



CHINA SECURITY ANALYSIS REPORT

AI-Assisted Open Source Intelligence Assessment

Analysis Period: May 17, 2026 - May 24, 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 May 17-24, 2026, China's security landscape was dominated by high-level diplomatic engagements, persistent regional tensions, and evolving cybersecurity challenges. The state visits of both US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin to Beijing underscored China's pivotal role in global geopolitics, aiming to foster "strategic stability" with the US while deepening its "comprehensive strategic partnership" with Russia. Concurrently, military activities around Taiwan and escalating maritime friction in the South China Sea with the Philippines highlighted ongoing flashpoints, prompting warnings of regional instability. Domestically, China continued to bolster its cybersecurity framework with new amendments to its Cybersecurity Law, alongside reports of state-sponsored cyber and intelligence operations targeting foreign entities. These developments collectively signal China's assertive pursuit of its strategic interests amidst a complex and increasingly fragmented international order.

Key Security Developments

- High-Level Diplomatic Engagements with the US

US President Donald Trump conducted a state visit to China from May 13-15, with subsequent analyses and readouts extending into this reporting period. During the visit, President Xi Jinping and President Trump agreed on a new vision for building a "constructive bilateral relationship of strategic stability" based on fairness and reciprocity. Discussions covered critical issues including the denuclearization of North Korea, the Iran conflict, and bilateral trade, with China confirming a Boeing aircraft deal and agreeing to significant agricultural purchases. This engagement aimed to manage competition and resolve differences through dialogue, though differing interpretations of "strategic stability" between Washington and Beijing were noted.

- Deepening Strategic Partnership with Russia

Russian President Vladimir Putin paid a state visit to China from May 19-20, following closely on the heels of Trump's visit. The leaders reaffirmed their close ties, with Xi welcoming Putin with a ceremony at the Great Hall of the People. The visit emphasized energy cooperation and geopolitical alignment, with both nations advocating for a "multipolar world" and a "new type of international relations". They agreed to extend the China-Russia friendship treaty, first signed in 2001, highlighting the long-term nature of their strategic coordination.

- Continued Military Activities Around Taiwan

Taiwan's Premier Cho Jung-tai stated on May 19 that China's ongoing military activities are the "greatest source of regional unease and instability". The Chinese navy announced on May 19 that a carrier task group, led by the Liaoning, had been sent to the "relevant waters" of the Western Pacific for live firing and other drills to enhance combat capabilities. Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs firmly rejected Chinese President Xi Jinping's assertion that Taiwan independence is incompatible with peace, citing Beijing's military operations as the source of instability.

- US Stance on Taiwan Arms Sales and Aid Pause

US President Donald Trump suggested on May 15 that US arms sales to Taiwan could be used as a "negotiating chip" with China, while also cautioning Taiwan against seeking independence. This statement contradicted the spirit of the Taiwan Relations Act, which mandates arms sales for Taiwan's self-defense. Furthermore, Acting Secretary of the US Navy Hung Cao stated on May 21 that the United States paused a \$14 billion weapons purchase to Taiwan to ensure sufficient munitions for US operations in the Middle East.

- Escalating Maritime Friction in the South China Sea

The South China Sea witnessed a noticeable rise in maritime friction, primarily driven by the Philippines' assertive actions. Philippine forces reported tracking 35 Chinese vessels between May 4 and 11 across key areas, including 17 near Huangyan Dao (Scarborough Shoal), comprising China Coast Guard and People's Liberation Army Navy vessels. On May 14, Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff General Romeo Brawner warned of facing "political war, economic war, and information war" in the South China Sea, urging a "wartime mindset". These developments occurred amidst the ongoing Balikatan 2026 exercises involving the US and Philippines.

- Enhanced Cybersecurity Law and AI Governance

China's amended Cybersecurity Law, effective January 1, 2026, has significantly tightened compliance obligations and expanded extraterritorial reach. The amendments substantially increase penalties for serious violations, with fines up to RMB 10 million for organizations and RMB 1 million for individuals. For the first time, artificial intelligence is explicitly addressed, emphasizing state support for AI development while strengthening AI ethics governance and safety oversight.

- Chinese State-Sponsored Cyber and Intelligence Operations

US officials traveling with President Trump to China were warned of serious cybersecurity risks, with reports suggesting a potential breach. China-based state actors routinely target foreign government devices and communications. Additionally, Chinese state-sponsored cyber actors reportedly targeted Azerbaijan infrastructure during 2026. Chinese intelligence operations were also reported to target the US House Committee on the CCP through aide recruitment and female infiltration of

American elite circles.

- Crackdown on Illegal Cross-Border Securities Activities

On May 22, China launched a crackdown on cross-border activities illegally channeling domestic money into overseas securities, futures, and fund products. This campaign targets overseas firms operating in China without approval and their domestic partners, imposing a two-year grace period for winding down existing illegal operations. This move is part of a broader effort to safeguard financial market order and protect investor rights.

- Military Modernization and Joint Force Drills

China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) formally launched its 2026 military training cycle earlier in the year, conducting system-wide exercises that brought together air, naval, ground, and rocket forces. These drills were designed to test rapid deployment, joint integration, and command coordination using advanced platforms like J-20 stealth fighters, Type 055 guided missile destroyers, and DF-17 hypersonic missiles. The appearance of the DF-17 in routine training signals its integration into regular Rocket Force combat preparation.

Geopolitical Impact and Regional Dynamics

The diplomatic flurry in Beijing, hosting both US President Trump and Russian President Putin within days, highlights China's assertive and increasingly central role in shaping the global strategic landscape. The Sino-US summit aimed to establish "constructive strategic stability," a concept China defines as cooperation-centric with manageable differences, reflecting Beijing's desire to stabilize relations with Washington amidst ongoing competition. However, the differing interpretations of this "strategic stability" - with the US focusing on transactional wins and China on a broader doctrine - suggest that underlying tensions, particularly concerning Taiwan and trade, remain unresolved and could lead to future friction. The US's consideration of using Taiwan arms sales as a "negotiating chip" further complicates regional security, potentially eroding trust among allies and emboldening China.

Simultaneously, the Sino-Russian summit underscored a deepening "comprehensive strategic partnership" rooted in shared opposition to Western dominance and a vision for a "multipolar world". This alignment provides Russia with economic resilience and geopolitical relevance amid Western sanctions, while securing China's northern frontier and offering a counterweight to perceived encirclement. However, the partnership is not limitless, with China wary of excessive dependence on Russian energy and keen to maintain strategic autonomy to pursue its broader global ambitions. This strategic duo, while presenting a united front against the existing international order, operates on pragmatic alignment rather than a full alliance.

Regionally, tensions in the Taiwan Strait and South China Sea remain elevated. China's continued military exercises, including carrier group deployments, are viewed by Taiwan as the primary source of instability, reinforcing the island's resolve against unification. The Philippines' increasingly assertive stance in the South China Sea, coupled with its adoption of a "wartime mindset" and tracking of numerous Chinese vessels near disputed features like Huangyan Dao, indicates a heightened risk of confrontation. These maritime provocations, occurring alongside major US-Philippines military exercises (Balikatan 2026), demonstrate a dangerous cycle of action and reaction that could destabilize the entire Indo-Pacific region and draw in external powers.

Military and Defense Analysis

China's military posture continues to reflect a strong emphasis on modernization and the development of advanced capabilities for joint force warfare. The launch of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) 2026 military training cycle earlier in the year, featuring system-wide exercises with J-20 stealth fighters, Type 055 guided missile destroyers, and DF-17 hypersonic missiles, demonstrates Beijing's commitment to rapid deployment, joint integration, and command coordination. The inclusion of the DF-17 hypersonic missile in routine training, rather than just parades, signifies its operational maturity and integration into the PLA Rocket Force's combat readiness, posing a significant threat to high-value targets across the Western Pacific.

Naval power projection remains a key focus, as evidenced by the deployment of the Liaoning aircraft carrier task group to the Western Pacific for live-firing and other drills. This routine training aims to enhance the navy's realistic combat capabilities and signals China's growing ability to operate and project power beyond its immediate coastal waters. These naval activities, particularly around Taiwan and in the South China Sea, serve both as a deterrent and a demonstration of force, underscoring China's territorial claims and its capacity to enforce them. Defense spending trends are likely to continue their upward trajectory to support these modernization programs, focusing on indigenous development of advanced weaponry and dual-use technologies.

The ongoing tensions in the South China Sea, with the tracking of Chinese vessels near disputed features and the Philippines' "wartime mindset," highlight the operational readiness of the PLA Navy and China Coast Guard. While specific defense acquisitions during this reporting period were not detailed, the continuous development and integration of advanced platforms like the Type 055 destroyers and unmanned systems indicate a sustained effort to build a technologically superior and integrated fighting force. This modernization is not merely quantitative but qualitative, aiming to achieve informationized warfare capabilities and enhance

China's ability to conduct complex, multi-domain operations.

Outlook and Forecast

Short-term trends (1-3 months): In the immediate future, China's diplomatic efforts will likely continue to balance engagement with major powers while asserting its core interests. Following the high-profile summits, Beijing will focus on implementing the agreed-upon trade deals with the US and further solidifying economic and energy ties with Russia. Regional tensions, particularly in the Taiwan Strait and South China Sea, are expected to remain elevated. China will likely continue its military presence and exercises around Taiwan, especially in response to any perceived provocations or further US arms sales discussions. In the South China Sea, maritime encounters with the Philippines could intensify, as Manila appears committed to a more assertive stance. Cybersecurity will remain a critical domain, with China's new Cybersecurity Law amendments leading to stricter enforcement and potential extraterritorial implications for foreign entities.

Critical flashpoints and risk areas: The Taiwan Strait remains the most critical flashpoint. Any miscalculation or escalation stemming from military exercises, diplomatic rhetoric, or changes in US policy regarding Taiwan's defense could rapidly destabilize the region. The South China Sea, particularly around disputed features like Huangyan Dao (Scarborough Shoal) and Ren'ai Jiao (Second Thomas Shoal), is another high-risk area where frequent encounters between Chinese and Philippine vessels could lead to unintended clashes. The ongoing US-Iran conflict and its impact on global energy supplies, which China relies on, also presents a geopolitical risk that could indirectly affect China's strategic calculations and its diplomatic efforts in the Middle East.

Indicators to monitor: Key indicators to monitor include the frequency and scale of PLA military exercises around Taiwan and in the South China Sea, particularly any live-fire drills or incursions across the median line. Observe the rhetoric and actions from both Beijing and Taipei regarding cross-strait relations, and any further statements or actions from the US regarding arms sales to Taiwan. In the South China Sea, monitor reports of maritime incidents, particularly near disputed features, and the nature of diplomatic exchanges between China and the Philippines. Also, track the implementation and enforcement of China's amended Cybersecurity Law, especially its impact on foreign companies and any reported state-sponsored cyber incidents. Finally, watch for any new developments in Sino-US trade relations and the extent of China's economic and military support for Russia.

Strategic recommendations: To mitigate risks, China should prioritize clear and consistent communication channels with the US and regional neighbors to prevent

miscalculation, particularly in maritime and air domains. While asserting sovereignty, Beijing could explore de-escalation mechanisms in the South China Sea to reduce the likelihood of accidental conflict. Domestically, continued investment in cybersecurity defenses and intelligence counter-intelligence capabilities is crucial to protect critical infrastructure and national security interests. Internationally, China should leverage its diplomatic influence to promote regional stability and address global challenges, such as the Middle East conflict, in a manner that enhances its image as a responsible major power.

Structured Assessment

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## ANNEX: COLLECTED ARTICLES BY SOURCE

### Source: BBC China

- [At least 82 killed in Chinese coal mine explosion](#) (2026-05-23 15:18)

The blast in Shanxi province constitutes the country's worst mining disaster in 16 years.

- [Watch: Did Trump and Putin get the same treatment in China?](#) (2026-05-20 12:44)

Chinese President Xi Jinping welcomed Russia's Vladimir Putin with a near-identical ceremony to Trump's last week.

- [Xi basks in spotlight as he hosts Putin days after Trump](#) (2026-05-20 11:42)

Two presidential visits days apart is how Xi Jinping wants the world to see him: talking to everyone, tied to no-one.

- [China confirms it will buy 200 Boeing jets after Trump-Xi summit](#) (2026-05-20 04:59)

The two sides will also work towards an extension to the tariffs truce they agreed in October, China's Commerce Ministry said.

- [Are Putin and Xi best friends? BBC breaks down their relationship](#) (2026-05-19 23:51)

Laura Bicker and Steven Rosenberg explain the relationship between the leaders as the pair meet in Beijing.

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### Source: China Defense Blog

- [Boring PLA Logistics of the Day: A New Armored Troop Transport](#) (2026-05-24 04:05)

Most modern 6×6 military trucks across basically every major army (yes, I am looking at you, Russian Armed Forces) is still relying on canvas covers for the troop compartment. And sure, there are all the usual arguments: canvas is lighter, cheaper, modular, easier to repair, easier to transport, and generally more practical than a rigid metal roof. Canvas isn't a relic; it's a logistics

- [The rumored Chinese Expeditionary Mobile Base \(ESB\) Vessel is finally unveiled.](#)

(2026-05-22 04:05)

Well, there it is at last — the long rumored Chinese Expeditionary Mobile Base (ESB) finally crawls out of the shadows. China State Shipbuilding Corporation has now blessed us with an official photo of the civilian version of its ESB concept. And, shock of shocks, it's built on a civilian bulk carrier hull, roughly 10,000 tons (link), which tracks perfectly with the earlier rumors on the

- [Boring logistics of the day: Jerry Can The Next Generation.](#) (2026-05-22 00:21)

Much has written about how the humble Jerry Can that kept half of WWII logistics running. China, being a country roughly the size of a small continent, also cares deeply about its POL (Petroleum, Oils, and Lubricants) pipeline. Which brings us to today's blog topic: "Flexible Oil Bladder" 软体油囊 Below is a Central China TV segment from a recent exercise, where troops resupply a stranded truck

- [Photo of the day: PL-17 Beyond-visual-range missile mounted on J-11BG](#) (2026-05-21 03:43)

Ha — PL 15 is practically vintage at this point, so 2025. The new PL 17 BVRAAM, the follow on to the PL 15 that grabbed international headlines on May 7th, 2025, is now moving into the integration phase. And it's not just for the shiny new J 16s and J 20s, the PLA is already retrofitting it onto older airframes like the J 11, which says a lot about how central this missile is becoming to their

- [QL550: China's Sci Fi Looking Lightweight AFV — Built Not for armored protection, but for the Y 9's Cargo Bay](#) (2026-05-19 02:02)

Every once in a while, NORINCO produces a vehicle that makes you pause and say: “Hmmm, that actually looks cool.” The Wheeled QL550 light weight IFV is one of them. Trust there are ugly looking NORINCO produces out there. The QL550 wheeled armored vehicle with its sharp, angular hull and turret options that look like they were borrowed from a near future sci fi shooter, it's easily one

- [Any day now — any day — the Chinese military will finally enter the 20th century in communications technology.](#) (2026-05-17 21:52)

A recent Central China TV (CCTV) segment from Kunming, Yunnan proudly showcasing one of the PLA Logistics Support Force's “modern” communication solutions: homing pigeons. Yes, carrier pigeons. In 2026. As a key node in battlefield communications. It's almost poetic. Over the last few years, we've witnessed the PLA modernize at breakneck speed or at least their version of modernization. First came

**Source: China | The Guardian**

- [Angus Taylor’ s claim support is a ‘privilege of citizenship’ leaves Deepa and others with an impossible choice](#) (2026-05-23 20:00)

Opposition leader’ s view that only Australians should get access to welfare leaves some facing the prospect of giving up their homeland citizenship Get our breaking news email, free app or daily news podcast When Deepa Chaudhary’ s newborn slept, she used the time to find out what support she could get as a permanent resident in Australia. The answer was: not very much. Chaudhary moved here from India four years ago and worked until her baby was born in January last year. She describes the stress and mental health issues of being a new mother in Australia. Continue reading...

- [China mine explosion: death toll leaps to more than 80 after gas blast](#) (2026-05-23 05:58)

Xi Jinping urges authorities to ‘spare no effort’ in rescue efforts after blast at mine in northern Shanxi province The death toll from a gas explosion at a coalmine in northern China’ s Shanxi province has risen to at least 82, state media Xinhua reported on Saturday, with nine people still missing. The gas explosion happened late on Friday at the Liushenyu coalmine in Qinyuan county, while 247 workers were underground, Xinhua reported. Initial reports said eight people had been killed, while more than 200 people had been brought safely to the surface. Continue reading...

- [US arms sales to Taiwan on ‘pause’ due to Iran war, says acting navy chief](#) (2026-05-22 09:08)

Hung Cao’ s comments are latest blow to Taipei after Donald Trump recently cast doubt over US’ s enduring support US arms sales to Taiwan have been “paused” to ensure the US military has enough munitions for its Iran operations, according to Washington’ s acting navy secretary, in the latest blow to Taipei after a series of comments by Donald Trump. When asked at a congressional hearing on Thursday about a \$14bn (£10.4bn) weapons package awaiting Trump’ s signoff for months, Hung Cao said: “Right now we’ re doing a pause in order to make sure we have the munitions we need for Epic Fury [the Iran war] – which we have plenty.” Continue reading...

- [Weather tracker: Heavy rain triggers flooding and landslides in parts of China](#) (2026-05-22 08:04)

Twelve dead as southern and central areas also suffer travel disruption, electricity outages and evacuations Heavy, prolonged rainfall in southern and central China has resulted in weather warnings for flash flooding, landslides and waterlogging. The slow-moving band of rainfall spanned 620 miles (1,000km) and travelled eastwards across the regions on Tuesday. It was formed from the convergence of multiple bands of rain originating from the Bay of Bengal, South China Sea and Pacific Ocean. Given the accompanying low wind speeds, high daily and hourly rainfall totals have been recorded, with as much as 75mm locally in Hunan, 85mm in Anhui in a 24-hour period, and 95mm on the island of Hainan. Twelve people have died because of the flooding and hundreds of residents have been evacuated by emergency services. There

were major travel disruptions, electricity outages, as well as school and business closures. Social media posts showed submerged cars and people fishing along flooded streets. Continue reading...

- [Chinese authorities destroy villager's ramshackle 10-storey Studio Ghibli-esque home](#) (2026-05-22 03:23)

The home in the village of Xingyi in Guizhou province had become a tourist attraction, but officials said it lacked the necessary building permits. A ramshackle 10-storey home that had become an offbeat tourist attraction in south-western China has been torn down, ending a years-long battle between the structure's owner and local authorities. Chen Tianming said local authorities took just hours to return the stone bungalow – which had been transformed into a pyramid-shaped structure of plywood rooms stacked upon one another – back down to its original single storey. Continue reading...

- [Torrential rain and floods kill at least 25 people in southern and central China – video report](#) (2026-05-21 13:50)

Tens of thousands of people have been forced to evacuate their homes, with heavy rain expected to continue across southern and central parts of the country – including Jiangxi, Anhui, Hunan, Hubei, Guizhou, Guangxi, Guangdong and Hainan provinces – with a high risk of further landslides and flash floods. Continue reading...

- [Trump claims he will speak to Taiwan's president, departing from decades-long diplomatic norms](#) (2026-05-21 02:07)

US and Taiwanese presidents have not spoken directly since Washington shifted diplomatic recognition to Beijing from Taipei in 1979. Donald Trump said on Wednesday he would speak to Taiwan's President Lai Ching-te, an unprecedented move for a US leader that could roil US relations with China. "I'll speak to him," the US president told reporters at Joint Base Andrews in Maryland before boarding Air Force One when asked about Lai. "I speak to everybody ... We'll work on that, the Taiwan problem." Continue reading...

- [Nvidia's revenue blows past Wall Street expectations as AI boom accelerates](#) (2026-05-20 22:45)

Many analysts view company's financial performance as a broader referendum on AI buildout. Nvidia continued its years-long streak of beating Wall Street's expectations for growth on Wednesday, reassuring most investors that the AI boom, particularly the global explosion of datacenters, will continue apace. "The buildout of AI factories – the largest infrastructure expansion in human history – is accelerating at extraordinary speed," said Nvidia's CEO, Jensen Huang, in a statement. "Agentic AI has arrived, doing productive work, generating real value, and scaling rapidly across companies and industries." Continue reading...

- [Are Xi and Putin still 'best friends' ? - The Latest](#) (2026-05-20 17:05)

Xi Jinping welcomed Vladimir Putin to Beijing with pomp and pageantry, just days after hosting Donald Trump. But as Russia's war in Ukraine makes Moscow increasingly dependent on China, and western leaders thaw relations with Beijing, what does the power imbalance mean for Xi and Putin's relationship? Lucy Hough speaks to the Guardian's deputy head of international news, Devika Bhat Continue reading...

- [Are Xi and Putin still 'best friends' ? – The Latest](#) (2026-05-20 16:17)

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- [Same but different: how Xi and China welcomed Trump and Putin](#) (2026-05-20 13:44)

Choreography of back-to-back visits appeared deliberately mirrored but China made sure the differences were noticed Days after Donald Trump was greeted in Beijing with a military band, an honour guard and dozens of youths waving American and Chinese flags, Vladimir Putin arrived in China to an almost identical spectacle. The choreography of the two welcomes appeared deliberately mirrored, designed to showcase Beijing's ability to host leaders from Washington and Moscow with equal grandeur. Continue reading...

- [Xi and Putin highlight close China-Russia ties during Beijing visit – video](#) (2026-05-20 12:24)

The Chinese president, Xi Jinping, and his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, have praised relations between their countries. During Putin's two-day visit to Beijing, bilateral talks between the leaders reaffirmed Russia and China as close partners in trade and international affairs Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin meet in Beijing less than a week after Trump visit Continue reading...

- [Tom and Jerry: Forbidden Compass review – furry foes out of their depth in candy-coated Chinese adventure](#) (2026-05-20 12:00)

Cat and mouse are transported to a quasi-medieval China in this luridly bright animation that has none of the inventiveness of the Hanna-Barbera originals This expensively rendered, eye-searingly bright animated feature from China rests on a truly weird premise. Tom and Jerry, the cartoon foes of yore, are chasing each other around a museum in present-day New York City when they are supernaturally transported, thanks to a magic compass doodah, to a quasi-medieval China where humans mix freely with gods and cryptozoological animals including phoenixes, gargoyles and talking rats. Which, admittedly, isn't a massive conceptual leap from Tom and Jerry's usual imaginary world, where a cat and a mouse can be endlessly regenerated after being flattened, sliced, diced or blown up according to comedy needs. Nevertheless, there's some serious cognitive dissonance going on here; this is a mix-and-match mashup of mythologies that fans of the original T&J shorts, written and directed by William Hanna and Joseph Barbera in the 1940s and 50s, may find disturbing. Welcome to

the future, where IP can be infinitely remixed provided you have enough lawyers or material whose copyright has expired. So Tom and Jerry fall out of the sky in this brave new world, and the local residents of Golden City assume at first they must be gods, and Tom at least isn't in any rush to disabuse them of this notion. Partly it's because his newfound fame has helped catch the attention of Jade (voiced in the English dub by Janice Kawaye), a white-furred, blue-eyed opera cat in a red cheongsam dress. For some reason, Jade can both sing and talk, while Tom is mute in the traditional manner – apart from the tiny devil and angel that appear on his shoulders occasionally, just to add a little Judeo-Christian iconography to the mix. Otherwise, the vast amount of talking is done by two opposed characters, the Phoenix Master (Matthew Yang King), a supernatural humanoid trickster who's been looking for the compass thingy for 300 years, and his arch-enemy Mega-Rat (AJ Beckles), an embittered creature who attempts to trick fellow rodent Jerry into joining forces with him. There are a bunch of other wisecracking, often bickering, pastel-coloured creatures but they're eminently forgettable unless you are the sort of person who collects plastic figurines from McDonald's Happy Meals. Continue reading...

- [Germany urged to stop admiring Beijing and wake up to 'China Shock 2.0'](#) (2026-05-20 09:25)

'China has already eaten much of German industry's lunch and is preparing to start on dinner,' thinktank says Business live – latest updates Germany must stop admiring China's success in the EU or it will sleepwalk into the kind of deindustrialisation the US experienced 25 years ago, a leading Brussels thinktank has said. With China's surplus with Germany having doubled between 2024 and 2025 from \$12bn (£9bn) to \$25bn, creating a \$94bn trade imbalance, the Centre for European Reform (CER) said Europe's largest economy risked a repeat of what happened in the US in 2001 when a sudden surge in imports permanently hollowed out towns in the American midwest. Continue reading...

- [Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin meet in Beijing less than a week after Trump visit](#) (2026-05-20 04:36)

Coming so soon after the visit by US president Donald Trump, the optics and outcomes of the meeting between China and Russia will be closely scrutinised Xi Jinping welcomed Russian president Vladimir Putin with pomp and pageantry as the pair kicked off talks in the Great Hall of the People on Wednesday morning, days after the Chinese leader hosted Donald Trump in the same location. Chinese soldiers stood in position as a military band played the Russian and Chinese national anthems for the leaders in central Beijing. Children waving Russian and Chinese flags and cheered "Welcome, welcome!" in Chinese, before the pair entered the Great Hall. Continue reading...

- [The Thucydides trap – how the Greek historian's words were lost in translation | Letter](#) (2026-05-19 16:49)

Tim Rood and Phil Coughlin on Xi Jinping's reference to the Thucydides trap in a meeting with Donald Trump. In explaining Xi Jinping's allusion to the Thucydides trap, Kate Lamb refers to Thucydides' statement that "it was the rise of Athens and the fear that this instilled in Sparta that made war inevitable" (What is the Thucydides Trap and why did Xi Jinping mention it in his meeting with Donald Trump?, 15 May). That is the translation used by the Harvard political scientist Graham Allison, who popularised the phrase "Thucydides trap", and who attributes the translation to Richard Crawley's 1874 edition. It is often said that Thucydides' Greek is better translated as "the Athenians growing great and creating fear in the Spartans compelled them towards making war". That is, Thucydides was speaking of a subjective impression of necessity on the Spartans' part rather than claiming absolute necessity. Continue reading...

- [Vladimir Putin to arrive in Beijing for state visit hot on heels of Trump](#) (2026-05-19 13:24)

Russian leader says relations between two countries have reached 'unprecedented level' on eve of 25th visit to China. Vladimir Putin is due to arrive in Beijing on Tuesday for a state visit, four days after Donald Trump left China. Putin's visit to China – his 25th, according to Chinese state media – reflects Beijing's growing confidence on the world stage as a centre of global diplomatic activity. Continue reading...

- [Fears of new China shock as EU industry's reliance on imports grows](#) (2026-05-19 06:00)

Rising volume of components imported from China prompts warning of cannibalisation of European industries. Europe is facing a fresh China shock that threatens to cannibalise local factories, leading to job losses and de facto colonisation of industry by Beijing, trade analysts and representatives have said. They fear the plunging exchange rate and support for Chinese "zombie firms" has echoes of the crisis in the US 25 years ago when the term "China shock" was coined. It referred to the impact of China bursting on to the global trade stage after becoming a member of the World Trade Organization, with soaring imports displacing local industries and causing the loss of up to 2.5m jobs. Continue reading...

- [From sanctioned cars to beauty clinics, Russian rubles have flowed into China's border towns since Ukraine war](#) (2026-05-19 01:14)

Suifenhe, a small city in China's economically depressed rust belt, is a microcosm of an evolving Chinese-Russian trading relationship. Suited and booted in a navy twinset tracksuit and colourful high-top trainers, Wang Runguo is hustling. Darting across the gleaming floors of his cavernous car showroom, the 45-year-old from one of China's poorest provinces is closing on yet another deal. It is all in a day's work for the man whose salary has more than doubled in the past year thanks to a well-timed pivot: from corn to cars; from China to Russia. This time last year Wang was working for an agricultural company that grew corn and soya beans for the domestic market. Now he is a manager at Xingyun International Automobile Export, a company founded in August 2025 to cater to the booming new car export industry in Suifenhe, a small city in China's north-east that borders Russia. "Recently, China and Russia have been moving closer together," Wang says. "As we move closer, more and more cars are going there."

Continue reading...

- [Trump’ s shifting remarks on Taiwan are perfect for China to exploit](#) (2026-05-19 00:22)

President’ s remarks about Taiwan arms deals being a ‘negotiating chip’ with Beijing have been seized on by Chinese state media. It has been an unsettling few days for Taiwan’ s government. When Donald Trump met Xi Jinping in Beijing on Thursday, many feared the unpredictable US leader could upend Washington’ s longstanding support for Taipei. But beyond a starkly worded statement from Xi stressing China’ s claims over Taiwan, which it claims as part of its territory despite never having ruled it, initial signs appeared good for Taipei. Continue reading...

- [The Guardian view on India’ s Iran shock: Asia’ s neoliberal era starts to fracture | Editorial](#) (2026-05-18 18:03)

Narendra Modi’ s austerity appeals reveal how war, energy insecurity and dollar pressures expose the fragility of globalisation. The Indian prime minister’ s call for sacrifice last week marks a fundamental shift. He urged the country’ s 1.4 billion people to consume less fuel and fertiliser, buy less gold and curb foreign travel as global energy prices surge because of the war in Iran. The message, redolent of the Covid-era restrictions, suggests something larger: a retreat from neoliberal globalisation in Asia and the return of strategic economic management. The Hindu nationalist Narendra Modi waited for key regional elections to finish before pressing for the austerity measures. He was following other Asian states such as the Philippines, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, which have made similar requests and even demands of their citizens since March. Mr Modi made an explicit economic argument: reduce energy imports because India must conserve its foreign exchange. About 90% of India’ s oil and gas needs come from abroad. When prices spike, the country faces a higher import bill in dollars, inflation and pressure for higher subsidies. Despite India’ s recent economic success, it has not built sufficient productive, export or homegrown green-power capacity to reduce its vulnerability. To prevent the rupee crashing in value, India’ s central bank reportedly burned through more than \$40bn in reserves. Continue reading...

- [A California mayor pleaded guilty to acting as an agent for China. Foreign policy experts aren’ t surprised](#) (2026-05-18 12:00)

Eileen Wang, 58, worked with China to promote Beijing’ s interests and could face up to 10 years in federal prison. Foreign policy experts say they are not surprised at China’ s efforts to exert its influence over local US communities after the mayor of a southern California city resigned this week and said she would plead guilty to acting as an illegal foreign agent of Beijing. Eileen Wang, 58, agreed to plead guilty to a felony count related to the charge on Monday and could face up to 10 years in federal prison. According to a plea agreement filed by the justice department, Wang and an associate worked with the People’ s Republic of China to promote Beijing’ s interests, touting pro-PRC propaganda on a website purported to be a news source for the local Chinese American community. Continue reading...

- [Xi Jinping prepares to welcome Vladimir Putin to China, four days after hosting Donald Trump](#) (2026-05-18 03:52)

China's deep relationship with Russia remains a continuing cause for concern in the west, particularly since Moscow launched its invasion of Ukraine. Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin exchanged "congratulatory letters" on Sunday ahead of the Russian president's visit to Beijing this week, four days since Donald Trump left China after a high-stakes summit. Xi, China's leader, said bilateral cooperation between Russia and China had "continuously deepened and solidified", with this year marking the 30th anniversary of the two countries' strategic partnership, according to Chinese state media. Continue reading...

- [The American epoch of oil is collapsing. What comes next could be ugly | Jonathan Watts](#) (2026-05-17 13:00)

China is dominating the energy transition with astonishing result, while fossil fuel fascists in the US try to turn back the clock. "Farewell," the flag-waving Chinese children chanted to Donald Trump as he strolled along the red carpet back to Air Force One at the end of his summit with Xi Jinping in Beijing. The US leader claimed he was leaving with a cluster of "fantastic" trade deals to sell US oil, jets and soya beans to China. That has not been confirmed by his smiling host, but one thing was crystal clear from the two days of meetings: the global balance of power is shifting, from the declining petrostate in the west to the rising electrostate in the east. Continue reading...

## Source: China - Foreign Policy

- [Xi's Flurry of Post-Trump Diplomacy](#) (2026-05-22 16:52)

The Chinese president may be preparing for a rare and momentous trip to Pyongyang.

- [China's Fallen Generals Are Getting Unexpectedly Harsh Punishments](#) (2026-05-22 13:54)

Chinese President Xi Jinping is raising the floor for punishing purge targets.

- [No Limits, No Good Options](#) (2026-05-22 12:53)

Putin's visit to China shows that Russia is getting sucked deeper into a profoundly unequal relationship.

- [Trump Hasn't Given Up on Greenland](#) (2026-05-21 22:00)

And America's NATO allies are still on edge about it.

- [Why China Is Cracking Down on Elite Education](#) (2026-05-19 22:02)

The campaign is motivated by corruption concerns and an old-fashioned egalitarianism.

- [What Does Putin Want From Xi?](#) (2026-05-19 19:44)

Russia seeks to resolve several trade issues during this week's summit. But China holds the cards.

- [What Happened When Trump Met Xi](#) (2026-05-18 21:45)

Historian Rana Mitter on the new balance of power between Washington and Beijing.

## Source: Financial Times China

- [The power struggle in the world's narrow seas](#) (2026-05-24 04:00)

As the Strait of Hormuz crisis grips the global economy, nations are vying to secure other vulnerable waterways

- [US warns Japan of severe delays in Tomahawk deliveries due to Iran war](#) (2026-05-23 19:00)

Missiles could come two years late as Pentagon works to replenish stocks depleted in Middle East military campaign

- [China Inc goes shopping for western consumer brands](#) (2026-05-23 04:00)

Companies seek growth abroad through deals for Everlane and Puma amid domestic competition and deflationary pressures

- [No one wins a trade war. Or do they?](#) (2026-05-23 04:00)

Why export restrictions have always been the best, and the worst, weapons to bring to global trade battles

- [China cracks down on illegal cross-border securities trading](#) (2026-05-22 09:52)

Regulator penalises brokerages in effort to close loophole that allowed retail traders to get around capital controls

- [Beijing's unlikely bet on Russia may yet pay off](#) (2026-05-22 04:00)

Putin's mis-steps have locked it into a relationship with China that is increasingly one-sided

- [Generics drugmaker Sandoz calls for EU to probe alleged China dumping](#) (2026-05-22 04:00)

Novartis spin-off says Chinese overcapacity threatens European self-reliance and access to key antibiotic

- [The European cars made in China](#) (2026-05-22 04:00)

Western automakers are taking advantage of Chinese overcapacity to export lower-cost vehicles to their home markets

- [China's universities offer Mao and Xi courses to help students nail top jobs](#) (2026-05-22 03:16)

'Party building' study seen as part of efforts by Xi Jinping to bolster political education

- [Global buyout funds to exit China's data centres with final \\$1bn deal](#) (2026-05-22 00:15)

Princeton Digital Group's sale process caps foreign retreat from the country's sensitive digital infrastructure

- [Beijing holds up proposed visit by Pentagon's top policy official](#) (2026-05-21 13:00)

Also in today's newsletter, how will Donald Trump deploy his \$1.8bn 'slush fund' ?

- [Europe's trade weaponry is useless without political will](#) (2026-05-21 10:00)

To stand up to China, the EU needs courageous governments, not another Commission regulation

- [Dimon praises China for being 'more consistent'](#) (2026-05-21 05:13)

JPMorgan chief says US is 'still a safe haven' even though it 'surprised people recently'

- [Iran war opens 'golden window' for China's renminbi](#) (2026-05-21 04:00)

Analysts say use of Chinese currency in global oil trade is on the rise

- [From bitter coffee to all-terrain vehicles: Putin and Xi's business dividend](#) (2026-05-21 02:27)

Close diplomatic relations between Beijing and Moscow are matched by growing mutual commercial exchanges

- [Pentagon official's Beijing visit in doubt over \\$14bn US arms package for Taiwan](#) (2026-05-20 23:12)

Chinese government delays greenlight for talks with Elbridge Colby to pressure Trump over new weapons package

- [China banned Nvidia's gaming chip during Jensen Huang's visit](#) (2026-05-20 08:08)

Beijing aims to support domestic players including Huawei and Cambricon as they catch up to US rivals

- [Stellantis strikes deal to build Dongfeng cars in France](#) (2026-05-20 07:00)

Jeep and Peugeot owner to make Chinese group's high-end vehicles at underutilised Rennes plant

- [China's Xi warns of 'law of the jungle' in Putin meeting](#) (2026-05-20 05:52)

Russian and Chinese leaders meet days after Donald Trump's Beijing summit

- [Morgan Stanley issues China-only iPhones to its Hong Kong bankers](#) (2026-05-19 23:01)

US bank's move reflects rising concern over data security for staff travelling to mainland China

- [America needs to put the renminbi back on the international agenda](#) (2026-05-19 16:53)

'Managed trade' isn't the answer

- [Chanel to open more stores in China as new designer stirs 'Blazy mania'](#) (2026-05-19 16:00)

French luxury group reports a return to sales and profit growth

- [EU braces for fertiliser squeeze triggered by Iran war](#) (2026-05-19 05:00)

Also in this newsletter: Europe lags US and China on access to innovative medicines

- [The US and China crave hegemony without responsibility](#) (2026-05-19 04:00)

Beijing has yet to step forward to fill the leadership vacuum left by Washington

- [Putin and Xi to discuss huge gas project at China summit](#) (2026-05-19 01:42)

Talks on Power of Siberia 2 pipeline come just days after Donald Trump's visit to Beijing

- [Xi told Trump that Putin might 'regret' invasion of Ukraine](#) (2026-05-19 01:15)

US president also suggested they should co-operate with Russian leader against the International Criminal Court

- [Electric ships and trucks to buoy battery boom, says China lithium boss](#) (2026-05-19 00:37)

Tianqi says demand forecasts underestimate rapid rise of battery-powered industrial equipment

- [A peaceable Trump-Xi meeting may set up follies for the future](#) (2026-05-18 11:31)

The system of managed trade towards which the US and China seem to be moving is unlikely to work well

- [Trump and Xi will not determine Taiwan's fate](#) (2026-05-18 11:23)

China assumes that the island would be helpless without American support — that is a dangerous mistake

- [China is not Japan](#) (2026-05-18 05:00)

But its real estate market has been doing a darn good impression

- [EU plans to force companies to buy parts from non-Chinese suppliers](#) (2026-05-18 04:00)

New rules to target chemicals and industrial machinery makers

- [Defence groups clamour to delay US ban on Chinese rare earth magnets](#) (2026-05-18 04:00)

Military contractors want more time to comply with prohibition years in the making and now just months away

- [How China enables American domination](#) (2026-05-18 04:00)

It is a stunted financial power, leaving the US free to rule global markets

- [China warns of ‘severe’ global conditions as economy shows weakness](#) (2026-05-18 03:50)

April industrial output and retail sales growth slow as Iran crisis hits consumer confidence

- [White House says Trump and Xi agreed on ‘board of trade’ at summit](#) (2026-05-17 21:02)

US and China signed off on measures to promote ‘stability’ in the midst of their trade war

- [China’ s two-wheelers ride EV wave into Europe](#) (2026-05-17 04:00)

Yadea plans factory in Hungary amid rising demand for electric scooters in Asia and South America

- [Chinese AI groups pull ahead of US rivals in video generation race](#) (2026-05-17 04:00)

ByteDance and Kuaishou outshine western rivals, lifting AI video quality across advertising and entertainment

## Source: New York Times China

- [Dozens Killed in Coal Mine Explosion, China State Media Says](#) (2026-05-23 20:45)

A gas explosion at a coal mine in northern China killed dozens on Friday, according to Xinhua, a Chinese state news agency. In 2024, China’ s National Mine Safety Administration cited the coal mine for “severe safety hazards” and high gas levels. As of Saturday morning, the cause of the explosion was still unknown, according to CCTV, the Chinese state broadcaster.

