

CHINA SECURITY ANALYSIS REPORT

AI-Assisted Open Source Intelligence Assessment

Analysis Period: October 27, 2026 - November 03, 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 27 to November 03, 2026, China demonstrated an assertive and multifaceted approach to its national security, characterized by heightened military activity in disputed maritime zones and significant advancements in cyber and space capabilities. The People's Liberation Army (PLA) conducted naval deployments near the Philippines and maintained a consistent presence around Taiwan, while also engaging in joint counter-terrorism exercises with Indonesia and preparing for similar drills with Vietnam. Concurrently, China faced accusations of state-sponsored cyber espionage targeting critical sectors globally and continued its strategic modernization of defense and intelligence assets. Diplomatic engagements with European nations sought to stabilize economic ties amidst ongoing trade tensions with the United States, underscoring a complex security landscape driven by both internal development goals and external geopolitical pressures.

Key Security Developments

- Increased Military Presence in South China Sea and Philippine Waters

On October 27, 2026, the Philippine military reported monitoring and shadowing China's Liaoning aircraft carrier group as it transited waters off the southern Philippines towards the Celebes Sea. This movement is seen as part of China's strategy to increase military activity around the Philippines, aiming to intimidate Manila and assert its territorial claims in the South China Sea, potentially simulating operations to breach the "first island chain". Separately, on October 27, Chinese coast guard and navy ships were observed near Scarborough Shoal while Philippine government vessels distributed fuel to fishermen, reflecting a wider pattern of increased Chinese maritime presence, with up to 54 Chinese vessels reported in the West Philippine Sea over the preceding week.

- Persistent Military Pressure Around Taiwan

Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense reported frequent incursions by Chinese military aircraft and naval vessels. On October 27, Taiwan tracked 12 Chinese ships and 3 military aircraft, with the aircraft crossing the median line of the Taiwan Strait and entering Taiwan's air defense identification zones (ADIZ). This activity continued, with 6 aircraft and 7 ships detected on October 28-29, and a significant escalation on November 3, when Taiwan tracked 49 Chinese military aircraft and 12 ships, with 31 aircraft crossing the median line in central, southwestern, and eastern ADIZ. These

actions are part of China's "gray zone tactics" to incrementally increase military presence and pressure Taiwan.

• Construction of New Airbase in Disputed Paracel Islands

Reports emerged on October 31, 2026, that China has begun construction of a new airbase, including a runway, on Antelope Reef in the disputed Paracel Islands in the South China Sea. Satellite images from August showed earthwork for a strip approximately 3 kilometers long, similar to other Chinese outposts. This development could significantly extend China's military reach in the South China Sea, despite Beijing's claims of civilian purposes.

• Joint Counter-Terrorism Training with Indonesia

China and Indonesia successfully concluded their "Sharp Knife 2026" joint army counter-terrorism training in Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, on November 2, 2026. The training, which commenced on October 27, involved mixed groups of troops from both countries conducting specialized sub-training, tactical coordination, and comprehensive drills, including land- and water-based rescue operations. This marks the third edition of the "Sharp Knife" series and the first major joint exercise in 14 years, aimed at improving combat-oriented training capabilities and strengthening regional security ties.

• Upcoming Joint Counter-Terrorism Exercise with Vietnam

China's Ministry of National Defense announced on November 2, 2026, that the Chinese People's Armed Police Force and Vietnam's mobile police force are set to conduct their second joint counter-terrorism exercise, codenamed "Cooperation-2026," in Hanoi, Vietnam, in early to mid-November. The exercise will focus on combating violent terrorist crimes, including explosive ordnance detection and disposal, ground maneuvering, and assaults on high-rise buildings, aiming to deepen cooperation and enhance joint operational capabilities.

• China-Linked Cyber Espionage Targeting US Legal Sector and Global Entities

On October 29, 2026, the U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) added a VMware ESX security flaw (CVE-2026-41709) to its Known Exploited Vulnerabilities catalog, following reports from CrowdStrike that a China-nexus threat actor, Warp Panda, had exploited it as a zero-day in attacks targeting the U.S. legal sector. Furthermore, on October 30, CrowdStrike attributed the use of an AI-powered penetration testing framework called ARTEX to Chinese state-sponsored threat actors, Vapor Panda, in attacks against over 200 distinct organizations worldwide, including foreign ministries, semiconductor, defense, and telecommunications providers.

• Expansion of ISR Satellite Fleet and Space Weaponry Development

A new report by the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), released on October 27, 2026, revealed that China has tripled its fleet of intelligence, surveillance, and

reconnaissance (ISR) satellites since 2018. The report, "2026 Challenges to Space Security," indicates that China continues to expand capabilities to detect, track, and target U.S. and allied forces globally, particularly in the Indo-Pacific. The DIA also warned that China possesses multiple ground-based laser systems capable of disrupting or damaging satellites and may field space-based directed-energy weapons by the late 2020s.

- Chinese Coast Guard Harassment and Undersea Cable Intelligence Gathering

On November 1, 2026, Taiwan's Coast Guard Administration (CGA) reported that the China Coast Guard is harassing shipping off Taiwan's east coast, attempting to exert a "fictional jurisdiction" and potentially practicing for a maritime blockade. Concurrently, Japanese newspaper Yomiuri Shimbun reported, citing intelligence firms and Taiwanese authorities, that four Chinese survey ships have been repeatedly spotted near Taiwan since May, making irregular moves in waters close to international undersea cable routes, suspected of gathering intelligence on these critical infrastructures.

- Diplomatic Engagements with European Leaders Amidst Trade Tensions

Chinese President Xi Jinping held separate meetings with German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier (October 27-31) and Swiss President Guy Parmelin (October 30-November 1) in Beijing. These meetings aimed to steady ties, manage differences through dialogue, and signal China's consistent pragmatic approach to Europe amidst ongoing trade tensions and rising protectionism. China also criticized the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's October 28 addition of three Chinese entities, including biotechnology enterprises, to the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act (UFLPA) Entity List, calling it unilateral protectionism.

- Internal Military Purge and Modernization Goals

A seminar in Taipei on October 31, 2026, discussed the wholesale sacking of Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) officers and aerospace and defense industry managers. Experts suggested this purge would set back Xi Jinping's timetable for a Taiwan invasion and derail military reform targets for the PLA's 100th anniversary in 2027, potentially crippling the military's force projection capabilities for three to four years. Despite this, China has reaffirmed its commitment to accelerating PLA modernization and enhancing combat readiness by 2027, focusing on new-domain military forces and intelligent warfare.

Geopolitical Impact and Regional Dynamics

China's security developments during this period underscore a continued assertive posture, particularly in its immediate periphery, with significant implications for

regional stability. The persistent military pressure on Taiwan, including frequent air and naval incursions and suspected intelligence gathering on undersea cables, exacerbates cross-strait tensions and raises concerns among regional democracies about China's intentions. The increased presence of the Liaoning carrier group and other Chinese vessels in the South China Sea, especially near the Philippines, directly challenges existing territorial claims and freedom of navigation, leading to a "condition of pressure" across Southeast Asia. The ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) in Cebu highlighted this friction, with Australia's defense chief accusing China of the "biggest conventional military build-up" since WWII and the "Squad" nations (US, Japan, Australia, Philippines) pledging deeper military coordination.

Relations with major powers remain complex. While China engaged in high-level diplomatic talks with Germany and Switzerland to stabilize economic ties and promote dialogue, its relationship with the United States is marked by deep-seated strategic competition. The U.S. continues to warn about China's military modernization, particularly its space capabilities and cyber threats, while imposing new sanctions related to alleged forced labor. This "economic war" under the radar, focused on supply chain resilience and technological supremacy, risks spilling over into broader conflict. The joint counter-terrorism exercises with Indonesia and upcoming drills with Vietnam, however, indicate China's efforts to build security cooperation with some Southeast Asian nations, potentially to counter broader Western influence in the region.

The broader strategic landscape is characterized by a delicate balance between cooperation and competition. China's diplomatic outreach to Brazil and Middle Eastern nations (Iran, Oman, Saudi Arabia) reflects its ambition to expand influence beyond its immediate region and foster a "China-Brazil community with a shared future" and ease regional tensions. However, the internal military purges, while potentially disrupting short-term PLA capabilities, do not diminish China's long-term commitment to becoming a world-class military power by 2049. The ongoing cyber espionage activities targeting global entities further underscore China's assertive approach to intelligence gathering and strategic advantage in the digital domain.

Military and Defense Analysis

The People's Liberation Army (PLA) continues its ambitious modernization program, aiming to achieve "world-class" status by 2049, with interim targets for accelerated modernization by 2027. This period saw significant developments in force posture and capability. The deployment of the Liaoning aircraft carrier group to the Celebes Sea demonstrates the PLA Navy's growing blue-water capabilities and its intent to project power beyond the "first island chain," potentially practicing for scenarios to isolate the Philippines or Taiwan. The consistent presence of numerous Chinese military aircraft

and naval vessels around Taiwan, including frequent crossings of the median line and incursions into Taiwan's ADIZ, highlights a sustained strategy of psychological and military coercion. These "gray zone tactics" aim to normalize Chinese military activity in disputed areas and test Taiwan's response capabilities.

Defense spending trends, while not explicitly detailed for this specific week, are understood to be substantial, with Pentagon estimates suggesting actual Chinese defense spending in 2024 was significantly higher than the official $281 billion budget for 2026. This investment fuels the development of advanced capabilities, including a rapidly expanding fleet of intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) satellites, which has tripled since 2018. These satellites are crucial for enhancing situational awareness and enabling long-range strikes against U.S. and allied forces across the Indo-Pacific. Furthermore, China is actively developing directed-energy weapons, including ground-based laser systems capable of disrupting or damaging satellites, with potential space-based systems by the late 2020s, indicating a significant focus on counter-space capabilities.

Despite these advancements, the PLA is undergoing internal challenges. Recent "wholesale sacking" of officers and defense industry managers, discussed at a seminar on October 31, 2026, is believed to have disrupted Xi Jinping's military reform targets and could cripple the PLA's force projection capabilities for several years. This purge, focusing on party loyalty and anti-corruption, may temporarily set back the PLA's operational readiness and its ability to conduct independent joint warfare operations, as autonomy of theater commands has been rolled back. Nevertheless, the construction of a new airbase on Antelope Reef in the Paracel Islands underscores China's unwavering commitment to expanding its military infrastructure and control in the South China Sea, further solidifying its regional power projection.

Outlook and Forecast

Short-term trends (1-3 months): In the immediate future, China is likely to maintain its assertive posture in the South China Sea and Taiwan Strait. We can anticipate continued "gray zone" tactics, including frequent air and naval incursions around Taiwan and increased presence of maritime militia and coast guard vessels in disputed South China Sea features, particularly near the Philippines. The ongoing construction of the airbase on Antelope Reef will likely proceed rapidly, aiming for operational capability by mid-2027, further solidifying China's control over the Paracel Islands. Diplomatic efforts will continue to balance engagement with European nations, as seen with Germany and Switzerland, against persistent tensions with the U.S. over trade, technology, and human rights. Cybersecurity threats from China-linked actors, such as Warp Panda and Vapor Panda, are expected to persist, targeting critical infrastructure and high-value organizations globally, leveraging

advanced tools like AI-powered frameworks and zero-day exploits.

Critical flashpoints and risk areas: The Taiwan Strait remains the most critical flashpoint. Any perceived move towards formal independence by Taiwan or significant escalation of U.S. military support could trigger a forceful Chinese response. The South China Sea, particularly around Scarborough Shoal and the Spratly Islands, is another high-risk area, where increased Chinese maritime presence and harassment of Philippine vessels could lead to accidental collisions or confrontations. The ongoing internal purges within the PLA, while potentially weakening its short-term operational capacity, could also lead to unpredictable actions as the military leadership seeks to demonstrate loyalty and capability. The development and deployment of counter-space weapons by China, as highlighted by the DIA report, introduce a new dimension of risk, potentially escalating any future conflict into the orbital domain.

Indicators to monitor: Key indicators to monitor include the frequency and nature of PLA air and naval activities around Taiwan, especially any incursions beyond the median line or into Taiwan's contiguous zone. The pace of construction and militarization on Antelope Reef and other disputed features in the South China Sea will be crucial. Monitoring the rhetoric and actions of Chinese and Philippine officials regarding maritime disputes, particularly around Scarborough Shoal, will indicate the potential for escalation. Developments in U.S.-China trade and technology policies, including further sanctions or export restrictions, will signal the trajectory of their economic competition. Finally, any public statements or reports on the impact of the PLA purges on its readiness and command structure will be important for assessing its immediate capabilities.

