

CHINA SECURITY ANALYSIS REPORT

AI-Assisted Open Source Intelligence Assessment

Analysis Period: October 25, 2026 - November 01, 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 October 25 to November 01, 2026, China's security posture was characterized by a mix of assertive military activities in contested maritime zones, ongoing cybersecurity threats, and complex diplomatic engagements. The People's Liberation Army (PLA) maintained a significant presence in the Taiwan Strait and the South China Sea, conducting patrols and naval transits that heightened regional tensions. Concurrently, Chinese government-linked cyber actors continued to pose a substantial threat to international critical infrastructure. Diplomatically, while US-China relations saw efforts towards stabilization with agreements on trade and AI dialogue, EU-China relations remained strained due to trade imbalances and proposed import curbs. These developments underscore China's dual strategy of projecting military power and influence while seeking to manage key international relationships.

Key Security Developments

- Increased Military Activity in Taiwan Strait

From October 25 to October 26, 2026, Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense (MND) detected three PLA aircraft sorties, six PLAN vessels, and nine official ships around Taiwan. One of the aircraft sorties notably crossed the median line and entered Taiwan's southwestern and eastern Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ). This activity reflects China's persistent military pressure on Taiwan and its continued disregard for the unofficial median line, serving as a barometer of cross-strait tensions.

- PLAN Carrier Group Transit Near the Philippines

The People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) aircraft carrier Liaoning, accompanied by two Type 055 guided-missile cruisers and one Type 052D guided-missile destroyer, was reported near the Basilan Strait within the Philippine archipelago on October 22, 2026, before moving towards the Celebes Sea and then the Philippine Sea. This deployment, confirmed by the Philippine Armed Forces on October 26, is seen as an attempt by China to intimidate Manila and assert its claims in the South China Sea, potentially simulating a breakthrough of the first island chain and isolating the Philippines or Taiwan in a future conflict.

- Combat Readiness Patrols Around Scarborough Shoal

On October 30, 2026, China's military announced that its naval and air forces conducted combat readiness patrols around Scarborough Shoal, a long-standing

flashpoint between Beijing and Manila in the South China Sea. The People's Liberation Army Southern Theatre Command stated these patrols were a "necessary countermeasure" against "rights-violation and provocative acts" by the Philippines, indicating a continued assertive stance in disputed waters.

- China-Indonesia Joint Counter-terrorism Exercise

The "Sharp Knife-2026" joint counter-terrorism exercise between the Chinese and Indonesian armies commenced in Guangdong province, South China, from late October to early November, with the opening ceremony held on October 27, 2026. This marks the third iteration of the series and the first in 14 years, focusing on joint counter-terrorism and rescue operations in mountainous terrain, including specialized driving, helicopter fast-roping, and manned-unmanned coordination. The exercise aims to deepen practical exchanges and enhance joint operational capabilities in non-traditional security cooperation.

- Chinese Cyber Espionage and Critical Infrastructure Targeting

Cybersecurity researchers reported on October 29, 2026, that China-nexus threat actors, specifically the APT group Warp Panda, exploited a VMware ESX zero-day vulnerability (CVE-2026-41709) to conceal their activities. Additionally, an AI-assisted attack observed on October 25, 2026, leveraged PHP2Shell vulnerabilities combined with a Linux kernel privilege escalation exploit ("Fragnesia") to compromise 25 servers, including three within a U.S. government-affiliated environment, across the U.S., Japan, Taiwan, and South Korea. These incidents highlight persistent and sophisticated state-sponsored cyber threats targeting critical infrastructure and sensitive data.

- US Jails Chinese Nationals for Covert Intelligence Activities

On October 31, 2026, two Chinese nationals were sentenced to 30 months in prison in the US for conducting covert intelligence activities targeting US military personnel. Operating under the direction of China's Ministry of State Security, their activities included arranging secret cash payments, gathering information about military installations, and attempting to recruit intelligence sources within the US military. This underscores ongoing intelligence competition between the two nations.

- Chinese Spy Linked to Nvidia CEO Alarms White House

A Chinese national woman, a senior executive at a Singapore-based data center with close ties to Nvidia's CEO Jensen Huang, was identified as a Chinese spy by U.S. intelligence authorities, as reported on October 31, 2026. This individual, Alice Huang, was reportedly diverting large quantities of Nvidia's advanced AI chips to China, raising alarms at the White House and highlighting China's efforts to acquire advanced technology through illicit means.

- China's Pushback on US Tech Investment Restrictions

On October 25, 2026, China officially pushed back against proposed wider US outbound technology investment restrictions, reserving the right to respond. The US Treasury's proposal, released on October 22, confirmed coverage of biotechnology, advanced computing, and hypersonic systems, with certain investments to be prohibited and others requiring notification. China views these restrictions as disruptive to trade and an infringement on its economic development.

- EU-China Trade Tensions Persist

Despite some dialogue, EU-China trade relations remained tense. On October 27, 2026, Chinese experts warned that the EU was sending mixed signals by planning new curbs on Chinese imports, potentially in sectors like chemicals, furniture, and machinery, as early as the first quarter of 2027. This follows an earlier agreement in October 2026 to cap Chinese hybrid vehicle exports to the EU, which China's Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) interpreted differently from the EU, indicating underlying disagreements on trade imbalances.

- China's Satellite Imagery of Taiwan Landmarks

Taiwan's military vowed vigilance on October 30, 2026, after mainland Chinese state broadcaster CCTV released a 42-second video featuring high-resolution satellite imagery of Taiwan, captured by the commercial Jilin-1 remote-sensing satellite constellation. The footage, labeled "This is China's Taiwan Province," showcased landmarks like Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall and Taipei Port, raising concerns about China's growing surveillance capabilities and its use of technology to reinforce its territorial claims over Taiwan.

Geopolitical Impact and Regional Dynamics

China's security developments during this period have significant geopolitical implications, particularly for regional stability in the Indo-Pacific. The increased military presence and assertive actions in the Taiwan Strait and South China Sea directly challenge the status quo and raise the risk of miscalculation with Taiwan, the Philippines, and the United States. The transit of the PLAN Liaoning carrier group near the Philippines, coupled with combat readiness patrols around Scarborough Shoal, demonstrates China's intent to project power and enforce its territorial claims, potentially isolating the Philippines or Taiwan in a future conflict. This assertive behavior is likely to further solidify alliances and partnerships among regional states and the US, such as the proposed US-ASEAN defense cooperation framework discussed at the ASEAN defense talks in Cebu on October 28-29, 2026.

Relations with major powers present a mixed picture. US-China relations, while still marked by competition, showed signs of tactical stabilization. The meeting between Presidents Xi and Trump on September 25, 2026, led to agreements on reciprocal

tariff reductions and the establishment of a US-China Super Intelligence (AI) Dialogue, with the next exchange scheduled for November 2026. However, underlying tensions persist, particularly concerning US tech investment restrictions, which China has pushed back against, and ongoing cybersecurity and intelligence activities. The EU-China relationship, on the other hand, remains fraught with trade disputes. The EU's consideration of a "kill-switch" mechanism to cut off trading partners and plans for new curbs on Chinese imports signal a hardening stance from Brussels, despite China's calls for dialogue and cooperation. This "dual track" approach by the EU could exacerbate economic tensions and complicate efforts to find common ground.

The joint counter-terrorism exercise with Indonesia, "Sharp Knife-2026," highlights China's efforts to foster security cooperation with Southeast Asian nations in non-traditional security domains. This could be seen as an attempt to build goodwill and counter narratives of Chinese aggression in the region. However, the broader context of maritime disputes and military posturing by China means that such cooperative efforts may not fully alleviate regional anxieties about China's long-term strategic ambitions.

Military and Defense Analysis

China's military activities during this period underscore a continued focus on projecting power and enhancing its capabilities, particularly in maritime and cyber domains. The regular deployment of PLA aircraft and naval vessels in the Taiwan Strait, including median line crossings, demonstrates a consistent strategy of psychological and military pressure on Taiwan. This is further amplified by the transit of the PLAN Liaoning carrier strike group near the Philippines, which suggests an intent to practice operations that could isolate key areas within the first island chain, a critical strategic objective for Beijing. The presence of Type 055 guided-missile cruisers in the Liaoning's escort highlights the modernization of the PLAN's surface combatant capabilities, providing significant area air defense and anti-surface warfare capabilities.

The combat readiness patrols around Scarborough Shoal by both the PLA naval and air forces, as well as the China Coast Guard, indicate a robust and coordinated approach to asserting sovereignty in the South China Sea. This continuous presence and readiness to respond to perceived "rights-violation and provocative acts" by the Philippines reflect a hardened force posture aimed at maintaining control over disputed territories. The "Sharp Knife-2026" joint counter-terrorism exercise with Indonesia, focusing on mountain counter-terrorism rescue operations and manned-unmanned coordination, showcases China's investment in specialized forces and advanced technologies for non-traditional security threats, while also serving as a diplomatic tool to enhance military-to-military ties.

In the cyber realm, Chinese government-linked Advanced Persistent Threat (APT) actors, such as Warp Panda, Volt Typhoon, and Salt Typhoon, continue to demonstrate sophisticated capabilities. Their exploitation of zero-day vulnerabilities in critical software like VMware ESX and the use of AI-assisted attacks to breach government-affiliated environments and critical infrastructure in the US and other countries, highlight China's advanced cyber warfare capabilities and its intent to conduct cyber espionage and potentially disruptive operations. These activities align with the Office of the Director of National Intelligence's 2026 Annual Threat Assessment, which emphasizes persistent cyber threats from Chinese government-linked actors aiming to disrupt critical functions. Taiwan's vigilance against Chinese intelligence-gathering activities, including the release of high-resolution satellite imagery of its landmarks, further underscores China's multi-faceted approach to intelligence and surveillance.

Outlook and Forecast

Short-term trends (1-3 months): In the immediate future, China is likely to maintain its assertive military posture in the Taiwan Strait and South China Sea. We can anticipate continued regular patrols, naval exercises, and air incursions, particularly around Taiwan and disputed features like Scarborough Shoal. These actions will likely be calibrated to test responses from Taiwan, the Philippines, and their allies, without necessarily escalating to direct conflict. Diplomatic engagements with the US will likely continue to focus on managing competition, with the upcoming US-China AI Dialogue in November 2026 serving as a key indicator of progress on technology governance. However, friction over US tech investment restrictions and ongoing cyber espionage will remain significant points of contention. EU-China trade relations are expected to remain strained, with the EU likely to move forward with proposals for new import curbs in early 2027, potentially leading to retaliatory measures from Beijing.

Critical flashpoints and risk areas: The Taiwan Strait remains the most critical flashpoint. Any significant increase in the scale or frequency of PLA median line crossings or ADIZ incursions, especially those involving more advanced aircraft or larger naval formations, could rapidly escalate tensions. The South China Sea, particularly around Scarborough Shoal and other disputed features, is another high-risk area where close encounters between Chinese and Philippine vessels or aircraft could lead to unintended confrontations. The ongoing cyber activities by Chinese state-linked actors against critical infrastructure in the US and allied nations pose a constant threat of disruption and espionage, with potential for significant economic and security impacts. The upcoming local elections in Taiwan in November 2026 could also be a flashpoint for increased Chinese influence operations, including

cyberattacks and AI-generated content, aimed at polarizing the electorate.

Indicators to monitor: Key indicators to monitor include the frequency and nature of PLA military activities in the Taiwan Strait and South China Sea, particularly any changes in the types of assets deployed or the proximity of operations to contested territories. Observing the outcomes and tone of the US-China AI Dialogue and any further developments regarding US tech investment restrictions will be crucial for assessing the trajectory of bilateral relations. For EU-China relations, monitoring the specifics of any new EU import curbs and China's response will indicate the level of trade friction. In the cybersecurity domain, vigilance for new advisories from agencies like CISA regarding Chinese APT activities and exploited vulnerabilities will be essential. The rhetoric from Chinese officials regarding Taiwan and the Philippines, especially in response to perceived provocations, should also be closely watched.

Strategic recommendations: For the US and its allies, maintaining a strong and visible military presence in the Indo-Pacific, coupled with robust defense cooperation frameworks with regional partners, is crucial for deterrence. Enhancing cybersecurity defenses and intelligence sharing to counter Chinese state-sponsored cyber threats and espionage is paramount. Diplomatically, a consistent and unified approach to China, balancing areas of cooperation with firm stances on areas of contention, is necessary. For Taiwan, strengthening its self-defense capabilities, improving resilience against cyberattacks and influence operations, and fostering international support are vital. Regional nations should continue to uphold international law in maritime disputes and explore multilateral mechanisms for conflict resolution and de-escalation.

Structured Assessment

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ANNEX: COLLECTED ARTICLES BY SOURCE

Source: BBC China

• Crypto giant Binance hit by hack suspected to be largest in history (2026-10-30 05:15)

Two analytics firms have attributed the incident to a North Korean hacking unit called TraderTraitor.

• China made Mbappé apologise - but many don't know exactly what he said (2026-10-29 23:03)

His comment about Chinese leader Mao sparked anger but censorship left many wondering what exactly happened.

• Record number of purges as Xi emphasises 'party discipline' at China political gathering (2026-10-29 11:34)

Xi's anti-corruption campaign has become "an effort to consolidate and maintain authority", observers say.

• Hong Kong's leader apologises for deadly high-rise fire (2026-10-29 09:46)

The massive blaze at Wang Fuk Court in November 2025 was the deadliest the city had seen in decades.

• Hello Kitty maker cuts ties with Japanese spy drama after China backlash (2026-10-29 03:16)

Sanrio has apologised after its merchandise line with Japanese TV series Vivant drew criticism.

• India and China were easing tensions - then a border official spoke out (2026-10-28 00:06)

India-China ties were on a cautious recovery path until a border official’s remarks raised fresh doubts about ground realities.

• China's families are now supporting more old people than kids (2026-10-27 23:16)

The latest figures mark a major milestone as Beijing grapples with an ageing population.

• Mbappé dropped by major Chinese brands as backlash grows over Mao joke (2026-10-27 10:19)

He allegedly said the funniest "meme" about him is the one where they put his face on "a Chinese dictator".

• China's big political meeting could see Xi 'tighten discipline' in party (2026-10-26 07:40)

The highly secretive four-day Plenum starts Monday in Beijing.

• China's big political meeting could see Xi 'tighten discipline' in party (2026-10-26 07:40)

The highly secretive four-day Plenum starts Monday in Beijing.

Source: CGTN

• Tai Po Fire: HKSAR government responds with accountability and reform (2026-11-01 02:56)

Tai Po Fire: HKSAR government responds with accountability and reform

• This ginkgo couple has been together for 500 years! (2026-11-01 02:49)

This ginkgo couple has been together for 500 years!

• Swiss President arrives in Beijing as trade ties take center stage (2026-11-01 02:38)

Swiss President arrives in Beijing as trade ties take center stage

• G20 FM meeting ends without joint communique amid deep divisions (2026-11-01 01:23)

A two-day meeting of the Group of 20 (G20) foreign ministers ended in Atlanta on Saturday without a joint communique, as participants failed to reach consensus on major global geopolitical and economic security issues amid the Ukraine crisis and the US-Iran conflict.

• China's Geely Auto Group to enter the Canadian auto market in 2027 (2026-10-31 19:41)

The Chinese electric vehicle automaker Geely has announced it’s coming to Canada. The company says that it has assembled a local team and begun building out a retail and service network.

• Alibaba's Qwen to integrate into Apple Intelligence in landmark deal (2026-10-31 15:02)

Alibaba's Qwen to integrate into Apple Intelligence in landmark deal

• China Coast Guard patrols around China’s Taiwan island (2026-10-31 13:44)

China Coast Guard patrols around China’s Taiwan island

• Fact Check: Colombia gym video falsely linked to earthquake in Xizang (2026-10-31 12:27)

A video showing people fleeing a shaking building was falsely shared on social media as footage of the magnitude-7.0 earthquake that struck southwest China's Xizang Autonomous Region in October. Fact Hunter traced the clip to a gym in Pereira, Colombia, filmed in August, nearly two months before the earthquake even happened.

• Top scientists debate AI at World Laureates Forum (2026-10-31 12:17)

Top scientists debate AI at World Laureates Forum

• From Karakoram to Arabian Sea, Ep. 3: A Friendship Across Generations (2026-10-31 10:16)

From Karakoram to Arabian Sea, Ep. 3: A Friendship Across Generations

• China-Africa green mobility cooperation gains momentum (2026-10-31 09:51)

More than 700 industry, government and finance delegates from over 20 African countries converged at Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium in Gqeberha, South Africa, for a major automotive partnership conference to explore joint pathways for local manufacturing, green transport transition and cross-border connectivity.

• Graphics: Post-fire reforms for Wang Fuk Court (2026-10-31 09:16)

Graphics: Post-fire reforms for Wang Fuk Court

• China warns sidelining development undermines human rights (2026-10-31 08:59)

China on Friday called for stronger international cooperation to advance the right to development, and urged countries to put development at the center of the global agenda amid widening inequalities and mounting challenges facing developing nations.

• Global housing forum opens in China with focus on affordable housing (2026-10-31 08:36)

The world has a housing problem and it shows up mostly in the cities, where nearly half of humanity is crammed. Shining a spotlight on the crisis, the 2026 Global Observance of World Cities Day opened in Fuzhou, east China's Fujian Province, under the theme "Regenerating the City: Adequate Housing for All." It's bringing global attention to the urgent need for safe, affordable housing.

• 2026 World Laureates Forum: Backing the next generation of scientists (2026-10-31 07:44)

2026 World Laureates Forum: Backing the next generation of scientists

• Observing Hong Kong's governance after 2025 Tai Po fire (2026-10-31 07:41)

Observing Hong Kong's governance after 2025 Tai Po fire

• 70 years on, why global buyers keep coming back to Canton Fair (2026-10-31 07:37)

70 years on, why global buyers keep coming back to Canton Fair

• Why CPC stresses unwavering efforts to enhance Party self-governance (2026-10-31 07:16)

The Fifth Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), held in Beijing from October 26 to 29, has placed sustained efforts to advance full and rigorous Party self-governance at the center of its agenda, outlining a systematic plan to strengthen the Party's long-term governing capacity. Why is the CPC emphasizing the issue at this particular

juncture, and what does the latest decision mean for the Party's future development?

• Film 'Caravan of Gratitude' to hit theaters in China on November 6 (2026-10-31 06:48)

The new film Caravan of Gratitude – which invites audiences to better understand the Chinese values of filial respect through a moving, visually immersive narrative – is set to hit theaters in China next Friday.

• Gang Aoping: HKSAR govt. responded to Tai Po fire with accountability (2026-10-31 06:01)

Gang Aoping: HKSAR govt. responded to Tai Po fire with accountability

• Hainan's digital reporting system streamlines grassroots governance (2026-10-31 02:49)

Hainan's digital reporting system streamlines grassroots governance

• China's GJ-21 drone completes first takeoff, landing on assault ship (2026-10-31 02:43)

China's first shipborne stealth reconnaissance-strike integrated drone GJ-21 has recently completed its first takeoff and landing operation aboard the Sichuan, China's first Type 076 amphibious assault ship, a navy source said.

• Tea, tunes and ties: China-Germany cultural exchanges flourish (2026-10-30 16:24)

Tea, tunes and ties: China-Germany cultural exchanges flourish

• Peng Liyuan chats over tea with wife of German president (2026-10-30 15:50)

Peng Liyuan chats over tea with wife of German president

• How the CPC charts path for full and rigorous Party self-governance (2026-10-30 14:35)

The 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China held its fifth plenary session from Monday to Thursday in Beijing, adopting a resolution on persevering with full and rigorous Party self-governance, which also highlighted the importance of anti-corruption.

• Analysts hail CPC's focus on self-governance, putting people first (2026-10-30 14:28)

The fifth plenary session of the 20th Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee highlights the CPC's core strengths of self-governance and putting people first, attributes that underpin China's leapfrog development and provide useful governance references for political parties elsewhere, according to foreign analysts.

• Central government office commends HKSAR's probe into residential fire (2026-10-30 13:56)

A spokesperson for the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) said on Thursday that the HKSAR government's efforts to investigate the major fire at the residential complex Wang Fuk Court demonstrated a serious and fact-based approach to accountability in accordance with the law, demonstrating

responsible administration.

• PLA conducts combat readiness patrols around China's Huangyan Dao (2026-10-30 12:07)

Naval and air units of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Southern Theater Command (STC) on Friday conducted combat readiness patrols in the territorial sea and airspace of China's Huangyan Dao and its surrounding areas.

• Oman's sultan to visit China (2026-10-30 11:32)

Oman's sultan to visit China

• Xi's special envoy to attend 4th Youth Olympic Games opening (2026-10-30 09:51)

At the invitation of the government of the Republic of Senegal, President Xi Jinping's Special Envoy and Director of China's General Administration of Sport Gao Zhidan will attend the opening ceremony of the fourth Youth Olympic Games in Dakar, Senegal, on October 31, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson announced on Friday.

• President Xi holds welcome ceremony for German president (2026-10-30 09:50)

President Xi holds welcome ceremony for German president

• Xi: China glad to see greater German role in European, global affairs (2026-10-30 09:49)

China's policy toward Germany is consistent, stable and predictable, and China is happy to see Germany play a greater role in European and international affairs, Chinese President Xi Jinping said on Friday.

• Chinese, Swiss presidents attend cooperation document signing ceremony (2026-10-30 09:48)

Chinese President Xi Jinping and President of the Swiss Confederation Guy Parmelin on Friday witnessed the signing of a protocol to upgrade the free trade agreement and multiple cooperation documents covering areas such as scientific research, employment and the media.

• Xi stresses Party self-governance to ensure strong CPC leadership core (2026-10-30 09:47)

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, stressed the need to persevere with full and rigorous Party self-governance to ensure that the CPC remains the strong leadership core in advancing socialism with Chinese characteristics.

• Xi meets Swiss president, calls for closer China-Europe economic ties (2026-10-30 09:41)

Chinese President Xi Jinping met with President of the Swiss Confederation Guy Parmelin in Beijing on Friday, calling on both countries to inject confidence and greater certainty into China-Europe economic and trade cooperation as well as global economic development.

• Opportunities for All: Small enterprises shine at the Canton Fair (2026-10-30 09:41)

Opportunities for All: Small enterprises shine at the Canton Fair

- China unveils first Fengyun satellite AI models for extreme weather (2026-10-30 09:29)

China unveils first Fengyun satellite AI models for extreme weather

- Golden autumn transforms desert-edge landscape in NW China (2026-10-30 08:44)

Located in Yanchi County, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region in northwest China, the Haba Lake Ecotourism Area lies on the southern edge of the Mu Us Desert, where sandy landscapes meet forests, lakes and grasslands.

- China to extend stay for APEC Business Travel Card holders to 90 days (2026-10-30 08:35)

China to extend stay for APEC Business Travel Card holders to 90 days

- Outdoor art in Beijing: International Sculpture Park (2026-10-30 07:33)

CGTN's Ioana Gomoi explores Beijing's International Sculpture Park in Shijingshan District, where around 200 sculptures from more than 40 countries turn an ordinary walk into an open-air art experience.

- Have you ever tasted apples from China? (2026-10-30 07:33)

Have you ever tasted apples from China?

- Austrian Chancellor Christian Stocker to visit China November 2 to 7 (2026-10-30 07:31)

Austrian Chancellor Christian Stocker to visit China November 2 to 7

- Frontier tech: Sharing AI dividends across Asia-Pacific (2026-10-30 07:18)

Frontier tech: Sharing AI dividends across Asia-Pacific

- China says emerging technologies should better serve maritime security (2026-10-30 06:43)

A Chinese envoy on Thursday called for efforts to ensure that emerging technologies better serve maritime security and people's well-being.

- Wang Yi holds talks with Icelandic counterpart on bilateral ties (2026-10-30 06:10)

Wang Yi holds talks with Icelandic counterpart on bilateral ties

- MOFCOM address EU's possible trade arrangement expansion to chemicals (2026-10-30 06:09)

MOFCOM address EU's possible trade arrangement expansion to chemicals

- Graphics: Wang Fuk Court Fire – Casualties and accountability (2026-10-30 05:27)

Graphics: Wang Fuk Court Fire – Casualties and accountability

• CPC's membership, grassroots network give it unique strength: official (2026-10-30 05:21)

The Communist Party of China (CPC) has more than 100 million members and over 5.4 million primary-level Party organizations, giving it a powerful advantage unmatched by any other political party in the world, a senior official said on Friday.

• Yantai: freshness between mountains and sea (2026-10-30 05:09)

Yantai: freshness between mountains and sea

• President of Swiss Confederation Guy Parmelin arrives in Beijing (2026-10-30 04:46)

Swiss President Guy Parmelin has arrived in Beijing for a three-day visit to China, with trade and economic cooperation high on the agenda.

• CPC outlines four areas of focus in anti-corruption drive (2026-10-30 03:59)

The Communist Party of China (CPC) has outlined four areas of focus for steadfastly following a distinctive Chinese path to combating corruption in a resolution adopted at a plenary session of the CPC Central Committee, a senior anti-graft official said Friday.

• Beyond the stage: Young musicians make a difference (2026-10-30 03:30)

How can young people use their talents and passions to make a difference in society?

• CPC to promote Party building in emerging sectors: official (2026-10-30 03:24)

The Communist Party of China (CPC) has stressed the need to promote Party building in emerging sectors in a resolution adopted at a plenary session of the CPC Central Committee, an official said on Friday.

• CPC Central Committee holds press conference on plenary session (2026-10-30 03:24)

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, has played a decisive role in drafting the Party leadership's Resolution of the Central Committee of the CPC on Certain Major Issues concerning Persevering with Full and Rigorous Party Self-Governance, a senior official said on Friday.

• UN names China's Blue Bay initiative world restoration flagship (2026-10-30 02:28)

China's Blue Bay Restoration Initiative was named a World Restoration Flagship by the United Nations (UN) on Thursday during the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP17) in Yerevan, Armenia.

• CPC Central Committee holds press conference on plenary session (2026-10-30 02:00)

CPC Central Committee holds press conference on plenary session

• Thousands of birds take to the skies over Yellow River Delta (2026-10-30 01:48)

Thousands of birds take to the skies over Yellow River Delta

- Golden hues everywhere! Autumn at its finest! (2026-10-30 01:39)

Golden hues everywhere! Autumn at its finest!

- Chinese FM holds talks with Icelandic foreign minister (2026-10-29 15:11)

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi held talks with Icelandic Foreign Minister Thorgerdur Katrin Gunnarsdottir in Beijing on Thursday.

- Communique of the Fifth Plenary Session of 20th CPC Central Committee (2026-10-29 14:30)

The 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China concluded its fifth plenary session on Thursday in Beijing with a communique issued.

- Hong Kong reveals findings of probe into deadly residential fire (2026-10-29 13:37)

China's Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) government on Thursday released a report on the investigation into a major fire at the residential complex Wang Fuk Court, announcing accountability measures and follow-up reforms.

- China echoes UN's call for an end to decades-long US embargo on Cuba (2026-10-29 13:17)

China echoes UN's call for an end to decades-long US embargo on Cuba

- German president: climate cooperation requires 'all our skills' (2026-10-29 13:14)

German president: climate cooperation requires 'all our skills'

- Hello Kitty maker Sanrio apologizes, ends ‘VIVANT’ tie-up (2026-10-29 12:53)

Hello Kitty maker Sanrio apologizes, ends ‘VIVANT’ tie-up

- Career prospects and cultural appeal draw global learners to Chinese (2026-10-29 12:21)

Chinese is attracting learners worldwide who see it as a means of strengthening cross-cultural communication and expanding future opportunities.

- China firmly opposes US blacklisting of Chinese firms (2026-10-29 12:15)

China on Thursday strongly condemned and firmly opposed the United States' decision to add three Chinese entities to the so-called "Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act Entity List," accusing Washington of using human rights as a pretext to suppress Chinese businesses and pursue unilateral protectionism.

- How does China combat corruption? (2026-10-29 12:09)

How does China combat corruption?

• The new global pact to save the ocean (2026-10-29 12:06)

The new global pact to save the ocean

• Chinese FM warns of anti-China smears in Japanese cultural products (2026-10-29 12:01)

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun on Thursday urged the international community and people of insight in Japan to stay alert to forces in Japan seeking to smear China through cultural products and spread anti-China sentiment.

• China: Japan's obstinate push for bloc confrontation finds no support (2026-10-29 11:20)

The Chinese Defense Ministry on Thursday slammed the so-called US-Japan joint exercises, stressing that Japan's insistence on stoking bloc confrontation finds no support.

• Beyond protected areas, stakeholders conserve China's biodiversity (2026-10-29 11:19)

Beyond protected areas, stakeholders conserve China's biodiversity

• Geoscientists assess earthquake damage in Xizang (2026-10-29 10:41)

Geoscientists assess earthquake damage in Xizang

• CPC plenum concludes, adopting resolution on persevering with full, rigorous Party self-governance (2026-10-29 10:37)

The 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) held its fifth plenary session from Monday to Thursday in Beijing, adopting a resolution on persevering with full and rigorous Party self-governance.

• Austrian buyer says Canton Fair is all about reliability and trust (2026-10-29 10:01)

Austrian buyer says Canton Fair is all about reliability and trust

• China calls on Japan to stop hyping up a 'neighboring security threat' (2026-10-29 09:55)

China calls on Japan to stop hyping up a 'neighboring security threat'

• China slams Philippines over ADMM-Plus participation obstacles (2026-10-29 09:40)

The Chinese Ministry of National Defense on Thursday criticized the Philippines for obstructing China's participation in the 13th ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus), saying Manila's actions undermined the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' (ASEAN) unity and regional defense cooperation.

• Xi extends condolences to Spanish king over deadly train collision (2026-10-29 09:36)

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Thursday sent a message of condolence to Spanish King Felipe VI over the deadly high-speed train collision in the Spanish province of Toledo.

• China's subway stations offer more than just a ride (2026-10-29 09:35)

Subway stations in China are becoming more than just transport hubs. From gyms and canteens to evening classes and even marriage registration, they are offering a growing range of services for everyday life.

- Dreamy clouds wrap UNESCO Mount Fanjing (2026-10-29 08:00)

An autumn sea of clouds recently appeared on Mount Fanjing, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in southwest China's Guizhou Province.

- China Popcast: Games like 'Phantom Blade Zero' set for global impact (2026-10-29 07:58)

Ahead of the release of the Chinese-developed game "Phantom Blade Zero," China Popcast meets game scholar Professor Liu Mengfei at the Homo Ludens Archive, a game archive and research center.

- China expands foreign business access at Hainan free trade port (2026-10-29 06:37)

China has unveiled 16 measures to make it easier for foreign businesses and professionals to operate in the Hainan Free Trade Port (FTP), the world's largest FTP by area, with new policies covering energy trade, medical services and bonded business operations, according to a government circular made public on Thursday.

- German president highlights China-Germany cooperation in Anhui visit (2026-10-29 05:48)

German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier has hailed China-Germany cooperation on his state visit to China, stressing that cooperation between the two countries is worthwhile.

- A 'CT scan' for roads? See how it works! (2026-10-29 05:20)

A 'CT scan' for roads? See how it works!

- China is putting ecosystems on the road to recovery (2026-10-28 13:10)

China is putting ecosystems on the road to recovery

- The Long March | Why It's More Than a Chinese Story (2026-10-28 12:20)

Cambridge historian Hans van de Ven argues that the Long March and the broader Chinese revolutionary experience, more than being merely national events, were actually of global significance, not only transforming China's destiny but also profoundly influencing the course of 20th-century world history.

- Real Madrid apologizes to Chinese people over Mbappe's remarks (2026-10-28 12:02)

Real Madrid apologizes to Chinese people over Mbappe's remarks

- Former Chinese Vice Premier Liu Yandong passes away at 81 (2026-10-28 11:54)

Former Chinese Vice Premier and State Councilor Liu Yandong passed away due to illness at the age of 81 in Beijing at 2:53 p.m. Wednesday.

• Why are scientists putting 'blankets' on a glacier in China? (2026-10-28 11:50)

Why are scientists putting 'blankets' on a glacier in China?

• Overseas buyers source quality supplies from Canton Fair (2026-10-28 10:44)

Overseas buyers source quality supplies from Canton Fair

• China calls for open cooperation with Europe (2026-10-28 10:38)

China calls for open cooperation with Europe

• China says it takes note of Mbappe's apology over China remarks (2026-10-28 10:30)

China takes seriously French football star Kylian Mbappe's apology for his earlier inappropriate remarks about China, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said on Wednesday.

• A Hong Kong family's 70-year journey with the Canton Fair (2026-10-28 10:26)

A Hong Kong family's 70-year journey with the Canton Fair

• Chinese mainland slams DPP's budget for US military observers (2026-10-28 10:21)

Chinese mainland slams DPP's budget for US military observers

• COP17 nears conclusion as negotiators make progress but face hurdles (2026-10-28 08:41)

COP17 nears conclusion as negotiators make progress but face hurdles

• Gold falls, shoppers flock: Inside China's 'Jewelry Capital' (2026-10-28 08:32)

What happens when gold dips below $4,000 an ounce? Head to Shuibei, Shenzhen's gold and jewelry trading hub.

• President of Swiss Confederation to pay working visit to China (2026-10-28 08:22)

President of the Swiss Confederation Guy Parmelin will pay a working visit to China from October 30 to November 1, the Chinese Foreign Ministry announced on Wednesday.

• Governance thrives when it follows the people's will (2026-10-28 08:02)

"Governance flourishes when it follows the will of the people; it collapses when it runs against the will of the people." This ancient wisdom still rings true: A policy's success depends not on how well it's written, but on whether people truly embrace it.

• "The future is here!" US student explores Shenzhen before APEC 2026 (2026-10-28 07:56)

Ryan Corkery, an American student from Maryland, visited Shenzhen ahead of APEC China 2026. To him, the future is already in Shenzhen.

• China urges US to immediately end blockade and pressure on Cuba (2026-10-28 06:17)

China's permanent representative to the United Nations Fu Cong on Tuesday urged the United States to immediately end its blockade and pressure on Cuba.

• Mainland to help more Taiwan products enter its market: spokesperson (2026-10-28 05:42)

The mainland will continue implementing a package of 10 policies and measures to help more high-quality agricultural, fishery and other products from Taiwan expand their presence in the mainland market, a spokesperson said on Wednesday.

• Zhang Yufei, Zhang Zhanshuo shine as Asian records tumble in Beijing (2026-10-28 05:22)

Zhang Yufei, Zhang Zhanshuo shine as Asian records tumble in Beijing

• Yang Yang strikes double gold at World Weightlifting Championships (2026-10-28 05:22)

Yang Yang strikes double gold at World Weightlifting Championships

• Australia returns two cultural relics to China (2026-10-28 05:15)

China's National Cultural Heritage Administration received two lost Chinese cultural relics returned by Australia at the National Gallery of Australia on Wednesday.

• More than 200 scientists to join 2026 World Life Science Conference (2026-10-28 05:14)

The 2026 World Life Science Conference will be held at the Guangzhou Baiyun International Convention Center, south China's Guangdong Province, from November 28 to 30, organizers announced Wednesday at a press conference.

• China tightens rules governing cadres through institutional oversight (2026-10-28 05:10)

China tightens rules governing cadres through institutional oversight

• Centella: How China's Communist Party charts its course (2026-10-28 04:26)

Centella: How China's Communist Party charts its course

• Social media, China travel fuel global interest in learning Chinese (2026-10-28 04:01)

Chinese songs, cultural references and playful online challenges are sparking interest in Chinese among people around the world.

• Villagers moved into prefabricated houses after the earthquake (2026-10-28 03:02)

Villagers moved into prefabricated houses after the earthquake

• HKSAR suspends import of poultry products from areas in Denmark, US (2026-10-28 02:22)

Hong Kong's food safety authority decided on Tuesday to suspend the import of poultry meat and products from Lolland Municipality in Denmark and Jackson County in the State of Minnesota, US, due to avian influenza outbreaks in these regions.

• China's internet expo opens November 2 with 6G, AI agents and robots (2026-10-27 14:12)

China's internet expo opens November 2 with 6G, AI agents and robots

• Xi extends condolences over death of Japan's former PM Yasuo Fukuda (2026-10-27 12:15)

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Tuesday extended condolences to the family of the late former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda.

• Full, rigorous party self-governance: How the CPC stays accountable (2026-10-27 12:15)

In 2012, the Communist Party of China (CPC) introduced a set of rules governing officials' conduct. The document was just over 600 Chinese characters long, and its provisions might have sounded trivial: no floral arrangements at meetings, no lavish dishes at official receptions, no luxury hotels on business trips, and no road closures or traffic restrictions to clear the way for officials.

• Xi congratulates Lula on re-election as Brazilian president (2026-10-27 11:28)

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Tuesday extended congratulations to Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on his re-election as president of Brazil.

• Post-Earthquake water purification in place for people and livestock (2026-10-27 10:54)

Post-Earthquake water purification in place for people and livestock

• Gao Fu: Fighting 'Disease X' requires global cooperation (2026-10-27 09:49)

Gao Fu: Fighting 'Disease X' requires global cooperation

• China-backed biodiversity fund puts $4.5 mln into 9 projects worldwide (2026-10-27 09:42)

China-backed biodiversity fund puts $4.5 mln into 9 projects worldwide

• China to send envoy to promote peace and talks in Middle East (2026-10-27 09:25)

China to send envoy to promote peace and talks in Middle East

• Re-created ironed paper models bring a lost craft to life (2026-10-27 08:44)

A set of re-created models of the Qianlong Garden, located within Beijing's Palace Museum, offers a glimpse into a model-making technique unique to China.

• China lodges representation over UK police's excessive law enforcement (2026-10-27 08:41)

China has expressed strong dissatisfaction and grave concern regarding the arbitrary and excessive law enforcement actions of the British police, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson said on Tuesday.

• US, China bear global responsibility to cooperate, veteran pilot says (2026-10-27 08:40)

US, China bear global responsibility to cooperate, veteran pilot says

• China holds UN exhibition marking Tokyo Trial's 80th anniversary (2026-10-27 08:39)

An exhibition marking the 80th anniversary of the opening of the Tokyo Trial opened at UN Headquarters in New York on Monday.

• China, Indonesia hold joint counter-terrorism training (2026-10-27 08:38)

The opening ceremony for the "Sharp Knife 2026" joint army counter-terrorism training between China and Indonesia was held in south China's Guangdong Province on Tuesday.

• Photo exhibition captures modern senior life in China (2026-10-27 08:37)

A photography exhibition titled "Life Takes Place," dedicated to the lives of modern-day senior citizens, is currently on view at the Taikang Art Museum in Beijing's Central Business District.

• Tracing the Vision: Listening to the Grassroots (2026-10-27 07:39)

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

• Film market tops 31.5 billion yuan, with new 'film + sports' momentum (2026-10-27 07:32)

China's box office has surpassed 31.5 billion yuan (around US $4.7 billion) as of October 26, 2026, including pre-sales, according to Maoyan, a Chinese film industry data platform. More than 400 titles have hit screens in the country this year, covering comedy, action, sci-fi, thriller and animation.

• Post-disaster resettlement efforts continue in pastoral village (2026-10-27 07:29)

Post-disaster resettlement efforts continue in pastoral village

• The heart of governance: Sharing the people's joys and sorrows (2026-10-27 07:25)

"He who delights in the people's joys will find the people delighting in his; he who grieves over the people's sorrows will find the people grieving over his." This ancient wisdom from Mencius still matters: Good governance isn't cold management – it's empathy.

• The rule of law: Where governance begins (2026-10-27 06:59)

"Law is the foundation of governance." This ancient wisdom still rings true: Good governance cannot rely on personal will – it must rest on rules and the rule of law.