- [Trump’ s Pursuit of a Partnership With China Raises Concerns in India](#) (2026-05-23 14:01)

Secretary of State Marco Rubio has a “gargantuan task” during his visit to Delhi: defuse tensions over President Trump’ s anti-India aggression and overtures to China.

- [How ‘Sentinel Gardens’ Help Spot Dangerous Bugs Abroad](#) (2026-05-23 12:33)

Scientists have planted American trees in China, Korea and elsewhere to attract hungry insects. Their hope is to identify the most damaging bugs before they cross the ocean.

- [Xi Calls for All-Out Rescue After Coal Mine Explosion Kills Over 80 in China](#) (2026-05-23 05:24)

The death count rose drastically on Saturday as the Chinese leader, Xi Jinping, called for an investigation and emphasized the need to “hold those responsible to account.”

- [Elon Musk and Other CEOs on Trump’ s Trip to China Sought Relief](#) (2026-05-21 17:52)

Elon Musk and other powerful executives who accompanied President Trump to China are hoping to clear roadblocks put up by Beijing.

- [Trump Says He Will Speak with Taiwan’ s President About Arms Deal](#) (2026-05-21 15:35)

President Trump said that he would talk to Taiwan’ s president about a possible weapons sale to the self-governing democracy. Direct dialogue would anger China, which claims Taiwan as its territory and opposes contact between Taiwanese and foreign leaders.

- [Trump Again Says He Will Talk to Taiwan’ s Leader, Risking China’ s Anger](#) (2026-05-21 10:36)

President Lai Ching-te of Taiwan said he would be happy to speak with President Trump, a move that would defy U.S. diplomatic protocol and infuriate China.

- [Trump Approved an Nvidia Chip for Sale in China. Beijing Doesn’ t Want It.](#) (2026-05-21 09:01)

The U.S. tech giant’ s powerful H200 chip seemed poised to boost Beijing’ s A.I. ambitions, but not a single one has been purchased in China.

- [China’ s Housing Slump Shows Signs of Bottoming Out. We’ ve Been Here Before.](#) (2026-05-21 04:00)

Property prices in Shanghai, in particular, are rebounding, but the national market still faces an enormous overhang — 90 million empty or unfinished apartments.

- [How China’ s Housing Crisis Has Global Consequences](#) (2026-05-21 04:00)

Our Beijing bureau chief, Keith Bradsher, describes how China’ s enormous housing crash is affecting economies all over the world.

- [Nvidia’ s Profit Hits \\$58.3 Billion as A.I. Boom Gathers More Steam](#) (2026-05-20 22:54)

The chip maker said its profit in its most recent quarter jumped 211 percent from a year earlier thanks to extreme demand from other big technology companies.

- [Days After Hosting Trump, Xi Deepens Ties With Putin](#) (2026-05-20 11:44)

China’ s leader Xi Jinping called for a halt to fighting in the Middle East, ignored Russia’ s war in Ukraine and took a veiled swipe at the United States.

- [China Confirms It Will Buy 200 Boeing Planes](#) (2026-05-20 10:51)

Beijing's acknowledgment on Wednesday that tariffs were discussed in talks with President Trump signals it was prepared to push back if the U.S. revives duties.

- [Heavy Rain and Floods in China Kill at Least 22](#) (2026-05-20 09:14)

China's most intense storm this year set off damaging flash floods in seven provinces, forcing tens of thousands of people to evacuate their homes.

- [Xi Meets Putin Days After Trump Visit](#) (2026-05-20 09:07)

China's leader, Xi Jinping, welcomed President Vladimir Putin of Russia to Beijing, less than a week after a visit from President Trump.

- [As a Weakened Putin Follows Trump to Beijing, Iran War Offers an Opening](#) (2026-05-19 16:47)

With the upheaval in the Persian Gulf disrupting oil and gas supplies, Russia is looking to deepen its energy ties to China.

- [China Wants A.I. to Flourish, but Not at the Expense of Jobs](#) (2026-05-19 14:45)

A series of precedent-setting rulings signals that Chinese courts are being enlisted to shield workers from displacement by artificial intelligence.

- [Eager for Arms Deal, Taiwan Stresses Need for U.S. Support](#) (2026-05-18 00:13)

After President Trump hinted that weapons sales to Taiwan could figure in negotiations with China, officials emphasized their island's strategic importance.

- [Here's the Trade Deal That Trump and Xi Should Have Reached](#) (2026-05-17 10:00)

For this to happen, however, both men would need personality transplants.

## Source: South China Morning Post

- [Beyond China: emerging markets hold key to profitability for world's largest robovan fleet](#) (2026-05-24 06:00)

Chinese robovans could generate twice as much revenue in Southeast Asia and the Middle East than in the domestic market, making overseas expansion a must for profitability, according to autonomous driving leader Zelos Technology. The company claims to have built the world's largest robovan fleet since it was founded in Suzhou in 2021, but scaling up international business was key for survival, said Sean Zhang Xuchen, co-founder, chief operating officer and head of global business at...

- [How Chinese traders in Iran are keeping business afloat as war capsizes naval shipping](#) (2026-05-24 06:00)

As the US-Israel war on Iran stretches past its 80th day and continues to upend global naval shipping, a growing number of Chinese investors in Iran are turning to railway and overland transport routes to keep their businesses afloat. While disruptions to ship traffic in the Strait of Hormuz show little sign of abating, many are hoping that transcontinental freight links across Eurasia could become a more reliable option. Chinese trader Han Yun has spent recent weeks travelling long distances...

- [Russian missiles pummel Kyiv in retaliation for dorm attack that killed 18](#) (2026-05-24 04:29)

Russia pounded Kyiv with a large missile and drone attack early on Sunday, killing one person and wounding 20, authorities said, after Moscow threatened retaliation for strikes in Russian-occupied eastern Ukraine. Multiple rounds of loud explosions were heard in the Ukrainian capital throughout the early hours of the morning. “Tonight Kyiv region is once again enduring a mass enemy attack with strike drones, cruise missiles and ballistic missiles,” said Mykola Kalashnyk, the head of the regional...

- [‘We are very proud,’ John Lee tells first Hong Kong astronaut ahead of space flight](#) (2026-05-24 04:12)

Hong Kong’s leader has sent his blessings to the first local astronaut, Lai Ka-ying, in a video call ahead of the launch of the Shenzhou-23 space flight on Sunday, calling her participation in the mission a reflection of the country’s trust and support for the city. Payload specialist Lai, in response, recalled her packed, tough training in Beijing, which had “finally come to an end”, while expressing confidence that she would complete her space mission. Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chiu on...

- [Owners of Chinese mine where 82 died in blast accused of ‘serious violations’ of the law](#) (2026-05-24 04:02)

The owners of a Chinese coal mine where at least 82 people were killed have been accused of “serious violations of the law” by the local government. As search and rescue operations continued through the night, Chen Xiangyang, the deputy party secretary of Changzhi in Shanxi province, said that all four mines operated by the Shanxi Tongzhou Group had been “immediately” ordered to suspend operations. “Preliminary assessment indicates serious legal violations by the coal mine enterprise involved....

- [Hong Kong villager steps up ‘adopt a tree’ bid amid Northern Metropolis evictions](#) (2026-05-24 04:00)

Ken Mak’s greatest wish before leaving his village in Hong Kong this month is to save the fruit trees planted by his grandfather before the bulldozers arrive. To give the trees in Yick Yuen Tsuen in Tuen Mun a second chance, he hit on an idea: tree adoption. Within a week, Mak had

recorded the species, height and girth of 53 fruit trees at his family-run flower farm and anearby church. He compiled the information and photographs into a catalogue and led people on tours to view the trees. So...

- [Asia's silver dividend can offset ageing's economic toll](#) (2026-05-24 04:00)

Population ageing is fast becoming a global phenomenon. Even regions currently enjoying youthful demographics will eventually undergo demographic transition – and this is increasingly relevant for developing countries too. Some Southeast Asian economies, Thailand and Vietnam among them, have already reached the intermediate stages of this transition. It has begun even in younger economies such as the Philippines, where the fertility rate has now fallen below replacement level. Conventional...

- [Mainland brands power Hong Kong retail recovery as F&B; is joined by fashion and beauty](#) (2026-05-24 03:30)

Hong Kong is likely to attract more mainland Chinese retail brands, but unlike the previous wave, non food and beverage (F&B) retailers are the ones ramping up their presence, according to analysts. The change in profile of mainland brands coming to Hong Kong is helping the city's landlords fill vacant spaces amid an uneven recovery in the retail property market, according to JLL. In the first four months of the year, more than one fifth of new entrants in the city's retail market were mainland...

- [Like Serbia, the EU should be open to partnership with China](#) (2026-05-24 03:00)

As I return to China, I do so with an abiding sense of respect for a nation that has become one of Serbia's most indispensable partners and a defining force of our century. In Europe, discussions about China are too often clouded by suspicion and strategic anxiety. I understand that every major political community must guard its future, but I believe Europe should approach China not with fear and suspicion but with confidence and a serious, open-eyed willingness to cooperate. Serbia has chosen...

- [Is Hong Kong following Beijing's lead and ousting Western tech?](#) (2026-05-24 03:00)

Hong Kong's technology infrastructure is undergoing a major transformation as local government and businesses replace Western products with domestic alternatives, driven by closer integration with mainland China and rising geopolitical risks, according to tech experts. US tech giants like Microsoft have long “served as the bedrock of Hong Kong's digital landscape”, but that dominance is now being actively contested, particularly in the government sector, according to Francis Fong Po-kiu,...

- [Under-construction building collapses in Philippines, trapping workers](#) (2026-05-24 02:38)

Two people feared trapped after a building collapse in the Philippines were alive and communicating with rescuers on Sunday, an official said, as rescue efforts continued. “They

are in constant communication. We are awaiting more details, but our rescuers are doing their best to pull the survivors out of the rubble,” Jay Pelayo, information officer Angeles City north of the capital Manila, said. The number rescued in the collapse of the nine-storey building under construction, including those...

- [US Pax Silica hub plan hits Philippine sovereignty wall: ‘no special arrangement’](#) (2026-05-24 02:30)

A US plan to build an “AI-native” industrial hub in the Philippines has highlighted the political sensitivities around Washington’s push to secure critical technology supply chains, after Manila rejected proposals for the zone to be governed by US laws or covered by diplomatic protections. Philippine officials said the planned economic security zone under Washington’s Pax Silica initiative would remain covered by local laws, clarifying that there would be “no special arrangement” for the...

- [Hong Kong holds off on annual LGBTQ publicity drive. Is a community being forgotten?](#) (2026-05-24 01:00)

For the first time in a decade, a Hong Kong government task force did not conduct any publicity campaign covering gender identity and sexual orientation in the latest financial year, triggering concerns that authorities are taking a lukewarm attitude towards the local LGBTQ community. Figures from the Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Unit (GISOU), which falls under the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau, also showed that it only received seven complaints from 2015 to 2025, a figure...

- [China boy wants to raise silkworms to create silk quilt, prompting parents to buy 10,000 seeds](#) (2026-05-24 01:00)

A boy in central China dreamed of making his own silk quilt, prompting his parents to buy 10,000 silkworm eggs to nurture his curiosity. In May, a mother surnamed Ruan from Wuhan, Hubei province, revealed online that her family was raising silkworms to help realise her six-year-old son’s unusual dream. Ruan told the mainland outlet Chengshi Interactive that the idea came during the silkworm-rearing season. The optimal window generally runs from May to October. The family, who raise silkworms...

- [Budget cuts leave Thailand’s twin-sea navy at risk of falling behind](#) (2026-05-24 00:00)

Thailand’s navy has to watch two seas at once. To the east lies the Gulf of Thailand, with its busy shipping lanes, offshore energy interests and long coastal frontier with Cambodia. To the west is the Andaman Sea, a gateway to the Indian Ocean with its own trade routes, chokepoints and strategic pressures. That twin-sea geography has long given the Royal Thai Navy a role larger than its public profile might suggest. It also underpins the navy’s stated goal, laid out in a 2023 white paper, to...

- [Suspect ‘down’ after gunshots reported near White House](#) (2026-05-23 22:43)

Police and security forces swarmed the White House on Saturday evening after shots were fired in the area. US President Donald Trump was at the White House at the time as he worked to negotiate a deal with Iran. A person approached the checkpoint at 17th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue near the White House and started shooting at officers, a law enforcement official said. The suspect was “down” and was transported to George Washington Hospital, according to the official. He did not specify...

- [Why Bangladesh could raise Indian red flags by buying a China-Pakistan fighter jet](#) (2026-05-23 22:00)

Bangladesh’ s potential purchase of a Sino-Pakistani fighter jet could raise tensions in India’ s sensitive northeast, as relations between Dhaka and New Delhi remain tense, analysts said. According to Pakistani media reports, the country has transferred a fully operational simulator of a JF-17 Thunder Block III combat aircraft to Bangladesh. Fighter jet simulators replicate the experience of flying an aircraft and are used to train pilots in combat tactics and systems management. Jointly...

- [Hong Kong can turn Hung Shui Kiu into a northwest stronghold](#) (2026-05-23 21:30)

More than a decade ago, I argued that Hung Shui Kiu should be conceived as the “northwest stronghold” of Hong Kong, a geographic centre of the New Territories and a hinge point between Hong Kong and Shenzhen. Today, that vision is beginning to materialise. Hung Shui Kiu is no longer just a dot on the planning map; it is emerging as a core node of the Northern Metropolis and a testing ground for institutional innovation and industrial policy. The government’ s embrace of an industry-first strategy...

- [‘Fjord’ by Romania’ s Mungiu wins Palme d’ Or at Cannes](#) (2026-05-23 21:00)

Cristian Mungiu’ s Norway-set drama about political polarisation Fjord has won the Palme d’ Or, handing the Cannes Film Festival’ s top honour for the second time to Mungiu, the Romanian director of 4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days. At a 79th Cannes Film Festival that saw few films break out, Fjord found wide admiration for its engrossing tale of what Mungiu called “left-wing fundamentalism” . It stars Sebastian Stan and Renate Reinsve as Romanian Evangelicals who move to Norway, but soon after have...

- [Rubio renews US ties with India after Trump’ s China visit](#) (2026-05-23 16:51)

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Saturday called India a natural partner and invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Washington, turning the page at least rhetorically on friction despite new-found US warmth towards China. One week after joining US President Donald Trump on a state visit to Beijing, Rubio – visiting both Asian powers for the first time – flew to New Delhi and met Modi for more than an hour, inviting the premier to visit the White House soon. “The world’ s oldest democracy in...

- [‘Let’ s give it a try’ : motion sickness no barrier for Hong Kong’ s first astronaut](#) (2026-05-23 16:04)

Lai Ka-ying suffers from motion sickness, cannot stand hot weather, was not a top student and did not speak Mandarin – all of which made the 43-year-old mother of three an unlikely pick as Hong Kong’ s first astronaut. But the Hong Kong-born payload specialist on China’ s Shenzhou-23 mission, which is expected to blast off on Sunday night and head to the Tiangong space station, made it through almost two years of training. “I held a ‘let’ s give it a try’ attitude,” Lai said in interviews with...

- [Trump says US and Iran ‘getting a lot closer’ to deal](#) (2026-05-23 15:39)

US President Donald Trump said on Saturday that the United States and Iran are “getting a lot closer” to an agreement to end the war in the Middle East. But Trump also warned in the phone interview with CBS that if the US and Iran do not come to an agreement, “we’ re going to have a situation where no country will ever be hit as hard as they’ re about to be hit” . Meanwhile, Iran said on Saturday that it was finalising a 14-point “framework agreement” for a deal with the US, but signalled that...

- [Israeli far-right minister Itamar Ben-Gvir banned from French territory](#) (2026-05-23 14:33)

France has decided to ban Israel’ s far-right police minister Itamar Ben-Gvir from French territory, Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot said on Saturday, adding that this reflected growing anger among governments around the world over the treatment of an activist flotilla heading to Gaza. “As from today, Itamar Ben-Gvir is banned from entering French territory,” Barrot wrote on X. “Along with my Italian counterpart, I am asking the European Union to also take sanctions against Itamar...

- [Vance and Rubio emerge as early contenders to inherit Trump’ s Republican Party](#) (2026-05-23 14:00)

An early glimpse of the battle to succeed US President Donald Trump atop the Republican ticket played out last week in classic Trumpian fashion when Vice-President J.D. Vance was temporarily demoted to play press secretary. His hour-long spell fielding questions from the White House “lion’ s den” press corps included statements chiding the media and the obligatory denial for ambitious politicians. “This is crazy. You guys have got to behave yourself,” he told reporters, before adding: “I’ m not a...

- [India raises diesel, petrol prices for third time in 8 days, amid tense US-Iran ceasefire](#) (2026-05-23 13:03)

India’ s state-run refiners raised retail prices again of diesel and petrol on Saturday to help processors cut losses on discounted sales and to control a spike in demand. Prices of both fuels rose by nearly one per cent, or less than 1 rupee, with petrol now sold at 99.51 rupees (US\$1.0399) and diesel at 92.49 rupees per litre in New Delhi, according to the website of Indian Oil Corporation, the country’ s largest fuel retailer. Prices vary across India due to local taxes.

Smaller peers Bharat...

- [Is China building the world's largest naval support ship?](#) (2026-05-23 13:00)

China appears to be close to launching the world's largest naval support ship. On Thursday, the China State Shipbuilding Corporation released a picture of one of its shipyards on social media as part of a message marking a new Chinese solar term, which showed a massive hull in a dry dock in the background. The photo prompted speculation among military observers that the hull was an auxiliary ship and triggered a debate about the future logistical capabilities of the People's Liberation Army...

- [New Zealand to invest almost US\\$1 billion in drones, ships to protect maritime security](#) (2026-05-23 12:14)

New Zealand intends to spend about NZ\$1.6 billion (US\$936 million) on drones, ship maintenance and naval upgrades to bolster the island nation's maritime security at a time of increasing concern about supply routes. Defence Minister Chris Penk said on Saturday that the government would invest in two types of drones: one for the southwest Pacific to provide long-duration intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, and the other a polar-capable vehicle that could operate from naval vessels in...

- [Hong Kong's astronaut to gather data using observatory created by local teams](#) (2026-05-23 12:13)

Hong Kong's first astronaut will operate a locally developed observatory that monitors key sources of greenhouse gas emissions on Earth during her time aboard the Tiangong space station, the research team behind the project has said. The imaging equipment could pinpoint the location and intensity of emissions, providing data that could be used to reduce carbon sources in the Greater Bay Area and elsewhere in mainland China, Professor Li Jia of Lingnan University said on Saturday. Payload...

- [Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif visits China amid ongoing Middle East peace drive](#) (2026-05-23 11:55)

Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is visiting China as the country seeks support for its efforts to mediate in the conflict between Iran and the United States. The visit also coincides with the 75th anniversary of the establishment of formal diplomatic ties between the two countries, which are expected to use the occasion to upgrade their already close relationship. One Chinese analyst said Beijing was willing to offer its support for the peace efforts – and also help resolve Pakistan's...

- [Ebola spreads in eastern Congo as contact tracing falters](#) (2026-05-23 11:37)

Ebola is spreading faster than responders can track it in eastern Congo, where health workers managed to follow up with barely one in five identified contacts in a single day. Authorities in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) reported 83 confirmed infections, 746 suspected cases

and 1,603 identified contacts as of May 21, according to the health ministry. Yet health workers were able to follow up with only 342 contacts that day – about 21 per cent of the total undermonitoring – according to...

- [Why China is looking to coal waste as a source of critical metals](#) (2026-05-23 11:00)

China is turning coal waste into a source of critical metals including lithium, gallium and germanium, leveraging its advantages in extraction technology and industrial infrastructure. Coal mining and burning produce large amounts of waste, including coal gangue, the rock embedded in coal seams, and fly ash, the fine particulate ash captured after burning. Traditionally both are used only as low-value cement additives, while their stockpiling consumes land and causes environmental...

- [Hong Kong's justice department rejects 'despicable' claims targeting prosecutors](#) (2026-05-23 10:44)

Hong Kong's justice department has rejected online accusations involving the newly promoted public prosecutions director and a colleague, labelling the allegations “despicable behaviour” and an attempt to “defame public officers”. In a statement on Saturday, the department said it had referred the case to law enforcement agencies for further investigation and action, vowing to “severely punish lawbreakers in accordance with the law”. At the centre are online comments posted by a US-based Hong...

- [Nearly 10,000 Hongkongers granted permanent UK residence under BN\(O\) scheme](#) (2026-05-23 10:40)

Nearly 10,000 Hongkongers have been granted permanent residence in the UK under a bespoke British immigration pathway launched in January 2021, making them eligible to apply for citizenship next year. This year marks the fifth anniversary of the British National (Overseas) visa pathway, which allows successful applicants and their dependants to live, work and study in the United Kingdom for up to five years. “Since the scheme began, there have been a total of 9,804 grants of settlement to...

- [Pope Leo urges end to pollution, criticises profits earned](#) (2026-05-23 10:08)

Pope Leo on Saturday called out companies who seek “dizzying” profits at the cost of environmental pollution, on a visit to an area in Italy known as a hotbed for illegal dumping of toxic waste. On a visit to Acerra, about 220 km (137 miles) south of Rome, the first US pope urged the world to “reject temptations of power and enrichment linked to practices that pollute the land, water, air, and social coexistence”. Leo said he wanted to come to the area near Naples known as the “Land of Fires” –...

- [New pay model for native English-speaking teachers risks lowering standards: group](#) (2026-05-23 10:00)

An association representing native English-speaking teachers (NETs) in Hong Kong has warned that less-attractive pay offered under a new hiring scheme risks lowering the quality of recruits and standards, with the contracts of some experienced educators not being renewed. Most public primary and secondary schools seeking NETs have decided to switch to the flexible scheme, which no longer ties remuneration to years of service and generally offers substantially lower pay. But the Native English...

- [Why the largest-ever US-Philippine drill, and Japan's role in it, is making China uneasy](#) (2026-05-23 10:00)

A US and Philippine-led military drill seen as targeting China grew this year into the largest yet, prompting Chinese experts to warn that the annual event will exacerbate regional instability amid heightened tensions in the Indo-Pacific. The decades-old drill called Balikatan, which means shoulder to shoulder, reached record highs in terms of scale, scope of participation and training complexity this year, according to a report published by the South China Sea Strategic Situation Probing...

- [Will China's residency changes to social insurance unlock economic growth?](#) (2026-05-23 09:00)

China's decision to ease residency restrictions on social insurance applicants will help unleash positive, long-term economic growth, according to analysts. The new measures announced on Friday by the State Council are part of China's broader push to create a unified national market by removing barriers to the free flow of capital and talent. Under the new policy, workers can enrol in social insurance programmes in the cities where they are employed, regardless of their official household...

- [Dignity for the dead: 6 Hongkongers form city's first corpse restoration team](#) (2026-05-23 08:32)

A group of Hongkongers have started the city's first corpse restoration team, aiming to provide affordable reconstruction services for badly disfigured bodies so the dead can be buried with dignity and their families can find some comfort. The six-member team, under local funeral information sharing platform RIPHK, has handled more than 10 cases since it started operations last December, including victims who died in the Tai Po fire in November. After the disaster, a professional corpse...

- [2 notable women in ancient China broke barriers, made major contributions to medicine, science](#) (2026-05-23 08:00)

In ancient China, women were largely denied formal education and confined to the roles of dutiful wives and mothers. Against this restrictive social order, two women pushed beyond the limits and left notable marks on medicine, astronomy and mathematics. About 1,500 years ago, during the Southern dynasties, Zhang Xiugu is believed to have made an early contribution to pathological anatomy in China. According to The History of the Southern Dynasties, Zhang lived

in what is now Anhui province in...

- [Bordering Russia, Norway adopts ‘total defence’ mode with focus on civil readiness](#)  
(2026-05-23 07:52)

War is now a possibility in Norway, by the prime minister’s own admission. The country, which borders Russia, has gone into “total defence” mode, preparing its population for the worst in light of the fighting in Ukraine. Dug beneath a peaceful park, the St. Hanshaugen air raid shelter, one of Oslo’s largest, can take in 1,100 people behind its heavy metal doors if ever the worst comes to pass. The air is chilly, the lights dim, and the toilets basic: it is far from cosy, but it is designed to...

- [Fatal subdivided flat fire highlights need to tackle substandard homes: minister](#)  
(2026-05-23 07:06)

A fatal fire at a subdivided flat on Thursday has highlighted the need to eradicate substandard housing in Hong Kong, the housing minister has said, noting that affected residents had a living space of just five square metres (54 sq ft) on average. Secretary for Housing Winnie Ho Wing-yin was referring to a blaze that killed one resident and injured four others, saying it underscored the importance of the new Basic Housing Units Ordinance. “In the flat [where the tragedy occurred], each resident...

- [Why Sara Duterte is changing her tone on Philippines’ South China Sea conflict](#)  
(2026-05-23 07:00)

Philippine Vice-President Sara Duterte-Carpio has twice in recent weeks urged the country’s armed forces to defend its sovereignty, in a carefully calibrated attempt to sound more assertive on the South China Sea issue without directly challenging Beijing, according to analysts. While Duterte-Carpio did not name China, her repeated calls marked a tonal shift from her earlier approach, when she either avoided the issue or warned against letting it define Manila’s broader relationship with...

- [As France tries to reset relations with Africa, China’s influence looms large](#) (2026-05-23 06:00)

France has committed €23 billion (US\$26.7 billion) to Africa’s private sector in a bid to counter Chinese dominance and rebuild its influence on the continent. Speaking at the Africa Forward Summit in Nairobi earlier this month, President Emmanuel Macron pitched the investment as a “jolt” to reset relations, positioning Europe as a partner for Africa’s “strategic autonomy” as the geopolitical race with Beijing heats up. The move marks a major shift as Paris tries to win over anglophone countries...

- [New law could require displaying odds, licensee info on claw machines: minister](#)  
(2026-05-23 05:59)

Hong Kong authorities will consider requiring operators to display the odds of winning on claw machines, while remaining open to increasing the prize value and maximum payout per game under a proposed regulatory regime, the home affairs minister has said. “The most important thing is to protect players and consumers, ensure they play in a safe environment, and prevent addiction. These are our priorities,” Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs Alice Mak Mei-kuen told a radio programme on...

- [Why Gojek co-founder’s trial is alarming Indonesians overseas](#) (2026-05-23 05:00)

For many Indonesians who have built careers abroad, Nadiem Makarim once represented a particular kind of homecoming success story. The Brown and Harvard University-educated co-founder of Gojek had walked away from the start-up world to serve in government, bringing with him the aura of Indonesia’s technology boom and the promise that private-sector talent could help modernise the state. Now, with prosecutors seeking an 18-year prison sentence for the former education minister in a corruption...

- [Israel thrusts reluctant UAE into open over defence ties](#) (2026-05-23 05:00)

For months, the United Arab Emirates had denied Iran’s accusations that it was in league with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu or hosting his country’s military personnel. Then, US ambassador to Israel Mick Huckabee handed Tehran a propaganda gift and Abu Dhabi a diplomatic headache all in a single sentence. Israel sent Iron Dome air defence batteries to the UAE amid the ongoing war on Iran to help protect it from Iranian attacks, Huckabee confirmed at a conference in Tel Aviv on May...

- [82 killed in China’s worst coal mine accident for more than a decade](#) (2026-05-23 04:58)

At least 82 people have been killed in a blast at a coal mine in the central Chinese province of Shanxi. State news agency Xinhua reported that the gas explosion happened in Qinyuan county, about 520km (320 miles) southwest of Beijing, on Friday after the mine issued a carbon monoxide alert late on Friday. There were 247 workers underground at the time of the blast. It was unclear whether other workers remained trapped. The accident is the deadliest coal mine disaster in over a decade. Although...

- [10 injured in severe turbulence on Cathay Pacific flight from Brisbane to Hong Kong](#) (2026-05-23 04:18)

Ten passengers and crew members were injured when a Cathay Pacific Airways flight from Brisbane to Hong Kong encountered turbulence early on Saturday morning, with one traveller describing the terrifying experience as similar to “free-falling from a drop tower”. Cathay Pacific confirmed on Saturday that flight CX156 from Brisbane to Hong Kong encountered turbulence, and 10 people, including two Australians, were injured and sent to hospital for treatment. “Six cabin crew and four passengers...

- [How can Hong Kong help mothers of infants reverse falling breastfeeding rate?](#)

(2026-05-23 04:00)

For Hongkonger Annyee Chan, the decision to stop breastfeeding her son at eight months was a pragmatic response to a city that often feels at odds with the needs of nursing mothers. Returning to work just one month after childbirth, the self-employed wealth management professional faced a gruelling logistical challenge, navigating a city with sparse nursing facilities while lugging heavy pumps, bottles and coolers on her daily commute. “I managed to breastfeed my child quite well, and I...

- [Whiplash in Taiwan? How Donald Trump’ s blunt warning collides with a historic call offer](#)

(2026-05-23 04:00)

Donald Trump’ s blunt warning that he was not looking to have “somebody go independent” after his summit with Chinese leader Xi Jinping has reignited debate in Taiwan over whether Washington is hardening its message on the island. For many in Taipei, the US president’ s remarks evoked memories of the George W. Bush administration, when Washington publicly checked Taiwan over moves seen as edging towards formal independence. But just as analysts were debating whether Trump had delivered the...

- [Bangladesh’ s rare ‘Donald Trump’ buffalo draws crowds over resemblance](#)

(2026-05-23 03:26)

A rare albino buffalo with flowing blond hair has become an unlikely celebrity in Bangladesh ahead of the Eid al-Adha festival, drawing crowds of curious visitors who say the animal bears a striking resemblance to US President Donald Trump. The nearly 700kg (1,540lbs) buffalo, raised at a farm in Narayanganj district near the capital Dhaka, has been nicknamed “Donald Trump” because of the tuft of pale hair falling across its forehead – a feature many say mirrors the American leader’ s...

- [Hong Kong astronaut a testament to country’ s regard for city’ s talent: John Lee](#)

(2026-05-23 03:10)

The unprecedented participation of a Hong Kong researcher in the nation’ s space flight mission is testament to the country’ s high regard for the city’ s innovation and technology talent and accomplishments, Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chiu has said. Lee congratulated payload specialist Lai Ka-ying, who is also a police superintendent, after she was named on Saturday morning as one of three astronauts who will take the Shenzhou-23 space flight to China’ s Tiangong space station on Sunday...

- [What the China-US stability pact means for Southeast Asia](#) (2026-05-23 03:00)

When Xi Jinping and Donald Trump concluded their Beijing summit, the most consequential outcome – for China at least – may prove not material, but conceptual: the adoption of “constructive strategic stability” (CSS) as the guiding framework for managing their intensifying competition. For Southeast Asia, a region often caught in the rivalry between the

two powers, understanding what this means will matter in the years ahead. The framework reflects a long-held Chinese strategic aspiration....

- [Mock cockroach-theme political party draws India’ s jobless youth, Modi’ s rivals](#)  
(2026-05-23 02:59)

A mock political party erupted across Indian social media this week, becoming a symbol of Gen Z disillusionment with the country’ s political establishment and anger over a worsening jobs crisis in the world’ s most populous nation. The Cockroach Janta Party, as the satirical movement is known, has already overtaken the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party on Instagram, racking up nearly 20 million followers and attracting attention from rivals of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. “Cockroach Janta Party...

- [For China’ s ailing developers, retail frenzy greets semiconductor side-hustles](#)  
(2026-05-23 02:30)

Embattled Chinese developers have turned to a new strategy to resuscitate their ailing businesses: diversifying into semiconductor production. Certain listed property companies have seen their shares skyrocket – some by hundreds of per cent – after announcing investments in “chipmaking” . Such strategic diversification efforts have sparked a buying frenzy among retail investors in the mainland’ s A-share market. “Chip-themed stocks are the new darlings of individual investors since [such stocks]...

- [Lai Ka-ying is Hong Kong’ s first astronaut. Her mentor saw her talent years ago](#)  
(2026-05-23 02:10)

If you are working on a space station orbiting hundreds of kilometres above the Earth, the woman set to become Hong Kong’ s first astronaut when the mission launches this weekend is exactly the type of person you want by your side, according to the professor who supervised her postgraduate studies. Lai Ka-ying was meticulous, patient and a skilled communicator who could break down highly technical ideas for others, Chow Kam-pui, an honorary associate professor at the University of Hong Kong, told...

- [UN event on nuclear non-proliferation treaty stumbles, US and Iran clash](#) (2026-05-23 02:09)

A four-week United Nations conference reviewing the treaty to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons ended on Friday without agreement as the United States and Iran sparred over Iran’ s nuclear programme. Vietnam’ s UN Ambassador Do Hung Viet, who chaired the conference, announced that there was no consensus among the 191 parties to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty on even a watered-down final document. He did not say which country or countries blocked a consensus. It was the third failure in a...

- [Chinese scientists grow heart’ s ‘master conductor’ that could replace pacemaker](#)  
(2026-05-23 02:00)

Scientists in Shanghai have used stem cells to create the world's first laboratory-grown sinoatrial node – the tiny structure that acts as the heart's natural pacemaker. Capable of beating autonomously, the organoid is a breakthrough that researchers say could transform cardiac disease research and drug screening. The heart's ability to beat continuously and rhythmically depends on the sinoatrial node, which is nestled inside the right atrial chamber. Acting as the heart's "master conductor" ,...

- [27 countries seek access to World Bank funds since Iran war](#) (2026-05-23 01:35)

Twenty-seven countries have moved since the Iran war started to put in place crisis instruments that could quickly access funding from existing World Bank programmes, according to an internal document viewed by Reuters. The World Bank document did not name the countries or the total amount of funds potentially being sought. The World Bank declined to comment. The document showed that three countries had approved new instruments since the Middle East conflict began on February 28, while the...

- [Japanese female prison's rehabilitation goal faces health, language barriers](#) (2026-05-23 01:30)

Seated in a wheelchair, an elderly woman bends silently as her wrinkled fingers move with surprising speed to fold pieces of coloured origami paper into intricate shapes. Beside her, another woman does the same, both adding their finished pieces to a pile on the table without looking up or exchanging a word. Inside Tochigi Prison, where talking during work is forbidden, elderly women folding paper and sewing in silence reflect a broader test of Japan's penal system: how to care for ageing,...

- [How China wins by avoiding war](#) (2026-05-23 01:30)

Russian President Vladimir Putin arrived in Beijing in a much weaker position than he did more than four years ago, when he launched his invasion of Ukraine shortly after his last visit. US President Donald Trump left Beijing after much fanfare. However, he was criticised back at home for failing to deliver on any key aspect of American interests, such as committing China to pressuring Iran to end the war on US terms. His popular support is at a historic low. Putin, Trump and Chinese President...

- [Hong Kong's first astronaut Lai Ka-ying picked for space station mission](#) (2026-05-23 01:13)

Hong Kong will send its first astronaut to the Tiangong space station, the China Manned Space Agency announced on Saturday. Lai Ka-ying, a police superintendent and tech expert with a doctorate in computer science, will join the Shenzhou-23 mission as a payload specialist. She will become the fourth female astronaut to enter the Chinese space station. The Shenzhou-23 crewed spacecraft is targeting a launch at 23:08 tomorrow. According to the agency, she will work alongside astronauts Zhu Yangzhu...

- [A cloud above the clouds: US, China race to make space a computing platform](#) (2026-05-23 01:00)

In 1957, the Soviet Union kicked off the Cold War's space race, shocking the world by sending Sputnik, the world's first artificial satellite, into orbit. Four years later, it did the same to cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin, making him the first human in space. In 1969, the US provided another image that defined the era: Neil Armstrong leaving the Eagle lunar lander and planting the American flag on the moon, declaring it "one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." For the two superpowers, the...