Strategic recommendations: For regional actors and international partners, maintaining a strong, unified deterrent posture in the Indo-Pacific is essential to counter China's assertive actions. This includes continued freedom of navigation operations, joint military exercises, and intelligence sharing to enhance collective security. Strengthening cybersecurity defenses against state-sponsored threats is paramount, requiring international collaboration on threat intelligence and rapid patching of vulnerabilities. Diplomatically, engaging China on areas of common interest while firmly pushing back against actions that violate international law or destabilize the region is crucial. Supporting Taiwan's self-defense capabilities and resilience against Chinese coercion remains a priority. Internally, China needs to address the potential destabilizing effects of its military purges on its command and control, while its partners should seek clarity on the long-term implications for regional security.

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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".

Source: CGTN

• 2026 WIC Wuzhen Summit opens with focus on open-source AI (2026-11-03 02:55)

2026 WIC Wuzhen Summit opens with focus on open-source AI

• Chinese opera singer finds his stage on Italy's streets (2026-11-03 02:12)

Chinese opera singer finds his stage on Italy's streets

• China's central bank to raise forex reserve requirement ratio for financial institutions (2026-11-03 01:58)

China's central bank to raise forex reserve requirement ratio for financial institutions

• China's top legislator meets with Russian Federation Council speaker (2026-11-03 01:37)

China's top legislator Zhao Leji held talks with Russian Federation Council Speaker Valentina Matviyenko in Beijing on Monday.

• China mulls draft law to combat cross-border corruption (2026-11-03 00:48)

China's top legislature began deliberating a draft law on combating cross-border corruption, which includes a provision on promoting the building of a fair and equitable global anti-corruption governance system.

• Chinese premier meets Sultan of Oman (2026-11-03 00:41)

Chinese Premier Li Qiang met with Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik Al Said of Oman in Beijing on Monday.

• Shanghai Disney Resort to open third themed hotel in December (2026-11-03 00:34)

Shanghai Disney Resort to open third themed hotel in December

• China's top diplomat holds talks with Saudi national security advisor (2026-11-02 15:15)

China's top diplomat holds talks with Saudi national security advisor

• How the CPC drives China's success in poverty alleviation (2026-11-02 13:31)

The CPC has translated its commitment to poverty reduction into targeted policies, nationwide coordination and sustained action, from the transformation of Shibadong Village to the national campaign against poverty.

• 200 Years of East-West Exchange (2026-11-02 13:28)

200 Years of East-West Exchange

• Chinese and Austrian firefighters exchange emergency expertise (2026-11-02 13:16)

Chinese and Austrian firefighters exchange emergency expertise

- China to send envoys to Middle East, Gulf & Red Sea, Horn of Africa (2026-11-02 13:13)

China to send envoys to Middle East, Gulf & Red Sea, Horn of Africa

- Chinese FM meets deputy secretary of Iran SNSC (2026-11-02 13:11)

Chinese FM meets deputy secretary of Iran SNSC

- New high-speed railway bridge advances connectivity in northwest China (2026-11-02 11:40)

New high-speed railway bridge advances connectivity in northwest China

- Chinese technology powers Kenya's packaging industry (2026-11-02 10:33)

In Kenya's lakeside city of Kisumu, Chinese-made machinery is helping local manufacturers improve efficiency, expand production and meet growing demand for packaging materials.

- How is the CPC addressing challenges of long-term governance? (2026-11-02 10:18)

How is the CPC addressing challenges of long-term governance?

- Xi calls for better protection, coordination to beautify Yellow River (2026-11-02 10:16)

Chinese President Xi Jinping has stressed efforts to continuously improve protection and coordination to make the Yellow River more beautiful.

- China's top diplomat meets deputy secretary of Iran SNSC (2026-11-02 10:15)

China's top diplomat meets deputy secretary of Iran SNSC

- How the CPC hears people's opinions and responds to their needs (2026-11-02 09:49)

The Communist Party of China was founded to serve the people, a mission that puts people at the center of its work. So how does the Party hear people's opinions and respond to their needs?

- China mulls amendment to Law on Renewable Energy (2026-11-02 09:43)

China's top legislature on Monday began deliberating a draft amendment to the Law on Renewable Energy that would strengthen the management of renewable energy development and construction.

- 'Jiuzhang 4.0' wins leading science and technology award at 2026 WIC (2026-11-02 09:08)

A total of 20 projects, including the "Jiuzhang 4.0" programmable photonic quantum computing prototype, won the 2026 World Internet Conference (WIC) Leading Science and Technology Awards at a ceremony held on Monday in Wuzhen, east China's Zhejiang Province.

- Autumn foliage draws visitors to Beijing's Xiangshan Park (2026-11-02 08:54)

Beijing's Xiangshan Park is now at the height of its autumn foliage season, with colorful leaves and traditional-style architecture creating a picturesque scene.

- China's Wang Yi, Wang Wentao to co-chair 37th APEC Ministerial Meeting (2026-11-02 08:53)

China's Wang Yi, Wang Wentao to co-chair 37th APEC Ministerial Meeting

- Chinese FM to chair 11th LMC Foreign Ministers' Meeting (2026-11-02 08:48)

Chinese FM to chair 11th LMC Foreign Ministers' Meeting

- Xi, Peru leader exchange congratulations over 55th anniversary of ties (2026-11-02 08:24)

Xi, Peru leader exchange congratulations over 55th anniversary of ties

- China to send special envoys to Middle East, Horn of Africa (2026-11-02 08:22)

China to send special envoys to Middle East, Horn of Africa

- Remembering Israel Epstein and the Spanish edition of China Today (2026-11-02 08:13)

Remembering Israel Epstein and the Spanish edition of China Today

- Xi, Sultan of Oman attend signing ceremony of cooperation documents (2026-11-02 06:38)

Xi, Sultan of Oman attend signing ceremony of cooperation documents

- A simple tweak helps passengers navigate Nanjing metro with ease (2026-11-02 06:31)

New directional signs at Nanjing South Railway Station have gone viral online, winning praise for their straightforward, user-friendly design.

- Global South Voices: Governance In Focus (2026-11-02 06:27)

Global South Voices: Governance In Focus

- Satellite internet, 6G, embodied intelligence shine at Wuzhen expo (2026-11-02 05:34)

The 2026 "Light of the Internet" Expo, a flagship event of the World Internet Conference (WIC) Wuzhen Summit, opened on Monday in Wuzhen, east China's Zhejiang Province, showcasing more than 1,000 new technologies and products from 671 companies and institutions across 54 countries and regions.

- President Xi holds welcome ceremony for Sultan of Oman (2026-11-02 04:10)

President Xi holds welcome ceremony for Sultan of Oman

- Xi stresses China-Oman partnership in energy, investment, innovation (2026-11-02 04:10)

Chinese President Xi Jinping said on Monday that China is ready to deepen the synergy of development strategies with Oman and be a stable and reliable partner in the energy sector, a

partner with promising potential in investment, and a partner in fostering innovation inadvanced technologies.

• How Party's discipline push is benefiting households in China (2026-11-02 03:05)

The benefits of improved Party discipline reach households. The livelihood payoff is where the governance argument becomes concrete. In 2025, disciplinary inspection and supervision authorities said they investigated 967,000 cases nationwide involving misconduct and corruption affecting people's interests, disciplined 627,000 individuals, and transferred 22,000 people to procuratorial authorities. These figures represent recovered wages, restored reimbursements and refunded fees.

• Yerevan Pathway sets course for biodiversity action (2026-11-02 01:31)

Yerevan Pathway sets course for biodiversity action

• Robert Hux on China’s governance achievements (2026-11-01 23:54)

Robert Hux on China’s governance achievements

• Evolving China-Germany ties: A new engine for China-EU cooperation (2026-11-01 19:35)

Evolving China-Germany ties: A new engine for China-EU cooperation

• Excerpts from resolution of CPC plenum (2026-11-01 14:20)

Excerpts from resolution of CPC plenum

• Chinese, German auto companies boost cooperation amid industry shift (2026-11-01 13:52)

Chinese and German auto companies on Friday explored ways to boost cooperation amid profound global transformation and fierce industry competition.

• How China fights corruption and prevents the abuse of power (2026-11-01 13:49)

How China fights corruption and prevents the abuse of power

• Full text: CPC resolution on full, rigorous Party self-governance (2026-11-01 13:34)

Full text: CPC resolution on full, rigorous Party self-governance

• Full text: Explanation of the CPC resolution on strict self-governance (2026-11-01 13:31)

Full text: Explanation of the CPC resolution on strict self-governance

• Xi's special envoy attends opening ceremony of 4th Youth Olympic Games (2026-11-01 13:28)

Gao Zhidan, special envoy of Chinese President Xi Jinping and director of China's General Administration of Sport, attended the opening ceremony of the fourth Youth Olympic Games in

Dakar, capital of Senegal, on Saturday at the invitation of the Senegalese government.

• Japanese spy drama fuels remilitarization concerns, experts warn (2026-11-01 13:21)

A Japanese spy drama has sparked a backlash in China over scenes accused of distorting wartime history, with experts warning that such narratives could fuel anti-China sentiment and build support for Japan's remilitarization.

• How Chinese private enterprises thrive in high-quality development (2026-11-01 13:10)

How Chinese private enterprises thrive in high-quality development

• China unveils detailed two-launch plan for first manned moon landing (2026-11-01 13:02)

China unveils detailed two-launch plan for first manned moon landing

• Anti-cross-border graft legislation to shield state secrets, privacy (2026-11-01 10:16)

Anti-cross-border graft legislation to shield state secrets, privacy

• China's draft financial law takes aim at cross-border risks (2026-11-01 10:14)

China's draft financial law takes aim at cross-border risks

• China drafts stricter rules for Antarctic activities (2026-11-01 10:10)

China drafts stricter rules for Antarctic activities

• International figures hail CPC commitment to rigorous self-governance (2026-11-01 10:02)

International figures hail CPC commitment to rigorous self-governance

• What China's approach to Party governance means for global governance (2026-11-01 09:57)

The 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) provides an important window for the international community to understand the CPC's approach to Party governance and China's governance model.

• A tapestry of autumn colors at Beijing's Pofengling (2026-11-01 09:01)

The autumn foliage at Beijing's Pofengling Scenic Area isat its peak, with vibrant hues of red, orange, yellow and green drawing visitors to enjoy the fall scenery.

• Advancing global healthcare: CGTN's Health Talk in action (2026-11-01 08:59)

Advancing global healthcare: CGTN's Health Talk in action

• Kashi: Multi-ethnic culture shows highlight seasonal tourism (2026-11-01 07:56)

Against the scenic backdrop of snow-capped peaks and vibrant autumn colors, the ancient city of Kashi in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region has come alive with a rich

lineup of traditional performances, drawing crowds of visitors and sparking fresh vitality in ruraltourism.

• Political party leaders worldwide praise successful CPC plenum (2026-11-01 07:11)

Leaders of political parties around the world have extended congratulations on the successful convening of the fifth plenary session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

• 2026 World Laureates Forum: Can AI become a research partner? (2026-11-01 07:05)

2026 World Laureates Forum: Can AI become a research partner?

• Xi's key quotes on a community with a shared future in cyberspace (2026-11-01 07:00)

Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed the vision of building a community with a shared future in cyberspace during his address at the opening ceremony of the second World Internet Conference in 2015. For over a decade, Xi has championed this vision on multiple occasions.

• 'New vitality': Upgraded China-Peru free trade agreement takes effect (2026-11-01 04:21)

A protocol upgrading the free trade agreement (FTA) between China and Peru officially entered into force on Sunday, injecting new vitality into bilateral economic and trade relations.

• CMSA: Lunar-landing phase of exploration program advancing steadily (2026-11-01 03:08)

CMSA: Lunar-landing phase of exploration program advancing steadily

• 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.

Source: China Defense Blog

- CV-17 Shandong Leaving Hainan (2026-11-03 02:34)

a { text-decoration: none; color: #464feb; }tr th, tr td { border: 1px solid #e6e6e6; }tr th { background-color: #f5f5f5; A tourist with a camera phone may have just given PLAN watchers their first glimpse of CV-17 Shandong back at sea after a lengthy maintenance period in Hainan. Recent images circulating online appear to show the carrier departing the Yulin naval complex

- PLA Group Force's MRL ship in Focus (2026-11-02 04:16)

a { text-decoration: none; color: #464feb; }tr th, tr td { border: 1px solid #e6e6e6; }tr th { background-color: #f5f5f5; }Back on October 10th, I blogged about the PLA Ground Force's amphibious MRL ship LD902 ("L" for Land Force, "D" for East), suggesting that the vessel belongs to the Eastern Theater Command. At the time, there was also a second vessel of a different

- PLA Getting Ready for a Cross Desert Expedition? (2026-11-01 10:13)

a { text-decoration: none; color: #464feb; }tr th, tr td { border: 1px solid #e6e6e6; }tr th { background-color: #f5f5f5; }One of the recurring themes on this blog is that the PLA is known for its measured, "slowly but surely" approach to military procurement. New equipment is typically introduced cautiously, tested extensively, and fielded incrementally. Well, I may have been

- 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

Source: China | The Guardian

• Chinese cigarettes and Bolivian beer: the Amazonian town transformed by a rampant mining boom (2026-11-02 14:00)

Mayaya, once-remote, has become a hub for Chinese companies. But critics accuse them of exploitation and illegal exportsThe pork belly hits the oil with a sizzle, and a rich aroma of soy sauce and caramelising sugar fills the kitchen. Zhang Changchun, a middle-aged man from China's Heilongjiang province, is cooking dinner for his friends on a warm evening in Mayaya, a small town in the Bolivian Amazon. "Bolivia is my happy place," he says in Mandarin as he adds the dish to a table overflowing with pork trotters, duck wings and braised sábalo fish. In this small restaurant, a group of half a dozen Chinese men gathers most nights to eat, drink and play mahjong. Continue reading...