• More than a match: How ping-pong connects people beyond the table (2026-10-27 06:34)

More than a match: How ping-pong connects people beyond the table

• Li Hongquan scores 27 as Shanghai beats Guangdong 99-87 in CBA (2026-10-27 06:22)

Li Hongquan scores 27 as Shanghai beats Guangdong 99-87 in CBA

• Belt and Road Green Innovation Conference 2026 opens in Hong Kong (2026-10-27 06:14)

Belt and Road Green Innovation Conference 2026 opens in Hong Kong

• Electronics, high-tech manufacturing drive China's industrial profits (2026-10-27 05:54)

Electronics, high-tech manufacturing drive China's industrial profits

• Poll shows 55% of Japanese favor more dialogue with China (2026-10-27 05:37)

More than half of Japanese respondents believe the government should provide more opportunities for dialogue with China, according to a newly released Nikkei and TV Tokyo poll.

• Art Up Close | Ancient walls, new sounds (2026-10-27 04:47)

What happens when Peking Opera meets the cello inside a 400-year-old temple?

• China sees steady growth in domestic tourism in first 9 months (2026-10-27 01:52)

China's domestic tourism market posted solid growth in terms of both trips and travel spending from January to September this year, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism said on Monday.

• Completion ceremony held for renovated CPV martyrs' cemetery in DPRK (2026-10-27 01:46)

A completion ceremony for the renovation project for Chinese People's Volunteers (CPV) martyrs' cemeteries was held Saturday in Sinphyong County, North Hwanghae Province of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), on the occasion of the 76th anniversary of the CPV's entry into the DPRK to fight in the War to Resist US Aggression and Aid Korea.

• Xi's speech marking 90th anniversary of Long March victory published (2026-10-26 15:05)

A speech by Chinese President Xi Jinping at a ceremony commemorating the 90th anniversary of the victory of the Long March of the Chinese Workers' and Peasants' Red Army has been published as a booklet.

• A seafood feast relies on a healthy ocean (2026-10-26 14:44)

A seafood feast relies on a healthy ocean

• Steinmeier's China visit to deepen bilateral ties on shared interests (2026-10-26 13:38)

German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier's visit to China highlights the importance of dialogue, mutual trust and shared economic interests in advancing bilateral ties. Stronger China-Germany engagement can also help manage differences and bring greater stability to China-EU relations.

• Canadian scholar: China-proposed GGI offers multipolar order of peace (2026-10-26 13:05)

The China-proposed Global Governance Initiative (GGI), launched one year ago at a time of " great chaos" in the world, reinforces China's resolve to act as a force of peace and invites all countries to build a multipolar world order that puts people at its heart, a Canadian scholar said.

• China mourns Fukuda as an old friend committed to bilateral ties (2026-10-26 12:55)

China mourns Fukuda as an old friend committed to bilateral ties

• China hopes India will work in same direction to maintain border peace (2026-10-26 12:32)

China strictly abides by relevant agreements and common understandings reached with India and conducts routine border patrols and control activities to safeguard its territorial sovereignty and maintain stability in border areas, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said on Monday.

• New family of fungi found in Yunnan has massive fruiting body (2026-10-26 12:08)

New family of fungi found in Yunnan has massive fruiting body

• Why was this grassland a "Sea of Death" during the Long March? (2026-10-26 11:53)

Why was this grassland a "Sea of Death" during the Long March?

• Smart innovation reshapes China's camping exports (2026-10-26 11:34)

Smart innovation reshapes China's camping exports

• Diplomats: this Long March exhibition is inspiring (2026-10-26 11:07)

Diplomats: this Long March exhibition is inspiring

• Wenzhou summit puts young scientists at the center of innovation (2026-10-26 10:43)

Wenzhou summit puts young scientists at the center of innovation

• China opposes US smearing, stigmatization of Confucius Institutes (2026-10-26 09:48)

China opposes the smearing and stigmatization of Confucius Institutes, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said on Monday, after the United States placed the institutes on a "threat list" last week.

• China congratulates Lula on his presidential election victory (2026-10-26 09:43)

China on Monday congratulated Brazilian incumbent President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on his victory in the country's presidential runoff, pledging to work with Brazil to further advance the building of a China-Brazil community with a shared future.

• Nepal plans flood warnings, glacial lake risk reduction (2026-10-26 08:53)

Nepal plans flood warnings, glacial lake risk reduction

• Honoring the Long March: China's new journey into the future (2026-10-26 08:52)

More than 90 years ago, the Chinese Red Army crossed snow-covered mountains and vast grasslands, breaking through blockades and surviving immense hardship. Their sacrifice and determination made the Long March one of the most remarkable journeys in modern history.

• Learn widely, reflect daily: Ancient wisdom for modern governance (2026-10-26 08:51)

"A gentleman learns widely and examines himself daily; thus, his wisdom becomes clear and his conduct free from fault." This ancient teaching pairs broad learning with daily self-reflection – looking outward for knowledge, inward for self-scrutiny.

• Hot Take: Why rocket trails look like jellyfish (2026-10-26 08:38)

Hot Take: Why rocket trails look like jellyfish

• Good governance, nourished people: An ancient Chinese lesson (2026-10-26 08:29)

"Virtue lies in good governance; governance lies in nurturing the people." This ancient teaching pairs moral integrity with practical governance – true virtue must deliver results, and the ultimate test is whether people's lives improve.

• Hong Kong to host 94th Interpol General Assembly (2026-10-26 08:10)

Hong Kong to host 94th Interpol General Assembly

• Iceland's foreign minister to visit China (2026-10-26 07:38)

Iceland's foreign minister to visit China

• 20th CPC Central Committee starts fifth plenary session (2026-10-26 05:58)

The 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) started its fifth plenary session in Beijing on Monday morning.

• Mobile canteens, water purification stations sent to quake-hit Xizang (2026-10-26 04:21)

Mobile canteens, water purification stations sent to quake-hit Xizang

• How the CPC stays strong through self-renewal (2026-10-26 03:42)

How the CPC stays strong through self-renewal

• China marks anniversary of Taiwan's recovery (2026-10-26 02:11)

China on Sunday marked the 81st anniversary of its recovery of Taiwan and observed Taiwan Recovery Day, with commemorative events held across the Taiwan Strait to honor the shared history of resistance against Japanese aggression and reaffirm calls for national reunification.

• Health, emergency services back post-quake resettlement in Xizang (2026-10-26 01:41)

Rescue and relief efforts continue after a magnitude-7 earthquake struck southwest China's Xizang Autonomous Region, with public health and epidemic prevention work underway in affected areas, according to local authorities.

• Yeyahu Wetland added to IUCN Green List (2026-10-25 14:31)

Yeyahu Wetland added to IUCN Green List

• Global Governance Forum calls for stronger multilateral cooperation (2026-10-25 14:25)

Global Governance Forum calls for stronger multilateral cooperation

• Track laying completed on Chongqing-Kunming high-speed railway (2026-10-25 14:15)

Track laying completed on Chongqing-Kunming high-speed railway

• Xizang earthquake: 60 temporary homes set up in hardest-hit Maru (2026-10-25 13:34)

Xizang earthquake: 60 temporary homes set up in hardest-hit Maru

• 2026 Baoji Marathon kicks off, drawing runners from all walks of life (2026-10-25 13:34)

2026 Baoji Marathon kicks off, drawing runners from all walks of life

• China launches new internet satellite group (2026-10-25 13:30)

China launches new internet satellite group

• Global creators revitalize Jingdezhen’s millennia-old craft (2026-10-25 13:15)

Global creators revitalize Jingdezhen’s millennia-old craft

• How technology is making government services easier in Hainan (2026-10-25 12:38)

How technology is making government services easier in Hainan

• Knowing China Through the Classics (2026-10-25 11:56)

President Xi Jinping quoted these words by Tang Dynasty poet Bai Juyi at a CPC Central Committee group study session on June 26, 2015.

• How Chinese suitcases won fans at Canton Fair (2026-10-25 10:46)

How Chinese suitcases won fans at Canton Fair

• Global funding for nature still falling short: Paulson Institute (2026-10-25 10:14)

Global funding for nature still falling short: Paulson Institute

• Xi, Belgium's king exchange congratulations on 55 years of ties (2026-10-25 10:09)

Chinese President Xi Jinping and Belgium's King Philippe on Sunday exchanged congratulations on the 55th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

• Xi Jinping's key remarks on correct view of 'governance performance' (2026-10-25 09:55)

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, Chinese president and chairman of the Central Military Commission, has stressed that establishing and putting into practice a correct view of governance performance is a long-term task that requires sustained efforts.

• China’s rural revival: How a cliffside village defies isolation (2026-10-25 09:19)

For generations, rural communities across Africa have watched their young people leave in search of better opportunities in cities. But in a remote mountain village in southwestern China, a different story is unfolding–one built around connecting communities, improving livelihoods and making rural life more viable.

• Chrysanthemum show in Beijing offers a feast for the eyes (2026-10-25 08:30)

The 47th Beijing Chrysanthemum Exhibition has opened at Beihai Park, featuring more than 50,000 chrysanthemum plants in over 600 varieties. The exhibition runs through mid-November.

• Foreign expert on China's journey toward national rejuvenation (2026-10-25 08:23)

Foreign expert on China's journey toward national rejuvenation

• World Young Scientists summit sparks global cooperation potential (2026-10-25 07:50)

World Young Scientists summit sparks global cooperation potential

• How does the CPC address the challenges of long-term governance? (2026-10-25 07:47)

As a political party that has been in power for decades, the Communist Party of China recognizes that it faces enduring challenges in maintaining its governing capacity and staying connected with the public. These include the tests of governance, reform and opening-up, the market economy and the external environment, as well as the risks of complacency, inadequate governing capacity, detachment from the people and corruption. Pointless formality, bureaucratism, hedonism and extravagance pose additional challenges to effective governance.

• Taiwan's restoration: A victory achieved across the strait (2026-10-25 07:43)

As China marks the 81st anniversary of its recovery of the Taiwan region and observes the second Commemoration Day of Taiwan's Restoration on Sunday, the occasion offers an opportunity to revisit a pivotal chapter in history – one shaped by the shared struggle of people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait against Japanese aggression.

• Jilin-1 satellites unveil high-resolution images of Taiwan region (2026-10-25 07:40)

To mark the 81st anniversary of Taiwan's restoration, China's Jilin-1 satellites have released a series of stunning high-resolution images that clearly capture streets and landmarks from space.

• China marks 81st anniversary of Taiwan's restoration (2026-10-25 07:25)

China marks 81st anniversary of Taiwan's restoration

- A green running team at the 2026 Baoji Marathon (2026-10-25 06:26)

The 2026 Baoji Marathon kicked off on October 25 with a focus on keeping the course clean.

- Chengdu's title hopes suffer setback as Dalian wins 1-0 in CSL (2026-10-25 05:24)

Chengdu's title hopes suffer setback as Dalian wins 1-0 in CSL

- CIIS report urges wider AI access for developing countries (2026-10-25 05:16)

CIIS report urges wider AI access for developing countries

- A Dream of Reunification (2026-10-25 05:07)

Shan Sheng spent over six decades living overseas. A committed advocate of China's reunification, as a trained lawyer he made a key contribution to the formulation of the Anti Secession Law, which was adopted in March 2005. It was a day that Shan Sheng described as "the happiest... of my life."

- Tracing the Vision: The Ecology of Prosperity (2026-10-25 05:07)

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

- Report on Global Governance Initiative released in Xiongan (2026-10-25 03:25)

A report on the Global Governance Initiative (GGI) was released on Saturday at the 2026 Global Governance Forum (Xiongan) in the Xiongan New Area, north China's Hebei Province.

- 'Happy 55th birthday': UN officials reaffirm stance on China's UN seat (2026-10-25 02:29)

Senior United Nations officials have reaffirmed the world body's unwavering adherence to UN General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 2758, as Sunday marks the 55th anniversary of the restoration of China's lawful seat at the UN.

Source: China Defense Blog

- Photo of Army Aviation Black Hawk helicopters airlifting a Type 56 85mm gun (2026-10-31 04:02)

a { text-decoration: none; color: #464feb; }tr th, tr td { border: 1px solid #e6e6e6; }tr th { background-color: #f5f5f5; }An old photo from the 1980s for sure, but it is worth another look because it tells us quite a bit about how the PLA approaches defense procurement. One of the themes I keep coming back to is that the PLA's modernization story is not really about buying

- Just Photos: Y-15 with winglets (2026-10-30 05:11)

a { text-decoration: none; color: #464feb; }tr th, tr td { border: 1px solid #e6e6e6; }tr th { background-color: #f5f5f5; }Fresh images of the Y-15 medium transport show the Chinese-designed turboprop continuing to evolve, with notable updates including the addition of winglets.

- Y-12C with a Pair of AEP60E Turboprops (2026-10-29 02:25)

a { text-decoration: none; color: #464feb; }tr th, tr td { border: 1px solid #e6e6e6; }tr th { background-color: #f5f5f5; }a { text-decoration: none; color: #464feb; }tr th, tr td { border: 1px solid #e6e6e6; }tr th { background-color: #f5f5f5; }The Y-12C/D remains one of the PLAAF's most useful workhorses. It is not glamorous, it is not fast, and nobody is

- Y-20 Airlifter: Platform as a Service (2026-10-26 23:57)

a { text-decoration: none; color: #464feb; }tr th, tr td { border: 1px solid #e6e6e6; }tr th { background-color: #f5f5f5; }A bit of 20/20 hindsight here. The Y-20 is increasingly looking like a military version of "Platform as a Service" (PaaS), borrowing a term from the cloud computing world. It has become a hot topic lately. One variant serves as an AWACS platform. Others

- Military Reports, "With Chinese Characteristics": Women Pilots (2026-10-25 00:35)

a { text-decoration: none; color: #464feb; }tr th, tr td { border: 1px solid #e6e6e6; }tr th { background-color: #f5f5f5; }This post is not me weighing in on the "women in the military" debate. I do, however, follow official Chinese military reporting and propaganda fairly closely. One thing that has stood out over the years is the prominence of female pilots in PLA media.

Source: China | The Guardian

- It’s closer to Beijing than Washington – and residents of this Alaskan outpost are reeling from Trump’s policies (2026-10-31 16:00)

On the Bering Sea, Unalaska is the US’s most productive seafood port, employing thousands of workers. But Trump’s cuts, and his disastrous war with Iran, have caused chaos – and put Republican control of Congress at riskIt was less than 17 hours until the start of Alaska’s lucrative Bering Sea crab season, and Oystein Lone was standing on a dock in the city of Unalaska, preparing to embark in rough conditions.The problem wasn’t the next day’s forecast of 60mph gusts, which would kick up white-capped swells and make crabbing, already one of the most dangerous jobs in the United States, even more hazardous. Nor was it the question of whether there’d be enough red king, tanner and snow crabs to go around – state regulators had, in fact, announced higher quotas for the season. Continue reading...

- Beijing Queer film festival cancelled after harassment from authorities (2026-10-30 11:04)

Forums for discussion of feminist and LGBTQ+ views face growing intolerance from Chinese state, say expertsBeijing’s annual independent queer film festival has been cancelled after

what is understood to have been a campaign of sustained harassment from authorities.Beijing Queer film festival, which was due to begin on Friday in China's capital, is one of the country's oldest independent film festivals. Continue reading...

- China expels a record number from Communist party amid Xi's intensified purges of top officials (2026-10-30 02:56)

The unprecedented number of empty seats at the fifth plenum – a symbol of expulsions – serve as a symbol for the scale of the purges under Xi JinpingChina expelled a record number of officials from the Chinese Communist party (CCP) as it concluded a major political gathering, which saw an unprecedented number of empty seats indicating the scale of the purges under Xi Jinping.A record 33 members were expelled at this week's fifth plenum, a gathering of top officials that takes place roughly once a year. Continue reading...

- Nvidia CEO reportedly targeted by Chinese spy (2026-10-29 15:23)

Jensen Huang reported to have had close relationship with tech company executive suspected of passing intel to ChinaUS intelligence agencies believe the Nvidia chief executive, Jensen Huang, has been targeted by a Chinese spy who had done business with him, according to a new report by the New York Times.Alice Huang or Huang Le, of no relation to the Nvidia CEO, is an executive at a Singapore-based datacenter company called Megaspeed. She had previously been suspected of smuggling Nvidia chips to China, prompting American officials to surveil and monitor her. Those officials have determined that she was acting as a Chinese intelligence asset, passing commercial information to Beijing, the New York Times reported, citing unnamed sources. Continue reading...

- Hello Kitty company cuts ties with Japanese spy show after China outcry (2026-10-29 08:03)

Sanrio ends association with TV drama Vivant after China says portrayal of ruthless Chinese agents is 'deliberate smear' The company behind the successful Hello Kitty franchise has apologised and ended its commercial tie-up with a Japanese TV drama after Chinese state media and netizens condemned the show's "deliberate smears" against China.Sanrio, a Japanese firm whose characters are popular around the world, said in a post on the Chinese social media site Weibo that it had decided to end its association with the TV drama Vivant after concluding that it "contained elements inconsistent with Sanrio's core values". Continue reading...

- Kylian Mbappé's China crisis shows how sensitive Mao's legacy remains (2026-10-28 10:00)

Real Madrid forward was dropped by brands for comments Chinese media generally steered clear of outlining It's been a bad start to the week for the France forward Kylian Mbappé. He missed out on joining the elite roster of Ballon d'Or winners, and instead became the latest high-profile addition to a far less illustrious list – that of foreign brands and individuals charged with "hurting the feelings of the Chinese people".The saga began when a video of the Real

Madrid player making light of a meme involving him and China’s former leader Mao Zedong began spreading. Continue reading...

• Sea of crimson: vivid ‘red beach’ transforms China’s wetlands and marshes – in pictures (2026-10-28 06:00)

A striking transformation takes place along the coast of Qinqdao in autumn, when a native seepweed turns a brilliant shade of red.The ‘red beach’ phenemon can be seen in the salt marshes and wetlands on the coast of China’s Shandong province, where the Suaeda glauca plant matures and absorbs water, changing it from green to crimson between September and November Continue reading...

• Kylian Mbappé apologises after being dropped by Chinese brands for Mao Zedong comment (2026-10-27 11:54)

Video appears to show Mao Zedong called a ‘dictator’ Dongpeng and Mengniu end deals with the playerKylian Mbappé has apologised for his “ill-judged” comment about the former Chinese leader Mao Zedong, which has led to brands in China dropping the Real Madrid forward. In China jokes about Mao, the founding leader of the People’s Republic of China who died in 1976, are considered disrespectful and remain a social taboo. “Our company firmly opposes and has a zero-tolerance policy towards any behaviour that offends national sentiments,” the drinks company Dongpeng said in a statement earlier on Tuesday, adding that “with immediate effect we are terminating all cooperation with Kylian Mbappé”. Continue reading...

• Chinese markets lose trillions as race for AI supremacy with US takes its toll (2026-10-27 04:42)

Lack of profits and the threat posed by western countries are raising concern about the sustainability of Beijing’s AI boomTrillions of dollars have been wiped from China’s stock markets in recent months amid increasing anxiety about the future of artificial intelligence, as Beijing races against the United States for dominance in the sector.The STAR 50 Index, which tracks technology and innovation companies on the Shanghai stock exchange, has plunged 40% since June. Other indexes of major companies dropped by about 20% over the same time period. Continue reading...

• ‘Zero-energy companionship’: bizarre hobby takes seed among China’s stressed young adults (2026-10-26 09:47)

Faced with a stagnant jobs market, many are spurning children or pets in favour of ‘raising bricks’ Young adults in China looking for a cheaper, low-maintenance alternative to having children or pets have found an answer: raising bricks.Bricks may not be as cuddly as cats or as life-affirming as human offspring, but they also cost next to nothing. “No cats, no dating, I started raising a brick,” wrote one brick parent on social media. Continue reading...

• Xi Jinping’s corruption crackdown in the spotlight as China prepares for meeting of top leaders (2026-10-26 00:58)

The fifth plenum comes against a backdrop of years of purges that have had some analysts wondering if the issue is corruption or a lack of loyaltyWhen Xi Jinping came to power in 2012, he pledged to stamp out corruption all through the ranks of the Communist party. More than a decade later, the pace of investigations has not slowed. Last year, China’s disciplinary authorities opened investigations into more than 1 million people, including more than 100 officials at or above ministerial or provincial level.As Chinese Communist party (CCP) officials kick off an important meeting this week, discipline – and party loyalty – is high on the agenda. For those who try to read the tea leaves of elite Chinese politics, concern about the apparent lack of discipline is dominating CCP discussions. Continue reading…

Source: China – Foreign Policy

• The Quiet Power of International Orders (2026-10-28 12:00)

What 2 percent milk reveals about our system of rules and norms.

• Dawn of the Data Centers (2026-10-28 10:00)

A global boom is underway. Are countries ready?

• Why Party Plenums Matter So Much to Xi (2026-10-27 21:28)

The Chinese leader is deeply reliant on formal mechanisms of power.

• Trump’s Tariffs Will Have Another Day in Court (2026-10-27 20:46)

The administration has lost five trade cases in a row, and it’s set to potentially notch another loss.

• The Global Push to Keep Kids Off Social Media (2026-10-27 10:00)

From age verification to time limits, more than 60 countries have embraced online restrictions.

• China Is Building Its Way Around Europe’s EV Tariffs (2026-10-27 09:00)

Beijing’s evolving industrial playbook is taking shape in Morocco.

• China Takes Its Lawfare to Sea (2026-10-27 04:01)

Beijing is making life difficult for Panamanian ships, and others could be next.

Source: Financial Times China

• Private equity firm swoops on China Evergrande unit in rare win for creditors (2026-10-30 09:05)

Hong Kong-based PAG offers $513mn to liquidators recovering assets from world's most indebted property developer

• China's homegrown cosmetics contenders face battle to glow up (2026-10-30 02:46)

Yatsen and Proya among brands with international ambitions in foreign-dominated global markets

• China's leaders vow tougher corruption crackdown (2026-10-29 11:10)

Cadres lay the groundwork for a Communist Party congress next year that is expected to appoint Xi Jinping as general secretary for a fourth five-year term

• BYD's breakneck export surge helps offset weakness in China (2026-10-29 10:51)

Electric vehicle champion's foreign expansion takes on rising importance amid roadblocks in domestic market

• Hong Kong leader apologises for fire that killed 168 people (2026-10-29 09:36)

Tai Po blaze was one of the worst in the territory's history

• Alphabet spells out more AI capex, China+1 doesn't add up (2026-10-29 07:43)

The inside story on the Asia tech trends that matter, from Nikkei Asia and the Financial Times

• Hello Kitty gets caught up in Japan-China spat (2026-10-29 06:04)

Sanrio apologises for collaboration with wartime spy thriller that drew outrage over depiction of torture

• Mercedes-Benz vows to stay in China as sales slump (2026-10-28 09:36)

Shares in Stellantis rise as it narrows operating loss in third quarter

• The AI bubble already popped — in China (2026-10-28 06:30)

Plus, two cheers for CGBs

• What a local ceasefire means for the Russia-Ukraine war (2026-10-28 05:00)

Washington and Moscow are discussing a potential return by American companies to the…

• China rushes to shore up struggling markets (2026-10-28 03:54)

'National team' of funds and brokers buy stocks as investors turn away from AI trade

• Pop Mart sales fall up to 50% as Labubu fever ebbs (2026-10-27 13:40)

Chinese maker of hit doll posts sinking quarterly revenues as demand wanes

• Chinese brands put boot into Mbappé after viral ‘dictator’ meme (2026-10-27 11:05)

Real Madrid footballer’s comment on image sparks online backlash in world’s second-biggest economy

• Can Europe find a third way? (2026-10-26 13:00)

A new ‘great game’ is afoot in the Arctic and the continent needs to build its own military capability in the region

• Chinese wind turbine maker builds European firewall from Beijing (2026-10-26 05:00)

Ming Yang says Octopus joint venture and separate legal entities will convince customers that China cannot access data

• Luxury groups’ value drops by €250bn as Chinese consumer demand fades (2026-10-25 05:00)

Slowdown in China and cooling global stock markets are exacerbating a downturn for European sector

• SoftBank-backed drone maker wants every farmer to ‘have their own robot’ (2026-10-25 01:00)

Chinese start-up XAG believes pilotless crop sprayers are the answer to a dwindling workforce and rising temperatures

Source: New York Times China

• Liu Yandong, Rare Woman Among China’s Political Elite, Dies at 80 (2026-10-31 04:12)

The former vice premier was one of just six women to have served on the Chinese Communist Party’s elite Politburo, though she was excluded from the top ranks of power.

• I Covered the Tiananmen Square Massacre. It Still Weighs on Me. (2026-10-30 10:00)

The day that changed modern China also taught me how to recognize true courage.

• How the Japanese Spy Drama ‘Vivant’ Became The Target of China’s Anger (2026-10-30 06:15)

“Vivant,” a Japanese thriller that features Chinese spies, has drawn intense criticism from Beijing. Its creators defend the show, saying it is “completely fictional.”

• How One Country Became the Unlikely Crossroads of the Global A.I. Boom (2026-10-30 05:28)

In Malaysia, U.S. and Chinese tech giants are pouring billions into vast data centers, straining local resources and testing the limits of Washington's restrictions on advanced chips.

• In China, the War on Mosquitoes Has Entered the A.I. Era (2026-10-30 04:01)

Using sensors developed for self-driving cars, a Chinese start-up claims it can track and destroy tiny flying targets while avoiding people, pets and reflective surfaces.

• Volkswagen 'Must Act Quickly' After Largest Loss in Over a Decade (2026-10-29 14:35)

The German carmaker warned that it "must act quickly and decisively" to cut costs.

• China Confirms Expulsion of 33 Officials, as Xi's Purge Deepens (2026-10-29 12:49)

Xi Jinping has enforced loyalty as he prepares to claim a fourth term as leader. Among those removed was a prominent former diplomat, Liu Jianchao.

• President Trump Was Briefed on a Chinese Spy Plot. He Took No Action. (2026-10-29 10:55)

Our trade and international economics reporter, Ana Swanson, unravels how a tech executive in Singapore aided in steering banned Nvidia advanced A.I. chips to China and provided information to the Chinese government. When President Trump was briefed on this, and the knowledge that this executive was in close contact with the Nvidia chief executive, Jensen Huang, he did nothing about it.

• China Is Not Happy About Fan-made A.I. Videos of Sun Wukong and Lin Daiyu (2026-10-29 09:09)

Mash-up videos of beloved characters from Chinese classics — some made with A.I. — have caught the attention of the authorities.

• Nvidia Chief, Jensen Huang, Is Seen as Target of Chinese Spy Plot (2026-10-29 09:01)

A Chinese businesswoman who had a close relationship with Jensen Huang was found to be passing intelligence to Beijing. President Trump was briefed and took no action.

• U.S. Restricts Trade With Chinese Genomics Company (2026-10-28 17:38)

The move will block shipments from BGI, a major Chinese firm that U.S. officials allege is associated with forced labor and the abuse of minority groups.

• A Chinese Port Could Be a Lifeline for Spain, but Also a Threat (2026-10-28 04:01)

Residents say a proposed Chinese car plant in northern Spain will create new jobs. Others say it's a long-term risk, distilling a debate about the costs and perks of ties to China.

• White House Has Tight Grip Over FBI in Pursuing Trump Targets, Agent Says (2026-10-27 23:48)

In court testimony, the agent outlined the willingness of Kash Patel, the F.B.I. director, to take orders from President Trump to investigate his perceived enemies.

• China Steps In to Rescue Stocks, But the Market Continues to Fall (2026-10-27 14:15)

The Communist Party uses a “national team” of state-owned investment funds to stem the market rout. But this time, investors are not sure it will work.

• In the A.I. ‘Robogym,’ Machines Train to Be More Like Humans (2026-10-27 09:02)

Germany’s Neura is one of the companies at the forefront of efforts to use artificial intelligence in robotics, and crucial to whether Europe can close the gap with China.

• ‘Pull Out the Sick Trees’: Xi’s Constant Purges Pave Way for Next Term (2026-10-26 04:00)

The Chinese leader Xi Jinping, who is likely preparing to secure a fourth term in power in 2027, has complained that officials cannot be trusted.

• Thomas L. Friedman: We Just Set Off the Second Big Bang (2026-10-25 11:00)

Humanity is entering its most dangerous era yet.

Source: South China Morning Post

• Could Taipei’s unexpectedly tight mayoral race add to cross-strait tensions? (2026-11-01 06:00)

Taipei Mayor Wayne Chiang Wan-an faces an unexpectedly tough re-election fight in a race closely watched for its potential to damage the main opposition party Kuomintang and further strain the island’s relations with Beijing. Just five months ago, Chiang appeared comfortably positioned for a second term in a city where the KMT has traditionally enjoyed an advantage over the ruling Democratic Progressive Party. A poll by local cable news network TVBS in late May put him 28 percentage points ahead...

• US or China? Why Kazakhstan refuses to pick sides as it eyes AI revolution (2026-11-01 06:00)

Driving along the wide boulevards of Astana during a recent trip to the Kazakh capital, signs of China’s growing commercial footprint were everywhere. Chinese cars were becoming a common sight on the streets here, as brands from BYD to Changan made aggressive inroads in a market once dominated by South Korea’s Hyundai and Kia, said the driver who picked me up from the airport in a gleaming Changan electric vehicle. But it was not the rise of Chinese tech that had brought me to this energy-rich...

• Singapore turns up heat on power-hungry air conditioning with cool revolution (2026-11-01 05:34)

Long dubbed an “air-conditioned nation”, Singapore is experimenting with cooling alternatives from chilled beams to “passive displacement” to curb its thirst for energy-guzzling air conditioning. The city state has the highest per-capita air conditioner ownership rate in Southeast Asia, with about 99 per cent of private residences equipped with cooling units. Singapore’s local building sector accounts for one-fifth of its emissions, while cooling itself accounts for 40 to 60 per cent of a...

• Hate paper straws? Asia’s new alternatives are another eco trap (2026-11-01 05:00)

For Singaporean flight attendant Chloe Tan Zi Ling, 35, the problem with paper straws is their impracticality. “It softens before we can finish the drink, so we have to gulp it down without a straw,” she said, adding that reusable metal alternatives left an unpleasant taste in her mouth. Her frustration reflects a wider debate over Asia’s shift away from plastic straws, with a recently released South Korean study finding that conventional plastic straws performed better than paper and other...

• Ex-Japanese adult film actress in intensive care after alleged drugging in Hong Kong (2026-11-01 04:45)

Former Japanese adult film actress Mao Hamasaki was admitted to intensive care at a Hong Kong hospital after being allegedly drugged while working in a club in Tsim Sha Tsui on Sunday morning. Hamasaki’s manager published a post on her Facebook page at 5.40am on Sunday morning, with two photos showing her in a wheelchair being taken to an ambulance. The post read “drugged while working”. Hamasaki had performed as a disc jockey at several clubs on Halloween night until the early hours of Sunday,...

• ‘Be alive’: Hongkonger with muscular dystrophy turns 18, against all odds (2026-11-01 04:00)

Celebrating one’s 18th birthday is not typically a poignant occasion, but for outgoing Hongkonger Chen Tsz-kin, adulthood began last week with a mixture of excitement and anxiety. At 18 months old, Chen was diagnosed with Duchenne muscular dystrophy, a genetic condition that causes muscles to weaken over time. Doctors told his mother, Michelle Li Yuan-feng, that people with the incurable illness had an average life expectancy of 18. “I felt like a brand new self waking up this morning. It’s been...

• Guangzhou reclaims crown as China’s busiest airport after US$8 billion mega expansion (2026-11-01 04:00)

Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport has reclaimed its position as China’s busiest airport, handling more than 67 million passenger trips in the first nine months of 2026 following a major expansion last year, the municipal government announced. The airport overtook Shanghai Pudong International Airport, which handled 66.58 million passenger trips during the

same period, official data showed. Baiyun had fallen behind Pudong in 2024 and 2025. Theexpansion took half a decade to complete and...

• Far from home, close to grief: why millions of Filipino migrants dread Undas (2026-11-01 04:00)

For over three decades, Dolores Balladares Pelaez has lived and worked in Hong Kong without once returning to the Philippines for Undas, the annual two-day observance honouring the dead. This year, she is arranging prayers from afar for her late father and four siblings, but will once again miss the gathering back home. On Thursday morning, the 56-year-old domestic helper called her mother and niece in Laguna province to discuss hiring a prayer leader to visit the family home. Her sisters-in-law...

• 3 Hong Kong Chinese-language newspapers raise retail prices by HK$3 (2026-11-01 03:44)

Three Chinese-language newspapers in Hong Kong have raised their retail prices by HK$3 (40 US cents) this month, marking the first sector-wide adjustment in two years. Ming Pao's price rise took effect on Sunday, increasing its single-copy price from HK$12 to HK$15, up 25 per cent. Two financial broadsheets will follow suit on Monday. The Hong Kong Economic Times (HKET) will raise its price from HK$12 to HK$15, while the Hong Kong Economic Journal (HKEJ) will increase its price by 20 per cent...

• Will Argentina's citizenship scheme lure property buyers from mainland China and Hong Kong? (2026-11-01 03:00)

Argentina is the latest country seeking to lure investors with an investment-for-citizenship programme, providing another residency and diversification option for the wealthy, including those from mainland China and Hong Kong, according to analysts. Buenos Aires in October announced two principal investment routes for applicants. One is a US$350,000 non-refundable contribution to the National Treasury and a subscription to a US$800,000 government bond created specifically for the programme,...

• 'Flirtatious' US$2,500 photo shoots for 'lonely' middle-aged women spark backlash in China (2026-11-01 02:00)

A Chinese photographer is facing fierce public backlash for charging middle-aged women inflated fees while allegedly subjecting them to sexually suggestive remarks during photo shoots. Known online as "Duan Gongzi," 48-year-old army veteran Duan Xiaozhou has amassed nearly 400,000 followers on Douyin. At his Wuhan studio, he charges 16,800 yuan (US$2,500) for 36 unedited portraits. Duan promotes his sessions as empathetic exchanges intended to capture clients' authentic selves. But...

• Russia surpasses France in African youth appeal, still trails China: survey (2026-11-01 02:00)

Russia’s influence has surged among young people across Africa in recent years, leaping over former colonial power France while still trailing China, a survey of African youths has found. Many young Africans now perceive Russia to be an ally, observers said, warning its rivals to take the shift seriously as the continent becomes increasingly critical to both Moscow and Beijing. According to the African Youth Survey commissioned by the South Africa-based Ichikowitz Family Foundation, 54 per cent...

• South Korea’s latest chart sensation has a secret: the singer isn’t human (2026-11-01 02:00)

A little-known South Korean music act has climbed the charts with a viral hit that has caught listeners off guard – not just for its sudden popularity, but because its vocals were generated entirely by artificial intelligence. Meomuru’s single, “Have You Become the Adult You Dreamed Of?”, climbed to No 2 on Melon’s Top 100 – South Korea’s flagship streaming chart – earlier this week. The track’s popularity has turned Meomuru into one of the country’s most-talked-about acts. The song was created...

• Hong Kong’s art trading hub ambitions rest on more than headline sales (2026-11-01 01:30)

A Vincent van Gogh painting not shown publicly for more than 60 years recently drew hundreds of people to Sotheby’s Hong Kong. Painted in May 1890, Châtaigniers en fleurs (Chestnut Trees in Flower) is a major work from his Auvers-sur-Oise period and could set an auction record. For three days, Sotheby’s opened the private collection to public viewing in Hong Kong. Its brief stay raises a question about the city’s art hub ambitions: what lasting expertise can be built around a masterpiece that...

• Pump pressure: how rising fuel costs leave Hong Kong drivers running on fumes (2026-11-01 01:00)

Van driver Wong Siu-po, 48, felt life was becoming more difficult than ever as rising fuel prices cost him an additional HK$5,000 (US$640) a month, about a third of his monthly income. With an 11-year-old daughter and an unemployed wife to support, he feels the pressure mounting. “I need to work three hours longer per day to make up for the loss of income,” he said. “I will cut down on air conditioning to save costs.” Wong’s plight echoed survey findings showing that nearly 98 per cent of...

• Woman arrested for threatening to shoot Trump at Florida rally (2026-11-01 00:59)

A 21-year-old woman who posted on social media that she was planning to shoot US President Donald Trump at his rally in Florida’s Daytona Beach has been arrested, authorities said. Trump visited Daytona on Friday to help drum up the vote for Republican gubernatorial candidate Byron Donalds. But the night before, investigators said Allison Albro shared an online post showing a photo of herself captioned, “Going to the Trump rally in my city tmr so I can shoot him with my glock! Wish me luck...

• Southeast Asia’s EV boom sidelines local car parts suppliers (2026-11-01 00:00)

Southeast Asia’s electric vehicle boom risks leaving the region’s smaller companies behind, as Chinese automotive giants bypass local part-makers in favour of imported components and locked-in supplier networks. Local manufacturers across Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia are facing a double squeeze: demand is weakening for parts used in petrol and diesel cars, collectively known as internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles, while steep barriers to entry also keep them out of EV supply...

• FBI blames North Korea for stolen billions from Binance in biggest hack in history (2026-10-31 23:49)

The theft of billions of dollars from Binance within a matter of minutes, the biggest cryptocurrency heist in history, was orchestrated by North Korean hackers, the FBI said on Saturday. The bureau said in a statement that this week’s attack was tied to “malicious cyber activity” by an entity known as TraderTraitor, the same actors behind a US$1.5 billion Bybit hack last year. The FBI asked cryptocurrency exchanges, blockchain analytics companies and others to block transactions linked to...

• How the Zhuhai air show charted China’s path from catching up to flying high (2026-10-31 22:00)

When Zhuhai hosted its inaugural air show in November 1996, the event showcased the J-8IIM fighter, a second-generation fighter equipped with Russian radar and weapons, alongside a limited line-up of home-made aircraft. Imported planes were the focus and Chinese audiences curiously studied the much more advanced foreign designs. They crowded around two Russian fourth-generation Su-27 fighters and were wowed as the jets performed their famous cobra manoeuvre, sharply braking in mid-air. At the...

• Hongkongers need more than 4 walls and a roof to make a home (2026-10-31 21:30)

What kind of living space can truly be called a “home”? That was the question on my mind when I visited United Court, a transitional housing estate in Tung Tau, Yuen Long, run by the Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council. While there, I shared my thoughts on building a mental health-friendly community. Nine years ago, I took part in a community-based poverty study and interviewed residents in inadequate housing. I still remember families describing their living space as little more than a...

• Judge throws out Trump lawsuit against Wall Street Journal over Epstein birthday letter (2026-10-31 20:24)

Saying the US president was “grasping at straws”, a federal judge on Saturday threw out Donald Trump’s US$10 billion lawsuit against The Wall Street Journal and media mogul Rupert Murdoch over a story reporting on his ties to wealthy financier Jeffrey Epstein. US District Judge Darrin Gayles in Miami dismissed the suit with prejudice, ruling that the president did not prove

the defendants made defamatory statements with actual malice as required by law. The rulingsaid the lawsuit had attempted...

• G20 foreign ministers end Atlanta meeting without consensus on key issues (2026-10-31 19:32)

As Washington seeks to loosen China's dominance over critical minerals, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio urged other members of the Group of 20 (G20) to strengthen supply chains and secure strategic trade routes as the group's foreign ministers' meeting drew to a close in Atlanta on Saturday. Rubio said there was a "universal recognition" among the G20 members over the importance of issues like critical minerals, supply chain security and freedom of navigation. "The first step is at least some...

• Clashes break out at France's Halloween protests, as hundreds of thousands take to streets (2026-10-31 18:23)

Police fired tear gas and clashed with protesters in Paris and elsewhere on Saturday as hundreds of thousands marched across France against soaring living costs and police violence, with some demonstrators dressed as clowns and witches for Halloween. While the third consecutive weekend of nationwide protests was largely peaceful, tensions erupted in several cities later Saturday. After a march on the outskirts of Paris in bright sunshine, clashes broke out between police and some demonstrators...

