way to deter such taxes, but many countries are looking for revenues as their economies increasingly operate in digital realms that are...

- [Trump says Iran struck ship in Hormuz, calls it 'foolish violation' of ceasefire](#) (2026-06-26 17:10)

US President Donald Trump on Friday blamed Iran for carrying out a drone strike on a cargo ship in the Strait of Hormuz, calling it a "foolish violation" of the ceasefire agreement with the US. One drone damaged the upper deck of the ship but the ship was able to proceed, Trump

said. The US shot down three other drones aimed at the ship, he said. His post on social media did not identify the ship or the time of the strike, but on Thursday the British military said a vessel was hit by a...

- [Why the Trump-Xi relationship may be the weakest link in US-China ties](#) (2026-06-26 16:36)

As the summit between Chinese President Xi Jinping and US President Donald Trump fades in the rear-view mirror, marked by anaemic deliverables, poor transparency and missed opportunities, analysts and former US officials point to another disappointment: the world's most consequential relationship has become inordinately dependent on the two nations' top leaders. Trump's May China trip, the first by a US president in nearly a decade, produced vague and contradictory readouts, puffed up promises,...

- [Germany Christmas market attacker, a Saudi psychiatrist, sentenced to life](#) (2026-06-26 15:19)

A German court on Friday jailed for life a Saudi psychiatrist who killed six people and wounded more than 300 when he drove a rented SUV through a crowded Christmas market in 2024. Taleb Jawad al-Abdulmohsen, 51 – an anti-Islam activist and adherent to right-wing conspiracy theories – listened to the verdict from inside a bulletproof glass box, his hands shackled. He was convicted of six counts of murder and 338 counts of attempted murder by the court in the eastern city of Magdeburg. Judges...

- [Former US national security adviser John Bolton pleads guilty to illegally keeping secret info](#) (2026-06-26 15:01)

Former Trump administration national security adviser John Bolton pleaded guilty on Friday to illegally retaining classified information, sealing a deal with federal prosecutors that could allow him to avoid a prison term. Bolton, who became an outspoken critic of President Donald Trump after serving in the Republican's first administration, is scheduled to be sentenced on October 28 by US District Judge Theodore Chuang in Greenbelt, Maryland. Bolton, 77, pleaded guilty to a single count of...

- [Education Bureau to deny pay rise to worker after SMS blunder over school places](#) (2026-06-26 14:10)

Hong Kong authorities have penalised an Education Bureau staff member over a Primary One admission allocation blunder after human error was found to be involved, with the officer to be denied a pay rise and transferred to other roles. The government on Friday revealed the results of its investigation into the incident on June 2 when parents received SMS notifications about their children's primary school allocations, a day before the official announcement. The bureau's hotline was flooded with...

- [Why is no one chartering China's first privately owned research vessel?](#) (2026-06-26 14:00)

The first scientific ship built by private interests in China is still waiting for its first assignment after it launched last month near Wenling, in Zhejiang province, on the east coast, according to Chinese media reports. The 82 metre-long (269-foot), 3,500-tonne Haiying Jiake research vessel was built with 150 million yuan (US\$22 million) raised by 37 Zhejiang fishermen. It is designed to operate anywhere in the world's oceans, including in thin sea ice, and support research ranging from...

- [‘Digital ID cards’ : China moves to regulate AI agents with unified identity system](#) (2026-06-26 13:45)

China is establishing an identity system for artificial intelligence agents, as part of new national standards released on Friday to regulate the next frontier of autonomous technology. The State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR) unveiled the standard for “Artificial Intelligence Agent Interconnection”, aiming to establish a “closed-loop system” with a unified identity management framework for all AI agents, according to a report from state broadcaster China Central Television...

- [Hong Kong civil service chief vows ‘attractive’ pay rise once economy improves](#) (2026-06-26 13:28)

Hong Kong's civil service chief has pledged to deliver a “reasonable and attractive” pay adjustment once the economy and public finances improve, following the legislature's approval of a flat 2 per cent pay rise for civil servants this year. The Legislative Council's finance committee on Friday scrutinised HK\$6 billion (US\$765 million) in spending for the annual pay adjustment for civil servants and associated provisions for subvented organisations, after an earlier decision by the city's top...