• UK making up China policy 'as it goes along', MPs warn (2026-11-02 05:00)

Commons committee says lack of coherent strategy is hampering business and leaving national security risks unaddressedThe UK is making up policy on China "as it goes along" and risks having its strategy dictated by Washington or Beijing, a parliamentary report has concluded.An investigation by the Commons business, innovation, science and trade select committee said Labour's failure to formulate a coherent strategy since 2024 "combined the worst of both worlds" for the UK in relation to China. Continue reading...

• The US-China trade war seems to have subsided – but the sense of calm is misleading (2026-11-01 12:00)

A truce has cooled the trade conflict, but neither country has done anything to limit the outbreak of new hostilitiesDonald Trump's trade wars have largely fallen off the headlines. Fears of new tariffs flare up from time to time when the US president goes off the rails – for instance, threatening to end US trade with countries with which it has a deficit unless the Federal Reserve cuts interest rates. But the sense that the world's two largest economies are plowing ahead into an overt economic conflagration has taken a back seat to other, more salient fears, about Trump ending American democracy, AI killing us all and stuff like that.The sense of calm is misleading. Under the radar, the world is marching toward an economic war of potentially epic proportions, one that, history suggests, could well spill over into the real thing. Continue reading...

• 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...

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

• The midterms and the world (2026-11-02 14:00)

A Democratic sweep of both houses of Congress would see big changes on energy and trade in particular

• China’s soaring chemical exports threaten new trade war front (2026-11-02 06:42)

Output has almost doubled in some key ingredients in five years, putting pressure on foreign rivals

• US critical minerals push delivers a gold rush — for Washington lobbyists (2026-11-01 12:00)

Billions in government backing have produced a flurry of deals but little increase in domestic production

• 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

Source: New York Times China

• Why Trump’s Taiwan Arms Delay Is Dangerous (2026-11-03 00:00)

China may see Trump’s decision to hold up arms sales to Taiwan as a lasting concession, raising the stakes in a future confrontation over the island.

• Book Review: ‘Castles,’ by Dan Jones (2026-11-02 10:01)

In “Castles,” Dan Jones tells the story of human history as a chronicle of destruction that occurred at fortifications across the world.

• U.S.-China Relations Will Never Be the Same in the Age of A.I. (2026-11-02 06:00)

China and the U.S. need mutually assured collaboration to quash the threat of A.I.-empowered bad actors, even while their economic differences sharpen.

• China’s Message to Its Rivals: You Need What We Make (2026-11-02 05:00)

It’s not just rare earths. China is making it harder for other countries to shed their dependence on its solar, drone and drugmaking technology.

• China’s Message to Its Rivals: You Need What We Make (2026-11-02 05:00)

It’s not just rare earths. China is making it harder for other countries to shed their dependence on its solar, drone and drugmaking technology.

• 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.

Source: South China Morning Post

• 2½ years’ jail for Hong Kong district councillor who had sex with 13-year-old girl in 2011 (2026-11-03 05:46)

A Hong Kong district councillor has been sentenced to two years and six months in jail for having unlawful sex with a 13-year-old girl 15 years ago, with a judge noting he had shown no remorse towards a victim he claimed to have loved. District Court Judge Stanley Chan Kwong-chi on Tuesday noted that Sei Chun-hing, a 39-year-old Yuen Long District Council member, was aware of the “red line” of sex with a minor when they started dating in October 2010. At the time, she was 13 and Sei 23. Chan...

• Malaysia’s halal chicken scandal exposes hygiene breaches at filthy plant (2026-11-03 04:40)

Malaysia’s halal safeguards are under scrutiny after filthy conditions and suspected slaughtering breaches at a chicken plant sparked demands to explain how it ignored warnings and operated for years without certification. The hygiene failures at the Puchong facility came to light after authorities seized more than 6.5 tonnes of chicken during a raid last week. The factory, which processes more than 40,000 chickens daily and supplies businesses across the Klang Valley in Kuala Lumpur, is accused...

• US strikes Iran’s Qeshm Island ahead of midterms as Trump says deal ‘could happen’ (2026-11-03 04:39)

The United States has attacked an Iranian island in the Strait of Hormuz, the latest in a series of covert, limited strikes ahead of the US midterm elections, as President Donald Trump signalled progress in talks with Tehran. Iran’s Qeshm Island was struck on Monday, The Wall Street Journal reported, citing US officials, some of whom framed the strikes as defensive and aimed at deterring Tehran’s attacks on commercial ships in the critical chokepoint. Iranian media

reported that five blasts were...

• Beijing removes Hong Kong housing chief Winnie Ho after Tai Po fire resignation (2026-11-03 04:19)

Beijing has formally removed Hong Kong's housing chief, Winnie Ho Wing-yin, from her post, after she resigned last week to take political responsibility for the deadly Tai Po fire. According to the state-run Xinhua News Agency, the State Council removed Ho from office on Tuesday on the recommendation of Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chiu. The announcement gave no reason for the decision and did not name a successor. In a government statement, Lee said Ho had indicated she would "shoulder the...

• Xi Jinping meets foreign leaders: tracker, October 2026 (2026-11-03 04:19)

Chinese President Xi Jinping met four foreign leaders in October – two each from Africa and Europe – with the month dominated by the Communist Party Central Committee's fifth plenum. The pace will probably pick up in November. Xi has already met Oman's Sultan Haitham bin Tariq, and he will host an Apec summit on November 18–19. The Shenzhen event will probably feature talks with US President Donald Trump, Russian President Vladimir Putin and other regional leaders.

• 'Speak last': China's fifth plenum moves to rein in party leaders (2026-11-03 03:59)

A key document endorsed by the Communist Party proposed stronger oversight of principal leaders below the central level, barring them from demanding personal allegiance from their leadership teams – a demand that is only for the top leaders. The proposal is part of a 17,000-word resolution approved at the fifth plenum of the 20th Central Committee, the full text of which was published by state news agency Xinhua on Sunday. The four-day plenum last week emphasised internal governance, discipline...

• New York state reports first measles-linked death in over 30 years (2026-11-03 03:55)

The New York State Department of Health said on Monday that a child in Lewis County had died in connection with an ongoing measles outbreak, marking the state's first known measles-associated death in more than 30 years. Last month, Governor Kathy Hochul declared a State Disaster Emergency in response to the measles outbreak across areas of New York and neighbouring states. "The Department has offered resources to Lewis County to assist with community outreach and support local vaccination...

• Tokenised gold bar to advance Hong Kong's ambitions as digital, metal trading hub (2026-11-03 03:54)

Hong Kong's plan to start an interbank tokenised gold transaction project marks a crucial step in its quest to make itself a key global hub for the precious metal, according to analysts. The city planned to launch a gold token representing a standard 400-ounce gold bar, referencing HAU, Hong Kong's ticker for gold prices launched earlier this year, said Secretary for Financial

Services and the Treasury Christopher Hui Ching-yu during the annual Fintech Week event onMonday. He said the effort...

• Hong Kong will ‘rethink playbook’, offer stability amid global shifts: John Lee (2026-11-03 03:31)

Hong Kong is rewriting its economic playbook amid intensifying geopolitical tensions and the rapid advancement of artificial intelligence (AI), and is pivoting towards commodity trading, fintech and green finance, the city’s leader has said, while pledging to provide stability for investors. Addressing the annual Global Financial Leaders’ Investment Summit on Tuesday, Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chiu also said the city’s first five-year plan was a long-term road map that provided market...

• South Korea rushes to reissue passports to President Lee, wife after data leak (2026-11-03 03:00)

South Korea’s foreign ministry said on Tuesday it was taking steps to reissue passports for all 168 people affected by an online leak of sensitive personal information, including President Lee Jae Myung and first lady Kim Hea-kyung, as police investigate how the data was exposed. “The foreign ministry is swiftly taking measures to ensure the smooth reissuance of passports for all affected individuals, including the president and first lady,” ministry spokesman Park Doo-soon said during a...

• Man, 61, arrested for allegedly spiking drink of Japanese DJ at Hong Kong nightclub (2026-11-03 02:53)

A 61-year-old Hong Kong man has been arrested for allegedly spiking the drink of Japanese disc jockey Mao Hamasaki at a Tsim Sha Tsui nightclub over the weekend, leaving her in intensive care. The police on Tuesday said that after investigations by the Yau Tsim crime squad, officers arrested the suspect in Central on Monday in relation to an alleged drugging attempt at PP Club on Mody Road the previous day. The man has been detained and is being investigated for allegedly administering poison...

• Learjet may have broken up before crashing in Florida, investigators say (2026-11-03 02:46)

The National Transportation Safety Board said on Monday a Learjet 60 that crashed on Sunday in a residential area in Palm Beach County, Florida, killing all nine people on board, may have broken up before hitting the ground at high speed. The private Bombardier-made jet had taken off from Austin, Texas, and was headed to the Bahamas. Heavy rainfall and thunderstorms were occurring in the area where it went down. Nasa Administrator Jared Isaacman, posting on X, highlighted the harrowing...

• Chinese delivery driver divorces American teacher he married 4 months after love confession (2026-11-03 02:00)

A food delivery driver from northeastern China, whose whirlwind marriage to an American teacher captivated social media, has announced their divorce. Liu Hao, 28, from Liaoning province, met Hannah Harris, 31, an English teacher from Alabama, in November 2024 after delivering food to her flat. Charmed by Liu, who greeted her in the lift with the simple English phrase “Hello, I love you,” Harris soon bonded with him over their shared love of food, sport and pets. The relationship progressed...

• Is Sara Duterte’s impeachment case being sped up due to Filipinos’ ‘growing impatience’? (2026-11-03 02:00)

The impeachment trial of Philippine Vice-President Sara Duterte-Carpio may soon draw to a close after the prosecution decided to drop several of her charges, a move that legal experts have said is intended to speed up the trial and secure a conviction by focusing on the strongest evidence against her. Beyond the trial, the decision could have significant political implications for the 2028 presidential race, with a swift verdict potentially removing a strong candidate, according to analysts. On...

• Hong Kong’s malls must evolve into green sanctuaries to stay relevant (2026-11-03 01:30)

Retail is making a comeback in Hong Kong. Deloitte China reported an encouraging HK$203 billion (US$25.9 billion) in sales volume in the first half of 2026, beating expectations. Accordingly, they forecast the retail market to reach HK$412 billion by the end of this year. A retail revival should directly translate into reduced vacancies for the city’s bricks-and-mortar stores. However, while high street vacancies dropped to 9.1 per cent, the lowest since 2020, vacancies in prime shopping centres...

• Australia jails Singaporean tourist for fatally driving over man who stole backpack (2026-11-03 01:20)

A 29-year-old Singaporean man was sentenced to five years and nine months’ jail in Australia on Monday after he killed a man who stole a backpack from his rental car. Lincoln Ng Jing Kai chased the man in a car and knocked him off his e-bike before driving over him. He was originally charged with murder, but pleaded guilty to manslaughter in August after prosecutors agreed to accept the lesser charge. Sentencing him, Judge Terence Palmer said Ng’s actions “involved an element of taking the law...

• China’s Communist Party plenum targets passive ‘nice’ guys in anti-corruption push (2026-11-03 01:00)

China’s ruling Communist Party has pledged to target “old nice persons” within its ranks as it steps up its anti-corruption drive ahead of a major leadership reshuffle next year. Rendered in Chinese as lao hao ren, the term refers to unprincipled, conflict-averse officials who turn a blind eye to misconduct to protect their own careers and social standing. A resolution adopted at the close of the party’s 20th Central Committee’s fifth plenum last week signalled a crackdown on this culture of...