• German police fire water cannon during tense 'Gen Z' protests (2026-10-31 17:35)

German police fired water cannon to disperse firework-hurling protesters on Saturday and were also pelted with other projectiles, as tensions rose at the end of massive youth-led protests. In Berlin, Frankfurt, Cologne and dozens of other cities, demonstrators turned out for the protests organised by the group "GenZ regelt!" (GenZ has got this), the latest by disillusioned youth in Europe. Thousands of police were deployed across the country and, after mostly peaceful demonstrations, tensions...

• Quad not 'anti-China', says Rubio as first summit in two years set before Trump-Xi talks (2026-10-31 16:17)

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said on Saturday that the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, or the Quad, was not an "anti-China" coalition, as the grouping's top diplomats finalised preparations for the leaders' summit in the Philippines next month. Rubio's statement comes just weeks before US President Donald Trump is scheduled to meet Chinese leader Xi Jinping in Shenzhen, China. "It is not an anti-China or anti-anybody coalition," Rubio said at a press conference on the sidelines of the...

• Hong Kong man falls from luxury housing complex, striking domestic helper below (2026-10-31 15:28)

A Hong Kong man believed to have accidentally fallen from a height struck a domestic helper on the podium of a luxury housing estate in West Kowloon on Saturday, with the pair sent to hospital. Police said they received a report at 7.43pm that the man had fallen at 1 Austin Road West and landed on the podium, hitting the woman. A police spokesman said both were conscious at the scene, with the man taken to Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the woman sent to Kwong Wah Hospital. He added that...

- DR Congo Ebola deaths top 5,000, cases recorded in other African nations (2026-10-31 15:14)

Deaths in the Democratic Republic of Congo's (DRC's) Ebola outbreak have topped 5,000 as the country grapples with the relentless spread of the disease and cases are recorded in other African countries, the latest government data on Saturday shows. Data from the government's Ministry of Health showed that the disease has killed 5,026 people out of 10,351 infected, at a nearly 50 per cent lethality rate. The surge is sparking concerns among experts regarding the authorities' ability to contain...

- HKT says US order 'ceased' as firm reportedly agrees to exit American market (2026-10-31 14:39)

A leading Hong Kong telecommunications carrier has confirmed that an order requiring it to justify its operation in the United States has been ceased, after the company reportedly agreed to wind down its business under pressure from a US regulatory agency over national security concerns. A spokeswoman for Hong Kong Telecom (HKT) told the South China Morning Post on Saturday that the Order to Show Cause issued by the US Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in October requiring it to justify...

- Iran's supreme leader warns US, Israel against war (2026-10-31 14:16)

Iran's supreme leader Mojtaba Khamenei on Saturday warned the United States and Israel against returning to war, according to a written statement, following threats from the Islamic republic's foes of a possible resumption of strikes. "If the enemies once again launch military or terrorist attacks, it is the armed forces of the Islamic Republic and the Iranian nation that will determine the time and conditions for ending them," said a statement attributed to Khamenei posted on his website. The...

- China narrows the path to elite official training scheme for citizens graduating overseas (2026-10-31 14:00)

China is further narrowing access to a key government recruitment programme for overseas-educated graduates, limiting their pathways into the country's civil service and party-state system. More than a dozen provincial-level regions, including Beijing and Shanghai, opened applications for the 2027 xuandiaosheng recruitment rounds in September and October. Xuandiaosheng, or the "selected graduates" system, is designed to select and train university graduates to become elite cadres and officials...

• Chinese archaeologists set for hi-tech excavations with AI and deep-sea robots (2026-10-31 13:30)

Chinese archaeologists are set for a hi-tech turn, with the latest five-year blueprint aiming to deploy AI and deep-sea robots to trace Chinese history, decipher the origins of East Asian humans and expand the country's cultural soft power. Scientists will develop technologies such as remote sensing, ancient DNA analysis, underwater archaeology robots and artificial intelligence (AI) models for virtual restoration of excavated artefacts, according to the 15th five-year work plan for...

• Soft power on display as China's first lady Peng Liyuan hosts German counterpart (2026-10-31 13:00)

Chinese first lady Peng Liyuan hosted her German counterpart, Elke Budenbender, in Beijing on Friday for a tea reception in a bid to showcase Beijing's soft power and foster closer bilateral ties. Peng stressed the rich cooperation with Germany in areas including education and culture, according to official news agency Xinhua. She also expressed hope that people from the two countries would "visit each other more often, continuously deepen mutual understanding and foster closer people-to-people...

• Wine and Dine Festival vendors report Halloween boost in sales and footfall (2026-10-31 12:46)

Vendors at Hong Kong's Wine and Dine Festival reported a stronger turnout and signs of improving business on Saturday as the annual event entered the weekend, coinciding with Halloween celebrations and extended opening hours until 1am. Some exhibitors said visitor numbers had increased noticeably compared with the first two days of the four-day festival, while others expressed cautious optimism about sales amid a challenging retail environment. Henry Leung, a staff member at food and beverage...

• UK PM Burnham 'open' to slavery apology, but not reparations (2026-10-31 12:06)

Prime Minister Andy Burnham said on Saturday he was "open" to the UK issuing a formal apology for its role in the transatlantic slave trade, but ruled out financial reparations. The Labour leader made the remarks days before attending a Commonwealth leaders summit in Antigua and Barbuda, as King Charles III tours the Caribbean. "I want to express my sorrow and regret for the pain and suffering of so many millions and to recognise the way it still shapes our world today," Burnham wrote in the...

• Is Beijing's 2027 military milestone now a US readiness deadline over Taiwan? (2026-10-31 12:00)

America's push for 2027 combat readiness in the Indo-Pacific is raising questions over whether a year that US military officials linked to a possible People's Liberation Army attack on Taiwan has instead become a planning benchmark. The preparations come despite a US

intelligence assessment published in March that mainland Chinese leaders “do not currentlyplan” to attack Taiwan in 2027, “nor do they have a fixed timeline for achieving unification”.General Ronald Clark, commander of US Army...

• 200 nations at Cop17 commit to biodiversity goals amid missed opportunities (2026-10-31 11:16)

Nearly 200 nations have struck hard-fought agreements at a UN biodiversity summit, but the outcome was accompanied by disappointment over missed opportunities to address humanity’s destructive toll on nature. Delegates cheered on Friday as crucial texts were approved in overtime but the celebrations were tempered by acrimonious debates and regret over limited progress on some of the most contentious issues. The Cop17 summit in Armenia sought to revive a landmark commitment to halt and reverse...

• With ‘Kissinger moment’ over, US and China urged to foster new ‘bridge builders’ (2026-10-31 11:00)

Beijing and Washington have been urged to foster a new generation of talent to bridge gaps between the countries and strengthen people-to-people exchanges amid growing frictions and concerns about a lack of China expertise in the US. Academics and experts from the two countries gathered in Shanghai on Friday at the China-US Intergenerational Dialogue 2026. They were seeking a new crop of “bridge builders” like Henry Kissinger, the former US secretary of state who helped to engineer the historic...

• China places former Sinopec and CNOOC boss Fu Chengyu, 75, under corruption probe (2026-10-31 10:48)

Fu Chengyu, the former chairman of leading oil giants Sinopec and China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC), is under investigation for corruption by the country’s top watchdogs. The Communist Party’s Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI) was investigating Fu for alleged “serious violations of discipline and law”, a euphemism for corruption, state news agency Xinhua reported on Saturday, quoting a notice posted on the commission’s website. He is “currently undergoing...

• Bars expect 50% jump in sales on final night of Hong Kong’s ‘Halloween Month’ (2026-10-31 10:30)

Hong Kong’s inaugural “Halloween Month” has been a boon for businesses, with bar and restaurant operators in Lan Kwai Fong expecting sales on Saturday to rise by more than 50 per cent compared with last year. With Halloween falling on a weekend this year, businesses were expecting a bumper turnout as the Tourism Board’s inaugural campaign for the celebrations wrapped up. Operators noted a surge in visitors from mainland Chinese cities in the Greater Bay Area. “It’s been very well received by...

• Hong Kong may raise GDP forecast as growth poised for 5-year high: Paul Chan (2026-10-31 10:20)

Hong Kong's economic growth this year could be the city's strongest in five years, with potential for further upward revisions after the full-year forecast was previously raised to a range of 3.5 to 4.5 per cent, the finance chief has said. Financial Secretary Paul Chan Mo-po said on Saturday that the city's economy grew by 5.1 per cent in the first half of the year, driven by strong export momentum and investment growth. "Although the third-quarter figures have not yet been released, I can...

• Africa suffering in 'strongmen' era, says governance watchdog (2026-10-31 10:06)

Democracy and rights are declining in Africa as leaders take their cues from the rise of strongmen in other parts of the world, the head of a governance monitor told AFP. Mo Ibrahim, 80, is a Sudanese-British billionaire who made a fortune in telecoms and ploughed it into monitoring and encouraging better governance across Africa. The Mo Ibrahim Foundation's latest report, finds broad progress on economic opportunity and human development over the past decade, but also steep declines in...

• Apple Intelligence to roll out on iPhones in China in December with Alibaba backing (2026-10-31 10:02)

Apple's long-awaited artificial intelligence features will be officially launched in China in December, ending two years of regulatory uncertainty as the US tech giant seeks to bring advanced technologies to its second-largest market with the help of Alibaba Group Holding. The first batch of Apple Intelligence services will roll out to Chinese iPhone users alongside the iOS 27.3 update in December, following an open beta test with developers starting November 4, the US company said in a...

• How ancient Chinese stayed cosy using gadgets found in classical literature, historic artwork (2026-10-31 10:00)

In ancient China, without electricity, how did people stay cosy at home during freezing winters? The answer lies in warming baskets, which have been used for more than 2,000 years. A traditional warming basket featured a charcoal brazier beneath a bamboo cover. One of the earliest written references to the device dates back to the Qin and Han dynasties (221 BC–220). At first, the basket served as a stove to keep a room warm. Later, people added incense to the brazier and placed a basin of water...

• AI could turn China's social credit system into surveillance tool: government-funded study (2026-10-31 10:00)

China's social credit system, stereotypically imagined as an all-powerful numerical scoring project for authoritarian control, has gained notoriety in the West – although people inside the country actually feel little of its presence or practical influence. In a government-funded study, however, a Chinese legal scholar warned that deploying artificial intelligence (AI) risked turning

the rating system into a “large-scale surveillance tool”. The paper was published in theJournal of Sichuan...

• Tai Po fire report: lessons from a tragedy (2026-10-31 09:30)

• Russia-occupied Oleshky evacuees arrive in Belarus, Ukraine next (2026-10-31 09:22)

Three planes carrying residents evacuated from the Russian-controlled frontline Ukrainian city of Oleshky landed at Gomel airport in Belarus, the Belta state news agency reported on Saturday. The evacuees, wishing to leave for Ukraine, travelled by bus via the Crimean peninsula to the Russian town of Anapa before flying to Belarus and will proceed to Ukraine via a border crossing, Belta said. Starving and exhausted residents were evacuated as part of a joint relief operation by...

• Appeal for private flight to bring critically ill British baby home from Hong Kong (2026-10-31 08:56)

A UK-registered air ambulance and family support charity has issued an urgent appeal for a donated private flight to bring a critically ill baby boy home from Hong Kong. Lia’s Wings said on Friday that nine-month-old Matthew, from Nottinghamshire, had travelled to Hong Kong with his mother several months ago to visit relatives. He fell ill with influenza A and suffered three cardiac arrests, leaving him critically ill in hospital. His brain was reportedly deprived of oxygen for 47 minutes. His...

• Both Japan and China can help Bangladesh reach its full potential (2026-10-31 08:30)

In the Land of the Rising Sun, Bangladesh looks forward to a new dawn. The hope that comes with Prime Minister Tarique Rahman’s visit to Japan goes beyond the deals signed or the financial support expected. It shows a country that has emerged from authoritarian rule and wants to turn its new political voice into bigger economic chances and freedom of choice. For a government chosen by the people, foreign policy must answer one question: how does it make life better for the people who gave it...

• Can battery swapping and energy storage power CATL’s next phase of growth? (2026-10-31 08:00)

Contemporary Amperex Technology Ltd (CATL) has doubled down on new businesses including battery swapping and energy storage as the world’s largest battery maker seeks new growth drivers amid intensifying price wars and mounting pressure on profitability. But the new path is far from straightforward. Established players like Nio have already built a strong presence in battery swapping, while BYD has reinforced its position in energy-storage systems. Lucas Zhang Liutong, director of Hong...

• Hong Kong has released the full report on Tai Po fire tragedy. Here’s all you need to know (2026-10-31 07:30)

We have put together 10 stories from our coverage on the full report of the Wang Fuk Court fire, released almost a year since the tragedy claimed 168 lives. If you would like to see more of our reporting, please consider subscribing. 1. John Lee apologises for Tai Po fire, unveils reforms as housing chief resigns Hong Kong's leader has apologised for last year's deadly Tai Po fire, vowing extensive civil service and legislative reforms and an overhaul of government departments as his housing...

• China joins global race to reawaken brain-injury patients through ultrasound therapy (2026-10-31 07:00)

After spending three months in a coma following a brain haemorrhage, a patient in China has regained the ability to speak, eat and walk with support – part of an early clinical trial using targeted sound waves to help "wake up" severely damaged brains, according to state media. The technology, developed by a coalition including the Chinese Academy of Sciences' Shenzhen Institutes of Advanced Technology, used focused ultrasound waves to stimulate regions deep within the brain without requiring...

• Malaysia's Melaka poll begins as 79 cleared in test for Anwar's coalition (2026-10-31 06:57)

Malaysia's Melaka state began its election campaign on Saturday after 79 candidates were cleared to contest a poll testing whether Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim's governing partners can turn an opportunistic alliance with his Islamist opponents into a platform for national power. The coastal state south of Kuala Lumpur heads to the polls on November 14, handing the United Malays National Organisation (Umno) and the Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party (PAS) another opening to deepen cooperation after...

• New renovation body may offer bigger subsidies for ageing Hong Kong districts (2026-10-31 06:48)

Hong Kong's planned renovation monitoring body will consider larger subsidies for homeowners of ageing buildings in older districts or with high elderly populations who use its supervision services for major repairs, the finance chief has said. Financial Secretary Paul Chan Mo-po said on Saturday that the Building Maintenance Support and Services Council, set up to curb malpractice in the industry after the Tai Po fire report, would be non-profit but would have to recover its costs, since owners...

• US, South Korea and Japan reaffirm North Korea denuclearisation stance (2026-10-31 06:43)

The United States, South Korea and Japan reaffirmed their commitment to the "complete denuclearisation" of North Korea on Saturday, as Pyongyang continues to reject disarmament ahead of possible talks with Washington. Speculation is mounting over a potential meeting between US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un at next month's Apec summit in China, with Trump making repeated overtures to Pyongyang for nuclear talks.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, South Korean Foreign...

• Data of nearly 17,000 mainland students leaked in Hong Kong exams body breach (2026-10-31 06:06)

The personal data of nearly 17,000 students based in mainland China who applied to take two international exams through the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA) has been leaked after its information system was compromised. The authority said the leaked data included the names, dates of birth and email addresses of about 16,900 students. It added that there was no evidence that the Diploma of Secondary Education (DSE) Examination or any other tests had been affected. “The HKEAA...

• Beijing blasts US ban on device testing in China, warns of supply chain disruptions (2026-10-31 06:01)

China’s Ministry of Commerce has voiced firm opposition to a decision by the US Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to bar device testing in China by 2028. “This has seriously harmed the interests of China and other trading partners, seriously undermined the stability of China-US economic and trade relations, and seriously disrupted the stability of global industrial and supply chains,” it said in a statement on Friday night. “[We] hope the United States will face the calls of the industry,...

• Hong Kong woman, 66, loses HK$2.7 million in money-laundering phone scam (2026-10-31 05:29)

A 66-year-old Hong Kong woman was swindled out of HK$2.7 million (US$344,158) in a phone scam after a caller alleged that her bank account had been involved in money laundering. Police said the woman, who lives in Sau Mau Ping, told the force at about 5am on Saturday that she had received the call earlier this month from a suspected scammer. He claimed her bank account, the one she used to buy insurance online, had been involved in money laundering and allegedly instructed her to transfer funds...

• Hong Kong socialite Abby Choi’s remains found in soup pots and fridge, court told (2026-10-31 05:23)

Slain Hong Kong socialite Abby Choi Tin-fung’s remains were stored in two soup pots and a refrigerator after her body was dismembered with an electric saw in a rural village flat, a court has heard. The High Court trial took a turn towards the end of its fifth week when Choi’s former father-in-law, Kwong Kau, changed his plea to guilty on a charge of illegally disposing of her body. His admission came after the court heard how some of the 28-year-old’s remains were found in Lung Mei village in...

• From digital pets to robot pals: how AI is changing Hong Kong classrooms (2026-10-31 05:09)

Hands shot up in a Hong Kong Primary Two classroom as pupils debated what their digital pet needed more, meal vouchers or the latest game cards. Their teacher at SKH Kei Oi Primary School in Sham Shui Po had created the virtual pet using artificial intelligence (AI) and web tools for a lesson on saving and budgeting. With each spending decision, the pet's mood and savings changed on screen, helping pupils discover the consequences of careless spending. Such lessons are becoming more common...

- As AI cyber risks grow, Chinese chip expert urges shared ethics standards with US rivals (2026-10-31 05:00)

The co-founder of Chinese chip giant Cambricon Technologies urged the introduction of universal ethical requirements for leading Chinese and American artificial intelligence models on Friday to mitigate growing risks to society. Chen Yunji's remarks at an event in Shanghai come as the rapid advance of AI systems globally has resulted in a string of high-profile cyberattacks that have threatened critical infrastructure and breached government servers. Predicting that AI advances would develop...

- Shenzhen too pricey? Cost-conscious Hongkongers dig deeper into mainland China (2026-10-31 04:00)

Seventy-something Hong Kong retiree Leung Ching says a meal for four in Shenzhen, the megacity in mainland China roughly an hour's train ride away, that cost just over 300 yuan (US$45) a few years ago now runs to 500 to 600 yuan. It would cost around HK$1,000 (US$127.50) in Hong Kong, but only 300 yuan in Guangzhou and just 200 yuan in Zhongshan, two cities within two hours of Hong Kong. "Shenzhen is becoming less and less affordable," said Leung, a retired vendor. Last year, consumer prices in...

- Mao vs Rao: Cell Press probe clears editor but Chinese biologist keeps up pressure (2026-10-31 04:00)

Prominent biologist Rao Yi is refusing to back down after Cell Press said it had found no evidence that top journal editor Steve Mao sought bribes from Chinese scientists. In a statement published on Thursday evening, Cell Press – one of the world's leading scientific publishers, owned by Elsevier – said its investigation had "largely concluded" and "found no evidence to support the aforementioned allegations". Nevertheless, Rao, a tenured chair professor at Peking University who stepped down as...

- Kim Jong-un urges drone expansion as North Korea showcases new unmanned tech (2026-10-31 03:21)

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un attended an exhibition devoted to drones and called for rapidly expanding the country's drone technology, state media reported on Friday, as his military escalates threats against South Korea and the United States. Acquiring advanced drones is a top priority for Kim, who now wants to strengthen conventional and nuclear capabilities to counter what he calls US-led security threats. It is unclear how far North Korea's drone

programme has progressed. Experts say...

• Hong Kong's Jumbo Floating Restaurant catches fire before opening, kills 34 – SCMP archive (2026-10-31 03:15)

This story was first published on October 31, 1971. Aberdeen was yesterday (October 30, 1971) rocked by a tremendous explosion followed by fire which swept through the $14 million Jumbo Restaurant, killing 13 and injuring at least 42 others on board. It happened so quickly that within five minutes, fire engulfed the four-decked floating restaurant, reducing it to a charred hulk. Hundreds of people leapt for life from the decks and from the pagoda-shaped towers of the palatial restaurant. It was...

• Scary deals? What makes Hong Kong shun death-linked homes while France embraces the risk (2026-10-31 03:00)

Even as Hong Kong remains the world's least affordable housing market, many buyers still shun heavily discounted homes linked to an "unnatural death", such as murder or suicide, according to property agents. Prices for such properties could fall by as much as 50 per cent, while rents were typically about 20 per cent below market rates, they added. The aversion stands in stark contrast to parts of Europe, particularly in France, where buyers are often willing to purchase homes under a "vente en...

• Trump insists Republicans 'have a shot' in midterms as rallies resume amid health concerns (2026-10-31 02:48)

President Donald Trump on Friday insisted Republicans "have a shot" at success in the US midterms despite a feverish end to the campaign for elections that will decide control of Congress. Trump reversed course and reinstated two rallies in Kansas and Iowa a day after cancelling them, a move which had raised questions about his health and about the state of the race. "There's such love in these all over the country," Trump said, referring to his rallies, before rattling off a series of insults...

• Trump and Milei under pressure to explain role in Flavio Bolsonaro's dramatic escape to US (2026-10-31 02:16)

US President Donald Trump and Argentina's Javier Milei faced mounting pressure on Friday to explain the role their countries played in helping Flavio Bolsonaro flee Brazil after he had his passports cancelled. The 45-year-old Brazilian senator bolted his country two days after being defeated by incumbent Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva in a presidential election on Sunday. He had been ordered to surrender all his passports due to an ongoing investigation into him on suspicion of money...

• 'Zero-cost' lifestyle: China cash-strapped youth embrace thrifty living for mental relief (2026-10-31 02:00)

A growing number of young people in China are embracing a “zero-cost” lifestyle, seeking out free perks, complimentary gifts, and trial services. Across mainland social media, tens of thousands of posts share tips on scoring free samples at shopping malls or booking test drives with no intention of buying. One popular variation is mall-walking, in which budget-conscious shoppers stroll through air-conditioned malls while spending next to nothing. A classic routine might go like this: grab a...

• G20 talks expose deep rift as Russia stays defiant while Rubio pursues sideline diplomacy (2026-10-31 01:45)

Russia showed no sign on Friday of softening its stance on Kyiv as G20 foreign ministers opened talks in the United States, with the Ukraine and Iran wars deepening rifts between the sprawling forum’s members. Sharp disagreements emerged around the table, with EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas accusing Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov of presenting “lies” on issues like the conflict in Ukraine. “He put forward a lot of lies, a lot of false narratives” that Europeans were able to push...

• Dark past of Japan’s Unit 731 buried under airport expansion (2026-10-31 01:30)

A village that sent hundreds of men to one of imperial Japan’s most notorious wartime units is being demolished to make way for a runway at Tokyo’s Narita International Airport. Unit 731 carried out lethal experiments on captives, many of them Chinese, to develop biological weapons during the second world war. Around 300 of its roughly 3,000 personnel came from Kamo, a neighbourhood in Shibayama town, Chiba prefecture, east of the capital. Its founder and commander, Lieutenant General Shiro...

• Bordeaux officials hail exclusive 5-year deal for Hong Kong to host Vinexpo (2026-10-31 01:00)

Having a presence in Hong Kong and the rest of China is “very important” for Bordeaux, an official from the world-renowned French wine-producing region has said, even as consumption declines on the mainland. The comments by deputy mayor Fabien Robert came as Vinexpo, a premier international wine and spirits trade exhibition that began in Bordeaux, signed a deal for its Asian edition to be hosted solely by Hong Kong from 2027 to 2031. “To be in Hong Kong every year, I think it’s a message .....

• Are the latest Communist Party promotions a sign of a new political trend in China? (2026-10-31 01:00)

Beijing promoted 10 officials to full membership of the Communist Party’s Central Committee at a major political gathering this week, where the normally routine process of filling vacancies took on new significance. The names of the officials who have filled the vacant slots were included in a communique released at the end of the fifth plenum of the party’s 20th Central Committee on Thursday. The event, which focused on party discipline and the fight against corruption, confirmed that 24 full...

• New Everest film hopes to nudge US-China relations into a higher altitude (2026-10-31 00:02)

The film Everest: The Other Side, a collaborative US-China project that opened on Friday in 515 US cinemas and that will premiere at 700 IMAX theatres in China on November 6, starts with a majestic shot of the world's tallest mountain. Then the music builds and more challenging weather rolls in, foreshadowing what is at stake. The film invokes a well-trod narrative for fans of the mountaineering genre: a mix of the grit and sacrifice driving world-class climbers, along with no small amount of...

• 'I'm terrified': AI comes for Southeast Asia's graduate jobs (2026-10-31 00:00)

Nafeesa Azman has applied for hundreds of jobs over the past two months, yet the 24-year-old Malaysian marketing graduate is yet to find a permanent role that pays what she needs or uses the skills she spent years, and a good deal of money, developing. Natthanicha Intawong, a final-year media arts student in Bangkok, describes the terror many of her peers feel as they prepare to enter a jobs market that artificial intelligence is already beginning to scythe through. For Joshua Nai, a Singaporean...

• Poland deploys riot police, as court chief's ousting sparks crisis (2026-10-30 23:43)

Poland's President Karol Nawrocki called off a visit to Africa in mid-flight, as riot police deployed around the country's constitutional court on Friday following the suspension of its chief justice in a battle between the centrist government and the nationalist right. Dozens of police guarded the entrance to the court as followers of the opposition right-wing Law and Justice party (PiS) protested against the ousting of constitutional court president Bogdan Swieczkowski. The court's official...

• UK minister discusses tech collaboration in Greater Bay Area during Hong Kong visit (2026-10-30 23:00)

UK Indo-Pacific minister Rosie Winterton has visited Hong Kong's flagship tech hub to discuss plans to expand technological collaboration in the Greater Bay Area, while aiming to strengthen business, education and people-to-people partnerships with the city. During her visit, Winterton also raised concerns about the jailing of former media boss Jimmy Lai Chee-ying in talks with Cui Jianchun, Beijing's top diplomat in the city, and local officials. "What we want to do is to strengthen those ties...

• China helps dismantle major meth trafficking network in Southeast Asia (2026-10-30 22:20)

China has broken up a major transnational drug trafficking network in cooperation with Indonesia and Malaysia, seizing around 1.2 tonnes of liquid methamphetamine, China's Ministry of Public Security said on Friday. The operation was carried out on October 21 by Indonesia's National Narcotics Agency (BNN), which raided and shut down a large-scale drug processing and purification facility in Aceh, Indonesia, and arrested 11 people, with help from

China’s National Narcotics Control Commission...

• Wall Street drops to its worst day since June after tech sell-off deepens (2026-10-30 22:01)

A sell-off for tech stocks got even worse on Friday on worries that Wall Street’s frenzy around artificial intelligence technology sent prices too high. The S&P 500 tumbled 1.8 per cent for its worst day since June, and it closed out a third straight losing week. The weakness for technology stocks dragged the Nasdaq composite down a market-leading 2.9 per cent, while the Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 572 points, or 1.1 per cent. The US stock market remains only 3.1 per cent below its...

• Is Donald Trump’s ‘Chinamaxxing’ pushing Beijing’s soft power? (2026-10-30 22:00)

In May, Donald Trump touring Beijing’s Temple of Heaven – bathed in golden light as traditional Chinese music played in the background – was an unlikely image of US-China relations. For Julian Gewirtz, a former China official on president Joe Biden’s National Security Council, it also had a familiar Gen Z twist. “Trump, strange as it is to say, is Chinamaxxing,” he wrote in a Substack post at the time. The social media trend celebrates the features of Chinese life, from high-speed trains and...

• US Democrats prepare to counter any Trump claim of foreign meddling in midterms (2026-10-30 21:53)

Top Democrats on the US congressional intelligence committees say they are preparing to check and respond to any claim by US President Donald Trump that foreign powers interfered in the November 3 midterm elections, even though they say they have seen no sign of any country interfering with voting or vote counting. The concern comes as Democrats lead by eight points among likely voters in the fight for control of Congress, according to an October 27 PBS News/NPR/Marist poll. It also follows a...

• The flaw in Australia’s ‘China threat’ thesis (2026-10-30 21:30)

Australia’s preparations for a possible conflict with China reflect “a relatively superficial understanding”, argues prominent economist John Edwards. Europe, Canada, Indonesia, Malaysia and India, he notes, are not preparing for such a conflict. Why should Australia? Edwards, a former senior economic adviser to former Labor prime minister Paul Keating, makes the observation in a Lowy Institute paper released in October and in a newspaper interview. Instead, he sees US-China rivalry as a...

• Russia’s top independent newspaper Novaya Gazeta ‘killed’ by Kremlin pressure (2026-10-30 21:03)

Russia’s flagship independent newspaper Novaya Gazeta announced on Friday it was closing, saying it had been “killed” by state pressure after years of repression targeting its journalists whose reporting was critical of the Kremlin and its Ukraine war. The closure of Novaya Gazeta – one of the last outlets to openly criticise Russia’s offensive – marks the latest outcome of

Moscow's campaign against dissenting voices, which intensified after the Kremlin sent troopsinto its neighbour in...

- Can Connie Chan become San Francisco's first Asian-American in Congress? (2026-10-30 19:57)

On a recent warm Thursday evening, supporters drift into San Francisco's United Irish Cultural Centre to hear Connie Chan, who is running for California's 11th congressional district. Born in Hong Kong, Chan attended elementary school in Taiwan before immigrating to the United States at 13. Now a San Francisco supervisor, she hopes to succeed long-time Democratic powerhouse Nancy Pelosi, who announced her retirement and endorsed her. The 48-year-old politician would be the first Asian-American...

- Carney eyes June deal on making Canada the EU's first associate member (2026-10-30 18:32)

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney said on Friday he expects to conclude negotiations with the European Union in June on an unprecedented partnership that would make Canada the bloc's first "associate member", even though the designation was left out of a joint declaration launching a new economic and security alliance. Carney said he would attend a meeting of European leaders in June to conclude negotiations on the proposed relationship, which would stop short of full EU membership. "In...

- How a Democratic-controlled Congress could reshape US policy on China (2026-10-30 16:33)

A Democratic takeover of either chamber of the US Congress could bring tougher scrutiny of President Donald Trump's dealings with Beijing, even as lawmakers are likely to maintain a broadly hawkish stance towards China, analysts said. A change in control could shift the emphasis of congressional oversight, with the Democratic Party seeking greater accountability for the administration's China policy after Trump's Republican Party largely gave him room to manoeuvre, said Sarah Trister, a former...

- Hong Kong primary pupils to study AI under new technology subject (2026-10-30 15:37)

A new subject called information and innovation technology (IIT) will be introduced gradually in Hong Kong primary schools from September 2028 to boost students' digital literacy, with artificial intelligence (AI) one of its highlights. Students as young as seven will be able to hold simple "conversations" with an AI system, using simple prompts or commands, after learning about the technology. The Education Bureau said the aim of the "Information and Innovation Technology Curriculum Framework...

- Christa Pike says she's in constant pain after failed US execution, slams 'incompetence' (2026-10-30 15:13)

Christa Pike said on Friday that she remained in constant pain and struggled to speak a month after surviving a lethal injection in Tennessee, a failure she blamed on “incompetence.” In her first public statement since the execution, Pike said she never contemplated a life beyond her execution date and was prepared to die in peace, but woke up alone and confused in a hospital bed. “There hasn’t been a moment since that night when I haven’t been in pain. My body hurts. My arms hurt. My hands...

- Russia-Ukraine truce for Oleshky allows aid mission to help starving residents (2026-10-30 14:30)

Starving residents of a Russian-held town in southern Ukraine began evacuating on Friday as part of a joint relief operation by the opposing sides, the first of its kind in four years and eight months of war. Under a local ceasefire brokered by US first lady Melania Trump, an aid convoy arrived in the town of Oleshky and people were given the opportunity to leave. Although it was a striking example of cooperation between the warring sides, the Kremlin described it as a special case that was...

- Hong Kong development chief denies U-turn over agency to support homeowners (2026-10-30 14:24)

Hong Kong’s development chief has rejected accusations of a policy U-turn over the establishment of a dedicated agency to help flat owners with building repair tenders, insisting the agency’s planned remit differs fundamentally from one rejected a decade ago. Secretary for Development Bernadette Linn Hon-ho, in a press conference on Friday, elaborated on the scope of work of the Building Maintenance Support and Services Council, which will be established by the end of this year. She was asked if...

- Hong Kong ministers defend decision not to resign over deadly Tai Po fire (2026-10-30 14:04)

Ministers have defended their decision not to step down over the deadly Tai Po fire, insisting they are putting Hong Kong’s well-being ahead of personal considerations. A senior official also hinted that a successor might not be named to replace Winnie Ho Wing-yin, who resigned as housing minister to take political accountability for the city’s deadliest disaster in decades. Deputy Financial Secretary Michael Wong Wai-lun, who is now serving as acting housing minister, apologised alongside three...

- Pope Leo becomes first pope ever to vote in US election, submits mail-in ballot (2026-10-30 14:02)

Pope Leo has become the first pope to vote in a US general election. The Vatican confirmed on Friday that the Chicago-born pontiff had submitted a mail-in ballot in Chicago ahead of November’s midterm elections, citing his long-standing belief in civic participation. Leo, formerly Robert Prevost, “has exercised his right to vote as a United States citizen” and has done so “whenever he was eligible to do so”, the Holy See press office said. The statement

said he had also voted while living in...

• Hong Kong's planned renovation body may be liable for poor oversight: minister (2026-10-30 13:59)

A planned renovation monitoring body could be held liable for poor oversight when recommending and keeping tabs on consultants and contractors, Hong Kong's development chief Bernadette Linn Hon-ho has warned, as officials detailed broader reforms to curb malpractice during major building repairs. Deputy Financial Secretary Michael Wong Wai-lun also gave assurances on Friday that a new department overseeing major renovation projects would adopt a fresh approach and provide training, despite being...

• China and US expand military drone flights near Japan and the South China Sea (2026-10-30 13:54)

China and America have escalated uncrewed aircraft deployments across sensitive Indo-Pacific waters, with mainland drones patrolling strategic passages near Japan while a US Marine detachment operates near disputed South China Sea islands. In recent days, Japan has detected an uptick in Chinese military aircraft operations in important waters that enable Beijing's naval forces to transit beyond the first island chain. The activity coincided with large-scale joint military exercises between Tokyo...

• Xi Jinping tells German president China and EU must 'stay anchored to their partnership' (2026-10-30 13:45)

China and the European Union can resolve their differences through dialogue, Chinese President Xi Jinping told his German counterpart Frank-Walter Steinmeier on Friday. "China has always regarded the European Union as a partner," Xi said, according to state broadcaster CCTV, adding that cooperation between the two sides outweighed competition. "As long as [both sides] stay anchored to their partnership and engage in dialogue on an equal footing, differences and challenges can always be resolved...

• Why the Philippines remains a hotspot for transnational drug syndicates (2026-10-30 13:27)

Transnational drug syndicates in the Philippines continue to thrive despite decades of crackdowns targeting street-level dealers, with analysts warning that regional suppliers, financiers and trafficking networks have largely eluded enforcement efforts. Former drug officials and security analysts say the country's drug trade remains closely connected to a wider regional supply chain, with criminal groups relying on local partners, maritime routes and established distribution networks to move...

• Hong Kong artist dismayed as works stolen hours before exhibition due to open (2026-10-30 13:13)

Hong Kong police are investigating the suspected theft of five styrofoam sculptures created by local artist Keith Lam Yan-kit. The sculptures were discovered missing from Hong Kong City Hall in Central hours before the opening of a major new exhibition. At just after 2.30pm on Friday afternoon, officers received a report from the Microwave International New Media Arts Festival 2026 about the missing art pieces, which are part of an eight-piece work. The case has been classified as theft and...

- Chinese telecoms giants in Washington's crosshairs as FCC weighs fresh curbs (2026-10-30 13:00)

The US Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is proposing a ban on Chinese telecommunications companies obtaining American telephone numbers, citing national security concerns and the need to protect domestic networks. The proposed rules could prevent China Mobile, China Telecom and China Unicom and other service providers from obtaining numbers through internet-based voice services, the commission said on Thursday. The regulator is scheduled to vote on the proposal at its November 19 meeting....

- China poised to restore military presence to top leadership at party congress (2026-10-30 12:58)

Beijing is expected to gradually restore military representation in its top leadership, analysts say, as the Communist Party seeks to strike a delicate balance in its relations with the People's Liberation Army (PLA) amid an anti-corruption drive that has hit the top ranks. They said the process was expected to be completed at next year's 21st party congress, which will usher in a new leadership line-up for both the party and military. The party wrapped up its fifth plenum of the 20th Central...

- India's Rahul Gandhi takes on Modi, but can grass-roots defiance win votes? (2026-10-30 12:53)

In recent weeks, Indian opposition leader Rahul Gandhi has frequently taken to the streets – joining protest marches, staging sit-ins at police stations and confronting authorities over alleged abuses of power and corruption. Often trading the formal attire traditionally worn by India's political elite for a T-shirt and jeans, Gandhi's high-visibility participation in grass-roots demonstrations has drawn wide attention as he seeks to place himself at the forefront of a growing movement of...

- A Xi-Trump-Putin summit in Shenzhen could kick-start peace in Ukraine (2026-10-30 12:30)

At the recent Valdai Discussion Club, I asked Russian President Vladimir Putin if he would be open to meeting Chinese President Xi Jinping and US President Donald Trump at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) forum in Shenzhen. I also asked, more broadly, what role China could play in promoting peace in Ukraine, mediating and contributing to peacekeeping. Putin was receptive, warmly welcoming the idea of a China-hosted meeting. Trump, too, has expressed a willingness to meet Xi and...

• Beijing drills water cannons and drones near disputed South China Sea shoals (2026-10-30 11:39)

China’s coastguard has carried out an exercise featuring water cannons and drones near two disputed reefs at the centre of its simmering South China Sea contention with the Philippines to prepare for “foreign infringement”, according to state media. A China Coast Guard flotilla “recently” conducted “comprehensive maritime law-enforcement training” in the waters around Second Thomas Shoal and Sabina Shoal, according to state broadcaster CCTV, which did not specify dates. The official television...

• Security chief vows his task force will root out bid-rigging in Hong Kong (2026-10-30 11:36)

Hong Kong’s security chief has expressed confidence that a new joint task force led by him will eradicate the decades-long problem of bid-rigging, while denying that the reforms came too late after the deadly Tai Po fire. Secretary for Security Chris Tang Ping-keung also said on Friday that law enforcement officers would attend meetings of owners’ corporations where the risk of bid-rigging was deemed high to gather frontline intelligence and intervene early. Authorities also hope to pass new...

• Hong Kong to be exclusive host of Vinexpo Asia trade fair for next 5 years (2026-10-30 11:32)

Hong Kong will be the exclusive host of Vinexpo Asia from 2027 to 2031, ending the international wine and spirits trade exhibition’s rotation with Singapore. The organiser of the fair, Vinexposium, confirmed its five-year commitment to the city on Friday, signing a memorandum of understanding with the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB). HKTB chairman Peter Lam Kin-ngok called the strategic partnership a milestone that underscored a commitment to strengthen Hong Kong’s position as Asia’s leading...

• Tai Po fire report (2026-10-30 11:14)

• South Korean students caught cheating with AI glasses to face prosecution from 2027 (2026-10-30 10:44)

South Korea will file criminal complaints against students caught cheating on a national university entrance exam with smart glasses and toughen penalties for their use, a government official has said. Sales of smart glasses – which allow the wearer to shoot photos and videos and interact with an AI assistant among other abilities – are growing worldwide. But so is a backlash around the gadgets, including concerns over people being filmed without consent and their use by exam cheats. South...

• Will diversifying fuel imports be enough to fix Indonesia’s energy shortfall? (2026-10-30 10:32)

Indonesia is looking beyond Singapore for petrol supplies as it seeks to reduce its dependence on a single source, but analysts say diversifying imports will do little to address the country’s

fuel production shortfall without faster refinery modernisation and investment in alternativefuels. Indonesia has long sourced petroleum products from Singapore, including RON 90 petrol,which has a minimum octane rating of 90 and is marketed domestically as Pertalite.Singapore's geographic proximity,...

