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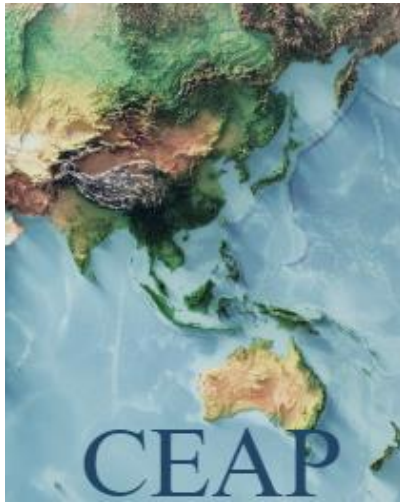
China's Yarlung Tsangpo "Medog Hydropower Station"

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About NIAS Global Politics

Global Politics is a primary focus of the NIAS Programme on Science, Technology, and International Relations (STIR). The primary focus is on contemporary world affairs. The Programme publishes *The World This Week*, and *NIAS Fortnightly on Science, Technology and International Relations*.

About NIAS China East Asia & The Pacific Reader

The CEAP aims to provide a daily brief on contemporary developments within China and its external engagements. Daily developments are categorized under the following sections: Internal (Politics, Economy, S&T), Regional (China's interactions primarily with East Asia, Southeast Asia, South Asia, the Pacific, and also with other regions including Europe, the Americas, Africa, and the Middle East), Big power politics and China's global power projections.

The CEAP aims to build an online database on China by collating information from different regions and diverse sources. The objective is to capture different narratives and make sense of information and disinformation.

About China Monitor

China Monitor is a Monthly publication by the China, East Asia, and the Pacific Area Studies. The Monitor is a comprehensive collection of explainers, commentaries, and short notes on contemporary issues and development in the region.



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Editorial Note

In July, China, East Asia, and the Pacific Area Studies comprehensively covered daily developments in the region. With a special focus on Internal, External, Nuclear, Science & Technology, Defense, Energy, & Environmental issues. Additionally, it looked at the region from a geographic perspective, which included China in East Asia, Southeast Asia, Central Asia, the Pacific, Europe, West Asia, Africa, the Americas, and Russia. The following were the major events in the month of July, other than the essays above.

Shaolin Temple Abott “CEO monk” was disbanded over embezzlement charges; the government came out with a plan to subsidize and incentivize childbirth by giving USD 500 for every child till they are three; Floods ravaged China, with a loss of USD 9.6 billion; Dalai Lama announced his succession plan noting that the next Lama will be born outside China.

In External developments, China extended its visa-free policy to 74 countries. While in the Economy, China’s Evergrande real estate firm delisted from Hong Kong, the GDP of China increased by 5.3 per cent. The Floods of July killed 30 and led to the evacuation of 80,000 people; China also held its 3rd China International Supply Chain Expo; and unveiled its deep-sea robotic arm for oil and gas exploration.

Beijing tested its first commercial fast nuclear reactor, “CFR1000”; China launches a new generation “Type076” and its oceanographic vessel “Tongi”. They also developed their first domestically built aircraft carrier, “Shandong”; Tianzhou-9 successfully reached orbit of Tiangong space station, and they conducted their first-ever satellite-to-satellite refueling.

From the geographic vertical, in East Asia, Taiwanese held a recall vote against pro-China opposition party leaders; Taiwan conducted its largest ever civil-military exercise in light of a Chinese invasion. In Southeast Asia, China and Vietnam conducted the first joint army drills; China was found complicit in supplying bombs to Myanmar; China’s Foreign Minister attends ASEAN forum. In the Pacific, the Australian Prime Minister visits China and reviewed their free trade agreement. In South Asia, India opens tourist visas for Chinese nationals for the first time in five years; China-Pakistan MoU on advancing the shipping sector; India-China direct flights resumed; China gives Pakistan USD 3.4 billion in loan. In West Asia, China refutes the allegation of selling weapons to Iran. In Russia, China held a joint naval drill “Joint Sea 2025”; they resumed the joint oceanographic research venture; China was found to be selling drone parts disguised as refrigerators. In Europe, the EU’s 18th Russia sanctions package included two Chinese firms; Germany accuses a Chinese ship of laser targeting their aircraft; China retaliates against the EU ban with a medical device import curb. In the Americas, Trump is to have the final say on US-China tariff halt extension; TikTok to go dark without divestment; US government employees barred from leaving China; Nvidia to resume the sale of US H2O AI chips to China.

In the East Asia and the Pacific region, Taiwan saw a decline in its investments in China; China added eight Taiwanese entries to the export control list. In Korea, Russia, and North Korea’s Foreign Ministers meet at the signing ceremony of the Wonsan resort; South Korea-Japan-US hold an air drill with strategic bombers; North Korea plans to send 30,000 troops to Russia. While in Japan, Foreigners’ presence is the major debate in the upcoming elections; Japan deploys Osprey fleet in its new military defense base; Trump complains that Japan is not importing enough rice from America. In Australia and the Pacific region, the “Agreement Project of the Future of New Caledonia” was approved by a major political party; New Zealand reports visa fraud by Samoan nationals.

EXPLAINER

China, Yarlung Tsangpo, and the “Medog Hydropower Station”

Femy Francis



(Image Source: The Guardian)

On 19 July, China’s Premier Li Qiang launched the construction of a Medog Hydropower Station on the Tibetan Plateau, aimed to be the world’s largest hydroelectric facility. The project is located in the lower regions of Yarlung Tsangpo River, the location of the same have raised concerns regarding the water supply of lower riparian countries, and the ecological impact on the downstream countries India and Bangladesh. The ceremony was held in the Nyingchi region of Tibet. The Yarlung Tsangpo River becomes the Brahmaputra River as it leaves Tibet, and it flows to India’s Arunachal Pradesh. The initiative was first announced under China’s 2020 five-year plan. The dam will create 300 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity, which will be three times more than the Gorges Dam. Additional concerns include the impact on water and food security for India and Bangladesh, as well as the potential weaponization of water by China, which could be used to cause floods or induce droughts. China’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs refuted the concerns and said: “Rather, the project could help in disaster prevention and mitigation efforts, and support climate change adaptation in downstream regions.” This has also encouraged India to speed up the building of its hydropower projects in the Brahmaputra, Arunachal Pradesh.

Where is Yarlung Tsnagpo? What is its basin?

It is imperative to understand that the river basin consists of Yarlung Tsangpo-Siang-Brahmaputra-Jamuna, meaning the boundaries of the above rivers change ownership based on the region in which they flow. This brings three countries together in the same river basin:

China via Tibet, India, and Bangladesh all hold stakes in the river that flows. The river originates from the Angsai Glacier, coming from the Himalayan Lake Manasarovar and Mount Kailash. Currently, the Chinese side of the river is facing severe desertification due to climate change and high altitude. The geography of the Yarlung Tsangpo River takes a sharp U-turn, “Great Bend,” it enters India through Arunachal Pradesh, and is called Siang. When it reaches Assam through tributaries of Dihang and Lohit, it becomes the Brahmaputra. The river further going down merges with the Jamuna and enters the river Padma of Bangladesh. Therefore, making a transboundary river basin.

What are China’s objectives in building the dam?

China’s second-longest river “Yellow River,” faces water scarcity due to demographic pressure and unsustainable use of the basin. The Yellow River is responsible for 65 per cent of hydroelectric energy generation in China. The water utilization of the Yellow River is at 80 per cent, double the recommended usage of 40 per cent. There is also desertification in the headwaters of the Yarlung Tsangpo River basin due to topography and climate change. To replenish the basins, the Chairman of the Beijing Shuotian Consultancy & Development Co., Guo Kai, suggested diverting some water from the Brahmaputra, noting that there is “plenty of water, and it won’t make any difference to India.” This view was taken forward by several scholars like Li Ling in “Tibet’s Water Will Save China,” where they called for to exploit of the resources in the Tibetan Plateau. Additionally, building the infrastructure also establishes Chinese territory close to the contested regions.

What are the concerns raised by India and Bangladesh?

India’s Ministry of External Affairs condemned China’s plan to build the dam in January 2025. Stating that this gives an unfair advantage to the higher riparian country, China, and that it’s unfair in light that there are no water-sharing pacts signed with the lower riparian countries. These concerns were bolstered by China’s decision to halt the sharing of Brahmaputra water data with India following the 2020 Doklam standoff. Arunachal Pradesh’s Chief

Minister Pema Khandu warned that the proposed dam is a potential “water bomb.” Additionally, the region where the Yarlung Tsangpo River flows is a seismic zone, making it vulnerable to earthquakes. Making it not only challenging for builders to build, but also the construction is reckoned to have an ecological impact in the region. This can lead to reduced sediment flow to the downstream waters, which will affect agriculture. There also lacks formal river sharing treaties between the three countries, while there have been several Expert-Level Mechanism (ELM) meetings held to discuss emergency management and data sharing of possible floods.

India’s concerns are well-founded when questioning the repercussions of building this dam. But it is important to note that the Brahmaputra River, whose flow is of concern, does not rely entirely on the Yarlung Tsangpo’s flow. As noted above the Tibet’s side of the river is already facing water scarcity. Brahmaputra is largely fed by the seasonal rainfall that happens annually in the Northeastern Region of India.

What are the environmental and political concerns?

The Yarlung Tsangpo Dam has a larger political and territorial significance. As the building of the dam will also be a territorial demarcation in the region, which is contested. This means building the dam will bring Chinese infrastructure to the Tibetan region, very close to the Himalayas and Arunachal Pradesh. The Indian state is also claimed by China as “South Tibet.” Bringing China closer to the contested territory and India. India, perceiving this threat, plans to build 150 dams in Arunachal Pradesh and wants to expedite the Siang Upper Multipurpose Project (SUMP), which faces local protest. China will continue to build, pushing India to speed up its defense. Bangladesh, the third party in the basin, has been quiet on the same. The interim government of Bangladesh under Muhammad Yunus, after ousting Sheikh Hasina, has been pivoting to China, inviting them to work on the Teesta River project. The silence, therefore, speaks volumes as to where Bangladesh stands.