• First Northern Metropolis Marathon trips up as runners hit out at poor arrangements (2026-11-03 00:30)

Water shortages, gruelling course conditions and a lengthy post-race walk marred Hong Kong's inaugural Northern Metropolis Marathon on Sunday, participants have said, prompting calls for organisers to overhaul arrangements if the event is to return. As the city seeks to establish itself as a premier hub for mega-events, experts warned the problems went beyond teething issues. They urged organisers to ensure they had the professional expertise required to host similar events in future. Organised...

• OpenAI executive urges caution in China-US AI talks, warns of distillation threats (2026-11-03 00:03)

A top OpenAI executive said on Monday that Washington needs to be "clear-eyed" and "aware" about sharing information with Beijing during coming talks on artificial intelligence (AI), while also warning about the threat posed by alleged Chinese distillation attacks. "Be very clear-eyed. Be very aware of what information you are able to expect in return for what you are sharing, and start to build a foundation," said Caroline Zier, OpenAI's deputy lead for national security, during a discussion at...

• North Korea's low-cost drone push exposes South Korea's red tape trap (2026-11-03 00:00)

North Korea is rapidly advancing its drone warfare capabilities by drawing lessons from the Russia-Ukraine war, even as South Korea's efforts to keep pace remain bogged down by procurement delays and bureaucratic red tape, observers warn. They also caution that cryptocurrency theft has become a crucial source of funding for Pyongyang's weapons programmes, following US Federal Bureau of Investigation allegations that North Korean state-backed hackers stole more than US$6 billion from Binance, the...

• As sales slow, carmakers in China turn to overt marketing tactics and face controversy (2026-11-03 00:00)

Chinese carmakers' marketing tactics are under the spotlight after a controversy surrounding a comment by an Xpeng employee drew harsh criticism from middle-aged consumers. The incident comes as regulators step up quality checks on the reliability of automotive companies, according to industry officials and analysts. During a live-streamed new model launch ceremony on October 15, an Xpeng product manager used the term "Lao Deng" – a slang term referring to middle-aged people who appear to be...

• US midterm elections 2026: all you need to know (2026-11-03 00:00)

Americans go to the polls on Tuesday, November 3, in midterm elections that could reshape the final two years of Donald Trump's second term as president. Control of both chambers of Congress is in play, along with 36 governorships. Polls suggest Democrats go into the vote with

an advantage, but the outcome will hinge on a few dozen closely fought races. More than 100million people are expected to vote if turnout matches the 2022 midterms. By October 12, arecord US$3.8 billion had been spent on...

- Sister of North Korea's Kim slams FBI's Binance hack allegations as 'grave' provocation (2026-11-02 23:40)

North Korea on Tuesday slammed the FBI's allegations that Pyongyang was behind the theft of US$6 billion from cryptocurrency platform Binance, with Kim Jong-un's powerful sister labelling it a "grave political provocation". Kim Yo-jong, in a statement released on Tuesday by the KCNA state news agency, said the FBI's claim was "absurd rhetoric and nothing new", given earlier US allegations that North Korea was behind last year's major hack of Bybit. "It is a grave political provocation against...

- Trump's approval rating is near a career low ahead of elections, poll finds (2026-11-02 23:11)

US President Donald Trump's approval rating held near a career low as a broad swathe of the US electorate saw their vote in Tuesday's congressional midterm elections as a way to oppose the Republican president, according to a Reuters/Ipsos poll completed on Monday. The poll results underscore Republican vulnerabilities brought on by a surge in fuel prices since Trump launched a war on Iran in February. Voters in the nationwide poll said they preferred Democrats over Republicans - 46 per cent to...

- Netanyahu is pressing Trump to attack Iran after US midterm elections, officials say (2026-11-02 22:16)

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is pushing for another wave of strikes on Iran after Tuesday's midterm elections in the United States, according to two regional officials and a third person familiar with the matter. A return to full-scale war with Iran could help Netanyahu to form an emergency government after he and his far-right allies lost their parliamentary majority in last week's elections. US President Donald Trump has alternated between threatening major strikes while pushing...

- Will 'strategic stability' with China go out the window if Trump loses the midterms? (2026-11-02 22:00)

US President Donald Trump is likely to continue on a path of trying to stabilise ties with Beijing – even if the Democrats flip the House of Representatives, according to analysts. But they said if the Republicans lost control of the House in this week's midterm elections, the framework of "strategic stability" agreed to by Washington and Beijing could be put to the test. One Chinese academic warned that other Republicans could pose the biggest risk to Sino-American ties in Trump's final two...

• US judge dismisses Trump administration's Harvard race data admissions case (2026-11-02 21:49)

A federal judge on Monday dismissed a lawsuit by US President Donald Trump's administration seeking to force Harvard University to turn over records for an investigation into whether it continues to consider race in its student admissions process. US District Judge Myong Joun in Boston rejected the US Department of Justice's lawsuit, which Harvard contends was filed as part of a broader campaign by the Republican president's administration against the Ivy League school. The judge stressed that...

• Long delays for Hong Kong court cases demand urgent action (2026-11-02 21:30)

Justice delayed, it is often said, is justice denied. If that is true, many court users in Hong Kong are being failed by the system. Those involved in criminal cases at the Court of First Instance must wait 358 days on average for the hearing, the judiciary revealed last week. The figure for the District Court is 354 days, way above the court's 100-day target. This is a cause of concern. The glacial process has prompted the Law Society to call for drastic measures. Justin Yuen Hoi-ying, chairman...

• US midterm elections: Trump ends campaign, calls Democrats 'most dangerous ever' (2026-11-02 21:29)

US President Donald Trump ended the midterm campaign season on Monday by calling the Democratic Party's candidates the "most extreme and dangerous" in American history, the day before voters decide which party controls Congress. Speaking at the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool in Washington, which reopened after a renovation by his administration, Trump called the elections "the most important midterm, I believe, in our lifetime". "These are the most dangerous candidates ever put up," he...

• As AI solves maths puzzles faster than humans, mathematicians face uncertain future (2026-11-02 20:31)

Artificial intelligence (AI) is now solving maths puzzles that have long stumped humans, prompting mathematicians around the world, including in China, to ponder not only whether machines will replace them, but also what achievement and research in their field will mean in the future. In early October, OpenAI released manuscripts showing progress on 372 categories of mathematical problems, including many which have long defied solutions. This week, the American AI firm announced three further...

• Lindsay Clancy back in court in bid to dismiss charges she killed her 3 young children (2026-11-02 20:14)

Lindsay Clancy returned to court on Monday in a bid to dismiss the charges that she murdered her three young children. The hearing on Monday was the second time the Massachusetts mother has been in court since her trial ended with a deadlocked jury in September after jurors were unable to agree on a verdict. Its focus was a motion from the defence to dismiss the

charges on double jeopardy grounds. The proceedings grew heated as defence lawyer KevinReddington urged the judge to investigate the...

• Russia bombs aid centre and shelter in southern Ukraine, killing 24, authorities say (2026-11-02 19:06)

At least 24 people have been killed in a Russian air strike in Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia region, civil defence authorities said on Monday. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky wrote on social media that another five people were injured in the attack on a school distributing humanitarian aid in Komyshuvakha. Zelensky described the strike as an "utterly horrific Russian attack", saying the settlement had been hit several times by aerial bombs over the course of the day. Zelensky said Russia had...

• UK exempts carers from plan to impose long delays on migrants seeking residence (2026-11-02 18:21)

Britain watered down plans on Monday to impose long delays on immigrants seeking to receive permanent residence, announcing exemptions for hundreds of thousands of care workers to defuse a political outcry within the governing Labour Party. The government had announced plans last year to require lower-skilled workers to wait 10 to 15 years to receive permanent residence, up from five years previously. But under the plans unveiled on Monday, it said hundreds of thousands of workers in the care...

• Trump administration asks Supreme Court to set aside 20,000 disputed California ballots (2026-11-02 17:57)

On the eve of the US midterm elections, the Trump administration asked the Supreme Court on Monday to temporarily block California from counting mail-in ballots from more than 20,000 registered voters who federal officials allege are probably non-US citizens. Escalating a legal fight that could affect thousands of voters, the Justice Department filed the emergency request as it seeks to prevent counting the disputed ballots until each voter's citizenship status can be verified. A federal appeal...

• Martha Stewart sorry for 'insensitive' homeless Halloween costume post on social media (2026-11-02 17:03)

American lifestyle guru Martha Stewart has apologised for an "insensitive and not funny" Halloween costume after she appeared to dress up as a homeless person. "It's hard to admit when you've really screwed up," the billionaire, 85, wrote on Instagram after she deleted a photo of herself in ripped jeans, a torn jumper and a dirtied face. Stewart also held a clipboard that read "I Am Hungry Help Me!!" Social media users quickly slammed her as out of touch. "I know many people are suffering...

• Mother, 72, on trial in France over 1980s torture killing of 4-year-old daughter (2026-11-02 16:33)

A 72-year-old woman on Monday went on trial in France accused of torturing her four-year-old daughter to death in the 1980s, after a DNA match reopened the cold case. The main defendant walked briskly, head dropped and face hidden with a scarf, as she left the courtroom in the town of Blois at lunchtime, pursued by child rights activists crying “shame” and calling for justice. Her husband, a 74-year-old from whom she is now separated, earlier struggled up the courthouse’s steps with a cane,...

• US Postal Service in sprint to deliver millions of ballots by Tuesday (2026-11-02 15:59)

From longer hours and extra staffing to special lines in its branches, the US Postal Service (USPS) is taking an array of special actions to make sure mail-in ballots for the midterm elections are counted on Tuesday. This year more than ever, the pressure is on the USPS to deliver. President Donald Trump ordered the agency to write rules that would bar it from delivering ballots if the states did not agree to turn over lists of eligible voters and some voters have expressed concern about...

• Northern Metropolis land clearance linked to surge in stray animals, study finds (2026-11-02 15:24)

Over 40 per cent of stray animals taken in by shelters in Hong Kong in the first half of the year came from the Northern Metropolis development area, a study has found, with volunteers warning that more than 1,000 face abandonment as land resumption accelerates. The Animal Welfare Advocacy Alliance, which released the findings on Monday, called for a review of euthanasia policies, the relaunch of a “trap-neuter-resettlement” programme, and the introduction of a positive duty of care for...

• Belgian government on the brink after budget talks collapse (2026-11-02 15:09)

Belgium’s King Philippe sought on Monday to defuse a political crisis after overnight budget talks collapsed, prompting Prime Minister Bart De Wever to offer his resignation. De Wever tendered his resignation during a 90-minute meeting with the king on Monday morning after coalition parties failed to break months of deadlock over next year’s budget. The Royal Palace said the king would consider De Wever’s offer but would also consult the leaders of the other coalition parties from Tuesday. “In...

• How Xi Jinping and Communist Party elders shaped key plenum document addressing wrongdoing (2026-11-02 15:00)

Retired cadres were consulted during the eight-month drafting of a landmark document on building China’s Communist Party endorsed at a major political meeting in Beijing last week, according to state media. A detailed account published by Xinhua on Monday gave a behind-the-scenes look into how the 20th Central Committee finalised its resolution on “persevering with full and rigorous party self-governance”, adopted at the fifth plenum, which ended on Thursday. The 17,000-Chinese character,...

• Japan weighs US$500 billion defence spending plan: sources (2026-11-02 14:45)

Japan's government and ruling coalition are considering nearly doubling defence spending over the next five years as part of Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's push to strengthen the country's military capabilities, according to two people familiar with the matter. If adopted, defence build-up spending for the five years from April 2027 would be set at 70 trillion to 80 trillion yen (US$457 billion to US$508 billion), up about 1.8 times from the roughly 43 trillion yen allocated under the...

• Supermarket fridges in Europe hit by new cyberattack: 'everything is destroyed' (2026-11-02 14:18)

A hacking attack on European supermarkets spread across the continent on Monday, hitting fridges and freezers from Sweden to Belgium and forcing stores to throw away food in an incident that echoed a similar attack in France last month. The attack, which raised temperatures in refrigerator and freezer units at dozens of stores, hit supermarket groups Ahold Delhaize and Colruyt in Belgium and Luxembourg, as well as Swedish grocers ICA and Coop. Furniture-to-meatballs retailer Ikea also saw at...

• Legal body's new Hong Kong office targets developing Southeast Asian economies (2026-11-02 14:02)

An international legal body's new regional office in Hong Kong aims to help developing Southeast Asian economies and promote the wider use of uniform commercial law across the Asia-Pacific, its secretary general has said. Ignacio Tirado, secretary general of the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (Unidroit), said its new Asia-Pacific Liaison Office was receiving financial support from the Hong Kong government and seeking additional sponsors. He was speaking after the...