- China dismisses US report of suspected spy targeting Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang as 'groundless' (2026-10-30 10:30)

China on Friday hit out at reported US intelligence allegations that a suspected Chinese spy had targeted Nvidia chief executive Jensen Huang, dismissing the claims as "groundless speculation" aimed at smearing Beijing. "The relevant report is based on groundless speculation and [is] purely aimed at smearing and slandering China," Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun told a regular media briefing in Beijing. The pushback came after US outlet The New York Times reported on Thursday that...

- Toxic online subcultures fuelling Asia's school attacks (2026-10-30 10:06)

Recent school attacks across Malaysia have shone a light on a troubling trend of teenagers joining an online subculture that glamorises real-life killers, according to a prominent security analyst. Three violent incidents in Malaysian schools – in Kuching on October 21, Banting in July and Bandar Utama in October last year – could be linked to the True Crime Community (TCC), said Munira Mustaffa, founder of Kuala Lumpur-based security consulting firm Chasseur Group. In the Kuching case, the...

- What's the true worth behind Chinese phrase 'carrying 10,000 strings of cash around the waist' (2026-10-30 10:00)

Chinese people use the phrase "yao chan wan guan," or "carrying ten thousand strings of cash around the waist," to describe wealth. But how much was a string of cash, and what could one buy in ancient China? Guan was a traditional Chinese unit of account. Literally referring to the string used to thread coins together, it emerged alongside the round coin with a square hole, which first appeared during the Qin dynasty (221–206 BC). A guan generally equalled a string of 1,000 individual copper or...

- Asian scientists are looking to South Korea as it becomes harder to stay in the US (2026-10-30 10:00)

As tightening US visa restrictions and geopolitics lock out Asian researchers from Western institutions, South Korea is emerging as a new academic sanctuary for top talent. According to Yoo Ji-beom, president of Sungkyunkwan University (SKKU) in Seoul, that reflects a broader trend that has seen the West giving way to Asia after decades of dominance – particularly in the field of applied technology in China, Japan and South Korea. "Technological competition and global talent mobility are...

• Saudi Arabia says Houthis-launched drone destroyed near Mecca, group denies (2026-10-30 09:25)

Saudi Arabia said on Friday it intercepted and destroyed a drone launched by Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels near Islam's holiest city, a claim the Houthis denied. A coalition spokesman, Major General Turki al-Malki, said the drone was intercepted in the region surrounding Mecca, Islam's holiest city and a destination for millions of Muslim pilgrims each year. In a statement, Houthi military spokesman Yahya Saree denied carrying out any operations targeting Mecca, saying the group's military...

• 8 companies apply for Hong Kong ride-hailing licences ahead of deadline (2026-10-30 09:17)

Eight companies have applied for licences to provide ride-hailing services in Hong Kong under the new regulatory regime ahead of Friday's deadline, the Transport Department has confirmed. US-based Uber, Singapore-based Tada, Amap and Didi Chuxing, all of which currently serve the market, confirmed to the South China Morning Post that they had submitted applications. Amap is operated by Alibaba Group Holding, which owns the SCMP. "Drawing on its global operational experience and local track...

• China carries out GJ-21 drone take-off, landing from first Type 076 warship: state media (2026-10-30 09:03)

China successfully conducted take-off and landing operations of the GJ-21 drone from its first Type 076 warship this month, state media said on Friday. In late October, the Sichuan conducted consecutive sea trials, according to Xinhua. "The [People's Liberation Army's] first shipborne reconnaissance-strike stealth UAV, the GJ-21, has successfully completed its maiden take-off and landing on the amphibious assault ship Sichuan," Xinhua said. "It represents another breakthrough in the development...

• Politburo promotion, Lula victory, US midterm elections (2026-10-30 09:00)

Chinese President Xi Jinping renewed a years-long anti-corruption drive at a major Communist Party meeting, while the general who led a military anti-graft purge was promoted to the Politburo. The party must "ensure that officials do not have the audacity, opportunity, or desire to commit corruption", read a communique passed at the fifth plenum of the party's Central Committee. The document also highlighted "unwritten rules" as a key issue to address. Zhang Shengmin, Xi's vice-chairman on the...

• Chinese flying cars more commercially viable than Tesla's Roadster, says Xpeng executive (2026-10-30 09:00)

Flying cars developed by Chinese companies are by design more feasible for commercial use than Tesla's Roadster, according to an executive at Xpeng, after a recent demonstration by the US tech giant sparked discussion about tech leadership in mainland China. Wang Tan, co-founder of Aridge, the affiliate of Chinese electric vehicle (EV) maker Xpeng, said Chinese

companies had adopted different technologies than Tesla did. While the Roadster's mid-airflip and successful landing as seen in a live...

• Economist Stephen Roach warns the US and China are in a 'conflicted co-dependency' (2026-10-30 09:00)

A leading economist warned on Thursday that the United States and China are in a "conflicted co-dependency" that this year's two bilateral summits failed to address. "I think there's a good chance that we're in a temporarily more stable place. But to say that has solved the deep-rooted problems between us, I think is a real stretch," said Stephen Roach, a veteran China-watcher and the former chairman of Morgan Stanley Asia, at the China Institute of America. "You mentioned the two summits that...

• Cathay Pacific says data from 53,000 bookings compromised in Amadeus cyberattack (2026-10-30 08:38)

Hong Kong flag carrier Cathay Pacific Airways has revealed that 53,000 bookings were compromised after hackers breached its technology service provider's system. The carrier is among hundreds of airlines worldwide that use technology solutions provided by Amadeus IT Group. The revelation follows similar disclosures by Korean Air and Japan Airlines. Cathay said on Friday that the unauthorised access took place between August 2023 and September 2026. "We apologise to our customers for the concern...

• Trump's days of running US-China relations on personal ties are numbered (2026-10-30 08:31)

Amid attempts this year to impress each other with splendour, US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping appear to have decided that the relationship between their two countries should primarily run through their personal relationship. This has been a hallmark of the Trump years. The American executive branch has always held near-unilateral authority over foreign policy, but Trump has concentrated that in himself. Dozens of ambassadors and senior national security advisers have...

• China widens PLA anti-corruption campaign, expels corporate chiefs, 16 generals from party (2026-10-30 08:00)

Beijing has provided new details on the scale of its anti-corruption drive across the People's Liberation Army and defence sector, confirming that a fresh batch of senior figures is under formal investigation. They include top generals who once oversaw theatre commands, heads of the powerful Central Military Commission (CMC) General Office and executives in key defence companies. The names were included in a communique released on Thursday at the close of the fifth plenum of the Communist...

• Saviour or stopgap? Malaysia's South Korean jets arrive to relieve ageing fighters (2026-10-30 07:57)

Malaysia received its first South Korean-made light combat jet on Friday under a nearly 4 billion ringgit (US$990 million) procurement, in what analysts describe as welcome relief for an ageing air force still years away from replacing its frontline fighters. The FA-50M Block 20 jet arrived at the air force base in Labuan, off Borneo, with a second expected in Kuantan on the peninsula's east coast next Monday. They are the first of 18 aircraft ordered from Korea Aerospace Industries under a deal...

- France network outage puts Nokia under scrutiny as EU pushes to phase out Huawei, ZTE gear (2026-10-30 07:00)

A mobile network outage in France this week has raised questions about the reliability of Finnish telecoms giant Nokia's products against the backdrop of continued European Union efforts to phase out Chinese suppliers Huawei Technologies and ZTE over security concerns. The problem first hit the network of France's biggest telecoms provider Orange at 11.37am on Monday and lasted until 8.30pm, resulting in outages of up to nine hours for some customers, Orange France CEO Jerome Henique told French...

- Australian PM to visit Beijing after China-hosted Apec summit as tensions simmer (2026-10-30 07:00)

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese is expected to travel to Beijing next month as Canberra seeks to deepen a relationship that has stabilised after years of trade disputes but is still being complicated by geopolitical tensions. Sources told the South China Morning Post that Albanese would first visit southern China's Shenzhen for the November 18-19 Apec leaders' summit before travelling to the capital. US President Donald Trump and Russia's Vladimir Putin are among the other...

- Indonesia's wildfire smoke crisis claims over 3,500 lives in September (2026-10-30 06:35)

Pollution from smoke emitted by months of wildfires across Indonesia caused an estimated 3,560 deaths in the vast Southeast Asian archipelago in September, according to a new study. The same month, about 57.8 million people in Indonesia were inhaling unhealthy to hazardous air, said the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA), a Helsinki-based think tank. "Worsening air quality due to forest and land fires in Indonesia pushed the estimated death toll to 3,560 cases in September 2026,...

- How China uses gut microbes to treat a range of diseases (2026-10-30 06:32)

Modern medicine has spent the past few decades rediscovering the connection between a healthy gut and a healthy mind and body, something traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) practitioners have understood for many hundreds of years. In China and around the world, doctors and scientists trained in Western medicine have learned the importance of maintaining a balance between "good" and "bad" bacteria in the human microbiome – the scientific name for the collection of microorganisms in the gut – and...

- ‘Unwritten rules’ become newest target in Communist Party’s war on corruption (2026-10-30 05:55)

The Communist Party of China has pledged to vigorously crack down on the “unwritten rules” that enable corruption in the party, deepening its long-running campaign to keep officials in line. At a Friday press conference, senior officials described the important takeaways from the 20th Central Committee’s Fifth Plenum, which concluded the day before. They underscored President Xi Jinping’s assertion that corruption remains a serious challenge that requires sustained pressure and targeted action...

- Abby Choi’s ex-father-in-law pleads guilty to illegal disposal of her body in stark U-turn (2026-10-30 05:47)

The former father-in-law of slain Hong Kong socialite Abby Choi Tin-fung has made a U-turn midway through her murder trial and pleaded guilty to the illegal disposal of her body. As the High Court trial entered its fifth week before a nine-member jury, Kwong Kau made a stunning reversal on Friday and admitted to the charge he initially refuted. The 68-year-old retired police sergeant stands accused of murdering his former daughter-in-law on February 21, 2023, and preventing the burial of the...

- France on alert as 70,000 police mobilised for Halloween protests (2026-10-30 05:25)

France’s interior minister has warned of a “very high risk of public disorder” and announced the deployment of around 70,000 police officers for a new wave of protests this weekend. France has been rocked by widespread anger over the rising cost of living and inequality, with nationwide demonstrations on October 17 degenerating into some of the country’s worst rioting in years. The Yellow Vest movement and student unions have called for a new day of protests on Saturday. The demonstrations come...

- Evergrande liquidators sell controlling stake in property services unit for US$513 million (2026-10-30 05:24)

Liquidators of China Evergrande Group have agreed to sell a controlling stake in its property management arm to investment firm PAG for HK$4.03 billion (US$513.6 million), as they seek to recover assets for creditors owed US$46 billion. The sale of a 51.016 per cent stake in Evergrande Property Services could give the profitable business a new controlling shareholder after its parent used billions of yuan of its bank deposits as collateral for loans, leaving the company struggling to recover the...

- ‘Why did it take 11 months?’: apology too late for some Tai Po fire survivors (2026-10-30 04:46)

Hong Kong officials’ apology over the deadly Tai Po blaze nearly a year ago came too late, residents of the fire-ravaged estate have said, as they urged authorities to learn from the disaster and pursue long-term reforms. Several Wang Fuk Court residents also said on Thursday the resignation of housing minister Winnie Ho Wing-yin could not answer for

cross-departmental failings, adding that institutional overhaul would be ineffective unlessofficials enforced rules, exercised sound judgment and...

- China's optical suppliers extend sell-off as fears of slower AI growth trump upbeat earnings (2026-10-30 04:27)

Shares of major Chinese optical communications suppliers slumped on Friday before clawing back some of their losses, extending a two-day sell-off despite upbeat third-quarter earnings driven by the global artificial intelligence infrastructure boom. During morning trading in Shenzhen, Chengdu-based Eoptolink Technology dropped as much as 15 per cent, while Suzhou TFC Communication slid 10.3 per cent and industry leader Zhongji Innolight fell over 7 per cent. By the midday break, the trio had...

- Lula's win aids China ties; Hong Kong official quits over Tai Po fire: SCMP's 7 highlights (2026-10-30 04:15)

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. Win for Lula boosts China's foothold and gives Brazil rare earths leverage Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's re-election preserves Beijing's most critical foothold in Latin America, while positioning Brasilia to leverage...

- Singapore adds muscle to expert panel as probe into haze-linked firms gains speed (2026-10-30 03:47)

Seven members have been selected for a specialist panel that will assess companies identified by the Singapore government over potential links to transboundary haze, the Ministry of Law (MinLaw) and National Environment Agency (NEA) said on Friday. Three are investigation firms: Control Risks Group, FTI Consulting (Singapore) and Kroll Singapore. The remaining four are law firms or legal advisers: Dentons Rodyk & Davidson, Toby Landau, King's Counsel of Duxton Hill Chambers, TSMP Law Corporation...

- Hong Kong's M+ forges new alliance with MoMA and Centre Pompidou to redefine museum loans (2026-10-30 03:15)

Hong Kong's M+ museum, New York's Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) and the Centre Pompidou in Paris signed an agreement on October 30 to establish a three-way cultural alliance, aiming to redefine how visual culture is collected, exhibited and shared globally. The framework agreement, signed at M+ in the West Kowloon Cultural District, departs from conventional short-term blockbuster touring exhibitions and fee-based satellite franchises. With no money changing hands, the institutions will focus on...

- 'Identity crisis': UK passes British Nationality Bill in 1981 – SCMP archive (2026-10-30 03:00)

A matter of identity By Christopher Wood This article was first published on October 31, 1981 The passage of the British Nationality Bill through Parliament has proved an emotional issue for Hongkong, sparking off fears that the Colony is sliding into political limbo. As Hongkong-born British subjects lost their right of residence in the United Kingdom back in 1962, the strength of feeling against the legislation has surprised many, including probably the British Government. But such a view...

- Development minister on accountability: I am just a sailor following my captain (2026-10-30 02:29)

This live article is freely available to our registered users. Please log in or create an account. Hong Kong authorities will provide more details about reforms to tackle bid-rigging and enhance oversight of building maintenance projects, in response to the city’s deadliest fire in decades. The government will hold two press conferences on Friday to provide details about the reforms, after an independent committee that investigated the Tai Po fire pointed to inadequacies in the government’s...

- Most Malaysians held for drug crimes abroad detained in Indonesia, China (2026-10-30 02:18)

The number of Malaysians detained overseas for drug-related offences increased to 1,588 as of September this year, according to Deputy Foreign Minister Lukanisman Awang Sauni. Lukanisman said the five countries with the highest numbers of Malaysians detained were Indonesia (381), China (380), Singapore (310), Thailand (102) and Japan (72). He said increasingly sophisticated drug-smuggling methods had contributed to the frequent arrests of Malaysians overseas. “A total of 1,181 Malaysians were...

- Pentagon accuses fired US general of leaking sensitive information (2026-10-30 02:12)

The Pentagon has accused a newly ousted three-star general of leaking sensitive information to the media just hours after officials confirmed his removal from a top military planning post. Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth fired US Army Lieutenant General Brett Sylvia as head of strategy, plans and policy for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, a defence official said late Wednesday. Typically, the general in the position and their staff are responsible for generating and coordinating military plans for...

- Kindness returned: Chinese woman helped disabled man 8 years ago, now gets financial aid (2026-10-30 02:00)

A Chinese woman donated 500 yuan (US$75) to an 18-year-old stranger with a disability after seeing a social media post saying he was too poor to afford meals. Eight years later, he repaid her double the amount after learning she was going through a difficult time, which moved many people online. In 2018, Wang Shuming, from China’s eastern Shandong province, posted a video saying he had no money and could not afford food. Wang lives with the effects of a childhood fever. He has difficulty walking...

• France’s protests, like Hong Kong’s in 2019, risk being defined by violence (2026-10-30 01:30)

No protester sets out expecting a friend to be arrested, injured or caught in a confrontation with the police. Yet when that happens, the reasons for returning to the streets can change. People may return not only because of the cause that first brought them out, but because they believe a friend has been treated unjustly. That is how anger becomes personal, and how a protest can move towards a dangerous cycle of action and reaction. This is the risk confronting France. The student protests...

• As AI transforms global markets, Cyberport Venture & Capital Forum 2026 brings together the investors and innovators shaping what's next (2026-10-30 01:20)

[The content of this article has been produced by our advertising partner.] Global venture capital is surging in 2026, fuelled by concentrated investment in AI, digital infrastructure, robotics and other frontier technologies. At the same time, agentic AI, tokenisation, stable coins and programmable finance are accelerating the movement of capital across borders, giving rise to an emerging ‘agentic economy.’ Against this backdrop, CVCF 2026 aims to further energise and accelerate venture...

• Inside the PLA’s new austerity drive: lean, mean, printing-on-both-sides machine (2026-10-30 01:00)

The People’s Liberation Army (PLA) is distributing second-hand briefcases, salvaging screws and steel bars, and reusing holiday decorations to keep costs down as part of a thrift campaign emphasising growth through frugality. It forms part of a broader cost-cutting effort in the Chinese military under Beijing’s 15th five-year plan covering 2026 to 2030, which calls for building the armed forces through “diligence and thrift” and pursuing a path of “high efficiency, low cost and...

• Will Tai Po fire reforms wipe out collusion in Hong Kong’s building maintenance industry? (2026-10-30 00:44)

A raft of reforms to overhaul Hong Kong’s building maintenance sector has been hailed as a bold first step in tackling bid-rigging and other deep-rooted problems, but observers said its success would depend on the determination and persistence to implement them to restore public trust. They said the reforms signalled a departure from the government’s long-standing reliance on the self-discipline of industry professionals, but highlighted a notable absence of measures to tackle falsified...

• Australian mushroom killer Erin Patterson likely to die in jail after failed appeal (2026-10-30 00:41)

Australian mushroom murderer Erin Patterson lost a bid to overturn her convictions and had a harsher sentence imposed on Friday, failing to prove she was wrongfully jailed for killing three

people with a poisoned lunch. Patterson was found guilty last year of murdering herhusband’s parents and elderly aunt, deliberately lacing their beef Wellington meal with highlytoxic death cap mushrooms. The 52-year-old maintained her triple murder convictions were a “miscarriage of justice”, urging the...

• Hong Kong national security judge Alex Lee promoted to the Court of Appeal (2026-10-30 00:07)

A Hong Kong judge who has overseen high-profile national security trials, including the collusion case of former media boss Jimmy Lai Chee-ying, has been promoted to the Court of Appeal. A Judiciary statement on Thursday said the chief executive had accepted the recommendation of the Judicial Officers Recommendation Commission to appoint Court of First Instance judge Alex Lee Wan-tang to his new role, with his appointment taking effect on Friday. Handpicked by the city leader to adjudicate...

• Can AI teach kids to think? Malaysia’s classroom tech push faces a reality check (2026-10-30 00:00)

While many parents still question whether to give their children access to artificial intelligence, Malaysian tech worker Pravin Ganesan has embraced it to solve a very practical problem: helping his eight-year-old daughter with homework he sometimes struggles to explain. Pravin, 42, taught her a few basic prompts and checked the answers closely, finding that generative AI is particularly good at breaking down difficult concepts into child-friendly terms. “It has helped her learn and understand...

• Chinese scholars warned of challenge of ‘translating academic research into policy’ (2026-10-30 00:00)

Chinese academic courses designed to deepen understanding of different countries or regions face a challenge in better informing policy and moving beyond frameworks developed in the West, a conference in Beijing has heard. Speakers said that as the country’s international engagement deepened, it needed a better understanding of the nations it engaged with, including their political systems, histories and strategic priorities. The discipline – known in China as “area studies” – draws on...

• Netanyahu’s party claims election ‘stolen’ as results show him losing majority (2026-10-29 23:32)

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s party on Thursday amplified unsubstantiated allegations that Arab-led parties had “stolen” the election, potentially with foreign help, as final results showed his bloc had lost its majority in parliament. The opposition accused Netanyahu of demonising the Arab population after a historic showing by Arab-led parties in an attempt to delegitimise the election. If the rest of the opposition teams up with Arab parties, a rare and politically risky move,...

• Chinese scientists dissatisfied with jobs but optimistic about future, survey says (2026-10-29 22:22)

Chinese scientists are less satisfied with their jobs than researchers in any other major country, according to a survey that also found they are more optimistic about their careers than their counterparts in the United States and Britain. Only 51 per cent of the 157 respondents from China said they were satisfied with their jobs, according to the survey published this month in the British scientific journal Nature, down 24 per cent from 2018. The survey drew 3,882 respondents from 133...

• Hong Kong's wider yuan push: a gateway to the world? (2026-10-29 22:00)

In September, Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chiu unveiled the city's first five-year plan along with his policy address, highlighting Hong Kong's strategic role in promoting the greater use of the yuan outside mainland China as a key priority. In the last of a four-part series on the internationalisation of the yuan, Lam Ka-sing examines Hong Kong's push to make the currency part of everyday life – from vending machines and retail payments to government spending and cross-border trade. At Hong...

• Brazil's Flavio Bolsonaro mocked at home after self-exile to US (2026-10-29 21:42)

In a viral wave of mockery, Brazilian pop star Anitta declared herself free of cellulite, one influencer declared himself the "true president" of Twitter, and another social media user proclaimed himself the winner of the next lottery. The target of the taunts was Flavio Bolsonaro, who – after fleeing to the US following his election defeat – proclaimed himself the leader of Brazil on Wednesday in a confusing series of revised statements. The moves by the 45-year-old senator have been met in...

• Can Canada, UK and Australia grasp chance offered by US-China rivalry? (2026-10-29 21:30)

As middle powers, Australia, Britain and Canada can do more than most other nations to influence global peace in the face of a new great power rivalry between China and the United States. These three nations owe their citizens, and perhaps the wider world, an earnest effort to rise to the challenge of being peacemakers. They have three attributes in common that give them unique potential to be a pivotal force. First is their own shared histories as members of the Anglosphere and therefore close...

• In Michigan Senate race, Trump's softer China tone gives candidates room to look elsewhere (2026-10-29 20:49)

Two years ago, Mike Rogers stood before the Republican National Convention and warned that it was "impossible to build an EV without getting into bed with the Communist Party of China". The former US House Intelligence Committee chairman made opposition to Chinese investment a prominent theme of his 2024 Senate bid in Michigan, which he narrowly lost to Democrat Elissa Slotkin. Now, as Rogers runs again, US President Donald Trump's softer

approach towards Beijing has given candidates more room...

• Patrick Stewart, of Star Trek and X-Men fame, dies at 86 (2026-10-29 20:17)

Patrick Stewart, who rose from poverty in England to become an accomplished Shakespearean stage actor and then achieved global stardom as the erudite Captain Jean-Luc Picard in television's Star Trek: The Next Generation and the telepathic Professor Charles Xavier in the X-Men films, has died at the age of 86. Stewart, knighted in 2010 by Queen Elizabeth for his contributions to drama, died at his home in Los Angeles, according to a statement on his social media account. "We announce with...

• EU considering Canada as 'associate member' despite internal opposition (2026-10-29 19:43)

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said on Thursday the EU and Canada continue to explore Canada becoming the union's first "associate member", a term so divisive among member countries that it does not appear in a joint declaration. The European Union and Canada aim to deepen cooperation on AI, climate, energy and security, von der Leyen said in a speech at a Canada-EU summit in Montreal. The associate member term, which Germany and several other EU countries oppose, has no...

• 3 killed in rock spire collapse in Turkey's touristic Cappadocia (2026-10-29 17:58)

Three people, including a foreign national, were killed on Thursday when a rock spire collapsed in Turkey's Unesco-listed Cappadocia region after a landslide triggered by heavy rain, officials said. Turkey's Cappadocia region, a magnet for tourists from around the world, is home to cone-shaped rock formations known as "fairy chimneys", created by ancient volcanic activity. "According to initial findings, two people were killed and five others injured in the incident," Justice Minister Akin...

• Hong Kong's John Lee apologises for Tai Po fire, unveils reforms as housing chief resigns (2026-10-29 16:08)

Hong Kong's leader has apologised for last year's deadly Tai Po fire, vowing extensive civil service and legislative reforms and an overhaul of government departments as his housing chief Winnie Ho Wing-yin resigned to offer political accountability. A grim-faced Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chiu and seven other top officials bowed their heads in apology on Thursday at the start of a press briefing, the first time his administration had directly expressed regret since the blaze on November 26 at...

• US bans Chinese labs from testing electronics ahead of Trump-Xi meeting (2026-10-29 15:39)

The United States on Thursday banned all Chinese laboratories from testing electronic devices destined for the US market, just weeks before US President Donald Trump is due to meet Chinese leader Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in

Shenzhen. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) voted to bar testing laboratories andcertification bodies in China and other economies that lack a “mutual recognition agreement” or reciprocal trade agreement with the...

• Thailand revokes naturalised head rabbi’s citizenship over repeated US passport use (2026-10-29 14:44)

Thailand’s government said on Thursday it had revoked the citizenship of a prominent head rabbi who was a naturalised Thai, as the country tightens enforcement of its immigration laws. Rabbi Yosef Chaim Kantor’s Thai citizenship was stripped over his repeated use of his US passport after naturalisation in 2013, according to an interior ministry statement. The order was signed by Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul, who is also interior minister. Thai law prohibits naturalised citizens from...

• China tests powerful AI that could one day be used on submarines (2026-10-29 14:43)

China has showcased artificial intelligence (AI) technology alongside 7,000-metre (23,000-feet) deep-sea trials of its upgraded Jiaolong submersible, highlighting the potential for similar systems to support decision-making and emergency responses aboard nuclear-powered submarines. The Chinese crewed submersible reached a maximum depth of 7,056.9 metres during three dives in the Philippine Basin in the western Pacific Ocean, according to state news agency Xinhua on October 27. The trials...

• Singapore wields ‘quiet diplomacy’ in minister’s surprise visit to Indonesia amid haze tensions (2026-10-29 14:35)

Singapore’s decision to send its top diplomat to Indonesia on a surprise visit, following days of terse exchanges over a regional haze, underscores a bid to defuse growing tensions and seek a direct channel to President Prabowo Subianto. Analysts say Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan’s trip reflected his country’s preference for measured diplomacy amid rising nationalistic rhetoric in Indonesia, with the city state also mindful of containing any “negative fallout” as Jakarta grapples with...

• US economy grows faster than expected 3.4% in 3Q, driven by consumers, AI investment (2026-10-29 14:26)

The US economy grew faster than expected in the third quarter as resilient consumer spending and AI-driven business investment more than offset the impact of higher oil prices stemming from the conflict in the Middle East. Gross domestic product increased at a 3.4 per cent annualised rate last quarter, the Commerce Department’s Bureau of Economic Analysis said in its advance estimate of third-quarter GDP on Thursday. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast GDP advancing at a 3.2 per cent...

• Lee vows to stay on, says housing minister’s resignation his ‘political decision’ (2026-10-29 14:25)

Hong Kong's leader has said the housing minister's resignation was his "comprehensive political decision" in establishing accountability for the city's deadliest fire in decades, with a three-member team to also investigate up to 50 civil servants. Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chiu also said on Thursday that he decided to stay on to spearhead comprehensive reforms. Nearly a year after last November's Tai Po inferno that claimed 168 lives and displaced about 5,000 residents, Lee announced that...

- Security chief vows revamp of fire department after report censures lax inspections (2026-10-29 14:18)

Hong Kong's security chief has vowed to implement tougher enforcement against unauthorised shutdowns of fire safety systems and a structural overhaul of the Fire Services Department (FSD) after it was criticised for relying on a "passive, paper-driven" audit regime. The independent committee that investigated the Wang Fuk Court fire said in its report released on Thursday that the department had received notices that the estate's fire hydrant and hosepipe reel system had been deactivated for...

- Tai Po fire risks went unchecked as 'honour system' exploited, report says (2026-10-29 14:16)

The lack of a sense of crisis and an overreliance on an "honour system" prevented the buildings, labour and fire safety authorities from acting on fire safety risks at Wang Fuk Court in Tai Po, a judge-led panel that investigated Hong Kong's deadliest blaze in decades has found. But among the four government bodies singled out in the independent committee's final report on the fire, the Labour Department should bear the least responsibility, it said. "Firstly and most importantly, there was a...

- Residents were left helpless as departments 'passed the ball' on safety complaints (2026-10-29 14:00)

No government department took effective ownership of fire safety risks ahead of the deadly Tai Po fire in Hong Kong, allowing complaints made by residents to fall into a vacuum, according to an independent committee. At the release of the 1,154-page full report on Thursday, Chief Secretary Eric Chan Kwok-ki said he would lead a steering committee to review and implement the more than 100 recommendations of the independent committee. The recommendations included the criminalisation of...

- AI chipmaker Iluvatar CoreX says new GPU matches Nvidia's H200 as home-grown push accelerates (2026-10-29 14:00)

Chinese artificial intelligence chipmaker Iluvatar CoreX claims that its new Tiangai 300 graphics processing unit (GPU) can match and even surpass Nvidia's H200 in real-world AI workloads, highlighting efforts by domestic players to close the technology gap with the US chip giant. In a live demonstration for mainland Chinese media outlets on Wednesday, the Shanghai-based firm showed the Tiangai 300 outperforming the H200 in complex multimodal tasks, including

text-to-image and text-to-video...

• Anwar's ex-rival backs Malaysia's budget. Will Muhyiddin become PM's election partner? (2026-10-29 13:54)

The former prime minister who helped bring down Anwar Ibrahim's political alliance six years ago has now agreed to back his government in parliament, in a surprise deal struck just before the passage of Malaysia's 2027 budget at its first voting stage on Thursday. Muhyiddin Yassin, who governed Malaysia from 2020 to 2021, joined 12 other opposition and independent lawmakers in pledging support for Anwar's administration, hours before parliament approved the government's 459.8 billion ringgit...

• Hong Kong housing chief quits over Tai Po fire, accepts political responsibility (2026-10-29 13:45)

Hong Kong's housing chief has resigned to take political responsibility for the devastating fire at Wang Fuk Court, offering condolences to the families of the victims and expressing hope that those who perished may rest in peace. Winnie Ho Wing-yin said on Thursday that she submitted her resignation to Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chiu the previous day, becoming the only minister-level official so far to resign over the fire. "As the secretary for housing, I'm willing to bear political...

• Hong Kong to set up new body to oversee building renovations in regulatory overhaul (2026-10-29 13:41)

Hong Kong will establish a dedicated body to oversee building renovations as part of a wide-ranging overhaul that includes restructuring the Buildings Department and tightening regulation of contractors. The move was revealed on Thursday as Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chiu and his ministers offered a formal apology over the deadly blaze at Wang Fuk Court in Tai Po last November. His administration was establishing a Building Maintenance Support and Services Council as part of the reforms, the...

• ECB head Lagarde resigns amid mounting economic, political challenges for Europe (2026-10-29 13:06)

European Central Bank president Christine Lagarde resigned on Thursday, ending months of speculation about her future just as Europe enters a period of rising economic volatility and divisive electoral politics, particularly in her native France. Lagarde will step down on February 7, giving current European Union leaders time to pick her successor before a French presidential election that polls show far-right candidate Marine Le Pen is favoured to win. The move comes as the ECB battles...

• Hong Kong to replace disgraced housing unit over deadly Tai Po fire (2026-10-29 13:04)

Hong Kong's disgraced Independent Checking Unit (ICU) will be disbanded as part of reforms in the wake of the city's deadliest fire in decades, after a judge-led inquiry identified it as the

government arm with the greatest responsibility for the Wang Fuk Court inferno. ChiefExecutive John Lee Ka-chiu said on Thursday that the Housing Bureau would undergo internalrestructuring, under which the ICU would be replaced by a new Public Housing Building ControlSection. Deputy Financial Secretary...

- New images suggest China's fourth aircraft carrier could launch in 2027, analysts say (2026-10-29 13:00)

China's fourth aircraft carrier, widely believed to be the country's first with a nuclear-powered system, could launch as early as next year, according to US researchers, as Beijing pursues a fleet capable of projecting naval and air power far beyond its shores. A launch in 2027 would coincide with the centenary of the People's Liberation Army, with the anniversary falling on August 1. Beijing has previously used major military anniversaries to showcase developments in its armed forces. The...

- Bid-rigging in renovation projects to be criminalised under law against triads (2026-10-29 12:56)

The Hong Kong government is set to criminalise bid-rigging in building maintenance projects under laws covering triad and corruption offences and allow authorities to take criminal or civil action against such conduct, following the release of an independent committee's report on the fatal Tai Po blaze. The regulatory overhaul on bid-rigging was announced on Thursday, as the government released the long-anticipated report of the independent committee investigating the causes of the devastating...

- China slams EU's potential new trade safeguards, says they may violate WTO rules (2026-10-29 12:47)

Beijing reiterated its opposition on Thursday to potential new European Union trade safeguards targeting Chinese exports, vowing to take "all necessary measures" to defend the interests of its companies. "Artificially restricting normal trade is suspected of violating World Trade Organization rules," said Huang Ling, spokeswoman for China's Ministry of Commerce, at a weekly press conference. "Far from improving the competitiveness of EU industry, it will increase the burden on downstream...

- China's BYD, Geely report profit jump as sales abroad surge, though local market stalls (2026-10-29 12:41)

China's two largest carmakers, BYD and Geely Auto, reported a jump in their third-quarter earnings, propelled by surging overseas sales as they intensified pressure on established international marques in Europe and Southeast Asia. BYD, mainland China's largest automotive group, posted a net profit of 10 billion yuan (US$1.5 billion) in the three months ending September, up 28 per cent from the same period a year earlier. Revenue grew 13.6 per cent to 211.5 billion yuan. Geely said on Thursday...

• Xi-Trump summits must leave businesses with greater clarity, not less (2026-10-29 12:30)

An aircraft supplier can have parts ready and a customer waiting yet be unable to ship while Washington holds up its licence. In Shanghai, Citi has approval to establish a securities business after years of waiting. Companies must invest, sign contracts and move production while the two governments negotiate. A board needs to know what can proceed now, what remains conditional and what could stop the business after the money has been spent. Chinese President Xi Jinping and US President Donald...

• Hong Kong police probe HK$40 million jewellery theft from Southern district flat (2026-10-29 12:09)

Hong Kong police launched an investigation into the disappearance of jewellery worth nearly HK$40 million (US$5.1 million) from a woman's home in the upscale Southern district neighbourhood of Chung Hom Kok. The woman, 56, called police at about 1pm on Thursday, two days after returning to her four-storey, stand-alone block at Bauhinia Garden on Chung Hom Kok Road to discover that a pearl necklace worth about HK$39 million and a diamond necklace worth HK$700,000 had disappeared. She had placed...

• China accuses Philippines of setting up 'obstacles' to attending Asean defence meeting (2026-10-29 12:02)

China has accused the Philippines of setting up "numerous obstacles" to attending a meeting with defence ministers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) and of violating "basic diplomatic protocols". The row, which follows years of tension over the two countries' competing claims to the South China Sea, saw Beijing sending its defence attache to the meeting in the Philippines – the lowest-ranking Chinese representative at the event since it was first held in 2010. "The...

• Can Lula's re-election unlock Mercosur markets for Southeast Asia? (2026-10-29 12:00)

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's re-election should provide continuity for the country's trade push into Southeast Asia, analysts say, as Vietnam and Indonesia pursue preferential trade agreements with Mercosur, the South American bloc in which Brazil is the largest economy. But better access to Brazil and other Mercosur markets is far from assured, with trade experts pointing to difficult negotiations over tariffs and agricultural access, as well as political differences within...

• Hong Kong scraps lighting attraction at The Peak after public outcry (2026-10-29 11:56)

Hong Kong authorities have scrapped a controversial plan to install decorative lights along a scenic trail on The Peak to increase the city's nighttime tourism appeal following a public outcry, promising to restore the natural landscape as soon as possible. The Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau and Tourism Board concluded there was no urgent need to roll out the project after assessing the effectiveness of a watered-down version of the attraction, according to documents they submitted to the...

• Lit cigarette, combustibles and ‘human fault’ led to deadly Hong Kong fire: report (2026-10-29 11:11)

A combination of a lit cigarette and an “abundant fuel” of combustible materials caused Hong Kong’s deadliest fire in decades, according to a long-awaited report which found the blaze would not have killed so many people, or happened at all, without “human fault”. Eleven months after the deadly fire tore through Wang Fuk Court, killing 168 and displacing thousands, an independent committee’s report released on Thursday assigned blame to the main contractor for renovations at the housing estate,...

• Why Japan is pushing for a more ‘proactive’ Southeast Asia amid great-power rivalry (2026-10-29 11:11)

Japan wants a more united and proactive Southeast Asia as it sees Asean as a bulwark against an intensifying great-power rivalry, analysts say, while uncertainty over Washington’s long-term Indo-Pacific strategy has deepened Tokyo’s concerns about the region’s future. Japanese Defence Minister Shinjiro Koizumi on Wednesday urged Southeast Asian nations to strengthen their collective response to emerging security threats, warning of a “rapidly deteriorating” security environment and shifts in the...

• Later hours unlikely to boost bottle sales at Hong Kong wine festival: exhibitors (2026-10-29 11:05)

Later opening times are unlikely to boost wine sales by the bottle, exhibitors returning to Hong Kong’s annual Wine and Dine Festival have said, with new overseas participants believing that the city serves as an indicator for broader trends in Asian markets. The festival returned to the Central Harbourfront on Thursday with over 340 booths, an increase of more than 10 per cent from last year, with over 30 countries and regions represented. Operating hours are from 1pm to 1am on Friday and...

• 10 US states to vote on data centre development on election day amid opposition (2026-10-29 10:54)

Voters in 10 US states will decide on election day whether to curb data centre development in their communities, as the rapid buildout needed to power the AI boom stirs local opposition. Resistance is especially visible in Ohio, one of the country’s fastest-growing data centre markets. No state has more data centre-related ballot measures, with voters in more than a dozen jurisdictions set to consider 21 proposals alongside Tuesday’s midterm elections, according to the non-partisan research...

• Indonesia haze cost Malaysia US$1.97 billion in losses: study (2026-10-29 10:48)

Smoke from this year’s Indonesian forest and peatland fires has inflicted an estimated 8 billion ringgit (US$1.97 billion) in welfare losses on Malaysia, contributing to an estimated 1,700 deaths and severely disrupting manufacturing, according to a report commissioned by the

country’s leading industrial group. The study, “The 2026 Fire Season and TransboundaryHaze in Malaysia”, was conducted for the Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers (FMM), asreported by the Malay Mail. Drawing on...

• Thailand and Vietnam meat seizures highlight deepening risk of unsafe food on the table (2026-10-29 10:04)

A flurry of meat seizures across Thailand and Vietnam has raised fears of animal-borne diseases devastating regional livestock populations and unsafe food ending up on consumers’ plates. Driven by rising energy and logistics costs, unscrupulous suppliers have targeted restaurants and wet markets desperate to protect margins by sourcing cheap, unregulated cuts – even those past their expiry date or tainted with disease. On October 21, police in Vietnam’s southern province of Dong Nai dismantled a...

• Why students in ancient China honoured teachers by gifting wild vegetables (2026-10-29 10:00)

While it is common for Chinese people to hold banquets for teachers upon graduation as a way of honouring them – a traditional value – in ancient China, students expressed their respect for teachers differently: by presenting them with vegetables. The tradition began in the Zhou dynasty (1046–256 BC). On the first day of school, students wore blue gowns and brought their teachers wild vegetables they had gathered themselves. They then bowed reverently before memorial tablets honouring ancient...

• China promotes General Zhang Shengmin, a key player in PLA anti-graft drive, to Politburo (2026-10-29 09:48)

Beijing has promoted General Zhang Shengmin, the key player in the recent anti-corruption campaign that has cut deep into the military’s top leadership, to its top decision-making body, the Politburo. Zhang, who was last year promoted to vice-chair of the military’s top commanding body, the Central Military Commission (CMC), was the military’s top anti-corruption chief from 2018 until July this year, and is the top enforcer of Beijing’s fight against corruption in the People’s Liberation...