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EXPLAINER

China-Australia Free Trade Agreement after ten years

Femy Francis



(Image Source: SCMP)

On 16 July, China's Ministry of Commerce and Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade signed an MoU to review the China-Australia Free Trade Agreement (FTA). The agreement was first signed in 2015 and has been responsible for the development of their bilateral economy and trade relations. The year 2025 marks the 10th anniversary of the FTA implementation where "both sides will maintain close cooperation, continue high-quality implementation of the agreement, jointly conduct a review to identify areas for further improvement or expansion, enhance the liberalization and facilitation of trade and investment, and provide higher-level institutional guarantees for bilateral economic and trade cooperation," said China's Commerce Ministry. China has been Australia's largest trading partner and export destination, as well as the source of imports, for 16 years. Since the agreement of 2015, the trade has increased, estimated to be USD 210 billion in 2024. Australia China Business Council and the Bankwest Curtin Economics Center reported that trade with China has increased Australia's household income by USD 1709 and even supported 595,600 jobs.

What is the background?

In 2015, the China-Australia Free Trade Agreement (ChAFTA) was signed after 21 rounds of negotiations. This was signed between Australia's Trade and Investment Minister, Andrew Robb, and China's Commerce Minister, Gao Hucheng. The deal was seen as a unique and liberal trade deal that China signed with a developed country. Australia's Prime Minister Tony Abbott said: "What you have collectively done is history-making for both our countries, it

will change our countries for the better, it will change our region for the better, it will change our world for the better."

What is the agreement all about?

Three things. First, Tariff cuts. Before the agreement, only 8.4 per cent of China's goods were duty-free, and after the signing of the agreement in 2015, 95 per cent of tariffs were slated for Australian goods. Second, Market access. China opened its market to Australia, extending it beyond goods to include services. Australia also got the status of most-favoured-nation (MFN), extended to the service sector and Australian firms. Third, the Binding clause. The agreement outlined a binding clause, where Australian goods were entering the Chinese market at a lower tariff than China's commitment made at the World Trade Organisation (WTO). The clause commits that China will not raise the tariff to WTO standards.

What are the issues?

The agreement was criticized domestically in Australia as a bad deal. The then-opposition party Labor Party, head Bill Shorten, declined to give support to the agreement, calling it a "dud deal." The major criticism was about the labour mobility provision, where Shorten stated that the agreement should not allow unrestricted access to Australia's labour market. And noted that they need Labour Market Testing (LMT) to test the availability of in-house Australian workers before recruiting individuals from overseas. ChAFTA's labour mobility provision was called "a momentous concession for the Chinese." This raised alarms that jobs will be given to Chinese nationals rather than locals, which will alter the labour market of Australia. Other criticisms include the inclusion of services from people from a country who have questionable records on industry safety. And that this will lead to one country's dominance in the Australian market, hence creating larger strategic repercussions.

What are the outcomes?

Since the onset of the agreement, the following are the notable outcomes as reported by the University of Technology Sydney's Australia-China Relations Institute (UTS: ACRI). The agreement cannot be attributed to Australia-China trade growth, as China has been Australia's largest trading partner for 16 years,

much before the ChAFTA agreement. Therefore, the agreement did not kick off the economic collaboration, but opened avenues for increased investments and taking advantage of the lowering of trade barriers. In 2019, the ChAFTA utilization rate rose by 04.8 per cent and 96 per cent in 2021, which is the highest amongst all the FTAs Australia has signed. China's imports of Australian goods increased by 90 per cent in 2017. China is Australia's largest trading partner, with exports in 2024 reaching USD 70 billion. China imported USD 140 billion worth of Australian goods in 2024, according to COMTRADE. The trade saw a slight dip after COVID, when China imposed sanctions and duties on Australian goods. In retaliation for Australia citing the origins of the COVID strain to be Chinese.

By 2024, the exports increased to USD 212.7 billion under the ChAFTA provision from USD 85.2 billion. China's exports increased in minerals, fuels, manufacturing, agricultural products, and the service sector. The 2020, tariffs were removed in 2024, and ties were restored, and the trade was back on track. Other than Australia's exports to China also increased from a mere USD 59 billion in 2014, to USD 112 billion in 2023, an 89.5 per cent increase. Additionally, under ChAFTA, the Australian beef was given a concessional tariff, but China can impose a tariff if the export exceeds a specified limit. In a poll conducted by UTS: ACRI on the domestic opinion of the ChAFTA, 52.3 per cent of Australians saw the agreement as beneficial, with 12.5 per cent disagreeing. The recent visit by Albanese focused on reviewing the FTA agreement between the two countries. The Prime Minister also expressed larger concerns regarding Australia's refusal to join the "Hypothetical" war between the US and China. And the expanding presence of China in the Pacific region. The ChAFTA agreement has been beneficial for both China and Australia, opening up trade barriers, giving opportunities to local businesses to grow internationally. The political and geopolitical repercussions are yet to be gauged, but China's increasing presence in the region has set the alarm off. What's understood is that economic collaboration must go on, despite geopolitical tensions and scepticism.

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EXPLAINER

22 July 1977: Deng Xiaoping returns to power, sets the stage for modern China

R Preetha



What happened on 22 July 1977? The return of Deng Xiaoping

On 22 July 1977, Deng Xiaoping was restored to key positions in the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), including Vice Premier of the State Council, Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee, Vice-Chairman of the Military Commission, and Chief of the General Staff of the People's Liberation Army. The restoration followed his purges during the Cultural Revolution and again in 1976. Deng returned following Mao Zedong's death and the arrest of the Gang of Four. This event, nearly half a century ago, marked a pivotal shift in Chinese history, steering the nation in the aftermath of the Cultural Revolution toward economic modernization and global integration.

What led to 22 July 1977? The end of Mao, Fall of the Gang of Four and the Support of Hua Guofeng

A Long March veteran and an early supporter of Mao Zedong, Deng rose through the CCP as a pragmatic administrator, serving as finance minister in 1953 and party secretary general by 1956. His support for Mao's "socialist transformation" through collectivization and Soviet-style industrialization reflected loyalty, however, his practical approach did not sit well with Maoist ideology, especially during the Great Leap Forward (1958–1961). The campaign aimed at rapid industrialization through rural communes, led to mass famine, with estimates of 30 million deaths due to starvation and related crises (LSE, 2017). Working with Liu Shaoqi and Zhou Enlai, Deng mitigated the damage by relaxing targets, reducing food requisitions, and allowing private plots. Military budgets were cut to provide space for consumption and productive investment. Deng urged reform with his much-

quoted line "it doesn't matter if the cat is yellow or black as long as it catches the mouse." Deng was marked as "capitalist roader," leading to his purge during the Cultural Revolution (1966–1976). A second purge in 1976, after Zhou Enlai's death, saw Deng sidelined again. His rehabilitation in 1977, after Mao's death and the Gang of Four's fall, was supported by allies like Hua Guofeng, Mao's immediate successor who embraced the idea of opening China. Many scholars note that Deng's return can be attributed to his reputation as a capable administrator to address China's economic stagnation.

What after 22 July 1977? Four Modernizations, and the Making of modern China

Under Mao Zedong, private property was outlawed, and Soviet-style central planning controlled the economy; essentially meaning the state monopolized the market. The Great Leap Forward, launched in the second five-year plan, devastated agriculture and led to mass famine; with resources forcefully shifted from farming to heavy industry. Post-Mao China was thus facing economic stagnation, widespread poverty, and a sharp decline in public confidence after the Cultural Revolution. In 1970, China's real GDP stood at only USD 232 billion (Cato Institute, 2023).

By 1978, Deng had consolidated power and launched the "Four Modernisations," a reform agenda targeting agriculture, industry, defense, and science, setting China on a path toward economic transformation and global integration. Deng believed that in order to develop economically China must learn from the world's most modern practices in science, technology, and management; and was thus pushing on an open door. The late 1970s saw a shifting international landscape; with the US and China moving toward normalization of relations, providing Deng an opportunity to integrate China into the global economy. The success of export-led growth in East Asian economies offered a model for China; his visits to Japan and the US in 1979 exposed him to advanced technologies and market-oriented systems, reinforcing his belief in reform and opening up. Deng prioritised building up the science base by sending Chinese students abroad; top Chinese officials were sent overseas to examine

opportunities for economic collaborations with the west, notably the Gu Mu delegation in 1978. In the following months, decisions were taken to approve overseas borrowing, and establish an export based textile industry. A special economic zone (SEZ) was agreed for Shenzhen. China then carefully experimented in liberalisation, it began with Guangdong accepting foreign investment and SEZs to boost exports, initially linked to Hong Kong then gradually extending to Fujian, Shanghai, and eventually 14 coastal cities. These zones emerged significant for China's industrialization and integration into the global economy. They became centres for contract manufacturing by the late 1990s; with Shenzhen becoming crucial for China's booming tech hardware sector. In parallel, rural reforms based on de-collectivisation were introduced. Households were allowed to produce for their own consumption and sell them. The creation of township and village enterprises (TVEs) became an important component of the emerging private sector in the 1980s. Deng's reforms had

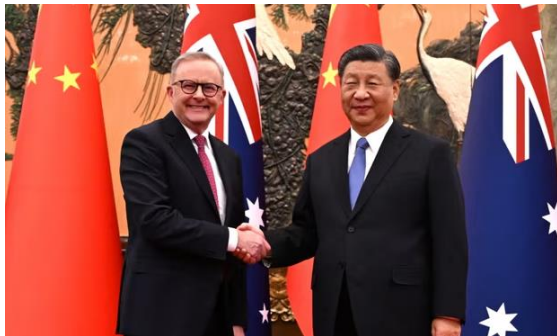
an immediate and significant impact. For instance, grain production which stood at 300 million tons in 1977 grew to 400 million in 1984. The TVEs employment grew from 28 million in 1978 to 106 million in 1992. In 1978 China's exports stood 1 per cent of world trade (10 billion), but had grown to USD 25 billion by 1985.

Since China began to open up in 1978, GDP growth averaged at nearly 9 per cent annually, and almost 800 million people lifted themselves out of poverty (World Bank, 2024). China was thus transitioning from central planning under Mao Zedong to market-led development under Deng Xiaoping. His reforms decentralized the economy, drove rapid economic growth, and improved living standards. In 1989, Deng's leadership was tested with the Tiananmen Square demonstrations. He resigned from his last official Party post in 1989 but remained influential until his death in 1997; having set the stage for China to emerge as a global economic power.