- [Venezuela earthquakes death toll rises to 920, other nations rush to help](#) (2026-06-26 13:21)

The official death toll from twin earthquakes that flattened parts of Caracas and surrounding areas rose to 920, the authorities said on Friday. The government has estimated hundreds of people still trapped and missing nearly two days after magnitude 7.2 and 7.5 tremors struck about 160 km (100 miles) west of Caracas. International search and rescue teams from at least 17 countries are being scrambled to Venezuela to help look for survivors of Wednesday's devastating twin earthquakes, the...

- [Small aircraft hits Beijing's tallest skyscraper, prompting evacuations](#) (2026-06-26 13:19)

A light sport aircraft hit Beijing's tallest skyscraper, Citic Tower, on Friday, triggering evacuations and scattering debris across the Chinese capital's central business district. It was not immediately clear whether the crash caused any casualties or how many people had been on board the aircraft. The origin of the aerial vehicle and the circumstances leading to the crash were also unknown. Videos posted to social media showed the aircraft striking the upper floors of the 528-metre...

- [In Venezuela, China's oil-for-loan deals run into debt restructuring, US 'gatekeeper' risk](#) (2026-06-26 13:00)

The United States represents the primary obstacle to continuing oil-for-loan arrangements between China and Venezuela, analysts say, creating a significant wild card in what ranks among the largest debt restructurings in history. Following Washington's abduction in January of Venezuela's then president, Nicolas Maduro, Caracas is set to reveal a US\$240 billion debt pile, according to a Financial Times report on Wednesday. The disclosure, expected in the coming weeks, rivals the €200 billion...

- [Southeast Asia's 'red alert' haze fight faces economic test](#) (2026-06-26 12:40)

A potentially dangerous haze season looms for Southeast Asia, as rising energy and fertiliser costs threaten to weaken fire-prevention efforts just as extreme weather patterns raise the risk of forest and land blazes. Analysts warn that agricultural companies facing pressure from higher production costs may cut corners on sustainable land-clearing practices, including by using fire instead of machinery. The warning comes as the Singapore Institute of International Affairs (SIIA) issued a rare...

- ['We love guns' : school shooting exposes reality of Philippine crisis](#) (2026-06-26 12:30)

Monday's school shooting in the Philippines that killed three students and injured dozens has highlighted the decades-long problem of gun proliferation in the country, easy access to weapons despite theoretically strict laws – and Filipinos' fascination with firearms. One shocking issue that emerged after videos of the shooting were posted online was the quantity of bullets fired and the teenaged shooters' seeming familiarity with weapons. Officers recovered 21 fired cartridge cases, seven lead...

- [Hong Kong moves to curb flow of high liquid content waste in landfills](#) (2026-06-26 12:30)

Hong Kong is seeking to curb the flow of bulk high liquid content waste, such as expired drinks, personal care products and discarded detergents, into landfills, a move conservationists say will protect local waters and coastlines from the risk of toxic leakage. While academics and green groups welcomed the move, the retail sector expressed concern that the new requirement might result in higher recycling and manpower costs that could ultimately be passed on to consumers. The Environmental...

- [Europe wants a new Plaza Accord for China – seriously?](#) (2026-06-26 12:30)

Leaders of the G7 rich nations might have gone into this month's summit in France hoping for a united front against China. But, overshadowed by the conflicts in Iran and Ukraine and alienated by a mercurial US President Donald Trump, the lacklustre gathering came up short. There was no public agreement on how to address the so-called China shock 2.0, the supposed overcapacity issues and currency manipulation that is considered to be the cause of Chinese exports flooding into Europe. Instead of...