• Echoes of Rome in ancient China? What Beijing's 1,800-year-old ship find reveals (2026-11-02 14:00)

Three ancient wooden boats unearthed in Beijing and dating back about 1,800 years offer new evidence of shipbuilding technology and cultural exchanges between ancient China and the rest of the world, according to researchers. The researchers unveiled details of "the first physical evidence of ancient inland water transport" in the Chinese capital at the closing ceremony of the 2026 Beijing Public Archaeology Season on Saturday, according to an official social media account of the Beijing...

• 'Queen of the Chinese', drone war fears, cancer drug on sale: 7 US-China relations reads (2026-11-02 14:00)

We have selected seven of the most interesting and important news stories covering US-China relations from the past few weeks. If you would like to see more of our reporting, please consider subscribing. 1. The 'Queen of the Chinese' and a forgotten history on the US-Mexico border Interest in the history of the Chinese community in the Lone Star State is

growing. “There’s a real resurrection in understanding the influence of the Chinese inTexas,” Linda Chew, a retired judge in the US state’s...

• Asean seeks to sign FTA with EU. Can Singapore help resolve the Myanmar hurdle? (2026-11-02 13:30)

Singapore is pitching itself as a bridge between the European Union (EU) and Asean, as the two blocs continue their protracted discussions to seal a free trade agreement (FTA). However, Myanmar’s political uncertainty is a major hurdle towards an EU-Asean FTA, and Singapore will have to play a key role to break the deadlock when it assumes the chairmanship of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations next year, according to an analyst. At a joint press conference with German Chancellor...

• China’s EDA champion buys start-up to address weak link, support Huawei’s Tau Scaling Law (2026-11-02 13:30)

Empyrean Technology, China’s top provider of electronic design automation (EDA) tools, plans to acquire a majority stake in a domestic start-up, reinforcing Beijing’s drive for tech self-sufficiency and bolstering support for Huawei Technologies’ semiconductor ambitions. The Beijing-based firm said in a Shenzhen Stock Exchange filing on Sunday that it would acquire a 50.38 per cent stake in Easy-Logic Technology for 218.8 million yuan (US$33 million). Once completed, the start-up would be...

• Blogger may have revealed how many Z-10ME helicopters Pakistan bought from China (2026-11-02 13:05)

Pakistan’s contract to buy Chinese Z-10ME attack helicopters covers 30 airframes, according to an image circulating on Chinese social media. The image was shared by a prominent military blogger on Sunday and marks the first time a concrete number for Pakistan’s fleet of the helicopters has surfaced since Islamabad officially inducted them into service in August last year. In the post, the blogger known as Sashoujian said that on July 11 China National Aero-Technology Import and Export...

• China’s fifth plenum: cadre promotion rules overhauled, focusing on problem-solving (2026-11-02 13:00)

China’s ruling Communist Party has overhauled its personnel process in its search for clean and battle-tested cadres ahead of next year’s major leadership reshuffle. New rules were included in a resolution adopted at the 20th Central Committee’s fifth plenum last Thursday and published by state news agency Xinhua on Sunday. Analysts said that as provincial and ministerial reshuffles begin ahead of the 21st party congress, the fifth plenum sent a clear message: Beijing wants proven crisis...

• 3 former Hong Kong leaders head funeral committee for educator Ng Hon-mun (2026-11-02 12:54)

Funeral proceedings for Ng Hon-mun, an influential pro-Beijing educator and long-serving Hong Kong deputy to the National People's Congress (NPC), will begin on Wednesday, with three former city leaders heading the funeral committee. Ng died peacefully on October 18, aged 100. His wake will be held at Hong Kong Funeral Home in North Point from 5pm on Wednesday, followed by a memorial gathering at 7pm. A public memorial service will take place at 10am on Thursday, according to an obituary seen by...

- Ex-boyfriend planned to kill yoga instructor, Hong Kong murder trial hears (2026-11-02 12:50)

A 23-year-old yoga instructor was found dead floating in a blood-filled bathtub in a luxury Hong Kong hotel room after sustaining more than 40 wounds, a court heard on the opening day of her former boyfriend's murder trial. Prosecutors told a High Court jury on Monday that the accused, Alex Lo Chun-ming, planned to kill his ex-girlfriend Chow Wai-yin with a sharp knife at the Ritz-Carlton hotel in West Kowloon on June 29 and 30, 2022. Chow, known as "Aqua", was popular on social media and had...

- Laos banks on wind energy to power renewables push (2026-11-02 12:35)

Rising from verdant ridge lines of southern Laos, 133 Chinese-built wind turbines help power Vietnam's surging growth and represent part of a regional rush to diversify energy sources. "The view is beautiful. They're bigger than trees," 23-year-old Toukta Phonsala said inside her wooden stilt house in Dak Wai village, her baby bouncing on her lap. Hydroelectric dams have proliferated across Southeast Asia in recent years, but production drops off in the dry season and critics lament the...

- Finland and Norway's call to Putin tests European unity over Russia (2026-11-02 12:30)

When Finnish President Alexander Stubb and Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store called Russian President Vladimir Putin on October 27, they took an unusual diplomatic step at a time when direct high-level contact between European governments and Moscow has been limited. The call, initiated by the two Nordic leaders ahead of renewed peace negotiations, also drew criticism from Denmark over the lack of broader European coordination. The call did not signal a change in Finland or Norway's...

- Raising the bar: Taiwan trims draft exemptions to add thousands to armed forces (2026-11-02 12:19)

Taiwan is tightening its military service exemption rules in a sweeping overhaul expected to halve the exemption rate and add thousands of conscripts to the armed forces each year as the island grapples with persistent manpower shortages. Under the revised standards, which took effect last week, men will generally be exempt on weight grounds only if their body mass index (BMI) exceeds 45, while the height threshold for exemption has been lowered to 144cm (4.7 feet). Rules covering hypertension...

• As UN peacekeeping mission in Western Sahara ends, refugees cling to hopes of return (2026-11-02 12:15)

At 51, Binina Mohamed is as old as the conflict that drove her from the Western Sahara region into a refugee camp in southern Algeria, where she has spent her life among tens of thousands of others facing a similar fate. The confrontation over her native land, often described as Africa's longest-running territorial dispute, was brought back into focus this weekend by a UN Security Council row that led to the end of a decades-old peacekeeping mission there. The Western Sahara conflict pits...

• HKEX extends overnight derivatives trading as Hong Kong chases global market flow (2026-11-02 12:12)

Bourse operator Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing (HKEX) is taking a further step towards round-the-clock trading by pushing back the closing bell for its after-hours derivatives market by 75 minutes from next year, according to a statement released on Monday. The derivatives After-Hours Trading (AHT) session would extend to 4.15am from 3am, Hong Kong time, starting in March 2027, subject to regulatory approval and system readiness, according to HKEX. It added it was also considering a further...

• Hong Kong's first national security law convict among 4 released early, sources say (2026-11-02 11:52)

The first person convicted in Hong Kong under the Beijing-imposed national security law and three others jailed in related high-profile cases have been released early, the South China Morning Post has learned. Sources said Tong Ying-kit, who was sentenced in July 2021 to nine years in prison for inciting secession and engaging in terrorist activities, had been granted early release. The news emerged three years after Tong expressed regret in an official television documentary produced by the...

• Talks are the only way out, China tells Iran as US threat hangs over Middle East (2026-11-02 11:45)

China's top diplomat has again stressed the need for a political settlement to strife in the Middle East, telling a senior Iranian official in Beijing on Monday that armed conflict was not the way out. "As conflicts in the Middle East drag on and risk further spillover, dialogue and negotiation remain the only viable path forward," Wang Yi told Ali Bagheri Kani, deputy secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council. "All parties should ⋯ focus on a political settlement in a rational and...

• Meta says it met Hong Kong privacy watchdog over AI-enabled glasses concerns (2026-11-02 11:39)

Meta Platforms has confirmed it discussed privacy concerns surrounding smart glasses with Hong Kong's privacy watchdog, as the US tech giant's AI-enabled eyewear goes on sale in the city amid mounting international scrutiny. The company briefed Hong Kong media on Monday,

days after the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD) warned that smartglasses could enable covert recording, excessive collection of personal data, and the processingof sensitive information through...

• China's CXMT defends bet on risky new DRAM architecture to circumvent US chip curbs (2026-11-02 11:30)

Chinese memory chip giant ChangXin Memory Technologies (CXMT) is pressing ahead with an alternative chip architecture that US rival Micron Technology has chosen to bypass, highlighting an industry divide over how best to pack more data onto silicon under cost and geopolitical constraints. The Hefei-based company planned to send customers samples of its first server-grade dynamic random-access memory (DRAM) product built on the $4F^2$ architecture by the end of this year, according to a summary of...

• French school protests resume on smaller scale as holidays end (2026-11-02 11:13)

French student protests resumed on Monday on a much smaller scale than in past weeks as pupils returned from a two-week break, with youngsters trying to blockade a few high schools in Paris, Marseille and Rennes, French media reported. By 0830 GMT some 41 high schools – about 1 per cent of those nationwide – were blockaded, the Education Ministry said. Hundreds of France's more than 3,000 high schools were blockaded in the weeks before the break. The protests, which began in the Paris suburbs...

• Japan launches new national agency to boost disaster response (2026-11-02 10:47)

Japan on Monday launched a new national agency focused on disaster management with the goal of making the country better prepared should there be a megaquake along the Pacific coast or in Tokyo, or an eruption of Mount Fuji. More than 350 workers at the National Disaster Management Agency will oversee preparedness, emergency response and reconstruction efforts. The agency is not being created in anticipation of any specific calamity, but rather is meant to fill a gap amid worries about whether...

• Turkey signed US-led Artemis Accords. Its moon rovers will hitch a ride with China (2026-11-02 10:14)

Turkey has signed America's rule book for the moon, but its first ride to the lunar south pole – the icy region both Washington and Beijing are racing to reach – will probably come from China. A team of more than 120 students and professors at Middle East Technical University (METU) in Ankara has built prototypes of two AI-powered rovers for Chang'e-8, a Chinese mission originally planned for 2028. Turkey is not part of the International Lunar Research Station, a base China plans to build on the...

• Hong Kong police arrest man after hit-and-run at checkpoint sparks 10-hour hunt (2026-11-02 10:10)

Hong Kong police arrested a man on suspicion of furious driving after a 10-hour manhunt sparked by a hit-and-run crash at a cross-boundary checkpoint in the early hours of Monday. Police said a car hit a barrier gate at the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge checkpoint at 1.17am. The incident was classified as a damage-only traffic accident and a hit-and-run. Officers located the car near Hoi Wing Road in Tuen Mun's Castle Peak area at about 10.30am and gave chase, intercepting it on Hoi Wong Road at...

- Beijing doubles down on Type 071 amphibious warships, signalling a Taiwan focus (2026-11-02 10:06)

Beijing is accelerating production of its Type 071 amphibious transport docks by expanding construction to a second shipyard, potentially strengthening its ability to move troops and military equipment across the Taiwan Strait in a conflict. The expansion comes amid long-standing United States assessments that Beijing lacks enough landing ships and logistical support for a large-scale assault on Taiwan, suggesting the People's Liberation Army (PLA) may be moving to address a significant...

- How Hong Kong's fintech strategy is progressing – and where growth still lags (2026-11-02 10:00)

Hong Kong has touted rapid progress in the first year of its five-year fintech strategy, pledging to double down on artificial intelligence and tokenisation even as many initiatives face the challenge of achieving commercial scale. Tokenisation, for instance, had moved from the sandbox "into the real world", said Eddie Yue Wai-man, chief executive of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA), at the city's annual FinTech Week conference on Monday. Hong Kong had authorised 17 tokenised public funds...

- Millions in China moved by student who quit school to care for seriously ill mother (2026-11-02 09:55)

Millions of people in China were moved by the story of a secondary school graduate who put off university to care for her seriously ill mother – and of the classmates who donated their treasured collections to help her. Cao Feng, a graduating student at Yuwang Secondary School in central China's Anhui province, recently decided to give up her place at university so she could care for her mother, who is hospitalised in Shanghai. Cao's mother, Cuiping, 47, has generalised myasthenia gravis, a...

- India offers Asean counterterrorism lessons, but will one size fit all? (2026-11-02 09:38)

As India seeks to expand its security cooperation with Southeast Asia by sharing its battle-tested counterterrorism expertise, defence analysts say its experience would only partly meet Asean's needs given the differences in threat perception and domestic priorities. Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh made the offer at the Asean Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) in Cebu on Thursday. Citing Operation Sindoor as an example of India's counterterrorism capabilities, he offered to share...

• China and Oman unite in Mideast peace call on sultan’s ‘historic’ Beijing visit (2026-11-02 09:20)

China and Oman have called for a peaceful resolution and full ceasefire between the US and Iran, stressing that safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz must be restored. The call came during talks in Beijing on Monday between Chinese President Xi Jinping and Oman’s Sultan Haitham bin Tariq. In their joint statement, Beijing and Muscat encouraged the United States and Iran to resume dialogue and reach a “comprehensive agreement that includes the nuclear issue”. The two sides also affirmed that...