COMMENTARY

Australian PM Albanese's visit to China

Kasvi Batra



(Image Source: The Guardian)

What happened?

On 12 July, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese reached China for a six-day visit at the invitation of Premier Li Qiang to participate in the Annual Leaders' Meeting.

On 13 July, the two countries signed a MoU between Tourism Australia and Trip.com Group. On the same day, PM Albanese attended a Steel Decarbonization Round Table, where it was agreed to establish a new policy dialogue on steel decarbonization.

On 15 July, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese guest-chaired the eighth Australia-China CEO Roundtable alongside Chinese Premier Li Qiang. PM Albanese and Premier Li Qiang also held the

Annual Leaders Meeting, reaffirming their support for the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and the 1972 Joint Communiqué. Both sides emphasized the value of people-to-people exchanges in strengthening ties and reiterated Australia's commitment to the One China Policy.

Also on the same day, both countries several key agreements including the following: the Memorandum of Understanding on the Implementation and Review of the China-Australia Free Trade Agreement in 2025-2026 and the Memorandum of Understanding on Tourism Cooperation. A Strategic Cooperation Agreement between China Media Group and Tourism Australia was also signed. Additionally, three MOUs were concluded between China's General Administration of Customs and Australia's Department of Agriculture on phytosanitary protocols.

On 15 July, PM met President Xi Jinping. Albanese reaffirmed Australia's commitment to the One China Policy while emphasizing support for maintaining the status quo in Taiwan. During his opening remarks Xi stated "seeking common ground while setting aside differences is in line

with “the fundamental interests of our two countries and our two peoples no matter how the international landscape may evolve, we should uphold this overall direction unswervingly”

What is the background?

First, a brief overview of China and Australia’s trade relations. China is Australia’s largest trading partner, with nearly 25 per cent of Australian exports going to China. China also accounts for around 4 per cent of total FDI into Australia, investing in mining, healthcare, and infrastructure. The China-Australia Free Trade Agreement (ChAFTA), in effect since 2015, has improved agricultural market access, enhanced service access for Australian providers in China, raised investment thresholds for Chinese private companies in sensitive sectors, and enabled faster customs clearance. ChAFTA has significantly boosted Australian exports of iron ore, natural gas, and agricultural products

Second, the recent challenges in Australia and China relationship. During 2018 -24, Australia-China relations saw significant tensions. In 2018, Australia blacklisted Huawei and ZTE from 5G network rollout and passed a foreign interference law, widely viewed as targeting China. In 2020, Australia’s call for a COVID-19 origins inquiry led to a trade dispute, with China imposing tariffs and import bans on key Australian exports like barley, beef, wine, and coal. Australia responded with its own measures, including blocking Chinese acquisitions and launching anti-dumping probes. The trade war gradually eased through

bilateral negotiations, with China lifting major restrictions between 2023 and 2024, and Australia dropping its WTO complaints.

Third, the people to people ties. Australia remains a top destination for Chinese students. To strengthen ties, both countries established the Australia–China High Level Dialogue in 2014, fostering exchange across sectors. In 2020, the National Foundation for Australia–China Relations was set up to promote constructive engagement through programs, expertise, and grants supporting bilateral cooperation.

What does it mean?

First, the reopening of high-level dialogue between Australia and China. After years of tensions over foreign interference laws, COVID origins, AUKUS, and trade barriers, the resumption of key dialogue frameworks such as Annual leaders meet institutionalizes long term cooperation. The visit has also renewed economic ties between Australia and China, with most tariffs and informal bans lifted. The new policy dialogue on decarbonization also positions Australia as a key partner in China’s efforts to green its supply chain.

Second, the visit marks a strategic recalibration and could serve as a model for Pacific states with strong trade ties to China. Prime Minister Albanese secured broad trade agreements without offering concessions on Australia’s internal security, balancing economic engagement with national interests.

COMMENTARY

Elections to the Upper House in Japan

Kasvi Batra



(Image Source: East Asia Forum)

What happened?

On 20 July, Japanese voters cast their ballots in the Upper House elections to decide 125 of the

248 seats in the National Diet (legislature of Japan).

On 21 July, results confirmed that the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)–Komeito coalition lost its majority in the House of Councillors. The coalition secured 47 seats, falling short of the 50 needed to maintain a majority, though it still holds 75 seats, which were not up for re-election.

The Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan remained the largest opposition bloc with 22 seats; The Democratic Party for the People (DPP) won 17 seats, surpassing Komeito as the third-largest party. Sanseito made the most

gains, increasing its representation from one seat to 14.

What is the background?

First a brief overview of Japan's political system. The National Diet, Japan's bicameral legislature, consists of the House of Representatives (lower house) and the House of Councillors (upper house). Both houses share powers including electing leadership, forming committees, setting rules, investigating government affairs, and voting on petitions. The 248-member House of Councillors (uses a mixed electoral system. Members serve six-year terms, with half (124) elected every three years.

Second, a brief note on major political parties. The Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), Japan's dominant center-right party with about 113 seats, is traditionally pro-business and backs the U.S.–Japan alliance, Its junior coalition partner; Komeito is a centrist, socially conservative party rooted in Buddhist-democratic principles, with approximately 27 seats. The main opposition, the Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan (CDP), leans center-left and advocates for social welfare, constitutional pacifism, and expanded civil rights, holding roughly 41 seats. Nippon Ishin no Kai, a reform-oriented, right-leaning regionalist party based in Osaka, promotes federal decentralization and deregulation and has around 18 seats. The left-wing Japanese Communist Party holds around 11 seats and advocates socialism, anti-militarism, and grassroots democracy. Sanseito is also known as the "Japanese First" party, is a far-right nationalist and populist group campaigning on anti-immigration, economic nationalism, and strongly protectionist rhetoric holds 15 seats.

Third recent elections and party positions. The 2024 Lower House snap election was called by the current PM Shigeru Ishiba. Ishiba dissolved the House on 1 October to leverage his reformist image and regain public trust. The Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)–Komeito coalition secured only 215 seats, falling short of the 233 needed for a Lower House majority, marking only its second such loss since 1955, the first being in 2009. The Constitutional Democratic Party (CDP) surged from 98 to 148 seats, becoming the largest opposition party

Fourth, important key issues in the Upper House elections. It included 3.5 per cent inflation rate, which exceeds the Bank of Japan's two per cent ceiling, rising prices of essential goods, cost of living concerns, immigration policy and overtourism concerns internal scandals within the ruling party and delays in trade negotiations with the US.;

What does it mean?

First, the setback to the ruling LDP., Opposition parties such as the Constitutional Democratic Party and the Japan Innovation Party gained significant ground in the current elections. For the first time in recent history, the ruling LDP-Komeito coalition lost its majority in both the House of Representatives and the House of Councillors. This dual loss has weakened the government's legislative power, making it reliant on complex political negotiations to pass laws. The party's vague campaign, reliance on handouts, and refusal to cut taxes amid inflation further eroded support.

Second, the weakening of PM Ishiba's mandate. This election has raised doubts about his ability to uphold international commitments. Foreign partners may fear that Japan's trade, security, and diplomatic promises may be undermined by internal instability.

COMMENTARY

Quad Foreign Ministers Meeting: Countering China's rare earth dominance

Brighty Ann Sarah



(Image Source: US Embassy)

What happened?

On 1 July, the Secretary of State of the United States and the Foreign Ministers of Australia, India, and Japan convened at Washington, D.C. on July 1, 2025, for the 10th Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting. The 2025 meeting, hosted by U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio. This was the second Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting of the year, following the meeting in January.

The July 2025 session unveiled a comprehensive agenda centered on four pillars: maritime and transnational security, economic prosperity and security, critical and emerging technologies, and humanitarian assistance and emergency response. The launch of the Quad Critical Mineral Initiative under the umbrella of economic prosperity and security emerged as the highlight of the meeting. However, official agreements are yet to be signed.

The militarization of the East China Sea and South China Sea was also among the serious considerations. The launch of the first-ever Quad-at-Sea Ship Observer Mission, aimed at heightening interoperability and knowledge sharing, the first Maritime Initiative for Training in the Indo-Pacific (MAITRI) workshop and the space-based intelligence sharing operations of the Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA) were highlighted as proactive measures towards ensuring maritime security in the region.

The members also condemned international terrorism in the light of the Pahalgam attack, and criticized North-Korea's ballistic missile launches and nuclear ambition.

What is the background?

First, a brief note on Quad. The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, Quad, is a strategic multilateral forum comprising the United States, Japan, India, and Australia, upholding the directive of a "free and open Indo-Pacific" as their operational focus. The Quad was formalised in 2007 and revived during the first term of the Trump Presidency, driven by shared concerns over China's aggressions and encroachments in the South-China Sea and Indian Ocean regions. The administration's 2017 National Security Strategy emphasized the Indo-Pacific as a priority, framing the Quad as a counterbalance to China's influence. Since 2019, the annual Foreign Ministers Meetings have gained momentum, with the 2024 meeting in Tokyo.

Second, China's dominance in global critical mineral and rare-earth supply chains. China dominates the ownership and supply of critical minerals globally, wielding 60 per cent of global rare earth production. This makes the production of everyday electronic devices, clean-energy technologies, and even defence technology heavily reliant on China. The United States relies on China for approximately 74 per cent of its rare earth imports, particularly for its defence infrastructure. Australia is a major producer, with 4.2 million tonnes of rare earth elements (REEs) and substantial lithium, cobalt, and nickel reserves. India also possesses nearly 6.9 million tonnes of REEs. However, China remains their major source of refining and processing services.

Third, China's counter-measures in response to Trump's tariffs. On 4 April, in response to the tariffs imposed by the Trump administration, China imposed export restrictions on seven of the seventeen rare-earth minerals and magnets, severely impacting the electric vehicle, semiconductor, and defence industries. Although the restrictions were eased after several rounds of negotiations and the adoption of a new trade framework, it exposed persisting vulnerabilities in the global supply chain, and the absence of reliable alternatives despite the critical nature of the industry.