• Hegseth pitches new US-Asean defence framework, but doubts run deep (2026-10-29 09:47)

What are Southeast Asian nations doing to help the United States tackle its challenges? A reporter with the American right-wing organisation Turning Point USA put the question bluntly to US President Donald Trump’s defence chief this week in the Philippines. As US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth pitched closer naval ties and maritime security cooperation at a gathering of defence ministers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) and other regional powers, the question injected...

• Chain of failures: 5 key takeaways from report on Tai Po blaze (2026-10-29 09:12)

A long-awaited report on the Wang Fuk Court fire released by Hong Kong authorities on Thursday set out how a chain of systemic failures across the government and the construction sector led to the deaths of 168 people. Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chiu alongside top officials announced an array of decisions, ranging from the resignation of the housing chief and setting up a new body to assist homeowners in renovation projects to criminalising bid-rigging that was regarded by officials as “the...

- EU officials to push yuan appreciation in Beijing visits (2026-10-29 09:01)

Top European economic and finance officials are set to visit Beijing as they seek to persuade Chinese policymakers to let the yuan strengthen in order to help shrink a surging trade gap, the South China Morning Post reported exclusively. Maarten Verwey, the European Commission’s director general for economic and financial affairs, would lead a delegation to the Chinese capital in the week of November 23. This would be followed by a joint mission around year-end probably comprising European...

- South Korean prosecutor seeks death penalty for Yoon over martial law (2026-10-29 08:43)

A South Korean special prosecutor on Thursday demanded the death penalty for ousted president Yoon Suk-yeol, ahead of an appeal court verdict on rebellion charges over his brief imposition of martial law in December 2024. The Seoul High Court has yet to set a date for a verdict on Yoon’s appeal of a life sentence handed down in February by the Seoul Central District Court. The court found that he illegally mobilised troops and police to seize the legislature, arrest political opponents and...

- Spain begins 3 days of mourning after high-speed train disaster (2026-10-29 08:31)

Spain began three days of mourning on Thursday after its second high-speed rail collision this year killed 68 people and injured scores, with relatives desperately seeking news about their loved ones. One of Europe’s deadliest train disasters this century has raised fresh questions about safety on Spain’s rail network after the transport minister reported an “error” and “inexplicable circumstances” that led to the crash. The collision happened in the central region of Castilla-La Mancha on...

- China’s currency goes global (2026-10-29 08:22)
- CK Asset pauses Hong Kong sales launch at Yuen Long’s Montage development (2026-10-29 08:00)

CK Asset Holdings has suspended sales at its Yuen Long residential project Montage, days before it planned to begin marketing the development’s first homes. The developer confirmed the suspension to the South China Morning Post but declined to explain the abrupt decision, saying only that it reserved the right to pause or commence sales at any time. It dismissed market speculation that the government had revoked the project’s presale consent as baseless. The move followed Moni Yeung, deputy...

• ‘Singapore also at risk’: Indonesian minister urges calm over internet cable jab (2026-10-29 07:55)

Indonesia’s communications minister has urged calm after a former Singaporean nominated member of parliament (NMP) suggested the city state could disrupt its neighbour’s internet access, arguing that any outage would cripple connectivity on both sides. Communication and Digital Affairs Minister Meutya Hafid said the government and public “need not be irritated” by comments from ex-NMP Calvin Cheng. In Singapore, NMPs are appointed to bring non-partisan perspectives to the legislature; they do...

• Japan and US strike deal on missile assembly as Tokyo expands long-range arsenal (2026-10-29 07:53)

Tokyo has struck a deal to build an assembly line for advanced American air-to-air missiles, while simultaneously exploring missile testing in India and Australia, moves which further mark Japan’s shift away from its post-war pacifist defence posture. Japanese Defence Minister Shinjiro Koizumi announced late Wednesday that the two allies would construct a final assembly facility in Japan for the AIM-120 Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missile (AMRAAM). The facility’s location has not been...

• Germany does not want China decoupling but must defend its interests, president warns (2026-10-29 07:48)

Germany is not seeking to decouple from China, but must defend its economic interests, visiting German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier said in Beijing on Thursday, echoing the line taken by Chancellor Friedrich Merz during his tour of neighbouring countries. Speaking at Peking University, Steinmeier insisted that Europe’s goal was not to sever ties with the world’s second-largest economy but to reset the relationship on a fairer footing. “Our goal as Europeans is clear. We do not want...

• 2 men charged in Malaysia after dog seen being dragged behind motorbike (2026-10-29 07:39)

Two friends claimed trial to a charge of animal cruelty at the Sessions Court in the Malaysian state of Penang for allegedly dragging a dog tied to a motorcycle last month. Lee Beng Hooi and Yeoh Keat Chye, both 62, pleaded not guilty to the charge read before judge Irwan Suainbon on Thursday. They were jointly charged with dragging a female black dog on an iron chain along the road using a motorcycle, causing the animal unnecessary pain and suffering. The offence allegedly occurred along a back...

• Tencent targets Southeast Asia as launch pad for AI agent WorkBuddy amid tough local market (2026-10-29 07:30)

Chinese tech giant Tencent Holdings is using Southeast Asia as a launch pad to take its “cost-effective” artificial intelligence tools global, fronted by its workplace assistant WorkBuddy, amid cutthroat competition at home. The company was targeting existing regional

customers of its cloud computing and big data services, particularly in markets such asIndonesia, according to Dowson Tong, CEO of Tencent’s Cloud and Smart Industries Group.The international push coincided with triple-digit...

• Hong Kong police officer denies mishandling DNA samples in Abby Choi murder case (2026-10-29 07:19)

A police officer has denied failing to properly label DNA samples taken from slain Hong Kong socialite Abby Choi Tin-fung’s ex-husband after his arrest more than three years ago. Testifying in the High Court on Thursday, Sergeant Lam Chun also denied using excessive force to subdue Alex Kwong Kong-chi as he was about to flee Hong Kong via the Tung Chung Development Pier on February 25, 2023. Lam, who was a detective constable at the time, said Kwong sustained a 2cm-by-2cm abrasion on his right...

• Housing chief Winnie Ho resigns, government admits ‘decades of failure’ led to Tai Po fire (2026-10-29 06:40)

This live article is freely available to our registered users. Please log in or create an account. The Hong Kong government has released a deeply scathing report by an independent committee probing the city’s deadliest blaze in decades, with Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chiu holding a press conference alongside top officials to outline the administration’s consequent actions and systemic reforms. Sources earlier said that at least one senior official would take the rap for the tragedy as part of...

• How Flavio Bolsonaro pulled off a clandestine escape to the US (2026-10-29 06:14)

Flavio Bolsonaro’s clandestine escape to the United States bewildered Brazil and triggered a frantic search for his whereabouts. The Supreme Court had ordered the son of jailed ex-leader Jair Bolsonaro to forfeit his passports after his electoral loss on Sunday, amid fears he would leave the country due to ongoing investigations against him. But the defeated right-wing presidential candidate failed to hand them in, choosing instead to flee to the US via Argentina and Ecuador. Here’s a look at...

• North Korea fires missile barrage days after rejecting South’s border talks (2026-10-29 05:40)

North Korea fired “around a dozen” short-range ballistic missiles off its east coast on Thursday, Seoul’s defence ministry said, less than a week after South Korea proposed talks over a growing border row. South Korea’s Joint Chiefs of Staff said its military detected “around a dozen short-range ballistic missiles fired from the Wonsan area of North Korea towards the East Sea”, the body of water also known as the Sea of Japan. “Our military has stepped up surveillance and vigilance against...

• At least 1 senior official to take rap for deadly Tai Po fire as part of ‘bold’ reforms (2026-10-29 05:39)

At least one senior official will take the rap for the deadly Tai Po fire as part of a set of “bold, comprehensive and far-reaching reforms” the Hong Kong government will announce on Thursday afternoon, sources have told the South China Morning Post. The official’s expected resignation would be part of the political accountability that the government hoped to underscore along with major reforms on administrative accountability that will go right to the top, one source said. The shake-up is...

- Google supplier Biwin, GPU leader Moore Threads see stocks plunge despite revenue surge (2026-10-29 05:35)

Shares of Chinese semiconductor suppliers Biwin Storage Technology and Moore Threads tumbled on Thursday alongside a broader rout in mainland technology stocks, despite blockbuster third-quarter revenue driven by strong artificial intelligence demand. Both stocks plunged more than 10 per cent during Thursday morning trading, reversing Wednesday’s rallies of 8.4 per cent for Biwin and 5.8 per cent for Moore Threads. The tech-heavy Star 50 index in Shanghai also dropped more than 4 per cent,...

- Hong Kong teen jailed for 8 years for acid attack on Singaporean tourist (2026-10-29 04:58)

A Hong Kong court has sentenced a teenager with triad links to eight years in prison for splashing corrosive liquid on a Singaporean tourist last year in return for a promised payment of HK$10,000 (US$1,280). Mr Justice Andrew Chan Hing-wai of the High Court said on Thursday that defendant Anson Kew, 19, had caused a “lifelong impact” on Jiang Wen, 36, who suffered second-degree burns in the attack on June 9, 2025. Kew, who was aged 17 at the time, threw a corrosive solution on the victim as she...

- Hegseth fires Pentagon’s top military planner as Trump weighs new Iran strikes (2026-10-29 04:54)

US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth has fired the Pentagon’s top military planner, a defence official said Wednesday, the latest in a series of generals to be ousted and one that comes even as President Donald Trump is weighing renewed strikes on Iran in the eight-month-long war. US Army Lieutentant General Brett Sylvia was removed as head of strategy, plans and policy on the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He is the second general to be ousted from the post, known in military circles as the “J5”, under...

- Why US allies in Middle East are accelerating direct talks with Iran (2026-10-29 04:42)

The US’ Muslim-majority Middle Eastern allies have accelerated talks with Tehran over a new regional security framework amid fears of further blowback from the Iran war. Saudi Arabia directly entered the diplomatic fray for the first time on Monday, sending the king’s younger son, Defence Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman, to Tehran for face-to-face talks with Iran’s top security official Mohsin Razaee and other leaders. Accompanied by the military and intelligence chiefs of Mecca mutual defence...

• Hello Kitty owner Sanrio scraps Japanese TV show Vivant deal over China backlash (2026-10-29 04:41)

Japanese character company Sanrio, owner of popular IPs including Hello Kitty, Cinnamoroll and My Melody, has terminated its planned collaboration with the television drama Vivant following strong public criticism in China. In an official statement released late on Wednesday evening, the company acknowledged that the Japanese spy drama contained content that "does not align with the Sanrio Group's corporate philosophy". The controversial series includes scenes depicting Chinese intelligence...

• Samsung Electronics reportedly ending home appliance sales in Hong Kong (2026-10-29 04:38)

Samsung Electronics is reportedly ending home appliance sales in Hong Kong, months after withdrawing from the mainland Chinese market. Samsung's Hong Kong office told the South China Morning Post on Thursday that it would focus on televisions, monitors, audio products, business-to-business display solutions and mobile devices in the city. It did not explicitly confirm that it was ending sales of major home appliances. However, a check by the SCMP on Thursday morning found that major home...

• Tesla owners in South Korea lose legal battle over full self-driving promises (2026-10-29 04:13)

A South Korean court on Thursday rejected a lawsuit by dozens of Tesla owners seeking full refunds for money paid for Full Self-Driving (FSD) driver-assistance software, ruling that the carmaker had not breached its contractual obligations. The Seoul Central District Court ruled against the 88 plaintiffs, finding that the FSD option did not promise fully autonomous driving without human intervention and that Tesla had already provided some of the functions included in the package. The court...

• Brussels wants industry to ditch Chinese suppliers. Businesses are pushing back (2026-10-29 04:00)

European industry has bristled at EU plans to force businesses to diversify their supply chains away from China, as the bloc gears up for a new package of de-risking measures later this year. In December, the European Commission will present a trio of new instruments, none of which will name China, but the overall aim is to wind down dependencies on Beijing and allow the EU to punch back in a trade war scenario. One tool – DiversifyEU – could compel businesses in key sectors to expand their...

• No tricks: Japan steps up police patrols, tightens alcohol limits for Halloween (2026-10-29 03:35)

With Halloween approaching, Japanese municipalities are stepping up measures against disruptive celebrations in major entertainment districts as larger crowds are expected this year, with the event falling on a Saturday. Halloween is not a traditional festivity in Japan, but has

evolved into a major urban event in recent years, particularly in Tokyo’s Shibuya district,where revellers in costumes gather for street celebrations. The festivities have increasinglybecome associated with public...

- Regulatory tightening in Hong Kong sees delistings outnumber resumptions: report (2026-10-29 03:00)

The tightening of Hong Kong’s securities regulations – in the wake of property developer Evergrande’s liquidation and unrelated IPO frauds – has resulted in more delistings than resumptions for the first time in three years, according to a report by accountants Grant Thornton. Hong Kong saw 35 delistings in the 12 months to August this year but only 21 resumptions, the report said. “Regulators have comprehensively tightened resumption requirements,” said Barry Tong, national leader of forensic...

- Thailand moves to seize US$1 billion in scam assets from money laundering group (2026-10-29 02:50)

Thai authorities have vowed to seize more than US$1 billion in assets from a group accused of laundering proceeds from Southeast Asia-based scam syndicates. A criminal court issued arrest warrants on Tuesday for the alleged ringleader, South African Benjamin Mauerberger, his Thai wife Cattaliya Beevor, Cambodian businessman Yim Leak and four others, police said. Media reports have previously linked Smith, also known as Ben Smith, to transnational scam operations in Cambodia, part of a...

- Chinese boy who donated US$1.5 to end power cuts now works for energy company (2026-10-29 01:54)

A boy in central China who donated 10 yuan (US$1.5) to the Three Gorges Dam project in the 1990s now works for the power grid, helping transmit the electricity it generates across the country. Wang Yu, 47, works for the State Grid Corporation of China in his hometown of Zigui county, Hubei province, according to Hubei Daily. In 1991, 12-year-old Wang received a daily allowance of just one yuan – barely enough to buy breakfast – at a time when his parents earned a combined monthly salary of less...

- US should spy on Chinese firms to maintain edge in tech race: ex-CIA official (2026-10-29 01:00)

A former CIA official has called for Washington to spy on foreign companies to help US firms stay ahead in the technology race, in what would represent a break from long-standing US policy amid intensifying competition with China. “The US lead in many crucial advanced technologies is being contested or even erased by China,” wrote David Cohen, who served as deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency under Presidents Barack Obama and Joe Biden, in an article published by Foreign Affairs...

- What Quentin Tarantino’s Reservoir Dogs says about the US midterms (2026-10-29 01:00)

When I first watched Quentin Tarantino’s Reservoir Dogs in 1992, I was struck by its inventive opening. Tarantino launched a gritty crime thriller not with a gunfight or a heist but with eight mobsters in a diner, finishing breakfast while bickering over Madonna and tipping etiquette. By depicting hardened criminals as ordinary men carping about daily trivialities, Tarantino dispensed with the genre’s macho clichés, rendering the characters disarmingly authentic. Decades later, the subject of...

- Immigration rules deter nearly half of Asia-Pacific air travellers, survey finds (2026-10-29 00:30)

Immigration rules are discouraging a growing number of air travellers from visiting certain destinations, a global aviation survey has found, while geopolitical tensions are also influencing travel decisions, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region. The International Air Transport Association (IATA), an airline industry body, said its annual Global Passenger Survey found that 43 per cent of respondents had been put off from visiting certain destinations by immigration requirements, up from 33...

- South Korea’s chipmakers are raking it in. Can China close the gap? (2026-10-29 00:00)

South Korean memory chip giant SK Hynix kept almost 80 per cent of its total sales as operating profit last quarter, a margin almost unheard of in manufacturing, as the country’s chipmakers reap the rewards of the global artificial intelligence boom. Operating profit, defined as earnings from the company’s core business before interest and taxes, soared 632 per cent in the three months to September from a year earlier to 83.33 trillion won (US$62.76 billion) on revenue of 104.62 trillion won, SK...

- US civil rights icon Dolores Huerta dies at 96 (2026-10-28 23:33)

Dolores Huerta, the US labour leader and civil rights icon whose union work changed the lives of migrant workers, has died, her family said on Wednesday. She was 96. For nearly four decades Huerta was vice-president of United Farm Workers, the union she founded with Cesar Chavez, organising strikes and walkouts that won improvements in working conditions for the millions of men and women who labour in US fields. “We are deeply saddened to announce that our beloved mother, Dolores Huerta, has...

- Australia returns ancient stone heads to China after more than 30 years (2026-10-28 23:00)

Australia has returned two stone sculptures to China after more than 30 years abroad. The statues, showing the heads of a military official and civil servant, had been given to the National Gallery of Australia in Canberra by a private collector and date back to the Northern Song dynasty (960–1127). China’s National Cultural Heritage Administration received the heads on Wednesday, according to the state broadcaster CCTV. They are thought to have been removed from two imperial mausoleums in Henan...

• UN condemns US embargo of Cuba, but more nations sit out after Trump pressure (2026-10-28 22:15)

The UN General Assembly condemned the US economic embargo of Cuba for the 34th year on Wednesday, even as Washington's campaign to influence the outcome led to a number of countries voting against the resolution or sitting out the decision for the first time. The vote was 130-17, with 25 abstentions – a notable decrease in support from last year, when more than 160 nations supported the measure and only 12 abstained. While such resolutions at the UN General Assembly are not legally binding, they...

• Beijing wants Hong Kong to sow the seeds for the digital yuan. Will its plans bear fruit? (2026-10-28 22:00)

In September, Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chiu unveiled the city's first five-year plan along with his policy address, highlighting Hong Kong's strategic role in promoting the greater use of the yuan outside mainland China as a key priority. In the third part of a four-part series on the globalisation of the yuan, Xinmei Shen explores how Hong Kong is testing the interoperability of the e-CNY and other digital assets in an effort to broaden the currency's international appeal. In a US Senate...

• What China's best new cultural spaces have in common: the light touch (2026-10-28 21:30)

On a hillside in Anji, in Zhejiang province, a cluster of umbrella-like canopies steps gently down the slope, following the rows of tea bushes. There is no grand entrance, no plinth, no monumental block of stone. On October 22, at Dutch Design Week in Eindhoven, this project, Anji Hood by RoarcRenew Architects, was named Cultural Space of the Year at the Frame Awards 2026, chosen from more than 1,000 submissions by 100 jurors across 10 panels. I served on the Frame Awards 2026 grand jury for the...

• Hegseth pledges stronger military framework with Philippines, but lacks details (2026-10-28 21:20)

US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth announced additional military cooperation funding for the Philippines and agreed with Manila on efforts for enhanced interoperability between their forces on Wednesday, as Washington sought to strengthen its defence posture along the first island chain. The Pentagon disclosed neither the size of the funding increase nor a timetable for the coordination initiative following Hegseth's meeting with Philippine Defence Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jnr in Cebu on the...

• Huawei opens defence in US criminal trial, touting its record of innovation (2026-10-28 20:26)

Huawei Technologies started presenting its case on Wednesday, arguing that as a cutting-edge global tech leader it had no interest in stealing trade secrets, in a high-stakes criminal trial involving dozens of witnesses, legions of lawyers and untold millions of US dollars in legal fees.

The Shenzhen-based company has pleaded not guilty to 14 criminal counts in New York’ sEastern District Court, including racketeering conspiracy, bank fraud, wire fraud and tradesecret theft spanning more than...

• US Fed holds interest rates steady despite surging inflation (2026-10-28 18:37)

The US Federal Reserve on Wednesday held interest rates steady, in line with market expectations, days ahead of crucial midterm elections where surging inflation has been a key issue. The 12-member Federal Open Market Committee voted 10-2 to hold rates at a target range between 3.75 to 4.00 per cent, citing the need for more data in the fight against inflation, after having hiked for the first time in three years at its previous meeting in September. “The accumulation of more information will...

• 92-year-old US judge handling Maduro case dies (2026-10-28 18:08)

Alvin Hellerstein, the US judge overseeing the case against deposed Venezuelan president Nicolas Maduro, has died aged 92, an official confirmed on Wednesday. As one of the oldest US federal judges, questions had been raised about whether he was the right justice to preside over what could be a prolonged trial for Maduro on drug trafficking charges. Hellerstein’ s lengthy career included overseeing the civil cases arising from al-Qaeda’ s September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on New York and...

• Netanyahu set to remain caretaker PM after inconclusive Israel election (2026-10-28 17:39)

Benjamin Netanyahu looked set to remain Israel’ s caretaker prime minister after unexpectedly strong backing among Jewish voters left his opponents little apparent prospect of unseating him, despite his right-wing bloc losing its parliamentary majority. With nearly 86 per cent of votes tallied on Wednesday, Israel’ s three main broadcasters projected Netanyahu’ s bloc of right-wing, far-right and ultra-Orthodox parties would win 53 seats in the 120-seat Knesset, well ahead of the 48 for rival Gadi...

• Real Madrid issues apology to China over Mbappe’ s Mao remarks (2026-10-28 15:54)

Real Madrid has issued an apology to China over Kylian Mbappe’ s controversial remarks about the late Chinese leader Mao Zedong, after the Spanish football club’ s initial response failed to quell anger in China. In a statement published on its website on Wednesday, the club apologised to the Chinese people for “any discomfort” caused by the French footballer’ s remarks, a day after Mbappe issued his own public apology. The apology came after Chinese state broadcaster CCTV Sports rejected Real...

• Hegseth pitches US-Asean defence framework but will it be a hard sell? (2026-10-28 15:45)

US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth on Wednesday proposed a new US-Asean defence framework to guide cooperation over what he called “critically important years” ahead, but offered few details on what it would entail. The proposal faces questions over whether members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations will embrace a bloc-wide initiative, with

analysts suggesting they would prefer bilateral arrangements that preserve their flexibility asthey navigate ties with Washington and...

• Russia's Putin woos African leaders at summit, slams 'colonial' West (2026-10-28 15:42)

President Vladimir Putin told African leaders on Wednesday that Russia was their best partner, accusing what he cast as a colonial West of still trying to exploit the continent's resources and using debt to hold back development. The Kremlin chief was speaking at the third Russia-Africa Summit in Moscow, a two-day event attended by African leaders and government delegations from 48 countries, during which he will hold one-on-one talks with many of the 22 individual African leaders attending on...

• 'Not to find scapegoats': Singapore ministers summon bosses of 10 firms over haze (2026-10-28 14:51)

In a rare move, Singapore on Wednesday summoned top executives from 10 locally registered companies potentially linked to haze-causing fires in Indonesia to a meeting with three ministers. The executives all agreed to cooperate fully in an investigation by the city state into the regional environmental crisis that has caused air quality to dip to "very unhealthy" levels earlier this month. Deputy Prime Minister Gan Kim Yong, Senior Minister K Shanmugam and Minister for Sustainability and the...

• Defeated Brazilian presidential candidate Flavio Bolsonaro and his family land in Miami (2026-10-28 14:19)

Defeated Brazilian presidential candidate Flavio Bolsonaro and his family have landed in Miami after fleeing Brazil. The stunning move comes after 48 hours in which Bolsonaro refused to concede to Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and then threatened to attempt to annul the election result. Bolsonaro's father, Jair Bolsonaro, also fled to Florida after losing the 2022 presidential election to Lula. On Monday, the US said that it would grant visas to Flavio Bolsonaro and his family....

• Hong Kong world's first airport to receive digital identity certification from IATA (2026-10-28 14:00)

Hong Kong International Airport has become one of the first two organisations certified under an international aviation industry group's digital identity programme, as it seeks to expand its facial recognition system beyond the city. However, the wider adoption of facial recognition technology has been slower than expected, due to government regulations and privacy requirements, according to a senior aviation industry official. The International Air Transport Association (IATA) announced on...

• Chinese astronomers find planets that somehow avoided death by red giant stars (2026-10-28 14:00)

When a star like our sun grows old, it puffs up into a red giant that can gobble up its nearest planets. But Chinese astronomers say they have found three solar systems where planets should have been eaten this way yet somehow survived – a puzzle that could change how scientists picture Earth's distant future. Using Nasa's TESS space telescope, a team led by Qian Shengbang from Yunnan University showed that three Jupiter-like planets – each hugging an ageing star in the northern sky – had lived...

• Hong Kong lawmaker urges more checks as illegal parking fines top HK$70m a year (2026-10-28 13:58)

Traffic police have issued more than 220,000 tickets for parking-related offences in each of the past three years, raking in at least HK$70 million (US$8.92 million) a year for Hong Kong's coffers, but a lawmaker said inspections could be enhanced to target more offenders. In a written reply to the Legislative Council on Wednesday, Secretary for Transport and Logistics Mable Chan said police issued 259,589, 242550, and 225,489 fixed penalty tickets in 2023, 2024 and 2025 respectively to...

• Unitree reports 70% surge in quarterly revenue, though AI investment weighs on net profit (2026-10-28 13:38)

Leading Chinese robotics company Unitree Robotics on Wednesday reported a 69.93 per cent year-on-year increase in quarterly revenue to 665 million yuan (US$99.7 million), though net profits excluding non-recurring items fell 17.42 per cent to 105 million yuan, as the company released its first earnings since going public. The results for the three months ending September 30 showed a continued surge in research and development spending by the Hangzhou-based company, which jumped 249.58 per cent...

• Elon Musk, Jensen Huang have opposing outlooks on AI neoclouds. Who is likely correct? (2026-10-28 13:30)

As investor anxiety over an artificial intelligence bubble mounts, SpaceX's Elon Musk and Nvidia chief Jensen Huang have offered starkly divergent outlooks on whether the specialist cloud providers powering the boom can survive their mounting debts. While Musk has warned of impending collapses and consolidation among the more than 200 dedicated graphics processing unit (GPU) rental ventures known as "neoclouds", Huang remains bullish, insisting that robust market demand will unlock the capital...

• In China gene-editing trial, 2 children improved, 1 died and 1 withdrew (2026-10-28 13:00)

Four seriously ill Chinese boys who would almost certainly have died in their twenties from a rare inherited disease received the same highly anticipated gene-editing drug. More than a year later, a set of cruel and contradictory data emerged. Two boys gained the strength to walk farther. One boy showed no improvement in gait and subsequently withdrew from the trial. And the fourth boy's heart stopped beating 81 hours after receiving the medication intravenously, owing to a severe systemic...

• Cruise ship suspends global voyage in Cambodia over fuel prices, hundreds disembark (2026-10-28 12:50)

Hundreds of people permanently living aboard a touring cruise ship were forced to disembark in Cambodia this week after the vessel's operator said fuel price increases from the Iran war had made operations prohibitively expensive. The Villa Vie Odyssey had been cruising the world for at least 755 days as one of only a handful of ships that offered passengers the opportunity to rent or buy long-term or even permanent residences on board. On Tuesday, the ship's owner, Villa Vie Residences,...

• Police officer denies evidence was contaminated at flat in Abby Choi murder trial (2026-10-28 12:30)

A police officer investigating the alleged murder of Hong Kong socialite Abby Choi Tin-fung has denied tampering with the evidence he collected from a rural village flat where her dismembered remains were found. Detective Constable Chan Wai-hung on Wednesday rejected a defence contention that the alleged crime scene in Tai Po's Lung Mei village had been contaminated because investigating officers failed to follow proper procedures. Testifying under cross-examination in the High Court, Chan...

• Why Kim Jong-un's border trip to China differs from past pre-summit playbooks (2026-10-28 12:30)

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's trip to the Chinese border city of Dandong on Saturday echoed the intense coordination that preceded his previous summits with US President Donald Trump. Between March 2018 and June 2019, Kim met Chinese President Xi Jinping five times across Beijing, Dalian and Pyongyang, and three of those occasions happened not long before his summits with Trump. Yet, while Saturday's unannounced visit appeared superficially similar, analysts said the strategic focus had...

• US midterms could trigger a debt ceiling showdown worse than 2011 (2026-10-28 12:30)

Some readers, especially non-Americans, might wonder what the recurring squabbles in Washington over the debt ceiling and government shutdowns mean. That's understandable. In virtually every country in the world, when the legislature approves a budget that results in net new borrowing of, say, 50 billion euros (US$55.8 billion), the government is thereby authorised to take on that debt to finance the budget. Not so in the United States. There, the budget and borrowing authorisation are two...

• Hong Kong to prioritise public transport at Huanggang Port over Halloween weekend (2026-10-28 12:29)

Hong Kong authorities will give public transport priority at Huanggang Port this Halloween weekend, warning that cross-border private car travellers could face wait times exceeding an hour during late-night peak hours. Chief Secretary Eric Chan Kwok-ki said that the peak

departure window for outbound passengers and vehicles at the 24-hour control point would be11pm to 2am across the three nights from Friday to Sunday. He urged residents and visitors toavoid peak-hour crossings and use public...

• Indonesia weighs tighter ketamine controls amid surge in seizures, abuse cases (2026-10-28 12:26)

Rising ketamine abuse and a series of major drug seizures in Indonesia have fuelled calls for tighter controls on the substance, but a proposed reclassification has raised concerns that tougher penalties could further strain the country's overcrowded prisons. Last week, Indonesian police and customs officials intercepted the Mongolian-flagged vessel MT Global 168 in the Malacca Strait, seizing 1.16 tonnes of ketamine hydrochloride packed in 58 sacks. National police chief Suyudi Ario Seto said...

• US warns China is expanding its space toolkit with spaceplane and energy weapons (2026-10-28 12:01)

A rare satellite image of China's secretive spaceplane has appeared in a new US intelligence report that warned Beijing was expanding its ability to track American forces and could deploy space-based directed-energy weapons by the late 2020s. The US Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA) report published on Sunday included an image of the reusable spacecraft, credited to the Maxar satellite imagery firm in 2024, showing its shuttle-like design and apparent solar arrays. A spaceplane is a spacecraft...

• China's military holds talks in France and Germany despite rising trade tensions (2026-10-28 11:43)

The People's Liberation Army (PLA) has held defence strategy consultations with France and Germany over the past week despite mounting trade tensions between Beijing and Europe. A PLA strategy consultation delegation visited France and Germany from October 21 to 28 for the talks, according to a statement released by China's defence ministry on Wednesday. The Chinese delegation engaged in in-depth exchanges of views with the two countries separately on bilateral and military-to-military...

• Humans should be 'the master': labour chief says AI reshaping jobs, not ending them (2026-10-28 11:30)

Soft skills and deep domain knowledge will decide how far young workers go in the age of artificial intelligence, Hong Kong's labour chief has said, predicting that demand for AI practitioners with both technical capability and professional expertise will grow three- to fourfold. Rejecting fears that automation will replace the human workforce, Secretary for Labour and Welfare Chris Sun Yuk-han dismissed the claim as a "zero-sum game", stressing that the future lay in close collaboration between...

• Assailant outside Israeli embassy in Serbia killed after attacking police officer (2026-10-28 11:06)

An assailant with knives attacked a police officer from an elite unit guarding the Israeli embassy in Belgrade just after midnight on Wednesday, police said. The officer responded by fatally shooting the attacker. Interior Minister Ivica Dacic said that police were treating the incident as a “terrorist attack” and had raised the terror threat to the highest level and stepped up police presence at key locations. He said the attacker was a minor and had two knives. He attacked the member of the...

• Huawei’s Tau Scaling Law roll-out reaches base stations in blow to US chip curbs (2026-10-28 11:00)

Huawei Technologies is already integrating elements of the Tau Scaling Law – a new chip design principle that helps the company overcome US export controls – into its wireless communications network, as it pushes for broader adoption across its products. The Chinese tech giant is using the “time compression” concept based on its Tau Scaling Law in its next-generation wireless base stations, according to a company statement released on Wednesday, and the new design is already delivering tangible...

• Why Hong Kong rents are hitting records while home price gains lose momentum (2026-10-28 11:00)

Hong Kong’s lived-in home prices fell 0.8 per cent in the third quarter, their first quarterly decline after five quarters of gains, as a September rebound failed to fully offset a summer slowdown in the residential market. Prices rose 0.19 per cent in September from August, marking a second consecutive monthly increase, according to data released by the Rating and Valuation Department on Wednesday. The index reached 320.8, but remained 19.4 per cent below its September 2021 peak. Prices were...

• Authorities search for elderly Hong Kong man missing in Tai Po for 3 days (2026-10-28 10:33)

Hong Kong authorities are searching for an elderly man who went missing in a remote rural area of Tai Po three days ago. Tung Chung-yin, 80, was last seen at Wu Kau Tang in Plover Cove Country Park on Sunday. His family reported him missing to police on Tuesday. A search was launched on Tuesday night and continued on Wednesday. Police have appealed to the public for information on his whereabouts. Tung, who has short grey hair, is about 1.7 metres tall (5 feet, 7 inches), weighs about 75kg and...

• Kowloon leads as 70% of Hong Kong’s subdivided flats registered for grace period (2026-10-28 10:30)

About 70 per cent of subdivided flats in Hong Kong have been registered for a grace period under a new law aimed at eradicating substandard homes, with most submissions coming from landlords in Kowloon’s Yau Tsim Mong district, according to the Housing Bureau. The bureau

told the Legislative Council on Wednesday that 75,070 subdivided homes across about 21,000whole flats had been registered for the three-year grace period since applications opened inMarch under the new Basic Housing Units...

• Philippines holds oil storage talks with Saudi Arabia, Russia, US (2026-10-28 10:12)

The Philippines is in talks with Saudi Arabia, Russia and the United States to store oil in the fuel-import-dependent nation, in a bid to hedge against fuel price spikes driven by the Iran war. The Southeast Asian nation, which imports nearly all its energy needs, also planned to increase diesel and gas-fired power output to make up for an estimated 60 per cent decline in hydropower and 20 per cent fall in solar output in the first half of 2027 due to the El Nino weather phenomenon, Energy...

• China's former vice-premier Liu Yandong dies at age 80 (2026-10-28 10:09)

Former Chinese vice-premier Liu Yandong died of illness on Wednesday at the age of 80. She was one of China's most prominent female leaders, playing a pivotal role in the country's united front work and education sector. The official obituary released by Xinhua described Liu as an "outstanding leader in the [Communist] Party's united front work, in China's education, science and technology, healthcare, and women and children's affairs." Liu was vice-premier from 2013 to 2018. She was the fourth...

• Japan's US$6 billion port plan aims to revive Bangladesh's bruised economy (2026-10-28 10:00)

Japan's push to expand industrial and port cooperation with Bangladesh could transform the South Asian country into a regional trade gateway, analysts say, connecting markets in Southeast Asia and the wider Indo-Pacific while diversifying Dhaka's economic ties. The plan was announced during Bangladeshi Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's official visit to Japan this week. Rahman welcomed Tokyo's pledge of US$6 billion in investment over the next five years, which could help revive an economy hit by...

• Chinese student encouraged by farm owner enrols in master's programme 6 years later (2026-10-28 10:00)

Chinese social media users were touched by the story of a young man who, six years ago, was encouraged by a strawberry farm owner he discovered through an English exam question – and has now fulfilled the promise they made. He Ziqi, a postgraduate student in artificial intelligence at the Central University of Finance and Economics, shared the story as he began a new chapter of his life in Beijing. Six years ago, when He was a senior secondary school student, a Beijing strawberry farm owner...

• Chinese drug sector's stature grows at major cancer conference (2026-10-28 10:00)

An array of Chinese drug makers showcased positive trial results for new cancer treatments at a major European medical conference, underscoring the expanding international influence of

China’s biotech sector. Domestic innovative drugs, particularly antibody-drug conjugates(ADCs), delivered impressive data across multiple tumour types at the European Society forMedical Oncology (Esmo) Congress, with some early-stage data further showing the country’s “innovation capabilities”, said analysts...

• At least 30 dead in Spain after high-speed trains collide (2026-10-28 09:53)

A high-speed train slammed into the rear of another train that had stopped, derailing two cars and killing at least 30 people on Wednesday in central Spain, according to local media. Spanish authorities initially reported 10 deaths, but Esther Padilla, spokeswoman for the Castilla La Mancha region, added “that number will surely rise”. Spanish state-owned news agency EFE and other media reported later that the death toll had risen to at least 30. It was the second major train accident in Spain...

• China seeks India’s help in defusing border tensions (2026-10-28 09:13)

China said it would seek India’s help to “maintain peace and stability in the border areas” after new stand-offs in a long-disputed region threatened to undermine improved relations. “We hope that India will work with China in the same direction by jointly implementing the common understandings between the two sides,” Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun said at a daily media briefing on Monday. China “strictly abides by the relevant agreements”, he said. Guo also said that China...

• Hong Kong’s third medical school denies poaching veteran HKU professor (2026-10-28 09:03)

Hong Kong’s third medical school has dismissed allegations of talent poaching after recruiting a veteran haematologist with nearly three decades of service at the University of Hong Kong (HKU). Professor Anskar Leung Yu-hung met the press at Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) on Wednesday in his capacity as the senior associate dean of medicine at the new school, which is expected to open in the 2028-29 academic year. “The opportunity to be part of a team to [build] a new...

• Hong Kong exports jump nearly 65% in September, highest growth in over 40 years (2026-10-28 08:53)

Hong Kong’s exports jumped by 64.9 per cent year on year in September, the highest growth in more than 40 years, with artificial intelligence-related (AI) products further fuelling the momentum of recent months. Provisional figures released by the Census and Statistics Department on Wednesday showed the total value of exports rose to HK$762.6 billion (US$97.8 billion) last month, after a 53 per cent surge in August. A government spokesman said September marked the 20th consecutive month of...

• Hong Kong luxury expo to connect brands with ‘high-spending travellers’ (2026-10-28 08:50)

Private jets, fine jewellery, watches, superyachts and luxury property will feature in a new Hong Kong exhibition offering business opportunities to “brands, yacht owners and connoisseurs”, according to the organiser. The inaugural Festival of Connoisseurs, set to take place between November 4 and 6, is the first event of its kind to secure government funding for large-scale international exhibitions, organiser Informa Markets said on Wednesday. Ryan Hui, the festival’s deputy event director,...

• Deliver accountability for Tai Po fire tragedy or admit system is broken (2026-10-28 08:30)

One word will hang over the Hong Kong community in the run-up to next month’s anniversary of the dreadful Tai Po fire that took 168 of our fellow citizens’ lives: accountability. By the time we mark the occasion, we will know if we still have a system based on ministers taking political responsibility for failures in their policy areas or whether we must revise our constitutional arrangements. The fire at Wang Fuk Court, which broke out on November 26 last year, traumatised the whole population...

• How Lao Gan Ma, China’s iconic chilli brand, got caught in an AI storm (2026-10-28 08:00)

For three decades, Lao Gan Ma’s glass jars, bearing the stern portrait of founder Tao Huabi, have been a fixture on Chinese dinner tables and a symbol of traditional food manufacturing. This week, however, the iconic chilli sauce has become an unlikely focus of public anxiety over artificial intelligence. Online rumours that the Guizhou-based company had replaced hundreds of factory workers with AI went viral, prompting boycott threats and highlighting growing public unease over the impact of...

• Why China’s ties with Serbia face scrutiny, not severance, after historic Vucic loss (2026-10-28 08:00)

Massive crowds, fireworks and dancing have filled the streets across Belgrade since Serbia’s nationalist strongman Aleksandar Vucic conceded defeat in Sunday’s parliamentary election after 14 years in power. The political shift could cool diplomatic ties between Beijing and Belgrade and invite sharper scrutiny of Chinese investments in Serbia, but was unlikely to upend a relationship built on years of cooperation, analysts argued. Vucic conceded the defeat of his right-wing Serbian Progressive...

• Stop using Bluey, Australian broadcaster tells Pauline Hanson’s far-right party (2026-10-28 07:36)

Australia’s national broadcaster ABC called on the far-right One Nation party on Wednesday to stop using children’s TV character Bluey in its political cartoons. Bluey is the popular star of an Australian cartoon series featuring canines navigating childhood and parenting in the suburbs. Pauline Hanson’s One Nation party has come under fire for a 2024 political cartoon depicting Bluey driving a car over an Australian politician. That cartoon in particular has come into the spotlight since a man...