• Beijing launches US$15b asset swap to support China’s markets after sell-off (2026-11-02 09:15)

China’s central bank announced on Monday it would start a fresh round of a swap facility that would channel about US$15 billion into the struggling onshore stock market, after its worst monthly sell-off in a decade dealt a heavy blow to investor confidence and threatened to add new risks to the country’s financial system. The People’s Bank of China will start the one-year swap on Tuesday. The facility allowed institutional investors to exchange illiquid assets for liquid ones with the central...

• Beijing urges Hong Kong to bring in more governance talent with integrity, competence (2026-11-02 09:11)

Beijing’s office overseeing Hong Kong affairs has called on the city to improve its systems for nurturing, appointing and managing governance talent as a way to bring in more personnel with integrity and competence into the governing team. In a commentary, the theoretical study group of the State Council’s Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office (HKMAO) stressed that the city would only enjoy more room to open up and develop when national security was firmly safeguarded. It urged greater attention to...

• The Apec moment Hong Kong needs to seize (2026-11-02 08:30)

The first Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) forum finance ministers’ meeting to be held in Hong Kong focused on openness, cooperation and resilience. These themes go to the heart of a question confronting the city: as globalisation becomes more difficult and the rules and security boundaries governing international markets grow more complex, what can Hong Kong still offer cross-border commerce? Globalisation is not over. Capital still seeks opportunities overseas, while technology,...

• As BYD and Geely hit sales highs, pressure mounts on China’s smaller carmakers (2026-11-02 08:00)

China’s two largest carmakers, BYD and Geely Auto, recorded their strongest monthly sales of the year in October, bucking a downward trend in the world’s largest automotive market as smaller rivals come under increasing pressure to turn a profit. Shenzhen-based electric vehicle

(EV) giant BYD handed over 490,168 cars to customers at home and abroad last month, up 11per cent year on year, while Hangzhou-headquartered Geely delivered 310,183 petrol andelectric cars worldwide in the same period,...

• Japanese ex-adult film actress recalls ‘terror’ after alleged drugging in Hong Kong (2026-11-02 07:53)

Former Japanese adult film actress Mao Hamasaki has spoken out about the “terror” and “harm” of drugs after fighting for her life when she consumed a suspected spiked drink while performing as a disc jockey in Hong Kong on Sunday. Hamasaki, who is recovering in hospital, wrote in Japanese on her social media X account that she would be examined by a psychiatrist on Monday afternoon. “And if all goes well, I should be able to be discharged,” she said. “My consciousness is completely clear, and I...

• Tempers fray as thousands of Bangladeshi garment workers protest for pay rise (2026-11-02 07:29)

Thousands of Bangladeshi garment workers blocked a major highway and clashed with police on Monday, demanding a monthly minimum wage more than double their current pay, as protests spread across industrial hubs. The South Asian nation of 170 million people is the world’s second-biggest garment exporter behind China, manufacturing clothes for some of the largest international brands. Hundreds of workers in Gazipur, north of the capital Dhaka, blocked the Dhaka-Tangail highway, vandalising several...

• China touts AI milestone: models generate more tokens than used in training (2026-11-02 07:00)

For the first time, the amount of inference data generated by artificial intelligence systems in China has surpassed the amount of data used to train those systems, according to a new government-backed report, illustrating how the country is increasingly adopting AI at scale. The report released on Saturday by the China Centre for Information Industry Development (CCID), which operates under China’s Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT), cited recent official data showing that...

• China’s fifth plenum: everything you need to know from the war on corruption to promotions (2026-11-02 06:52)

We have put together stories from our coverage of China’s fifth plenum. If you would like to see more of our reporting, please consider subscribing. 1. ‘Unwritten rules’ become newest target in Communist Party’s war on corruption 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. 2. At China’s fifth plenum, Communist Party puts discipline and loyalty to Xi...

• Chinese start-up says it is developing country's first home-grown new-energy business jet (2026-11-02 06:51)

A newly established Chinese start-up is developing what it describes as the country's first home-grown new-energy business jet, adding to China's efforts to cut aviation emissions. Beijing Airlink Aircraft, a Chinese private aircraft manufacturer founded in March, unveiled scale models of two variants of its Belyn 100 series at the Nanchang Aviation Industry Expo on Saturday. The company said its core team was drawn mainly from Tsinghua University's School of Aerospace Engineering and China's...

• South Korea probes death of frontline soldier near North Korean border (2026-11-02 06:25)

A South Korean army staff sergeant died after suffering external injuries at a frontline unit in Cheorwon near the North Korean border on Monday morning, Seoul's Defence Ministry said. Military and civilian investigators were examining the exact cause and circumstances of his death, the ministry said. A unit member found the twenty-something staff sergeant collapsed with a severe head injury inside a building at about 7.15am and reported it, according to the Chosun Biz. The death comes amid...

• Iran warns new war with US could last longer as Trump threatens 'the hammer' (2026-11-02 05:58)

Iran warned on Sunday that any renewed war with the United States could last longer than the previous round of fighting, after US President Donald Trump said he still had to "take care" of more targets. Diplomatic efforts to end the Middle East war have been punctuated by repeated threats from the United States and Israel to resume bombardments as they hold crucial elections. "A potential future war could last longer than [the] previous conflict, and the American president would not be in a...

• Launch of global legal body's office in Hong Kong seals city's law hub status: John Lee (2026-11-02 05:48)

The opening of the first regional office of an international legal body in Hong Kong will cement the city's position as a global law hub, support its drive to attract global organisations and talent while deepening regional cooperation in legal issues, Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chiu has said. Lee's remarks came as the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (Unidroit), an independent intergovernmental body that aims to modernise and coordinate cross-border private law,...

• How South Korea can play pivotal role in Philippines' military modernisation drive (2026-11-02 05:41)

The Philippines' military modernisation drive could offer South Korea an opportunity to transform its role as a major arms supplier into a deeper defence partnership, analysts say. This prospect gained fresh momentum after Philippine Defence Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jnr and

his South Korean counterpart, Kang Shin-chul, agreed to deepen cooperation in militarymodernisation, defence technology and joint training on the sidelines of an Asean securitysummit in Cebu last week. Teodoro reaffirmed...

• New renovation body will draw legitimate contractors back to market, sector says (2026-11-02 05:31)

Hong Kong's new renovation monitoring body will encourage legitimate consultants and contractors previously plagued by intimidation from bid-rigging syndicates to return to the market, industry representatives have said, potentially lowering costs for homeowners in the long run. Renovation and construction sector players said on Monday that the new Building Maintenance Support and Services Council, headed by Financial Secretary Paul Chan Mo-po, would heighten scrutiny of the tendering process,...

• Elite path for China's returning students, CCP promotions: 5 weekend reads you missed (2026-11-02 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 narrows the path to elite official training scheme for overseas graduates 2. Are the latest party promotions a sign of a new political trend in China? 3. Soft power on display as China's first lady Peng Liyuan hosts German counterpart 4. Can Connie Chan become San Francisco's first...

• Malaysian police probe viral video of father slapping woman who allegedly hit his children (2026-11-02 04:32)

Malaysian police have launched an investigation into a fight at a shopping centre in Kuala Lumpur after a viral video showed a man slapping a woman who allegedly assaulted his two young children. While police have not officially identified the venue, social media users claim the incident took place at the Ombak KLCC shopping centre. The 35-second clip circulating on social media shows a heated argument between the pair after the man confronted the woman over her actions. The altercation turns...

• Police armed with assault rifles patrol Sydney in Australian first after Bondi attack (2026-11-02 04:20)

A new police unit armed with military assault rifles has begun patrolling the streets of Sydney, in an Australian-first measure set up in response to the Bondi Beach attack last December. The Armed Response Command (ARC) would deploy at major events, crowded public spaces, sporting venues and places of worship to conduct "high visibility" patrols, New South Wales state police said. The move comes after two men opened fire on a Jewish celebration at the famous beach, killing 15 people in an...

• To fly or not to fly: Chinese mechanic reports short-lived GE engine blades in Boeing 787 (2026-11-02 04:00)

A Chinese aviation specialist has reported that some high-pressure turbine blades in US-made GE Aerospace engines powering Boeing 787 aircraft have suffered unexpectedly early damage, leaving airlines with a difficult choice: replace the engines or continue flying under strict inspection requirements. The findings raise questions about the reliability of American aerospace products amid growing scrutiny of US manufacturing quality. According to the study, cracks can develop in some blades within...

• 2 cleaning firm executives charged for taking HK$75 million in bribes from supplier (2026-11-02 03:37)

Hong Kong’s corruption watchdog has charged two former senior executives of a Hong Kong-listed cleaning company with allegedly accepting more than HK$75 million (US$9.6 million) in bribes linked to the procurement of cleaning vehicles and their maintenance services. William Fung Chi-wang, 54, former director of Johnson Cleaning Services Company and former chief executive of its parent firm, and Jimmy Lee Sai-leung, 57, the company’s ex-general manager, were charged last Friday with one count of...

• China’s fifth plenum readout (2026-11-02 03:29)

This article is the official English translation of the original Chinese document released by Xinhua.

• Chinese scientists found giant ‘chimneys’ in deep water that could alter submarine warfare (2026-11-02 03:13)

Chinese researchers have mapped how energy from surface wind surges thousands of metres into the seabed, revealing massive underwater conduits they called “inertial chimneys”. The discovery, based on data collected by a US-funded ocean sensor array off the east coast of Japan, coupled with future long-term underwater monitoring, can provide underwater acoustic environmental support for marine detection and communication, the team said. The scientists from the Institute of Oceanology of the...

• Ex-Kissinger partner on how China, US can evolve together or die together (2026-11-02 03:05)

Joshua Cooper Ramo is chairman and CEO of Sornay, an investment and advisory firm. Previously he was CEO of Kissinger Associates. Ramo is the author of the new book Darwin’s Lock: America, China and the Shared Future of Nations. His 2004 analysis of “the Beijing consensus” contrasted the Western and Chinese economic development models. He is the author of two New York Times bestselling books and now lives in Shanghai with his family. For other interviews in the Open Questions series, click...

• Indian royals carve out new calling decades after losing their thrones (2026-11-02 03:01)

In a sprawling palace in western India, the “queen” or Maharani of Baroda welcomes guests with fragrant rose petals, presenting torchlit dances of Hindu myths. Dressed in glittering finery, Radhikaraje Gaekwad is a queen in name only, a modern businesswoman presiding over a world her ancestors once ruled. “The key has been that we have adapted,” the 48-year-old said in her vast Lakshmi Vilas Palace, describing how India’s former royals have found new roles, from cultural ambassadors to...

• Exhausted Chinese working mums book solo hotel stays to escape childcare and sleep (2026-11-02 02:25)

Across China, a growing number of middle-aged working mothers are quietly checking into hotel rooms alone, desperate to get a few hours of uninterrupted sleep. Caught between demanding daytime jobs and an exhausting “second shift” of housework and parenting, many women see these solo hotel stays as their only real escape, according to multiple mainland reports. One 34-year-old mother, who lives with her husband, in-laws, and kindergarten-age daughter, shared on RedNote that she had no personal...

• In South Korea, Lee’s overseas trips fuel familiar battle over presidential perks (2026-11-02 02:12)

President Lee Jae Myung’s overseas trips have again drawn attention to South Korea’s shifting political standards, adding to a familiar cycle of disputes over presidential golf and the presidential plane whenever power passes between conservative and liberal administrations. The controversies centre on taxpayer money and the public’s attitudes towards presidential privilege, with governing parties defending certain activities as necessary for diplomacy or official duties and the opposition...

• What can Cambridge teach Hong Kong about building university towns? (2026-11-02 02:00)

Strong government-industry partnership and interdisciplinary education are what make a university town financially viable and successful, the head of a University of Cambridge college has said, sharing the UK’s experience as Hong Kong develops its Northern Metropolis plan. In an interview with the South China Morning Post, Professor Girish Menon, president of Lucy Cavendish College, said Hong Kong’s cosmopolitan character made it “best placed” to place young people at the heart of its university...

• Apec China summit: from traffic curbs to tree planting, Shenzhen’s plans enter final phase (2026-11-02 02:00)

Construction workers have been working late into the night in downtown Shenzhen as the city makes its final preparations for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in two weeks’ time. On a weekday night, a South China Morning Post reporter saw at least 50 construction workers gathered at an intersection about 1km (just over half a mile) from the Apec venues in the central district of Futian, laying down pebbles and planting trees along the pavements. The main road that leads up to the...