Fourth, the presence of critical minerals in the Indo-Pacific. The Indo-Pacific region holds significant reserves of critical minerals. Indonesia has the world's largest nickel reserves and has substantial levels of cobalt, crucial to the production of electric vehicles. Malaysia and Vietnam, among others, possess considerable amounts of REE as well. The Indo-Pacific ocean bed also harbours vast reserves of mostly untapped critical resources. Despite the abundance of critical mineral resources, there lacks sufficient mining and processing infrastructure to fully exercise the potential of the region

What does it mean?

First, the urgency of Quad member states to recalibrate the global critical mineral supply chain. China's latest export restrictions have highlighted the strategic leverage it holds in the critical minerals sector, and how it can be

wielded to counter U.S. measures. Despite the minor bilateral frictions between the US and the other members, the collective agreement in the Critical Minerals Initiative is a proactive attempt to confront the gaps and build an alternate force in the critical mineral industry.

Second, the Quad Critical Minerals Initiative could emerge as a major contender to China's dominance in the industry by tapping into the resources of the Indo-Pacific through regional partnerships, collective action and utilising the diverse capabilities of the Quad countries. In addition to providing mineral security to the region, the increasing importance of the rare earth industry globally would afford the region substantial economic growth as a reliable competition to China if operationalized successfully.

SHORT NOTE

“Dabamian” the Great Recall: Taiwan rejects recalling opposition lawmakers

Femy Francis



(Image Source: The NYT)

On 26 July, Taiwanese voters rejected the removal of 24 opposition party lawmakers from their positions due to their closeness with China. The petition called for the recall votes by the DPP, the ruling party of Taiwan, against the KMT for being in cahoots with China. This was also termed “dabamian,” a civic movement started in 2024. This comes in light of the political deadlock between the DPP and the opposition-dominated legislature. Taiwanese citizens from 24 districts, all held by the KMT, voted against their removal. This means none of the lawmakers have to vacate their positions. This has increased the political polarization in Taiwan. The Great Recall divided the society with larger rallies and fierce debate. In 2024,

voters chose DPP head William Lai as their President William Lai but the opposition gained presence in the Parliament, “Legislative Yuan.” Since Lai's tenure, the opposition KMT, with other smaller parties like TPP, blocked DPP bills, while pushing to pass controversial legislation. This led to thousands holding protests known as the Bluebird movement. Protestors believed that the KMT was closer to China and was being influenced by the Chinese agenda.

During the protest under the Bluebird movement, petitions were issued against KMT lawmakers, and the same was done against the DPP lawmakers. Out of which 31 petitions garnered preliminary support for the final recall vote, all of the petitions were under the Kuomintang. The opposition party's support is also rallying support stating that the DPP masterminded the Great Recall and the Bluebird movement, aimed to overturn the election result and gain a majority in the legislative Yuan. Initially, DPP distanced itself from the Bluebird movement but later extended support.

China condemned the recall vote, and its Taiwan Affairs Office claimed that Lai is practicing dictatorship under the guise of democracy and using all means possible to suppress opposition.

They noted that this showcases how DPP has been politically manipulating the legislature, as the KMT was able to retain all 24 seats. The spokesperson, Chen Binhua, expressed that DPP is “driven by its pursuit of ‘Taiwan independence’ and avarice for one-party monopoly, repeatedly stirred up political strife at the expense of the Taiwan people’s well-being.” Additionally, Chen noted that they have resorted to every means to create this “green terror” and encourage political and social divide,

revealing their true nature, fake democracy, and real authoritarianism.

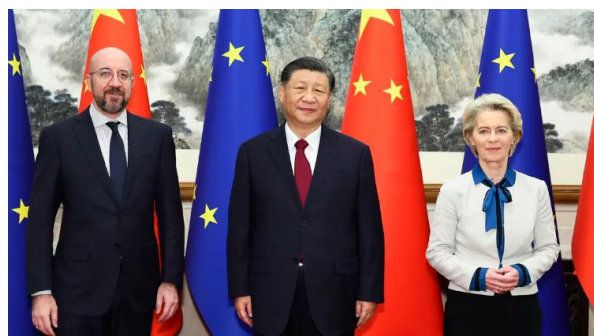
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SHORT NOTE

China’s President and EU heads meet for the 25th China-EU Summit

Femy Francis



(Image Source: Xinhua)

On 24 July, China’s President Xi Jinping meets the President of the European Council, Antonio Costa, and the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, in Beijing. This is part of the 25th China-EU summit, marking the 50th anniversary of diplomatic ties between the two entities. Ursula, before the trip, posted on social media: “Touch down in Beijing, as we mark 50 years of ties between Europe and China. This summit presents an opportunity to both advance and rebalance our relationship. I’m convinced there can be a mutually beneficial cooperation. One that can define the next 50 years of our relations.” China’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson, Guo Jiankun, stated that both China and the EU are at a critical juncture, as they confront new opportunities and challenges based on past achievements. The summit aims to further bilateral ties between the two, as deepening cooperation will enhance the interests of both and the larger world, as expressed by Guo. The summit aims to discuss the trade relations, rare earths, trade deficit of the EU, climate change, EVs, and the overcapacity of Chinese industries.

Ursula also called the meeting essential to rebalance the trade ties with China, as Xi Jinping called the meeting an “inflection point” in their relations. Expectations are low from the visit after weeks of escalation in trade tensions, with the meeting being cut down to a single-day visit. Ursula mentioned that their cooperation has deepened but so has their imbalance as they reach a point of inflection. She hinted at the EU’s trade deficit with China, which has increased to USD 360 billion by 2024. Therefore, calling for recalibrated relations and the acknowledgement by both China and the EU of respective concerns going forward.

Xi Jinping urged the EU to make “correct and strategic choices,” while criticizing the EU’s hawkish view of China. Xi stated to Ursula that the more severe and complex the world geopolitics is, the more China and the EU should engage in communication to enhance mutual trust and cooperation. He called for the European leaders to make choices to meet the expectations of the people. Before this visit, both were engaged in tit-for-tat trade tensions, where Ursula in July accused China of flooding the global markets with their overcapacity of supply, which has supported Russia’s war economy.

China’s Chamber of Commerce to the EU (CCCEU) also made some comments before the summit, and noted that the Chinese companies remain firm and committed to the EU market, as they stand ready to contribute to Europe’s economy, said Secretary General of CCCEU, Fang Dongkui. He noted that since 2025, the European leaders have expressed a commitment

to enhancing bilateral economic investments. He called to pair European industrial expertise with China's clean technology to escalate decarbonization efforts.

Background to trade tensions (2024-2025)

After the EU launched its anti-subsidy probe against Chinese EV exports, China imposed an anti-dumping investigation on the EU's brandy imports in January 2024. In April 2024, the EU announces that it will investigate subsidies received by Chinese suppliers of wind turbines. In June 2024, China investigates anti-dumping of pork imports from the EU, and later in August, they probes dairy imports by the EU. China in October of 2024, imposes anti-dumping tariffs on the EU's brandy imports, and the EU approves tariffs of 35.3 per cent against Chinese EVs for five years. In 2025, the EU bans Chinese companies from accessing public tenders to buy medical devices, and China restricts the purchase of medical devices from the EU by the government to USD 6.3 million. The EU also sanctioned Chinese firms under the Russia-based sanctions list.

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CHINA READER DAILY WIRE

INTERNAL

China to hold its Fourth Plenary Session in October

On 30 July, China's Central Committee Political Bureau announced that the fourth plenary session of the 20th CPC will be held in October. The agenda for this year's meeting will look into the past years' reports, and they will formulate the 15th Five-Year Plan focusing on economic and social development. They noted that the 15th meeting is crucial to bolster their effort for socialist modernization. They will come out with a new development philosophy, and they will maintain stability while forging a new development paradigm. Macro policies will focus on more proactive fiscal policies. They said: "The meeting also called for efforts to accelerate the cultivation of emerging pillar industries with global competitiveness, promote the deep integration and development of sci-tech and industrial innovation, and push forward the building of a unified national market." ("20th CPC Central Committee to hold fourth plenary session in October," *CGTN*, 30 July 2025)

China to offer nationwide subsidy of USD 500 for childbirth

On 28 July, China's National Development and Reform Commission announced that they are introducing a nationwide childcare subsidy plan to support families and encourage childbirth. The program will give USD 503 per year for each child under the age of three. The subsidy will be exempt from tax and will not be included in a household or individual's taxable income. This policy will benefit more than 20 million families each year. China, the world's biggest population, is facing a decline in the birth of newborns, and its population is rapidly ageing. China is also losing its family planning policies, even after it halted the one-child policy by allowing Chinese couples to have two children from 2016. They also supported couples who wanted to have three children. Similar initiatives have already been introduced in the other regions of China, like Inner Mongolia, which grant a one-time subsidy of RMB 10,000 for the first child in the family, and the second child receives an annual subsidy of RMB 10,000 until the age of five and the third child will get a yearly subsidy till, they are of age 10. ("China to offer nationwide childcare subsidies," *The State Council of PRC*, 28 July 2025)

Xi Jinping's fifth volume on "Xi Jinping: The Governance of China" is published

On 30 July, China's President Xi Jinping's fifth volume on "Xi Jinping: The Governance of China" was published at home and abroad. The latest volume contains 91 pieces of spoken and written works of Xi Jinping. The book documents the CPC and its President's duties. And how is building the modern socialist country under the challenging international landscape as he marches towards domestic reforms and development tasks. The publishers issued that: "Its publication is of great significance in helping CPC members, officials and the public further understand and apply Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, and in enabling the international community to stay informed of the thought's latest developments and work together in building a community with a shared future for humanity." ("Fifth volume of 'Xi Jinping: The Governance of China' published," *Global Times*, 30 July 2025)

Shaolin Temple Abbot "CEO monk" disrobed over embezzlement charges, reports The Straits Times