- [Ancient Chinese texts depict 'immortal mirror' akin to CT scan – an early notion of robots](#) (2026-05-23 01:00)

Ancient China dreamed of future technology long before the modern age, conjuring visions of magic mirrors, ingenious machines and even lifelike wooden puppets. In the Tang dynasty (618–907) text Duyang Miscellaneous Records, a mysterious stone called the "immortal mirror" appears as a precursor to the CT scan. Found in the southwest of an unnamed land, the polished stone was said to span hundreds of kilometres. Passers-by could look into it like a mirror, but instead of reflecting their faces,...

- [Graduates of top vocational school spared brunt of AI impact, new chairman says](#) (2026-05-23 00:00)

Graduates of Hong Kong's largest vocational training institution have largely avoided the negative effects of AI and could reap more internship opportunities from a coming megaproject, the body's new leader has said. In an interview with the South China Morning Post, newly appointed Vocational Training Council (VTC) chairman Jeffrey Lam Kin-fung also vowed to review the courses to align them with emerging job opportunities. The government earlier revealed that entry-level jobs for university...

- [Southeast Asia is chasing the AI boom, but at what cost?](#) (2026-05-23 00:00)

In a swanky penthouse office outside Kuala Lumpur, tech firm Zetrix AI is putting a grand plan into motion to get 1 million people across Southeast Asia using its artificial intelligence agent, Avatar, by the end of the year. Designed as an autonomous alter ego, Avatar is adept at dealing with tasks ranging from the mundane, like filling out forms, to the particular, such as helping influencers reply to thousands of social media messages. The ultimate goal, according to the company's Gen Z...

- [SpaceX launches its biggest, most beefed-up Starship yet on test flight](#) (2026-05-22 23:39)

SpaceX launched its biggest, most powerful Starship yet on a test flight Friday, an upgraded version that Nasa is counting on to land astronauts on the moon. The redesigned mega rocket made its debut two days after SpaceX CEO Elon Musk announced he was taking the company public. It blasted off from the southern tip of Texas, carrying 20 mock Starlink satellites for release halfway around the world. It is the 12th test flight of the rocket that Musk is building to

get people to Mars one day. But...

- [US judge tosses case against wrongly deported Salvadorean man Abrego Garcia](#)  
(2026-05-22 23:19)

A US federal judge dismissed a criminal case on Friday filed against a Salvadorean man at the centre of a row over US President Donald Trump's crackdown on migrants. US District Judge Waverly Crenshaw ruled that the indictment of Kilmar Abrego Garcia by the Trump administration's Justice Department was "an abuse of prosecuting power". Abrego Garcia, a Maryland resident married to an American woman, was among more than 200 people sent to El Salvador's CECOT mega-prison in March of last year. The...

- [Xi raised 'Thucydides Trap' with Trump as warning against conflict, expert says](#)  
(2026-05-22 23:03)

Chinese President Xi Jinping viewed the Thucydides Trap as the "best diagnosis" of the challenge Beijing faces with Washington when he raised the concept with US leader Donald Trump this month, signalling an awareness that their current path risked conflict, an eminent American political scientist said. "My impression is that he sees this as the best diagnosis of the challenge he and President Trump face," said Graham Allison, the founding dean of Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of...

- [Putin left China, without a pipeline deal. Why didn't the Hormuz crisis open the valve?](#)  
(2026-05-22 22:00)

In an era when technology seems to defy all limits, one age-old barrier has managed to endure: geography. As geopolitical turbulence continues to disrupt traffic through the Strait of Hormuz – a vital shipping artery, especially for energy – the search for other fuel sources, and other means of transport, has shifted from a strategic luxury to an existential necessity. This need has become particularly acute for China, a major consumer of fossil fuels. Middle Eastern imports remain a significant...

- [Trump says he won't attend son Donald Trump Jr's wedding to Bettina Anderson](#)  
(2026-05-22 20:57)

US President Donald Trump said on Friday he would not attend the wedding of his eldest son, Donald Trump Jr, to Palm Beach socialite Bettina Anderson, because he has to stay in Washington for government business. "While I very much wanted to be with my son, Don Jr., and the newest member of the Trump Family, his soon to be wife, Bettina, circumstances pertaining to Government, and my love for the United States of America, do not allow me to do so," Trump wrote in a social media post. "I...

- [Trump to force foreigners seeking US green cards to go home first](#) (2026-05-22 20:37)

Foreigners applying for permanent residency in the US will now have to go back to their home countries to seek green cards. "From now on, an alien who is in the US temporarily and wants

a green card must return to their home country to apply, except in extraordinary circumstances,” Zach Kahler, a spokesman for US Citizenship and Immigration Services, said in a statement on Friday. “This policy allows our immigration system to function as the law intended instead of incentivising loopholes,” ...

- [Rubio expected to brief New Delhi on Xi-Trump summit during India trip](#) (2026-05-22 19:41)

When Marco Rubio was confirmed as US Secretary of State last year, fireworks of optimism went off in New Delhi. Given his years as a senator championing a pro-India, staunchly anti-China posture, policymakers anticipated an unprecedented alignment. However, as Rubio arrives in India on Saturday for a four-day visit spanning Kolkata, Agra, Jaipur and New Delhi, he enters a relationship strained by transactional politics, structural deadlock and mounting strategic unease over Washington’s recent...

- [Warsh takes US Fed’s helm with inflation dilemma already unfolding](#) (2026-05-22 18:14)

Kevin Warsh, whose broad criticism of current US Federal Reserve officials, playbook for rate cuts and ties to President Donald Trump elevated him past other contenders to lead the central bank, was sworn in as Fed leader on Friday at a pivotal moment for monetary policy and the American economy. Warsh, wearing a dark suit and tie and accompanied by his wife, Jane Lauder, heiress to the Estee Lauder fortune, was sworn in by Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas after a lengthy introduction by...

- [Two Chinese nationals charged in US drug cartel money-laundering case](#) (2026-05-22 17:52)

Two Chinese nationals were indicted on charges of conspiracy to launder money for drug cartels, the US Justice Department announced on Friday. Ruhuan Zhen and Hongce Wu allegedly hid the source of illegally obtained funds on behalf of various criminal groups operating across borders, including the Sinaloa Cartel and the Cartel de Jalisco Nueva Generacion (CJNG). The two remain at large, the Justice Department said. According to court documents filed in the Eastern District of Virginia, Zhen, Wu...

- [US spy chief Tulsi Gabbard quits in latest Trump cabinet exit](#) (2026-05-22 17:43)

Tulsi Gabbard is resigning from her job as President Donald Trump’s director of national intelligence, Fox News Digital reported on Friday, citing her resignation letter. Gabbard advised Trump of her intention to step down during an Oval Office meeting on Friday, the news outlet reported. The resignation is effective June 30, it said. In her resignation letter, Gabbard told Trump she was “deeply grateful for the trust you placed in me and for the opportunity to lead the Office of the...

- [Putin accuses Ukraine of deadly attack on student dorm, vows retaliation](#) (2026-05-22 17:31)

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday ordered his military to prepare options to retaliate against Ukraine for what he described as a drone attack on a student dorm that killed six people and wounded dozens, with 15 still unaccounted for. Putin said the attack had struck the dorm in Starobilsk in Luhansk, a Russian-controlled region in eastern Ukraine. He said Kyiv's military must have known what it was targeting. Ukraine's military denied the Russian accusations and said it had struck an...

- [PM Carney says Alberta 'essential' to Canada, as separatist push advances](#) (2026-05-22 16:30)

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney said on Friday that Alberta was "essential" to the country's future, hours after the province's leader moved the oil-rich region closer towards a referendum on independence. Separatists in the western province spent months collecting signatures seeking to trigger a binding October vote on seceding from the nation. On May 4, they delivered their petition to provincial officials, insisting they had collected more than enough names to force a vote under Alberta...

- [Chinese fast-fashion juggernaut Shein to buy eco-friendly Everlane](#) (2026-05-22 15:37)

Everlane, the retailer that bucked the fast-fashion industry by promising affordable ethically sourced and sustainable clothing, is being acquired by the king of fast-fashion, China's Shein. A letter to Everlane employees from CEO Alfred Chang confirming the deal was obtained by Associated Press on Friday. Everlane did not disclose a purchase price. Shein declined to comment. Everlane was founded in 2011 by Michael Preysman and Jesse Farmer with a mission to produce eco-friendly and affordable...

- [China AI firms Zhipu, MiniMax to join Hong Kong's Hang Seng Tech Index](#) (2026-05-22 14:51)

Chinese AI firms MiniMax Group and Knowledge Atlas Technology – better known as Zhipu AI – will join the Hang Seng Tech Index next month. Their inclusion follows investor criticism that the city's primary technology gauge has underperformed by missing out on the global artificial intelligence boom. Concurrently, Shanghai-based courier J&T Global Express, lightweight metal giant Aluminum Corp of China and Beijing-founded global drug firm BeOne Medicines will join the benchmark Hang Seng Index....

- [China removes hukou hurdle for migrant workers in social insurance shake-up](#) (2026-05-22 14:31)

China has moved to ease residency restrictions that prevent migrant workers from accessing social insurance where they work, in a sweeping effort to expand coverage and strengthen labour protections nationwide. The new measures were announced on Friday by the State Council, China's cabinet. The move is part of China's broader push to create a unified national market by removing barriers to the free flow of capital and talent. Under the new policy, workers can enrol in social insurance programmes...

- [France’ s youngest PM Attal to run for president](#) (2026-05-22 14:27)

France’ s former prime minister Gabriel Attal said on Friday he would run for president next year when Emmanuel Macron steps down, becoming the second prominent centrist to challenge the far-right. “I can’ t take this kind of French politics anymore, where it’ s just 50 shades of managing decline,” said the 37-year-old, who was France’ s youngest prime minister when he served in 2024. He announced his bid under a blazing sun in the southern village of Mur-de-Barrez – the kind of rural area where...

- [How China and the US can coexist peacefully while locked in strategic stalemate](#) (2026-05-22 14:17)

The original think tank paper was published in Chinese. SCMP Plus members can read an English translation here. A Chinese state think tank has offered a detailed road map to steer China and the US towards peaceful coexistence, as the competition between the two powers has entered a new strategic stalemate. In a paper published on May 13 – the same day US President Donald Trump arrived in Beijing for a high-stakes visit – the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations (Cicir)...

- [China’ s top diplomat Wang Yi to visit US and Canada to boost ties, pave way for Xi trip](#) (2026-05-22 13:21)

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi’ s coming trip to New York and Canada is expected to lay the groundwork for President Xi Jinping’ s state visit to the US and warmer ties with Ottawa. China’ s foreign ministry said on Friday that Wang would chair a high-level meeting of the UN Security Council in New York on May 26, followed by a visit to Canada from May 28 to 30. The New York leg of Wang’ s trip follows less than two weeks after the Beijing summit between Xi and US President Donald Trump. There,...

- [WHO raises risk assessment as DR Congo’ s Ebola outbreak spreads ‘rapidly’](#) (2026-05-22 13:10)

The head of the World Health Organization said on Friday that the Ebola outbreak in Congo is “spreading rapidly” and now poses a “very high” risk at the national level. WHO director general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the UN health agency was revising upwards to “very high” its assessment of the risk within Congo, which had previously been deemed as high. The risk remains high for regional spread and low at global levels, he told reporters. The WHO chief noted that 82 cases have been...

- [Revamped Terminal 2 to uplift Hong Kong’ s aviation hub status: Airport Authority](#) (2026-05-22 13:02)

The expanded second passenger terminal at Hong Kong International Airport will be crucial to the city’ s role as a global aviation hub, with its departure concourse set to open at the end of next year, the managing authority has said. The Airport Authority said on Friday that Terminal 2

would open on May 27 and travellers would check in, clear immigration and undergo security checks before proceeding to Terminal 1 for departure. The dedicated departure concourse and boarding gates were slated to...

- [HK Electric customers set for steeper bills in June over volatile oil prices](#) (2026-05-22 12:47)

HK Electric customers are set to pay more for their energy bills next month after the Hong Kong company announced a 20.4 per cent rise in its fuel charge as the ongoing war in the Middle East contributed to volatile oil prices. The energy provider, which mainly serves Hong Kong Island and Lamma Island, also warned on Friday that the charge was expected to continue rising “in the coming months”. HK Electric announced it would adjust its fuel clause charge for June to 31.3 HK cents per unit of...

- [Why Trump’s China visit could set a new tone for Sino-US relations](#) (2026-05-22 12:30)

On the face of it, US President Donald Trump’s China visit can be characterised by five Bs: beef, beans, Boeings, a board of investment and a board of trade. No wonder Trump rated his visit a “12 on a scale of one to 10”. Just the 200 Boeing aircraft China has agreed to buy is worth the presidential visit. China has achieved no less. Compared with beef, beans and Boeings, the boards of investment and trade that both sides agreed to set up are perhaps more significant. With this institutional...

- [France to invest €1.5 billion in quantum computing, advanced microchips](#) (2026-05-22 12:27)

French President Emmanuel Macron said on Friday that the government will invest an additional €1 billion (US\$1.16 billion) in its quantum strategy and €550 million to support the microelectronics sector, as global powers race to be first to leverage emerging technology. “I’ll say it out loud. We have the means to be the winners of this race,” Macron said while announcing the funding. On Thursday, US President Donald Trump’s administration unveiled plans to take US\$2 billion in equity stakes...

- [India’s US\\$9 billion island megaport sharpens China’s ‘Malacca dilemma’](#) (2026-05-22 12:18)

On Great Nicobar, a remote island located closer to Indonesia than mainland India, New Delhi is embarking on one of its biggest developments in decades. The US\$9 billion project is intended to transform the country’s southernmost tip into a major transport hub comprising a transshipment port, an international airport and associated logistical facilities. Spread across 166 sq km (64 square miles), the project in India’s Andaman and Nicobar archipelago is slated for completion over three decades,...

- [Could all of China’s aircraft carriers soon operate J-35 stealth fighters?](#) (2026-05-22 12:00)

All three of China’s aircraft carriers could soon be able to operate the country’s J-35 stealth fighter, which Chinese experts say would “significantly” bolster the navy’s combat abilities.

Currently, only China's most advanced carrier, the Fujian, can host the J-35 as it has an electromagnetic catapult to assist the fifth-generation fighter into the air. The Liaoning and Shandong carriers launch J-15 fighters from an upwardly curved "ski-jump" deck. However, there are signs that the two older...

- [‘I am sorry’ : Standard Chartered CEO Bill Winters apologises for comments over job cuts](#) (2026-05-22 11:09)

Standard Chartered global CEO Bill Winters on Friday said he was "sorry" for comments describing "lower-value" workers, made while announcing job-cut plans earlier this week. Winters apologised in a LinkedIn post as he tried to cool debate among upset employees after he announced on Tuesday a 15 per cent cut of back-office staff at the lender by 2030. Winters said that AI adoption would replace some "lower-value human capital". The CEO first made a LinkedIn post explaining his comments from...

- [2 climbers die on Everest as record breaker warns of overcrowding](#) (2026-05-22 11:05)

Two Indian climbers have died on Mount Everest during a record-breaking period of ascents via Nepal's southern route, as experts warn of overcrowding on the world's highest peak.

"They fell ill while descending at high altitude. We are working out how to retrieve the bodies," Nivesh Karki, director at Pioneer Adventures, said. He named them as Sandeep Arora, who he said summited on Wednesday, and Arun Kumar Tiwari, who reached the peak on Thursday. Nepal is home to eight of the world's 10 highest...

- [Myanmar's Wei family put on trial in latest phase of China's crackdown on scam compounds](#) (2026-05-22 10:36)

An alleged Myanmar crime boss and members of his syndicate were put on trial this week in the latest stage of Beijing's sweeping crackdown on cross-border scam networks. Wei Huairan, also known as Wai San, faces charges including fraud, murder, extortion and organising illegal border crossings, Chinese state broadcaster CCTV reported on Friday. Prosecutors allege that from 2019 onwards, the syndicate used the Wei family's military and political influence in Myanmar's Kokang region to operate...

- [Bangladesh protestors clash with police over alleged child rape](#) (2026-05-22 10:31)

Thousands of protesters in Bangladesh clashed with police in a bid to seize a suspect accused of raping a four-year-old girl, officials said on Friday. In recent months, the South Asian country has seen a spike in reported cases of violence against women and children, fuelling widespread anger. Police said the suspect, Monir Hossain, was detained by locals in Bangladesh's second-largest city of Chattogram and was being handed over to the authorities on Thursday when tensions boiled over among...

- [Despite blocking Meta's Manus deal, China says 'door open' to foreign tech investment](#) (2026-05-22 10:30)

China's top economic planner denied pressuring domestic tech companies to turn down foreign investment amid rising concerns sparked by its recent blocking of Facebook owner Meta Platforms' proposed buyout of Chinese-founded AI start-up Manus. "We have never required Chinese tech firms not to accept foreign investment," Li Chao, spokesman for the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), said at a press conference on Friday. "We support Chinese firms to integrate into the global..."

- [K-pop stars BTS to hold 3 concerts at Hong Kong's Kai Tak Stadium in 2027](#) (2026-05-22 10:15)

K-pop boy band BTS will perform at Hong Kong's Kai Tak Stadium for three days in March next year as part of their comeback tour, with tickets to sell for up to HK\$3,299 (US\$420) each. The dates for the boy band's performances in the city were announced by event organiser Live Nation HK on Friday. The shows are part of the group's "Arirang" world tour, which marks their return to the global stage after all seven members recently completed mandatory military service in South Korea. The band is set...

- [Freed Indonesian on Gaza flotilla tells father of rough treatment by Israeli officials](#) (2026-05-22 10:00)

After three agonising days with no word from his son, Warsono finally saw the face he had been waiting for. The 60-year-old Indonesian from Bandar Lampung in Sumatra spoke by video call on Thursday evening to his son, Andre Prasetyo Nugroho, following the 27-year-old journalist's release from Israeli detention in Gaza. "To my great relief, I could see he was in one piece, albeit somewhat worse for wear," he said, adding that his son had bruises on his hands from being tightly zip-tied and,...

- [Will string of science scandals ruin century-old journal Nature's reputation in China?](#) (2026-05-22 10:00)

For decades, publishing a paper in Nature was regarded as the ultimate academic achievement in China – a fast track to promotions, research grants, hospital appointments and elite national talent programmes. But a growing wave of academic fraud allegations could be turning that prestige into a liability. Over the past two months, Chinese social media platforms have been flooded with accusations targeting papers published in Nature and its subsidiaries, including Nature Cancer, Nature Cell...

- [American donated US\\$5,000 to China farmer for tree planting decades ago invited to view forest](#) (2026-05-22 10:00)

A Chinese woman who has planted trees in the deserts of Inner Mongolia for decades has contacted an American man who donated US\$5,000 to her and invited him to visit a forest that came into being because of his funding. Yin Yuzhen, 60, was awarded as a National Model Worker by China's State Council in 2000 for her long-term anti-desertification efforts. Hailing from a poor family in northwestern Shaanxi province, Yin married a man who lives in Maowusu

Desert in Inner Mongolia in the 1980s. The...

- [US Navy signals pause in Taiwan arms sale, drawing swift reaction from Beijing](#) (2026-05-22 09:52)

Beijing reaffirmed its opposition to arms sales to Taiwan after the acting secretary of the US Navy said Washington was pausing a US\$14 billion weapons purchase by the self-governed island. “China’s firm opposition to US arms sales to China’s Taiwan region is consistent, clear and unwavering,” foreign ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun said on Friday. On Thursday, acting US Navy head Hung Cao told a congressional hearing that “right now we’re doing a pause in order to make sure we have the munitions...

- [China’s views on achieving ‘constructive, strategic and stable ties’ with US](#) (2026-05-22 09:51)

This report was translated from Chinese into English using Alibaba’s Qwen3, then checked and tweaked for accuracy by a South China Morning Post journalist. It is for reference only, and is not the official English version of the original Chinese document. Alibaba owns the SCMP.

- [Over 4,300 Southeast Asian species face extinction threat](#) (2026-05-22 09:16)

The Javan and Sumatran rhinos are down to their last few dozen, just like the Cat Ba langur of Vietnam, while the soala living in Laos’ Annamite mountains may already be gone for good. Southeast Asia’s remarkable biodiversity is under severe threat from the encroachment of cities and farms, deforestation, warming seas and the trafficking of rare wildlife for food, traditional medicines and as pets. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) told This Week in Asia that more than...

- [China’s AI start-up funding triples to US\\$16b in first quarter amid bets on LLMs, robotics](#) (2026-05-22 09:00)

Funding for China’s artificial-intelligence-related start-ups jumped nearly threefold year on year in the first quarter, as investors poured capital into large language models (LLMs) and embodied AI amid growing optimism over the country’s technology ecosystem. AI-related start-ups secured more than 110 billion yuan (US\$16.2 billion) in the first three months of the year, representing a 185 per cent surge from the same period last year, according to data released on Thursday by Beijing-based...

- [Cuba clash, Putin visits Beijing, Xi may go to North Korea](#) (2026-05-22 08:56)

China criticised the United States for filing criminal charges against former Cuban president Raul Castro, as the Trump administration stepped up pressure on the Communist-ruled Caribbean island. “The United States needs to stop wielding the big stick of sanctions and judicial measures against Cuba, and stop threatening Cuba with force at every turn,” Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun said on Thursday. Russia also said that US actions “cannot be condoned” . The US on Wednesday...

- [Hong Kong producer Raymond Wong found guilty of insider trading](#) (2026-05-22 08:50)

Hong Kong film producer and actor Raymond Wong Pak-ming has been found guilty of sharing insider information with his sister to trade shares of an entertainment company he chaired in 2017, netting her more than HK\$1 million (US\$127,650) in profit. Magistrate Ko Wai-hung at Eastern Court on Friday found Wong had made “absurd and illogical” explanations for his messages to younger sister Jenny Wong, ruling he had knowingly advised her to buy shares in Transmit Entertainment, a television series...

- [India and China are cautiously getting closer, thanks to Trump](#) (2026-05-22 08:30)

Perhaps the most fascinating and important aspects of US President Donald Trump’s jolt to the global economy have been its unintended consequences, especially the impact on relations between China and India. Two consistent aspects of Trump’s meandering narrative are to “make America great again” by bringing manufacturing jobs back to the US, and to hobble China as an economic and strategic threat. A decade later, there has been negligible progress on either objective. Instead, the unintended...

- [Democrats release 2024 US election loss ‘autopsy’ report, only to disavow it](#) (2026-05-22 08:16)

Bowing to pressure from within its ranks, the Democratic National Committee released on Thursday its long-withheld “autopsy” of Kamala Harris’ loss to Donald Trump in the 2024 presidential race – only to quickly disavow it. The report found that Democrats have ceded ground to Trump’s Republicans through underfunding of state parties and a “persistent inability or unwillingness to listen to all voters”. In particular, Democrats underperformed among male voters, non-college voters, irregular...

- [Why Rafizi’s party is bigger threat to Malaysia’s Anwar than opposition coalition](#) (2026-05-22 08:16)

Former Malaysian economy minister Rafizi Ramli’s breakaway gamble is unlikely to bring down Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim on its own, analysts say, but it could still wound the ruling coalition by peeling away reformist voters who helped Pakatan Harapan (PH) take power in 2022. Rafizi and former natural resources and environmental sustainability minister Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad announced on Sunday that they would quit Anwar’s People Justice Party (PKR), vacate their parliamentary seats and take over...

- [Chinese and Dutch scientists turn corn to sustainable plastic, inspired by spider silk](#) (2026-05-22 08:00)

Scientists from China and the Netherlands have created a corn protein-based biopolymer with a process inspired by spider silk that could offer a sustainable alternative to plastics based on fossil fuel. “Plant-derived biopolymers may become sustainable alternatives to fossil-based polymers, yet their poor material performance has so far limited their adoption,” the team

said in a paper published in the peer-reviewed journal Nature Communications on May 11. Thescientists, inspired by how spiders...

- [Air France 2009 crash verdict sparks mixed emotions among families](#) (2026-05-22 07:39)

The Brazilian head of a victims' association for the 2009 crash of Flight 447 from Rio to Paris said that justice has yet to be served in France' s worst aviation crash after a Paris appeals court found Airbus and Air France guilty of manslaughter. Air France and Airbus, two of France' s most emblematic companies, said in separate statements that they would appeal Thursday' s ruling, potentially prolonging the legal battle for years. Brazilian Nelson Faria Marinho, who lost his son in the crash...

- [Malaysia' s tourism-dependent Langkawi fears rising costs are deterring visitors](#) (2026-05-22 07:15)

On Cenang Beach, Mohamad Zaki Najmi sells jet ski rides and boat tours in Langkawi' s turquoise water: adventure activities that have powered the Malaysian island' s tourism economy for years. But costs are rising fast on the popular resort island, and the sea sports operator has been forced to pass them on to customers – a last resort for tourism players in Malaysia as competition for international visitors hots up across Southeast Asia. Higher fuel prices, triggered by the US-Israel war on Iran,...

- [Bloomberg accused of 'unprecedented' malice as Singapore ministers' defamation trial ends](#) (2026-05-22 06:58)

Financial news outlet Bloomberg harboured “unprecedented” malice in the publication and handling of an article about the purchase of good class bungalows in Singapore, lawyers for two Singaporean cabinet ministers alleged on Friday during closing statements in a defamation lawsuit. Senior counsel Davinder Singh said the case was unprecedented in terms of ill intent and aggravation, seeking damages exceeding those against The Online Citizen chief editor Terry Xu, who was ordered to pay S\$574,000...

- [Selfies and symbolism: behind the scenes from Xi' s summit with Trump and Putin](#) (2026-05-22 06:30)

The presidents of the United States and Russia visited Beijing on separate trips in May to meet with President Xi Jinping. The South China Morning Post produced extensive coverage of Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin' s summit meetings in Beijing. Here are some of the highlights of our coverage, taking you behind the headlines and beyond the summit stages to show the politics, symbolism and moments that shaped Xi' s meetings with Trump and Putin. If you would like to see more of our reporting,...

- [Hong Kong trade office in London can continue 'legitimate activity' : UK official](#) (2026-05-22 06:18)

The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (HKETO) in London can continue its “legitimate activity”, the UK government has said, despite political pressure after a British court found two men linked to the office guilty of spying on activists. But the UK government also said on Thursday that anyone in any organisation found to be helping a foreign state to undermine British security would be brought to justice. The government’s remarks came two weeks after Bill Yuen Chung-biu, the London office’s...

- [China’s commerce chief Wang Wentao expected in Brussels on June 29 and 30: sources](#) (2026-05-22 06:04)

Commerce Minister Wang Wentao is expected in Brussels for crunch talks with EU trade chief Maros Sefcovic on June 29 and 30, as trade tensions between the sides threaten to reach fever pitch. Wang’s trip – confirmed by people familiar with the planning – will come on the heels of several top-level debates in the Belgian capital about how the bloc should tackle the perceived threat of an industrial shock to its economy attributed to China’s policies. Next week, the European Commission will hold...

- [Stephen Colbert hosts Late Show finale after controversial cancellation](#) (2026-05-22 06:01)

Paul McCartney led an all-star line-up for the final episode of The Late Show as frontman Stephen Colbert bowed out after broadcaster CBS cancelled his show as it courted US President Donald Trump. But one A-lister who eluded the comic to the end was the pope, whom Colbert, a devout Catholic, had long touted as his dream guest. “The pope, who was definitely my guest tonight, has cancelled,” Colbert joked, blaming a dispute over hot dogs before McCartney appeared to rapturous cheers. The show,...

- [AIIB offers up to US\\$10 billion to support members hit by Iran war fallout](#) (2026-05-22 06:00)

The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has launched a US\$10 billion facility to support members dealing with the impact of the US-Israel war on Iran, the group announced on Thursday. The Energy, Food Security and Economic Resilience Facility, sitting alongside the bank’s existing financing tools, offers up to US\$10 billion over two years to help members tackle urgent needs around energy security, food security and economic resilience, according to a statement published by the...

- [China ‘most devoted fraudster’ fakes records to give wife free dialysis; reignites medical debate](#) (2026-05-22 06:00)

China’s “most devoted fraudster” has returned to public attention after mainland media revisited his case of forging hospital payment slips to keep his wife alive. Liao Dan, a former factory worker in Beijing with only a secondary school education, had been living on the margins of the city with his wife, Du Jinling, and their son after their workplaces shut down. Their hardship worsened in 2007, when Du was diagnosed with severe uraemia and told she needed dialysis three times a week to...

- [Hong Kong's ICAC charges woman over alleged HK\\$10,000 bribe in custody case](#)  
(2026-05-22 05:35)

Hong Kong's anti-corruption watchdog has charged a 62-year-old woman with allegedly bribing a Legal Aid Department clerk to secure custody of her grandson. The Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) said on Thursday that Wen Congmei allegedly offered HK\$10,000 (US\$1,280) to the clerk in September last year. She faces one count of offering an advantage to a public servant. Wen has been released on bail and is due to appear at West Kowloon Court on Friday for mention. According to the...

- [Australia's Linda McGill makes first swim around Hong Kong Island in 1976 – from the SCMP archive](#) (2026-05-22 05:30)

This article was first published on May 23, 1976. Australia's long distance swimming heroine, Linda McGill, staggered ashore at crowded Repulse Bay beach yesterday afternoon (May 22, 1976) after completing her round Hong Kong Island swim and said: "I'd do it again – for A\$20,000 (HK\$883,817 in 2026)." Linda, looking exhausted and close to collapse after just over 17 hours in the water, fell into the arms of her fiance, Dr Bruce Logan, and hundreds of spectators clapped and cheered. With cameras...

- [Coroner's Court, watchdog to probe delayed blood transfusion to girl with cancer](#)  
(2026-05-22 04:50)

Hong Kong's medical watchdog and Coroner's Court will look into an incident in which an eight-year-old girl died two years ago after a delayed blood transfusion during surgery at a public hospital. Eddie Chau, the father of the girl, Chau Tin-yu, said on Friday that the Medical Council inquiry would take place from October 27 to 30 and that he would attend as a witness. The Coroner's Court also notified him that it had decided to open an inquest into Tin-yu's death, with the date to be announced...

- [Leaders Xi, Putin meet over tea; rare earth find in northeast China: SCMP's 7 highlights](#)  
(2026-05-22 04:34)

We have selected seven stories from this week's news across Hong Kong, mainland China, the wider Asia region and beyond that resonated with our readers and shed light on topical issues. If you would like to see more of our reporting, please consider subscribing. 1. Substance for Putin, 'face' for Trump as China, Russia deepen strategic alliance Days after US President Donald Trump's visit framed around managing risks, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin reached a...

- [Vietnam sells disgraced tycoon's Hermes bags to recoup US\\$27 billion in damages](#)  
(2026-05-22 04:11)

Vietnam auctioned off two Hermes handbags owned by real estate tycoon Truong My Lan, convicted in the nation's largest fraud case, for 14.21 billion dong (US\$539,000) as efforts to

claw back billions of dollars in ill-gotten wealth accelerate. The government is auditing assets owned by Lan and her affiliates to recoup billions in losses after courts ordered her to repay US\$27 billion in damages. Lan has so far repaid a total of more than 12 trillion dong to about 42,000 bondholders with more...

- [China's Tsinghua University honours German Gref, Russian banker sanctioned by US](#) (2026-05-22 04:00)

A leading Chinese university has given a Russian banker sanctioned by the United States a prestigious honorary academic title, soon after they signed a partnership agreement on innovative development. German (also known as Herman) Gref, CEO and chairman of Russia's Sberbank, has been given the title of "distinguished visiting professor" by Tsinghua University, according to Russian state news agency Ria on Tuesday, citing a source familiar with the matter. Gref was part of the delegation...

- [China's vast new canal link to Southeast Asia set to open earlier than expected](#) (2026-05-22 03:00)

China's landmark Pinglu Canal has entered its final phase of construction and is set to begin trial operations as early as September, with a first shipping route linking the country's heartlands to the free-trade port of Hainan, according to Chinese state media reports. The Pinglu Canal – China's most ambitious waterway project in centuries – will stretch 134km (83 miles) from Nanning, capital of the southern Guangxi region, to the Gulf of Tonkin, known as the Beibu Gulf in China. The aim is to...

- [Chinese gang caught using AI in Malaysia bungalow for Spanish job scam](#) (2026-05-22 02:41)

A scam syndicate has been renting a bungalow in an upmarket area in Malaysia's Johor state and using AI to carry out job scams all the way in Spain. Police uncovered their activities when they arrested a total of 35 Chinese nationals during a raid at the bungalow in Gelang Patah at 11.50pm on May 14. Iskandar Puteri OCPD Assistant Commissioner M. Kumarasan said the suspects, aged between 21 and 39, used artificial intelligence technology and ready-made language templates to communicate with...

- [China-US stability may not last, ex-Asia adviser to Obama says](#) (2026-05-22 02:26)

Dr Evan Medeiros is the Penner family chair in Asia studies and the Cling family distinguished fellow in US-China studies at Georgetown University. He has served as the National Security Council's director for China, Taiwan and Mongolia, and later as special assistant to the president and senior director for Asia. Medeiros was former president Barack Obama's top adviser on the Asia-Pacific and was previously a policy adviser to Hank Paulson when he was Treasury secretary. He has also held senior...

- [1 dead, 4 injured as Hong Kong subdivided flat fire forces 300 to be evacuated](#) (2026-05-22 02:14)

A Hong Kong resident has died and four others were injured after a fire broke out late on Thursday in an old building under renovation in Jordan, prompting the evacuation of about 300 people. Police received a report at 10.49pm of a fire in a subdivided flat in the 62-year-old Man Yuen Building on Man Wai Street. The Fire Services Department deployed 20 fire engines, 10 ambulances and 106 personnel, with the blaze extinguished at 11.53pm. According to the fire department, the affected...

- [China-Russia: energy ties](#) (2026-05-22 01:37)

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- [Boeing went to China to sell planes. Beijing is buying something else](#) (2026-05-22 01:30)

When Air Force One touched down in Beijing, one of the most photographed passengers was Boeing's chief executive, Kelly Ortberg, there to close a deal. Washington had come to sell aircraft. Beijing was buying something else. The last time this scene played out in 2017, China signed an agreement for 300 Boeing aircraft. Since then, it has pursued an industrial programme aimed at reducing dependence on precisely such orders. That effort has not failed, but neither has it advanced at the pace...

- [‘We really do not trust each other’ : former US envoy foresees wary new phase in China ties](#) (2026-05-22 01:00)

Former US ambassador to China Max Baucus has described the latest US-China summit as ushering in a new phase of wary “constructive stability”, with both sides focused more on preventing crises rather than building trust or meaningfully resetting their relationship. In an interview on Wednesday, Baucus said last week's Beijing summit between President Xi Jinping and his US counterpart Donald Trump served as a guard rail to prevent breakdown and escalation, while revealing the limits of the...

- [China is losing the LLM race but it can still win in AI, ex-Tencent AI lead says](#) (2026-05-22 01:00)

For years, Liu Wei was synonymous with Chinese tech giant Tencent Holdings' artificial intelligence efforts. A distinguished scientist at the Shenzhen-based company, Liu was also head of its Hunyuan team, the firm's foundational model development unit for the generative AI era. But in late 2024, Liu's departure from Tencent after more than eight years sparked immediate speculation as to why he left. Hunyuan was introduced only a year earlier – so why did Liu suddenly quit one of China's most...

- [China inventor creates sword-shaped aerial vehicle, bringing flying sword in fantasy novels to life](#) (2026-05-22 01:00)

A Chinese influencer has turned the flying sword in Chinese xianxia fantasy novels into reality by creating a specially-shaped aerial vehicle. Fan Shisan, from southwestern China's Sichuan province, recently posted a video of himself riding a sword-shaped aerial vehicle, amassing 3.3 million views and 284,000 likes. Dressed in black and striking a cool pose, Fan looks like a knight in China's xianxia dramas. Xianxia is a popular genre of Chinese fantasy developed from the wuxia, or martial...

- [Northern Metropolis industrial park draws 'global interest' from AI, green firms](#) (2026-05-22 00:30)

The new industrial park under the Northern Metropolis megaproject has attracted strong global interest from companies in environmental and AI sectors, its chairman has said, with plans to provide international education and accommodation facilities. Jeffrey Lam Kin-fung, the newly appointed chairman of the Hung Shui Kiu Industry Park Company, also aims to have the park operational by July next year, describing it as a “nice gift” for Hong Kong's 30th anniversary of its return to Chinese...

- [Robots at Singapore's AI zone to clean, patrol and deliver goods](#) (2026-05-22 00:00)

As robots become more advanced to carry out complex tasks, they are set to be at the forefront of the next phase of Singapore's goal to become a world-class artificial intelligence hub. The city state hopes to position itself as a hub for “physical AI” – robots and autonomous systems that can clean buildings, deliver goods, patrol public spaces and eventually work in factories, hospitals and homes. Singapore's stable regulatory environment, strong digital infrastructure and experience deploying...

- [Woman jailed for nearly 42 years over US\\$250 million Minnesota fraud case](#) (2026-05-21 23:50)

A judge on Thursday handed down an extraordinary prison sentence – nearly 42 years – to the former leader of a Minnesota charity who was convicted in a staggering US\$250 million fraud case that helped ignite an immigration crackdown by the Trump administration. Aimee Bock ran Feeding Our Future, which had claimed it helped provide millions of meals to children in need during the coronavirus pandemic. “I understand I failed. I failed the public, my family, everyone,” Bock said in federal...