- [Hong Kong power firms to give residential customers rebates as bills soar](#) (2026-06-26 12:21)

Hong Kong's two major electricity suppliers will provide rebates to eligible households between August and October to reduce their bills and ease financial pressure after the US-Israel war on Iran pushed up energy prices. HK Electric said on Friday that it would provide a special subsidy of 8 HK cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh) for three consecutive months to residential customers with a monthly electricity consumption of 450 kWh or less. A spokesman said the initiative would benefit around half of...

- [When geography is destiny, Gulf states must diversify their defence, expert says in Dalian](#) (2026-06-26 12:00)

The Gulf states should prioritise diverse defences and domestic capability-building to hedge against uncertain US commitments and volatility in the Middle East, according to an expert at the World Economic Forum's annual meeting in Dalian in northeastern China this week. Sanam Vakil, director of the Middle East and North Africa programme at Chatham House, said on Wednesday that regional governments remained deeply reliant on the United States for security but were increasingly uneasy about...

- [Hong Kong, mainland police smash HK\\$16.8 million cross-border phishing syndicate](#) (2026-06-26 11:57)

Hong Kong police and mainland authorities have smashed a cross-border phishing syndicate that swindled victims out of HK\$16.8 million (US\$2.14 million) by impersonating the Water Supplies Department, resulting in 15 arrests between March and June. The joint enforcement action, code-named Operation Boldhawk, targeted a criminal chain that sent malicious text messages to residents in the city, Superintendent Hui Yee-wai of the police cyber security and technology crime bureau said on Friday. "This...

- [China Eastern buys 25 A330neo widebody jets as domestic interest rises in Airbus' wings](#) (2026-06-26 11:56)

China Eastern Airlines has ordered 25 A330neo widebody jets from Airbus, marking the planemaker's first major long-haul order from a Chinese carrier since last year, as the nation continues to favour the European manufacturer. The list price of the 25 aircraft is about US\$9.35 billion, but China Eastern said in a statement on Friday that it had obtained a "substantial price discount" from Airbus, making the actual cost significantly less than the catalogue price. The Shanghai-based carrier...

- [European hospitals overwhelmed by heatwave, more misery to come](#) (2026-06-26 11:13)

A deadly European heatwave that has saturated hospitals as temperatures soared to record highs was shifting east on Friday, with authorities warning of more misery on a continent not used to stretches of punishing heat. At least 101 million Europeans have roasted for several days in temperatures of over 35 degrees Celsius, with an estimated few hundred people,

including children, thought to have died as a result, many drowning as they sought respite from the inferno. Scientists said in a study...

- [Hong Kong bookshop owners bailed after arrests on suspicion of sedition](#) (2026-06-26 10:57)

The owners of an independent Hong Kong bookshop have been released on bail two days after being arrested by national security police on suspicion of sedition and money laundering, the South China Morning Post has learned. A source familiar with the matter said the two owners of Hunter Bookstore – former district councillor for the now-disbanded Civic Party, Leticia Wong Man huen, 33, and a 32-year-old local man – were released from Sham Shui Po police station at about 4.45pm on Friday and must...

- [Asia's 'dangerous' humid heatwaves push human body to its limits](#) (2026-06-26 10:53)

Southeast Asia is among the most vulnerable regions grappling with growing risks from heatwaves and high humidity, while the period of extreme weather has more than doubled globally over the past five decades. The duration of extreme weather has increased worldwide to an average of 23 days per year from 10 in the 1970s, according to a report by non-profit news organisation Climate Central. Parts of Southeast Asia, South America and coastal West Africa are among the regions that now experience at...

- [Hong Kong court places baby Danny in Social Welfare Department care for 3 years](#) (2026-06-26 10:36)

A Hong Kong court has granted the guardianship of home-born baby Danny to social welfare authorities for three years after his parents were earlier arrested for alleged child neglect. Danny's father, Tsang Wai-bong, revealed on Friday that their two-month-old son would be under the Social Welfare Department's care after the Juvenile Court granted the authorities' application for a protection order at a closed-door hearing. Tsang and his partner Kwan Pui-sin, who previously failed to register...