On 28 July, *The Straits Times* reported that the head of the Chinese Shaolin Temple was disrobed for bad behavior and embezzlement. The revered temple known as the birthplace of Kung Fu was founded in AD 495. The current Abbot Shi Yongxin, also called the "CEO monk," was accused of establishing companies abroad and was found embezzling project funds and temple assets. He is also accused of violating Buddhist precepts have engaging in "improper relationships" with multiple women. It is reported that multiple departments in China were investigating him. Buddhist Association of China, which comes under the Communist Party of China, informed that they are cancelling Shi's ordination and said: "Shi Yongxin's actions are of an extremely bad nature, seriously undermining the reputation of the Buddhist community, hurting the image of monks." The issue that their association agrees to deal with is Shi's actions following the law. Shi was accused by former monks of embezzling money through his temple-run company, and that he maintained a fleet of luxury cars and even fathered many children with multiple women. Shi in 2025 was called vicious libel by the temple; he is now 59 and took office in 1999. He was responsible for setting up temple run companies in China's Henan province, which

also received backlash against the commercialization of Buddhism. The temple is known as the birthplace of Zen Buddhism and Chinese gongfu. Shi was first elected as the vice chairman of the Buddhist Association of China in 2002, and he also served as a representative in the National People's Congress. ("Head of China's Shaolin Temple removed over embezzlement claims," *The Straits Times*, 28 July 2025)

Flood warning in 11 provinces with two dead and two missing, informed China's Ministry of Water Resources

On 28 July, CGTN reported that China's Ministry of Water Resources has activated the level-IV emergency in light of the flooding in Beijing. Since 24 July, China's Chaobai River has been hit with heavy torrential rainfall. The Miyun Reservoir recorded the largest inflow of flood since the reservoir was built over six decades. The ministry called for the local authorities to strengthen the monitoring and forecasting system and to promptly issue early warnings. They also suggest preventing flooding in small to medium-sized rivers and to also relocate the individuals from dangerous areas. In the event of flooding, two people have died and two are missing in Hebei province. The ministry has issued a flood warning in 11 provinces and regions. It is estimated that more than 3,000 were transferred from the area after Miyun district was marred by floods and landslides. ("China activates emergency response for flood control in Beijing," *CGTN*, 28 July 2025; "Flooding rain in China's north leaves two people dead and displaces thousands," *The Guardian*, 27 July 2025)

China launches dedicated train services to supply cotton from the Xinjiang region

On 21 July, Xinhua reported on China launching its dedicated cotton yarn train services from China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. This was informed by China's Railway Urumqi Group Co., and the Xinjiang region is the biggest producer of high-quality cotton. Two fixed routes have been launched for the transportation of cotton textiles from the southern part of Xinjiang linking to Asu and the Yangtze River Delta, and the other connecting Aksu with the Pearl River Delta in the South. The dedicated trains from the northern part of Xinjiang are expected to cut transportation time from 14 days to 6 days. ("Cotton yarn train services cut logistics costs in China's Xinjiang," *Xinhua*, 21 July 2025)

China's military issues guidelines for cadres in light of anti-corruption probes, reports SCMP

On 21 July, *SCMP* reported that China's Central Military Commission (CMC) issued a new set of regulations for political officers aimed at curbing corruption. The provision aims to strengthen political loyalty and put emphasis on the officials acting with fairness and integrity in personal matters. A commentary was also issued, said: "clear political red lines, boundaries on the exercise of power and limits on social interactions", and "represented a solemn commitment to the entire military," were established. The full text or the actual rules are not made public. This comes in light of the anti-corruption purge, where more than a dozen PLA generals, the defense minister, and tech giants have come under scrutiny against corruption accusations. *PLA Daily* issued: "regulations on vigorously promoting fine traditions, fully eliminating toxic influences, and rebuilding the image and authority of political cadres," and that the cadres should "take the lead in building credibility, and strictly eliminate malpractice." The commentary said: "building a politically loyal, combat-focused, and well-disciplined political workforce requires a spirit of thorough self-reform to confront deep-rooted problems and eliminate factors that harm the [PLA's] image and authority." ("Eliminate toxic influences': China's military issues new political guidelines in wake of corruption wave," *SCMP*, 21 July 2025)

Chinese authorities warn comedian against inciting gender wars, reports The Straits Times

On 22 July, *The Straits Times* reported that Chinese officials warned Comedians in China against creating gender discord, and to not encourage the battle of the sexes for the sake of being funny. The statement was made by Zhejiang's publicity department after a comedian gave details of her abusive marriage in a performance in China. The department stated that comedy shows are becoming battlefields on gender issues, bringing opposition between men and women. The department suggests that the comedian "Instead of mocking 'blindly confident men' it is better to explore the social causes for this mentality," and that "Instead of blindly ridiculing 'materialistic women', it is better to reflect on how consumerism shapes gender roles." ("Chinese authorities warn comedians against provoking 'gender opposition'," *The Straits Times*, 22 July 2025)

China launches Yarlung Tsangpo mega dam project in Tibet with 300 billion kWh annual capacity

On 20 July, China's Premier Li Qiang launched the mega projects to be made on the Tibetan Plateau, aimed to be the world's largest hydroelectric facility. The project is located in the lower regions of Yarlung Tsangpo River, the location of the same have raised concerns regarding the water supply of lower riparian countries, and the ecological impact on the downstream countries India and Bangladesh. The ceremony was held in the Nyingchi region of Tibet. The Yarlung Tsangpo River becomes the Brahmaputra River as it leaves Tibet, and it flows to India's Arunachal Pradesh. The initiative was first announced under China's 2020 five-year plan. The dam will create 300 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity, which will be three times more than the Gorges Dam. Additional concerns include, impact on water and food security for India and Bangladesh, and the weaponization of water by China, which they can use to cause floods or induce drought. China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said: "Rather, the project could help in disaster prevention and mitigation efforts, and support climate change adaptation in downstream regions." This has also encouraged India to speed up the building of its hydropower projects in the Brahmaputra, Arunachal Pradesh. ("China's Li Qiang announces launch of Tibet mega dam project that has worried India," *SCMP*, 19 July 2025)

Typhoon Wipha hits China after Hong Kong

On 20 July, Al-Jazeera reported that Typhoon Wipha made landfall in Taishan city in China's southern Guangdong province. It came to China after disrupting Hong Kong. Wipha is at the level of a severe tropical storm, with the maximum wind force of 30 meters per second. In Hong Kong, authorities lowered the Typhoon signal to 8 from the maximum 10. Much of the rain is concentrated in the mainland region. It is reported that 26 people have sought medical attention, 253 have flocked to the shelters, and 471 trees have fallen. China's Hainan and Guangdong provinces are kept on high alert. ("Typhoon Wipha makes landfall in southern China after battering Hong Kong," *Al Jazeera*, 20 July 2025)

China's loss of USD 9.6 billion to natural disasters in 2025

On 15 July, *The Straits Times* reported on the cost of natural disasters ravaging China in the first half of 2025. The direct economic loss is estimated to be USD 9.67 billion, which affected

more than 23 million. This year only there was an earthquake in Tibet, a landslide in the southwestern province, and flooding in the southern region. In which 23 million were affected and 307 died or are missing, 620,000 faced emergency evacuation, informed the Ministry of Emergency Management's spokesperson Shen Zhanli. It is also reported that 29,600 houses were destroyed and USD 2.19 million worth of crops sustained damage. The floods caused the most damage, which accounted for 90 per cent of this year's total loss of RMB 51 billion. ("China suffers \$9.6 billion in losses from natural disasters in first half of 2025," *The Straits Times*, 15 July 2025)

Over 13 million visa-free entries by foreign nationals in 2025, reports NIA

On 16 July, China's National Immigration Administration (NIA) informed that China processed 333 million border crossings in the first half of 2025, which is a 15.8 per cent year-on-year increase. The foreign nationals accounted for 38.053 million crossings. Out of this, 13.64 million foreign nationals used the visa-free policy, which accounted for 71.2 per cent of all foreign trips, this is a 53.9 per cent increase. In 2025, China announced its visa-free policy for countries from ASEAN for the 144-hour visa-free transit. NIA worked with authorities to facilitate payments, accommodation, and transportation of foreign nationals, boosting cross-border transit and travel. China's unilateral visa exemption has increased to 47 countries, and transit visa exemption has increased to 55 countries. ("China records 13.64m visa-free entries by foreign nationals in H1 2025, accounting for 71.2% of all foreign entries: NIA," *Global Times*, 16 July 2025)

Twelve Hong Kong activists appeal for landmark "The 47 Democrats" case

On 14 July, *Reuters* reported that under China's imposed national security law, twelve Hong Kong pro-democracy activists appealed their convictions and sentences in the high-profile 47-democrats subversion case. Prosecutors labeled the case a conspiracy to undermine the government, and the origin of the case stems from the unofficial 2020 primary election organized by pro-democracy figures. The case has drawn international criticism due to such an action. Out of 16 who have pleaded not guilty, 11 are now appealing their 7- to 10-year sentences. The one who pleaded guilty is also challenging her sentence. The government is also expected to appeal the acquittal of barrister Lawrence Lau. There was a high level of security outside

the court with foreign diplomats in attendance and around 100 citizens queuing in support. The appeals are expected to last at least 10 days. While the officials of China and Hong Kong maintain the judiciary's independence and fairness of trials, the US and other international actors condemned the proceedings as politically motivated. ("Twelve Hong Kong activists appeal convictions in landmark '47 democrats' case", *Reuters*, 14 July 2025)

China dismantles 300 dams and hydropower stations to revive the Yangtze River **On 11 July, SCMP reported**

that China demolished 300 dams and shut down most of its hydropower stations in the Yangtze River. The aim of which was to protect the fish population as part of their efforts to restore the ecology of the river. 300 of the 357 dams were dismantled, located in the Chishui He "Red River." Additionally, 342 out of 373 small hydropower stations were also dismantled. This is aimed at enabling the growth of many fish species so that they can continue with their natural reproductive cycle. The Red River flows for over 400km through the provinces of Yunnan, Guizhou, and Sichuan. The construction of dams has blocked water flow due to hydropower stations, restricting water volumes to the downstream area. Tsinghua University's Professor Zhou Jianjun said: "The key is not whether the facilities still exist, but that, after power generation stops, the method of water control can be changed to meet ecological needs." ("China blows up 300 dams, shuts hydropower stations to save Yangtze River habitat", *SCMP*, 11 July 2025)