• China's hybrid car exports to EU up 200%; response to Tesla's 'flying car': 7 EV reads (2026-10-28 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. BYD to build new factories in Europe to beat trade barriers aimed at Chinese EVs China's BYD will build new factories in Europe for a bigger market share, as the world's largest electric vehicle (EV) maker faces fiscal support pullback at home and rising trade barriers overseas,...

• In Melaka, is avoiding another Umno rout Anwar's best hope? (2026-10-28 07:17)

Malaysia's Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim is up against it in next month's Melaka state poll, as his ruling Pakatan Harapan (PH) coalition risks yet another electoral wipeout at the hands of its federal partner Umno. The two are competing head-to-head in nearly all of the 28 state assembly seats up for grabs on November 14, in a contest widely seen as favouring an incumbent state administration led by the United Malays National Organisation's Barisan Nasional (BN) coalition. Whether BN holds onto...

• Malaysia still deep in 1MDB red as Najib heads home (2026-10-28 06:51)

Malaysia will still lose tens of billions of ringgit to the 1MDB scandal even after further overseas asset recoveries, its second finance minister said on Wednesday, as disgraced former prime minister Najib Razak prepares to move to house arrest. Najib has been imprisoned since 2022 following his conviction for corruption and money laundering tied to SRC International, a former subsidiary of 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB). The sovereign wealth fund was co-founded by Najib in 2009 during his...

• Hongkong Post reports record HK$905 million deficit in ninth year of losses (2026-10-28 06:39)

Hong Kong's government-owned postal service reported a record operating deficit of HK$905 million (US$115 million) in 2025-26, its ninth straight annual loss. In its annual report published on Wednesday, Hongkong Post said the past year showed its "resilience and adaptability" despite a volatile economic environment and an escalating geopolitical situation. "The emergence of protectionism, tightening customs policies in various places, increasing terminal dues and rising operating costs posed...

• Malaysia seizes smuggled AI chips worth US$12 million at Kuala Lumpur airport (2026-10-28 06:30)

Malaysian customs said on Wednesday that it had seized about 49.5 million ringgit (US$12 million) worth of advanced artificial intelligence chips this month, as authorities close in on a syndicate suspected of smuggling high-performance semiconductors through the country's main airport. Malaysia imposed export controls last year on the movement of advanced AI chips of US origin, following pressure from the United States to stem their flow into

China. On October 15, authorities found 30 server...

• Chinese anti-scam blogger killed by contractors hired online to silence his work (2026-10-28 06:30)

A Chinese investigative blogger who exposed telecoms fraud and other illegal activity was killed by criminals hired on social media, according to Chinese media, as the case prompts calls for heavier punishment for his death. The body of Wu Kai, who used the name “Huijian” on social media and had written for years about telecoms fraud in Southeast Asia, was discovered in southern China in November 2024. His death and details of the case that followed have been revealed this week. In August 2024,...

• As vote count keeps Israel in suspense, what happens next? (2026-10-28 06:16)

Israelis voted on Tuesday in their highest turnout for decades, with exit polls showing the camp of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and that of his rival are neck and neck. Exit polls from the three mainstream Israeli television networks gave the two blocs around 51 seats each in the 120-member Knesset - well below the 61 needed to govern - after initially giving an edge to the opposition led by ex-army chief Gadi Eisenkot. Israeli Arab lists made strong gains, with exit polls showing them...

• Singapore court fines behavioural therapist for hurting autistic boy who hit her (2026-10-28 05:50)

A Singaporean behavioural therapist who was repeatedly hit in the face by a four-year-old boy with special needs grabbed his hand and dragged him off his chair and onto the floor. Tricia Lee Hsien, 29, was fined S$5,000 (US$3,900) by a court on Wednesday. She pleaded guilty to one charge of voluntarily causing hurt to a minor. The prosecution sought only a fine, saying this was an “exceptional case” as the harm caused was low and the woman’s culpability was low in this isolated act of...

• Why Hong Kong developer CK Asset sold a mall at an ‘exceptionally cheap’ price (2026-10-28 05:00)

With the “exceptionally cheap” sale of a vacant Hong Kong shopping mall, developer CK Asset Holdings is freeing up capital for other projects, while the buyer will have to be patient because the location will struggle to attract tenants in the short term, according to analysts. The developer completed the mall in its residential project Seaside Sonata on Hai Tan Street in Sham Shui Po five years ago but never leased it out. It recently changed hands along with a batch of parking spaces for...

• EU plans high-level China currency talks as fears of new trade shock mount (2026-10-28 05:00)

After convincing China to accept a cap on its hybrid car exports, a stream of top-level European finance and banking officials will descend on the Chinese capital in the coming months on a far

trickier mission: persuading Beijing to stop holding down its currency to help save the bloc’ sstruggling industry. In the week of November 23, top European Union economy officials led bydirector general Maarten Verwey will sit down in Beijing for a “macroeconomic dialogue” withtheir Chinese...

• Indonesia deploys hundreds of security staff ahead of Jakarta student protests (2026-10-28 04:43)

Hundreds of Indonesian security personnel were deployed on Wednesday in anticipation of student protests against several of President Prabowo Subianto’ s policies, as well as his government’ s handling of forest fires. Students from the University of Indonesia said they were set to stage protests in several spots in the capital Jakarta. They are calling on the government to declare the ongoing wildfires in Sumatra and Borneo a national disaster, and to halt spending on populist programmes...

• El Salvador deploys 1,000 troops to Haiti after gang ambush (2026-10-28 04:30)

El Salvador has sent about 1,000 troops to Haiti after four Salvadorean members of a UN-backed security mission went missing in a gang ambush on the outskirts of the capital on October 18, a security official in Haiti told Reuters on Tuesday. The troops’ arrival aboard flights in recent days dramatically expands the Central American nation’ s role in Haiti’ s long-standing gang conflict. Yet it remains unclear who will command the new Salvadorean contingent, how long it will stay in Haiti or...

• Can India turn wartime ammo sales into lasting European defence ties? (2026-10-28 04:30)

India has emerged as a major exporter of ammunition and other weapons to Europe since the outbreak of the Ukraine-Russia war, but analysts caution that New Delhi has yet to secure a lasting foothold in Europe’ s defence market. Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh cited a Bloomberg report last Friday stating that India had become the third-largest arms exporter to Europe under the “ReArm Europe” initiative – also known as Readiness 2030 – largely because of ammunition demand. Bloomberg, citing...

• Standard Chartered beats forecast as wealth business powers third-quarter profit (2026-10-28 04:28)

Standard Chartered’ s third-quarter net profit rose 46 per cent as strong growth in cross-border trade loans and wealth management buffered one of Hong Kong’ s three note-issuing banks from provisions linked to geopolitical tensions. Net profit increased to US$1.5 billion, or 68.9 US cents per share, in the quarter that ended on September 30, compared with US$1.03 billion a year earlier, the London-based bank said in a filing to the Hong Kong stock exchange on Wednesday. The result beat analysts’ ...

• ICBC makes history with record US$19 billion IPO in dual listing in 2006 - SCMP archive (2026-10-28 04:15)

ICBC share prices diverge after first parallel listing By Carol Chan This article was first published on October 28, 2006 Shares of Industrial and Commercial Bank of China jumped a relatively modest 14.7 per cent on their Hong Kong debut and a lacklustre 5.1 per cent in Shanghai as the world's largest-ever initial public offering finally came to market. The debut immediately catapulted China's largest lender into the top ranks of global banks as measured by market capitalisation. It seized the...

• Over 2,000 rogue Malaysian police officers arrested in past 5 years (2026-10-28 04:06)

A total of 2,097 Malaysian police officers and personnel have been arrested for drug-related offences, robbery and corruption between 2021 and August this year, according to Home Minister Saifuddin Nasution Ismail. Of the total, 1,551 were arrested for drug offences, 64 for robbery and 482 by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC). Saifuddin Nasution said in a written parliamentary reply to Kepong MP Lim Lip Eng on Tuesday that the drug-related arrests were made under the Dangerous...

• China formally launches project to build aircraft carrier-sized 'science island' (2026-10-28 04:00)

China's massive maritime science infrastructure – an aircraft carrier-sized floating artificial island – has officially entered its engineering construction phase. On October 18, Shanghai Jiao Tong University (SJTU), the facility's lead developer, signed a construction contract worth over 2.7 billion yuan (US$405 million) with a shipbuilder under China State Shipbuilding Corporation, according to local media reports. The semi-submersible twin-hull platform is the world's first mobile,...

• Hong Kong to make bid-rigging for renovation projects a crime after deadly Tai Po fire (2026-10-28 03:15)

Hong Kong's leader is expected to announce reforms introducing criminal penalties for bid-rigging on Thursday, when the government will also release the final investigation report into the Tai Po inferno, the South China Morning Post has learned. Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chiu and his senior officials will announce the proposed measures and give an update on efforts to pursue "administrative accountability" at a press conference on Thursday, a government source said on Wednesday. Senior...

• Will US midterm battles blind Washington to Asia? Japan isn't taking any chances (2026-10-28 03:00)

Japan is bracing for a more unpredictable ally in Washington, as the US midterm elections threaten to deepen political gridlock and complicate Tokyo's long-term security calculations, analysts say. Observers warn that post-election political battles, ranging from a possible repeat of impeachment proceedings to the mounting legal battles ensnaring the administration of US President Donald Trump, risk diverting the White House's attention from foreign policy and its long-standing commitments to...

• ByteDance accelerates robotics commercialisation with new recruitment drive (2026-10-28 03:00)

ByteDance is accelerating its push into embodied artificial intelligence, stepping up recruitment for robotics talent as it seeks to move cutting-edge research out of the laboratory and into physical hardware. The Beijing-based owner of TikTok and Douyin is hiring for around a dozen robotics positions across hardware and software within its Seed team, the internal unit dedicated to AI research and large language model development, according to postings released on the company's career website...

• Cradle to career: Japanese parents take over dating, job hunting for children (2026-10-28 02:58)

Parents in Japan are taking an increasingly active role in their children's lives – helping them find marriage partners, navigate job hunting and secure housing – as the line between parental support and personal decision-making continues to blur. In a practice known as "proxy matchmaking", parents attend social events armed with photos and profiles of their children, hoping to find suitable marriage partners through conversations with other parents. The Association of Parents of Marriage...

• 'Chinese can actually fly': man pilots homemade hoverboard over mountains, across Yangtze River (2026-10-28 02:24)

A Gen Z tech influencer from central China has brought science fiction to life by handcrafting a manned hoverboard and teaching himself flight control and mechanical engineering. Song Xingyu, 26, from Enshi, Hubei province, is known online as "Amazing Ayu." He has amassed more than 3 million social media followers by sharing videos of his aerial inventions. On October 15, Song stunned the internet with a video of himself riding a hoverboard he had spent about two months building, soaring over...

• Circuit board firm Dongshan Precision falls 0.12% after Hong Kong debut (2026-10-28 02:07)

Suzhou Dongshan Precision Manufacturing proved volatile in its Hong Kong trading debut after an underwhelming HK$9.9 billion (US$1.26 billion) initial public offering (IPO), as investor sentiment was haunted by the deepening sell-off across China's artificial intelligence and tech hardware sectors. Shares of the circuit-board manufacturer, a key supplier of components for AI servers, dropped as much as 6 per cent after its debut in the Hong Kong market on Wednesday. The stock later pared losses...

• Why has Beijing appointed a propaganda veteran to lead a border province? (2026-10-28 02:00)

Beijing has appointed veteran propaganda official Mo Gaoyi as Communist Party secretary of Yunnan province in its latest leadership reshuffle, making him a rare example this year of a

provincial head with minimal local governance experience. An analyst said that the move couldreflect Beijing's efforts to broaden the talent selection criteria for some senior roles, allowingspecialists to take on important generalist positions. Mo – director of the State CouncilInformation Office (SCIO) and a...

• 100,000 evacuated in India as Cyclone Arnab makes landfall on southeast coast (2026-10-28 01:58)

Ferocious winds and torrential rain lashed India's southeastern coast as Cyclone Arnab made landfall on Wednesday, forcing nearly 100,000 people to evacuate their homes in two states, authorities said. Arnab hit Andhra Pradesh as a "very severe cyclonic storm", with winds of 125-135km/h (78-84 mph) and gusts reaching 150km/h, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said. A storm surge of 1.5 to 2.5 metres (5-8 feet) above normal tide is very likely to inundate low-lying areas of the state...

• Why Indian-American support for Trump is slipping before midterms (2026-10-28 01:30)

Immigration restrictions, rising living costs and strains in US-India relations are testing support for President Donald Trump among some Indian-Americans who backed the Republican Party in 2024, analysts say, ahead of November's midterm elections. A survey released in August by AAPI Data and Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote found that 66 per cent of Indian-American respondents favoured Democratic candidates for the US House of Representatives, compared with 18 per cent for Republicans....

• Manila speaks with 2 voices on China (2026-10-28 01:30)

Manila sent two strikingly different messages to Beijing on October 13. At the Malacanang Palace, a presidential spokeswoman reaffirmed Manila's commitment to sustaining diplomatic and economic ties with China, saying "China needs the Philippines, and the Philippines needs China". That same day, Philippine Defence Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jnr rejected a call for military-to-military communication with China, a move that received public support from the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Teodoro...

• How China's ancient capital staked a claim to the nation's fastest export growth (2026-10-28 01:00)

A booming semiconductor industry is helping drive a surge in trade in Xian, one of China's ancient capitals, making it the country's top performer by trade growth among provincial capitals and provincial-level cities for which data is publicly available. The capital of western China's Shaanxi province recorded a 115.5 per cent year-on-year surge in trade during the first nine months of 2026. Exports far outpaced imports, climbing 142.1 per cent. Two product categories drove much of that export...

• Over 1,000 still in Japan shelters 3 months after Kumamoto quake: 'exhausted all the time' (2026-10-28 00:56)

More than 1,000 people are still taking shelter in evacuation centres, awaiting temporary housing three months after a magnitude 7.1 earthquake struck Japan’s Kumamoto prefecture, damaging their homes. The quake occurred at 4.27pm on July 28. As of Monday, the death toll stood at 38 – 36 from confirmed disaster-related causes and two suspected to be disaster-related – bringing the number of casualties to 420. Evacuation centres remain open at 21 locations in seven cities and towns. In...

- Will China travel hurt US students’ careers? FBI battles fears as talent pipeline stalls (2026-10-28 00:56)

An American student considering studying in China attended a briefing with a senior FBI official at a Washington think tank last month to address her concerns about whether such an experience could jeopardise her prospects for a career in the federal government. The official’s message: travelling to China would not automatically disqualify her. She welcomed the clarification but said she wasn’t “completely reassured”. “I’m still wondering if it’s a good idea to go,” said the student, who...

- ‘Don’t have the illusion’: graduate job ads down 22% as AI rewrites the rules (2026-10-28 00:30)

Fresh-graduate job postings in Hong Kong fell 22 per cent in the first nine months of this year from the same period in 2025, according to data from one of the city’s biggest job-search platforms, with an industry leader warning that advances in technology will deepen the decline. Its data also showed more graduates chasing fewer jobs: a typical listing for graduates drew 56 per cent more applications than a year earlier. Yet about 85 per cent of the 298 companies Jobsdb surveyed in August and...

- China’s battery factories could be sitting right on top of vast lithium deposits (2026-10-28 00:00)

Lithium deposits formed by ancient volcanic activity may lie beneath parts of China’s battery manufacturing heartland, particularly along the southeastern coast, according to a new study. In an interview with the South China Morning Post, geologist Duan Zheng said that “potential targets for clay-type lithium deposits in southeastern China overlap with lithium battery industrial clusters in East and South China”. “Local supplies could significantly reduce transport costs and supply-chain risks,”...

- Why is the US reluctant to give South Korea wartime control of its troops? (2026-10-28 00:00)

South Korea wants to take back wartime command of its troops from the United States within the next two years, but analysts say Washington is refusing to commit to a date to keep a hold on a military it sees as vital to countering China. The dispute is over wartime operational control, known as OPCON, which the US has held since shortly after the outbreak of the Korean war in 1950. If fighting were to break out again under the current arrangements, designated

South Korean units would be assigned...

• Global carmakers search for new China strategy as market share slips below 30% (2026-10-27 23:59)

Global carmakers are searching for a way to survive in China's cutthroat market, as they continue to lose ground to domestic competitors in a landscape that is increasingly tilting towards electric vehicles. International auto brands from Volkswagen to Toyota saw their market share in the Chinese mainland slide once again in the third quarter of the year, as consumers turned away from expensive foreign cars amid an economic slowdown and the Iran war. Foreign marques accounted for less than 30...

• King Charles arrives in Bahamas, faces demands for reparations: 'pay us what you owe us' (2026-10-27 23:36)

Britain's King Charles arrived in the Bahamas on Tuesday as part of a nine-day trip to the Caribbean, where he faces calls for an apology and slavery reparations. It is his first official visit to the Bahamas as king, with the archipelago's government closing all public schools on the island of New Providence to welcome him. The Bahamian police and armed forces strode out to greet Charles in lockstep, some wearing pith helmets. Charles stepped out in a light grey suit and donned sunglasses as he...

• Alexander brothers each get 30 years in prison for drugging, raping women (2026-10-27 22:26)

Three once high-flying brothers convicted of exploiting their wealth and access to luxury real estate to drug and rape dozens of women were sentenced on Tuesday to 30 years in prison. US District Judge Valerie E. Caproni announced the punishment for Tal, Oren and Alon Alexander – known collectively as the Alexander Brothers – after 11 accusers spoke in court. "Your conduct was monstrous," the judge told the men as she announced the sentences, saying their insistence that they have been...

• How Hong Kong went from a yuan gateway to a complete currency ecosystem (2026-10-27 22:00)

In September, Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chiu unveiled the city's first five-year plan along with his policy address, highlighting Hong Kong's strategic role in promoting the greater use of the yuan outside mainland China as a key priority. In the second part of a four-part series on the globalisation of the yuan, Daisy Wu examines Hong Kong's evolution from an offshore reservoir into a self-sustaining yuan ecosystem. Of the hundreds of thousands of people who cross the border between mainland...

• For its autocratic African ally, Taiwan bites its tongue and opens its wallet (2026-10-27 21:30)

Eswatini probably does not register on most people's mental maps. Its relatively recent name might sound unfamiliar as many people still know it as Swaziland. That it demands attention from pundits like yours truly has much to do with it being the only African country that still formally recognises Taiwan. It is also the continent's only absolute monarchy. The two facts are closely connected. Recognising Taipei makes little sense when every one of eSwatini's neighbours recognises Beijing, but it...

• Alibaba wins preliminary injunction against Pentagon lobbying rule (2026-10-27 21:08)

Alibaba has won a preliminary court order blocking a US restriction that drove away its Washington lobbyists, after a federal judge found the Chinese technology giant was likely to succeed in challenging the measure on free-speech grounds. US District Judge Eumi K. Lee ruled on Monday that the government had failed to provide sufficient evidence to justify the restriction, which effectively forces lobbying firms to choose between representing Alibaba and clients seeking Pentagon...

• 5 things to watch out for in 2027 US defence bill aimed at countering China (2026-10-27 20:58)

The 2027 US defence bill, covering more than US$1 trillion in proposed defence spending, will be one of the most closely watched pieces of legislation when Congress returns after the midterm elections, with efforts to counter China running through nearly every corner of the text. The US House of Representatives passed its version of the bill, known as the National Defence Authorisation Act (NDAA), in July. The bill faces a tougher path in the US Senate, where a July procedural vote to begin...

• Israel opposition holds narrow edge over Netanyahu in first election projections (2026-10-27 20:26)

Israeli voters on Tuesday gave a narrow edge to opposition parties over Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, initial projections showed, after decades-high turnout in the country's first election since the trauma of the October 7, 2023 attacks. Netanyahu, Israel's longest-serving prime minister, had run on promises to fight enemies from Hamas to Iran and had spent election day raising fears of Israeli Arab voters who came out in historic numbers against his hard-right government. Early projections...

• Dino skeleton that looks like mini T. rex sells for a giant US$47 million (2026-10-27 19:50)

A dinosaur that looks like a miniature T. rex is now one of the world's most expensive fossils. The rare skeleton of a Nanotyrannus – recently confirmed to be a distant cousin of Tyrannosaurus rex, not just a young specimen – sold for US$47.3 million to a mystery buyer at auction in New York on Tuesday, according to Sotheby's. The auction house had expected it to fetch anywhere from US$6 to US$9 million. The blockbuster price tag for "Jodi", as the skeleton is nicknamed, makes it the...

• Serial killer Ted Bundy linked to death of US teen after over 50 years (2026-10-27 19:24)

DNA connects serial killer Ted Bundy to the death of a Utah teenager, authorities announced on Tuesday, exactly 52 years after her body was discovered in the woods by a hunter. Bundy has been dead since 1989, but the tally of his confirmed victims continues to grow due to advances in DNA testing. He killed at least 30 women and girls in multiple states in the 1970s, and many more escaped or survived with injuries. Investigators are satisfied that Bundy was responsible for killing 17-year-old...

• Pope Leo's cancer is 'game changer' for papacy, Vatican foreign minister says (2026-10-27 18:30)

Pope Leo's lung cancer diagnosis and surgery has affected how Catholics view his health and papacy, the Vatican's foreign minister said on Tuesday, in an unusual acknowledgement by one of the Church's most senior officials. "It's a bit of a game changer," Archbishop Paul Gallagher told journalists at an event in Rome. Leo, 71, had part of one lung removed in surgery on October 13. His doctors have said the cancer was localised and had not spread, and the pope will not require further...

• Flavio Bolsonaro flees Brazil for US after shock loss to Lula (2026-10-27 17:41)

Brazilian Senator Flavio Bolsonaro has left the country for the US after losing Sunday's presidential election and refusing to comply with a Supreme Court order to hand over his passports, two sources said. The US embassy in Brazil did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Bolsonaro's lawyer also declined to comment. Bolsonaro was favoured to win Sunday's presidential election but ended up losing in a shock result to leftist incumbent Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. On Monday, he was...

• Rubio invokes China, Russia to defend disputed Venezuela oil deal (2026-10-27 16:18)

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has defended Washington's oil agreement in Venezuela as an alternative to Chinese and Russian involvement, pushing back against criticism from opposition leader Maria Corina Machado. Speaking to reporters on Monday, Rubio said most of the oilfields controlled by the company partnering with Washington had previously been held or operated by Chinese or Russian firms. He argued that the agreement would help revive production while securing US access to reserves in...

• The 'Queen of the Chinese' and a forgotten history on the US-Mexico border (2026-10-27 15:40)

At Texas' dusty Concordia Cemetery, grass grows over graves in a 140-year-old Chinese burial ground. Some headstones have been stolen or vandalised; others have been marked by flat concrete slabs etched with names in Chinese and English. The slabs were harder to steal than traditional headstones. Still other graves have no visible markers. "I don't think many people go out there," says Linda Chew, a retired judge in El Paso, the state's sixth-largest city. Yet interest in the history of the...

• Lula’s win in Brazil deals blow to Trump’s Latin America push: former China envoy (2026-10-27 15:00)

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva’s re-election marks a turning point for Latin America and US-Latin American relations, said Chile’s former top envoy to China, who predicted a slowing of Washington’s regional push. “I do think the re-election of President Lula marks a major turning point in Latin America and in US-Latin American relations, while also having a broader significance for the Global South,” said Jorge Heine, who served as Chile’s ambassador to China from 2014 to 2017 and...

• Israel kept committing genocide in Gaza after truce, UN inquiry says (2026-10-27 14:48)

Israel continued to commit genocide in Gaza after last October’s US-brokered ceasefire in the enclave, a UN commission said in a report published on Monday that Israel dismissed as part of a “misinformation campaign”. The report by the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel, examined violations against Palestinian civilians, including children, since the start of the war between Israel and Hamas on October...

• German leader’s China visit latest sign of foreign diplomacy pivot beyond Beijing (2026-10-27 14:17)

German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier has begun his state visit to China in the eastern province of Anhui, spotlighting a growing trend among visiting foreign leaders to look well beyond Beijing. Steinmeier arrived in the provincial capital Hefei early on Tuesday to begin a five-day state visit, marking his first trip to China in nearly eight years and confirming an exclusive report by the South China Morning Post earlier this month. When foreign dignitaries bypass Beijing for provincial...

• 2 men charged in UK with helping Iran over air force base incident (2026-10-27 14:02)

Two men were charged on Tuesday under Britain’s National Security Act following last month’s security incident at the RAF Fairford military base, with prosecutors accusing one of them of trying to assist Iranian intelligence operations in Britain. RAF Fairford had been used by US bombers to carry out strikes on Iran, but they were withdrawn on security grounds shortly after five British men were arrested outside the base in southwest England in the early hours of September 27. The...

• Taiwan vows vigilance as Beijing releases detailed satellite imagery of island landmarks (2026-10-27 14:00)

Taiwan’s military has vowed to remain vigilant against mainland Chinese intelligence-gathering activities after Beijing released high-resolution satellite images of the island, raising concerns about its growing surveillance capabilities. “The defence ministry will not lower its vigilance at any time regarding all such satellite imagery and related intelligence

collection directed at Taiwan,” Defence Minister Wellington Koo Li-hsiung told reporters onTuesday. “We will also take appropriate...

• Hong Kong lawmakers raise concerns about fresh HK$27 billion funding for tech hub (2026-10-27 13:34)

Hong Kong lawmakers have raised concerns about the hefty cost of developing a flagship tech hub and a neighbouring wetland park near the city’s border with mainland China, as the government seeks to secure a fresh HK$27 billion for the second round of works. During a Legislative Council development panel meeting on Tuesday, government officials explained the HK$27.2 billion proposal. It covers forming 175 hectares (432 acres) of land at the San Tin Technopole, establishing more than one-third of...

• Why Singapore’s PAP internal vote is the wrong place to look for signs of leadership renewal (2026-10-27 13:11)

Singapore’s ruling People’s Action Party (PAP) has retained its core executive team in what is seen as a cautious approach despite pledges of renewal, with observers pointing to ministerial promotions as a better indication of leadership plans. The PAP emerged from an internal election on Sunday with an unchanged slate for the Central Executive Committee (CEC), its highest decision-making body, as rising ministers Jeffrey Siow and Jasmin Lau failed to secure seats, though four remaining co-opted...

• Abby Choi’s remains found in flat reeking of disinfectant, murder trial hears (2026-10-27 13:00)

Warning: graphic content follows. Slain Hong Kong socialite Abby Choi Tin-fung’s dismembered remains were found inside a rural village flat that reeked of disinfectant when police arrived at the scene three days after the model’s alleged murder, a court has heard. A police detective involved in the investigation said on Tuesday that officers cordoned off the 600 square foot rental flat in Tai Po’s Lung Mei village on the evening of February 24, 2023, after he found human remains and an array of...

• How China ‘risk factors’ loom over Anthropic’s hotly anticipated IPO filing (2026-10-27 13:00)

Open-weight models, China-US tensions, Taiwan – just a few of the more than dozen references to China-related risks cited in Anthropic’s much-anticipated listing prospectus, which was finally released on Monday after months of speculation. Mostly concentrated within the 93-page “risk factors” section of the filing with the US Securities and Exchange Commission, the disclosures reveal how the Silicon Valley start-up assesses the commercial threats posed by China and its artificial intelligence...

• Singapore, Indonesia to create haze task force, share data amid tensions (2026-10-27 12:52)

Indonesia and Singapore are looking to set up a joint task force to deal with haze from Indonesia's wildfires, the countries' foreign ministers said on Tuesday, as they met to reaffirm their ties after weeks of simmering tensions. The visit to Jakarta by Singapore Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan came amid mounting frustrations in the city state over the transboundary haze generated by Indonesia's most intense forest fires in 11 years. After a two-hour meeting, Singapore and Indonesia's top...

• With diesel deal, Trump is teaching Reagan's lesson to a larger class (2026-10-27 12:30)

In June 1982, Ronald Reagan imposed sanctions to prevent European firms from using American technology to help build a pipeline that would carry Soviet gas to western Europe. He warned that Europe was making itself a hostage to the Kremlin and contributing to the Moscow's war chest. Then, 18 days before that November's congressional elections, he offered to sell the Soviet Union up to 23 million tonnes of grain. Europeans, told to tear up their own contracts while American farmers were invited...

• Delta Air Lines bets on premium travel to win share of Hong Kong market (2026-10-27 12:16)

US-based Delta Air Lines has expressed confidence that the quality of its service will help it win a share of Hong Kong's fiercely competitive aviation market, saying demand for its recently relaunched route to Los Angeles has exceeded expectations, driven by corporate bookings. Jeff Moomaw, the airline's vice-president for Asia-Pacific, said on Tuesday that demand for premium travel was helping drive its growth in the region. "Hong Kong is [a] highly competitive market with premium carriers,...

• Norway, Finland leaders hold 'frank' talk with Putin on ending Ukraine war (2026-10-27 12:14)

Finland's president and Norway's prime minister held a "frank and substantive" discussion with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday about efforts to end the war in Ukraine, the Nordic leaders said. "The outcome of this war will have a direct impact on our and the broader European security. Ending the war requires direct discussions," President Alexander Stubb said in a joint statement with Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store. The statement noted that the phone call had been "held in...

• China's Defence Minister Dong Jun to miss Asean defence talks as fifth plenum convenes (2026-10-27 12:12)

China's Defence Minister Dong Jun will skip this week's meeting of Southeast Asian defence chiefs and their dialogue partners in Cebu, with Beijing instead sending its defence attache in the Philippines. Dong has attended the Asean Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) for the past two years. This year's ADMM and ADMM-Plus, scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday, coincide with a major Communist Party meeting known as the fifth plenum, which is running in Beijing from Monday to...

• Hong Kong beautician gets 4 years for selling friends to Myanmar scam hub (2026-10-27 12:04)

A Hong Kong beautician has been sentenced to four years in jail for tricking two friends into forced labour and confinement in Myanmar's notorious "KK Park" scam farm, with a judge slamming her actions as "vicious and inhumane". District Court Judge Adriana Noelle Tse Ching on Tuesday said the 33-year-old defendant, Poon Sum-yi, had premeditated the fraudulent scheme to lure the two victims into travelling to Thailand, before selling them to the Chinese-run scam compound in neighbouring Myanmar...

• Philippines' bounty on 'Bato' dela Rosa exposes Marcos' dilemma in Duterte feud (2026-10-27 12:00)

A 50-million-peso (US$780,000) bounty for information leading to the arrest of fugitive Philippine senator Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa has raised questions over the Marcos administration's ability to enforce the law against high-profile political figures, with analysts warning the move risks making Manila appear weak and reactive. Dela Rosa, who served as national police chief under former president Rodrigo Duterte, faces an International Criminal Court (ICC) arrest warrant for alleged crimes...

• US, Japan rehearse coordinated strikes to challenge PLA control of waters near Taiwan (2026-10-27 12:00)

US and Japanese forces have rehearsed coordinated anti-ship strikes and mobile missile deployments across Kyushu and Japan's southwestern islands, testing tactics designed to challenge Beijing's ability to control surrounding waters in a conflict over Taiwan. Now in its second week, the 11-day Keen Sword 27 exercise has tested how the allies could threaten Chinese warships from multiple directions while keeping their own forces harder to target. They have also practised repairing runways and...

• China's Hengrui posts 89% rise in third-quarter net profit, beating estimates (2026-10-27 11:30)

Jiangsu Hengrui Pharmaceuticals, one of China's largest drug makers, reported a 20.55 per cent rise in third-quarter revenue to 8.95 billion yuan (US$1.34 billion), beating analyst estimates of 8.55 billion yuan amid stronger innovative drug sales. Net profit reached 2.46 billion yuan for the three months ended September 30, jumping 88.92 per cent year on year and exceeding the Bloomberg analyst consensus estimate of 2.38 billion yuan. Improving innovative drug sales and out-licensing revenue...

• Pop Mart reports 45 to 50% revenue decline as Labubu sales weaken across major markets (2026-10-27 11:00)

Pop Mart, the Chinese toymaker famous for Labubu collectible dolls, reported a 45 to 50 per cent year-on-year decline in third-quarter revenue, as sales weakened across its major markets,

with overseas operations and online channels bearing the brunt of the slowdown. Revenue inmainland China fell 25 to 30 per cent in the third quarter from a year earlier, while revenue inAsia-Pacific markets outside mainland China and Oceania dropped 65 to 70 per cent, accordingto a business update filed to...

- ByteDance's Zhang Yiming tops China rich list with US$99.7 billion as AI fuels fortunes (2026-10-27 11:00)

ByteDance founder Zhang Yiming has reclaimed the title of China's richest person with a nearly US$100 billion fortune, as artificial intelligence powers a surge in wealth among China's top entrepreneurs, according to the Hurun Research Institute. The 43-year-old Zhang, who topped the ranking in 2024, saw his wealth rise 43 per cent to US$99.7 billion – a record for China's richest individual – as TikTok owner ByteDance aggressively expanded into AI, according to the 28th edition of the Hurun...

- Indian court orders documentary on Modi, tycoon Adani removed (2026-10-27 10:55)

A court in India has ordered the takedown of an online documentary posted by Hotmail co-founder Sabeer Bhatia accusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi and billionaire Gautam Adani of cronyism, after Adani Enterprises sued, calling it defamatory. Adani's flagship firm, Adani Enterprises, told the High Court in the eastern city of Kolkata that the documentary, which garnered millions of views on social media in recent days, was riddled with false content and had prompted inquiries from some...

- Indonesia's 4-nation defence pact: strategic coup or paper tiger? (2026-10-27 10:30)

Indonesia could gain critical defence technology, investment and export opportunities through a new multi-nation defence pact with Turkey, Qatar and Pakistan, but analysts warn its success hinges on turning high-level ambition into concrete projects. The four Muslim-majority nations signed the Badr Memorandum of Understanding in Doha on Wednesday. The agreement outlines a framework for defence "cooperation and integration" across joint research and development, training exchanges and industrial...

- US ends Pacific visa waiver over birth tourism, people smuggling allegations (2026-10-27 10:25)

Washington has suspended visa-free entry for Chinese visitors to the Northern Mariana Islands amid allegations of birth tourism and people smuggling in the US territory. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced on Monday the suspension of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Economic Vitality and Security Travel Authorisation Programme. US Senator Mike Lee hailed the move on social media, calling the programme a "Biden-era loophole for Chinese birth tourism" and praising...

- Injured Hong Kong delivery rider seeks full trial on employment status question (2026-10-27 10:20)

A former Deliveroo rider who suffered severe brain injuries in a traffic accident has taken the platform to a Hong Kong court to seek compensation, arguing that resolving the legal question of his employment status at the time of the accident warrants a full trial. In the District Court on Tuesday, Deliveroo's Hong Kong liquidator applied to strike out the lawsuit, contending that the injured worker, Lok Sze-chu, offered only a "bare assertion" to support his claim of being entitled to...

• Fire at Hong Kong's first incinerator prompts calls to rethink waste strategy (2026-10-27 10:11)

The abrupt suspension of Hong Kong's first waste incinerator after a fire is a stark warning against relying too heavily on the HK$31.3 billion (US$4 billion) plant, environmentalists have said, while a former lawmaker has urged the government to keep its landfill-free timetable on track. Monday's blaze broke out on the roof of the third incineration module at the Integrated Waste Management Facilities Phase 1, or I·PARK1, on an artificial island off Shek Kwu Chau. More than 900 people were...

• Greenhouse gas levels hit record highs, climate impact will last centuries: UN (2026-10-27 10:08)

Greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere rose to record highs in 2025, locking in climate impact that will persist for centuries to come, the United Nations said on Tuesday. Levels of the three main greenhouse gases – the climate-warming carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide – all rose to unprecedented figures in 2025, the UN's weather and climate agency said. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said the rise would lead to more long-term temperature increases for the...

• Football star Kylian Mbappe faces huge China backlash over 'unacceptable' remark (2026-10-27 10:00)

French football superstar Kylian Mbappe has been dropped by a string of major Chinese brands including the dairy giant Mengniu, amid intense backlash over an alleged offensive remark about China. "Mengniu firmly opposes and has zero tolerance for any words or actions that hurt the feelings of the Chinese people," Mengniu said in a statement on Tuesday, as the firm announced it was immediately terminating "all partnerships" with Mbappe. On the same day, China's energy-drinks giant Eastroc...

• China eatery creates egg tarts topped with 'giant cockroaches', drawing widespread curiosity (2026-10-27 10:00)

A restaurant in Shunde, Guangdong, is turning heads online with a bizarre new dessert: egg tarts topped with crispy water beetles that look exactly like gigantic cockroaches. Shunde is a city known for its Cantonese cuisine and recognised as a Unesco Creative City of Gastronomy. In early October, it introduced a new "water roach egg tart", priced at 28 yuan (US$4) for three. Images of the dessert, with a large insect perched on each tart, quickly made it a social media

sensation. However,...

• Air Force crash revives debate on Philippine military's modernisation limits (2026-10-27 09:45)

The collision of two Philippine Air Force training aircraft that killed four pilots has raised questions about whether the service's training, maintenance and safety systems can keep pace with Manila's ambitions to acquire more advanced combat aircraft. The crash, which occurred during a fly-by rehearsal at Fernando Air Base in Lipa City, Batangas province, south of Manila, on Friday has renewed calls for a comprehensive review of the Air Force's ageing fleet, pilot instruction, maintenance...

• Fragile India-China thaw tested by reported fresh Himalayan border face-offs (2026-10-27 09:25)

A fragile rapprochement between China and India is facing a renewed test following reports of military face-offs along the Asian neighbours' hotly contested border. Last week, Shatrujeet Kapur, director general of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), said "confrontations with Chinese troops were continuing at multiple locations along the Arunachal Pradesh border". "In the past few days, a situation arose where face-off[s] happened at several locations in Arunachal and it still continues,"...

• EU-China hybrid car deal won't really help European carmakers (2026-10-27 08:30)

Earlier this month, simmering trade tensions between the EU and China ease as the two sides reached an agreement in Beijing limiting hybrid car exports from China to an annual quota of 350,000 units. After the European Union imposed tariffs on fully electric cars from China in 2024, hybrid imports surged. The quota would result in more than a halving of the 800,000 hybrid cars expected to be sold this year, a figure which may soon exceed a million if unchecked. The quota would likely shift...

• Is China's H-6K strategic bomber getting powerful jamming capabilities? (2026-10-27 08:28)

A Chinese H-6K strategic bomber has been sighted with two new electronic warfare pods used for jamming, according to images circulating on social media, potentially indicating an expansion of the aircraft's capabilities. The photos – which have not been independently verified – emerged on Saturday and show an H6-K in flight with the pods on two of its six pylons. They appear to be similar to the RKZ930 pods carried by China's J-16D electronic warfare aircraft. The location and date of the photos...

• 1 in 6 Gen Z South Koreans took GLP-1 slimming drugs last year: survey (2026-10-27 08:07)

South Korea's embrace of GLP-1 weight-loss drugs appears particularly pronounced among younger adults, with roughly one in six Gen Z respondents reporting they had used or been prescribed the medication in 2025, according to a new report. The 2026 Korea Wellness Report,

released by KB Financial Group on Sunday and cited by The Korea Times, surveyed 2,000 menand women aged 25 to 69 between July and August. Across all age brackets, the overall uptakestood at 10.3 per cent. Gen Z adults – defined...

• Indonesia's oxygen bus offers breather to residents choking on toxic haze (2026-10-27 07:32)

A bus fitted out with oxygen tanks is providing a sanctuary in a city on Indonesia's Borneo island, where people are choking from forest-fire-induced haze and the blazes show no sign of letting up. Indonesia regularly battles seasonal forest fires, predominantly on Sumatra and Borneo islands, but this year the infernos are the most intense in more than a decade. An intense El Nino weather phenomenon has driven up temperatures, leaving the country's vast forests and peatlands more vulnerable...