- [16 dead after gunmen open fire in 2 separate attacks in Honduras](#) (2026-05-21 23:29)

Gunmen opened fire in two separate attacks on Thursday on the Honduran coast, killing at least 16 people, including six police officers, police said. The first incident took place at a plantation in the municipality of Trujillo in northern Honduras, where at least 10 workers were shot and killed, National Police spokesman Edgardo Barahona said. The resource-rich region has been the site of a decades-long agrarian conflict. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights has previously issued...

- [AI boom fuels US\\$11.6b data centre investment in Asia-Pacific as Hong Kong eyes niche role](#) (2026-05-21 23:00)

The artificial intelligence boom is partially spurring investment in Asia-Pacific's data centre properties with a record US\$11.6 billion worth of capital poured into the segment in 2025, according to CBRE. In Hong Kong, while AI-related demand is unlikely to be met because of technical limitations, leasing of data centre space was supported by “hyperscale CSPs (cloud service providers), mainland Chinese technology and e-commerce companies and financial institutions” , the property consultancy...

- [US to send 5,000 troops to Poland, Trump says, after earlier deployment called off](#) (2026-05-21 22:57)

US President Donald Trump said on Thursday he was sending 5,000 troops to Poland, after Washington said an earlier planned deployment had been called off amid pressure on Europe to fend for itself. Trump said the move was based on his relationship with Poland's president Karol Nawrocki, a nationalist ally whom he said he was “proud to endorse” in elections that Nawrocki won last year. “I am pleased to announce that the United States will be sending an additional 5,000 Troops to Poland,” Trump...

- [First Gaza flotilla activists arrive in Turkey after Israel deportation](#) (2026-05-21 22:30)

Israel said on Thursday it had deported all the foreign activists seized by its forces from a Gaza-bound flotilla, as the first group arrived in Turkey following global outcry over their treatment in custody. Hundreds of activists from countries around the world were placed in detention in Israel after they were intercepted at sea on Monday while making the latest in a string of attempts to break the blockade of the Palestinian territory. Turkish foreign ministry sources said 422 activists,...

- [China is replacing Middle East oil with Xinjiang coal. What does it mean for the world?](#) (2026-05-21 22:00)

As the war in Iran disrupts global oil and chemical supplies, China's coal-heavy energy sector is seizing an unprecedented opportunity. Dannie Peng visited the Changji Hui Autonomous Prefecture in northern Xinjiang – one of China's four major bases for large-scale, modern coal-chemical production. In the second of a two-part series, she discovers how China is leveraging coal chemicals to offset oil shocks. It is late April, and northern Xinjiang is already gripped by scorching heat. Salt flats...

- [Not even a quick end to Iran war can save AI stock bubble now](#) (2026-05-21 21:30)

The Iran war has baked in stagflation and starvation through big reductions in the supply of oil and fertilisers. This inflationary pressure will only increase. As inflation sucks liquidity out of financial markets and into the real economy, bond yields are being pushed up across the world. If bond yields rise by more than a percentage point, a likely scenario before the year's end, the liquidity diversion could be big enough to pop the AI bubble. The US-Israeli war on Iran has

disrupted the...

- [US voices hope on Iran deal progress before Pakistan army chief visit](#) (2026-05-21 21:24)

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio voiced hope on Thursday of progress on ending the war with Iran, with mediator Pakistan's army chief due to arrive in the Islamic republic for talks. The expected visit by Field Marshal Asim Munir, a powerful figure with a growing role in Pakistan's foreign relations, comes a day after US President Donald Trump warned that negotiations to end the war were on the "borderline" between a deal and renewed strikes. "I believe the Pakistanis will be travelling to...

- [US casts Cuba as China-linked security threat while still pushing for talks](#) (2026-05-21 21:16)

One day after the United States brought criminal charges against former Cuban leader Raul Castro over the 1996 shooting down of two civilian aircraft, President Donald Trump and Secretary of State Marco Rubio portrayed Cuba as both a growing national security threat tied to China and Russia and a candidate for a negotiated political transition. The comments came amid renewed friction between Washington and Beijing over Cuba after China criticised the US charges against Castro and accused...

- [US foreign affairs chairman warns of China role in Argentina contract bid](#) (2026-05-21 20:36)

US House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Brian Mast has warned US Secretary of State Marco Rubio of "Chinese malign influence" in a bid for a major contract in Argentina, according to a letter seen by Reuters. The April 23 letter concerns an auction for a 25-year contract to dredge and operate Argentina's Parana River, a vital waterway for most of the country's agricultural exports, that Argentina estimates will reach US\$10 billion in investment. The terms of the tender, which is in its...

- [2 men charged with creating AI-generated porn under new US law targeting 'deepfakes'](#) (2026-05-21 20:08)

Federal prosecutors have charged two men with using artificial intelligence to create nude videos and photos of female celebrities under a newly enacted law meant to halt the spread of deepfake pornography. Cornelius Shannon, 51, and Arturo Hernandez, 20, were both arrested on Tuesday for generating sexually explicit AI content that drew millions of views online, according to criminal complaints. The men – who do not appear to be connected – are among the earliest defendants to face charges...

- [Trump scraps signing AI executive order to keep 'lead' over China in industry](#) (2026-05-21 19:47)

US President Donald Trump said on Thursday that he had postponed the signing of a planned executive order on regulating artificial intelligence (AI), out of concern that it might undermine

America's leading position over China in the field. "We're leading China, we're leading everybody, and I don't want to do anything that's going to get in the way of that lead," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office. The signing ceremony, which was originally scheduled for Thursday afternoon, was delayed...

- [UN 'concerned' over Taliban law that includes child marriage provision](#) (2026-05-21 19:45)

The United Nations expressed "grave concern" on Thursday about a new law issued by Afghanistan's Taliban government on separation in marriage which includes provisions on child marriage, saying the code further entrenches discrimination against women and girls. The government rejected the accusations, saying the decree follows Islamic law and insisting the country has already banned the forced marriage of girls. Afghanistan's justice ministry published Decree No 18 "on judicial separation of..."

- [Hong Kong-born conductor Elim Chan becomes first woman to lead San Francisco Symphony](#) (2026-05-21 17:54)

Hong Kong-born conductor Elim Chan has been named music director designate of the San Francisco Symphony, capping months of intense industry speculation over her next permanent posting. The orchestra announced on May 21 that Chan will officially begin her tenure in September 2027. She will serve an initial six-year term, becoming the first woman and 13th music director in the institution's 115-year history. The announcement marks a significant milestone for the conductor and places one of Hong...

- [Mother arrested after young French boys abandoned in Portugal](#) (2026-05-21 17:45)

Portuguese police on Thursday arrested the mother of two young French boys found abandoned by a main road in the south of the country, alone and crying. The boys, aged four and five, were rescued on Tuesday by a passing motorist near the resort town of Comporta, where they had been left with backpacks containing food and water but no identity documents, according to Portuguese media. A manhunt was launched for the boys' mother, 41, and on Thursday Portuguese police said they had arrested her in...

- [Residents set fire to an Ebola centre in DR Congo as fear and anger grow over outbreak](#) (2026-05-21 17:16)

People set fire to an Ebola treatment centre in a town at the heart of the outbreak in eastern DR Congo on Thursday after being stopped from retrieving the body of a local man, a witness and a senior police officer said, as fear and anger grow over a health crisis that doctors are struggling to contain. The arson attack in Rwampara reflects the challenges of health workers trying to curb a rare Ebola virus by using stringent measures that might clash with local customs, such as burial rites. The...

- [Court annuls leadership of Turkey's main opposition party](#) (2026-05-21 16:46)

An Ankara court on Thursday annulled the 2023 leadership election of Turkey's main opposition CHP party, state news agency Anadolu reported, in a sharp escalation against the country's embattled opposition. The ruling overturns the result of the leadership election that brought in current party head Ozgur Ozel and ordered that the party's former long-term chairman, Kemal Kilicdaroglu – who lost the election to Ozel – take over as interim leader. In response, the party urged its senior membership...

- [Historic Legco trip to Beijing to include tech sector tours, seminars and visits](#) (2026-05-21 15:57)

All 90 Hong Kong lawmakers are set to head to Beijing for a historic “national affairs study visit” in July, attending seminars, visiting key authorities and inspecting the tech sector during their week-long trip. The visit to the capital from July 19 to 25, which will include seminars on national security and geopolitical issues, is expected to cost about HK\$1.4 million (US\$179,000) in total, according to a paper submitted to the Legislative Council on Thursday. The estimated cost for each...

- [Hong Kong mobile ice cream vendor told to stop selling product due to bacteria](#) (2026-05-21 15:54)

Hong Kong authorities have ordered a licensed mobile ice cream vendor in Central to stop selling soft ice cream after a sample was found to contain coliform bacteria levels exceeding the legal limit. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department's Centre for Food Safety said on Thursday that the sample contained 310 coliform bacteria per gram, more than three times the limit of 100 per gram under the Frozen Confections Regulation. The watchdog said it had informed the licence holder of the...

- [China and Russia unite on world order, but Putin departs without concrete gains](#) (2026-05-21 15:00)

Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit this week offered China another opportunity to showcase its diplomatic weight after hosting US President Donald Trump. But behind the display of solidarity and trust, the packed trip appeared to yield few concrete gains for Moscow – notably no deals on the closely watched Power of Siberia 2 pipeline project. Still, Chinese observers said the trip reflected the shared push by Beijing and Moscow for a multipolar world order, even as economic and strategic...

- [Operation targeting fire safety in old Hong Kong buildings extended for 2 years](#) (2026-05-21 14:37)

Hong Kong authorities are extending an operation targeting poorly maintained fire safety equipment for another two years, aiming to inspect 5,000 high-risk old buildings after an initial phase resulted in 75 prosecutions. Law Kin-san, acting senior divisional officer for policy at the Fire Services Department, said on Thursday that ad hoc checks on high-risk buildings would prioritise residential blocks wrapped in scaffolding nets and those undergoing major

renovation. “Unlike new buildings,...

- [Inside YMTC’ s IPO plans: how is China’ s 3D NAND champion chasing capital markets?](#) (2026-05-21 14:30)

China’ s push for semiconductor self-reliance is hitting the capital markets. The parent company of Yangtze Memory Technologies Co (YMTC), the nation’ s leading 3D NAND flash memory manufacturer, officially started the tutoring process for an initial public offering (IPO) on Tuesday, according to a filing with the China Securities Regulatory Commission. Citic Securities and China Securities are acting as tutoring institutions. Meanwhile, its peer, ChangXin Memory Technologies (CXMT), China’ s...

- [Young Indians protest through parody ‘cockroach’ party](#) (2026-05-21 14:18)

It began as a satirical online project. Now millions of young Indians are flocking to it as an outlet for their frustration. A parody political party called the Cockroach Janta Party, with the insect as its symbol, has exploded across India’ s social media by turning absurdist humour into protest. Memes and short videos mocking corruption, joblessness and political dysfunction have flooded social media sites, where millions of users are embracing the cockroach – known for its ability to survive...

- [2 Chinese supertankers join flotilla exiting Hormuz as stand-off appears to thaw](#) (2026-05-21 14:00)

Three fully laden supertankers – including two Chinese vessels – crossed the Strait of Hormuz on Wednesday, in a possible sign that Tehran may be starting to open up the vital waterway to more shipping traffic. The exit of the three very large crude carriers (VLCCs) came on the same day that Iran confirmed it had allowed 26 vessels to transit the strait – a hefty uptick compared with the level of traffic Iranian forces have generally permitted since the war began. The moves appeared to signal an...

- [Police to investigate suspected airgun damage to window of Yuen Long flat](#) (2026-05-21 13:40)

A Hong Kong resident has reported suspected airgun damage to her flat window in Yuen Long, with a district councillor warning that similar incidents may have occurred at the same public housing estate. Police said on Thursday that a 64-year-old woman reported the case at about 12.30pm, after discovering damage to a window at her flat in Shek Ping House in Long Ping Estate. The woman told police she found a 2mm steel pellet on her bed on Monday, but did not initially suspect anything. She later...

- [Philippine justice chief orders arrest of senator wanted by ICC](#) (2026-05-21 13:23)

The Philippine justice chief ordered authorities on Thursday to enforce an International Criminal Court warrant for the arrest of a senator wanted on an alleged crime against humanity. He warned that anyone helping the senator evade a nationwide hunt would face criminal

charges. Senator Ronald Dela Rosa “is a fugitive from justice” , Justice Secretary FredderickVida said in a news conference. “He should be brought to the ICC to face the charges.” DelaRosa is a former national police chief who...

- [Morocco building collapse kills at least 4](#) (2026-05-21 13:10)

At least four people were killed and six others injured when a four-storey building collapsed overnight in the Moroccan city of Fez, about 200km (124 miles) east of Rabat, local authorities said on Thursday. State media 2M had said 11 people were killed before issuing an official correction. Authorities said a search for others who might still be buried was ongoing. Local media showed footage of rescuers and residents digging through the rubble. An investigation has been launched into the...

- [US jobless claims fall as lay-offs remain low despite economic uncertainty](#) (2026-05-21 13:03)

Fewer Americans filed for jobless aid last week as lay-offs remain low despite a number of uncertainties that continue to cloud the economy. US applications for unemployment benefits for the week ending May 16 fell by 3,000 to 209,000, the Labour Department reported Thursday. That is fewer than the 213,000 new applications analysts surveyed by the data firm FactSet had forecast. Weekly filings for unemployment benefits are considered a proxy for US lay-offs and are close to a real-time indicator...

- [AI gives China ‘God’ s-eye view’ of solar, wind installations as data-centre demand booms](#) (2026-05-21 13:00)

In a significant leap for green-energy tracking, researchers from Peking University and Alibaba Group’ s Damo Academy have used AI to map hundreds of thousands of solar and wind installations across China. The initiative resulted in a first-of-its-kind national inventory designed to help coordinate the country’ s ambitious green transition. By leveraging a self-developed AI model from Damo, the research team processed a massive 7.56 terabytes of satellite imagery. The algorithm identified 319,972...

- [Singapore Airlines faces narrow window to gain market share from Gulf rivals](#) (2026-05-21 12:33)

As high fuel prices and disruption from the Middle East conflict force many Asian carriers to cut capacity and rearrange routes, Singapore Airlines (SIA) is moving in the opposite direction: adding long-haul flights to Europe in a bid to capture traffic from its Gulf rivals. Aviation analysts said the carrier’ s expansion reflected a rare combination in the region: a strong balance sheet, insulation from sudden jumps in fuel prices due to its hedging strategy and a hub in Singapore that could...

- [Russia, US increasingly see China as an anchor for peace and prosperity](#) (2026-05-21 12:30)

Beijing is increasingly seen as key to securing international stability and economic opportunities, a status which both Washington and Moscow are converging on. Chinese President Xi Jinping's recent foreign policy interactions with the leaders of the United States and Russia highlight China's rising strategic position – acting as a significant player in global affairs, from the conflict in Ukraine to the volatile situation with Iran. Xi's relationship with Russian President Vladimir Putin has...

- [Paris court finds Airbus, Air France guilty in 2009 crash that killed 228](#) (2026-05-21 12:21)

A Paris appeal court on Thursday found Airbus and Air France guilty of corporate manslaughter over the 2009 Rio-Paris plane crash that killed 228 passengers and crew in France's worst air disaster. The verdict is the latest milestone in a legal marathon involving two of France's most emblematic companies and relatives of the mainly French, Brazilian and German victims. Relatives of some of the 228 passengers and crew who died when the Airbus A330 vanished in darkness during an Atlantic storm...

- [China's J-10CE jets defeat Eurofighters 9-0 in mock battles, CCTV confirms](#) (2026-05-21 12:05)

China has confirmed that its J-10CE fighter went undefeated against Eurofighter Typhoon jets during nine simulated air combat exercises in 2024. State broadcaster CCTV reported last week that the aircraft won all nine of its engagements in simulated combat against the multi-role fighter, without specifying the details of the exercise or which countries took part. However, Pakistani media reported that the mock battles took place during the "Zilzal-II" joint air exercise in Qatar in January 2024....

- [Sino Land strengthens commitment to sustainability with global recognition](#) (2026-05-21 11:44)

[The content of this article has been produced by our advertising partner.] Sino Group's sustained efforts in environmental and social responsibility have earned Sino Land Company Limited a place in the global top 5 per cent of the Real Estate Management & Development industry in the S&P Global Sustainability Yearbook 2026. The result, announced earlier in March, marks the fourth consecutive year of inclusion in the Yearbook. Sino Land is the only property developer from Hong Kong to attain this...

- [Queen pushed for ex-prince Andrew's appointment as trade envoy, documents show](#) (2026-05-21 11:35)

Queen Elizabeth pressed for her son Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor to be made a government trade envoy back in 2000, according to documents released on Thursday. Mountbatten-Windsor, brother of King Charles, served as the UK's Special Representative for International Trade and Investment between 2001 and 2011 in an unpaid role that allowed him to travel the world meeting senior business and government figures. David Wright, the chief executive of British Trade International, said that before the...

- [Hong Kong issues red travel alert for DR Congo as deadly Ebola outbreak spreads](#)

(2026-05-21 11:15)

Hong Kong has issued a red travel alert for the Democratic Republic of Congo as Ebola outbreaks escalate in Central Africa, with at least 139 suspected deaths reported. The red alert – the middle level in a three-tier outbound travel alert system under the Security Bureau – means residents travelling to the country should adjust their plans and avoid non-essential travel due to the significant threat there. The move on Thursday follows the health authorities’ announcement on Tuesday that the...

- [China breaks ground on US\\$5b aviation complex in UAE as Iran war risks linger](#)

(2026-05-21 11:00)

Despite instability in the Middle East, China Railway Construction Corporation (CRCC) has begun building the world’s largest aircraft maintenance complex in the United Arab Emirates, underscoring China’s growing dominance in overseas infrastructure. The project, worth more than US\$5 billion and one of the largest construction deals a Chinese builder has secured in the region, will comprise eight large maintenance hangars for aircraft storage, covering about 1.21 million square metres (13 million...

- [China condemns US ‘big stick’ over Castro charges and ‘unauthorised’ sanctions on Cuba](#)

(2026-05-21 10:58)

China condemned the US on Thursday for charging former Cuban leader Raul Castro as the Trump administration escalates pressure on the island’s socialist government. The remarks follow US announcements on Wednesday of criminal charges against Castro regarding the 1996 downing of two civilian planes flown by Miami-based exiles which killed four people, including three Americans. China “firmly opposes” illegal unilateral sanctions that lack a basis in international law and are not authorised by the...

- [Hong Kong airport records 13% year-on-year rise in passengers, flights up 5.1%](#)

(2026-05-21 10:52)

Hong Kong International Airport has recorded a 13 per cent year-on-year increase in passenger traffic in the first four months of the year, while flight movements rose 5.1 per cent. According to the Airport Authority, the Easter holiday boosted traffic in April, when the airport handled more than 5.6 million passengers and 34,000 flight movements, representing year-on-year increases of 9.4 per cent and 5.5 per cent respectively. “Overall passenger growth in April was supported by the Easter...

- [Man falls to death from flat amid dispute with wife, son over education expenses](#)

(2026-05-21 10:51)

A man plunged to his death from the balcony of his public housing flat in Hong Kong on Wednesday night after a dispute with his wife and son over education expenses, police said. A

source said on Thursday that the man's wife, 52, and their 21-year-old son were arrested, with preliminary investigations suggesting the death was accidental. The force received a report from the man's son at 9.42pm on Wednesday, saying his father had lost his balance and fallen from their flat at Ming Yiu House in...

- [Austrian spy found guilty of giving secrets to Wirecard fugitive](#) (2026-05-21 10:26)

An ex-Austrian intelligence officer was found guilty of passing on state secrets to a fugitive former top executive at the fraudulent payments company Wirecard in a high-profile spy case that has prompted authorities in Vienna to tighten rules on espionage. Egisto Ott was handed a prison sentence of more than four years for spying, abuse of office, bribery and embezzlement, and other charges, according to a statement from the Vienna Regional Criminal Court late on Wednesday. He was found...

- [Labourer remanded after admitting he tossed seditious messages from flat](#) (2026-05-21 10:17)

A Hong Kong construction worker has been remanded in custody pending sentencing after pleading guilty to tossing 59 pieces of paper bearing seditious messages from his public rental flat in 2024 and last year. Raymond Wong Chan-fai, 55, was detained on Thursday morning by police's National Security Department. He was escorted to West Kowloon Court in the afternoon, where he pleaded guilty to two counts of doing an act with seditious intention under the Safeguarding National Security...

- [Beijing warns US on Taiwan ties after Trump signals openness to talking with Lai](#) (2026-05-21 10:03)

Beijing has reiterated its firm opposition to any official interactions between Washington and Taiwan, following Donald Trump's remarks that he would be open to speaking with the person "running" the island, William Lai Ching-te. "China's opposition to official US exchanges with China's Taiwan region and US arms to Taiwan remains consistent, clear and firm," Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun said on Thursday. The ministry urged the United States to "earnestly implement the important..."

- [China blogger with 20 million followers takes a break after 13 years of intense content creation](#) (2026-05-21 10:00)

A top influencer in China has announced a halt to updates of his social media account for the sake of his health, arousing significant nationwide attention. The announcement comes after the sudden deaths of a slew of online celebrities at a young age due to work pressure, the Liaoshen Evening News reported. Wang Bowen, who uses the handle @dalianlaoshiwangbowen on social media and has amassed more than 20 million followers, said in mid-May that he would stop releasing videos for an "indefinite..."

- [‘No ParknShop sale’ : Li Ka-shing’ s CK Hutchison rules out supermarket merger with Wellcome](#) (2026-05-21 09:32)

CK Hutchison Holdings, one of the flagship companies of billionaire Li Ka-shing, has no plans to sell ParknShop in Hong Kong to one of its largest competitors, according to a senior executive of the supermarket chain’ s owner and operator. “There is really no such plan to sell ParknShop,” said Dominic Lai, group co-managing director of CK Hutchison, responding to a question at the company’ s annual general meeting on Thursday. The group had been reported to be in talks with Jardine Matheson about...

- [Commercial humanoid robots in China may soon do laundry, make beds, care for elders](#) (2026-05-21 09:22)

China’ s robotics pioneers are rapidly expanding beyond the usual factory surroundings and into more challenging terrains: the unstructured, dynamic and complex world of domestic household chores. GigaAI unveiled the country’ s first general-purpose household humanoid robot model on Wednesday, the SeeLight S1, in collaboration with Hubei Humanoid Robot Innovation Centre and Hubei Humanoid Robotics Industry Alliance. The robot will be given to families to test free of charge in Wuhan, the capital...

- [Uber says Hong Kong ride-hailing cap ‘unusual’ , insists it is here to stay](#) (2026-05-21 09:16)

Uber has described Hong Kong’ s plan to cap the number of ride-hailing vehicle licences as “unusual” , as the city enters the final stage of shaping its regulatory regime. Andrew Byrne, the company’ s US-based global head of public policy, was in Hong Kong on Thursday, where he urged authorities to consider existing demand when setting any cap. The proposed ceiling has sparked controversy. Some lawmakers suggest the government may issue between 10,000 and 15,000 licences, while taxi groups argue...

- [US delegation may herald Hegseth trip to China](#) (2026-05-21 09:00)

A Pentagon delegation may visit China within weeks, paving the way for a potential Beijing trip by Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth, the South China Morning Post reported on Thursday. Elbridge Colby, defence undersecretary for policy, may lead the group visit, which will aim to finalise arrangements for a Hegseth trip among other goals, the SCMP said, citing unidentified sources. It’ s not clear when the Hegseth visit may happen. The defence secretary was among cabinet members that accompanied...

- [Can China team’ s Greek dig unveil an untold truth in ancient world history?](#) (2026-05-21 09:00)

Chinese archaeologists have started work on a joint excavation project at a site in Greece that may help answer some increasingly popular questions in China about the roots of ancient civilisations. Most global histories are written by European and American scholars. As China’ s national power grows, scepticism within the country towards historical narratives shaped by

Western perspectives is increasing. Much of this debate is based on second-hand information rather than primary evidence,...

- [Malaysia demands TikTok explain failure to block fake account using AI to insult king](#)  
(2026-05-21 08:54)

Malaysia's internet regulator issued a statutory demand to TikTok on Thursday after a fake account allegedly used artificial intelligence to insult the country's king, including posts falsely claiming he ate pork and manipulated images pairing his face with animal bodies. The Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) said in a statement that TikTok had failed to take "sufficient and timely action" against offensive and defamatory content targeting the country's royal...

- [Shenzhen's 24-hour spa, a glimpse of 1970s Hong Kong: 7 Lifestyle highlights](#)  
(2026-05-21 08:15)

We have selected seven lifestyle stories from the past seven days that resonated with our readers. If you would like to see more of our reporting, please consider subscribing. 1. Saunas, sure. But sleep? A couple stays overnight at a 24-hour spa in Shenzhen A writer and her husband visit Shenzhen's Tenz spa to see what it offers besides massages and how easy it is to get a good night's rest there 2. Photographer's snaps of 1970s Hong Kong given life by grandson 5 decades on During the Christmas...

- [Xi's back-to-back meetings with Trump and Putin in Beijing: everything you need to know](#)  
(2026-05-21 08:00)

The presidents of the United States and Russia visited Beijing on separate trips in May to meet with President Xi Jinping. The South China Morning Post produced extensive coverage of Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin's summit meetings in Beijing. Here are some of the highlights of our coverage, showing you what happened, what it means, and what's next. If you would like to see more of our reporting, please consider subscribing. 1. The Xi-Trump summit is over. What comes next in the US-China...

- [China-Russia joint statement on Xi-Putin summit](#) (2026-05-21 07:43)

China and Russia released a joint statement on Thursday in the wake of Chinese President Xi Jinping's summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin a day earlier, during which the two leaders signed an agreement to boost strategic ties and a separate declaration to push for a multipolar global order and witnessed the sealing of more than 20 agreements on cooperation in areas including energy, trade and science and technology. China-Russia Joint Statement by scmp

- [Starmer's leadership challenger Streeter floats UK 'wealth tax that works'](#)  
(2026-05-21 07:40)

Former British health minister Wes Streeting, a potential candidate for the leadership of the Labour Party, said he backed the introduction of tax changes which would equalise capital gains tax with income tax to make the system “fairer”. Streeting said on Saturday that he wanted to challenge embattled Prime Minister Keir Starmer if there is a contest, days after he stepped down and urged Starmer to set a timetable for his departure. The former health minister, who has already said he...

- [What Lee’s Netanyahu ‘war criminal’ remark means for South Korea’s diplomacy](#) (2026-05-21 07:32)

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung’s declaration that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was a “war criminal” highlights the balancing act between his human rights convictions and commitment to protecting Seoul’s interests in the Middle East, analysts have said. Lee’s comments came as Seoul was pushing for the release of two South Korean nationals detained by Israeli forces while attempting to reach the Gaza Strip aboard humanitarian aid boats, drawing attention to his willingness to...

- [US denies role in Norway’s cancelled missile sale to Malaysia](#) (2026-05-21 07:06)

The United States has denied any role in Norway’s decision to cancel a missile sale to Malaysia, saying it had supported the acquisition, after the dispute raised questions over Washington’s influence on weapons deals involving American-made components. The dispute centres on Naval Strike Missiles (NSMs) built by Norway’s Kongsberg Defence & Aerospace for a fleet of new Malaysian combat ships, with Kuala Lumpur saying it had already paid 95 per cent of the contract, valued at €126 million...

- [Jailed banker ties roil Flavio Bolsonaro’s Brazil presidential hopes](#) (2026-05-21 06:34)

Brazil’s right-wing presidential candidate Flavio Bolsonaro was riding high in the polls until the news broke of his ties to a banker jailed over a multimillion-dollar fraud scandal. The 45-year-old senator had been polling neck-and-neck with 80-year-old President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, who is expected to seek a fourth term in presidential elections in October. But a change may be under way following the publication of an audio recording by investigative outlet The Intercept in which...

- [Police probe theft of HK\\$8 million in luxury wines, other items from seaside home](#) (2026-05-21 06:33)

Hong Kong police are investigating a burglary at a seaside luxury house in Tai Po, where a businesswoman lost an estimated HK\$8 million (US\$1.02 million) worth of premium wines, Mao-tai liquor and vintage tea leaves, the South China Morning Post has learned. A source said on Thursday that the victim, a 53-year-old local businesswoman, reported the break-in at around 5.47pm on Wednesday after returning from a trip to mainland China. The insider said the woman had left her home at the Mayfair By...

- [Anxiety, depression plague up to 66% of Hong Kong subdivided flat tenants: NGO](#)  
(2026-05-21 06:23)

As many as two-thirds of 158 subdivided housing tenants supported by an NGO in Hong Kong have shown signs of anxiety or depression, highlighting calls for stronger counselling and social support. The Kwun Tong Methodist Social Service (KTMSS) said on Thursday that it had served 158 families living in subdivided flats in the district in 2024-25, about half of whom had at least one child with special educational needs. The households had an average monthly income of about HK\$15,350 (US\$1,960),...

- [Alibaba signals next phase of AI growth from investment to commercialisation](#)  
(2026-05-21 06:00)

Alibaba Group Holding's heavy investments in artificial intelligence have moved beyond the "initial" phase and entered "full-scale commercialisation", the Chinese e-commerce and cloud computing giant says in a shareholder letter as it doubles down on AI as its next major growth engine. "We expect the addressable market for companies like Alibaba that provide full-stack AI capabilities is poised to grow exponentially," chairman Joe Tsai and CEO Eddie Wu Yongming said in a joint shareholder letter...

- [China woman develops 8cm throat ulcer after quickly eating hotpot, rupturing digestive system](#) (2026-05-21 06:00)

A Chinese woman developed an eight centimetre throat ulcer after eating hotpot too quickly, prompting her doctor to warn about the risks of such behaviour. The 42-year-old, surnamed Wang, from Changsha in central China's Hunan province, was diagnosed with an oesophageal ulcer after gulping down the food. She said she was too "hungry and carried away" while chatting with friends over hotpot on a cool day in March. She did not wait for the food to cool down after taking it from the pot, and...

- [Hong Kong privacy watchdog warns of fake retailer compensation call scam](#) (2026-05-21 05:54)

Hong Kong's privacy watchdog has warned of a new scam in which fraudsters impersonate an electrical appliance retailer to offer compensation or product replacements, with losses totalling HK\$17,000 (US\$2,170) in one case. A spokesman for the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data said on Thursday that it had received 24 complaints and seven inquiries in recent months related to such claims. All complainants were customers of the electrical appliance brand Built-in Pro. "Even if...

- [Cambodia raids buildings linked to Chen Zhi, Chinese billionaire accused of scam empire](#)  
(2026-05-21 05:47)

Cambodian authorities have raided two buildings in Phnom Penh's Prince Plaza Centre, which is linked to extradited Chinese billionaire Chen Zhi, and detained 104 individuals, including 82 Chinese nationals, local media reported. The move comes as governments around the world

have intensified their crackdown on an alleged multibillion-dollar online scam empire since Chen's arrest. The raid, a joint operation by Phnom Penh police, the country's Commission for Combating Technology-Based Scams...

- [Omega-3 could hurt the brain, China scores rare-earth find: 7 science highlights](#) (2026-05-21 05:44)

We have put together stories from our coverage on science from the past two weeks to help you stay informed. If you would like to see more of our reporting, please consider subscribing. 1. Could omega-3 supplements hurt the brain? Chinese military study flags risks Oral fish oil intake may not improve and could even speed up cognitive decline in Alzheimer's disease, a research team from China's Army Medical University has found. 2. China's northeast, poor in rare earths, scores big...

- [Thai Princess Bajrakitiyabha's health declines amid ongoing medical battle](#) (2026-05-21 04:02)

The medical condition of Thai Princess Bajrakitiyabha has worsened as a result of multiple infections in several organs, with doctors unable to contain her irregular heart rate, the Royal Palace said in a statement on Thursday. The 47-year-old princess and eldest daughter of King Maha Vajiralongkorn was taken to hospital in December 2022, after she collapsed from a heart condition and other infections. She has been in a coma ever since. After years of treatment, doctors discovered a...

- [Xi's key interactions with US and Russian presidents](#) (2026-05-21 03:17)

US President Donald Trump's state visit to Beijing on May 13 was Xi Jinping's 18th meeting with a US president since he became China's leader in 2013. Xi has previously held talks with presidents Barack Obama and Joe Biden, as well as with Trump during the US leader's first term. By comparison, Xi has had more than 40 physical meetings with Russian President Vladimir Putin during the same period.

- [Tesla's FSD launch in China heats up competition with domestic EV makers](#) (2026-05-21 02:42)

Tesla has announced the widely anticipated roll-out of its Full Self-Driving (FSD) system in China, just one week after company founder and CEO Elon Musk travelled to Beijing as part of a state visit by US President Donald Trump. The arrival of the system will raise the self-driving game in a market where level three (L3) automated driving has been legalised. "FSD Supervised" was now available in China and nine other countries including the US, Canada, Mexico, Australia, New Zealand, South Korea...

- [Man injured in Hong Kong 10-vehicle crash during rush hour](#) (2026-05-21 02:39)

At least one man was injured in a 10-vehicle pile-up on Hong Kong's Tuen Mun Road during the Thursday morning rush hour. Police received the first report of the collision near Sham

Tseng Fire Station on the Yuen Long-bound fast lane of the major highway at 7.47am, while an amber rainstorm warning was in force. A private car driver in his 30s reported hand injuries after his vehicle's airbag deployed during the crash, the force said, adding that three ambulances were dispatched to the...

- [China's Xi Jinping expected to visit North Korea as early as next week](#) (2026-05-21 02:15)

President Xi Jinping is expected to visit North Korea as early as next week, Yonhap news agency has reported, as Beijing and Pyongyang's long-standing ties have grown warmer in recent months. "We have obtained intelligence indicating that President Xi Jinping will visit North Korea soon," the South Korean agency said, citing a government source. Another government official told Yonhap that Xi might visit North Korea later this month or early next month. A separate source said the Chinese leader...

- [Nvidia's H200 sales prospects in China remain uncertain despite Huang visit](#) (2026-05-21 01:32)

Nvidia has not generated any revenue from H200 chip sales to China and remains uncertain whether the product will be allowed into the country, the US chip giant said on Wednesday, underscoring how geopolitics continues to cloud its access to one of the world's largest AI markets even as global demand for its data centre processors surged to a record high. While Washington has approved licences for H200 shipments to China-based customers, Colette Kress, Nvidia's executive vice-president and chief...

- [The weight of silk: what the honour means for the Inner Bar as an institution](#) (2026-05-21 01:30)

Few moments at the Bar are more joyful and surreal than watching one's former pupil take silk: pride, disbelief and the sudden realisation that someone you still instinctively think of as "junior" is now being bestowed with unmistakable senior seriousness. Last Saturday was, therefore, a sentimental moment for me as I watched my former pupil, Bonnie Cheng, being honoured with the new status at the ceremony. As the old saying goes, every barrister wants to take silk – until one does. The great...

- ['Soaking wet' : Hong Kong parents furious after last-minute rain warning change](#) (2026-05-21 01:23)

Hundreds of angry parents have criticised Hong Kong's weather forecaster after children were required to attend school during heavy downpours, with many citing flooded streets and difficult commutes following the year's first red rainstorm warning. The Hong Kong Observatory issued the red rainstorm signal at 2.40am on Thursday as intense rainbands battered the city, followed by a flooding alert for the Northern New Territories. The signal was downgraded to amber at 5.15am, which was later...

- [US to send Typhon, Himars missile systems to Japan for drills amid China tensions](#)

(2026-05-21 01:23)

The US military will deploy its Typhon midrange missile launcher and Himars rocket system to southwestern Japan next month for joint exercises with the Self-Defence Forces, sources familiar with the matter said on Wednesday, in a move apparently aimed at deterring China. The systems will be deployed to the Maritime Self-Defence Force's Kanoya Airbase in Kagoshima prefecture during the Valiant Shield and Orient Shield joint exercises between June and September, the sources said. The Typhon...

- [Hong Kong helpers cry out as popular garden in Central to close for underpass work](#)

(2026-05-21 01:00)

A Hong Kong migrant workers' group has urged authorities to expand a pedestrian area in Central on Sundays, as a section of a landmark garden that serves as a popular gathering spot for domestic helpers will temporarily close for the construction of a pedestrian underpass. The subway is part of the tender requirements for a Central harbourfront site secured by developer Henderson Land Development. It will run below Statue Square Gardens and connect the Central MTR station at Chater Road to the...

- [China beauty influencer returns after 3-year hiatus, gaining 10 million followers in a day](#)

(2026-05-21 01:00)

A former top beauty make-up influencer who has made a whirlwind return to social media after disappearing from view has called on her fans to place their trust in her. The influencer, who previously used the handle @chengshian and had a combined 30 million followers on several leading platforms in China, stopped releasing videos in May 2023, news website Sina reported. She returned to the spotlight on May 13 by opening a new account @Jiang Chenglan, which is her real name. She then amassed 10...

- [As war engulfs the Middle East, China's Xinjiang is thriving with future tech](#)

(2026-05-21 01:00)

As the war in Iran disrupts global oil and chemical supplies, China's coal-heavy energy sector is seizing an unprecedented opportunity. In the first of a two-part series, Dannie Peng visits the Changji Hui autonomous prefecture in Xinjiang – one of the country's four major bases for large-scale, modern coal-chemical production – to see first-hand how a vast industrial ecosystem is rapidly taking shape. A four-hour drive northeast of Urumqi, the regional capital of Xinjiang, leads to a colossal...