• Heat director Michael Mann accidentally shoots self at gun range (2026-11-02 01:39)

Michael Mann, the acclaimed director of crime classics Heat and Collateral, accidentally shot himself at a gun range in Los Angeles, resulting in minor injuries, a statement released on Sunday said. “On Saturday, at a gun range, a weapon accidentally discharged while holstered resulting in a superficial injury to film director Michael Mann. He was treated and is being released,” a representative of the filmmaker said in a statement. The Los Angeles Police Department confirmed that they had...

• Why reforms alone won’t prevent a repeat of Tai Po fire (2026-11-02 01:30)

In the end, it was Winnie Ho Wing-yin, housing secretary at the time of the Wang Fuk Court fire in Tai Po, who took the rap. Her resignation came after weeks of talk within political circles suggesting that bureau chiefs would not have to bear responsibility for the tragedy that killed 168 people and displaced 1,984 families. These suggestions were met with shock. Some spoke out against such talk, including Andrew Fung Wai-kwong, former information coordinator for the Chief Executive’s Office,...

• Has Hong Kong’s IPO boom hit a wall – or is a year-end rush still to come? (2026-11-02 01:00)

Hong Kong’s initial public offering (IPO) momentum has cooled sharply in the fourth quarter amid market volatility and tighter regulatory scrutiny, but industry players say a year-end rush of listings could still help the city secure a top-three global ranking for 2026. The market has slowed significantly since October, with only three new listings, all of which closed below their offer prices on debut. Two other IPO candidates shelved their listings after completing procedures, testing Hong...

• North Korean hackers behind Japan’s massive GMO data leak, investigation finds (2026-11-02 00:58)

An analysis by Japan’s GMO Internet Group found that a North Korea-linked hacking group was likely behind the cyberattack on the company last month, sources close to the matter said, citing characteristics of the malware used and other traces left by the perpetrators. The company appears to have already reported the matter to the government and will now focus on determining the full circumstances. Kyodo News, working with security experts, also found that five IP addresses used to access a...

• Drug maker Rohto plans clinical trials in Hong Kong as OASES’ first Japan partner (2026-11-02 00:30)

Top university research, cross-border data exchanges and access to mainland China’s large market have attracted Japanese firm Rohto Pharmaceutical to conduct clinical trials in Hong Kong, making it the first company from the country to partner with the city’s government under a flagship investment initiative. Rohto, known for its over-the-counter eye care and

skincare products, is among the latest batch of 18 firms recruited by the Office for AttractingStrategic Enterprises (OASES), a...

• Will losing US midterms see Trump double down or signal beginning of the end? (2026-11-02 00:00)

Tuesday's US midterm election is both hugely consequential and not so consequential even as the world waits to see the American voters' verdict on Donald Trump's presidency – and the impact that verdict will have on his temperament, plans and possible petulant response, analysts and former government officials said. On the one hand, an expected strong showing by opposition Democrats could bring more Congressional scrutiny over some of the most unconventional, maximalist and disruptive policies...

• Humans vs AI art: why game studios hire Southeast Asian talent (2026-11-02 00:00)

Video game companies have long been at the vanguard of artificial intelligence, using it in its more nascent form to dictate non-player character behaviour, simulate crowds and adjust game difficulty on the fly years before the advent of chatbots like ChatGPT. Today, the technology is increasingly being deployed to write code, create visual assets and even synthesise real-time voice-overs, supplanting humans who would have otherwise done the work. Yet studios do still pay people to animate their...

• Hong Kong summit to test Wall Street sentiment amid geopolitical strains, tech volatility (2026-11-01 23:30)

When hundreds of global finance leaders converge in Hong Kong this week, the question on their minds will be whether traditional investment strategies remain viable against escalating geopolitical friction and the rapid ascent of artificial intelligence. Investors have been keen for an answer – or at least clear clues – given that US President Donald Trump has been threatening a new round of strikes on Iran, and after Friday's sharp sell-off in technology stocks elevated concerns about the...

• Joshua Cooper Ramo on whether the US can handle the stress test of China's rise (2026-11-01 22:00)

Joshua Cooper Ramo is chairman and CEO of Sornay, an investment and advisory firm. Previously he was CEO of Kissinger Associates. Ramo is the author of the new book Darwin's Lock: America, China and the Shared Future of Nations. His 2004 analysis of "the Beijing consensus" contrasted the Western and Chinese economic development models. He is the author of two New York Times best-selling books and now lives in Shanghai with his family. For other interviews in the Open Questions series, click...

• 9 dead after plane crashes near Trump's Florida home, erupting in a massive fireball (2026-11-01 21:31)

Nine people were killed on Sunday when the Learjet they were travelling in plummeted into a neighbourhood in southern Florida, just miles from US President Donald Trump's resort home of Mar-a-Lago, officials said. Several unverified clips depicting the deadly crash and posted to social media show an aircraft nearly vertical slamming at high speed into the ground and triggering a large fireball, leaving a flaming crater near a busy roadside. "Today's plane crash in Palm Beach County, Florida is a...

- Democratic divisions shake up pivotal Michigan Senate race as congresswoman breaks ranks (2026-11-01 21:00)

A Democratic congresswoman in Michigan broke ranks with her party on Sunday to endorse the Republican candidate in her state's key US Senate race against left-wing progressive candidate Abdul El-Sayed. In a startling display of party infighting just two days before the November 3 midterm election, Haley Stevens, who lost a bruising primary to El-Sayed in August despite being backed by the Democratic establishment, said she was endorsing Republican Mike Rogers. "This is a very close election, we...

- Binance sees spike in withdrawals as exchange returns online after US$6.3 billion hack (2026-11-01 19:53)

Binance customers pulled US$3.64 billion, or 2.1 per cent of its assets, as the world's biggest cryptocurrency exchange went back online on Sunday after hackers the FBI links to North Korea stole billions from the platform last week. Binance said withdrawals were stabilising after an initial spike and deposit volumes had remained "substantial". The exchange said it had now covered 95 per cent of the US$6.3 billion of stolen assets. The theft, which analysts believe may be the biggest financial...

- Bulgarian acting president Iliana Iotova wins run-off election, exit polls show (2026-11-01 19:14)

Bulgaria's acting president Iliana Iotova, who favours dialogue with Moscow and opposes military aid to Ukraine, won a presidential run-off vote on Sunday, exit polls showed. The vote took place amid security concerns in the European Union and Nato member following a series of drone attacks on commercial vessels in the Black Sea. The race for the largely ceremonial post pitted Iotova, an ally of Prime Minister Rumen Radev, against Andrey Gyurov, a banker and former caretaker prime minister...

- Longest truce of Ukraine war ends in Kherson region (2026-11-01 18:25)

The longest truce of the Ukraine war, brokered by US first lady Melania Trump and limited to just the Kherson region, ended on Sunday after Russia refused the offer of an extension, Ukrainian officials said. The rare pause in fighting, brokered by US first lady Melania Trump and which began early on Tuesday, enabled a humanitarian mission to the Russian-occupied city of Oleshky and came as the Ukraine war grinds through its fifth year. Neither side reported violations after the truce began, in...

• France opens ‘attempted murder’ probe over petrol bomb attacks on security forces (2026-11-01 18:01)

France on Sunday opened an attempted murder investigation after petrol bombs were thrown at security forces during Paris protests, as footage of an officer engulfed in flames sparked outrage. On Saturday, clashes erupted in Paris and other cities after hundreds of thousands of people staged a third weekend of protests against soaring living costs. The Paris police prefecture said several hundred rioters had attacked security forces with projectiles. While riots were less widespread than two...

• 6 dead, dozens injured in Halloween weekend gun violence across US (2026-11-01 17:02)

Dozens of people were injured and at least six people died in mass shootings as gun violence broke out at nightlife districts in half a dozen cities across the country over the Halloween weekend. Police in Dallas, the site of the deadliest violence, said four people were dead and 15 are injured following a handful of shootings in a Dallas neighbourhood, a centre of music, restaurants and nightlife in the city. Police in college towns such as Fayetteville, Arkansas; Birmingham, Alabama; and...

• Former Apple Daily publisher joins mainland China tour for rehabilitated offenders (2026-11-01 15:33)

A former publisher of the now-defunct Apple Daily newspaper has joined a Hong Kong government-organised mainland study tour for rehabilitated offenders, telling a state-owned broadcaster he felt “very proud” as a Chinese national after experiencing the country’s technological advances first-hand. Cheung Kim-hung, a key prosecution witness in former media boss and Apple Daily founder Jimmy Lai Chee-ying’s national security trial, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to collude with foreign or external...

• Communist Party pledges to reach deeper into China’s tech, digital platform sectors (2026-11-01 15:00)

China’s ruling Communist Party will step up “party building” across the country’s tech sector and deploy digital tools to fight corruption, according to a landmark document adopted at a key political plenum. These tools include a digital discipline inspection platform and a big-data supervision platform. The party will also crack down on corruption involving the internet, virtual currency, cross-border funds and blockchain technology, according to the document formally approved on Thursday at...

• Somali piracy resurges as Iranian vessel seized carrying 23 crew (2026-11-01 14:54)

Somali pirates have seized an Iranian fishing vessel carrying 23 people, the European Union’s Maritime Security Centre Indian Ocean (MSCIO) said, warning that the ship was approaching a commercial shipping lane and could become a floating base for further attacks. The Azini was hijacked on Thursday between the coastal towns of Bandar Bayla and Hafun in northeastern

Somalia, a maritime security officer with the Puntland Maritime Police Force said on Sunday.The officer said that 12 pirates seized...

- ‘Less than a minute’: Hong Kong travellers praise Japan’s new tax refund at airports (2026-11-01 14:43)

Hong Kong tour groups returning from Japan have praised a smooth roll-out of the country’s new tax refund arrangement that requires travellers to complete refund procedures at airports or ports rather than at shops. Under the “pay first, refund later” scheme, which took effect on Sunday to curb illicit domestic reselling and tax evasion, international tourists must now pay the 10 per cent consumption tax upfront at the counter. Travellers are now required to complete customs verification before...

- Could a midterm defeat tame Trump? Not on foreign policy, Chinese experts say (2026-11-01 14:00)

A potential lame-duck phase may not deter US President Donald Trump from pursuing more “transactional” or “risky” foreign policy moves after the midterm elections, Chinese experts warn, while casting doubt on expectations of a powerful Democratic wave. Amid a season of high-stakes contests that could reshape global politics, the US vote on Tuesday stands out. The election, which will determine who takes control of the US Congress, could result in Trump and his fellow Republicans no longer...

- China’s Xi says strict party governance has positive impact, does not stifle growth (2026-11-01 13:47)

Chinese President Xi Jinping has mounted a direct defence of the campaign for strong Communist Party governance and internal discipline, describing them as a “fundamental guarantee” for China’s rise and warning against any easing of scrutiny, according to state media. Xi took the floor as the party’s 20th Central Committee closed its fifth plenum on Thursday, to directly address the scepticism over the sweeping campaign, state news agency Xinhua reported on Sunday. According to “side notes”...

- Bhutan builds 108 stupas for mindfulness city in tourism push (2026-11-01 13:30)

Tens of thousands of volunteers helped raise 108 Buddhist stupas in Bhutan on Sunday, marking the Himalayan kingdom’s ambitious plans for a “mindfulness” city aimed at driving economic growth. The 15-metre tall solid towers – sacred Buddhist monuments found across the Himalayas – stretch along 12 kilometres (7.5 miles) of riverbank near the Indian border, at the site of the future Gelephu Mindfulness City. More than 40,000 volunteers took part in building the structures as “a physical form of...

- Clarify crime thresholds and immunity in bid-rigging law: Hong Kong Bar Association (2026-11-01 12:36)

The Hong Kong Bar Association has called on the government to clearly define criminal thresholds and resolve whistle-blower immunity rules under its plan to outlaw bid-rigging following the deadly Tai Po inferno. A task force formed by the association, which represents the city's barristers, spent 10 months reviewing four key areas of law and released a 140-page report on Sunday in the hope of providing direction to address the shortcomings that led to the deadly Wang Fuk Court blaze last...

• Washington's unending vendetta against Cuba (2026-11-01 12:30)

Last week, the United Nations General Assembly called for the 34th time for an end to the US embargo on Cuba. The resolution passed by 130 votes to 17, with 25 abstentions. It came as Cuba struggles with a severe energy crisis, mainly caused by a US fuel embargo, imposed after the abduction of Venezuela's president to New York. The energy blockade is only the latest of America's crimes against the Cuban people. Sergio Vigoa de la Uz, Cuba's ambassador to Namibia, laid out the human costs of US...

• High Court redevelopment plan 'not workable', Hong Kong Bar Association warns (2026-11-01 12:05)

The Hong Kong Bar Association has warned that a proposed phased redevelopment of the High Court, which could span more than a decade, is "not workable" and risks deterring legal practitioners from joining the bench. The association, the professional body for barristers, urged the government to consider faster alternatives, such as repurposing the existing District Court building. In an exclusive interview with the South China Morning Post on Sunday, association chairman Jose-Antonio Maurellet SC...