- [Chinese translation of Tokyo war trial records fill 'critical gap' : state media](#) (2026-06-26 10:04)

For the first time, the complete court records from the Tokyo Trial have been published in Chinese, offering the public in China a detailed look at Japanese war crimes, according to state media. The translation, which spans 40 volumes, took a team of hundreds more than a decade to produce. It filled “a critical gap in domestic historical records”, state news agency Xinhua reported on Thursday. The International Military Tribunal for the Far East – also known as the Tokyo Trial – lasted from May...

- [Heroic Chinese delivery rider dies saving others; final wish was to buy dad a car](#) (2026-06-26 10:00)

The dying wish of a 20-year-old Chinese food delivery rider, who lost his life while rescuing drowning strangers, moved many online and prompted his company to fulfil it. Jin Xiaowu, from southwestern China's Guizhou province, died while saving a father and son on May 27. Jin and his colleague Wang Fangyang were walking along the river after finishing their delivery shifts when they suddenly heard cries for help. A father and son had accidentally stepped into deep water while playing in the...

- [Japan's women-only carriages turn 25](#) (2026-06-26 10:00)
- [Russia reports one of biggest Ukrainian drone attacks, including on Crimea](#) (2026-06-26 09:41)

Russian air defences intercepted 660 Ukrainian drones in a major night-time attack on 12 Russian regions as well as the Russia-held Crimean peninsula, the Black Sea and the Azov Sea, Russia's Defence Ministry said on Friday. It appeared to be one of the biggest drone attacks on Russia and the illegally annexed Crimea since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine more than four years ago. The previous biggest Ukrainian attack over the past year was 556 drones on May 17. In an effort to turn the...

- [US and allies flex military muscle on China's doorstep with multi-front drills](#) (2026-06-26 09:20)

When Japan quietly deployed members of its elite airborne brigade for parachute drills in the Philippines' northernmost province earlier this month, the exercise was not vigorously publicised by officials on either side. The drills on Batan Island, in the Batanes province, formed part of Kamandag – a countrywide mission jointly hosted by Philippine and US marines that ran until Wednesday. Involving some 2,000 troops, the exercise was designed to improve readiness, interoperability and...

- [United States at 250](#) (2026-06-26 09:08)
- [Football players, coaches among 19 arrested over match-fixing and illegal betting](#) (2026-06-26 08:58)

Hong Kong's anti-corruption agency and police have jointly arrested 19 people, including serving footballers and coaches, over illegal bookmaking, with one player accused of both fixing matches and handling illicit bets. Principal investigator Bill Ng Siu-kei of the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) said on Friday that the agency and police had broken up a local syndicate run by individuals within football. The investigation involved personnel from at least five clubs. "They have...

- [Marital duty, faith drive Malaysian women to give in to sex requests: survey](#) (2026-06-26 08:33)

Only half of Malaysian women who were married or in a sexual relationship polled in a nationwide survey said they could refuse sex with their spouse or partner, with those who gave in saying they believed it was their marital duty or that they were guided by their faith. The

survey, commissioned by Muslim women’ s advocacy group SIS Forum and released on Thursday, polled 1,004 women above 18 years old, the Malay Mail newspaper reported. They were categorised into three marital statuses: 61 per...

- [How America lost its swagger after 100 days of war against Iran](#) (2026-06-26 08:30)

Who would have imagined that just over 100 days could so change the world? The US-Israeli “war of choice” on Iran has fundamentally – perhaps, permanently – shifted the global balances of economic, military and political power, and not in America’ s favour. Mix the direct impact of this gratuitous military conflict with the broader effects on global security, efforts to mitigate climate change, contain soaring public debt and “de-risk” after America’ s unilateral efforts to unravel globally agreed...

- [Singapore’ s Lee Kuan Yew seen as cool guy amid Europe’ s deadly heatwave](#) (2026-06-26 08:29)

Singapore’ s cooling strategy, pioneered by founding prime minister Lee Kuan Yew, has come in for praise in Europe, which is sweltering under a deadly heatwave. Even Tesla founder and world’ s first trillionaire Elon Musk has weighed in, calling the late statesman “a genius” . Record-breaking temperatures in countries including Britain, France and Germany have killed dozens, overwhelmed hospitals and led to the closure of schools and cultural sites. Mercury in Paris hit a June record of 40.9...