- [Singapore's weaponised drone trial spotlights regional rush for unmanned systems](#)

(2026-05-21 00:00)

Singapore's plan to trial weaponised unmanned drones has put a spotlight on Southeast Asia's fast-growing interest in systems that can track and strike at targets without putting operators directly in harm's way. But as countries race to upgrade their drone and

counter-drone capabilities, analysts say regulation, transparency and confidence-building will be crucial to prevent accidents or miscalculations that could fuel regional tensions.

Singapore announced on Thursday that it would start...

- [How Trump's revenge tour against Republicans could backfire in the midterms](#)

(2026-05-20 23:36)

Sixteen months into his second presidency, Donald Trump may be as unpopular as he has ever been among the American electorate – but his grip on his core base of MAGA voters remains unshaken. That power was on full display over the last two weeks, as Trump ousted a string of fellow Republicans he considered apostates for not showing him enough personal fealty. The president's revenge tour continued on Tuesday, when a hand-picked loyalist defeated US congressman Thomas Massie, a frequent critic,...

- [With China poised for record trade surplus, former Chongqing mayor calls for action](#)

(2026-05-20 23:30)

China needs a coordinated policy package of currency appreciation, tariff cuts and elevated labour benefits to rebalance its massive trade surplus, outspoken former Chongqing mayor Huang Qifan said on Tuesday. Speaking at this year's Tsinghua PBCSF Global Finance Forum in Chengdu, the capital of the southwestern province of Sichuan, Huang described China's 2025 record-breaking US\$1.2 trillion merchandise trade surplus as “shocking”. That momentum has shown no signs of slowing. China's goods...

- [Chinese national charged in alleged scheme to smuggle drug shipments to US](#) (2026-05-20 23:25)

In a sign of growing cooperation between the US and China in the wake of last week's summit in Beijing, the US Justice Department announced on Wednesday the arrest in China of an alleged drug smuggler wanted by the US in connection with a sizeable shipment of illegal drugs into the US state of Georgia. As outlined in court records, Wei Gong, also known as David Gong, allegedly imported more than 10 kilograms of various potent stimulant drugs, which he allegedly sold to an undercover agent and...

- [China's Chery sees its foreign EV sales topping 1 million as world wary in energy crisis](#)

(2026-05-20 23:00)

Chery Automobile, China's largest car exporter by deliveries, expects its overseas sales of electric vehicles (EVs) to jump as much as 27 per cent this year, as a global energy crisis spurs demand for battery-powered vehicles. Zhang Guibing, the president of Chery International, said on Wednesday that pure electric and plug-in hybrid models were projected to represent as much as 70 per cent of the carmaker's total deliveries outside the mainland in 2026. That would equate to roughly 1.05 million...

- [Hong Kong's Central Asia pivot to boost belt and road role, analysts say](#) (2026-05-20 23:00)

Hong Kong's push into Central Asia aims to strengthen links between mainland China and the region while reinforcing the city's role as a professional services hub for belt and road countries, although economic gains may take time, analysts have said. They added that Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, given their strategic positions, were logical destinations for Hong Kong to pursue business opportunities amid geopolitical uncertainty and the war in the Middle East. Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chiu...

- [Will US defence strategy architect Colby pave the way for Hegseth's China visit?](#) (2026-05-20 22:00)

The Pentagon is planning to send a high-level delegation to Beijing within weeks to lay the groundwork for a potential visit by Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth, the South China Morning Post has learned. Sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to comment publicly, said the delegation was expected to be led by Elbridge Colby, defence undersecretary for policy and a key architect of the 2026 National Defence Strategy. According to the sources, the trip was aimed...

- [Trump says Iran talks are nearing an end but warns of more strikes](#) (2026-05-20 21:57)

US President Donald Trump said his administration's negotiations with Iran were "in the final stages" on Wednesday, while simultaneously warning of further attacks, as a fragile ceasefire concluded its sixth week with no sign of an end to the war. The US launched "Operation Epic Fury" close to three months ago, in a war that began with strikes inside Iran alongside key ally Israel, which has since spread across the wider Middle East region, killing thousands and disrupting global supply...

- [US needs to 'put its footprint back on Greenland', Trump envoy says](#) (2026-05-20 21:48)

The US special envoy to Greenland, the Arctic island coveted by President Donald Trump, said on Wednesday that Washington needs to rebuild its presence in the Danish autonomous territory. At the height of the Cold War, Washington had 17 military facilities in Greenland, but closed them over the years and currently has just one – the Pituffik base in the north of the island. Trump has repeatedly argued the US needs to control Greenland because of national security concerns, claiming that if it...

- [Hong Kong's tourism rebound needs new measures of success](#) (2026-05-20 21:30)

When it comes to tourism, Hong Kong is recovering footfall faster than spending and officials need to realise that the two are not the same. The city's economy grew by 5.9 per cent year on year in the first three months, its strongest quarterly performance in almost five years, according to the Census and Statistics Department's advance estimate. Financial Secretary Paul Chan Mo-po pointed to a 17 per cent rise in first-quarter visitor numbers and 5.2 per cent increase in retail and catering...

- [Xi-Putin meeting: everything you need to know from the talks in Beijing](#) (2026-05-20 20:15)

We have put together stories from our coverage of Xi and Putin's meeting in Beijing. If you would like to see more of our reporting, please consider subscribing. 1. Xi and Putin's united front – from tigers to trade: the summit takeaways Putin's trip to Beijing came only days after US President Donald Trump's closely watched visit to the Chinese capital, the back-to-back summits highlighting the strong trust between Beijing and Moscow and China's ability to manage ties with the two major...

- [Ex-US prosecutor charged for sending herself Trump probe report disguised as cake recipe](#) (2026-05-20 19:59)

A former federal prosecutor in Florida sent to her personal email account a special counsel report from the investigation into US President Donald Trump's hoarding of classified documents despite a judge's order that it remain sealed, according to an indictment made public on Wednesday. Carmen Lineberger, who worked in the US Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Florida and managed its Fort Pierce branch, faces charges including theft of government property and concealment of...

- [UK radio station mistakenly reports death of King Charles](#) (2026-05-20 18:16)

A former British pirate radio station on Wednesday apologised “for any distress caused” after accidentally announcing the death of King Charles. The erroneous announcement was made on Tuesday afternoon due to a computer error at its main studio in Maldon in eastern Essex, Radio Caroline said in a post on social media. The error had triggered the so-called death of a monarch procedure “which all UK stations hold in readiness while hoping not to require”, station manager Peter Moore said. “Radio...

- [US charges Raul Castro as Trump administration ratchets up pressure on Cuba](#) (2026-05-20 17:47)

The United States announced on Wednesday criminal charges against former Cuban leader Raul Castro over his alleged role in the 1996 downing of two civilian aircraft operated by the Miami-based exile group Brothers to the Rescue, an incident that killed four people. The indictment, unsealed by Acting US Attorney Todd Blanche in Miami, includes charges of conspiracy to kill US nationals, destruction of an aircraft and four individual counts of murder against Castro and five other...

- [Harvard to cap number of A-grades, despite heavy opposition from students](#) (2026-05-20 17:19)

More than two-thirds of Harvard University faculty voted to cap the proportion of A-grades in undergraduate courses, instituting one of the strongest policies against grade inflation in US higher education in decades. Starting in the fall of 2027, no more than 20 per cent of a class, plus four additional students, can receive an A. Just under 70 per cent of the votes were in

favour of the policy in a week-long electronic vote that concluded on Tuesday. The voterepresents a “large mandate for...

- [HKIC at the helm of Hong Kong’ s construction transformation through AI+ adoption](#) (2026-05-20 16:00)

[The content of this article has been produced by our advertising partner.] Hong Kong’ s construction sector stands at a decisive inflection point. A wave of public investment—anchored by the Northern Metropolis, major transport, healthcare and education projects and flagship initiatives such as Skytopia—has sustained demand even as skilled labour shortages and rising input costs squeeze schedules and margins. Those pressures are accelerating a structural shift toward sector specific...

- [Substance for Putin, ‘face’ for Trump: China, Russia deepen alliance to counter US](#) (2026-05-20 15:34)

Days after US President Donald Trump’ s visit framed around managing risks, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin reached a raft of agreements and pledged deeper cooperation as they met in Beijing. An analyst in China captured the stark contrast between the two visits as a clear choice between pomp and pragmatism. “Over these 30 years, our relations, tempered by wind and rain, have risen to ever new heights, following the dictates of the times,” Xi said after the...

- [Hong Kong’ s northern New Territories hit by heavy rain and flooding](#) (2026-05-20 15:23)

Hong Kong’ s northern areas were drenched on Wednesday night as the Observatory issued an amber rainstorm warning and multiple reports of flooding were received across the area. The warning, issued at 9pm, signalled heavy rain exceeding 30mm (1.2 inches) in an hour that was likely to continue and cautioned of flooding in low-lying and poorly drained areas. At 9.45pm, a flooding alert was issued for the northern New Territories. Ta Kwu Ling was among the hardest hit areas, the Observatory said,...

- [Israeli minister posts video of flotilla activists, threatens to jail them for ‘long time’](#) (2026-05-20 14:06)

Israel’ s national security minister drew a sharp rebuke from his boss and triggered a backlash abroad on Wednesday, after he released videos taunting and telling detained activists from a flotilla that tried to get past the Israeli blockade of Gaza that they should be imprisoned for a very long time. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said although Israel has every right to stop “provocative flotillas of Hamas terrorist supporters” , the way that National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir...

- [Government to handle Wang Fuk Court insurance claims under buy-back plan: Hop On](#) (2026-05-20 14:00)

The administrator of the fire-ravaged Wang Fuk Court has reassured residents that the Hong Kong government will assume responsibility for pursuing claims on insurance policies bought by the estate on behalf of owners who sell their flats to authorities under a buy-back plan. But some residents of the Tai Po estate who attended Wednesday's Zoom briefing by Hop On Management found key questions regarding their insurance claims remained unanswered, including how and when they could expect...

- [China and Russia warn US Golden Dome poses 'clear threat' to stability](#) (2026-05-20 14:00)

China and Russia issued strong warnings over the US Golden Dome missile defence system and military deployments in the region in their latest joint statement, just days after a summit between Beijing and Washington aimed at stabilising Sino-American ties. The two countries accused the United States of posing “a clear threat to strategic stability” through its Golden Dome project in a joint statement issued after Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin's summit on...

- [Singapore's AI-job cuts debate flares over 'lower-value human capital' remark](#) (2026-05-20 13:21)

Singapore's push to prepare workers for artificial intelligence is facing a stern test after Meta and Standard Chartered announced lay-offs this week, fuelling debate over how far AI is already reshaping jobs in the city state. The cuts have made one question more urgent for Singapore: can its goal to train workers to take on new or redesigned roles keep pace with increased use of AI and automation by companies as they reduce headcounts? Meta employees in Singapore reportedly began receiving...

- [Hong Kong hardest hit as cross-border scam crackdown uncovers US\\$752m losses](#) (2026-05-20 13:19)

Hong Kong accounted for the largest share of losses uncovered in a cross-border scam crackdown spanning 10 jurisdictions, making up more than 40 per cent of the US\$752 million total. The single-largest loss involved a Singaporean firm whose funds were transferred to multiple bank accounts in the city and Hong Kong. Hong Kong police said on Wednesday that it worked with law enforcement agencies in Brunei, Canada, Indonesia, Macau, Malaysia, the Maldives, Singapore, South Korea and Thailand...

- [Hong Kong's top court reviews law criminalising calls to boycott elections](#) (2026-05-20 13:04)

Hong Kong's top court has been asked to abolish an “extraordinary” and “inexplicable” law prohibiting calls to boycott the city's “patriots-only” elections on the grounds that it violates residents' rights to express disapproval of the political system and to make informed decisions before voting. A government senior counsel opposed the challenge by former Chinese University of Hong Kong student union president Jacky So Tsun-fung, arguing the law fell

outside the scope of constitutional review....

- [SMILE in space: China, EU joint planet defence satellite defies earthly tensions](#) (2026-05-20 13:00)

China and Europe on Tuesday launched their first jointly developed satellite, a space mission that will explore the precise mechanism of the Earth's defence against solar wind. The successful collaboration on the Solar Wind Magnetosphere Ionosphere Link Explorer (SMILE) comes as Beijing and Brussels are locked in escalating trade and geopolitical tensions, largely driven by the European Union's massive trade deficit with China. The satellite has been jointly designed and developed by the Chinese...

- [Why Trump's face is popping up on Indian autorickshaws](#) (2026-05-20 12:48)

In New Delhi's chaotic traffic, where the backs of autorickshaws sometimes double as mobile billboards, some commuters are now being greeted by an unlikely face: US President Donald Trump. Splashed beneath his portrait is the slogan: "Happy Birthday America!" About 100 autorickshaws carrying large images of Trump and the Statue of Liberty have appeared across the Indian capital in recent weeks. In a city where the backs of thousands of three-wheelers are routinely covered with ads for...

- [US and China must talk to manage dangers of AI contest in a nuclear age](#) (2026-05-20 12:30)

In the wake of the summit between Chinese President Xi Jinping and US President Donald Trump, the China-US relationship is, in one critical respect, more dangerous than at any time since Tiananmen Square. The reason is not trade friction, tariffs, Taiwan or geopolitical competition – significant as those are. It is the competition over artificial intelligence supremacy, which will reshape every aspect of relations in the coming decade. This is not just a technological contest. It is a contest...

- [Iranian public get basic gun training amid Trump's threats to restart war](#) (2026-05-20 12:18)

Iranian Revolutionary Guard members now regularly show the public in Tehran how to handle Kalashnikov-style assault rifles. Parades through the capital feature military vehicles mounted with belt-fed Soviet-era machine guns. And at one mass wedding, a ballistic missile, like the one that rained down cluster munitions on Israel, adorned the stage. Weapons are now regularly brandished in Tehran, an increasing show of defiance as US President Donald Trump threatens he could restart the war with...

- ['Phantom limb' : report blames China shock for Germany's industrial malaise](#) (2026-05-20 12:00)

Germany has been warned that a "China shock" to its trade economy is the biggest driver of its industrial slump, in a new report that urges Berlin to throw its weight behind stronger EU

measures against Beijing. Much soul-searching has been under way in Berlin over recent years, with the German government focusing on deregulation in an effort to kick-start a sputtering economy. According to the report from influential think tank the Centre for European Reform, the “China shock is now the most...

- [China-US trade talks saw Washington commit to tariff ceiling, Beijing says](#) (2026-05-20 12:00)

Washington would not raise future tariffs on Chinese goods above the level stipulated in a trade truce the two countries hammered out late last year, Beijing said, a commitment arising from talks in South Korea held hours before US President Donald Trump’s arrival in the Chinese capital last week. Analysts said the pledge signals a shift in relations between the world’s two largest economies – from unilateral trade shocks towards a phase of “managed competition”. “We hope the US side will honour...

- [Fuel-thirsty UK relaxes Russian oil sanctions, leaving Ukrainians ‘very let down’](#) (2026-05-20 11:20)

The UK moved to loosen its Russian sanctions in a controversial move aimed at preventing shortages of diesel and jet fuel, as the war in Iran eats into global oil buffers. The move highlights how Britain has become more reliant on fuel imports than other major European nations, and has prompted political backlash over the government’s commitment to support Ukraine. The European Union is not currently planning a similar measure, according to people with knowledge of the matter, who asked not to...

- [Indonesia’s Prabowo tightens state grip on palm oil, coal amid monopolistic fears](#) (2026-05-20 11:01)

Indonesia will require exports of key commodities to pass through a state-appointed enterprise in a sweeping effort to curb revenue leaks, tighten oversight of natural resources and keep more foreign exchange earnings at home. The policy, announced by President Prabowo Subianto in a rare address to parliament on Wednesday, would apply to palm oil, coal and ferroalloys – three major export earners for Southeast Asia’s largest economy. Under the new regulation, producers would have to sell their...

- [Beijing slams Lai as ‘destroyer’ of peace after leader’s anniversary speech](#) (2026-05-20 11:01)

Beijing has accused Taiwanese leader William Lai Ching-te of “destroying cross-strait peace” shortly after he gave a speech to mark his second anniversary in power in the wake of Donald Trump’s remarks on Taiwan independence. The State Council’s Taiwan Affairs Office (TAO) said on Tuesday that Lai’s anniversary speech and his subsequent remarks to reporters were filled with “lies and deception, hostility and confrontation”. Spokesman Chen Binhua said Lai had “stubbornly adhered to the erroneous...

- [Japan feels the squeeze as China’ s rare earth magnet exports only partly recover](#)

(2026-05-20 10:30)

China’ s exports of rare earth permanent magnets to Japan slightly rebounded in April after slumping the previous month, but Japanese firms warn they are facing “severe” shortages as a diplomatic row between Beijing and Tokyo grinds on. Shipments of permanent magnets from China to Japan rose by 2.5 per cent in April compared with the previous month, according to Chinese customs data released on Wednesday. But the modest rise only partly offset the 17.3 per cent plunge recorded in March. The...

- [Hong Kong minister touts gold as ‘bridge between conventional and new finance’](#)

(2026-05-20 10:27)

Gold can serve as a “potential bridge” between conventional and new forms of finance, Hong Kong’ s treasury minister has said, highlighting the need for the city to provide more opportunities for the digital asset market to grow. Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury Christopher Hui Ching-yu also said on Wednesday that Hong Kong had opted against forming a separate regulatory authority for digital assets due to the “convergence” between conventional and innovative finance. During a...

- [Malaysia’ s ruling coalition committed to staying united until ‘end of its term’ : minister](#)

(2026-05-20 10:22)

Malaysia’ s unity government will remain intact until the end of its term amid speculation of snap elections, according to Communications Minister Fahmi Fadzil. “Barisan Nasional, Gabungan Rakyat Sabah and Gabungan Parti Sarawak have given their commitment that they will support this government till the end of its term,” Fahmi said on Wednesday after a cabinet meeting. “This commitment reflects the priority given to the interests of the people and the country, while enabling the government to...

- [How China and Russia could team up to shift global science ‘centre of gravity’](#)

(2026-05-20 10:11)

Cooperation between China and Russia on science and technology could help stop US isolation and allow the international science community to “return to normalcy” amid geopolitical tensions, according to experts in the US and Russia. It could also offer the world an alternative model of scientific collaboration and signal a shift in the scientific “centre of gravity” from the West to the East. As the leaders of China and Russia met in Beijing, experts said they hoped the summit would provide...

- [Trump’ s H-1B visa squeeze paves way for Indian tech exodus](#)

(2026-05-20 10:00)

For generations of Indian tech workers, the H-1B visa has been a golden ticket, turning ambitious engineers from Hyderabad and Bengaluru into Silicon Valley professionals, as it transformed Indian IT firms into global powerhouses. Now, a Trump administration proposal to sharply raise the minimum salaries required to qualify for the programme threatens to close

that door to the United States, redirecting Indian talent towards Europe, Australia, New Zealand and beyond instead. Under the new...

- [Jensen Huang's visit to China spicy noodle shop prompts launch of 'leather jacket' set meal](#) (2026-05-20 10:00)

A noodle shop in downtown Beijing went viral on social media after billionaire Jensen Huang paid it a visit, prompting the outlet to launch a “God of War in leather jacket” set menu the next day. On May 15, the Nvidia CEO was spotted holding a large bowl of noodles and using chopsticks to wolf down food outside Fangzhuanchang No 69 Beijing Fried Sauce Noodles shop in the Nanluogu commercial area in central Beijing. Huang was in China as part of US President Donald Trump's delegation which met...

- [EU picks tungsten, rare earths, gallium for first critical mineral stockpile](#) (2026-05-20 09:29)

The European Union has shortlisted tungsten, rare earths and gallium for its first joint stockpile of critical minerals aimed at reducing its reliance on China, according to three sources familiar with the matter. The EU is also talking to major ports including Rotterdam in the Netherlands, the region's biggest, to store the minerals, one of the three and a fourth source said. The move marks one of the bloc's most concrete steps to insulate its economy from Beijing's production dominance in...

- [35 families in Hong Kong shoebox flats face eviction since start of new rule](#) (2026-05-20 09:27)

Thirty-five families living in Hong Kong's subdivided units have faced eviction in the 2½ months since the government introduced a new regime to eradicate substandard shoebox homes, according to housing authorities. Secretary for Housing Winnie Ho Wing-yin also said on Wednesday that another 40 subdivided flat households from Yee Wa Building in Sham Shui Po, who faced eviction last year, were still living in the block and were considering their future options. The Basic Housing Units Ordinance...

- [Xi-Putin summit leaves gas pipeline plan in limbo](#) (2026-05-20 09:18)

Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russia's Vladimir Putin made little progress on long-delayed plans to build a new gas pipeline between the two countries at a presidential summit in Beijing. There was still no “clear timeline” and “there are still some details to be worked out”, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told Russian media. The two countries had reached a “basic understanding”, including on “the route and how it will be built”, he said. Putin arrived in Beijing for his 25th visit amid...

- [Chinese investment in Europe surges to 7-year high despite rising trade tensions](#) (2026-05-20 09:04)

Chinese investment in Europe hit a seven-year high of €16.8 billion (US\$19.5 billion) in 2025, driven by a strong rebound in mergers and acquisitions (M&A) and record greenfield

completions, a new report has found. But the annual study, published on Tuesday by Rhodium Group and the Mercator Institute for China Studies, cautioned that the pipeline may be thinning, with newly announced projects falling under pressure from Beijing's push to retain industrial capacity at home and Europe's growing...

- [Philippines' top court rejects Dela Rosa's bid to block ICC arrest warrant](#) (2026-05-20 08:44)

The Philippine Supreme Court refused on Wednesday to block the arrest of a fugitive senator wanted by the International Criminal Court over his role in the nation's deadly drug war. The interim ruling clears the way for the potential arrest of Senator Ronald dela Rosa, the former national police chief who was the main enforcer of ex-president Rodrigo Duterte's crackdown. "The Supreme Court, in a vote of 9-5-1, denied the prayer for a temporary restraining order and/or status quo ante order filed...

- [Hong Kong tycoon Li Ka-shing to subsidise liver cancer surgery for 200 patients](#) (2026-05-20 08:35)

Hong Kong tycoon Li Ka-shing's charity will expand support for liver cancer patients by subsidising surgery fees for 200 patients over the next three years, enabling access to cutting-edge treatment at a cost of HK\$50,000 (US\$6,380). Announcing the initiative on Wednesday, the Li Ka Shing Foundation said eligible patients would be selected by three partnering private hospitals to undergo histotripsy surgery, which typically costs about HK\$260,000 for Hong Kong identity card holders. Histotripsy...

- [China's Top Numerical Control rides investor fervour for aerospace to 80% IPO gain](#) (2026-05-20 08:34)

Shares of Chinese aviation and aerospace parts supplier Shanghai Top Numerical Control Technology ended 80 per cent higher on its debut in Hong Kong on Wednesday, as investors continue to bet on the commercial aerospace sector. Top Numerical Control opened at HK\$37 per share on its first day of trading, representing a 40.2 per cent premium to the offer price of HK\$26.39. It reached as high as HK\$48.40 in afternoon trade, before closing at HK\$47.50. The Shanghai-based company issued 65.33 million...

- [How war-risk marine insurance can set Hong Kong apart](#) (2026-05-20 08:30)

As conflict in the Middle East sends marine insurance costs surging, Hong Kong has an opening to prove that it is more than a port city by becoming a trusted centre for risk pricing, legal certainty and maritime resilience. When tensions rise in the Middle East, the first signs of trouble in global shipping do not always appear at sea. Often, they appear in the insurance market. Premiums jump. Underwriters retreat. Shipowners rethink routes. Long before a vessel is struck, the cost of moving...

- [How Vladimir Putin's chance encounter with a Chinese boy in Beijing shaped a life](#)  
(2026-05-20 08:21)

Russian President Vladimir Putin met Chinese engineer Peng Pai on Wednesday, over a quarter century after a chance encounter during his first presidential visit to China, when Peng was 12 years old. Putin, who arrived in Beijing on Tuesday for a two-day visit, received Peng at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse. According to a Kremlin statement, Putin praised Peng's decision to study in Russia, saying it was "very pleasing" to him and that he hoped he had found a welcoming environment there. The...

- [China turns to Russian oil as Gulf supply drops – but is it too expensive?](#) (2026-05-20 07:51)

While China's oil and gas imports from Gulf nations plunged in April amid the Strait of Hormuz crisis during the US-Israeli war on Iran, shipments from Russia have provided Beijing with a partial buffer for its growing economy. Russia's crude shipments to China rose 11.3 per cent year on year to nearly 9 million tonnes in April, according to Chinese customs data released on Wednesday. But market conditions have also shifted. Much of the discount on Russian oil and gas – long a source of cheap...

- [Final report reveals truth behind deadly Singapore Airlines flight SQ321 turbulence](#)  
(2026-05-20 07:51)

Two years after severe turbulence left one passenger dead and dozens injured on a Singapore Airlines (SIA) flight, investigators have released their final report, addressing major questions about what caused the disaster. Flight SQ321, travelling from London to Singapore, was diverted to Bangkok so passengers and crew could receive medical treatment. In the immediate aftermath, multiple analysts attributed the incident to clear-air turbulence – invisible pockets of air that can occur at high...

- [Outbreak of rare Ebola strain sparks race to find vaccines and treatments](#) (2026-05-20 07:51)

An escalating outbreak of a rare Ebola strain in the Democratic Republic of Congo has kicked off a race to find vaccines and treatments that can be quickly tested and rolled out to save lives and stem the crisis. More than 130 people have died so far during the outbreak, the World Health Organization said on Tuesday, as WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus stated he was "deeply concerned about the scale and speed of the epidemic". Tedros pointed to the emergence of cases in urban...

- [Japan, South Korea hone diplomatic 'muscle memory' amid Taiwan worries](#)  
(2026-05-20 07:28)

When South Korean President Lee Jae Myung and Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi met on Tuesday, they had energy security atop the agenda – and something harder to name top of mind. It was their fourth meeting in six months, a pace of leaders' encounters that analysts say reveals much about the uncertainty the two US allies are united in feeling, despite their

historical grievances. The formal pretext of their latest summit was energy security. Japan and South Korea, heavily export-driven...

- [What is the political weight of Diaoyutai State Guesthouse where Putin is staying?](#)

(2026-05-20 07:00)

When Russian President Vladimir Putin arrived in Beijing on Tuesday evening for a two-day state visit, he once again returned to his “second home” at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse, a royal garden that has hosted dignitaries including Richard Nixon, Boris Yeltsin and Kim Jong-un. Diaoyutai is a familiar setting for Putin, who has visited China more than 20 times and personally met President Xi Jinping on more than 40 occasions since 2013, according to state news agency Xinhua. He usually resides...

- [In Malaysia, drug-laced vape seizures stoke US-like ‘zombie epidemic’ fears](#)

(2026-05-20 06:57)

Viral “zombie vape” videos of young Malaysian men appearing dazed and disoriented after vaping have intensified concern that drug-laced liquids are spreading through the country’s booming e-cigarette market. The clips, shared widely on social media over the past month, showed local men slumped on the ground or behaving erratically after allegedly inhaling pui-pui or piao-piao (online slang for drug-laced vape liquids). At least two viral cases triggered arrests and fresh police warnings...

- [‘Mr Ho’ pleads guilty to stabbing ‘Mrs Ho’ as prison sentence looms](#) (2026-05-20 06:36)

A Hong Kong court has denied bail to internet personality “Mr Ho” after he pleaded guilty to stabbing his 45-year-old wife “Mrs Ho” in a domestic violence dispute that escalated into a criminal case. The District Court on Wednesday heard that Ho Huen, 79, pleaded guilty to attacking his 45-year-old wife Ye Xiuding, known as Mrs Ho, with a folding knife as she was leaving their home for mainland China. Both Mr and Mrs Ho were charged with unlawfully and maliciously wounding each other during a...

- [Could Putin, Trump visits pave the way for ‘trilateral coordination’ with China?](#)

(2026-05-20 06:23)

As energy cooperation tops the summit agenda, back-to-back state visits of Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin could pave the way for emerging “trilateral coordination” between China, Russia and the United States. That is according to Cui Hongjian, a former diplomat and the head of European studies at Beijing Foreign Studies University. But Cui said the US would remain the biggest uncertainty. During talks with visiting Russian leader Putin on Wednesday, Chinese President Xi Jinping said both...

- [Dozens could face criminal charges over London’s 2017 Grenfell Tower inferno](#)

(2026-05-20 06:19)

British police said on Tuesday they would ask prosecutors to consider charging 57 people and 20 organisations with criminal offences over the Grenfell Tower blaze, almost a decade after the deadliest fire in Britain's modern history killed dozens. The Metropolitan Police said files of evidence would be submitted to prosecutors by the end of September, with charging decisions by June 14, 2027 – the 10th anniversary of the London tragedy, which killed 72 people. Bereaved families and survivors...

- [Hong Kong adds 820 extra flights to ease disruption from Middle East conflict](#) (2026-05-20 06:01)

Hong Kong authorities have approved 820 additional flights and fast-tracked 4,100 adjustment applications to help airlines respond to sudden surges in passenger and cargo demand amid the Middle East conflict. “We are actively engaging airlines to encourage them to deploy extra cargo capacity to connect Hong Kong International Airport with destinations currently experiencing service shortfalls due to the Middle East situation,” Secretary for Transport and Logistics Mable Chan told the Legislative...

- [China teacher slams student's complaint about lack of benches in smoking area, reignites debate](#) (2026-05-20 06:00)

A Chinese student's complaint about the lack of benches in a university smoking area has been strongly rejected by a teacher, reigniting discussions on smoking publicly in China. The student at the Xian International Studies University, in northwestern Shaanxi province, made the complaint in the school's internal feedback channel. The complainant said the lack of benches made smoking too “exhausting” and asked the school to provide more. A university teacher responded with a lengthy letter...

- [Joint Nigeria-US strikes kill 175 Isis fighters](#) (2026-05-20 05:40)

A joint operation by the United States and Nigeria against Islamic State fighters has killed 175 over the past few days, Nigeria's military said on Tuesday, while the head of the US Africa Command said it showed the capabilities its forces could bring in Africa, home to the “epicentre of global terrorism”. The US sent troops to Nigeria in February in what was deemed a mostly advisory and training role, but the joint operation signals more active involvement. The US Africa Command, or AFRICOM,...

- [Bolivia's capital under siege as protests and blockades deepen crisis for president](#) (2026-05-20 05:02)

Bolivia's President Rodrigo Paz faces a deepening crisis as widespread protests and blockades leave the political capital under siege less than six months after he took office. Two weeks of road closures – spearheaded by the Bolivian Workers' Central, COB, peasant unions and miners – have emptied markets in La Paz and depleted vital hospital oxygen reserves. The government reported that at least three people died after emergency vehicles were blocked from reaching medical centres. On Monday,...

- [Thailand’ s Singha beer dynasty rocked by sexual abuse allegations](#) (2026-05-20 05:01)

Allegations of sexual assault by an heir to a beer fortune against his own older brother have thrust one of Thailand’ s richest families into an uncomfortable spotlight, stunning a public unaccustomed to seeing prominent households air their affairs in public. The scandal erupted last week when Siranudh Scott, better known as “Psi” – a fourth generation heir to the Bhirombhakdi family’ s beer-to-real estate empire – shared allegations of historic sexual abuse by his older brother, Sunit, on...

- [How Xi and Putin are trying to shape a polycentric world: takeaways from the summit](#) (2026-05-20 04:46)

Chinese President Xi Jinping hosted Russian President Vladimir Putin in Beijing on Wednesday. Putin’ s trip to Beijing came only days after US President Donald Trump’ s closely watched visit to the Chinese capital, the back-to-back summits highlighting the strong trust between Beijing and Moscow and China’ s ability to manage ties with the two major powers. Here are the main takeaways from their talks on Wednesday morning. ‘Jungle law’ Xi warned against the risk of a regression to “jungle law” in...

- [Singapore, Japan, South Korea boost Ebola screening after WHO alert](#) (2026-05-20 04:39)

Governments across Asia are tightening border screening and quarantine preparedness as health authorities work to contain a growing Ebola outbreak in Central Africa. Several governments have expanded screening and reporting requirements for travellers arriving from affected countries, though officials say the likelihood of local transmission remains low and no cases have been publicly confirmed in Asia. In Hong Kong, a Lantau Island isolation facility used for quarantine during the Covid-19...

- [China ‘outpacing the US’ in biotech race to find cure for Parkinson’ s disease](#) (2026-05-20 04:00)

Chinese researchers claim to be outpacing international competitors in the development of stem cell therapies for Parkinson’ s disease, citing higher efficiency and a faster clinical trial timeline. Parkinson’ s is often described as a movement disorder. Its symptoms are caused by the brain’ s failure to produce sufficient dopamine, because of the death or dysfunction of the specialised neurons responsible for generating the chemical. In the search for a cure, researchers around the world are...

- [US suspected of forcing Norway to cancel Malaysia’ s US\\$147 million missile order](#) (2026-05-20 03:57)

Norway’ s revocation of export licences for a naval missile system sold to Malaysia has thrust into sharp relief the United States’ ability to kill an arms deal between two other sovereign nations simply by restricting components its own industries supplied. Analysts suspect a gyroscope used in the guidance system of Kongsberg Defence & Aerospace’ s Naval Strike

Missile and other US-made components are the reason Malaysia's navy will not be receiving the weapons it contracted for – and paid nearly...

- [Trump reveals details of his bunker-like ballroom with drone base, underground hospital](#) (2026-05-20 03:28)

US President Donald Trump on Tuesday revealed previously undisclosed details about his new bunker-like White House ballroom, saying it would have a drone base on the roof and a military hospital as part of a six-storey subterranean complex. Amid the bang and clang of construction, Trump took a group of reporters on a tour of the project to try to bolster his argument that the US Congress should allocate US\$1 billion to pay for security enhancements to the building. Democrats and some...

- [Former Hong Kong top scorer Mung Chiang to lead prestigious Northwestern University](#) (2026-05-20 03:13)

A former top scorer in Hong Kong's public examinations has been named the 18th president of Northwestern University, becoming the first Asian American to lead the prestigious institution in 175 years. Mung Chiang, who moved to Hong Kong from Tianjin at the age of 11 and attended Queen's College before pursuing higher education at Stanford University in the United States, will take the helm from Michael Schill at the Illinois-based university on July 1. He achieved top scores in the Hong Kong...

- [Samsung workers go ahead with 18-day strike as bonus talks collapse](#) (2026-05-20 03:08)

Samsung Electronics' trade union plans for 48,000 workers to walk off the job on Thursday after efforts to clinch a deal on bonus payments fell through, threatening the health of South Korea's economy and the global supply of semiconductors. Union leader Choi Seung-ho said that the 18-day strike would go ahead as management had not come round on one remaining sticking point in talks mediated by the government. "I want to make clear that we had accepted the final proposal presented by...

- [Xi-Putin summit live: Xi calls for Beijing and Moscow to seize opportunity, strengthen ties](#) (2026-05-20 02:39)

Unrivalled Xi-Putin summit coverage. Get real-time updates and exclusive reporting straight from our Beijing bureau. Subscribe now with great savings to stay ahead. This live article is freely available to our registered users. Please log in or create an account below. After arriving in Beijing on Tuesday evening, Russian President Vladimir Putin is set to hold talks with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping on Wednesday. Putin is visiting the Chinese capital just days after the landmark summit...

- [Hong Kong market surge, geopolitics drive 'fear of missing out' among French investors](#) (2026-05-20 02:37)

French investors are warming to Hong Kong again, the city's finance chief has said, citing a "marked difference" in local perceptions compared with his last visit to Paris two years ago. The shift is driven by Hong Kong's strong market performance and an improved geopolitical situation, especially following US President Donald Trump's recent visit to Beijing, Financial Secretary Paul Chan Mo-po told the South China Morning Post on the sidelines of a Paris ministerial conference on terrorism...

- [Indonesia loses Southeast Asia's largest stock market crown to Singapore](#) (2026-05-20 02:15)

Indonesia continues to notch one grim milestone after another. The latest: losing its status as Southeast Asia's largest stock market to Singapore. The total market capitalisation of Indonesian-listed companies has fallen well over 30 per cent from a peak in January to US\$618 billion, while Singapore's has climbed to US\$645 billion, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. Investor sentiment in Indonesia has increasingly soured in recent months amid uncertainties over a potential equities...

- [Japan plans island drone deployment to monitor Chinese naval activity](#) (2026-05-20 01:30)

Japan's planned deployment of long-range surveillance drones on remote Pacific islands would mark a significant expansion of its ability to monitor Chinese naval activity, as Beijing's warships operate more frequently beyond the first island chain. The drones are to be stationed on Iwo Jima and Chichijima Island in the Ogasawara chain south of Tokyo, according to a report by the Yomiuri newspaper published on Monday. The airfield on Minamitorishima, about 1,950km (1,211 miles) southeast of Tokyo...

- [China's rise will turn Thucydides Trap on its head](#) (2026-05-20 01:30)

The end of the Cold War was supposed to deliver a long peace. For a while, that was working, until it wasn't. We might now be entering another period when the breakdown of a world order leads to war. It was no accident that President Xi Jinping cited the "Thucydides Trap" during his summit in Beijing with his US counterpart Donald Trump, putting it forward as something for both superpowers to avoid. The theory, popularised by Harvard political scientist Graham Allison, digs deep into an episode...

- [Japan zoo may ban photos near viral monkey Punch after intrusion by 2 Americans](#) (2026-05-20 01:19)

The zoo housing the viral Japanese macaque Punch said on Tuesday it is considering a complete ban on photography and filming around the monkey enclosure after two men were recently arrested over an intrusion incident. The Ichikawa City Zoo in Chiba prefecture has already expanded the buffer zone around the enclosure and installed anti-intrusion netting following Sunday's incident involving two men claiming to be US nationals. The monkey went viral, attracting international attention, for...