• MTR Corp reveals linked faults behind 2 disruptions at Lam Tin station in 15 hours (2026-10-27 07:24)

Two service disruptions at Lam Tin station within 15 hours earlier this month were linked, with a failed rubber insulating component causing an overloaded cable connection, the MTR Corporation has said. In a paper submitted to the Legislative Council's transport panel on Tuesday, the rail operator said its preliminary investigation found that the component's failure caused a short circuit and fire in the first incident. This in turn led to an overloaded cable connection, which overheated and...

• Northern Metropolis university towns are being built to attract best talent: John Lee (2026-10-27 07:20)

Hong Kong's planned university towns in the Northern Metropolis are being designed to attract the world's finest students and scholars, the city's leader has said at a global education summit, as overseas institutions expressed interest but called for partnership incentives. Lawmakers have urged the government to increase the loan quota to help institutions meet their urgent need to raise funds for campus construction. Speaking at the Global University Presidents and Leaders Summit on Tuesday,...

• Israelis vote in tense election testing Netanyahu's grip on power (2026-10-27 07:00)

Israelis are voting in a pivotal election Tuesday as their country is embroiled in unresolved wars, still reeling from Hamas' 2023 attack and deeply divided over the character of the state and the right person to lead it. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is facing off against an array of parties seeking to oust the long-time leader from power. Opinion polls have suggested a tight race with his main rival, former military chief Gadi Eisenkot. Over 7 million people are eligible to vote. In...

• South Korea's president urged to play Call of Duty as war wake-up call (2026-10-27 06:58)

South Korea's President Lee Jae Myung has been urged by critics to play the latest instalment in the blockbuster Call of Duty video game franchise to better appreciate the need for defences against an invasion by the North. The call from opposition lawmakers follows the release on Friday of Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 4, a first-person shooter depicting a full-scale surprise attack by North Korea on the South. Players fight North Korean troops as Park Hyun-jun, a private in the South Korean...

• 10,000 Hong Kong homes left without water as burst pipe hits Shau Kei Wan again (2026-10-27 06:22)

More than 10,000 households in Hong Kong's Eastern District have been left without fresh water after a pipe burst in Shau Kei Wan – marking the area's second major outage in three months – forcing restaurants to close and sending residents queuing into the streets for emergency supplies. According to the Water Supplies Department, emergency repairs are under way, with fresh water supply expected to resume before midnight. A video circulating on social media on Tuesday shows water gushing from...

• Ceasefire brokered by Melania Trump begins in Russian-occupied Ukrainian town (2026-10-27 06:15)

A localised ceasefire between Ukraine and Russia took effect early Tuesday ahead of a humanitarian mission brokered by US first lady Melania Trump, as missile attacks resumed in Kyiv. The local pause in fighting started at 3am to allow an aid mission into the Russian-occupied town of Oleshky in southern Ukraine later this week. According to her office, Melania Trump led talks with civilian negotiators from Russia and Ukraine after meeting with UN officials who briefed her on the situation in the...

• Fiji islanders brave rising seas to protect their 'US$100 million views' (2026-10-27 06:14)

As the sun sets over Fiji's tiny Serua Island, its climate-threatened inhabitants soak in one of the reasons they have rejected attempts to relocate their village – the "US$100 million views". The island looks like a utopia from the mainland, two steep palm-covered knolls sandwiching its low-lying centre, flanked by coral reefs and rich fishing grounds. But it is on the island itself that the risk from rising seas becomes clearer, with a concrete sea wall providing the only defence against waves...

• The price of romance: young Malaysian men borrow to fund dates, study finds (2026-10-27 06:08)

More than one in 10 Malaysian men have borrowed money to pay for dates, while nearly six in 10 usually pick up the entire bill, a survey has found. The findings come as rising living costs place a financial strain on romance in Malaysia, where money worries are increasingly complicating plans for marriage and starting a family. According to the Dating Expenditure Survey in Malaysia, released on Tuesday by independent policy research firm LEGASI Research, 13.2 per cent of male respondents...

• China trial shows gum tissue stem cells help 55% of lifetime diabetes patients (2026-10-27 06:00)

A randomised phase 1 clinical trial conducted by scientists and doctors from Shanghai and Guangzhou has achieved encouraging results in the treatment of Type 1 diabetes using stem cells extracted from the mouth's gum tissue. More than half of those who received the treatment showed varying degrees of improvement, while one subject was able to discontinue exogenous insulin therapy completely, the researchers said. Results of the study, which tested a therapy based on gingival mesenchymal stem...

• Jordan strikes targets in Syria after deadly church attack (2026-10-27 05:22)

Jordan said on Monday its air force struck what it described as militant hideouts in southern Syria after determining that the suspects behind last week's deadly church attack in the kingdom were linked to "terrorist groups" operating there. The armed forces said the operation was conducted in coordination with Damascus. Syria's government gave a contradictory account, saying it had launched an investigation into the Jordanian attacks, and stressed in a statement the importance of field and...

• 'Disgusting monster': Meghan Markle's dad slammed by son amid Philippine police probe (2026-10-27 05:11)

The estranged half-brother of Meghan Markle, Duchess of Sussex, has called their father a "disgusting monster" after handing over a trove of alleged child abuse material belonging to their shared parent to police in the Philippines. The four boxes containing mobile phones, computer equipment and other personal belongings were handed over to the Philippine National Police's Women and Children Protection Centre last week by Thomas Markle Jnr, who was previously his father's full-time carer. Markle...

• 2,000 customers of Hong Kong Airlines, 2 appliance shops, get scam calls after data breach (2026-10-27 04:48)

Almost 2,000 customers of Hong Kong Airlines and two electronic appliance retailers received fraudulent calls after their personal information was leaked by the companies, the city's privacy watchdog has found. The Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD) said on Monday that it had received more than 40 inquiries and complaints linked to the suspected data leaks involving Hong Kong Airlines and the electronic appliance retailers Yoho and Broadway. "We have initiated an...

• Why paper straws are worse than plastic; Japan's 'silver divorce' rise: 7 Asia highlights (2026-10-27 04:30)

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. Filipinos split on Marcos' sea handling amid row

over Chinese envoy's remarks Filipinos are almost evenly divided over the Marcosadministration's handling of the maritime dispute with China, even as nearly three in fourfavour diplomacy over confrontation, according to...

• HSBC shares drop 5% despite strong third-quarter profit, US$1b share buy-back (2026-10-27 04:27)

Shares of HSBC dropped 5 per cent on Tuesday even as Hong Kong's biggest lender reported a 32 per cent rise in third quarter pre-tax profits and announced a new round of share buy-backs worth US$1 billion. The bank said its third quarter pre-tax profit increased to US$9.6 billion, in-line with US$9.7 billion estimated by analysts, compared with US$7.3 billion a year earlier. The buy-back amount for the third quarter was in line with analysts' estimates. The bank will also pay a quarterly...

• South Korean drama 'Doctor X' triggers fresh row over Gwangju Uprising depiction (2026-10-27 04:02)

South Korean medical drama Doctor X: Mafia in White has become the latest target of political controversy over how fictional works portray history, after a National Assembly petition demanded a halt to its airing over its depiction of the 1980 Gwangju Uprising. The petition, posted on Saturday on the National Assembly's petition website, calls for a review of the drama's production and a halt to its broadcast. It has gathered the 100 supporters required to be made public. The petitioner said...

• Chinese scientists create powerful catalyst to turn air on Mars into rocket fuel (2026-10-27 04:00)

Chinese space scientists are working out how future astronauts on Mars could make their own fuel out of thin air, a sign that Beijing is serious about one day sending people to the red planet. A team at the state-funded Deep Space Exploration Laboratory in Hefei has developed a catalyst that turns carbon dioxide – which makes up more than 95 per cent of the Martian atmosphere – into a liquid fuel called methanol. "Methanol can serve as fuel to generate electricity, provide heating and power Mars...

• Princess Anne begins her official visit to Hong Kong in 1971 – from the SCMP archive (2026-10-27 03:30)

This article was first published on October 27, 1971. Hongkong's royal welcome for Princess Anne Princess Anne, radiant in a stylish knee-length beige suit and a matching wide-brimmed hat, flew in yesterday (October 26, 1971) to a warm welcome from the people of Hong Kong. She begins her official visits today (October 27, 1971) – a public holiday – when thousands of people will be able to see her during her calls at places like the Tung Wah Hospital, the Po Leung Kuk and the ancient Man Mo...

• ZTE up 7% after AI pivot, computing surge drive fivefold increase in third quarter profit (2026-10-27 03:17)

Shares in ZTE rose as much as 7 per cent in Hong Kong on Tuesday morning after the Chinese telecommunications equipment maker posted a nearly fivefold jump in third-quarter profit, driven by rapid expansion in its computing infrastructure and overseas operations. Net profit attributable to shareholders reached 1.31 billion yuan (US$196.3 million) for the three months ended September 30, up 395 per cent from a year earlier, according to an exchange filing released on Monday evening. Revenue...

• Myanmar refugee in Denmark demands justice over junta war crimes (2026-10-27 03:03)

A Myanmar citizen living in Denmark on Monday filed a complaint with Danish authorities against the country's ruling military junta for alleged war crimes committed against minorities. The complainant, Ngun Siang Dim, who is from the Chin minority, claims she saw 40 houses burn down in her village in Chin State, in western Myanmar, and that several members of her family and friends were killed or left permanently disabled by landmines laid by the junta. The military junta "has done so many...

• Why are Turkey, Pakistan, Qatar and Indonesia joining forces? (2026-10-27 02:23)

A decision by Turkey, Pakistan, Qatar and Indonesia to jointly develop and produce weapons systems marks a major push to reduce reliance on Western armaments that come with political strings attached, observers say. Following the signing of the Badr memorandum of understanding in Doha on Wednesday, the four governments separately said they would work towards integrating their defence industries and supply chains to meet military needs. "By leveraging the capabilities of each country in the field...

• AI boy avatars go viral in China, using sob stories to trick elderly out of money (2026-10-27 02:00)

AI-generated "sob-story boys" have recently taken Chinese short-video platforms by storm, allegedly using emotional manipulation to cheat elderly viewers out of their savings. Known collectively as "Xiaohai", these digital avatars typically appear as teenage boys in school uniforms or plain white shirts, tearfully describing their poverty-stricken lives on camera. In one video, a Xiaohai avatar holds a steamed bun and laments to viewers, whom he addresses as "aunties and mothers": "All my...

• Hong Kong wants to be a regional hub for Halloween. Why not? (2026-10-27 01:30)

Hong Kong's determination to become a hub for everything – innovation, finance, trade, culture and sport – appears to know no bounds. Now, Halloween has been added to the list. The city is aiming to become Asia's premier destination for the annual spookfest. Of all the regional hubs Hong Kong wishes to become, this is one of the more unlikely. But with Beijing urging the city to ensure "tourism is everywhere" and draw ever more visitors, Halloween, falling between the National Day "golden week"...

• Australia to host USS Colorado as first US nuclear submarine under Aukus pact (2026-10-27 01:25)

The Pentagon has assigned the USS Colorado as the first US nuclear-powered attack submarine to join a rotating force to be based in Western Australia. The 115-metre (380-foot) Virginia-class submarine, armed with land-attack missiles and sophisticated torpedoes, would sail to the new Australian base in late 2027, officials said on Tuesday. The deployment was a “significant milestone” in building up a joint US-Australia-UK deterrence in the Pacific under their Aukus defence pact, the allies said...

• Taiwan looks to autonomous swarms to counter Beijing’s grey-zone pressure (2026-10-27 01:00)

Taiwan is developing an AI-powered system to coordinate drone fleets for maritime surveillance and countering “grey-zone” activities, with researchers completing a simulation involving 20 aircraft, according to the island’s Ocean Affairs Council. The system, which is funded by the council, would allow different types of drones to autonomously divide tasks, plan routes and coordinate their movements while providing wide-area, persistent surveillance for coastguard operations. The council said on...

• Can Hong Kong deliver in trying to build its yuan credentials? (2026-10-27 00:30)

In September, Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chiu unveiled the city’s first five-year plan along with his policy address, highlighting Hong Kong’s strategic role in promoting the greater use of the yuan outside mainland China as a key priority. In the first of a four-part series on the internationalisation of the yuan, Lam Ka-sing and Denise Tsang examine Hong Kong’s efforts as an international financial centre to reform its market infrastructure, including building a larger offshore renminbi...

• Southeast Asia’s housing paradox: too many homes, too few buyers (2026-10-27 00:00)

In parts of Southeast Asia, unsold homes are piling up as developers struggle to clear housing stock – yet young buyers hoping to land their first property still cannot find an affordable home. The paradox reflects a growing mismatch between the homes being built and what aspiring buyers can afford, according to analysts, who point to speculative investment, financing hurdles and poor locations as factors leaving properties empty even amid demand for affordable housing. In Vietnam, the problem...

• What message is China sending with latest footage of ‘no-notice’ DF rocket drill? (2026-10-27 00:00)

China has released footage of its troops carrying out a “no-notice” rocket launch as part of an ongoing effort by state media to showcase the People’s Liberation Army’s rapid-response capabilities. State broadcaster CCTV on Monday released a brief video showing the exercise in mountainous terrain and said it had been carried out with no advance notice given to the

troops involved. No other details were provided. The footage – which is believed to show amissile from the Dongfeng (east wind)...

• China grants permits to VW joint venture, Xpeng as autonomous driving race intensifies (2026-10-27 00:00)

China has granted new autonomous-driving permission to electric vehicle (EV) maker Xpeng and a mainland joint venture of Volkswagen, intensifying the commercialisation race between China's autonomous driving firms and US company Tesla. Xpeng would now be allowed to conduct "demonstration operations" of its Yoyo driverless taxis in the capital city of southern China's Guangdong province under a licence officially granted recently, the company said on social media on Monday. The licence, which...

• Evening sessions urged as fraud, money-laundering cases pack Hong Kong courts (2026-10-26 23:00)

The long wait for criminal cases to be heard in Hong Kong's courts could persist because of a surge in fraud and money laundering litigation, the judiciary has warned, as the Law Society suggested extending sitting hours into the evening. In a paper submitted to the Legislative Council's panel on administration of justice and legal services, the judiciary said that the total caseload in 2025 reached about 537,000, around 4 per cent higher than the annual average over the previous five years. As...

• How Shimao's sale of 2 hotels reveals the growing complexity of Hong Kong debt workouts (2026-10-26 23:00)

The HK$2.7 billion (US$344 million) sale of two Shimao Group hotels in Hong Kong leaves an estimated HK$1.8 billion shortfall against their secured loans. Still, receivers managed to squeeze out improved bids in the final stages, with all shortlisted parties improving their offers, said Una Ge, a managing director at AlixPartners who oversaw the sale as a joint receiver. The deal offers a glimpse into how mainland China's developer debt crisis is reshaping Hong Kong's restructuring industry,...

• Netanyahu touts Trump endorsement on eve of vote, suggests they may restart war on Iran (2026-10-26 22:29)

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu boasted of his endorsement from Donald Trump on the eve of Israel's election, suggesting the two leaders could restart their war against Iran if he wins, after Trump said they should "finish the job". "US President Donald Trump has come with a friendship that has never existed before between an Israeli prime minister and an American president. And it is doubtful we will ever have such a friendly president again," Netanyahu said in a televised appearance...

• US rapper Macklemore launches Free Palestine Tour in Ireland after Ed Sheeran rift (2026-10-26 22:00)

US rapper Macklemore on Monday launched his new “Free Palestine Tour” in Dublin after being dropped as a supporting act by British pop star Ed Sheeran over pro-Palestinian comments. Standing in queues outside the venue for the first show in the Irish capital, which promoters said had sold out, excited fans praised the 43-year-old’s stance. “Macklemore’s support for Palestine is huge. He’s stood up and he’s put himself on the line instead of taking the easy way out,” said Michael Keating, a...

- Brazil’s Flavio Bolsonaro says he will lead opposition to Lula government (2026-10-26 21:34)

Flavio Bolsonaro said on Monday he would lead the opposition to Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva’s government, one day after he refused to concede electoral defeat to the incumbent. “To withstand the chaos, I’m going to organise the opposition,” the right-wing senator and son of ex-leader Jair Bolsonaro said. Flavio received 48.2 per cent of the vote compared with 51.8 per cent for incumbent Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. Also on Monday, Flavio said a Supreme Court justice had banned...

- How Hong Kong’s 5-year plan can fuel its financial clout (2026-10-26 21:30)

Finance ministers from 21 Asia-Pacific economies recently met in Hong Kong, the first time the city has hosted them. A practical question sits one level down. Picture the treasury team of a company running its regional business from Hong Kong. It arranges funding in several currencies, pays across markets and manages the risks that follow. Its question is: how can Hong Kong’s services help it operate more efficiently and at lower cost? Those needs are a practical lens for reading the five-year...

- European levy on non-EU parcels kicks in on Sunday in bid to curb China influx (2026-10-26 20:39)

The European Union will from Sunday slap a €2 (US$2.25) handling fee on packages from outside the 27-nation bloc in a bid to curb the influx from China. The new levy – coming just weeks before the Black Friday, Cyber Monday and Christmas season shopping rushes – will be on top of the EU’s €3 fee on small parcels. The fee will apply to each type of item in a package sent directly to consumers from outside the EU regardless of the parcel’s value. For example, if there are 10 T-shirts in a package,...

- Mecca pact countries in Iran in bid to stop war restarting (2026-10-26 19:47)

Senior officials from Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Pakistan held talks with Iran in Tehran on Monday in an attempt to stop the Middle East war from reigniting. Officials from the three Mecca pact countries flew to Iran as part of efforts to “de-escalate between the parties to the current crisis”, a Saudi foreign ministry statement said. The talks, which included heavyweight Saudi Defence Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman, followed warnings by the United States, Iran and Israel that hostilities could...

• Burnham rules out UK return to EU free movement without referendum (2026-10-26 19:16)

British Prime Minister Andy Burnham has said he would not return the UK to EU freedom of movement rules without a referendum, after ruling out the prospect of Britain rejoining the bloc within this parliamentary term. It comes after his call at the weekend for an “honest discussion” about a return to freedom of movement fuelled questions about the parameters around his vision for a deepening relationship with Brussels. The prime minister was asked on Monday morning if he would allow the UK to...

• 6 US citizens sue Trump, saying media ban deprives them of news as audience stakeholders (2026-10-26 18:56)

In the increasingly bitter legal stand-off between US President Donald Trump and media outlets whose reporting he dislikes, a new and crucial third party has emerged: citizens who watch and read the news and need it to do their jobs. A lawsuit filed on Monday on behalf of six such citizens – effectively representing the audiences for the news media – argues that it is not only the rights of news organisations that are violated when Trump bans them from White House premises. Even more...

• Ebola patient evacuated from Nigeria to Switzerland (2026-10-26 18:21)

A woman infected with the Ebola virus and her husband, a Swiss diplomat, were flown from Nigeria to hospitals in Switzerland on Monday, Swiss authorities said. The Ugandan-born wife of the diplomat, based in Abuja, was being treated at Geneva University Hospitals for the Bundibugyo strain of Ebola, which has caused an outbreak that started in Democratic Republic of Congo. Her husband, considered a close contact, was in isolation at University Hospital Zurich, the Swiss Federal Office of...

• Daughter of ex-FBI director Comey was unlawfully fired as federal prosecutor, judge rules (2026-10-26 17:58)

Maurene Comey, the daughter of former FBI Director James Comey, was unlawfully fired from her job as a federal prosecutor in New York last year, a federal judge ruled on Monday. Judge Jesse M Furman said Comey, who was an assistant US attorney for a decade, was illegally fired in July 2025 despite her work on some of the nation’s highest-profile cases and consistently receiving “the highest accolades from supervisors and peers alike”. After her firing, Comey sued the Justice Department and...

• Walter Koenig, Star Trek’s original Pavel Chekov, dies at 90 (2026-10-26 17:25)

Actor Walter Koenig, who played Ensign Pavel Chekov, the youthful Russian navigator on the Star Trek television series and several films, has died. He was 90. Koenig died on Monday at his home in the North Hollywood neighbourhood of Los Angeles, talent agent Zachery McGinnis said in a statement. In Star Trek, Ensign Chekov was the sole Communist-bloc member of the spaceship Enterprise bridge staff. His friendly, supportive presence showed how the rival

nations (in the far-off future in which the...

• Thousands of observers expected at polling places to monitor the vote on US election day (2026-10-26 16:59)

Democrats and outside watchdogs are planning a massive presence at the polls on US election day driven by concerns that US President Donald Trump will further leverage the vast resources of the federal government to interfere with a midterm that could hobble his final two years in office. They will not be the only ones there. A sprawling election protection effort on the left that is expected to deploy tens of thousands of monitors will be met by the largest-ever monitoring programme by the...

• Hong Kong to overhaul traffic management at Huanggang Port after weekend gridlock (2026-10-26 15:02)

Hong Kong authorities have announced plans to step up traffic management at the revamped Huanggang Port to prevent a repeat of last weekend's congestion caused by Halloween and concert crowds. A government spokesman said on Monday night that police would further strengthen road traffic control and management near the crossing. "Depending on traffic flow, they will implement contingency plans and open vehicle buffer zones as needed to effectively channel cross-boundary buses, private cars, and...

• Hong Kong's South China Morning Post shines at Asian Media Awards with 6 prizes (2026-10-26 15:02)

The South China Morning Post has won six prizes at the World Association of News Publishers' (Wan-Ifra) prestigious Asian Media Awards 2026 in Singapore, including a clean sweep for best news photography. The SCMP emerged as a big winner on Wednesday with five gold and one silver for its photojournalism, infographics, design and offerings for young readers. In the best news photography category, senior photographer Sam Tsang's image of a man whose wife was trapped in last November's Tai Po fire...

• Win for Lula boosts China's foothold and gives Brazil rare earths leverage (2026-10-26 14:36)

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's re-election preserves Beijing's most critical foothold in Latin America, while positioning Brasilia to leverage the US-China rivalry over its vast rare earth reserves without picking sides. Lula, 80, secured an unprecedented fourth term on Sunday after winning 51.8 per cent of the run-off vote to defeat right-wing rival Flavio Bolsonaro. The son of jailed former president Jair Bolsonaro and Trump ally has, however, refused to concede. Beijing...

• Abby Choi's ex-husband used socialite's money to live lavishly on mainland: court (2026-10-26 14:19)

Slain Hong Kong socialite Abby Choi Tin-fung's ex-husband lived an affluent lifestyle in mainland China allegedly funded by the model's money and borrowed a car used to move equipment involved in her killing, a court has heard. The High Court heard on Monday that Alex Kwong Kong-chi used his former partner's digital wallets to cover his expenses in Guangzhou while evading justice for his role in a HK$6.3 million theft case in 2015. The 31-year-old is standing trial alongside his father, Kwong...

• Hong Kong proposes more homes, less office space at Hung Hom harbourfront (2026-10-26 14:04)

Hong Kong authorities have proposed raising the residential share of a Hung Hom harbourfront development to more than 60 per cent by cutting commercial floor space, citing "strong doubts" over market demand for offices. The Development Bureau, which submitted the latest proposal to the Legislative Council's development panel on Monday, also suggested reallocating residential space from initially planned seaside sites to inland plots near Hung Hom station and Polytechnic University. The move aims...

• Anthropic's IPO filing shows explosive growth, risks and staggering costs (2026-10-26 13:53)

Anthropic disclosed steep losses and explosive revenue growth on Monday as the Claude parent moved closer to a potentially record-breaking IPO, betting on AI's ability to reshape the global economy. The listing is shaping up to be a major test of appetite for AI from investors who are increasingly scrutinising the returns on billions of dollars of investments and questioning the sustainability of sky-high valuations. "Anthropic's IPO will certainly establish a benchmark for valuing leading AI...

• France's Macron promises 'strong measures' to ease protests (2026-10-26 13:33)

French President Emmanuel Macron promised on Monday that his government would announce a package of measures in response to weeks of street protests over a broad set of grievances, while acknowledging the risk of more unrest ahead. His prime minister, Sebastien Lecornu, is set to hold a news conference after a meeting with unions of high school students who want more resources for the education sector and an overhaul of a university admissions process they say embeds inequalities. "I have ⋯...

• Chinese biotech giant WuXi AppTec raises 2026 outlook after profit surge (2026-10-26 13:04)

WuXi AppTec raised its full-year revenue guidance after its net profit surged 62.4 per cent in the first nine months of 2026, while revenue rose 38.6 per cent on strong demand for its drug development and manufacturing services. The Chinese pharmaceutical research services provider's net profit reached 19.16 billion yuan (US$2.87 billion) for the nine months ended September 30, compared with 11.80 billion yuan a year earlier, a filing to the Hong Kong stock exchange showed. Its revenue rose to...

• Jordan arrests 3 relatives over deadly church attack after shoot-out (2026-10-26 13:02)

Jordanian security forces arrested two brothers and their brother-in-law after a shoot-out on Monday over a church attack that killed nine people, and the suspects appear to have no ties to other cells, senior government security officials said. “God willing, they only represent themselves,” Jordan’s Director of Public Security, Major-General Obeidallah al-Maaytah, said. Such violence is highly unusual in Jordan, a relatively stable US ally in the Middle East, and Friday’s attack on the...

• China’s next-generation KJ-3000 radar planes may have quietly entered production (2026-10-26 13:00)

China may have begun limited production of its next-generation KJ-3000 airborne early warning aircraft, with satellite imagery suggesting that three possible production examples were already parked at a factory as early as April, according to an imagery analyst. If brought into service, the aircraft could help the People’s Liberation Army to detect threats, track targets and coordinate air operations across the western Pacific, including during a potential conflict over Taiwan involving US and...

• US singer Chris Brown avoids jail after guilty plea in UK nightclub incident (2026-10-26 12:48)

US singer Chris Brown was spared an immediate prison sentence in Britain on Monday for attacking a producer with a tequila bottle in a London nightclub in 2023, with his fans cheering as the musician walked free from court. Brown, 37, was given an eight-month suspended sentence at London’s Southwark Crown Court after he admitted a charge of affray over the attack on Abraham Diaw at the Tape nightclub in February 2023. Diaw was hit twice in the head with a bottle, which was then swung twice...

• Singaporean woman admits conspiring to abuse Megan Khung, helping dispose of her body (2026-10-26 12:40)

A Singaporean woman pleaded guilty on Monday to conspiring with a friend and the friend’s boyfriend to abuse four-year-old Megan Khung, and helping to dispose of the child’s body after she died following months of abuse. Nouvelle Chua Ruoshi, 36, pleaded guilty to three charges, including conspiracy to commit child abuse, intentional disposal of a corpse and methamphetamine consumption, The Straits Times reported. Three further charges for conspiracy to commit child abuse will be considered when...

• Europe can still shape the rules of AI (2026-10-26 12:30)

In October, two technology executives offered Europe similar advice. In Turin, Alibaba Group Holding chairman Joe Tsai urged European companies to use open-source models and their proprietary industrial data to build AI capabilities. In Berlin, Nvidia chief Jensen Huang pressed German manufacturers to apply AI to factories, robotics and other physical industries. Both see

opportunity in Europe’s engineering strengths, while their companies stand to benefit fromsupplying the technology. Recent...

• Death of former PM Yasuo Fukuda leaves void in fraught China-Japan relations (2026-10-26 12:20)

Former Japanese prime minister Yasuo Fukuda, who championed closer ties with China during his brief tenure and later served as a crucial diplomatic intermediary during bilateral crises, has died at the age of 90. Fukuda died of heart failure on Thursday at a Tokyo hospital, Japanese media reported on Monday. His passing comes as the relationship he spent decades nurturing faces its gravest test since diplomatic normalisation in 1972. Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun offered...

• 14 Hong Kong civil servants sue colleague over HK$28.9 million Mark Six winnings (2026-10-26 12:00)

A Hong Kong civil servant has been sued by 14 colleagues for HK$28.9 million (US$3.7 million) in lottery winnings after he allegedly refused to split a winning Mark Six jackpot. Health inspector Ling Chun-ting allegedly told his colleagues at the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) that they did not deserve a share of the HK$33 million prize on September 5 because they did not buy the tickets, according to a High Court writ seen by the South China Morning Post on Monday. The...

• Two workers dangle more than 30 storeys up after Jardine House gondola fault (2026-10-26 11:59)

Firefighters raced to rescue two workers left dangling on safety harnesses more than 30 storeys above ground outside a skyscraper in Hong Kong’s Central district on Monday evening after their suspended working platform apparently malfunctioned and dropped. The incident occurred at about 6.16pm at Jardine House on Connaught Road Central, where the two workers were carrying out external maintenance work from a gondola. One of the workers was left dangling for nearly 1½ hours before being rescued...

• Climate damage to Philippine ports could cost US$70b a year by 2100 (2026-10-26 11:46)

The Philippines faces the highest climate-driven port damage costs in Southeast Asia, with annual losses projected to hit US$70.2 billion by 2100, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has warned. Analysts say the damage could cripple supply chains, drive up food prices and threaten livelihoods, urging Manila to adopt a more coordinated approach to flood protection rather than simply strengthening port infrastructure. In its latest report titled “Asia-Pacific Climate Report 2026: Coastal Risks on the...

• Pentagon chief Hegseth to visit Philippines to meet US allies at Asean events (2026-10-26 11:03)

US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth will travel to the Philippines this week to meet regional allies, the Pentagon announced on Sunday. The visit comes amid a push by Washington to tighten security ties in the Indo-Pacific ahead of an expected meeting between Presidents Donald Trump and Xi Jinping in southern China. Hegseth, a former Fox News host, has faced criticism from Democrats and some Republicans over his handling of the war against Iran, as well as concerns that the conflict could divert...

• How will Hong Kong's 'cardboard grannies' survive as prices drop after new policy? (2026-10-26 11:00)

The idea of collecting cardboard boxes and used paper in exchange for a few pennies was never something Kuang Su-ling thought she would have to do for a living. It is a laborious occupation that involves working long hours and travelling inconvenient distances, often in difficult outdoor conditions. But Kuang became a waste paper scavenger after she was diagnosed with diabetic eye disease seven years ago and lost her job as a cleaner. "I could not find any other work and I needed money to cover...

• Indonesia defends Singapore gas cuts, cites rising domestic needs and contractual limits (2026-10-26 10:44)

Indonesia has defended its decision to cut natural gas exports to Singapore, citing domestic electricity and industrial needs and arguing that the reduction remains within contractual limits. The cuts came days after Indonesia's energy minister warned that his country could stop exports to nations that "did not respect" it. On Monday, Energy Minister Bahlil Lahadalia defended the reduction of 31 million standard cubic feet per day in pipeline gas exports to Singapore, saying it represented about...

• Why China's new estimate on Greenland ice loss speed is 55% lower than America's (2026-10-26 10:19)

Chinese researchers have created a new model to convert satellite surface elevation data for the Greenland Ice Sheet into a detailed estimate of how much ice it has lost in recent decades. Using satellite altimetry data covering 2002 to 2023, they found that the ice sheet lost an average of about 120 gigatonnes (264.5 trillion lbs) of mass per year. This figure is considerably lower than the widely cited figure reached by Nasa, which previously estimated Greenland's annual loss to be nearly 270...

• In a global first, Hong Kong opens secondary trading for tokenised public funds (2026-10-26 10:01)

The Hong Kong Securities and Futures Commission (SFC) on Monday approved the world's first-ever secondary trading of tokenised public funds, reinforcing the city's push to build the region's leading ecosystem for tokenised finance. Investors can now trade two tokenised money market funds – the Hong Kong dollar and US dollar versions of the ChinaAMC Digital Money Market Fund – on an SFC-licensed virtual asset trading platform (VATP). "For retail

investors, this marks a vital upgrade in time...

• Why China's heritage-listed Dog-Carrying Festival honours canines as sacred lifesavers (2026-10-26 10:00)

In a remote Miao village in southwestern China, dogs are honoured as life-saving heroes. Every seventh month of the lunar calendar, residents of Jiaobang village in Jianhe county, Guizhou province, celebrate Tai Gou Jie, or the "Dog-Carrying Festival" – a unique folk tradition recognised as local intangible cultural heritage in 2015. During the festival, villagers select a dog. Traditionally, it was a white female, but today adult males and native Xiasi dogs may also be chosen. The honoured...

• Kweichow Moutai Becomes Premier Partner of the Hong Kong Open 2026, Deepening Its Global Presence (2026-10-26 09:50)

[The content of this article has been produced by our advertising partner.] In golf, you must hitFrom the Chishui River to the Golf Course Reframing Moutai's Brand Narrative For Moutai, waiting is not a metaphor, but part of the craft itself. Its production takes one year and eight months, followed by three years of storage, then blending and stabilization; from the start of production to release takes at least five years. Through years of maturation, its initial sharpness gradually gives way to...

• The Weeknd's 'Hong Kong' captures nostalgia for bygone era, video director says (2026-10-26 09:12)

A new viral song by Canadian singer The Weeknd, "Hong Kong", is a love letter to the city, the director of the accompanying video has said, adding that he believes nostalgia for the late 1980s and early 1990s era is the secret ingredient that has captured the hearts of many. US director Evan Larsen told the South China Morning Post exclusively on Monday that the video was produced in about a week, shortly before its debut at the singer's concert at Kai Tak Stadium on Saturday as part of his 2026...

• Lula secures surprise win to retain Brazil presidency (2026-10-26 09:07)

Brazilian leader Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva staged a surprise comeback to secure a fourth term in office, extending a presidency that has overseen deepening ties with China and sporadic clashes with the United States. With almost all of the ballots in Sunday's presidential run-off counted, Lula led with 51.8 per cent of the votes to 48.2 per cent for Senator Flavio Bolsonaro. The 80-year-old left-winger is the first person to win the presidency after losing the first round of voting since Brazil...

• AI chip surge lifts South Korea to record surplus, behind only China (2026-10-26 08:39)

South Korea earned US$116.63 billion more from the world than it spent in the second quarter of this year – exceeding the combined current account surpluses of Germany and Japan for the first time on record. The current account measures a country's trade and income with the

world. It counts goods and services sold abroad, money earned on overseas investments andpayments flowing the other way. A surplus means more foreign currency is coming in thangoing out. Surging demand for semiconductors...

• China may well be the next big competitor for Asian migrant labour (2026-10-26 08:30)

For decades, China was one of the world's largest sources of migrant labour. Its workers staffed factories at home and built infrastructure abroad. But demographic decline may eventually force China to contemplate a striking reversal: importing workers on a meaningful scale. That change is not imminent. China still has a vast labour force and substantial youth unemployment. It is investing heavily in industrial automation, extending working lives through a gradual increase in the retirement age,...

• What Hongkongers need to know about the latest changes to the MPF scheme (2026-10-26 08:28)

Hong Kong employees will have better control over the management of their compulsory retirement savings under the Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF) starting from December 21. The new "full portability" mechanism comes after another major change in 2024, when the authority launched the eMPF platform, a centralised electronic platform to standardise, streamline and automate the administrative processes of the MPF scheme, marking the start of the MPF digital era. The South China Morning Post looks at...

• 'Fed up' Malaysian sultan rebukes scandal-hit pilgrimage fund, demands accountability (2026-10-26 08:28)

A Malaysian ruler is demanding accountability over the mismanagement of a pilgrimage fund, after a government rescue package, criminal proceedings against former officials and half-hearted reforms have fuelled concerns about political influence in an institution entrusted with the savings of millions of the country's Muslims. Tabung Haji holds the savings of more than 9.8 million depositors and helps Malaysian Muslims finance and undertake the pilgrimage to Mecca, a religious obligation for...

• Could new US investment curbs complicate China's biotech licensing surge? (2026-10-26 08:00)

Chinese biotech firms face fresh headwinds in their global expansion as Washington's proposed outbound investment restrictions threaten to disrupt deal structures, even though drug licensing agreements remain untouched for now, analysts say. The US Treasury Department's draft rules released last week would "make it much harder for Chinese biotech firms to attract direct US investment or enter joint ventures", according to David Zhang, an analyst at policy research firm Trivium China. US Treasury...

• Chinese video AI models beat US rivals in visual quality, but lag on safeguards: HKU study (2026-10-26 08:00)

Chinese AI video-generation models have surpassed leading US rivals in visual quality, but several fall behind in safety precautions, according to researchers at the University of Hong Kong. ByteDance's Seedance 2.0 Pro took top spot in a ranking of 12 leading artificial intelligence video-generation models, scoring 3.84 out of 5 for visual quality. It outperformed Google DeepMind's Veo 3.1, which scored 3.47, and OpenAI's Sora 2 Pro, on 3.27, in a study led by Zhenhui Jack Jiang, professor of...

• In Australia, Sydney's second airport blows some passengers off course (2026-10-26 07:40)

Sydney's new multibillion-dollar airport has already confused some travellers, with passengers mistaking the new facility for the Australian city's existing airport and even booking flights to the wrong side of the country. Western Sydney International Airport, which opened at the weekend after decades of planning, is about 60km (37 miles) from the city centre, compared with just 8km for the existing Kingsford Smith Airport. The new airport operates around the clock, while most passenger flights...

• 930 evacuated, 1 injured as fire breaks out at Hong Kong waste-to-energy plant (2026-10-26 07:18)

A fire broke out on Monday at Hong Kong's waste-to-energy incinerator on an artificial island off Shek Kwu Chau, prompting about 1,000 people to evacuate and leaving one staff member unwell because of the heat. The blaze started at 12.43pm at the Integrated Waste Management Facilities Phase I and was upgraded to a No 3 alarm at 1.24pm, according to the Fire Services Department. A No 3 alarm is the third of five levels, with five the most severe; higher alarm levels trigger the deployment of more...

• Discovery of baby orangutans in India exposes booming illegal pet trade (2026-10-26 07:06)

The villagers who first spotted the five baby orangutans in a casuarina forest in India in early September were puzzled by their reddish hair and unfamiliar faces. The three males and two females, aged six to eight months – were left on a plantation in eastern India's Odisha, over 2,700km (1,700 miles) from their native rainforests in Borneo and Sumatra, evidence of a growing illicit trade of apes being trafficked into India. They are now at an Indian zoo, where keepers reportedly have been...

• Top bankers to gather in Hong Kong to learn how city has rethought 'playbook' (2026-10-26 07:00)

Around 280 of the world's top bankers, including 120 group chairmen and CEOs, will gather in Hong Kong next week to learn how the city has been rethinking its playbook as they move forward, Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) chief executive Eddie Yue Wai-man said on Monday. The financial luminaries, including Morgan Stanley chairman Ted Pick, Goldman Sachs chairman David Solomon and Blackstone president and COO John Gray, will attend the fifth

edition of the city's Global Financial Leaders' ...

• South Korea urged to guard chip profitability as China's CXMT and YMTC gain market share (2026-10-26 07:00)

China's expanding semiconductor industry is fuelling anxiety in South Korea, where a new report from PwC has warned local chipmakers to defend profitability as Chinese rivals scale up production and strengthen market share. Samil PwC, the South Korean member firm of the global consultancy, said in a report made public on Monday that Chinese competition would likely heat up first in the areas of conventional memory, mature-node manufacturing, and packaging and testing. To stay ahead, Samil PwC...

• Suspected murder of man at Malaysian underground gig raises safety concerns (2026-10-26 06:53)

The death of a 21-year-old delivery rider at an underground gig in Malaysia, now being investigated as murder, has highlighted concerns over crowd safety and regulatory flaws in the country's independent live music scene, industry players say. Police reclassified the case on Sunday, four days after the man died from head injuries sustained at the gig in the southern state of Melaka, where the event was reportedly held without the necessary permits and local authority approval. The...

• Former Japanese prime minister Yasuo Fukuda, known for seeking China ties, dies at 90 (2026-10-26 06:37)

Former Japanese prime minister Yasuo Fukuda, who used his brief period in office to seek closer ties with Asian neighbours, particularly China, has died at the age of 90, according to the Nikkei business daily on Monday. The Japanese politician, the first son of a prime minister to become one himself, died on Thursday from heart failure, the Nikkei reported. Following news of his death, Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi expressed "deep sorrow" when speaking to reporters in Tokyo, praising him as...