- [Hong Kong reports 36% rise in FDI inflows so far this year, InvestHK data shows](#) (2026-06-26 08:00)

US and European firms continued to expand their footprints in Hong Kong in the first half of the year, adding new momentum to the city’ s role as a superconnector. A total of 413 companies either set up local entities or expanded their presence in Hong Kong in the first six months of 2026, representing a year-on-year increase of 9 per cent, government investment promotion agency InvestHK said on Thursday. “[The firms] are expected to bring in over HK\$53 billion [US\$6.75 billion] in foreign direct...

- [China tests satellite-linked tracking device on China-Europe railway to stop cargo thieves](#) (2026-06-26 08:00)

A potential hi-tech upgrade to BeiDou-based rail monitoring systems could better protect and track containers on the transcontinental China-Europe railway express, according to the developers of a new mountable device. A team drawn from various state-owned railway enterprises said the device could overcome long-standing logistics challenges in real-time rail container tracking and improve security and safety along the vital land shipping route. The China Railway team examined the existing...

- [South Korean ex-first lady Kim Keon-hee gets 7 years in jail for bribery](#) (2026-06-26 07:55)

A South Korean court sentenced former first lady Kim Keon-hee, already serving time behind bars for corruption, to another seven years' imprisonment on Friday in a jobs-for-gifts scandal. Kim, 53, was found guilty of accepting “high-value precious metals” in exchange for favours in personnel appointments, according to the live-streamed ruling. The court said she “unhesitatingly accepted valuables of a kind that the average citizen would struggle to acquire even once in a lifetime” . Kim is...

- [Asia defence spending](#) (2026-06-26 07:54)

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- [Hong Kong beautician pleads guilty to luring 2 women into Myanmar scam factory](#) (2026-06-26 07:19)

A Hong Kong beautician has admitted tricking two women into forced labour and confinement in Southeast Asia by offering them free flights and accommodation and promising a lucrative reward for transporting 48 million baht (US\$1.4 million) more than a year ago. Poon Sum-yi, 33, pleaded guilty at the District Court on Friday to a count of fraud for luring the two victims into travelling to Thailand, before they were “sold” to a Chinese-run scam factory in neighbouring Myanmar for US\$54,000 in...

- [Malaysia demands US\\$257 million from Norwegian firm over axed missile deal](#) (2026-06-26 07:17)

Malaysia is seeking compensation of 226 million euros (US\$257 million) from a Norwegian defence firm after a deal to deliver a naval missile system was cancelled, despite the Southeast Asian country having paid about 95 per cent of the contract value. The claim comprised 129.86 million euros in direct losses, including payments already made by the government, and 96.26 million euros for additional costs and consequential damages, Defence Minister Mohamed Khaled Nordin told parliament on Friday,...

- [Ex-general seen as main Netanyahu rival ahead of Israel elections](#) (2026-06-26 07:11)

Former Israeli defence chief Gadi Eisenkot is emerging as the main rival to incumbent Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, months ahead of the nation' s parliamentary elections. Eisenkot' s new centrist party, Yashar! (Hebrew for “Straight!” ), has rapidly been gaining popularity in opinion polls. It is currently second behind Netanyahu' s right-wing Likud. Israelis must elect a new parliament by October 27 at the latest, although the vote was most likely to be held on October 20. Opinion polls...

- [Why Chinese exporters and shipping firms remain wary despite the US-Iran peace deal](#) (2026-06-26 07:06)

Iran and the United States may have entered a temporary ceasefire, but uncertainty over the agreement continues to cast a shadow over the operations of Chinese businesses across the Gulf region. While the deal has raised hopes that business activity could gradually resume,

many traders and investors remain reluctant to make long-term commitments. For Abbas Shi, a Chinese businessman who has been helping connect Chinese companies with Iranian partners since 2024, the immediate priority is...