- [Red carpet for Putin: why China-Russia ties outpace Beijing's engagement with Washington](#) (2026-05-20 01:00)

China has rolled out the red carpet for Russian President Vladimir Putin for his 25th visit to the country, underscoring a frequency of head-of-state diplomacy that far outpaces Beijing's engagement with Washington. Putin arrived in Beijing on Tuesday night for a two-day state visit, less than a week after US President Donald Trump wrapped up his own closely watched trip to China. This marks the first time China has hosted the leaders of Russia and the US in the same month outside a multilateral...

- [Chinese man who lost a leg and an arm inspires many by competing in bodybuilding](#) (2026-05-20 01:00)

A man in China with only one arm and one leg who took part in a bodybuilding competition, attracting thunderous applause at site and massive admiration on social media. The muscular Liu Xinju, 32, joined The 20th Bodybuilding Competition in Jinan, the capital city of eastern Shandong province, which was held on May 10. Videos of his performance on stage went viral on mainland social media. Many people were moved and inspired by Liu, who consequently earned the nickname Encouraging Brother, the...

- [Trump tightens grip on Republican Party as critic Massie ousted in primary](#) (2026-05-20 00:40)

US President Donald Trump tightened his grip on the Republican Party on Tuesday as Kentucky voters ousted one of the few conservative lawmakers willing to challenge him openly. Congressman Thomas Massie's defeat, which he conceded some three hours after polls closed, marked another victory in Trump's campaign to punish Republican dissent. It follows the rout of Indiana state lawmakers who defied the US president on redistricting and the weekend collapse of Senator Bill Cassidy's re-election bid...

- [Kazakhstan to deepen financial services cooperation with Hong Kong, consul says](#) (2026-05-20 00:30)

Kazakhstan aims to deepen its financial services cooperation with Hong Kong, viewing it as an ideal fundraising hub to access renminbi capital through bond issuances, according to the country's top envoy in the city. In an exclusive interview with the South China Morning Post, Bauyrzhan Dosmanbetov, Kazakhstan's consul general in Hong Kong, also said the Central Asian country's community in the city had grown over the past decade to about 1,000, driven by the local government's Belt and Road...

- [Aluminium supply crunch threatens Asia's clean energy push amid Iran war](#) (2026-05-20 00:00)

Asia's clean energy push is facing heightened supply-chain risk as the Middle East conflict disrupts aluminium and nickel production and could raise costs for solar panels, wind turbines and grid upgrades. Countries such as Indonesia, Vietnam and the Philippines have installed

more rooftop solar panels and other green infrastructure in recent years, driven by high powerbills caused by elevated oil and gas prices. However, these green projects are facing uncertainties as the blockade of the...

- [Israeli forces fired shots at Gaza flotilla, all boats intercepted, group says](#) (2026-05-19 23:48)

Israeli forces opened fire on at least two vessels in an aid flotilla sailing towards Gaza on Tuesday, according to video footage and flotilla organisers, but Israel said no live ammunition was used and there were no casualties. The flotilla was making a renewed attempt to deliver aid to Gaza after earlier missions were intercepted by Israel in international waters. Video from the flotilla's live stream showed soldiers firing shots at two of the boats. The type of ammunition fired was not...

- [Vance says Iran talks making 'good progress', but US forces remain 'locked and loaded'](#) (2026-05-19 23:28)

US Vice-President J.D. Vance said on Tuesday that diplomatic talks between Washington and Tehran had made "good progress", but warned that the US military was "locked and loaded" to restart its campaign against Iran if negotiations collapsed. "A lot of good progress is being made, but we're just going to keep on working at it, and eventually we'll either hit a deal or we won't," Vance said during a White House press briefing. "We are not going to have a deal that allows the Iranians to have a..."

- [Only 4 of Hong Kong's 110,000 subdivided homes put up for seal of approval](#) (2026-05-19 23:00)

Hong Kong landlords have put forward just four of the city's 110,000 subdivided homes for certification approval in the two-and-a-half months since a new law was enacted to phase out substandard living spaces, highlighting a low participation rate. Three of the applications were submitted by a single landlord, Hayson Chan Hin-hay, chairman of the Hong Kong Basic Housing Units Operators Association. Chan told the South China Morning Post that it took him about two months to renovate the...

- [Nio slams EV price wars in China as costs surge, defying cuts by rival Li Auto](#) (2026-05-19 23:00)

Chinese electric vehicle maker Nio has staked out a contrasting position on pricing to its domestic rival, Li Auto, with a top executive suggesting that carmakers must prioritise profitability as material costs climb. Nio senior vice-president Ji Huaqiang, in charge of manufacturing, logistics and operations, told reporters on Tuesday that perennially operating at a loss would be detrimental for any carmaker, even in the pursuit of market share. "The recent spike in raw material prices has had a..."

- [US House foreign affairs chair warns AI sales to China could make America a ‘loser’](#) (2026-05-19 22:25)

House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Brian Mast warned that allowing American tech firms to chase business in China could make the US the ultimate “loser”, in remarks that followed US President Donald Trump’s return from Beijing, where artificial intelligence (AI) was discussed. “There’s a reason that we don’t sell Lockheed F-35s [or] F-22s to China and beyond that, to Russia, Iran and North Korea,” Mast told a discussion in Washington on Tuesday, referring to the American fighter jets. “The...

- [Woman dies after falling into uncovered manhole in New York](#) (2026-05-19 22:14)

A 56-year-old woman fell into an open maintenance hole on a busy New York street and died, police and utility officials said as they investigated how it could have happened. The woman parked her Mercedes-Benz SUV right next to the maintenance hole on Monday night near the corner of Fifth Avenue and East 52nd Street in Midtown Manhattan and fell in after exiting the vehicle shortly before 11.30pm, police said. She was pronounced dead at a local hospital after firefighters pulled her out. The...

- [Putin is pushing for a blockbuster oil and gas deal in China. Will he get it?](#) (2026-05-19 22:00)

Last week, US President Donald Trump landed in China aiming to secure the kind of blockbuster trade deals he championed nine years ago – spanning everything from soybeans to aircraft and energy. By the time he departed, it was clear that reality would fall far short of expectations. Despite Trump hailing a “fantastic deal”, China did not announce the massive buying spree that many had anticipated. Now, just days after Trump’s exit, Russian President Vladimir Putin is arriving in China with...

- [Malacca Strait could be the next hinge point if Asia isn’t careful](#) (2026-05-19 21:30)

US President Donald Trump’s visit to Beijing, at a time of rising tensions over Iran, sanctions, tariffs and Taiwan, shows how far the Hormuz crisis has travelled beyond the battlefield. What began as a regional war is now touching energy markets, currency politics and the balance of influence between Washington and Beijing. The US is trying to keep Gulf and Asian partners anchored to the US dollar system, while China continues to push for wider use of the renminbi in trade transactions. Whether...

- [US charges 7 Chinese executives and 4 shipping firms linked to container cartel](#) (2026-05-19 21:03)

The US has charged seven Chinese executives and four of the world’s largest shipping container companies with conspiring to restrict supply, raising the price of containers during the Covid-19 pandemic, Department of Justice officials said on Tuesday. The companies together manufacture about 95 per cent of the world’s standard dry shipping containers and conspired to restrict output and fix prices between November 2019 and January 2024, the

DOJ said. Prosecutors allege the scheme resulted...

- [US to drop tax claims against Trump ‘forever’ , in IRS lawsuit deal](#) (2026-05-19 20:05)

The US government will permanently drop tax claims against President Donald Trump, according to a settlement document that is part of a deal to resolve Trump’s US\$10 billion lawsuit against the Internal Revenue Service over the leak of his tax returns. As part of the settlement agreement, the US is “forever barred and precluded” from examining or prosecuting Trump, his sons and the Trump Organisation’s current tax issues, according to a one-page document posted to the Justice Department’s...

- [US plans to charge Raul Castro increases Trump administration’s pressure on Cuba](#) (2026-05-19 20:03)

The United States is expected to unseal criminal charges against former Cuban leader Raul Castro on Wednesday in a move that could further deepen tensions between Washington and Havana and inject new strain into an already volatile regional relationship. Multiple US media outlets, citing US Justice Department sources, have reported that federal prosecutors in Miami are preparing an indictment tied to Cuba’s 1996 shooting down of two civilian aircraft operated by the Miami-based exile group...

- [Trump backs Paxton over Cornyn for Texas senator in shock endorsement](#) (2026-05-19 19:30)

US President Donald Trump endorsed Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton in the state’s Republican Senate primary shortly after early voting began in an increasingly personal and expensive run-off against incumbent Senator John Cornyn. “Ken Paxton has my Complete and Total Endorsement to be the next United States Senator from the Great State of Texas – KEN PAXTON WILL NEVER LET YOU DOWN!,” Trump said in a social media post on Tuesday. The timing of the move came as a shock, with early voting already...

- [US again avoids taking responsibility for Iran school attack that killed 155](#) (2026-05-19 18:36)

A top commander of US forces in the Middle East avoided taking responsibility on Tuesday for an attack on a school in Iran that left 155 people dead on day one of the war, insisting a “complex” probe continues. Admiral Brad Cooper, the commander of US Central Command (CENTCOM), told a congressional oversight panel that “the school itself is located on an active IRGC cruise missile base” , making the investigation “more complex than the average strike” . IRGC stands for Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary...

- [Norway reports Europe’s first case of bird flu in a polar bear](#) (2026-05-19 17:40)

Norwegian authorities on Tuesday announced that bird flu has been documented in a polar bear for the first time in Europe, in the Svalbard region in the Arctic. The H5N5 variant of the virus was detected in samples taken from a male bear about one year old and a walrus found

dead in mid-May on the icy archipelago, around 1,000km (600 miles) from the North Pole, the Norwegian Veterinary Institute said. “The results are part of a trend in which highly pathogenic avian influenza viruses are...

- [Tai Po blaze: Hong Kong to ban smoking at construction sites from July 17](#) (2026-05-19 16:19)

Smoking will be banned at construction sites in Hong Kong from July 17 under a government proposal sent to the legislature following the deadly blaze at Tai Po’s Wang Fuk Court last November. The government introduced three amendments to existing ordinances to improve fire safety at the sites on Tuesday. “Since the tragic fire which occurred in Tai Po in November 2025, there has been strong community consensus for implementing a comprehensive smoking ban in construction sites to reduce fire risk...

- [US imposes fresh sanctions on Iranian exchange house, 19 ships from shadow fleet](#) (2026-05-19 15:37)

The Donald Trump administration on Tuesday imposed sanctions on an Iranian foreign currency exchange house and what it said were front companies overseeing transactions on behalf of Iranian banks as the US maintains pressure on Tehran. The move came after Iran said its latest peace proposal to the United States over the US-Israeli led war that started February 28 involved ending hostilities on all fronts including Lebanon, the exit of US forces from areas close to Iran, and reparations for...

- [Russian leader Vladimir Putin arrives in China just days after Donald Trump’s visit](#) (2026-05-19 15:17)

Russian President Vladimir Putin arrived in Beijing on Tuesday night for a visit aimed at deepening the two sides’ comprehensive partnership, four days after the Chinese capital hosted US President Donald Trump. This is the Russian leader’s 25th visit to China. Putin was given a formal red-carpet reception at the airport, where he shared a warm handshake with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi. A military guard of honour stood to attention, and teenagers waved Chinese and Russian flags to welcome...

- [Visitor quotas needed to protect country parks, 4 trails challenge founder says](#) (2026-05-19 14:59)

The founder of the Hong Kong Four Trails Ultra Challenge has called for a quota system to be implemented during public holidays to protect the city’s natural resources, saying recent scenes of overcrowding left him feeling “quite disturbed”. Andre Blumberg, who created the now-famous 298km ultra-marathon covering Hong Kong’s four major trails, said the city should consider adopting a reservation system akin to those seen in some national parks in the United States. “Hong Kong is really...

- [Thai Singha beer heir dismissed from family firm amid brother's sexual abuse claims](#) (2026-05-19 14:35)

One of Thailand's richest men dismissed his cousin from the Singha beer business empire on Tuesday, the company said, after days of controversy over allegations the man had sexually abused his own brother. Environmental activist Siranudh Scott, a scion of the Bhirombhakdi family who control the beer brand ubiquitous in Thailand, posted an emotional video on his social media page this month accusing his elder brother of repeatedly abusing him in his teenage years. "Everyone in my family knows it..."

- [Hong Kong steps up Ebola precautions, prepares Lantau Island quarantine facility](#) (2026-05-19 14:04)

Hong Kong authorities have prepared a quarantine facility on Lantau Island as they step up efforts to guard against the potential spread of the deadly Ebola virus following an outbreak in Central Africa. The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) said on Tuesday it was working closely with stakeholders to implement stringent prevention and control measures after the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the outbreak a "public health emergency of international concern". The latest outbreak began...

- [As the world retreats from US Treasuries, will the sell-off deepen?](#) (2026-05-19 14:00)

With new data suggesting a global retreat from US Treasuries in March – the first full month of the US-Israel war on Iran – market worries are on the rise over whether the sell-off could deepen, as interest rate decisions under new Federal Reserve chair Kevin Warsh, US debt sustainability and prolonged Middle East tensions raise investor concerns. Analysts are currently weighing mounting inflation pressures – which have driven Treasury yields sharply and placed the 30-year yield at its highest...

- [Philippine Senate guards investigated for firing shots as fugitive senator fled](#) (2026-05-19 13:41)

Security officers from the Philippine Senate are being investigated for firing their weapons without provocation as a senator wanted by the International Criminal Court sought refuge in the building, officials said on Tuesday. Senator Ronald dela Rosa briefly sought refuge in the Senate last week while asking the Philippine Supreme Court to stop an attempt by government agents to arrest him. The fugitive senator, the former national police chief in the early years of Rodrigo Duterte's anti-drug...

- [China hails latest breakthrough on space solar power technology](#) (2026-05-19 13:00)

Chinese researchers have built a wireless power transmission system capable of beaming kilowatt-level energy to multiple moving targets simultaneously, potentially a major step towards building space-based solar power stations. The team completed a groundbreaking full-chain ground verification platform for such a system in 2022 and have now successfully tested the ability to beam power to multiple moving targets simultaneously. Built around a

75-metre (245-foot) tower at Xidian University in...

- [Spain investigates ex-prime minister Zapatero over airline bailout scandal](#) (2026-05-19 12:53)

Spain's former Socialist prime minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero has been placed under investigation for influence peddling and crimes allegedly committed in connection with the bailout of a small airline, according to a court on Tuesday. The move adds to pressure on current Socialist Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, already weakened by corruption investigations involving family members and senior political allies. Zapatero, who served as prime minister from 2004 to 2011, was not originally...

- [Pakistani man who killed TikTok star Sana Yousaf for rejecting him sentenced to death](#) (2026-05-19 12:47)

A Pakistani court sentenced a man to death on Tuesday for murdering a teenage influencer last year after she had repeatedly rejected his advances. Sana Yousaf's murder in June drew nationwide condemnation and reignited debate over women's safety, after some online comments – alongside condolences – blamed her for her own death. A judge announced to a cramped Islamabad courtroom on Tuesday afternoon that 22-year-old Umar Hayat was sentenced to death and fined US\$7,200. “This verdict is a lesson...

- [Hong Kong urged to prioritise hydrogen adoption to meet carbon neutrality goal](#) (2026-05-19 12:32)

Hong Kong should prioritise the adoption of hydrogen and related facilities such as refuelling stations for heavy vehicles at container terminals and other industrial areas to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, a think tank has said. Our Hong Kong Foundation set out nine recommendations in a policy research report released on Tuesday to advance hydrogen use, covering vehicle uptake, testing facilities, supply and governance. The report was unveiled at the three-day International Hydrogen...

- [Despite summit pledges, don't expect US-China trade to improve](#) (2026-05-19 12:30)

At last week's summit in Beijing, the presidents of China and the United States pledged to steer towards a stable and constructive relationship. The two sides announced new joint trade and investment councils. This combination of high-level commitment and institutional progress has stirred hopes that long-running bilateral economic tensions will ease substantially, if not take a turn for the better. But will the world's largest economies live happily ever after? History offers a sobering...

- [From Jack Sparrow to Bride of Chucky, Iran's video jibes at Trump are online hit in China](#) (2026-05-19 12:00)

The Iranian embassy in Beijing has released an animated rap video featuring internet memes and pop culture to mock US leaders and celebrate Iran's warm ties with China. The

two-minute video *What is the East?* was published on Monday afternoon and had drawn over 370,000 views by noon the next day. It also carried a strong message of Eastern unity and leaned heavily into millennial and Gen Z nostalgia to demonstrate cultural crossover. This included an animated version of *Pesar Ammeh Za* – a puppet...

- [Philippine navy's 'aspirational' middle power claim comes under scrutiny](#) (2026-05-19 11:58)

The Philippines' claim that it is now among the middle tier of Southeast Asian maritime powers after two decades of modernisation has come into question, with analysts saying that its navy still lacks enough firepower and reach to match regional rivals. Rear Admiral Joe Anthony C. Orbe, commander of the Philippine Fleet, told reporters on Tuesday that the country's navy had attained the status of a "middle power" in Southeast Asia as it marked its 128th anniversary this month. "We are on par...

- [Iran hosts mass weddings for couples volunteering for wartime sacrifice](#) (2026-05-19 11:48)

Iranian authorities held mass public weddings in Tehran for couples who signed up to a state-sponsored scheme declaring their readiness to sacrifice their lives in the war against the US and Israel. The ceremonies conducted late on Monday involved hundreds of couples in several major squares in the capital, including more than 100 in the vast Imam Hossein Square in central Tehran, according to reports in Iranian media. They were broadcast on state TV in a bid to boost wartime morale, with US...

- [China and US to hold dialogue on AI governance, Beijing confirms](#) (2026-05-19 11:30)

China and the United States will hold a formal dialogue on improving governance of artificial intelligence, as the two countries seek to manage the risks posed by the rapidly evolving technology. During US President Donald Trump's state visit to China last week, he and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping had "constructive exchanges" on AI, said Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun on Tuesday. He added that the pair had agreed that their governments should hold further dialogues on the...

- [AMD CEO's meeting with China's vice-premier raises optimism about US AI chip imports](#) (2026-05-19 11:30)

A recent meeting between Chinese Vice-Premier He Lifeng and Advanced Micro Devices (AMD) CEO Lisa Su signals a potential loosening of US chip export policies, which could reopen high-end semiconductor sales, including artificial intelligence chips, to select Chinese firms, according to analysts. During their meeting on Monday, He reiterated that Beijing welcomed continued foreign investment, according to Xinhua News Agency. Su praised the outcomes of last week's summit between President Xi...

- [MTR Corp on track to complete new Tung Chung West station by first half of 2027](#)

(2026-05-19 11:23)

Hong Kong's MTR Corporation will largely complete a new station on the Tung Chung line by the first half of 2027, using "community-friendly" construction measures to reduce noise. The rail giant said on Tuesday that it would finish boring a 1.3-kilometre (0.8-mile) tunnel by the third quarter of this year and complete most of Tung Chung West station by the first half of next year. The new station is located west of Yat Tung Estate, a public housing estate in Western Tung Chung. The company said...

- [China confirms death of hypersonic weapon expert Fang Daining, 68, in South Africa](#)

(2026-05-19 11:01)

Fang Daining, a leading and at times controversial figure in China's hypersonic weapons research, died earlier this year, the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) confirmed in an obituary released on Tuesday. Fang, who held China's highest academic title in science and technology as a CAS member, died of an illness on February 27, the premier national research institution said. He was 68. Fang was scheduled to speak at the African Conference on Computational Mechanics at the University of Cape Town...

- [Non-traditional Hong Kong bidder tops property giants in Tung Chung HK\\$1.6b land auction](#)

(2026-05-19 10:54)

Hong Kong construction and engineering company Able Engineering has secured a residential site in Tung Chung for a higher-than-expected HK\$1.627 billion (US\$207 million) premium, outbidding five groups of major developers in the city. Able Best, a construction and private development unit of Able Engineering, secured a 50-year land grant for the 152,332 sq ft plot, according to a statement from the Lands Department on Tuesday. The winning bid topped analysts' estimates, which ranged between...

- [South Korea's Lee hails 'deep friendship' as he hosts Japan's Takaichi in hometown](#)

(2026-05-19 10:54)

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung and Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi held their fourth meeting in about six months on Tuesday, underscoring the need for greater cooperation between the historical Asian rivals amid global challenges, including the Iran war. Lee hosted Takaichi in his hometown of Andong, a southeastern South Korean city famous for its centuries-old traditional folk village, a Unesco World Heritage site. In January, the two met in Takaichi's hometown of Nara, an ancient...

- [DeepSeek recruits former Jane Street engineer to catch up on AI agents, revenue race](#)

(2026-05-19 10:30)

Chinese artificial intelligence heavyweight DeepSeek has recruited a former Jane Street star engineer to its new AI "harness" team, as it looks to ensure it does not fall behind in the agentic AI era. Cui Tianyi joined the Hangzhou start-up in March, according to a post on his

LinkedIn profile on Tuesday, after four years at Hong Kong-based quantitative trading firm TSYCapital, which he co-founded in 2022. The engineer previously spent nearly nine years as a software developer and researcher at...

- [Indonesia's rupiah sinks to record low as Prabowo shrugs off rout fears](#) (2026-05-19 10:30)

Indonesian officials have moved to reassure markets that the country's economic fundamentals remain sound after the rupiah sank to a record low, but President Prabowo Subianto's attempts to play down the currency's slide has attracted criticism from economists and social media users alike. The rupiah fell to 17,720 per US dollar on Tuesday, cementing its status as one of Asia's worst-performing currencies this year. Indonesia's main stock index, the Jakarta Composite Index (JCI), tumbled 3.46...

- [Chinese aircraft carrier kicks off drills in western Pacific amid tense Japan ties](#) (2026-05-19 10:22)

China's Liaoning aircraft carrier on Tuesday kicked off training that will include live-fire drills in the western Pacific, a move poised to draw attention from Japan amid tense bilateral ties. The Liaoning-led carrier task group's training will include far-sea tactical flight, live-fire exercises, and providing support and cover, according to state broadcaster CCTV. The Chinese navy did not specify the exact location of this week's training, but said they were routine exercises in line with the...

- [In 1961, Typhoon Alice claims 4 lives in Hong Kong – SCMP archive](#) (2026-05-19 10:15)

TYPHOON TOOK FOUR LIVES Alice created two new records By SCMP Staff This article was first published on May 21, 1961 The typhoon which struck Hongkong on Friday took four lives, but the damage done was negligible compared to the havoc wrought by the severe storm which pounded the Colony in June last year. The number of people injured during Typhoon Alice was around 20, but the majority of them were not seriously hurt. The four persons who were killed were two women and two children. This is how...

- [Calls grow for US-China energy trade expansion after Trump's visit – but is it feasible?](#) (2026-05-19 10:00)

A prominent American business group in China has called for expanded energy trade between the world's two largest economies – a move first floated by US President Donald Trump during his state visit to Beijing last week. Analysts, however, warn that uncompetitive pricing could limit Chinese demand. “Energy remains a centrepiece of the bilateral relationship,” said Markel Hubinette, who sits on the American Chamber of Commerce in China's board of governors. Speaking at the Global Trade and...

- [Legacy in ink: how calligraphy links China's political heritage to academic institutions](#) (2026-05-19 10:00)

Prestigious universities in China carry a rich tradition of showcasing their names on entrance gates, inscribed in calligraphy by renowned political leaders, reflecting both political history and academic prestige. Calligraphy, the art of writing, is a revered traditional Chinese art form that was historically valued above all others. In ancient China, calligraphy was an elite art, its aesthetics meticulously regulated by imperial authority. For instance, during the Qin dynasty (221–206 BC), the...

- [Mango founder' s son arrested over father' s mountain death plunge in Spain](#) (2026-05-19 09:51)

Police in Spain said they had detained the son of fashion group Mango' s founder Isak Andic on Tuesday in connection with an investigation into his father' s death in December 2024. Isak Andic died after falling more than 100 metres (330 feet) from a cliff while hiking with family members near the Mediterranean city of Barcelona. His death was initially treated as an accident, but police in Catalonia later said it was being investigated as a possible homicide. The family confirmed Jonathan Andic...

- [WHO warns of 'scale and speed' of deadly Ebola outbreak](#) (2026-05-19 09:48)

The World Health Organization chief voiced concern on Tuesday about the “scale and speed” of an Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo which has killed an estimated 131 people. The WHO has declared the surge of the highly contagious haemorrhagic fever an international health emergency and called an emergency meeting on the crisis on Tuesday. No vaccine or therapeutic treatment exists for the Bundibugyo strain of Ebola responsible for the latest outbreak of the disease, which has...

- [Bodies of 2 Italian divers recovered from 'well inside' underwater cave in Maldives](#) (2026-05-19 09:46)

Finnish divers on Tuesday recovered the bodies of two of the four remaining Italians who died deep inside an underwater cave in an atoll in the Maldives, an official said. The bodies were located on Monday, when searches resumed after being suspended following the death of a local military diver during a perilous mission to try to reach them. Five Italian divers went missing on Thursday, with one of the bodies recovered earlier. The plan is to recover the remaining two bodies on Wednesday. The...

- [China' s rapid chipmaking expansion threatens AI memory chip boom, Samsung adviser warns](#) (2026-05-19 09:30)

The AI-driven “super cycle” in memory chips may lose momentum by 2028 as Chinese chipmakers aggressively expand production and global tech firms curb spending, a Samsung Electronics executive adviser said. “South Korea' s memory chip industry is performing very strongly this year and some forecasts suggest conditions could improve further next year,” adviser Kyung Kye-hyun said at a forum hosted by the National Academy of Engineering of Korea. “But caution is needed for 2027, particularly...

- [Why the Philippines wants Japan's old Type 88 missiles](#) (2026-05-19 09:30)

Japan's Type 88 surface-to-ship missile entered service decades ago and is already being retired in favour of a more capable successor, yet the prospect of Tokyo transferring the ageing system to the Philippines has stirred a debate that reaches far beyond its modest specifications. Manila expressed interest in acquiring the Type 88 around the same time as Japanese forces were demonstrating the missile's firepower at joint drills with American and Philippine troops, according to Tokyo-based...

- [Why Elon Musk's post spotlighting Chinese infrastructure has reignited a debate](#) (2026-05-19 09:00)

Tech billionaire Elon Musk is once again using his massive social media megaphone to trumpet Chinese infrastructure to an international audience. On Monday, the CEO of SpaceX and Tesla reposted on X, which he owns, a nearly six-minute video of Chongqing East Railway Station in southwestern China, drawing millions of views within hours. It is unclear whether Musk is currently in Chongqing, China's "mountain city" known for its spicy hotpot and one of the country's most popular tourist...

- [Indonesian authorities used fake news to brand critics as 'foreign agents': Amnesty](#) (2026-05-19 08:48)

Indonesian authorities, including the military, used online disinformation campaigns to brand activists and journalists as "foreign agents" and silence dissent, sometimes leading to physical threats, Amnesty International said in a report released on Tuesday. Amnesty's findings reflect growing concerns that Indonesia, the world's third largest democracy, is backsliding towards army rule under President Prabowo Subianto, a former special forces commander, who has expanded the military's role...

- [Hong Kong lifts flat resale curbs for Tai Po fire survivors under buy-back plan](#) (2026-05-19 08:37)

The Hong Kong government will lift resale restrictions on replacement homes for flat owners displaced by the Tai Po fire and provide them with two-year vouchers to purchase second-hand subsidised housing, according to an official buy-back document seen by the South China Morning Post on Tuesday. The document states that original owners who opt for the special sales scheme will have greater flexibility, as they will be allowed to sell their newly built subsidised flats on the secondary market at...

- [Quantum IPO wave is a milestone. It should also come with a warning](#) (2026-05-19 08:30)

A surge in stock offerings by quantum computing firms suggests 2026 could be a breakout year for technologies still in their early stages of commercial viability. Investor exuberance is soaring as governments and industry anticipate significant milestones that could transform global power structures, as artificial intelligence is doing. China's dual-core quantum computer, the

world’ s first, is the kind of breakthrough that sustains optimism. Yet the timing – or even the trajectory – remains...

- [Ex-HSBC banker acquitted of assaulting wife amid divorce battle](#) (2026-05-19 08:18)

A Hong Kong court has acquitted a former HSBC banker of assaulting his wife at their home in a luxury seaside estate last year, suggesting she may have tried to frame him to gain an advantage in divorce proceedings. Kenneth Tung Hoi-yi, who previously led the bank’ s financial sponsors group in Asia-Pacific, was also awarded legal costs on Tuesday, after Eastern Court decided that he did not draw suspicion upon himself during the alleged incident at Redhill Peninsula on southern Hong Kong Island...

- [Air-con repairman dies after falling from 11th floor of Kowloon City building](#) (2026-05-19 07:56)

A 38-year-old Hong Kong air-conditioner repairman has died after falling off a building in Kowloon City while working without any protective gear, the South China Morning Post has learned. A source said police received a report at 12.15pm on Tuesday of a man falling from Billionnaire Avant, a high-rise residential block, in Kowloon City. “Earlier in the day, the deceased went to a flat on the 11th floor to repair an air conditioner. He climbed out of a window in the bathroom to repair a...

- [China will ‘actively’ help to resolve international conflicts, ex-diplomat says](#) (2026-05-19 07:44)

China will actively participate in settling international conflicts and improve mechanisms for resolving them, a former Chinese diplomat has said, stressing that Hong Kong could serve as an “important bridge” for exchanges and a recently established mediation body in the city would bolster the international rule of law. At the Global Prosperity Summit in Hong Kong on Tuesday, Han Zhiqiang, vice-president of the China Public Diplomacy Association, addressed last week’ s landmark summit in Beijing...

- [Hong Kong stars Nick Cheung and William Chan join wave of upmarket home sales](#) (2026-05-19 07:39)

Hong Kong actors Nick Cheung and William Chan have become the latest high-end homeowners to sell their units amid a strengthening recovery in the city’ s luxury property market. Transactions in the segment more than doubled in the first quarter of the year, compared with the same period in 2025, according to consultancy CBRE. Cheung sold his flat at Grenville House in Mid-Levels for HK\$132 million (US\$16.86 million) to buyers identified as Lee Yuen Ann Geoffery and Xu Ranying, Land Registry...

- [China’ s Moonshot AI moves to unwind offshore structure in IPO pursuit: sources](#) (2026-05-19 07:35)

Moonshot AI, the Chinese AI unicorn behind the popular Kimi chatbot, has informed shareholders that it intends to dismantle its offshore structure to pave the way for an initial public offering, likely in Hong Kong, according to people familiar with the matter. The Beijing-based start-up, with assets held by a Cayman Islands parent company, has proposed a plan to remove its variable interest entity (VIE) structure. The company sought feedback from investors this week, the two sources said,...

- [Putin hails ‘unprecedented’ ties ahead of China visit hot on Trump’ s heels](#) (2026-05-19 07:06)

President Vladimir Putin said on Tuesday that Russia’ s relationship with China had reached “a truly unprecedented level” , pledging mutual support on core interests including sovereignty and national unity just hours before his arrival in Beijing. During his two-day trip, coming just days after US President Donald Trump’ s state visit ended, Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping are expected to discuss economic cooperation as well as “key international and regional issues” , according to the...

- [Malaysia’ s Anwar eyes snap poll before fuel subsidy crunch truly bites](#) (2026-05-19 06:38)

Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim is considering calling a snap election before a mounting fuel subsidy crisis forces him to make spending cuts that would strip him of the conditions needed to win one. A national vote is not due until early 2028, but the political logic of going early is becoming harder to dismiss. Anwar’ s Pakatan Harapan (PH) alliance is fraying at the edges, coalition partner Barisan Nasional has announced it will contest the coming Johor state poll alone, and two of his...

- [Ancient China elites used water fans, ice to cool down in summer; folks had bamboo pillows](#) (2026-05-19 06:10)

In ancient China, summer heat could be deadly long before the advent of air conditioning. To survive it, people resorted to remedies ranging from imperial ice sculptures and water-powered fans to the more carefree practice of dressing minimally. One of the most devastating examples occurred during the reign of Emperor Qianlong in the Qing dynasty (1644–1912), when an extreme heatwave swept across northern China. Lacking modern weather stations, officials documented the disaster through...

- [Vodka, bullet train and boat rides: how Xi and Putin built up a personal rapport](#) (2026-05-19 06:00)

Few relationships among world leaders have been portrayed as personally as that between President Xi Jinping and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin. Xi, who rarely publicly reveals much about his personal life or emotions, once described Putin as his “best and most intimate friend” . Over the years, their rapport has been defined not only by summits and state visits, but also a growing catalogue of highly personal rituals involving food, birthday celebrations, sports events, boat rides and...

- [Ride-hailing licence cap ‘must strike a balance’ in Hong Kong, John Lee says](#) (2026-05-19 05:30)

The number of ride-hailing vehicle licences will be determined based on Hong Kong’s unique conditions and the need to maintain passenger experience, the city’s leader has said, adding that the proposed subsidiary legislation will be submitted for approval on schedule. Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chiu also said on Tuesday that a mechanism would be established to monitor market operations and data, as well as to conduct dynamic assessments and reviews of quotas. His remarks were made after...

- [Indonesia’s oil hub plan collides with Asean’s trust deficit](#) (2026-05-19 05:21)

Indonesia has proposed hosting an Asean oil storage hub to reinforce the region’s emergency fuel reserves, as supply disruptions from the Middle East lay bare the region’s vulnerability to energy shocks. But analysts say the plan, while attractive in principle, is likely to be hampered by political distrust, uneven national priorities and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations’ record of rolling out regional mechanisms that are rarely tested under pressure. Indonesian Energy Minister Bahlil...

- [Some Asian airlines could collapse like Spirit without help on rising fuel costs](#) (2026-05-19 05:19)

Asian airlines need government support to cope with the more than doubling of jet fuel prices that otherwise risks some carriers collapsing like US-based Spirit Airlines, according to the new head of the region’s industry body. Wong Hong, who took over as director general of the Association of Asia Pacific Airlines last month, said carriers needed varying levels of help and relief, from direct financial support to being able to cut flight schedules without negative consequences. “Nobody wants to...

- [Southeast Asia’s climate; Singaporeans and a work ethic stereotype: 7 Asia highlights](#) (2026-05-19 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. ‘Godzilla El Nino’: Southeast Asia warned of punishing climate whiplash Southeast Asia must brace itself for a punishing spell of climate whiplash, with an expected El Nino threatening drought-like conditions, flash floods, crop losses and haze across the region, experts...

- [Hong Kong set to benefit as Xi-Trump summit signals ‘more stability’, John Lee says](#) (2026-05-19 04:23)

Hong Kong’s economy and trade with the United States will benefit from greater stability and certainty brought by the summit between Chinese President Xi Jinping and his US counterpart Donald Trump, the city’s leader has said. “Hong Kong is an externally oriented economy,

susceptible to the influence of the main market,” Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chiu said on Tuesday. “More certainty and stability in the market will greatly reduce the impact of external turbulence on Hong Kong.” Last week’s...

- [Marcos says Philippines, because of proximity to Taiwan, likely involved in any conflict](#) (2026-05-19 04:19)

The Philippines is likely to be involved in any conflict over Taiwan because of its proximity and the nearly 200,000 Filipinos working there, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr told Japanese media on Monday, ahead of a state visit to Japan next week. He said Manila did not want to be involved in any war over Taiwan, but would be forced to because of its geography. “Except that if there is actual confrontation, if there is conflict, just looking at the map, you can tell that the northern Philippines,...

- [Will Chinese become the king language for commanding AI on engineering tasks?](#) (2026-05-19 04:00)

A study from Tsinghua University has opened a new front in the global technology race by asking a question that may have profound implications for industrial powers. When commanding an artificial intelligence (AI) model to, say, design a better aircraft, does it matter whether you speak to it in English or Chinese? The answer, according to the research published in China’s top aviation journal Acta Aeronautica et Astronautica Sinica on April 27, is mixed: Chinese may have an intrinsic advantage...

- [Starbucks Korea boss loses job after ‘Tank Day’ promotion misfires](#) (2026-05-19 03:03)

The head of Starbucks Korea has been fired after a marketing campaign sparked public outrage for evoking painful memories of a brutal military crackdown on pro-democracy protesters in 1980. Shinsegae Group, the retail conglomerate that licences and manages the US coffee chain in South Korea, said it had sacked Sohn Jeong-hyun, the head of Starbucks Korea, for carrying out “inappropriate marketing”. Sohn’s dismissal came hours after Starbucks launched its “Tank Day” campaign on Monday promoting...

- [John Lee to visit Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, taking largest-ever delegation overseas](#) (2026-05-19 02:13)

Hong Kong’s leader will travel to Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan early next month to explore and seize new business opportunities, making Central Asia his latest area of focus and with the largest delegation travelling with him to date. After several years of promoting the city in the Middle East and Southeast Asia amid geopolitical uncertainties, Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chiu said on Tuesday that he was eyeing Central Asia next. The delegation he will lead to the two key countries under Beijing’s...

- [Chinese firm Xpeng builds driverless cabs, likely to challenge Tesla’s FSD software in AI race](#) (2026-05-19 02:08)

Chinese electric vehicle (EV) maker Xpeng has begun mass production of autonomous cabs powered by its own chips, likely to mount yet another challenge on Tesla as both companies pursue a leading position in self-driving. Robotaxis have become the latest area where the two firms could go head-to-head, after smart EV and humanoid robot, as the booming development of physical artificial intelligence (AI) technologies intensifies. Guangzhou-based Xpeng said its robotaxis would have level 4 (L4)...