China commemorates the 88th anniversary of resistance against Japanese invasion

On 07 July, China's President Xi Jinping paid tribute to the martyrs of the Japanese aggression. The tribute was paid at the Monument Square honoring the martyrs of the Hundred-Regiment Campaign during the war against Japanese aggression. He also reviewed the history of the fight against the Japanese invaders. This marks the 88th anniversary of the resistance. A total of 600 people participated in the ceremony, including the descendants of the veterans of the war. The veteran of the war Liu Zhirong said: "The crimes committed by Japanese invaders in China are too numerous to be recorded, we shall never forget that." He also said: "They may have watched films and documentaries, but they should more firmly remember history, never forget national humiliation, work steadfastly, be loyal to the people and the revolution, participate in

building socialism, and first and foremost, make the people's lives better." ("China marks 88th anniversary of whole-nation resistance against Japanese aggression", *Global Times*, 07 July 2025)

Newnew Polar Bear ship captain in court over sea cable damage

On 04 July, *The Straits Times* reported that the Captain of the Hong Kong-registered container ship New New Polar Bear, Wan Wenguo, appeared in the Hong Kong court over allegations of damaging a sea cable in the Baltic Sea. The captain faces criminal charges for damaging a natural gas pipeline and submarine telecom cables linking Finland and Estonia on 8 October 2023. He also faces charges of breaching International maritime safety regulations, including the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea. The court assigned him a duty lawyer, and the case was adjourned until 26 September, as prosecutors are waiting for evidence from Finnish and Estonian authorities. ("Chinese captain in Baltic sea cable damage case appears in Hong Kong court", *The Straits Times*, 04 July 2025)

Beijing rejects the Dalai Lama's succession plan, citing tradition and law

On 02 July, *SCMP* reported that Beijing rejects the 14th Dalai Lama's succession plan, calling it a breach of China's tradition and law. Ahead of the Dalai Lama's 90th birthday, he declared that only the Gaden Phodrang Trust, in consultation with Buddhist leaders, has the authority to identify his reincarnation. China rejected the statement by asserting that the next Dalai Lama must be chosen through the historic 'golden urn' process and should be approved by the central government. The Deputy Director General of the China Tibetology Research Centre stated that reincarnation is not purely a religious matter, but is tied to national sovereignty and government authority. Analysts predict heightened friction, drawing parallels to the Panchen Lama controversy. The Dalai Lama has long been advocating for Tibetan cultural autonomy; meanwhile, China accuses him as a separatist. ("Beijing says Dalai Lama's succession plan breaks tradition, tensions expected to rise", *SCMP*, 02 July 2025)

China's President urges the youth federation to strengthen reforms and innovation

On 02 July, *CGTN* reported that China's President Xi Jinping urged youth and student federations to uphold the right political orientation, deepen reform and innovation, and strive for new

achievements under the party's leadership. On behalf of the Communist Party of China, Xi presented a congratulatory letter to the All-China Youth Federation and the All-China Student Federation for their proactive efforts over the past five years and urged young people to stay committed to national rejuvenation through Chinese modernization. He highlighted the importance of ideals, historical mission, and responsibility among young people. He urged Party Organizations to extend support to foster growth and success among youth. The congress meeting, convened under the leadership of senior party leaders, emphasized the need to fully implement Xi's vision for youth empowerment and shape plans for the next five years. (["Xi urges youth, students' federations to deepen reform and innovation for new achievements,"](#) CGTN, 02 July 2025)

China celebrates the 28th anniversary of Hong Kong's return, reports CGTN

On 01 July, *CGTN* reported that the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) celebrated its 28th anniversary of return to China with a flag-raising ceremony at Golden Bauhinia Square. The event was attended by top officials from the Central government and the People's Liberation Army, including Vice Chairman Leung Chun-ying, and the HKSAR Chief Executive John Lee. National and regional flags were raised with the Silver Band's rendition of 'Ode to Motherland'. The ceremony was followed by a grand reception hosted by the HKSAR government in the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. While addressing the reception, Chief Executive Lee reaffirmed the government's commitment to reforms, economic revival, and social development. He highlighted that Hong Kong's continued progress and innovation would ensure its global prominence as the "pearl of the Orient". (["Flag-raising ceremony, reception held to mark 28th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to motherland,"](#) *CGTN*, 01 July 2025)

China to revamp its functions and responsibilities for the top decision-making bodies, reports SCMP

On 30 June, *SCMP* reported that under the Central Committee, China's Communist Party is going to formalize boundaries and responsibilities of its powerful policy coordination groups. In a meeting chaired by President Xi Jinping, new rules were reviewed by the 24-member Politburo. The review aims to standardize the functions of Central Commissions and party leading groups to

prevent bureaucratic overreach, as these groups play a central role in areas like finance and Taiwan affairs in guiding national policy. These reforms seek to enhance efficiency, coordination, and accountability across state and party organs by ensuring that such groups focus on planning and oversight rather than direct policy implementation. Analysts note that this move is crucial for improving China's policy formulation and leadership system. (["New rules to set boundaries for China's top decision-making bodies,"](#) *SCMP*, 30 June 2025)

Beijing to host Military parade on 80th anniversary of World War II, reports SCMP

On 1 July, *SCMP* reported that China will celebrate the 80th anniversary of World War II by hosting a major military parade on 03 September. Though Taiwan is not the official theme, the People's Liberation Army is expected to showcase advanced military and weaponry, including fifth-generation jets, carrier-based aircraft, and intercontinental ballistic missiles, which are suspected to be tailored weapons for a Taiwan conflict scenario. China's President Xi Jinping is expected to use his speech as a tool to assert the one-China policy in defending the post-World War order. To highlight the historical ties, Beijing has invited Kuomintang veterans; in response, Taiwan's government has warned of penalties for those who engage with China. (["Beijing's military parade not focused on Taiwan, but its message will be,"](#) *SCMP*, 01 July 2025)

EXTERNAL

China has a military base in South China Sea capable of launching nuclear bombers, reports CSIS

On 30 July, *ABCNews* reported that China has built an island military base in the South China Sea, which is capable of launching nuclear bombers. The information was reported by the Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), noting China's rapid expansion across the region. The director of the Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative, Gregory Poling, informed that the base development was alarming for Australia and its allies in the region. Poling said: "They include: harbours, large runways, more than 72 fighter jet hangars across three big island bases, surface-to-air missile and anti-ship cruise missile emplacements, and a lot of radar, sensing and communications infrastructure." And noted that they are a result of the mass dredging and landfill in human history. The image reported

that they deployed two Chinese H6K nuclear-capable bombers on Woody Island, in the Paracel archipelago. (["Intelligence reveals scale of China's base-building in the South China Sea," ABCNews, 30 July 2025](#))

China's Foreign Minister calls for "orderly multipolar world" at the SCO meeting

On 16 July, *SCMP* reported on statements made by China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi at the SCO summit. He called for an "orderly multipolar world" to reform the global governance system. He said: "Hegemonism and power politics are going against the trend of the times, protectionism is surging, and regional conflicts are emerging one after another." Wang expressed that certain countries keep their own needs above others and the global society. SCO countries need to "stick to the right path," and that "advocate for an equal and orderly multipolar world, inclusive and beneficial economic globalisation, promote the common values of all humanity, safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of member states, and promote the construction of a more just and reasonable global governance system." China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs informed that all parties attending the SCO summit agreed to deepen cooperation and to oppose unilateralism. (["Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi urges SCO to work for more 'equal and orderly' world," SCMP, 16 July 2025](#))

China's Foreign Minister opposes the 2016 ruling on the South China Sea dispute by the Hague

On 12 July, Reuters reported on China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi reaffirming China's rejection of the 2016 South China Sea ruling. This was made on the eve of the ninth anniversary of the ruling, as the tensions in the South and East China Sea persist. Wang stated that the decision was "farce" and that the ruling first filed by the Philippines and meted out by the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague was "orchestrated and manipulated by external powers." He claimed that the purpose of the ruling was to destabilize the South China Sea for their benefit. Wang Yi noted that China is working towards maintaining stability in the region, while all attempts to stir trouble will ultimately fail. (["Wang Yi reiterates Beijing's rejection of South China Sea ruling," SCMP, 12 July 2025](#))

China accuses a foreign spy of plotting against Beijing, warns MSS

On 10 July, China's Ministry of State Security (MSS) informed that it had found three spy plots

against Chinese overseas workers. Where public servants were lured by foreign agents. MSS informed workers overseas to remain vigilant. The ministry informed that foreign spies have increased their activities in infiltrating and stealing Chinese data by targeting public officials. MSS said: "Individual officials have caused the damaging effects of leaking secrets due to a lack of belief, a weakened sense of discipline and a loosened awareness of rules... harming national security and interests." Prior to this, China accused the CIA of recruiting Chinese citizens. (["China says 3 foreign spy plots foiled, including 'honey trap' that relied on foreign agent's 'seductive beauty,'" CBSNews, 10 July 2025](#))

China's visa-free policy is open to 74 countries for 30 days

On 08 July, AP News reported that China has now opened 30-day visa-free entry for 74 countries, as a move to welcome tourism. The provision comes in light of China trying to increase its visa-free entry as an economic soft power. In 2024, more than 20 million foreign visitors entered China without a visa, representing a one-third increase from the previous year, according to reports from the National Immigration Administration. After lifting the COVID-19 restrictions, China reopened its border. Some of the countries are almost all European countries, and five Latin American countries. The opening of visas is also aimed at opening business opportunities for sellers, opening up the Chinese market for the world, and allowing external sellers and importers to enter China. (["Citizens of more than 70 countries can now visit China without a visa," AP, 08 July 2025](#))

China's Premier Li calls the bloc to lead global governance at the 17th BRICS summit

On 07 July, *CGTN* reported that at the 17th BRICS summit held in Rio de Janeiro, China's Premier Li Qiang urged BRICS nations to lead the reform of global governance. While addressing the plenary session on "peace and security and the Reform of Global Governance", Li emphasized that BRICS should uphold multilateralism, peaceful conflict resolution, and serve as a stabilizing force amidst global uncertainties. Li also highlighted President Xi Jinping's vision on inclusive governance through "extensive consultation, joint contribution, and shared benefits. While emphasizing the need for civilizational inclusiveness and mutual learning, Li announced a China-BRICS research centre on productive forces and launched a scholarship program for talent development. BRICS leaders

reaffirmed their commitment to defending multilateralism, development rights, and international fairness amid rising unilateralism and protectionism. ("[Chinese premier urges BRICS to lead global governance reform](#)," *CGTN*, 07 July 2025)