- [Woman dies after fire at Hong Kong flat, 3 others hospitalised](#) (2026-06-26 07:05)

A 50-year-old woman died and three other people were hospitalised after a fire in a Hong Kong flat on Friday that authorities said was caused by a malfunctioning power strip. Police said the blaze broke out at Valiant Court in Ho Man Tin at around 10.04am. Fire services were immediately deployed to the scene and the blaze in the 11th-floor flat was quickly put out. “A preliminary investigation showed the fire arose due to a malfunctioning power strip,” a Fire Services Department spokeswoman...

- [China keeps an eye on AI smart glasses as privacy concerns come into focus](#) (2026-06-26 07:00)

China has issued the first industry code of conduct for smart glasses powered by artificial intelligence, following public outrage over videos taken by users covertly filming strangers with the increasingly popular devices. The voluntary code calls on smart eyewear manufacturers to adopt a “minimum data collection” approach, provide clear indicators when cameras or microphones are active, and obtain explicit user consent before recording. The guidelines were released on Thursday by the China...

- [Buy-back offer officially extended to sole tower spared in Tai Po blaze](#) (2026-06-26 06:38)

Hong Kong authorities have officially extended the buy-back offer to the only block spared in the deadly Wang Fuk Court blaze after more than three-quarters of households indicated their intention to sell their flats to the government. Owners of 78 per cent of the flats at the other seven blocks at the Tai Po estate have already signed letters of acceptance to sell their homes under the resettlement scheme in what was described as “good progress” by the government. Authorities said on Friday...

- [As Chinese EVs expand global footprint, banks raise export forecasts](#) (2026-06-26 06:30)

Spurred by the rising popularity of electric vehicles (EVs), Chinese carmakers are consolidating their foothold in the global auto market, prompting international banks like Goldman Sachs to significantly raise their export forecasts. Buoyant overseas shipments have also effectively created a cushion against falling domestic deliveries and an expected overall sales decline for Chinese automotive groups including BYD and Xpeng, analysts said. “China’s new-energy vehicle exports have been...

- [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 Rodriguez 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 Marzuq Waliyuddin 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 two countries 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 Thermo 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 millionsof 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 service would "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. All tickets 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 quartersuffered the sector's steepest contraction in revenue, plunging 27.9 per cent from HK\$13.44billion (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,...

## Source: The Diplomat China

- [China’s New Investment Regulations Block Strategic Technology Transfer](#) (2026-06-29 12:57)

By adding legal backup to state control of Chinese private companies, Decree No. 837 affects any country receiving their investments. This regulation matters well beyond China itself.

- [Can China's Dong Minority Keep Their Unique Cultural Heritage?](#) (2026-06-26 13:39)

An ambitious university-led research project to document the Dong people's distinctive architecture is revealing a great deal about this marginalized Indigenous group's way of life.

- [After the Iran War, China's Middle East Strategy Will Prioritize the Gulf](#) (2026-06-26 13:23)

China's top priority is now keeping the Gulf states, and above all Saudi Arabia and the UAE, from drawing closer to Washington.

- [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.

## Source: US-China Perception Monitor

- [Narrow but Not Peripheral: Submarine Cables and U.S.-China Guardrails](#) (2026-06-26 20:14)

The post [Narrow but Not Peripheral: Submarine Cables and U.S.-China Guardrails](#) appeared first on U.S.-China Perception Monitor.

- [Why U.S.-China Competition is Losing the Lithium Triangle](#) (2026-06-26 20:08)

The post [Why U.S.-China Competition is Losing the Lithium Triangle](#) appeared first on U.S.-China Perception Monitor.

- [The Real Opportunity of the New Détente with China](#) (2026-06-26 15:23)

The post [The Real Opportunity of the New Détente with China](#) appeared first on U.S.-China Perception Monitor.

- [Opening U.S.-PRC Relations, 54 years later w/ Amb. Chas Freeman](#) (2026-06-26 14:39)

The post [Opening U.S.-PRC Relations, 54 years later w/ Amb. Chas Freeman](#) appeared first on U.S.-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.

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- [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)

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