- [Singapore sentences man to 18 years' jail for repeatedly raping younger sister](#) (2026-05-19 01:49)

A boy began sexually abusing his younger sister from when she was five and he was 12, continuing the assault for seven years and raping her repeatedly. At times when she resisted, the boy punched her, slapped her and pinched her. The offender, now 26, was sentenced in Singapore on Monday to 18 years' jail and 24 strokes of the cane. He pleaded guilty to two counts of aggravated sexual assault and one count of statutory rape, with another eight charges taken into consideration. The offender...

- [Russian hiker becomes Japan' s latest bear attack victim as another grim record looms](#) (2026-05-19 01:30)

A Russian hiker was seriously injured in the mountainous west of Tokyo on Sunday morning, raising fears that Japan could be heading for another record year of human-bear encounters. Police said a bear attacked the man as he was hiking along a forest road near Mount Sanukido, close to the town of Okutama. The man, who has not been named, sustained severe injuries to his face and arms and was airlifted by helicopter to a hospital in Hachioji city. His injuries were not life-threatening. The attack...

- [What Hong Kong can learn from the Yangtze' s conservation success](#) (2026-05-19 01:30)

In February, a landmark study in the journal Science delivered rare good news for conservation: a five-year fishing ban in the Yangtze River had halted seven decades of biodiversity near-collapse. Fish biomass has surged, and the critically endangered finless porpoise has begun to rebound. Researchers showed that sustained, collective action can revive an ecosystem. The lesson for Hong Kong is both inspiring and urgent. Hong Kong is at a critical juncture in its environmental history. Last...

- [China' s firms have a glaring weakness as they face a barrage of EU probes](#) (2026-05-19 01:00)

With their domestic profits narrowing and production capacity expanding, China' s firms are continuing to widen their overseas footprints in search of new, more lucrative markets. In this series, we examine China Inc.' s next phase of "going global" and the complex, challenging international environment its companies have chosen to enter. Not long ago, plans were in motion to build an enormous battery factory in the Belgian countryside. If completed, it would have created an estimated 2,000 jobs...

- [Can PLA training catch up with China's rapid weapon development?](#) (2026-05-19 01:00)

China's military mouthpiece has issued a rare warning that personnel may be insufficiently trained to operate new weapons, including unmanned systems, despite Beijing's rapid advances in hardware. Some military units showed a low level of integration between personnel and equipment, Monday's PLA Daily article cautioned, highlighting limited trust in systems and weak coordination between human operators and technology. It warned that without proper integration, "even advanced equipment may fail..."

- [Ancient China laws punished men for crying; people with messy handwriting forced to drink ink](#) (2026-05-19 01:00)

Ancient China's legal system was never only about crime and punishment. It was also a mechanism of imperial control, used to protect the throne, discipline officials and regulate social order. Across millennia, it gave rise to sophisticated codes such as the Tang Code, as well as rules that now appear bizarre or even absurd. Rules for public roads began to take shape more than 2,000 years ago. The Han Feizi records that people who threw ash onto the road could have both hands cut off. In later...

- [Hong Kong finance chief woos French wealth managers as European tour kicks off](#) (2026-05-19 00:30)

Hong Kong's finance chief has begun a five-day European tour, starting in France, as part of the city's latest push to attract global capital and reinforce its status as an international financial hub. Financial Secretary Paul Chan Mo-po arrived in Paris on Monday, where he met representatives of the Association Francaise de la Gestion Financiere (AFG) and Paris-based think tank Asia Centre, sources told the South China Morning Post. He also called on China's ambassador to France and Monaco,...

- [Texans accuse Japan of doing 'deal with the devil' by funding US fossil fuel projects](#) (2026-05-19 00:00)

Residents from US Gulf coast communities in Texas who say Japanese-backed fossil fuel projects tied to tariff negotiations with US President Donald Trump threaten their health and safety have taken their fight to Tokyo. Members of community groups from Texas' Freeport area met officials from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), government-run Nippon Export and Investment Insurance (Nexi), as well as the ministries of finance and economy, trade and industry on Monday. They urged...

- [Minnesota officials charge ICE agent in shooting of Venezuelan immigrant](#) (2026-05-18 23:44)

Prosecutors in Minnesota on Monday charged a US Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent with assault in connection with the shooting of a Venezuelan immigrant in Minneapolis in January during US President Donald Trump's immigration crackdown in the city. Christian

Castro, 53, was charged with four felony counts of second-degree assault with a dangerous weapon and a misdemeanour of falsely reporting a crime, Hennepin County Attorney Mary Moriarty told a press conference. Castro was the...

- [Thousands ordered to evacuate as Southern California wildfire threatens homes](#)  
(2026-05-18 23:29)

Thousands of people were ordered to evacuate on Monday as a wind-driven wildfire threatened suburban homes in Southern California. The Sandy Fire was reported at around 10am in the hills above Simi Valley, about 48km (30 miles) northwest of Los Angeles. By mid-afternoon it had consumed more than 200 hectares (500 acres) of dry brush and damaged at least one home, according to the Ventura County Fire Department. The flames were pushed by morning gusts that topped 48km/h (30mph) but were subsiding...

- [China joins global sell-off of US Treasuries in March as Iran war prompts panic](#)  
(2026-05-18 23:19)

Mainland Chinese investors shed its holdings of US Treasury bills in March, echoing the move of many overseas institutions and central banks amid uncertainties over the US-Israel war on Iran. Such reductions in Treasury holdings reflected mounting doubts in global markets, analysts said, as the escalating war in Iran fuelled concerns over inflation, energy prices and fiscal pressures, driving Treasury yields higher and overshadowing the likelihood of interest rate cuts from the US Federal...

- [Hong Kong property upswing poised to hold despite interest rates risk: Moody's](#)  
(2026-05-18 23:00)

Hong Kong's residential property market recovery is unlikely to be derailed by a potential increase in interest rates amid the Middle East conflict, as demand is supported by professionals relocating to the city and surging rents, according to Moody's Ratings. At the same time, the moribund office and retail property sectors were showing signs of improvement on the back of leasing activity despite continued headwinds, the credit-rating agency said in a commentary released on Monday. "We expect..."

- [US to screen for Ebola at airports, one American in DR Congo infected](#) (2026-05-18 22:49)

The United States said on Monday it is bolstering precautions to prevent the spread of Ebola, including screening air travellers from outbreak-hit areas and temporarily suspending visa services. The measures shared by the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) come as the World Health Organization has declared the deadly Ebola outbreak in Democratic Republic of Congo an international health emergency. In a briefing, Satish Pillai, the health agency's Ebola response incident manager,...

- [Milei guts China currency lifeline after Trump ultimatum on financial ties: reports](#)  
(2026-05-18 21:46)

Argentina is on the verge of settling its debt with China's central bank, winding down a currency lifeline that kept the country afloat during years of financial turmoil and now sits at the centre of a geopolitical tug of war between Washington and Beijing. Government officials confirmed to Argentine outlet Todo Noticias on Sunday that the repayment of the activated portion of the swap will be completed by mid-2026. Central bank records published last week show Buenos Aires has repaid nearly 90...

- [How China is becoming the gravitational centre of global diplomacy](#) (2026-05-18 21:30)

When Russian President Vladimir Putin arrives in Beijing this week, just days after US President Donald Trump departed, following his summit with President Xi Jinping, the choreography will not be merely diplomatic. It will be show of “civilisational theatre”. For years, analysts framed China as a power caught awkwardly between a revanchist Russia and an increasingly hostile United States. That interpretation now looks obsolete. Beijing is no longer balancing between rival poles; it is...

- [Cuba warns of ‘bloodbath’ if US attacks; Washington adds sanctions](#) (2026-05-18 20:51)

Cuba's leader warned on Monday of a “bloodbath” in the event of an American attack, while the US Treasury sanctioned Cuba's main intelligence agency and top leaders as tensions spiked between the arch-foes. President Miguel Diaz-Canel stressed Cuba's right to defend itself a day after US news site Axios reported that Havana had obtained over 300 military drones from Russia and Iran and is considering using them against US targets. The report, which quoted US intelligence officials, came amid...

- [3 killed in shooting at a San Diego mosque and 2 suspects are dead, police say](#) (2026-05-18 20:10)

Two teenage gunmen opened fire on Monday at the Islamic Centre of San Diego in California, killing three men outside the mosque, one of them a security guard, before the two suspects were found dead, apparently from self-inflicted gunshot wounds, police said. Both suspects are believed to be teenagers and the case is considered to be a hate crime, San Diego Police Chief Scott Wahl said at a news conference. All of the children who were attending a day school that is part of the mosque complex –...

- [Trump calls off new Iran attack at request of Gulf states](#) (2026-05-18 19:43)

US President Donald Trump said he has called off strikes on Iran planned for Tuesday at the urging of Gulf leaders as “serious negotiations” for a deal to end the war were underway. Trump said in a social media post on Monday that leaders of Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have asked that the US “hold off on our planned Military attack of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which was scheduled for tomorrow, in that serious negotiations are now taking place”. Even so, the US leader...

- [UK's Channel 4 removes Married at First Sight show after BBC rape report](#) (2026-05-18 19:06)

British broadcaster Channel 4 removed all previous seasons of Married at First Sight – one of its flagship reality shows – on Monday after a BBC report detailing allegations of rape during the filming of the series. Channel 4, the publicly owned but commercially funded broadcaster established in the 1980s, said it had launched a review into contributor welfare on the show, which is made by independent production company CPL, in April. BBC News reported that two women had told the news service...

- [Bessent grants a 30-day extension for Russian oil in tankers as Iran war squeezes supply](#) (2026-05-18 18:47)

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said on Monday the US will give a 30-day extension for countries to import Russian oil that is already in tankers at sea, a move that is meant to reduce the oil supply shortages caused by the Iran war. The announcement marks a continued policy reversal by an administration that had previously said the sanctions on Russian oil would resume. Originally announced in early March, the temporary waiver on the sanctions was first renewed in April, just two days after...

- [Jury rules against Elon Musk in his feud with OpenAI, saying he filed his lawsuit too late](#) (2026-05-18 18:19)

A US jury on Monday ruled against Elon Musk in his lawsuit against OpenAI, finding the artificial intelligence company not liable to the world's richest person for having allegedly strayed from its original mission to benefit humanity. In a unanimous verdict, the jury in Oakland, California federal court said Musk had brought his case too late. The jury deliberated less than two hours. The trial had widely been seen as a critical moment for the future of OpenAI and artificial intelligence...

- [Trump's China trip highlights bipartisan shift in Washington's approach to Beijing](#) (2026-05-18 18:07)

Congressional reaction to US President Donald Trump's visit to China highlighted how sharply Washington's political consensus on Beijing has shifted in recent years, with lawmakers from both parties warning against any perceived softening of US support for Taiwan or broader strategic competition with the mainland. While Democrats criticised Trump for appearing too accommodating towards Beijing, many Republicans also stressed that economic engagement with China should not come at the expense of...

- [UK jails driver for smuggling cocaine in shipment of Kim Kardashian underwear](#) (2026-05-18 17:45)

A British court sentenced a Polish lorry driver to more than 13 years in prison for smuggling £7 million (US\$9.4 million) worth of cocaine in a shipment of underwear and clothing from Skims, Kim Kardashian's shapewear brand, authorities said on Monday. The National Crime Agency

(NCA) said Jakub Jan Konkel, 40, was driving a vehicle carrying 28 pallets of Skims clothing from the Netherlands when he was stopped by border officials at a port in Essex in September. The agency said Konkel had stopped...

- [US prosecutors drop fraud charges against billionaire Indian businessman Gautaum Adani](#) (2026-05-18 17:01)

US prosecutors asked a judge on Monday to dismiss criminal fraud and conspiracy charges against Indian billionaire Gautaum Adani, who had been accused of duping investors in a major solar project in India. Adani, one of the world's richest people, was accused in 2024 of paying massive bribes to ensure the project's success. He was charged with conspiracy, securities fraud and wire fraud charges in connection with a lucrative arrangement for Adani Green Energy and another firm to sell 12...

- [Belarus holds drills with Russian nuclear weapons, drawing criticism from Ukraine](#) (2026-05-18 16:31)

Belarus said on Monday its armed forces had begun training exercises involving Russian nuclear weapons, in a move that drew strong condemnation from Ukraine. Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko agreed in 2023 – a year after Russia's invasion of Ukraine – to host Russian tactical nuclear missiles. Russian President Vladimir Putin has made clear that Moscow retains control of their use. “During the training, in cooperation with the Russian side, it is planned to practise the delivery of...

- [Hospital body to use 18285 and 18286 phone numbers to help people identify calls](#) (2026-05-18 16:28)

Hong Kong's Hospital Authority will begin using standard prefixes for telephone numbers to make it easier for people to recognise its calls rather than avoiding them due to scammers and advertisers. Starting next Tuesday, all phone calls made by the authority, which oversees public medical facilities, will display a unified caller ID number beginning with 18285 or 18286. Each authority unit will be assigned a seven-digit number from 1828 500 to 1828 599 or from 1828 600 to 1828 699. An authority...

- [CIC revamps Sustainable Construction Award to accelerate decarbonisation](#) (2026-05-18 16:00)

[The content of this article has been produced by our advertising partner.] As Hong Kong pushes towards carbon neutrality by 2050, the Construction Industry Council (CIC) is using its Sustainable Construction Award to drive faster progress in the construction industry. Applications for the 2026 edition close on June 18. Key new elements include a dedicated Low Carbon Citation, mandatory joint submissions by full project teams and closer scrutiny of measurable sustainability performance during...

- [A new model for urban regeneration demonstrated in practice](#) (2026-05-18 16:00)

[The content of this article has been produced by our advertising partner.] Ronald Lu & Partners (RLP Asia) has won first prize of the Urban Renewal Authority (URA) and Hong Kong Institute of Architects (HKIA) Urban Renewal Design Ideas Competition in the District Study for Yau Ma Tei and Mong Kok (YMDS). The competition invited cross-disciplinary professional teams to apply the new planning tools introduced in the YMDS to concrete scenarios across two sites, namely the Central Urban Park in...

- [Unbeatable China? Beijing a global focal point as Russia pins hopes on Putin-Xi summit](#)  
(2026-05-18 15:00)

US President Donald Trump might now “more clearly” understand that the US “cannot defeat China” but that it must instead engage a stronger Beijing, according to a prominent Chinese political scientist. Zheng Yongnian, an adviser to the Chinese government, also noted that Beijing had taken a “central position” in trilateral ties between China, the United States and Russia. Beijing and Moscow both confirmed on Saturday that Russian President Vladimir Putin would visit China on Tuesday and...

- [Pope Leo, Anthropic to launch pontiff’ s first AI document, focusing on human dignity](#)  
(2026-05-18 14:47)

Pope Leo and the co-founder of artificial intelligence company Anthropic will launch the pontiff’ s first encyclical on May 25, a document on the care of human dignity in the era of AI, the Vatican said on Monday. An encyclical is an official letter from the pope to Roman Catholic bishops, usually to make a statement on official teachings. The presence of Anthropic’ s Christopher Olah at the Vatican is significant, and suggests that the US pope’ s position on AI will become a new flashpoint with...

- [Hong Kong’ s dog-friendly restaurant scheme receives 700 applications on first day](#)  
(2026-05-18 14:32)

A licensing scheme allowing dogs into Hong Kong restaurants has attracted strong initial interest, with 70 per cent of the 1,000-place quota filled on the first day, according to food hygiene authorities. In response to inquiries from the South China Morning Post, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department said on Monday it had received about 700 applications by 6pm. The application window closes on June 8. The department expects the scheme to launch in July, with up to 1,000 restaurants...

- [WHO kicks off annual assembly amid Ebola, hantavirus, US withdrawal, funding cuts](#)  
(2026-05-18 14:07)

The World Health Organization opened a meeting of global health ministers on Monday amid concern over deadly hantavirus and Ebola outbreaks and uncertainty over announced US and Argentinian withdrawals. While the rare hantavirus outbreak on a cruise ship that has gripped global attention is not officially on the agenda, it is expected to feature prominently in discussions, alongside the latest Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The two

outbreaks “are just the latest crises in...

- [Spared Wang Fuk Court block owners given mid-October to finalise buyback offer](#)  
(2026-05-18 14:02)

Owners at Wang Chi House, the only block spared in Hong Kong’s fire-ravaged Wang Fuk Court, have until October 15 to finalise the sale of homes under a government buyback scheme – provided more than 75 per cent of them indicate their intention to sell by the end of next month. However, the tight timeline has sparked widespread frustration among residents, who complain they are being pressured to make a decision without crucial details regarding insurance coverage and future maintenance...

- [Trump’s Taiwan independence comments: a blow to William Lai and ruling DPP?](#)  
(2026-05-18 13:00)

Donald Trump’s comment that he is “not looking to have somebody go independent” has sparked debate in Taiwan over whether it undermines the ruling party’s pro-independence platform. Trump made the remark after last week’s summit with Chinese leader Xi Jinping in Beijing, where Taiwan emerged as one of the most sensitive issues in Sino-US relations. “I’m not looking to have somebody go independent,” Trump said in an interview with Fox News aired on Friday, adding that the United States was “9,500...

- [Shakira acquitted by Spanish court of tax fraud, over US\\$64 million to be returned](#)  
(2026-05-18 12:53)

A Spanish court acquitted Shakira in a tax fraud case, ordering the government to return more than 55 million euros (US\$64 million) in wrongly imposed fines, according to a court document. The decision follows years of tax troubles in Spain for the Colombian superstar. The ruling relates to a dispute over the 2011 tax year in which Spanish authorities failed to prove that the singer was a resident of Spain, the Madrid-based court said in its decision. For a person to be considered a tax resident...

- [How fight for Philippine Senate presidency will shape Sara Duterte’s impeachment trial](#)  
(2026-05-18 12:51)

The Philippine Senate convened on Monday as an impeachment court for Vice-President Sara Duterte-Carpio, even as a fresh battle for control of the chamber threatens to shape the direction of her trial and the fallout from the crimes-against-humanity case against her father, former president Rodrigo Duterte, in The Hague. Duterte-Carpio was impeached by the House of Representatives last week on allegations including corruption, betrayal of public trust and culpable violations of the constitution...

- [China and Russia hold trade expo as Putin and Trump visits draw global attention](#)  
(2026-05-18 12:30)

China is stepping up economic engagement with Russia by hosting the 10th edition of a major bilateral expo ahead of Russian President Vladimir Putin's expected trip to Beijing this week – just days after his American counterpart, Donald Trump, visited there last week. The back-to-back visits to the Chinese capital by two of the world's most influential leaders highlight an uptick in diplomatic activity as Beijing seeks to stabilise relations with Washington while deepening coordination with...

- [Birthright citizenship fight shows US identity debate is far from settled](#) (2026-05-18 12:30)

Birthright citizenship has long been considered a settled issue in the United States. It became the law of the land in 1868 with the 14th Amendment to the Constitution that guaranteed citizenship, due process and equal protection to anyone born in the US. Originally designed to ensure citizenship for slaves brought from Africa, its application was extended to Chinese and other groups in the aftermath of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. It was further solidified by the case that Wong Kim Ark...

- [Hong Kong police officer guilty of taking bribes worth HK\\$1.1m to drop case](#) (2026-05-18 12:28)

A Hong Kong police chief inspector has admitted accepting more than HK\$1.1 million (US\$140,463) in cash and gifts from a businessman in exchange for terminating a criminal investigation against him and divulging confidential information about two other cases. Tsuen Wan Court, which is now used to handle District Court cases, on Monday recorded a guilty plea from Ho Siu-tung, 40, on two counts each of accepting advantages as a public servant and misconduct in public office over his illicit...

- [‘Several thousand’ ride-hailing licences won’t cover demand, advisory panel says](#) (2026-05-18 12:26)

Issuing “several thousand” licences to ride-hailing vehicles under a proposed regulatory framework will be insufficient to meet demand, a Hong Kong government transport advisory body has said, calling for a quota that will not compromise existing services. Speaking after meeting government officials on Monday, Professor Wong Sze-chun, chairman of the Transport Advisory Committee, said members did not suggest specific numbers for ride-hailing platforms, vehicles or driver licences. “[A level of]...

- [Unemployed man gets suspended jail term for reposting call to boycott Legco poll](#) (2026-05-18 12:13)

An unemployed man has received a suspended jail sentence for reposting a social media post by a fugitive inciting the Hong Kong public to boycott the Legislative Council election last year. Before suspending the punishment for 24 months, West Kowloon Court on Monday handed down a two-month jail term to Lam Kin-sik, 67, after he admitted to violating the Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Conduct) Ordinance. During the election period between October and December 7, 2025, Lam shared a post from...

- [Mentally ill woman spends 2 days in Hong Kong flat with dead mother on sofa](#) (2026-05-18 11:41)

A woman with a chronic illness has been found dead in a Hong Kong public housing flat where her uninjured adult daughter, who suffers from mental illness, had been staying with her for at least two days. Police received a report at about 1.50pm on Monday from a 42-year-old woman who said she could not reach her 66-year-old mother and 34-year-old younger sister, who lived in Fu Ying House, Fu Cheong Estate, Sham Shui Po. The report was made after she visited the flat but received no response at...

- [US, Nigeria carry out more strikes on IS, at least 20 militants dead](#) (2026-05-18 11:34)

The US Africa Command (Africom) said on Monday it had carried out additional air strikes against Islamic State targets in northeastern Nigeria on Sunday, in coordination with the Nigerian government, as joint operations against militant groups intensify. Nigeria's Defence Headquarters said the latest strikes were conducted in the Metele area of Borno State, following intelligence that fighters had converged there. Multiple air strikes killed more than 20 Islamic State West Africa Province...

- [CXMT's blowout earnings outlook fuels rally in Chinese memory chip stocks](#) (2026-05-18 11:05)

Chinese memory chip stocks rallied on Monday after ChangXin Memory Technologies (CXMT) disclosed sharply stronger first-quarter results and an upbeat first-half outlook in its updated listing prospectus, as the global memory shortage boosts China's semiconductor supply chain. GigaDevice, a chip designer and CXMT shareholder, rose 6.57 per cent on Monday to close at 400 yuan per share, taking its gain over the past month to more than 40 per cent. In Hong Kong, GigaDevice shares rose 8 per cent on...

- [China arrests 16 in drone hacking cases, vowing 'clean skies' crackdown](#) (2026-05-18 11:00)

Chinese police have announced the arrests of 16 people suspected of hacking drone systems and vowed a nationwide crackdown on illegal drone use. China's Ministry of Public Security released details on 10 cases on Monday to warn the public about illegal drone use. The suspects were arrested between January and March. It came as part of a nationwide "Clean Skies" campaign launched by the ministry in December to combat the illegal use of drones. The ministry said that in these cases, suspects used...

- [Kenya protesters block roads in public transport strike over fuel prices](#) (2026-05-18 10:28)

Protests erupted in Kenya's capital Nairobi on Monday as a nationwide public transport strike kicked off in protest at rising fuel prices. Commuters were stranded in various suburbs and the city centre remained deserted as motorists with private vehicles opted to stay home as protesters burned tyres on major roads. The Kenya Association of Private Schools had advised

its members to assess and determine the safety of learners going to school, and most schools opted for online learning. Kenya' s...

- [Evergrande liquidators seek US\\$8.4 billion from PwC entities in Hong Kong lawsuit](#) (2026-05-18 10:03)

The liquidators of China Evergrande Group are seeking 57 billion yuan (US\$8.4 billion) from three PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) entities in one of the largest corporate lawsuit claims in Hong Kong, arguing the firm' s global coordinating arm assumed responsibility for audits linked to the collapsed developer' s accounting scandal. Evergrande' s liquidators, Tiffany Wong and Eddie Middleton of Alvarez & Marsal, were seeking 57 billion yuan from PwC International, PwC Hong Kong and PwC China jointly,...

- [4 plead guilty to rioting during 2019 PolyU siege in Hong Kong](#) (2026-05-18 10:03)

Four young men have pleaded guilty to rioting during the police siege of a university at the height of the 2019 anti-government protests in Hong Kong, with a defence lawyer saying in mitigation that one of them later developed post-traumatic stress disorder after being tortured in “KK Park” – a notorious scam compound in Myanmar. The District Court on Monday heard guilty pleas from Cheung Chung-yiu, Cheung Chin-ming, Chan Chun-hei and Chan Yuen-ming, who were aged between 16 and 27 at the time...

- [Modi' s grand tour: India links up with UAE, Europe to ‘hedge’ global shocks](#) (2026-05-18 10:00)

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi' s whirlwind visit to the United Arab Emirates on Friday – the opening leg of a five-nation tour that will also take him through the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway and Italy – arrived at what analysts characterise as a moment of acute strategic opportunity. With oil prices spiralling amid the fallout from the US-Israel war on Iran and the Middle East' s diplomatic landscape shifting beneath everyone' s feet, Modi brought with him not just diplomatic pleasantries but...

- [Chinese man, 78, lives in supermarket despite owning flat, offers property to new friend for care](#) (2026-05-18 10:00)

A flat-owning Shanghai grandpa who lives in a supermarket to avoid loneliness gave his home to a nanny he met at the shop in the face of his son' s disapproval. Qiangming, 78, has been living in the staff entrance of the supermarket in Shanghai for nearly a decade. He sleeps on a mat, rests in the supermarket' s dining area during the day and carries 50,000 yuan (US\$7,400) cash in his pocket, plus a DV recorder. He describes himself as a drifter, not a beggar. The 20sqm flat he owns nearby is...

- [Baidu says AI now primary business driver despite 2% drop in first-quarter revenue](#) (2026-05-18 09:57)

Baidu has reached a historic milestone as its AI businesses surged to become its primary revenue driver in the first quarter, despite a 2 per cent dip in overall income, the Chinese tech giant said on Monday. The company's artificial intelligence-related businesses, including AI cloud, AI applications and AI marketing services, saw revenue grow to 13.6 billion yuan, a 49 per cent year-on-year increase. "AI-powered business exceeded half of Baidu general business revenue for the first time,...

- [LGBTQ carnival axed for second year in a row after failing to secure venue, licences](#)  
(2026-05-18 09:37)

Hong Kong's largest annual LGBTQ carnival has been cancelled for the second year in a row after failing to secure a venue and the relevant event licences, according to its organiser. Pink Dot HK announced on Monday that it was forced to cancel this year's festival after property manager Link Reit pulled its offer to rent two venues to the advocacy group. The event was scheduled to be held at Stanley Plaza and Murray House on June 14, after Link Reit earlier pledged its support and facilitation...

- [Why Iran's choice of Beijing envoy signals an 'unprecedented' commitment](#)  
(2026-05-18 09:35)

Iran has signalled "unprecedented" commitment to its ties with China by appointing a veteran of peace talks with the US as its emissary to Beijing, a move experts said also underscored China's rise as a "third space" where Middle East powers could quietly negotiate. Tehran has made Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, speaker of the country's parliament, its special envoy to oversee the country's relationship with China, according to a Sunday report by Iran's semi-official Tasnim News Agency. His...

- [Hong Kong earmarks additional HK\\$5 billion for national security](#) (2026-05-18 09:15)

Hong Kong authorities have allocated HK\$5 billion (US\$638 million) in funding for efforts to safeguard national security, bringing the total amount earmarked for this purpose to HK\$18 billion over the past five years, an official document has revealed. The South China Morning Post's check on the government's general revenue expenditure accounts for the financial year ending in March 2026, showed a non-recurrent expenditure of HK\$5 billion earmarked for a "special fund to meet the expenditure for..."

- [Why Beijing is outraged over Taiwan's Lai honouring WWII-era Japanese engineer](#)  
(2026-05-18 09:00)

Beijing has strongly criticised Taiwanese leader William Lai Ching-te for paying tribute to a figure from Japan's colonial era in Taiwan. In a commentary published on Sunday, Communist Party mouthpiece the People's Daily accused Lai, from Taiwan's independence-leaning ruling Democratic Progressive Party, of "forgetting his ancestors" and reaching a new low in "ingratiating himself with Japan". The denunciation followed Lai's attendance at a memorial service on May 8 in the city of Tainan,...

- [South Korea stifling Samsung workers' US\\$400,000 bonus strike risks wider crisis](#) (2026-05-18 09:00)

In South Korea, the clock is ticking on what threatens to become the most consequential labour dispute in recent history – and Seoul is running out of patience. With 50,000 workers at Samsung Electronics poised to walk off the job on Thursday in an 18-day strike, the government of President Lee Jae Myung finds itself cornered by a crisis it cannot afford to mishandle, with up to 100 trillion won (US\$66.7 billion) in projected economic damage on the line, plus the potential disruption to global...

- [Xi-Trump summit outcomes](#) (2026-05-18 08:37)

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- [Silent spread of rare and deadly Ebola strain exposes surveillance gaps](#) (2026-05-18 08:19)

A rare Ebola outbreak that may have circulated undetected in northeastern Democratic Republic of Congo for several weeks has exposed the difficulty of detecting deadly viruses in regions where malaria, typhoid and other fever-causing illnesses were common and health systems were stretched thin. About 350 suspected cases and 91 deaths have been reported in northeastern DR Congo, the country's health minister Roger Kamba said on Sunday, while neighbouring Uganda has confirmed two infections,...

- [As Malaysia's election 'war drums' beat, is Anwar's coalition done for?](#) (2026-05-18 08:19)

Chances of Malaysia's Anwar Ibrahim winning a fresh mandate look increasingly fraught, according to experts, as the unravelling of his coalition government gathered pace over the weekend amid threats of all-out war between allies and the defection of former stalwarts to a rival party. Anwar has presided over a period of relative political stability since his appointment as prime minister in November 2022 by then king Sultan Abdullah Ahmad Shah, on condition that he included both allies and...

- [Forget cellular data: China's telecoms giants are selling AI token plans](#) (2026-05-18 08:09)

For years, mobile carriers have billed users by the gigabyte. Now, China's telecoms giants are seeking to monetise the artificial intelligence boom by introducing a new unit of measurement to monthly bills: the AI token. On Sunday, China Telecom unveiled nationwide, token-based pricing packages aimed at a range of customers – from casual users to developers and businesses – according to information listed on the company's app. Consumer packages, tailored for everyday tasks, start at 9.9 yuan...

- [Hong Kong's CUHK aims to bring AI to life with humanoid-focused robotics lab](#) (2026-05-18 07:52)

The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) has opened the city's first full-stack interactive robotics lab, partnering with 24 tech firms, mostly from mainland China, to train talent and develop humanoid robots over the next five years. The Hong Kong Embodied AI Lab, established by CUHK's Hong Kong Centre for Logistics Robotics under the government's InnoHK initiative, has already introduced upgraded versions of the city's first locally developed artificial intelligence (AI)-powered robotic arms...

- [Chinese scientists land on Sandy Cay reef as tensions with Philippines escalate once again](#) (2026-05-18 07:06)

Chinese scientists landed on a disputed South China Sea reef over the weekend in the latest assertion of Beijing's sovereignty claims. The uninhabited sandbank, Sandy Cay, has become a growing flashpoint following a series of encounters between Chinese and Philippine coastguard, military and fishing vessels. The Philippines said the Chinese-flagged research vessel Xiang Yang Hong 33 had been spotted near the reef on Saturday, escorted by two coastguard ships. Jay Tarriela, a spokesman for the...

- [Revolt against UK's Starmer revives bitter debate over undoing Brexit](#) (2026-05-18 06:59)

The thorny question of whether Britain should unwind a decade of estrangement from the European Union is resurfacing as the Labour Party starts to imagine a future beyond Prime Minister Keir Starmer. Two key figures have emerged as potential challengers after a series of political body blows that have left Starmer's leadership in crisis, and the spectre of rejoining the EU was creeping back into the debate. Wes Streeting, who resigned from Starmer's government as health secretary last week,...

- [Rising secondary home prices in China's major cities during April stoke hopes of stability](#) (2026-05-18 06:51)

Secondary home prices in mainland China's major cities rose in April, according to official data, offering further encouraging signs that the struggling property sector is bottoming out, analysts said. Used home prices in the first-tier cities rose, led by Shanghai's 0.7 per cent increase on a monthly basis, followed by a rise of 0.4 per cent in Beijing, data released by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) on Monday showed. Prices in Shenzhen also grew by 0.3 per cent, while Guangzhou inched...

- [Hong Kong court confiscates HK\\$674,860 from 3 defendants in terrorism trial](#) (2026-05-18 06:26)

A Hong Kong court has ordered the confiscation of more than HK\$674,000 (US\$86,000) seized from three defendants in a landmark terrorism trial, finding the funds were raised to finance a plot to kill police during the 2019 anti-government protests. The High Court on Monday declared the money raised by the "Dragon Slaying Brigade" constituted terrorist property under the United Nations (Anti-Terrorism Measures) Ordinance, the first such order since the law came into effect in 2002. Team leader...

- [India has 1.42 billion people – but some Modi allies want bigger families](#) (2026-05-18 06:10)

India may be the world's most populous country, with 1.42 billion people and challenges like high youth unemployment, but powerful allies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi are championing larger families to counter a declining fertility rate. Even though the United Nations projects India's population would keep rising for about four decades, peaking at around 1.7 billion, some policymakers and Hindu groups say the shift away from smaller families should begin now, including through government...

- [Hong Kong urged to trigger travel alert to DR Congo, Uganda amid Ebola outbreak](#) (2026-05-18 06:04)

Hong Kong authorities should step up preventive measures and issue a travel alert to warn residents against visiting parts of central Africa as an Ebola outbreak in the DR Congo and Uganda threatens to worsen, an infectious disease expert has said. The call by Dr Joseph Tsang Kay-yan, a council member of the Hong Kong Society of Infectious Diseases, came on Monday, a day after the World Health Organization declared the outbreak a public health emergency of international concern and local...

- [‘Occupational bug’ : China surgeon goes viral for weighing 150kg due to work stress, bad diet](#) (2026-05-18 06:00)

A Shanghai doctor has gone viral because he weighs 150kg, with some internet users jokingly asking whether they should follow such a plump person's prescriptions. Chest surgeon Xiang Ruilong, who was born in the 1980s, works at Shanghai Yueyang Integrated Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) and Western Medicine Hospital. Standing at 1.84m tall, he weighs in at 150kg, the Xinmin Evening News reported. Xiang said he was about 110kg when he started working as a resident doctor over 10 years ago. He...

- [China rare earth breakthrough in icy northeast could cement country's dominance](#) (2026-05-18 05:00)

Chinese scientists have identified a new type of rare earths formation in the nation's frigid northeastern provinces of Heilongjiang and Jilin – a discovery that could challenge assumptions about how rare earths occur across the country. Unlike the clay-heavy deposits of southern China – which require chemical leaching to release the elements – the northern formations consist of loose sand and gravel formed by natural freeze-thaw cycles. This difference could make extraction more efficient, less...

- [Thailand reels from deadly Bangkok train crash, its latest avoidable tragedy](#) (2026-05-18 04:54)

Bangkok residents were digesting yet another avoidable tragedy on Monday after eight people were killed when a goods train ploughed into a city bus at a busy level crossing on Saturday

afternoon. The train driver, who later tested positive for drugs, had also not received a valid operator's licence from the Department of Rail Transport. A fireball erupted as the train struck the bus at the Asok-Dindaeng intersection, in a notoriously congested part of Thailand's capital, igniting the vehicle's...

- [Trump's China trip assessed, South Korea's AI problem: 5 weekend reads you missed](#) (2026-05-18 04:30)

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. Trump leaves China after much pomp and pageantry, but little to show for it 2. Trump and his CEOs want China's business – but has Asia moved on? 3. What do travellers need to know when Hong Kong airport's Terminal 2 opens? 4. Reality deficit: how South Korea lost the plot on AI 5. Have Chinese...

- [Taxi driver, 65, arrested after crash kills pedestrian in Hong Kong](#) (2026-05-18 04:16)

A 65-year-old taxi driver has been arrested after his vehicle collided with a pedestrian, who later died in hospital, marking Hong Kong's second fatal crash involving an elderly cabby in less than a week. The pedestrian, 87, died after he was struck and trapped beneath the taxi while crossing the road beneath a footbridge in Tung Chung on Monday. Police received a report at 6.23am of the crash at the junction of Man Tung Road and Kin Tung Road, near the Caribbean Coast residential estate. The...

- [North Korea to turn southern border into 'impregnable fortress' against 'arch enemy'](#) (2026-05-18 03:37)

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un called on top military officials to bolster front-line units and turn the southern border into an "impregnable fortress", state media reported on Monday. Kim gave the instruction at a meeting on Sunday where a photo released by the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) showed him presiding over commanding military officers wearing full-dress uniform. The North Korean leader told the military officials that a "great change" would be made in an effort to deter war and...

- [China unveils world's first titanium-copper medical implant designed to cut infection risk](#) (2026-05-18 03:00)

China has unveiled the world's first copper-blended titanium implant for orthopaedic surgery after more than a decade of research and development. This innovative material retains the exceptional strength and hardness characteristic of titanium alloy medical devices while significantly reducing the risk of post-operative infection, according to its developers. On April 21, the world's first bone pin made using the material was approved for market release by China's National Medical Products...

- [Singapore softens approach to first-time drug abusers as they get ‘younger and younger’](#) (2026-05-18 02:46)

First-time drug abusers in Singapore who surrender themselves to the authorities will no longer face detention at the city state’s rehabilitation centre, a government minister has confirmed. All such abusers will now be placed on drug supervision in the community with mandatory case management for their rehabilitation, under changes that took effect on Saturday. The change came after a review to “encourage more first-time abusers to come forward and seek help with their addiction” , Law Minister...