Dalai Lama to announce his successor as China onlooks, reports Reuters

On 30 June, *Reuters* reported that the Dalai Lama is expected to reveal key details of his succession during a major three-day religious gathering in Dharamshala. He stated that his reincarnation is expected to be born outside China, likely in India, challenging Beijing's claims to control the selection process of his successor. China is trying to meddle in Tibetan religious traditions by insisting on appointing the successor and by labelling the Dalai Lama as a separatist. Tibetan officials emphasize that reincarnation is vital for preserving their distinct culture and spiritual legacy. Tibetan officials reiterated that a system is in place to ensure continuity even if China tries to meddle in Tibetan affairs. ("[Dalai Lama set to reveal succession plan as China watches](#)," *Reuters*, 30 June 2025)

ECONOMY

China's top leaders pledge to support their economy and regulate the market

On 30 July, top leaders from China pledged to support their economy as they face various risks by managing any kind of disorderly competition between companies, and that they will strengthen their capacity cuts in key industries. The leader affirmed that they will rein in price wars among Chinese producers and tackle deflation. The Politburo of China met and stated that for the second half of the year, China's policy will focus on foresight and flexibility, with an aim to stabilize employment, companies, and market expectations. The leader said: "The government is also more willing to take measures to battle deflationary pressure and overcapacity in the manufacturing sector. However, the stress has not pushed policymakers to commit to more immediate stimulus as they only keep the options open if needed." They also called to make more proactive fiscal policies and to loosen their monetary policy. ("[China's top leaders vow support for economy, crackdown on disorderly competition](#)," *The Straits Times*, 30 July 2025)

Evergrande delists from the Hong Kong and China market

On 30 July, *Reuters* reported that China's giant real-estate firm, the Evergrande Group, will be

removed from the Hong Kong exchange and will be delisted. The firm was unable to revamp its debt and is currently being pushed for liquidation as the property sector in China dies. The real estate sector, which was once the backbone of their economy, has been flailing as consumer demand falls. Evergrande was once China's top developer in 2009 after the liquidation orders from the court, failing to provide a restructuring plan for USD 23 billion in offshore debt. The firm was once valued at USD 51 billion, is now only USD 2.2 billion. Evergrande is not listed on China's stock markets anymore. ("[As Evergrande faces delisting, China property debt revamp drags on](#)," *Reuters*, 30 July 2025)

China's social welfare record level funding since 2007, reports The Straits Times

On 29 July, *The Straits Times* reported that the Chinese government is inclining towards spending more on social welfare, which was unseen for the last generations. As China is running on a budget deficit, it wants to boost consumption to cushion the blow from the US tariffs. China is investing in expenditure that covers employment and social security of USD 1.02 trillion. This is the highest China has spent on social welfare schemes since 2007, a 6.4 per cent rise from last year. Although China's President Xi Jinping has been against the welfarist scheme of handouts to families. In recent months, China has been ramping up government support for households. The goal is to increase domestic demand in light of the tariffs. ("[China social spending hits highest level in nearly two decades](#)," *The Straits Times*, 29 July 2025)

Consumer market is their economic engine, says China's Commerce Minister

On 18 July, China's Minister of Commerce, Wang Wentao, stated that China's consumer market has solidified its role as a major economic engine, with retail sales to expected to exceed USD 7 trillion in 2025. In the past four years, the total retail sales of consumer goods have increased by 5.5 per cent, which has helped China maintain its position as the world's second-largest consumer market. The Service consumption also increased by 46.1 per cent in household spending. From 2020-2024, the service sector consumption by reach 9.6 per cent. The Vice Commerce Minister Ling Ji said: "Foreign-funded enterprises now contribute one-third of China's total trade, one-quarter of its industrial value-added, and provide over 30 million jobs. High-tech industries accounted for 34.6 percent of FDI in 2024, up six percentage

points from 2020.” ([“China's consumer market strengthens as a key economic driver,” CGTN](#), 18 July 2025)

China's GDP increased by 5.3 per cent in the first half of 2025, reports NBS

On 15 July, China's economy increased by 5.3 per cent in the first half of 2025. This is a year-on-year increase from the last year. The rise showcases growth under global uncertainty and domestic pressure, stated the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). It is estimated that the country's GDP is at USD 9.2 trillion from January-June 2025. The first quarter saw 5.4 per cent growth in GDP, while the second quarter grew by 5.2 per cent. NBS expressed that China's economy has been able to withstand global pressure, it has been able to overcome challenges and has maintained overall stability despite the ongoing pressure from outside. In terms of numbers, Fixed-Asset investment increased by 2.8 per cent, foreign trade remained stable, with total imports and exports increasing by 2.9 per cent. The growth is foreign trade is attributed to private enterprises. China's General Administration of Customs, Vice Minister Wang Lingjun, said: “As of the second quarter of this year, China's private enterprises had achieved year-on-year growth in imports and exports for 21 consecutive quarters.” Industrial output rose by 6.4 per cent. Retail sales climbed by 5.0 per cent, unemployment rate went down by 0.1 per cent. ([“China's GDP expands 5.3% in H1 2025, showing signs of steady recovery,” CGTN](#), 15 July 2025)

China's foreign trade rises 2.9 percent in the first half of 2025, reports CGTN

On 14 July, *CGTN* reported that according to the General Administration of Customs, China's total goods trade grew 2.9 Percent in the first half of 2025 and reached 21.79 trillion Yuan. The main reason for such rapid growth is driven by a 7.2 percent rise in exports, which reflects sustained global demand for Chinese products. While the export demand increased, the domestic import demand decreased by 2.7 percent, indicating weaker domestic demand or lower commodity prices. The trade data shows that despite global economic uncertainties and geopolitical tensions, China's export sector continues to show resilience. The growth in the first half of 2025 highlights a shifting trade balance with trade surpluses playing a vital role in economic performance during the period. ([“China's foreign trade up 2.9% in first half of 2025,” CGTN](#), 14 July 2025)

China's Premier calls for an open economic world order at the 17th BRICS summit
On 07 July, China's Premier Li Qiang called for a commitment to build an open economic world order and opposed unilateralism and protectionism. He made these remarks during the 17th BRICS summit, as he called for the need to maintain stability and smoothness in the industrial supply chains. He also expressed his views on multilateralism, AI, and climate change. Li said: “The current international economic and trade order, along with the multilateral trading system, is facing severe challenges, and the global economic recovery remains arduous. Greater BRICS cooperation must stay true to its founding purpose, meet the needs of the times, uphold and practice multilateralism, promote the establishment of a fair and open international economic and trade order, join forces in the Global South, and make greater contributions to global stability and development.” ([“Chinese premier calls for commitment to building open world economy,” CGTN](#), 08 July 2025)

China plans to curb solar panel oversupply amidst industry struggle, reports SCMP

On 04 July, *SCMP* reported that China ensured to control oversupply and chaotic low-price competition in its dominant solar photovoltaic industry. Industry Minister Li Lecheng highlighted the need to enforce regulations, improve product quality, and phase out outdated capacity to ensure sustainable growth. The action is the result of President Xi Jinping's recent directive to tackle the overcapacity of the industry. China's Solar Photovoltaic industry faces internal strain despite its global leadership, holding over 80 percent of the market share in all PV manufacturing stages. Industries highlight challenges in production, innovation, and heavy competition. The new policy support would signal a firmer resolution, unlike the previous attempts, which have faltered. ([“As China vows once again to tackle solar panel oversupply, will this time be different?” SCMP](#), 04 July 2025)

Yuan to grow stronger against the US dollar, reports SCMP

On 01 July, *SCMP* reported that China is showcasing a stronger-than-expected domestic economic rise amidst US debt uncertainties. The People's Bank of China set its daily reference rate at 7.1534, which is the strongest since November. The total gain of the Yuan rose to 1.86 percent. Goldman Sachs stated that the Yuan can reach 6.9 Percent in a year, and it could break the 7 percent dollar barrier.

Investors expressed concerns over US fiscal policy and the rising borrowing costs of the dollar. Citic Securities highlights the low volatility of the Yuan, with its future depending upon Domestic consumption and bilateral trade negotiations. ([“Why China’s yuan is forecast to extend gains against the US dollar through 2025,” SCMP, 01 July 2025](#))

DEFENSE

China's Type 815 A ships are pivotal for PLA's reconnaissance maritime efforts, reports SCMP

On 30 July, SCMP reported on China’s Type 815A spy ships and how it has become pivotal in the PLA’s naval operations and intelligence gathering. The vessel has now become crucial in China’s maritime efforts. The Chinese spy ship with China’s Coast Guard Zhaojun-class cutter 4203 with their PLA Navy Type 052D guided missile destroyer Guilin, conducted intelligence gathering during the US-Philippines Thunder aerial exercises. Japan’s Ministry of Defense spotted China’s 815A spy ships near the southwestern islands. The spy ship was developed in the late 1990s, and the Type 815 is the third-generation electronic reconnaissance vessel. ([“From seas to space: China’s Type 815A spy ships are keeping PLA Navy informed and ready,” SCMP, 30 July 2025](#))

China conducts test exercise for drone technology in border control, reports SCMP On 22 July, SCMP reported

on China demonstrating full-spectrum use of uncrewed systems for drones. They simulated a drone and counter-drone exercise in Mongolia. Many domestically made systems were installed for live operations over six phases of a futuristic battle scenario with reconnaissance, AI planning, infiltration, aerial attack, and elimination. Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) have the capacity for surveillance, long-range and short-range loitering munitions, and tactical first-person view. OW-5 anti-drone laser weapon also carried out a live fire demonstration. ([“China showcases full spectrum of drone technology in ‘border control’ exercise,” SCMP, 22 July 2025](#))