• Hong Kong positioned as green gateway for belt and road firms: John Lee (2026-10-26 06:28)

Hong Kong is well-positioned to help companies deploy green services and technologies across belt and road countries, the city's leader and a mainland Chinese official have said, with authorities noting that at least five firms have already signed up for a new initiative to promote green solutions overseas. Both officials made the remarks at the Belt and Road Green Innovation Conference, which opened in Hong Kong on Monday. It is the first time the event has been held outside the mainland, as...

• China's Communist Party opens fifth plenum with focus on discipline and loyalty to Xi (2026-10-26 06:18)

The Communist Party has started a key four-day conclave focused on party discipline and fighting corruption, as official media outlets say adherence to the party's leadership under President Xi Jinping is key to the country's success. The meeting – the fifth plenum of the Communist Party's 20th Central Committee – began in Beijing on Monday, according to state news agency Xinhua. It said the main agenda for the plenum included a work report by the Politburo to the Central Committee and the...

• Cooler than Tokyo: Sendai named Japan's most comfortable city amid record heat (2026-10-26 06:05)

As days of dangerous heat become more frequent in Japan, Sendai has emerged as the most comfortable city, with a climate that is "not too hot and not too cold". The Miyagi prefectural capital, about 300km (186 miles) from Tokyo, has the best weather, according to the Asahi newspaper, with the lowest number of midsummer and midwinter days among 11 major cities in the nation. Citing Japan Meteorological Agency data, the newspaper reported that Sendai had only 31 midsummer days and no midwinter...

• Saudi coalition intercepts missile as Houthis claim new attack on Riyadh airport (2026-10-26 05:49)

The Saudi-led military coalition said Monday it intercepted a ballistic missile fired by Yemen's Houthis, after the Iran-backed group claimed a new attack on the international airport in Riyadh. The operation came a day after explosions rattled the Saudi capital and authorities sent text messages to residents warning them of a "hostile aerial threat" targeting the city. The Houthis have carried out waves of strikes on King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh, including an attack this month...

• In South Korea, jail time awaits Halloween police impersonators (2026-10-26 05:27)

Four years ago, party-goers dressed as police officers were reportedly mistaken for the real thing amid a deadly crowd crush in South Korea's capital. Now, as Seoul prepares for its fourth Halloween since the disaster, police have launched a week-long nationwide crackdown on imitation police uniforms and equipment, aiming to stop any such confusion from happening again. The nationwide operation, announced by the National Police Agency on Sunday, runs until Monday next week. More than 4,500...

• US visits to China decline, Turkish rare earth deposit: 5 weekend reads you missed (2026-10-26 04:45)

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 carries out in-depth investigation of Turkey's largest rare earth deposit 2. China's J-20 stealth jet designers plan to put powerful radar into aircraft wing 3. Is Washington misreading Beijing? Decline in US visits to China sparks concern 4. Why young Chinese embrace Japanese pop culture...

• Man falls to death fleeing Hong Kong police raid on suspected drug den (2026-10-26 04:16)

A man has died after falling from a building while trying to flee a Hong Kong police raid on a suspected drug den in Yau Ma Tei. The 42-year-old man, surnamed Kwong, was found unconscious outside 385-387 Reclamation Street at about 9.28pm on Sunday. He was rushed to Kwong Wah Hospital, where he was pronounced dead, police said on Monday. At 9.21pm, officers from the Organised Crime and Triad Bureau launched an operation at the building, breaking into a flat suspected of operating as a drug...

• Man bitten after being chased by 3 dogs on his way to work in Yuen Long (2026-10-26 04:08)

A 26-year-old warehouse worker has been injured in Hong Kong after being chased by three dogs and bitten by one of them on his way to work. A source said police received a report at around 8am on Monday from the victim, surnamed Leung, saying one of the dogs pounced on him as he was walking towards his workplace at a logistics company in Yuen Long’s Kam Pok Road. Paramedics arrived at the scene and found the victim with minor wounds. He was sent to Pok Oi Hospital for treatment. The source said...

• Man bitten after being chased by 3 dogs on his way to work in Yuen Long (2026-10-26 04:08)

Hong Kong authorities have caught a dog that bit a 26-year-old man who was chased by three dogs on his way to work at a warehouse. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department said on Monday that it sent officers to a warehouse on Kam Pok Road in Yuen Long after police had referred a suspected dog bite case. “The dog suspected was taken away and sent to an animal management centre for detention and observation,” a department spokesman said. “The dog concerned is a microchipped mongrel...

• 100 million views: why China’s viral AI rap track has struck a chord (2026-10-26 03:00)

An AI-generated Chinese rap song featuring some of the country’s most well-known historical figures has taken social media by storm. Titled “The One Who’s Been There” (Guo Lai Ren), the track crossed 100 million views across platforms in less than two weeks as it tapped into the anxieties of modern life. The song brings together 10 iconic figures from Chinese history and mythology – from revered poets and statesmen to the legendary Monkey King. Rather than reciting classical verses or lecturing...

• Hong Kong arbitration body eyes Mideast, Africa prospects amid global tensions (2026-10-26 03:00)

An international arbitration body in Hong Kong is exploring business opportunities in the Middle East and Africa, citing the city’s neutrality and predictability as key draws for new markets amid rising geopolitical tensions. Domitille Baizeau, co-chairwoman of the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre, said the city had benefited from an overall shift in global

business growth from Europe to Asia, with overseas businesses increasingly choosing HongKong to arbitrate disputes. The...

• Japan companies to compensate customers after major cyberattacks (2026-10-26 02:37)

Japanese companies are moving to pay compensation to users following waves of cyberattacks that have disrupted internet services and raised concerns about economic stability. GMO Internet said customers would be compensated for losses stemming from unauthorised access following a cyberattack on its foreign exchange trading service, and all customers would receive 5,000 yen (US$32) as “an initial gesture of good faith”, CEO Masatoshi Kumagai said in a blog post on Sunday. The move comes after...

• Alibaba Cloud founder on how AI can unlock human potential (2026-10-26 02:26)

Long before artificial intelligence became the next big thing in the tech industry, Wang Jian was crafting the foundational infrastructure that would eventually power it. In 2008, he joined Alibaba Group Holding – owner of the South China Morning Post – as chief architect and founded Alibaba Cloud in 2009, convincing the company’s leadership to invest heavily in building a cloud computing infrastructure from scratch. Today, Wang’s purview has expanded considerably. As an academician at the...

• Chinese neighbours go viral over 200-year land dispute dating back to Qianlong era (2026-10-26 02:00)

A Chinese court recently heard a land dispute between neighbours who have been fighting over the same issue for two centuries and across multiple generations, stunning social media users. The court in Yanta district, Xian, in northwestern China’s Shaanxi province, recently presided over a case concerning a land boundary between two neighbouring families, surnamed Du and Zhang. For the past two decades, the neighbours have repeatedly disputed the boundary. When the Dus tried to renovate their...

• Weapon or armour? The contentious debate over China’s open-weight AI (2026-10-26 02:00)

Are China’s increasingly powerful open-weight AI models a cybersecurity threat, or could restricting them ultimately make the internet less secure? The dilemma has become a growing concern as Chinese developers including DeepSeek, Z.ai and Alibaba Group Holding – owner of the South China Morning Post – continue to challenge their American rivals by releasing models that anyone can download, modify and deploy. The growing impact of advanced AI on global cybersecurity has also forced governments...

• Tibetan river hosting world’s biggest dam is facing increasing flood risk: study (2026-10-26 02:00)

Chinese researchers have found that the Yarlung Tsangpo River – soon to host the largest mega dam in the world – may face increased run-off and flood risks over this century. Using tree-ring

width chronologies in the southeastern Tibetan Plateau, the team reconstructed the river’ srun-off history from 1325 to 2020. Along with climate data, this was used to create a model thatprojected river run-off would increase under future climate scenarios, along with a possibleincrease in high-run-off...

• Singapore’ s toxic haze probe expands to 10 palm oil, forestry firms (2026-10-26 01:45)

Singapore has expanded its investigation into haze-creating fires in Indonesia that have blanketed the city state in smog, requesting information from 10 locally registered companies. The National Environment Agency (NEA) sent notices seeking documents and details of land concessions in Indonesia owned by the firms, their firefighting and blaze prevention measures, and their relationship to other relevant companies, according to a Friday statement. All 10 Singapore-registered companies were...

• Head of Hong Kong’ s new drug regulator pledges to build trust, push innovation (2026-10-26 01:30)

The head of Hong Kong’ s new drug regulatory body has pledged to build a fully capable and globally trusted agency that will become a catalyst for medical innovation rather than merely acting as a “miniature version” of existing overseas models. Dr Li Zili, controller of the Hong Kong Centre for Medical Products Regulation (CMPR), said that while many other places in Asia, such as mainland China, Singapore and Japan, had established regulatory agencies long ago, Hong Kong had a distinctive...

• Hong Kong’ s pursuit of top university rankings comes at a cost (2026-10-26 01:30)

The latest rankings confirm what many in Hong Kong already know: the city’ s universities are exceptional. Five institutions continue to sit among the world’ s top 100, reflecting decades of investment, academic ambition and hard work. Yet behind the rankings triumph lies a question that receives far less attention: what happens to the people responsible for that success? As universities compete ever harder for rankings, grants and prestige, academics face growing pressure to produce results on...

• China shoots ahead on AI video models (2026-10-26 01:06)

While few dispute that China is narrowing the gap with the United States in developing artificial intelligence (AI) models, there is one area where Chinese firms are already the undisputed leaders: video. China has seen a proliferation of advanced generative AI video models – systems trained on visual data to generate or edit video content based on user inputs such as text prompts, images and audio. The country’ s vast short-video ecosystems and looser copyright rules have helped give Chinese...

• Hong Kong to tighten burgeoning premium financing market as red flags, risks emerge (2026-10-26 01:00)

Hong Kong's insurance watchdog is tightening oversight of the city's booming premium financing market, as the once-niche lending arrangement spreads to lower-tier insurance buyers, while also reviewing regulations, particularly on how insurers evaluate clients' affordability, according to Insurance Authority executives. Premium financing allows policyholders to borrow money from financial institutions to pay upfront premiums on large life insurance policies, which are commonly used as a wealth...

• Why North Korean leader Kim Jong-un toured a Chinese bus factory in Dandong (2026-10-26 00:59)

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's tour of a commercial vehicle factory during a surprise visit to the Chinese border city of Dandong on Saturday points to Pyongyang's drive to modernise its buses and expand industrial ties with Beijing. In a symbolic move, Kim crossed into China via the newly opened New Yalu River Bridge on Saturday and also returned to North Korea via the bridge later in the day. It was Kim's first trip to China since he attended a military parade in Beijing last September. His...

• North Korea tells UN South 'fabricated' border landmine blast (2026-10-26 00:51)

North Korea sent a letter to the United Nations Security Council accusing Seoul of fabricating a landmine explosion that injured three South Korean soldiers, its state media reported Monday. Tensions between the two Koreas have soared since the South last month blamed the blast inside the heavily fortified demilitarised zone that separates the countries on landmines laid by the North, an accusation it has fiercely rejected. The North Korean permanent representative to the UN sent a letter on...

• Lula pulls off Brazil's first-ever run-off comeback to beat Trump ally Flavio Bolsonaro (2026-10-26 00:30)

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva won re-election on Sunday in a dramatic comeback after trailing in the first round, extending the rule of a government that has overseen record Chinese investment. The Superior Electoral Court said Lula had 51.79 per cent of valid votes against 48.21 per cent for right-wing Senator Flavio Bolsonaro, with 99.99 per cent votes counted. No candidate who trailed after the first round had won a run-off since Brazil adopted the system in 1989. Addressing...

• Interpol's Hong Kong meeting to consider 'silver notice' targeting criminal assets (2026-10-26 00:00)

Interpol will seek approval at its general assembly in Hong Kong next month for a new "silver notice" system to target criminals' assets and speed up financial investigations into transnational crime. Hong Kong's police chief also pledged to make financial investigations and scams a top priority in discussions with overseas counterparts during Interpol's annual meeting, which the city is hosting for the first time. Interpol secretary general Valdecy Urquiza said in an interview in Hong Kong that...

• South Korean CEO's 4-year jail term over plant fire that killed 23 spurs anger (2026-10-26 00:00)

"How can South Korea's law be this weak? Twenty-three people died!" Those were the words of Chinese mother Li Shun-ji after South Korea's Supreme Court upheld a reduced four-year prison sentence for Aricell CEO Park Soon-kwan last Tuesday over a 2024 factory fire that killed 23 workers, including Li's then-24-year-old daughter, Yan Jing-jing. The blaze at the lithium battery manufacturer's factory in Hwaseong, Gyeonggi province, killed 17 Chinese nationals, one Laotian national and five South...

• Standard Chartered-led Anchorpoint plans retail stablecoin as HSBC RedCoin launches (2026-10-25 23:00)

After HSBC RedCoin launched on Friday, Anchorpoint – the stablecoin-issuing joint venture led by Standard Chartered – said it plans to launch a retail product on a public blockchain, even as it takes a "prudent approach". "Our next major milestone is to [help] bring regulated digital money into everyday payments and commercial applications, while connecting traditional payment infrastructure with this emerging digital finance," said Dominic Maffei, CEO of Anchorpoint. "This is a public...

• Trump cites 9/11 in urging Michigan voters to oppose Muslim Senate candidate El-Sayed (2026-10-25 22:29)

US President Donald Trump at a Sunday campaign rally ratcheted up his push to link US Senate candidate Abdul El-Sayed to Muslim extremists, comparing him to the September 11 attackers while saying Democrats would let violent anti-American terrorists into the United States. "I'm here to keep a jihadist, Muslim Brotherhood member from becoming a United States senator," Trump told a receptive audience in Port Huron, Michigan. If he wins, El-Sayed would be the first Muslim elected to the US Senate....

• Why cloud computing pioneer Wang Jian thinks space is the next AI frontier (2026-10-25 22:00)

Long before artificial intelligence became the next big thing in the tech industry, Wang Jian was crafting the foundational infrastructure that would eventually power it. In 2008, he joined Alibaba Group Holding – owner of the South China Morning Post – as chief architect and founded Alibaba Cloud in 2009, convincing the company's leadership to invest heavily in building a cloud computing infrastructure from scratch. Today, Wang's purview has expanded considerably. As an academician at the...

• Peak lighting outcry spotlights the trouble with fast-track governance (2026-10-25 21:30)

It's common knowledge that Hong Kong has a spectacular skyline, especially at night. And given our current obsession with boosting tourism and other value-adding objectives, it shouldn't come as a surprise that our tourism authorities are actively adding more light to our

night skyline. The Tourism Board tried holding monthly firework and drone shows in 2024, buthad to scale back after a budget cut – and amid questions of whether more frequent displays,costing the public HK$1 million...

• Brazil's election left hanging as judge extends vote after polls close, sparking chaos (2026-10-25 21:18)

A Supreme Court justice in Brazil ordered polls in the presidential run-off to stay open for two more hours on Sunday, minutes after voting had officially ended at 5pm Brasilia time (4am on Monday in Hong Kong). The order left election officials across China's biggest trading partner in Latin America unsure whether to reopen polling stations or send their machines to be counted. Justice Cristiano Zanin, who was President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's lawyer before joining the court in 2023, acted...

• Presidential race in Bulgaria heads to run-off after record low turnout (2026-10-25 20:03)

The presidential election in Bulgaria on Sunday ended inconclusively, with the next head of state to be picked in a run-off, according to election officials. A record low turnout, attributed by observers to a general mistrust in politicians resulting in voter apathy, will pit two contrasting political visions against each other in a highly polarised contest on November 1. In a surprisingly strong performance, the candidate of the pro-Western reformist opposition, Andrey Gyurov, will face the...

• Venezuela opposition leader Machado returns home after fraught year in exile (2026-10-25 19:31)

Venezuelan opposition leader Maria Corina Machado returned home on Sunday after nearly a year away, and after several failed attempts to return that strained her ties with US President Donald Trump's administration. "I'm here. With you all," the Nobel Peace Prize-winner wrote on social media. She appeared at a church in western Lara state, according to images shared by her press team, and was greeted by bystanders who sang the national anthem and shouted "liberty!" as she left in an SUV, a...

• Trump 'not trying to meddle' in Alaska election results by suing over Senate race: Blanche (2026-10-25 18:49)

Attorney General Todd Blanche on Sunday defended the Trump administration's lawsuit to block certification of Alaska's Senate results if Republican incumbent Dan Sullivan loses the race and argued that the legal challenge was a necessary step to avoid confusing voters in the closely watched midterm race. US President Donald Trump, who said on Friday that he was "the one that said do it", is not trying to overturn state election results "in any way, shape or form" on the cusp of the November 3...

• France's Le Pen vows to restore 'rule of law' at presidential campaign launch (2026-10-25 18:01)

Marine Le Pen, France's far-right candidate to succeed President Emmanuel Macron next year, vowed in her first campaign speech on Sunday to "restore the rule of law" if elected next year. Le Pen - the frontrunner in the polls - seems to be benefiting from the convulsions France has been going through for weeks, punctuated by mass cost-of-living rallies and some violent clashes on Saturday and the previous week. "We are going to restore the rule of law," she said, after looting and arson on the...

- Netanyahu warns Iran may try to disrupt election, says 'don't test us' (2026-10-25 17:29)

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Iran and its allies might try to disrupt Tuesday's Israeli elections, warning the Islamic republic against any hostile acts. The premier has campaigned heavily on his security credentials, touting the war he launched against Iran in February alongside the United States and suggesting that he alone can see it through. "We have intelligence signs that our enemies, Iran and its proxies, could challenge us with attacks in order to disrupt the...

- Storms batter northern Europe, hitting power supplies, flights and phones (2026-10-25 16:44)

Storms battered northern Europe on Sunday cutting power to more than 150,000 homes, forcing the cancellation of hundreds of flights and silencing phone networks. Winds of up to 135km (84 miles) an hour were recorded in Argyll and Bute in western Scotland and fallen trees and power cables blocked roads and rail lines across the country. More than 82,000 homes in Britain, nearly 60,000 in France and at least 10,000 in Germany had power cuts inflicted by the passage of storms Boelo and Austen...

- Philippines plan 'appropriate legal action' against Thomas Markle (2026-10-25 15:26)

Philippine police are investigating a laptop found alongside images of child abuse at the former home of Meghan Markle's estranged father, with "full results" expected in a week, the country's interior minister told reporters. Thomas Markle, whose daughter is married to Britain's Prince Harry, had been living in Cebu in the Philippines until reportedly returning to the US earlier this year. Philippine interior minister Jonvic Remulla said the country planned to take "appropriate legal actions"...

- HK Express passenger injured after power bank overheats on flight to Jeju (2026-10-25 14:46)

A traveller was injured after a power bank overheated and emitted smoke aboard an HK Express flight from Hong Kong to South Korea on Sunday, prompting crew members to deploy emergency safety measures before the aircraft landed safely. The incident occurred on flight UO676 to Jeju, which was carrying 236 passengers and seven crew, prompting an apology from HK Express. The budget airline, a subsidiary of Hong Kong flag carrier Cathay Pacific Airways, said the power bank was stored in a bag under a...

• Eye on China: Japan reopens taboo debate over nuclear-powered submarines (2026-10-25 14:00)

With China flexing its naval power across the Pacific and bilateral tensions running high, Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi is weighing a move long viewed as taboo – nuclear-powered submarines for the Maritime Self-Defence Force fleet. “We will seriously consider [the possibility] in a concrete and realistic manner,” Takaichi told the Japanese parliament on October 14. Yet with Tokyo set to revise its core security documents by year’s end, the proposal is dividing the ruling coalition. The...

• Hong Kong to boost Huanggang Port capacity after Halloween, concert congestion (2026-10-25 13:39)

Hong Kong’s No 2 official has pledged to open extra clearance counters and vehicle lanes at the recently revamped Huanggang Port control point ahead of peak hours, after Halloween crowds and concertgoers created heavy cross-border congestion. Chief Secretary Eric Chan Kwok-ki, who inspected the Shenzhen Bay and Huanggang ports on Sunday, said he had instructed the Security Bureau to step up advance assessments and passenger flow forecasting. He added that he had directed the Transport and...

• War of words over Xinjiang erupts between Chinese and Turkish social media users (2026-10-25 13:00)

The debate over ethnic identity in Xinjiang has triggered an online clash between Chinese and Turkish social media users. The row began earlier this month when a Turkish social media user recalled an encounter with a Uygur from Xinjiang, the region in China that is home to nearly 12 million mainly Muslim Turkic speakers. The user wrote that the woman did not look Chinese, but when asked whether she considered herself Turkic, the woman responded: “No, I’m Chinese.” The user also called on her to...

• Louie Shum’s death: heart disease in Hong Kong and what to do in an emergency (2026-10-25 12:50)

The death of veteran Hong Kong stock market commentator Louie Shum Chun-ying has drawn public attention to heart disease, after a police source revealed he had a history of the condition as well as diabetes. Heart disease was one of the leading causes of death in Hong Kong, with more than 6,500 fatalities recorded in 2024, according to the Department of Health. While residents at risk should monitor their health and seek timely medical care, a local cardiologist stressed that bystanders could...

• The West’s double standard on global unrest (2026-10-25 12:30)

In the early days of the student protests in France, mainstream Western media took the protesters’ claims about poor school facilities and declining resources at face value. Only when the violence spread across the country, and to some of its European neighbours, did

people begin to ask whether deeper causes were at play. Leftists blame social problems, fromthe cost-of-living pressures linked to the war in Ukraine to rising unemployment, especiallyamong the young. Right-wing critics blame...

- China’s Liaoning carrier and USS Theodore Roosevelt may be in Philippine Sea at same time (2026-10-25 12:13)

China’s Liaoning aircraft carrier strike group sailed beyond the first island chain last week to reach the southernmost waters of the Philippines, suggesting an intent to position itself closer to ongoing US-Japan joint exercises. Philippine news channel BNC reported that the carrier group reached about 25 nautical miles (46km) east-southeast of Balut Island, the southernmost point of the Philippines, before sailing northeast on Friday. That positioned the warships past the first island chain, a...

- US Marine indictment in Okinawa murder trial renews anti-base movement (2026-10-25 11:33)

Prosecutors indicted a 20-year-old US Marine on Sunday on suspicion of robbing and murdering a woman in Okinawa earlier this month as the case renews anti-base sentiment among locals burdened with hosting the bulk of US military installations in Japan. Devin Ballard, who is stationed at Futenma Air Base, is charged with killing the woman by wrapping a phone cord around her neck at a hotel in Naha, the capital of the southern island prefecture, and taking her backpack containing a wallet on...

- ‘Really terrified’: how a blood test could spare cancer patients an agonising wait (2026-10-25 11:00)

In the second of a four-part Health Matters wellness series on frontier medicine in Hong Kong, Fiona Sun looks into how a new PCR system can detect cancer, infections and birth defects within hours, and what it will take to bring such laboratory breakthroughs to patients. Part one can be found here. It began with a pimple-like lump on Audrey Kwan’s neck. Within a month, it had swollen to the size of a table tennis ball. But it took blood tests, a biopsy and CAT scans before the Hongkonger, then...

- Hong Kong seeks bigger role for yuan in regional trade, treasury chief says (2026-10-25 10:44)

Hong Kong officials held discussions with finance ministers and representatives from economies such as Brunei during last week’s Apec meeting on reducing reliance on the US dollar and expanding the use of local currencies and the yuan for bilateral trade settlement, the city’s treasury chief has said. Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury Christopher Hui Ching-yu on Sunday also shared lighthearted but telling anecdotes about the intangible gains made by the city from hosting the...

- Congo begins Ebola vaccine trial despite embedded outbreak (2026-10-25 10:28)

A pivotal trial of vaccines against the strain of Ebola that is driving a deadly outbreak across parts of Africa has begun in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where the epidemic originated and the vast majority of cases and deaths have occurred. The first participant was vaccinated on Friday in Bunia, eastern Congo, with Merck & Co.’s Ervebo shot, which has been approved to guard against a different Ebola species. An experimental alternative developed specifically against Bundibugyo by Moderna...

- Firefighters battle hill fire near residential area in Tuen Mun (2026-10-25 10:18)

Hong Kong firefighters continued to battle a hill fire near a residential area in Tuen Mun on Sunday afternoon, several hours after it broke out. No injuries were reported, but the flames were spreading along the hillside near Shan King Estate, not far from two secondary schools, sending thick clouds of smoke billowing into the air. The blaze, reported at about 1.30pm, broke out in a patch of grass measuring about 10 metres by 20 metres (33 feet by 66 feet) on Por Lo Shan near a freshwater...

- How China’s regional leadership changes offer clues to the future of the Communist Party (2026-10-25 10:00)

China’s five-year leadership cycle is getting under way at a provincial level, with new teams being installed in a process that offers important clues to the future of the Communist Party at a national level. Last week, four provinces – Anhui, Henan, Shanxi and Xinjiang – wrapped up their respective party congresses and appointed new standing committees for the next five years. The meetings were held a week before a key party gathering in Beijing – known as the fifth plenum – that runs from...

- How ancient Chinese night watchmen patrolled streets, used ‘dripping buckets’ to tell time (2026-10-25 10:00)

In ancient China, before the advent of mechanical clocks and digital devices, people relied mainly on night watchmen to keep time, prevent fires and maintain their daily routines. But how did the watchmen tell the time? Chinese night watchmen mainly used two methods: clepsydras and incense sticks. A clepsydra, also known as a water clock, measures time through the regulated flow of water from a vessel. The ancient Chinese divided the night into five gengs. Each geng lasted around two hours,...

- Upgrade or eyesore? Why Hong Kong’s Peak light display has hit a snag (2026-10-25 09:04)

A controversial lighting project along a walking trail on The Peak is in doubt following mounting complaints that the installations damage Hong Kong’s natural beauty. Designed as one of several new attractions meant to replace a retired light show, the initiative has been criticised by local residents and visitors as counterproductive. The South China Morning Post looks at what has gone wrong with the project. 1. What is the project about? The Tourism Board planned small light installations for...

• Serbia votes as ruling party faces student-led anti-corruption list (2026-10-25 08:53)

Polls opened in Serbia on Sunday in what is set to be its most fiercely contested parliamentary election in more than 14 years, as a student-led movement seeks to oust the party of veteran leader Aleksandar Vucic. The snap vote is the culmination of nearly two years of student-led protests sparked by the 2024 collapse of a canopy at Novi Sad railway station that killed 16 people – a tragedy widely blamed on corruption. The disaster triggered some of Serbia's largest protests since the fall of...

• East Asia's cultural economies are bridging politics-driven divides (2026-10-25 08:30)

The appearance of K-pop singer G-Dragon on electronic billboards in major Chinese cities despite Beijing's K-pop ban points at a contrast between political shadows clouding international relations and actual commercial linkages in East Asia. Amid tensions over Seoul's military alliance with the United States and other issues, G-Dragon featured in eight McDonald's products across more than 8,000 outlets in mainland China. The penetration and appeal of Korean cultural icons show how transnational...

• Beijing pledges to back Taiwan's pro-unification 'patriots' as it marks key anniversary (2026-10-25 08:05)

Beijing pledged to support pro-unification forces in Taiwan as it mounted a concerted publicity campaign on Sunday to mark the 81st anniversary of the end of Japanese colonial rule over the island. October 25 was formally established by Beijing last year as an official memorial date known as "Taiwan Restoration Day". Speaking at an event in Fuzhou, the capital of Fujian province, on Sunday, Song Tao, the head of Beijing's Taiwan Affairs Office, said the memorial day highlighted Beijing's "firm...

• Filipinos split on Marcos' South China Sea handling amid row over Jing Quan's remarks (2026-10-25 08:00)

Filipinos are almost evenly divided over the Marcos administration's handling of the maritime dispute with China, even as nearly three in four favour diplomacy over confrontation, according to a new survey. That preference has taken on added significance after recent remarks by China's ambassador to Manila sparked a diplomatic row ahead of November's Asean summit. The feud underscored the challenge of managing tensions with Beijing, and increasingly hostile rhetoric could make the diplomatic...

• Veteran Hong Kong stock commentator Louie Shum dies aged 66 (2026-10-25 07:46)

Veteran Hong Kong stock commentator Louie Shum Chun-ying has died aged 66, with a police source revealing he had a history of heart disease and diabetes. His twin sister confirmed on Sunday that he died on Saturday night at Ruttonjee Hospital in Wan Chai, sharing the news in a post on his social media page. Shum, also known as "Master Shum", was chief executive of stock brokerage Sincere Securities until his retirement two years ago. He remained active on

internet radio shows over the past two...

• The Weeknd wows Hong Kong fans with tribute song sampling Faye Wong classic (2026-10-25 07:34)

Canadian singer The Weeknd surprised concertgoers in Hong Kong on Saturday with a new song inspired by the city, evoking nostalgia among local music fans. Abel Tesfaye – the Canadian singer, songwriter, record producer and actor known professionally as The Weeknd – performed “Hong Kong” to tens of thousands of fans at Kai Tak Stadium on Saturday night. It was his first of four concerts in the city as part of the “After Hours Til Dawn Tour” world tour. The crowd reacted with awe and cheers. “Hong...

• AIIB keen to fund projects in Northern Metropolis, Hong Kong finance chief says (2026-10-25 06:29)

The China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has expressed interest in financing projects in the Northern Metropolis mega development, Hong Kong’s finance chief has said. Financial Secretary Paul Chan Mo-po also told the media on Sunday that global finance leaders had set aside their political differences during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) Finance Ministers’ Meeting held in Hong Kong last week and reached a consensus on promoting digital infrastructure, employment...

• Israel widens West Bank crackdown, displacing Hebron families after attack (2026-10-25 06:23)

Israel said on Sunday all land crossings with the West Bank will be closed on the day of next week’s election, as it pledged a harder line on militancy after Palestinian gunmen killed two soldiers in the territory. The announcement came a day after Israeli forces pushed into the occupied West Bank city of Hebron and displaced around 2,000 residents, with Defence Minister Israel Katz saying, “they will not be allowed to return … until we’ve finished dealing with all the Hamas issues in...

• 1 million Hong Kong employees to get ‘full portability’ of MPF funds in December (2026-10-25 06:06)

About 1 million employees in Hong Kong will be allowed to move their entire Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF) savings to a different provider once a year, starting December 21. The Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Authority, which regulates the mandatory pension plans, said on Sunday that the “full portability” arrangement would be carried out in two phases to ensure a smooth implementation. In a blog post, authority chairwoman Ayesha Macpherson Lau said the arrangement would allow eligible members...

• What’s next for Hong Kong developers in mainland China? (2026-10-25 06:00)

Hong Kong’s major property developers are shifting investment in mainland China from residential projects to commercial assets, including hospitality, as weak home sales and fewer

attractive investment opportunities prompt them to focus on existing properties, recurringincome and debt reduction. “In recent years, after we recycled the capital from our projects,we haven’t really found many good opportunities on the mainland,” Stephen Ng, chairmanand managing director of Wharf Holdings, said at...

• Malaysian-owned tanker carrying US$14 million in ketamine seized in Indonesia (2026-10-25 06:00)

The tanker detained by Indonesian authorities that was used in an attempt to smuggle 1.16 tonnes of ketamine is owned by a Malaysian-registered company. Bukit Aman Narcotics Crime Investigation Department director Hussein Omar Khan said the two directors of the company that owns the MT Global 168 are Malaysians. He said the company’s office is located in Johor Bahru, Malaysia’s Johor state. According to Hussein, the tanker had previously applied for registration under the Malaysian flag but had...

• Novel idea: Thailand, Vietnam take books on the road in reading drive (2026-10-25 05:00)

Tran Dai Thang spotted two young people who had picked up their drinks at a pop-up cafe beside his travelling bookstore and were about to leave, so he called them over. One of them said they did not read books, Thang recalled. But he kept the conversation going and eventually persuaded the visitor to buy a book for 10,000 dong (US$0.40) – heavily discounted from its original price of 45,000 dong. For Thang, an artist and publisher, the small sale mattered far less than the fact that someone who...

• Law enforcement alerted to firm offering LGBTQ surrogacy services in Hong Kong (2026-10-25 04:49)

Hong Kong’s regulator for in vitro fertilisation (IVF) has referred a case to law enforcement agencies after a mainland Chinese influencer was suspected of offering to bring non-local surrogate mothers of LGBTQ parents to give birth in the city. Tan Zubiao, also known as berlinsun, had set up a company in the city and advertised on social media commercial surrogacy services for LGBTQ couples, according to Hong Kong media. Tan and his foreign husband, who have two children through surrogacy, were...

• Trump hails tariffs for new US$4.2 billion Audi plant in Georgia (2026-10-25 04:44)

President Donald Trump defended his decision to wield tariffs during a campaign rally in Georgia, saying they have made the US richer, as he announced that Volkswagen agreed to build a new US$4.2 billion Audi plant in the state. “Think of that. 200,000 cars a year. That’s incredible,” Trump told a crowd in the city of Perry. “This will be the single largest investment in US auto industry history, modern history.” Later, he added, “Without tariffs, they wouldn’t be coming in.” Trump was speaking...

• Will China’s 4 peace principles for tackling African conflicts work? (2026-10-25 04:00)

Beijing has a formula for tackling African conflicts and hot-button issues, and during a meeting this month with Togolese leader Faure Gnassingbe, Chinese President Xi Jinping outlined it in four principles linking peace to development. The principles entail focusing on African-led security free from outside intervention; upholding sovereignty and UN Charter principles; rejecting force and sanctions and favouring ceasefires through dialogue; and focusing on both immediate security concerns and...

- Will AI-powered open-door vending machines reshape Hong Kong's retail landscape? (2026-10-25 04:00)

Sherry Shum has embraced a new shopping routine after finding a smart vending machine near her home in Chai Wan. The 37-year-old retail worker uses her phone to scan a QR code, opens the smart machine's door, picks up a bottle of Coca-Cola, an oolong tea and a pack of potato chips, closes it and walks away with HK$60 (US$7.70) worth of goods. The whole process is so seamless that the only time she spends is deciding what to buy. The moment Shum takes an item from the shelf, the machine detects...

- Gulf economies accelerate diversification as recession looms over Iran war (2026-10-25 04:00)

Before the outbreak of the war triggered by the US-Israeli attack on Iran in February, the Gulf monarchies were living the prosperity dream that was the envy of the world. Their hydrocarbon-fuelled economies were glitzy oases of growth, inoculated from the conflict in Gaza that had rocked other parts of the Middle East for several years. Underpinned by decades-old US security guarantees and conflict mediation by billionaire sheikhs, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar cultivated...

- Singapore tells suppliers to 'honour commitments' amid Indonesia's gas cut (2026-10-25 03:38)

Singapore expects all parties who have signed commercial contracts for gas supplies to "honour their commitments", said Prime Minister Lawrence Wong on Sunday after Indonesia cut its exports. Speaking at the People's Action Party (PAP) convention, Wong added that Singapore's gas importer will take the necessary steps to protect its rights and interests. Indonesia began reducing natural gas exports to Singapore on Saturday. Indonesia's upstream oil and gas regulator SKK Migas said the move was to...

- 'Mum, good': Chinese woman wakes vegetative daughter-in-law after 17 years of care (2026-10-25 02:15)

A woman in eastern China has been devotedly caring for her daughter-in-law for 17 years, ever since she fell into a vegetative state, moving social media users. The younger woman, surnamed Xu, fell into a vegetative state in 2009 after being struck by a truck in her village in Qingyun county, Shandong province. The accident happened just one month after she got married, Shandian News reported. Since then, her mother-in-law, Xuan Fengying, has cared for her

around the clock. “She married my son,...

• Fandom vs flag: why young Chinese embrace Japanese pop culture but reject war-era symbols (2026-10-25 02:00)

Young Chinese people enjoy Japanese pop culture such as anime and music, but many draw a firm line at symbols of Japanese militarism. That line was tested recently at Moscow State University, where Chinese students confronted a classmate wearing Japan’s rising sun flag in class and called for his repatriation, state-run newspaper Global Times reported on Sunday. Many countries, including China, view the flag as a symbol of Japanese militarism and aggression. Japan’s Self-Defence Forces still use...

• Why more Japanese women are choosing ‘silver divorce’ after decades of marriage (2026-10-25 02:00)

Ayumi lives alone in a spacious suburban house originally bought to raise a family, her two cats now her only full-time companions. Her two daughters have grown up and left home, and her husband of more than two decades moved out nearly a year ago as they finalise a divorce. For the 62-year-old Kawasaki resident, who spoke on condition that her surname be withheld, this was not how she envisioned her later years. “He worked very long hours, including on weekends, and I was always busy taking...

• Hong Kong needs a civil service fit for a changed world (2026-10-25 01:30)

Hong Kong’s civil service has long enjoyed a reputation for efficiency, professionalism and probity. It has also been a pillar of stability, particularly during the transition from British to Chinese rule. Outside the general and administrative grades, many civil servants spend much of their careers in relatively specialised areas of responsibility. This allows them to develop deep expertise and makes them dependable regulators and administrators. However, it can also make it harder to adapt...

• School bullying cases in Hong Kong rise 32% to nearly 500 a year (2026-10-25 01:00)

Hong Kong schools handled an average of 496 bullying cases each academic year from 2022 to 2025 – a 32 per cent jump compared with the previous three years, according to the Education Bureau. A youth group attributed the increase to greater reporting driven by heightened mental health awareness, but also students struggling to distinguish playful jokes from bullying. According to the bureau, public primary and secondary schools recorded an average of 496 bullying cases each year between 2022 and...

• Singapore embraces AI for cyber defence, with one caveat: breach transparency (2026-10-25 00:00)

Singapore is turning to major technology firms to strengthen its cyber defences, even as it presses them for greater transparency over security breaches – a balancing act facing regional governments as they seek to harness artificial intelligence while guarding against the risks it

introduces. Those risks were highlighted by an AI agent linked to OpenAI that gainedunauthorised access to files on an Australian government website earlier this year, raisingquestions over how quickly companies...

Source: The Diplomat China

• Hong Kong's Deadly 2025 Fire: Accountability on Lee's Terms (2026-10-30 18:05)

A ministerial resignation, official apologies, and promises of reform leave a fundamental question unanswered: What power do Hong Kong citizens have to demand accountability beyond what their government is willing to offer?

• China Owes Climate Accountability to South Asia (2026-10-30 12:25)

Beijing's responsibility stems not only from its massive contribution to global gas emissions, but also from its capability as a green technology provider and its position as an upstream actor.

• The Lasting Price of Mbappé's Apology to China (2026-10-29 15:39)

The commercial fallout for Real Madrid may be temporary, but the precedent for censoring speech beyond China's borders is far more consequential.

• Lula's Election Win in Brazil Is a Relief for China (2026-10-28 15:52)

Lula's victory secures the most important destination for Chinese foreign direct investment in the Western Hemisphere and ends a winning streak for Trump-supported candidates.

• China Wants Its AI to Go Global, on Its Own Terms (2026-10-28 13:17)

Beijing also wants tailored control over what technology leaves, who acquires it, and what remains in the hands of the Chinese government.

• Togo's China Pivot: Building a Strategic Gateway to the Sahel (2026-10-27 12:18)

Lomé's maritime ambitions, deepening ties with Beijing, and growing coordination with the AES could reshape West Africa's trade and geopolitical architecture

• Taiwan-Vatican Ties: The Dynamic Interplay Under Pope Leo XIV (2026-10-26 15:44)

Regardless of the Sino-Vatican agreement, the practical, multifaceted ties between Taiwan and the Holy See have deepened over the past year.

Source: US-China Perception Monitor

• The Making of a National Myth: A People's History of Taiwan w/ Evan Dawley (2026-10-27 12:00)

The post The Making of a National Myth: A People’s History of Taiwan w/ Evan Dawley appeared first on U.S.-China Perception Monitor.

- Globalized Populism w/ Pitman Potter (2026-10-26 12:00)

The post Globalized Populism w/ Pitman Potter appeared first on U.S.-China Perception Monitor.