- [‘My way or the highway’ is no way to make informed policy for Hong Kong](#) (2026-05-18 01:30)

Hong Kong’s government will launch a consultation exercise on the city’s first five-year plan next month. The plan is set to be released before the end of the year. It’s a monumental task. Lau Siu-kai, a consultant to the semi-official Chinese Association of Hong Kong and Macau Studies think tank and former head of the government’s now-defunct Central Policy Unit, has warned as much, saying: “It took years for local governments on the mainland to master the research and strategic thinking...

- [Hong Kong records 10 tremor reports after magnitude 5.2 quake hits Guangxi](#) (2026-05-18 01:07)

The Hong Kong Observatory received more than 10 reports of a locally felt tremor from a magnitude 5.2 earthquake that struck Guangxi early on Monday. According to the forecaster, the epicentre was located about 550km (342 miles) west-northwest of Hong Kong, with a focal depth of about 10km. “The Observatory received more than 10 locally felt reports of the tremor, which lasted a few seconds,” it said on Monday. “Initial estimates put the local intensity at II (two) on the Modified Mercalli...

- [French bulldog in China known for collecting plastic bottles faces threats from animal abusers](#) (2026-05-18 01:00)

A man in southern China suspected of poisoning an online celebrity dog which is famous for collecting plastic bottles in the street has been caught after its owner called the police. The French bulldog nicknamed Xiaobai won the hearts of millions last year for diligently collecting plastic bottles for its owner. It has earned over 100,000 yuan (US\$14,600) over the past five years as its owner, surnamed Zhang, sold the waste bottles. The social media account @gouxiaobai boasts half a million...

- [What’s behind the rise in firings linked to disability discrimination in Hong Kong?](#) (2026-05-18 00:30)

Complaints to Hong Kong’s equality watchdog about firings linked to suspected disability discrimination have more than doubled over the past five years, with concern groups attributing the rise to corporate restructuring and widespread lay-offs amid the economic downturn. The

South China Morning Post obtained figures from the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) showing that the watchdog received 490 complaints of alleged disability discrimination in the employment field last year, up 72 per...

- [How does the Strait of Hormuz stand-off look in the wake of the Trump-Xi summit?](#) (2026-05-18 00:30)

The deadlock over the Strait of Hormuz was one of the key issues discussed during the summit between Donald Trump and Xi Jinping last week. As the impasse continues, here is where things stand. Iran prepares new transit mechanism Tehran is moving to formalise its control over the strait with a “professional mechanism” to regulate shipping. “The necessary fees will be collected for the specialised services provided under this mechanism,” Ebrahim Azizi, the head of the Iranian parliament’s...

- [UAE ditches oil for AI to build a ‘bridge’ to Global South](#) (2026-05-18 00:00)

No country on Earth has adopted artificial intelligence faster than the United Arab Emirates – and the Middle Eastern cultural crossroad’s ambitions to become an AI bridge to the Global South just got another major leg up with the delivery of the latest, cutting-edge US-designed chips. But those ambitions are taking shape in a hostile environment. Amid the US-Israel war on Iran, Tehran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps has repeatedly taken aim at major Emirati data centres, developed in...

- [White House mass prayer event seeks to reclaim US Christian roots](#) (2026-05-17 23:41)

US President Donald Trump and top cabinet officials addressed thousands of Americans at a mass prayer rally in Washington on Sunday – an event critics saw as an overt display of Christian nationalism undermining the separation of church and state. The gathering was organised by the White House as part of a programme of celebrations for America’s 250th anniversary and billed as an opportunity to revive the idea of a country founded on Christian principles. During the outdoor event on the National...

- [Lebanon says Israeli strikes kill 7 as Hezbollah condemns talks](#) (2026-05-17 23:17)

Israeli strikes killed seven people in Lebanon on Sunday, including an Islamic Jihad commander, Lebanese authorities and state media said, despite a fragile ceasefire as Hezbollah called US-brokered talks between the two countries a “dead end”. The health ministry published a “preliminary toll” for Israel’s strikes on Sunday, with three people killed in the town of Tayr Felsay, including a child, and two killed in the town of Tayr Debba, including another child. It said 11 people were wounded in...

- [Americans in DR Congo may have had exposure to Ebola in outbreak, US media reports](#) (2026-05-17 22:50)

A number of Americans currently in the Democratic Republic of Congo are believed to have had exposure to suspected cases in the country’s latest Ebola outbreak, with several

deemed to have had high-risk exposures, US health news website STAT News reported on Sunday. At least one of these individuals may have developed symptoms, the report said. Reuters could not immediately verify the report. The Ebola outbreak in the DR Congo and Uganda has been declared a public health emergency...

- [Mainland China's Wu Yongping on what the Xi-Trump summit means for Taiwan](#) (2026-05-17 22:00)

Wu Yongping is one of mainland China's leading specialists on Taiwan affairs and dean of the Institute for Taiwan Studies at Tsinghua University in Beijing. Here, he shares his views on signals from the Xi-Trump summit, and discusses peaceful reunification between the mainland and Taiwan and how it could be achieved. How should we read President Xi Jinping's message to Donald Trump on the Taiwan question during the summit and has anything changed? Xi said that if the Taiwan question is...

- [Military jets' crew members safely ejected after Idaho air show collision, Navy says](#) (2026-05-17 21:32)

Four crew members involved in a mid-air collision of military jets at an air show ejected safely on Sunday outside Mountain Home Air Force Base in Idaho, the US Navy said. Two E/A-18G Growler jets collided in mid-air two miles from the base during the two-day Gunfighter Skies Air Show, said Commander Amelia Umayam, a spokeswoman for Naval Air Forces, US Pacific Fleet. The two jets with four crew collided "while performing an aerial demonstration" as part of the air show, Umayam said, noting...

- [Why set a limit for Hong Kong's ride-hailing services?](#) (2026-05-17 21:30)

Hong Kong should not limit the number of vehicles licensed to provide ride-hailing services. In particular, every owner of an electric vehicle that complies with the regulations should, in principle, be able to obtain one on demand by paying the required fee. Normal market forces, together with fees and other licensing requirements, will be sufficient to strike the right balance. I have used ride-hailing services a lot recently. Knee replacement surgery has restricted my mobility, and I have a...

- [Italian PM Giorgia Meloni meets victims of Modena car incident](#) (2026-05-17 21:03)

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni on Sunday visited people wounded by a driver with a history of mental health problems who ran over several pedestrians in northern city of Modena. Hundreds gathered in the evening at the call of the city's mayor to "unite against those who want to divide and sow hatred" after some far-right politicians tried to tie the incident to immigration. The driver, a 31-year-old Italian man of Moroccan heritage, hit several people in central Modena before crashing...

- [Hiker killed in attack by herd of cows in Austrian Alps](#) (2026-05-17 20:14)

A 67-year-old hiker has died after being attacked by a herd of cows in Austria, authorities said, in the latest fatal incident involving livestock in the Alps. The woman was attacked by what police described as a “mid-double-digit number” of cows in a pasture in the alpine district of Lienz in East Tyrol on Sunday afternoon. Her 65-year-old husband was also seriously injured. Authorities said the reasons for the animals’ aggressive behaviour remain unclear. The couple were not accompanied by a...

- [China will buy at least US\\$17 billion of US farm goods annually, White House says](#) (2026-05-17 19:50)

China has agreed to buy at least US\$17 billion in US agricultural products annually through 2028, the White House said on Sunday. The commitment resulted from the summit between US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping last week and will be in addition to soybean purchase commitments that were made in October 2025, according to a fact sheet released by the White House. Trump concluded his highly-anticipated state visit to China on Friday, during which he discussed topics...

- [Norway arrests Chinese man for spying, interior security service says](#) (2026-05-17 19:21)

Norway’s interior security service, PST, said on Sunday a Chinese man had been arrested in the country’s north for spying, just weeks after a Chinese woman was arrested suspected of spying on satellite data. The suspect was arrested on Friday by the Nordland police district, Eirik Veum, PST’s media spokesman, told Agence France-Presse. Veum said the man was suspected of “attempted illegal intelligence activities in Nordland”, but declined to provide further details on the nature of the...

- [Israel’s PM says close to killing all architects of October 7 attack](#) (2026-05-17 18:05)

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Sunday that Israel had almost completed a key goal of the war in Gaza – eliminating all those responsible for orchestrating the October 7 attack. His remarks followed the Israeli military’s announcement that Ezzedine al-Haddad, commander of Hamas’ armed wing, had been killed in an air strike in Gaza on Friday. In the aftermath of the October 7 assault, Netanyahu pledged to target and eliminate the masterminds behind the attacks, which, according to an...

- [German police kill escaped tiger, animal handler seriously injured](#) (2026-05-17 17:19)

German police shot dead a tiger that escaped from a private facility near the eastern city of Leipzig, with a 73-year-old man seriously injured in the incident, authorities said on Sunday. Police said the man was inside the enclosure when the animal broke free in Schkeuditz, on the outskirts of Leipzig. He was described as a volunteer authorised to be on the premises and was taken to hospital with serious injuries. “The tiger left its enclosure. It was then found by police officers near a garden...

- [Around 10 ‘new’ victims in France’ s Epstein investigation, Paris prosecutor says](#) (2026-05-17 16:36)

Around 10 “new” suspected victims have come forward in a French investigation into the network of the late US sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, a prosecutor said on Sunday. France opened a human trafficking investigation after the US Justice Department in January released the latest cache of files from the investigation into the disgraced financier, who died in prison in 2019 while facing charges of trafficking underage girls for sex. French magistrates are seeking to investigate possible offences...

- [South Korea weighs arbitration to avoid Samsung semiconductor plant strike](#) (2026-05-17 15:18)

South Korea will pursue all options, including emergency arbitration, to avoid a labour strike at the country’s biggest employer Samsung Electronics and to minimise any damage if one does occur, its prime minister said on Sunday. The world’s largest memory chipmaker and its South Korean labour union will resume pay talks on Monday with a government mediator, in a move that could ease concerns over a potentially disruptive strike at the tech giant that accounts for nearly a quarter of the...

- [Will the Trump-class battleship really be able to deter China?](#) (2026-05-17 14:00)

US plans to build up to 15 battleships designed to serve as a “strike-centric arsenal ship” to deter China have been called into question. Analysts said the ships would not only be vulnerable to anti-ship missiles, but would also be expensive to operate and maintain, and questioned whether the United States had the industrial capacity to build the vessels. On Monday, the US Navy outlined its shipbuilding plan for the next three decades, including a detailed layout for what the White House has...

- [Hong Kong ramps up health checks for travellers from Africa after Ebola outbreak](#) (2026-05-17 13:46)

Hong Kong has stepped up health screenings for air passengers arriving from Africa as part of a contingency plan to guard against Ebola, after the World Health Organization (WHO) declared an outbreak of the deadly infectious disease on the continent a “public health emergency of international concern”. Local health authorities also said on Sunday that they would strengthen public awareness and education, while stressing that the “immediate health impact of Ebola disease on the local population...

- [Wang Xiaodong, derided over Covid-19 handling, comes under corruption cloud](#) (2026-05-17 13:30)

The former Chinese governor criticised for mishandling the Covid-19 outbreak is under investigation for corruption. The Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI), China’s top political disciplinary body, said on Sunday that Wang Xiaodong, 66, who was governor of Hubei province in 2020 as the coronavirus developed into a pandemic, was suspected of

“serious violations of discipline and law” – the standard euphemism for corruption. Wang was Hubei’s governor from 2017 to 2021 and was...

- [Malaysian ex-ministers resign from Anwar’s party, snap election rumoured](#) (2026-05-17 13:24)

Two prominent former Malaysian ministers said on Sunday they would vacate their parliamentary seats and resign from Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim’s ruling coalition party to join a small party that they would take over. The move by Rafizi Ramli and Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad, who resigned from cabinet last year after losing leadership posts in internal party elections, could create a challenge for Anwar, amid speculation of an early election this year. The next general election is not due until...

- [A sinking ship? Why the EU and China could be heading for a trade war](#) (2026-05-17 13:00)

Sparks flew in a Beijing conference room last week, as diplomats, officials and experts from Europe and China clashed over their deepening trade problems. Chinese speakers were accused of dismissing Europe’s long-standing complaints and ignoring the harsh economic reality of an increasingly lopsided trading relationship. EU diplomats were accused of “bullying”, while the bloc’s policies were billed as “protectionist” efforts to decouple from China. At the acrimonious event hosted by the European...

- [Hong Kong’s elite pay tribute to philanthropist Maisy Ho at memorial service](#) (2026-05-17 12:37)

Hundreds of Hongkongers, including prominent business and political figures, have attended a memorial service for Maisy Ho Chiu-ha, the daughter of late Hong Kong and Macau tycoon Stanley Ho Hung-sun, remembering her as a low-profile philanthropist. Mourners dressed in black streamed into the ballroom of the Grand Hyatt in Wan Chai on Sunday for Maisy Ho’s memorial service, with many prominent names from business, entertainment and political circles paying their respects. Maisy Ho, the executive...

- [China ramps up building a national computing power network as AI token demand surges](#) (2026-05-17 12:30)

China is stepping up construction of a “national computing network”, aiming to turn artificial intelligence infrastructure into a public utility as token usage surges and telecoms operators seek new growth engines beyond mobile data and phone bills. The push was highlighted by national broadcaster China Central Television and state-backed Xinhua news agency, which described the network as a “computing version of the state grid”. The reports likened tokens – the basic units of text, code and...

- [Xi-Trump summit: what ‘strategic stability’ means for US-China ties](#) (2026-05-17 12:30)

One formulation emerging from the summit between President Xi Jinping and US President Donald Trump in Beijing merits particular attention: the reference in China’s official readout

to a “constructive China-US relationship of strategic stability” that should guide ties “over the next three years and beyond”. The wording is noteworthy, and not simply because it points to an effort to stabilise a difficult relationship in the short term. It suggests a broader attempt to place the management of...

- [Why does the PLA object to Japan’s drone plans for its southern islands?](#) (2026-05-17 12:17)

The People’s Liberation Army has accused Japan of taking a “dangerous gamble” with its plan to deploy satellite-aided drones to its southwestern islands near Taiwan. In a commentary on Sunday, the PLA Daily, the mouthpiece of the Chinese military, said that while Tokyo maintained that it was building a multilayered coastal defence system, the equipment had a “distinct offensive nature”. “While called a ‘shield’, it is in reality a ‘spear’,” it said. Japan’s Self-Defence Force plans to acquire...

- [Drone targets UAE nuclear power plant, straining Iran war ceasefire](#) (2026-05-17 12:05)

A drone strike targeted the United Arab Emirates’ Barakah nuclear power plant on Sunday, setting an electrical generator ablaze on its perimeter and again straining the shaky ceasefire in the Iran war. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, which caused no radiological release nor injuries, authorities in the UAE’s capital, Abu Dhabi, said. However, suspicion immediately fell on Iran, which has been increasingly threatening the UAE over recent days as the country hosted...

- [Did Chinese scientists simulate what could be the ‘end of the universe’?](#) (2026-05-17 12:00)

If a certain tiny bubble suddenly appeared somewhere in the cosmos, physicists say, it could expand and erase everything in its path. Known as “false vacuum decay”, the scenario has been one of the most unsettling ideas in theoretical physics for nearly half a century. Now, researchers at Tsinghua University say they have recreated the core mechanism behind the phenomenon using a programmable quantum simulator. The results of the experiment were published in the journal Physical Review Letters...

- [Hung Shui Kiu industrial park operator eyes bond issuance, tax cuts for firms](#) (2026-05-17 11:12)

Hong Kong’s Hung Shui Kiu industrial park operator will consider issuing bonds to finance its future operations and propose tax concession measures to the government to attract enterprises to set foot in the area. Veteran industrialist Jeffrey Lam Kin-fung made the remarks on Sunday, two weeks before he is due to start his three-year term on June 1 as the chairman of the Hung Shui Kiu Industry Park Company – the first government-owned entity established to accelerate the development of the...

- [China's motorsports industry continues to rev up with country's first race-grade fuel](#) (2026-05-17 11:00)

China's first domestically developed fuel designed for motor racing has made its debut at a rally in the western deserts in what state media hailed as a milestone for the country's oil refining industry. As the first of its kind to be mass-produced in China, the fuel was described by state broadcaster CCTV as "filling a gap" in the domestic market, ending a long-standing reliance on imported fuel for high-level competitions. The new racing-grade petrol was unveiled on Saturday at the opening...

- [Hong Kong High Court to hear Evergrande liquidators' lawsuit against PwC on Monday](#) (2026-05-17 11:00)

The liquidators of China Evergrande Group's lawsuit against PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) International will have their case heard in the Hong Kong High Court on Monday, according to records posted on the judiciary's website. The one-day hearing was scheduled before Deputy Judge Patrick Fung Pak-tung of the High Court and would be open to the public, the court information showed. It concerns efforts by Evergrande's liquidators to seek claims from PwC International over the developer's auditing...

- [Record Ukrainian drone attack on Moscow kills 3, targets refinery](#) (2026-05-17 10:39)

Russia's capital and the surrounding Moscow region came under record drone attacks overnight, leaving at least three people killed and over a dozen wounded. Residential buildings were damaged across several suburbs and Moscow's oil refinery was targeted in a rare strike, according to local authorities. Operations at all four Moscow airports faced rolling disruptions from late on Saturday but have resumed operations after dozens of flight cancellations and delays. Attacks on other Russian regions...

- [Philippine lawyers support ICC arrest warrant for fugitive senator](#) (2026-05-17 10:00)

Philippine government lawyers have urged the Supreme Court to reject the bid of fugitive Senator Ronald dela Rosa, who is wanted for alleged crimes against humanity linked to his role in a bloody "war on drugs", to block his arrest and surrender. Dela Rosa, the former police chief who oversaw former President Rodrigo Duterte's anti-narcotics crackdown, had asked the Supreme Court to stop authorities from arresting and surrendering him to the International Criminal Court. He is facing the same...

- [As France passes law on returning loot, should China pop the champagne?](#) (2026-05-17 10:00)

In November 1861, during his self-imposed political exile, French writer Victor Hugo penned a blistering condemnation of his country. The author of *Les Misérables* described two "bandits" – France and Britain – who had attacked the Old Summer Palace, or Yuanmingyuan, in Beijing the previous year. "One plundered, the other burned." "All the treasures of all our cathedrals put together could not equal this formidable and splendid museum of the Orient,"

he said. “The French empire has pocketed half...

- [North Korean footballers arrive in South, match tickets sell out](#) (2026-05-17 08:55)

North Korean women’s soccer club Naegohyang FC arrived in South Korea on Sunday for an Asian Women’s Champions League semi-final, marking the first visit by athletes from the isolated state to the South in eight years. The delegation of 27 players and 12 staff entered the country ahead of Wednesday’s match against South Korea’s Suwon FC Women in Suwon. The visit has been approved under the inter-Korean exchange law and covers their stay through next weekend, though the team could leave earlier...

- [Why Trump took US tech leaders to Beijing](#) (2026-05-17 08:30)

US President Donald Trump’s visit to Beijing with a delegation of leading American tech executives should not be read as a throwback to transactional diplomacy. It points to something more consequential. After years of rhetoric about economic separation, the reality is becoming harder to ignore: the United States and China are not decoupling. They are learning how to compete while remaining deeply entangled. For much of the past decade, Washington has framed its China policy around technological...

- [Estate residents step up cleaning after city’s first rat hepatitis case this year](#) (2026-05-17 08:13)

Residents at a private housing estate in Hong Kong have stepped up pest prevention measures, as authorities investigate the city’s first human case of rat hepatitis E recorded this year. Janitors were seen deep-cleaning public areas at the 25-block Laguna Verde estate in Hung Hom on Sunday, with sanitation efforts also encompassing the area’s waterfront promenade park, planters and the nearby shopping centre. A day earlier, health authorities revealed that a 42-year-old patient was found to have...

- [Will geopolitical shifts push India, Pakistan towards cautious diplomacy?](#) (2026-05-17 08:00)

Calls by hardline Indian political figures to resume backchannel talks with Pakistan, a year after their latest conflict, reflect the realisation that both countries cannot afford another war for the time being, analysts say. Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) secretary general Dattatreya Hosabale’s push earlier this week for so-called Track 2 diplomatic engagement with Pakistan has raised hopes for a reduction in the tensions between the two countries. In an Indian media interview on Wednesday,...

- [China Forbidden City’s red gates with golden door nails subject to rules regarding number, colour](#) (2026-05-17 08:00)

Visitors to the Forbidden City in China’s capital city might find it hard to ignore its magnificent red door, but there is more to the entrance than its beauty. The golden door nails not only neatly line up, they were exclusive to the royal family and cannot be seen everywhere in China.

In the Ming (1368–1644) and Qing (1644–1912) dynasties, door nails were a symbol of hierarchy, and are bound by strict rules. Firstly, the number of door nails must be odd because in traditional Chinese culture,...

- [How a victim lost US\\$3.8 million in Singapore deepfake Zoom scam impersonating PM Wong](#) (2026-05-17 07:47)

The Singapore Police Force has obtained footage of the AI-generated Zoom video conference that was part of a scam involving the impersonation of senior government officials, including Prime Minister Lawrence Wong, it said on Saturday. In one case, a victim lost at least S\$4.9 million (US\$3.8 million) in what was claimed to be funding help related to the Strait of Hormuz, police said earlier. Victims would typically receive a WhatsApp message from a scammer impersonating the secretary to the...

- [Ebola outbreak in DR Congo, Uganda declared an international health emergency](#) (2026-05-17 07:11)

An Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo has killed more than 80 as authorities warned there was no vaccine for the strain in a crisis that the World Health Organization declared an international health emergency on Sunday. A total of 88 deaths and 336 suspected cases of the highly contagious haemorrhagic fever have been reported, the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC Africa) said in an update on Saturday. The Geneva-based WHO said early on Sunday the outbreak...

- [Hong Kong's Paul Chan is heading to Europe. So what's on the itinerary?](#) (2026-05-17 07:08)

Financial Secretary Paul Chan Mo-po will seek to explain Hong Kong's efforts to combat terrorism funding and work to attract more capital and business to the city during a five-day Europe trip, with the minister noting that stabilising geopolitics will strengthen foreign ties and the economic environment. The finance chief's coming trip was announced on Sunday, and follows an easing of tensions after US President Donald Trump visited mainland China and the reveal that Russian President Vladimir...

- [AI agents face trust issues in 'high-risk' industrial sectors: experts](#) (2026-05-17 07:00)

China's industrial sectors are racing to integrate artificial intelligence to boost efficiency, bolstered by state support, but experts warn that critical vertical markets – such as healthcare and aerospace – may be too “high risk” for the shift towards autonomous agents. Hailed as the driver of a “fourth industrial revolution”, AI is shifting away from chatbots to agentic AI – systems capable of independent execution within a workflow, industry experts said at the International Data Corporation...

- [Hong Kong draws HK\\$26 billion from over 310 firms this year, InvestHK head says](#) (2026-05-17 06:38)

More than 310 enterprises from mainland China and abroad have established or expanded operations in Hong Kong so far in 2026, bringing in more than HK\$26 billion (US\$3.3 billion) in capital in their first year of operation, according to the government agency tasked with attracting foreign investment. Casting a positive light on stabilising Sino-US relations following the Xi-Trump summit, InvestHK director general Alpha Lau Hai-suen said on Sunday that Hong Kong had to proactively adapt to the...

- [Next stop, Sri Lanka: how scammers fleeing Cambodia, Myanmar found a new hub](#) (2026-05-17 06:37)

A surge in arrests of suspected foreign scammers in Sri Lanka has authorities concerned that the island is fast becoming a hub for online crime, following sweeping crackdowns in hotspots Cambodia and Myanmar. Officials say some scam networks forced out of countries in Southeast Asia have simply shifted to new bases, increasingly moving operations to Sri Lanka – an attractive destination due to a relaxed visa regime and reliable, high-speed internet. Since the start of the year, police have...

- [Trump narrows space for Taiwan independence, mainland scholar says](#) (2026-05-17 06:30)

Wu Yongping is one of the Chinese mainland's leading specialists on Taiwan affairs and dean of the Institute for Taiwan Studies at Tsinghua University in Beijing. Here he shares his views on signals from the Xi-Trump summit, and discusses peaceful reunification between the mainland and Taiwan and how it could be achieved. SCMP Plus readers get early access to articles in the Open Questions series. How should we read President Xi Jinping's message to Donald Trump on the Taiwan question during the...

- [Hong Kong's HK\\$690 million Central Library opens in Causeway Bay in 2001 – SCMP archive](#) (2026-05-17 06:15)

Tung vows to make library a world-class cultural centre By Shirley Lau This article was first published on May 17, 2001 After years of controversy and months of delay, the \$690 million Central Library opened yesterday (May 16, 2001) with a commitment from Tung Chee-hwa to make it a world-class cultural centre. The 12-storey building in Moreton Terrace, Causeway Bay, contains 1.2 million items and a new system that allows the public to retrieve digitalised information such as maps and...

- [China turns coal power plant exhaust into cheap, effective fertiliser](#) (2026-05-17 06:00)

A Chinese company is turning the emissions from a coal-fired power plant into fertiliser, expanding the application of a technology that could make both carbon capture and food cheaper. A report published on Monday by China Electric Power News cited a person involved in the project as saying that “flue gas enters from one end of the pipe, and fertiliser comes out from the other end”. China Electric Power News is a newspaper under the National Development and Reform Commission, China's top...

- [Move over K-beauty, Thailand is the next big thing in aesthetics](#) (2026-05-17 05:30)

The face of beauty in Asia is changing, says Dr Dissapong Panithaporn. He should know, as he sees it every day in Thailand. The younger generation, women and men in their mid-twenties, are edging away from plastic surgery and fillers towards something more natural, the leading Thai dermatologist said. “The whole trend has shifted from anti-ageing to longevity of skin, prevention and preservation rather than correction or repair,” Dissapong – better known as Dr Joe – said from his Bangkok...

- [Hong Kong police to prosecute 7th suspect in 1999 murder, seeking 8th](#) (2026-05-17 05:09)

Hong Kong police will prosecute the seventh suspect and are seeking another over the murder of a newspaper vendor in 1999, a day after the former was handed over by Shenzhen authorities. The force said on Sunday that it would charge a 57-year-old man surnamed Lin with murder for his alleged role in the killing of Ho Wai-ha in Sham Shui Po more than 25 years ago. Lin is suspected of recruiting the attackers and arranging a vehicle for them. A holding charge was laid after authorities in Shenzhen...

- [Republican Senator Bill Cassidy pays the price for voting to convict Trump](#) (2026-05-17 04:43)

US President Donald Trump and Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr succeeded in their efforts to defeat Senator Bill Cassidy in Louisiana’s Republican primary, a signal of the enduring strength of the president’s hold on his party despite an unpopular war and soaring fuel prices. Cassidy was one of seven Republican senators in 2021 who voted to convict Trump on the charge of inciting an insurrection on January 6 that year. He placed last in a three-way race on Saturday against Representative...

- [Melbourne-US Qantas flight diverted after man bites crew member](#) (2026-05-17 04:02)

Australia’s Qantas was forced to divert a flight bound for the United States over a disruptive passenger, with local media reporting the man bit a flight attendant. The flight from Melbourne was headed to Dallas on Friday when it was forced to make a stop-off in Papeete, the capital of French Polynesia, due to the disruptive passenger. The man was restrained by fellow passengers, with local media including national broadcaster ABC reporting he bit a member of Qantas staff. The man was met by...

- [China launches new war on deserts with technology tested on far side of the moon](#) (2026-05-17 04:00)

China has launched a new offensive on desertification in western Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, deploying the same technology used on the moon to help safeguard food security. Last month, several projects involving sand control, desertification prevention, and wind erosion and salinity management were launched at the Chinese Academy of Sciences’ Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography (XIEG). The projects are meant to help the region build an ecological barrier to protect the region’s...

- [Dog-friendly restaurants will get 90 officers helping them meet license rules](#) (2026-05-17 04:00)

Hong Kong's food hygiene authorities are training 90 officers to assist and inspect restaurants applying for a new dog licence, while a cafe owner expects the framework to reduce legal grey areas when it goes into effect. Applications for the licence will open on Monday, with the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department expecting the scheme to launch in July with a maximum quota of 1,000 restaurants in the first phase. Senior Superintendent of Legislative Review Yip Kwok-cheung said the...

- [China offers Southeast Asia clear nuclear power advantages](#) (2026-05-17 04:00)

Southeast Asia stands at the threshold of a nuclear renaissance. Vietnam and Russia signed an agreement in March for the Ninh Thuan 1 Nuclear Power Plant. The Philippines and Indonesia aim to have operational reactors by the early 2030s. Malaysia, Thailand and Singapore are studying small modular reactors. Given heightened energy insecurity, climate commitments and the imperative to meet surging electricity demand from industrial growth, data centres and AI development, nuclear energy is...

- [Hong Kong man, 38, killed after motorcycle crashes into fallen tree](#) (2026-05-17 03:46)

A 38-year-old motorcyclist has died after his vehicle crashed into a fallen tree by a road in Hong Kong's New Territories. Police said on Sunday that they received a report at 10.32pm the day before that an accident involving a motorcycle had taken place in Tai Po. The force said the rider was travelling along Yuen Shin Road in the direction of Sha Tin when the incident happened.

“When approaching Tolo Highway, [the motorcycle] reportedly failed to brake in time and crashed into a fallen tree at...

- [Every window a solar panel: Australia-China joint venture to set up in Hong Kong](#) (2026-05-17 03:30)

ClearVue Technologies, an Australian solar technology company, will set up a joint venture with a Chinese partner in Hong Kong to produce power-generating glass for building facades, a concept seen as timely given rising energy prices amid geopolitical tensions. The Australian Securities Exchange-listed firm aims to take advantage of the manufacturing prowess of mainland China to provide “affordable” glass for commercial buildings via the joint venture with vacuum-glass maker LandVac, said Doug...

- [Hong Kong's iconic Bank of China Tower opens in 1990 – SCMP archive](#) (2026-05-17 03:15)

Acrimony set aside at Tower festivities By Goeffrey Crothall This article was first published on May 18, 1990 Leaders of politics, finance and commerce from Hongkong and China converged on No 1 Garden Road last night to celebrate the official opening of the territory's tallest building, the Bank of China Tower. The acrimony and terse exchanges of recent weeks were

seemingly forgotten as smiles and handshakes abounded. Even the Chief Secretary, Sir David Ford, managed a smile as he was pushed...

- [Reality deficit: how South Korea lost the plot on AI](#) (2026-05-17 03:00)

The young woman in the stands simply sighed, turned her head and sat there, looking impossibly composed, while 15 million strangers fell briefly in love with someone who had never existed. She was, according to the caption accompanying one of many posts, “the average Korean woman”. Her admirers quickly crowned her a “baseball goddess”, analysing her every feature with the forensic enthusiasm reserved for internet obsessions, as the five-second clip went viral across South Korea’s online...

- [Swatch-Audemars Piguet watch launch ignites global chaos, tear gas fired in Paris](#) (2026-05-17 02:17)

The launch of limited edition Swatch watches descended into chaos on Saturday in several European cities and New York, with French police firing tear gas to restore order at one store near Paris. Hundreds of people waited through the night – and in some cases for several days – hoping to get their hands on the “Royal Pop” timepieces, made in collaboration with luxury watchmaker Audemars Piguet. In France, lines of hundreds of people formed through the night in several cities and a police source...

- [Indonesia pushes back after Chinese business group complains tougher rules hurt investors](#) (2026-05-17 02:00)

Chinese businesses in Indonesia have issued an unusually blunt warning to President Prabowo Subianto that a wave of tougher rules is hurting investor confidence, exposing growing tension between Jakarta’s push for control of the resources sector and foreign capital that has helped power the country’s nickel boom. Several ministers in Jakarta have pushed back, saying Indonesia must prioritise sovereignty over its natural resources, while stressing the government remains open to dialogue and has...

- [What do China’s plans for ‘comprehensive’ new AI law mean for future of technology?](#) (2026-05-17 02:00)

China has confirmed for the first time that it is drawing up a “comprehensive law” on artificial intelligence. Industry insiders said the move showed China had accumulated enough practical experience and was speeding up its governance as a result. A legislative work plan for the year issued last week by the State Council, China’s cabinet, outlined plans to “improve AI governance and accelerate comprehensive legislation for the sound development of AI”. It said the government would move faster to...

- [Fresh concepts lift Hong Kong retail property as tourists and consumers return](#) (2026-05-17 02:00)

Hong Kong's retail property market is gradually building momentum as spending and confidence of consumers and tourists return, according to analysts. Unlike the city's past peak rental levels, however, this time the tenant mix was more diversified, with retailers offering unique experiences and products that enhanced their appeal to shoppers, they said. "We see structural shifts towards more experience-driven and diversified tenant mixes, rather than a full return to past peak rental levels," ...

- [In a world of chaos, China signals that stability is possible](#) (2026-05-17 01:30)

Three polls firmly caught my attention over the past month or so. Each was conducted by a different outlet and addressed different questions. However, taken together, they tell one overarching story – implicitly, but unmistakably. Beyond an assortment of data, the story is about direction. The first was a CNN poll. It showed that 76 per cent of Americans now see high prices and the cost of living as their country's most serious economic problem. Even more striking, nearly seven in 10 expect a...

- [Hong Kong's MPF authority flags fraudulent certificates in early pension payouts](#) (2026-05-17 01:00)

Hong Kong's Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Authority (MPFA) is stepping up efforts to detect fraudulent certificates used for early withdrawal of pension contributions after two medical groups reported suspected cases to police in recent weeks. Responding to an inquiry from the South China Morning Post, an authority spokesman said its online platform had recently identified suspected fraud involving possibly fake medical certificates submitted to withdraw Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF)...

- [Woman, 76, became China's oldest mum giving birth to twins at 60 after enduring family tragedies](#) (2026-05-17 01:00)

A 76-year-old woman once dubbed China's oldest mother of twins has returned to the spotlight after a photographic series chronicling her life recently won an international award. Sheng Hailin, from Anhui province in central China, has also become a social media influencer with nearly one million followers, offering solace and inspiration to bereaved parents rebuilding their lives after loss. Her only daughter, Tingting, and her newlywed husband died of carbon monoxide poisoning in 2009,...

- [Vietnam's US\\$5 billion Apec island is running out of time](#) (2026-05-17 00:00)

Ahead of next year's Apec summit, Vietnam has a grand plan to transform Phu Quoc, its largest island, into Southeast Asia's leading conference and exhibition hub. The 137 trillion dong (US\$5.2 billion) blueprint includes an airport overhaul, a light-rail line, clusters of luxury hotels and a brand-new sewerage system – much of it paid for by one of the country's largest conglomerates, in return for tracts of land, operating concessions and the cachet of building national landmarks. But problems...

## Source: The Diplomat China

- [A Fully Closed-off China Requires a New US Policy Response](#) (2026-05-22 13:53)

The first airtight Chinese closure forecloses gradual reform – and American policy must be calibrated accordingly.

- [Taiwan's Democratic Blind Spot: Statelessness and Legal Exclusion](#) (2026-05-22 12:39)

Taiwan's stateless and undocumented population, numbering in the tens of thousands, has no access to basic rights, including healthcare, legal residency, and in some cases, education.

- [The Putin-Xi Meeting Made the Trump-Xi Summit Look Hollow](#) (2026-05-21 15:11)

One summit was all symbolism; the other was all substance. China made it clear who its true friend is.

- [Chinese Experts Read the Trump-Xi Summit as a Power-Shift Moment](#) (2026-05-21 12:51)

A survey of 50 Chinese-language commentaries published around the summit shows the trip being described as a paradigmatic shift.

- [How China Built a Closure That Cannot Leak](#) (2026-05-20 12:22)

Four mechanical seals, an asymmetric one-way valve, and a 2,200-year social foundation make the 2026 closure airtight in a way no previous closure has been.

- [Why Did Trump Visit the Temple of Heaven in Beijing?](#) (2026-05-18 17:23)

A look back at Beijing's choices for where to stage diplomatic scenes with U.S. presidents – and the changing political narratives.

## Source: US-China Perception Monitor

- [An Octopus with Many Tentacles w/ Lynette Ong](#) (2026-05-22 15:06)

China's ambitious state-led urbanization accelerated in the early 2010s, annually increasing urban construction by 1.2 million acres— double the size of Rhode Island's land mass— from 2010 to 2017. But... The post [An Octopus with Many Tentacles w/ Lynette Ong](#) appeared first on U.S.-China Perception Monitor.

- [Rethinking the Carter Era w/ Peng Sheng](#) (2026-05-19 19:23)

The post [Rethinking the Carter Era w/ Peng Sheng](#) appeared first on U.S.-China Perception Monitor.

- [Improving U.S.-China Relations](#) (2026-05-18 20:33)

The post [Improving U.S.-China Relations](#) appeared first on U.S.-China Perception Monitor.

- [Nationalism with International Characteristics w/ Nick Zeller](#) (2026-05-18 16:40)

The post Nationalism with International Characteristics w/ Nick Zeller appeared first on U.S.-China Perception Monitor.

- [Scholar: China and US have mutual interest in trade, green development](#) (2026-05-18 15:57)

The post Scholar: China and US have mutual interest in trade, green development appeared first on U.S.-China Perception Monitor.

- [Trump and Xi' s Spheres of Ignorance](#) (2026-05-18 15:54)

The post Trump and Xi' s Spheres of Ignorance appeared first on U.S.-China Perception Monitor.

- [U.S.-China Educational Decoupling w/ Rosie Levine](#) (2026-05-18 15:05)

As the US-China Education Trust' s March report America' s China Talent Challenge: Investing in Deeper American Understanding of China shows, “the flow of American students undertaking deep dives into China and... The post U.S.-China Educational Decoupling w/ Rosie Levine appeared first on U.S.-China Perception Monitor.