• US first lady Melania Trump unlikely to travel to Apec summit in China (2026-11-01 12:00)

US first lady Melania Trump is unlikely to travel to China with the president for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Shenzhen this month. "First lady Melania Trump is not scheduled to attend the events in person," her office said in response to a query about her travel plans. President Donald Trump is scheduled to visit the Philippines for this year's Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit before travelling to the November 18-19 Apec event, where he will meet his Chinese...

• Self-improving AI the key step towards AGI but safety is key: Z.ai founder (2026-11-01 12:00)

Using artificial intelligence to build even smarter systems will make artificial general intelligence (AGI) more achievable, though it would need to be done safely, leading Chinese computer scientist Tang Jie said at an event in Shanghai on Saturday. The remarks underscore how AI companies in the US and China are both chasing the holy grail of recursive self-improvement (RSI), where increasingly powerful AI systems also become better at improving themselves in an ever-accelerating...

• Big Apple vs Pearl of the Orient? How higher taxes in New York may open door for Hong Kong (2026-11-01 12:00)

On November 4 last year, Zohran Mamdani won the New York mayoral election on a promise to make the city more affordable, with expanded social programmes funded in part by raising taxes on the city's wealthiest residents and most profitable corporations. Nearly a year since his upset victory, he has secured one major piece of that agenda: a surcharge on high-end second homes. He also continues to push for higher corporate and income taxes. The proposals have intensified criticism of Mamdani, a...

• US-Iran talks: UAE 'braced for the worst', hoping for diplomacy (2026-11-01 11:35)

The UAE is hoping for a breakthrough in negotiations between Iran and the United States while being prepared for the worst, a senior official said on Sunday, following threats of a resumption of the Middle East war. "We're hoping that there is a diplomatic breakthrough," diplomatic adviser to the UAE president Anwar Gargash said during a conference in Manama, Bahrain. "It is not the interest of the region to go through another round … But I think we're also, as we've shown before, braced for the...

• How could a single gene-editing injection treat inherited eye diseases? (2026-11-01 11:00)

In the third of a four-part Health Matters wellness series on frontier medicine in Hong Kong, Fiona Sun examines how a local start-up is testing a gene-editing therapy that could tackle a group of inherited eye diseases at their genetic source and what it will take to turn it into a treatment patients can access. For 15 years, Professor Zheng Zongli has worked to make gene-editing therapies safe enough to treat diseases with limited treatment options. His path has taken him from a PhD in medical...

• Indian opposition unites to demand Modi electoral chief's resignation (2026-11-01 10:13)

Thousands protested in Delhi on Sunday to demand the resignation of India's election chief over a revision of voter lists, the latest in more than a month of opposition demonstrations challenging Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Led by Congress party chief Rahul Gandhi, Sunday's protesters say the controversial revision benefits Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party. Analysts say the protests and growing support for the opposition form the worst crisis for Modi since he came to power in...

• DeepSeek unveils AI 'super agent' in coding race with OpenAI, Anthropic (2026-11-01 10:00)

Chinese artificial intelligence start-up DeepSeek has previewed a plan for a more autonomous AI agent that can handle multiple tasks with minimal human intervention, as it steps up competition with US rivals OpenAI and Anthropic in developing coding assistants. The proposed system, dubbed super agent, aimed to reduce the need for humans to coordinate multiple AI agents and monitor their progress, addressing a key bottleneck in managing today's increasingly complex workflows, according to a...

• At 97, China’s first female conductor still performs in public, wowing audiences (2026-11-01 10:00)

China’s first female conductor, Zheng Xiaoying, is 97 years old, but she continues to give outstanding performances to audiences. In August, the nonagenarian conducted the Chinese-language version of the opera Carmen in Xiamen, in southeastern China’s Fujian province, where she lives. Tickets for the performance were like gold dust, and audiences marvelled, as always, at her elegant, expressive conducting. Zheng has led a remarkable life. Born in Shanghai in 1929, she began studying piano at age...

• From rifles to radar: China upgrades its African arms trade as Russia and the West retreat (2026-11-01 10:00)

For decades, China has supplied African militaries with small arms and land-based equipment such as armoured vehicles, trucks and artillery. Now, it is selling them more specialised weapons, including armed drones and electronic warfare systems. Analysts noted that China’s African arms sales were shifting qualitatively to air-defence systems, armed drones and electronic warfare gear once dominated by Russia and the West. In April, four vehicles identified by defence analysis group Janes as...

• Turkey moves Kurdish militant leader as part of peace process (2026-11-01 09:45)

Turkey has moved the country’s Kurdish militant leader to a newly built part of an island prison where he has been incarcerated since 1999 as part of efforts to end decades of conflict, a senior Kurdish official said. Improving prison conditions for Abdullah Ocalan, who heads the Kurdistan Workers’ Party, or PKK, has been a key Kurdish demand in the push to end the 42-year-long conflict between the militant group and Turkish authorities. Ocalan has been imprisoned in a penitentiary on the island...

• El Nino, weak monsoon behind Hong Kong’s warmest October in 142 years (2026-11-01 09:15)

Hong Kong sweltered through its warmest October on record, as an extremely strong El Nino, a weak northeast monsoon and a persistent anticyclone aloft over southern China combined to drive temperatures to unprecedented levels, the weather forecaster has said. The Observatory forecaster said on Sunday that the mean maximum temperature for October was 30.5 degrees Celsius (86.9 Fahrenheit), the mean temperature 27.6 degrees and the mean minimum 25.8 degrees – all the highest for any October since...

• China’s global initiatives offer ray of hope in a turbulent world (2026-11-01 08:30)

The 2026 Global Governance Forum in Xiongan, Hebei province, wrapped up on October 25. Against a backdrop of acute strains on multilateralism and a widening global governance deficit, the forum galvanised a shared sense of urgency across the international community for reform and solidarity. More than a century ago, Karl Marx noted that, “Philosophers have hitherto

only interpreted the world in various ways; the point is to change it.” That insight strikes at thevery heart of today’s global...

• Armour vs altitude: India’s light tank dilemma along China border (2026-11-01 08:00)

India’s new high-altitude combat tank was designed to go where its heavier armoured fighting vehicles cannot: the thin mountain air, narrow roads and small bridges along its disputed border with China. In its base configuration, the Zorawar weighs some 25 tonnes – light enough to be flown all the way to the Line of Actual Control – but a push to make it strong enough to withstand high-calibre autocannon fire could add an extra seven tonnes to that loadout. Reports of renewed stand-offs between...

• Beijing ramps up maritime patrols around Taiwan, prompting Taipei to shadow ships (2026-11-01 07:32)

Beijing has stepped up its maritime presence around Taiwan, deploying coastguard patrols from the island’s eastern approaches to waters near Quemoy and remote Dongsha Island. China Coast Guard spokesman Jiang Lue said that a formation led by the vessel Hushi had carried out routine law enforcement patrols east of Taiwan on Saturday to reinforce administrative control and safeguard maritime navigation. “Since October, the Hushi task group has been strengthening control over the relevant waters to...

• As US midterms near, Trump administration ramps up rhetoric with bigoted, racist memes (2026-11-01 07:11)

The Trump administration’s online accounts are circulating images of a pumpkin carved with a sombrero design and a fake Halloween-themed background around a black man apparently accused of food assistance fraud, in social media posts slammed by critics as inflammatory rhetoric. Only days before the midterm election, the posts coincide with the government’s sweeping campaign to show its aggressive immigration enforcement and highlight efforts to crack down on fraud to save taxpayers money when...

• Malaysia’s Loke decries school dinner alcohol claims as political attack (2026-11-01 07:00)

Malaysian Transport Minister Anthony Loke Siew Fook has dismissed a recent claim on social media that students were forced to serve alcohol at an old boys’ association reunion and centenary dinner, calling the allegations a politically motivated attack against him. The DAP secretary general, who is also a former student of St Paul’s Institution, claimed the individual who allegedly uploaded the post had been looking for every possible opportunity to attack him. “In the social media post, the...

• No guarantee building contractor lists can be ‘100% clean’: Chris Tang (2026-11-01 06:49)

Hong Kong’s security chief has conceded that keeping pre-qualified lists of building repair contractors completely free of criminal elements will be challenging, even with a new

government measure to combat bid-rigging through background vetting by enforcementagencies. Speaking in two televised interviews on Sunday about the administration's responseto a report on the deadly Tai Po fire – which found the Fire Services Department boreresponsibility alongside three other government bodies –...

- 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. The expansion 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 ruling said 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 brokeout 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 currently plan" 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. Theywere seeking a new crop of “bridge builders” like Henry Kissinger, the former US secretary ofstate 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 the Journal 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 nationalpower. The coastal state south of Kuala Lumpur heads to the polls on November 14, handingthe 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 founderand 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 ofpolice guarded the entrance to the court as followers of the opposition right-wing Law andJustice party (PiS) protested against the ousting of constitutional court president BogdanSwieczkowski. 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 troops into 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 thescope of work of the Building Maintenance Support and Services Council, which will beestablished 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 anew leadership line-up for both the party and military. The party wrapped up its fifth plenum ofthe 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 alternative fuels. 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-air flip 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 thatAlbanese 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 VladimirPutin 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 unless officials 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 her husband's parents and elderly aunt, deliberately lacing their beef Wellington meal with highly toxic 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 AIis particularly good at breaking down difficult concepts into child-friendly terms. “It has helpedher 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 and certification 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 newsagency 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. Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chiu said on Thursday that the Housing Bureau would undergo internal restructuring, under which the ICU would be replaced by a new Public Housing Building Control Section. 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 onthe fatal Tai Po blaze. The regulatory overhaul on bid-rigging was announced on Thursday, asthe government released the long-anticipated report of the independent committeeinvestigating 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 Transboundary Haze in Malaysia”, was conducted for the Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers (FMM), as reported 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 Zhoudynasty (1046–256 BC). On the first day of school, students wore blue gowns and brought theirteachers wild vegetables they had gathered themselves. They then bowed reverently beforememorial 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 as Indonesia, 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 onThursday 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 increasingly become 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's Eastern District Court, including racketeering conspiracy, bank fraud, wire fraud and trade secret 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, 2001terrorist 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 as they 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 intothe regional environmental crisis that has caused air quality to dip to “very unhealthy” levelsearlier this month. Deputy Prime Minister Gan Kim Yong, Senior Minister K Shanmugam andMinister 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 undercross-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 be 11pm to 2am across the three nights from Friday to Sunday. He urged residents and visitors to avoid 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 21,000 whole flats had been registered for the three-year grace period since applications opened in March 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’seducation, science and technology, healthcare, and women and children’s affairs.” Liu wasvice-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 for Medical 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 thecommon understandings between the two sides,” Chinese foreign ministry spokesman GuoJiakun said at a daily media briefing on Monday. China “strictly abides by the relevantagreements”, 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 exitpolls 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’s struggling industry. In the week of November 23, top European Union economy officials led by director general Maarten Verwey will sit down in Beijing for a “macroeconomic dialogue” with their 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. TheAssociation 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 could reflect Beijing’s efforts to broaden the talent selection criteria for some senior roles, allowing specialists to take on important generalist positions. Mo – director of the State Council Information 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 theisland of New Providence to welcome him. The Bahamian police and armed forces strode out togreet Charles in lockstep, some wearing pith helmets. Charles stepped out in a light grey suitand 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 thewar 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 on Tuesday. "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 analystswarning the move risks making Manila appear weak and reactive. Dela Rosa, who served asnational police chief under former president Rodrigo Duterte, faces an International CriminalCourt (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 in mainland China fell 25 to 30 per cent in the third quarter from a year earlier, while revenue in Asia-Pacific markets outside mainland China and Oceania dropped 65 to 70 per cent, according to 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 men and women aged 25 to 69 between July and August. Across all age brackets, the overall uptake stood 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 acontradictory account, saying it had launched an investigation into the Jordanian attacks, andstressed 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 Marcos administration's handling of the maritime dispute with China, even as nearly three in four favour 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 thejunta. 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 thecouncil, would allow different types of drones to autonomously divide tasks, plan routes andcoordinate their movements while providing wide-area, persistent surveillance for coastguardoperations. 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 a missile 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...

Source: The Diplomat China

• The 5th Plenum and the CCP's Dark Warning to the Unfaithful (2026-11-02 18:57)

14 years later, the Chinese Communist Party is still carrying out the relentless anti-corruption crusade that has become the signature program of Xi Jinping's rule.

• China's AI Data Centers Move West, But Their Tax Revenue Stays East (2026-11-02 15:37)

If nothing changes, cities like Ulanqab will struggle to turn their computing boom into a real development advantage.

• 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

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.