China’s military reveals J-20 fighter jets

On 04 July, SCMP reported that new images of China’s J-20 A stealth fighter jet are circulating on China’s social media platforms and sparked speculations of its public debut in the 3rd military parade in Beijing as part of the 80th anniversary of the World War II victory. These photos, alongside those of the J-35, reveal a J-20A prototype with significant upgrades. The

most notable military enhancement is the integration of domestically developed WS-15 turbofan engines. These engines are expected to enable supercruise at Mach 1.8 and a top speed of Mach 2.5-2.8 with a combat radius of more than 2,000 kilometers, placing the J-20 on par with advanced US stealth fighters. Other military upgrades include an enlarged spine for additional fuel and a new AESA radar with an increased detection range. China is also developing a two-seat J-20 variant for specialized missions like electronic warfare and drone control. ([“Photos of China’s J-20A stealth fighter spark speculation about military parade debut,” SCMP, 04 July 2025](#))

China unveils its jet-powered Ekranoplan, the “Bohai Sea Monster”

On 30 June, *Naval News* reported that China has built a new large jet-powered Ekranoplan, the ‘Bohai Sea Monster’, which marks one of its most ambitious projects. Ekranoplans or Wing-in-Ground effect vehicles fly just above water and are expected to combine the features of ships, airplanes, and hovercraft. This aircraft is known for its stealthy, high-speed, low-altitude transport, which was once dominated by soviet engineering. The new model created by China has four jet engines, a flying boat hull, and a twin tail configuration, which could have a military purpose, possibly for Island resupply or amphibious operations. This development underscores the growing influence in naval and air operations to achieve its strategic goals. ([“China Builds New Large Jet-Powered Ekranoplan,” Naval News, 30 June 2025](#))

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Floods in China kill 30, 80,000 people evacuated, reports BBC

On 29 July, the BBC reported that 30 people had died in China, and that more than 80,000 people had evacuated for safety after floods ravaged the northern part of China. It is reckoned that eight people have died in a landslide incident in Chengde city. China is experiencing record rains as floods sweep the countries southwest. China’s President Xi Jinping has called for an “all-out” rescue effort as called on the authorities to prepare for the worst. Xi said: “No effort should be spared to search for and rescue those missing or trapped, to transfer and resettle residents in affected areas, and to reduce casualties to the greatest extent possible.” China has allocated USD 28 million for recovery efforts and the rebuilding of transportation and other infrastructure. The floods have damaged dozens of roads and even disrupted the power supply of more than 130 villages. ([“Beijing floods kill 30](#)

as China sees summer of extreme weather," BBC, 30 July 2025)

China's High Energy Photon Source to conduct its trial run, reports CGTN

On 24 July, CGTN reported that China's High Energy Photon Source (HEPS), its synchrotron radiation facility, will begin its trial operations by the end of 2025. This is China's flagship project, aimed at becoming the fourth-generation synchrotron radiation facility. HEPS will become the research platform for material sciences, chemical engineering, biomedicine, and other fields. The facility will be a super-powered "X-ray microscope" to see the micro world. Once completed, HEPS will accommodate 90 beamlines, with 45 to be completed by 2030. ("China's High Energy Photon Source targets trial run by end of 2025," CGTN, 24 July 2025)

China to install the world's largest Hydropower station in Tibet

On 03 July, SCMP reported that China is set to install the world's largest impulse turbine at the Datang Zala Hydropower Station in Tibet. The impulse turbine developed by Harbin Electric Machinery Company has a 500-megawatt turbine which weighs 80 tonnes and features 21 buckets with a 6.23-meter diameter and is made from durable martensitic steel. The turbine can increase energy conversion efficiency from 91 Percent to 92.6 Percent, generating about 190,000 extra kilowatt-hours per day. Two such turbines will power the station, and it will produce four billion kilowatt-hours annually, cutting carbon emissions by 3.4 million tonnes. The project is expected to be completed in 2028, and it aligns with China's carbon neutrality goal of 2060. This will help China to continue to be the leader of hydropower development, as per the International Hydropower Association. ("China rolls out record-setting turbine for Tibet hydropower plant," SCMP, 03 July 2025)

China completed its first methanol refueling of a diesel-powered vessel, reports CGTN

On 03 July, CGTN reported that at Yangpu Port, China completed its first methanol refueling of a diesel-powered vessel, marking a major milestone in its green shipping transition. China BlueChemical Ltd produced 200 tonnes of green methanol using biogas from urban kitchen waste, animal manure, and other organic materials. This action is expected to cut carbon dioxide emissions by 325 tonnes, which is the equivalent of planting more than 19,000 trees. Head of China Bluechem's green working group, Wu Hongsheng, stated that this achievement marks a significant step in

shifting China's Maritime industry towards more cleaner and sustainable energy industry. ("China's 1st green methanol injection completed on diesel-fueled vessel," CGTN, 03 July 2025)

China's satellite study reports global underreporting of coal emissions, reports SCMP

On 01 July, SCMP reported that China's scientists, led by China's Academy of Sciences, mapped emissions from 14 major coal-fired plants across China, the US, South Africa, Indonesia, and Poland using high-precision satellite data from NASA's OCO-3 instrument aboard the International Space Station. Scientists reported that global coal power plants are emitting significantly more carbon dioxide than previously reported and also discovered substantial underestimations in widely used databases. To overcome prior setbacks like background interference and wind distortion, the scientific team used an optimized plume modelling algorithm. The study highlighted Satellite monitoring as an essential tool for shaping climate policies and carbon trading. ("Chinese scientists uncover coal power's dirty secret in satellite data study," SCMP, 01 July 2025)

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Chinese UAV drones carry construction material to the mountains, reports SCMP

On 24 July, SCMP reported on Chinese advanced civilian drone technology, which was able to lift heavy construction materials with its unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) to the mountains. This was part of the solar power project in the Xichou county of Yunnan province. The 16 drones conducted precision flights delivering steel and concrete to build electricity transmission towers. These drones had auto-preset routes without any manual operation to conduct their serial courier delivery. Yunan Power Grid Corporation's Senior Manager, Wang Fangmin, stated that each drone would transport a single load of 420kg to a distance of 1.3km. They also did not have to build roads, which meant there was zero ecological disruption. This saved around 2000 trees and prevented damage to the fragile Karst landscape. ("Chinese drones carry 180 tonnes of steel and concrete up mountain in pioneering feat," SCMP, 24 July 2025)

3rd China International Supply Chain Expo held by the CCPIT

On 16 July, CGTN reported that China is holding its 3rd China International Supply Chain Expo (CISCE) from 16-20 July by the China Council for

Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT). The theme for this year's events is "Connecting the World for a Shared Future." They will focus on six major supply chains: Advanced Manufacturing, Clean Energy, Smart Vehicles, Digital Technology, Healthy Living, and Green Agriculture, as well as a Supply Chain Service area. A total of 651 companies and 75 countries attended the event. The CEO of Nvidia, Jensen Huang, is also visiting from the US. Over 1,100 representatives from more than 100 countries and regions attended the opening ceremony. The meeting calls for global business community building, stability of industrial supply chain, supporting the multilateral trading system, and fostering an open and cooperative international environment. ("[The 3rd China International Supply Chain Expo: A leap towards global industrial sustainability](#)," *CGTN*, 16 July 2025)

Of the top 100 AI experts, over half come from China, reports SCMP

On 07 July, SCMP reported on a paper by high-impact researchers who revealed that the world's top 100 brains on AI are of Chinese origin. The list was compiled for the UN Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO). The research found that 50 of the top 100 AI experts either work in Chinese research institutes or are part of Chinese firms. Another 20 work in the US but are of Chinese origin. These Chinese experts are highly sought after by Nvidia and Meta head headhunting them for their AI development. The number of AI researchers in China grew from fewer than 10,000 in 2015 to 52,000 last year, representing a compound annual growth rate of 28.7 per cent. ("[Meet some of the Chinese AI scientists dominating the field's global top 100](#)," *SCMP*, 07 July 2025)

China unveils indigenous deep-sea robotic arm for oil and gas exploration, reports CGTN

On 07 July, *CGTN* reported that China introduced its first indigenous seven-function deep-sea robotic arm, marking a significant milestone in underwater technology. The reported arm was deployed in the Pearl River mouth basin, which performed precision tasks such as valve operations and equipment installations in strong ocean currents and can operate at depths of up to 7,000 meters. The 60 kg device, when fully extended, can carry a payload up to 125 kg and is 35 per cent lighter and 40 per cent cheaper than the global counterparts. The new robotic innovation, capable of extending, retracting, swinging, rotating, opening, grasping, and clamping, enhances China's capabilities in

offshore oil and gas exploration. ("[China unveils homegrown deep-sea robotic arm with seven functions](#)," *CGTN*, 07 July 2025)

Xiaomi to start EV exports from 2027, says CEO

On 03 July, *Reuters* reported the announcement of Xiaomi CEO Lei Jun that Xiaomi is expected to export its electric vehicles from 2027 onwards. Currently, Xiaomi is concentrating on the domestic market, where the demand for the electric SU7 sedan and the newly launched YU7 SUV has surged. The SUV outsold Tesla's EV Model 3, and the YU7 received huge pre-orders within just 18 hours of release. This high demand has led to long waiting times, prompting customer frustration. When many commentators enquired about production ramp-up plans, Lei simply responded, "We will strive to ramp up capacity" without giving further clarity or explanation. ("[Xiaomi to consider selling cars outside China from 2027](#)," *Reuters*, 03 July 2025)

Xiaomi's new EV sells 300,000 SUVs in an hour, reports ABC News

On 30 June, *ABC News* reported that China's tech giant Xiaomi received 289,000 pre-orders for its YU7 SUV within an hour of the launch of the electric vehicle. Founder Lei Jun exclaimed the launch as a miracle by stating that about 196,000 paid pre-orders in just two minutes. This is considered a stunning record-high entry of Xiaomi's EV into the market. The launch highlights China's extensive push to dominate the EV industry, which is backed by government incentives and Xiaomi's ten billion investment. Experts highlight that though Xiaomi adds competition in the market, the future success of the EV will depend on production, safety, and global expansion, and it may not immediately threaten EV giants like Tesla and BYD. ("[China's EV newcomer Xiaomi sells nearly 300,000 SUVs in an hour](#)," *ABC News*, 30 June 2025)

NUCLEAR

China tests its first commercial fast reactor, "CFR1000"

On 22 July, China's Nuclear Cooperation (CNNC) announced that they have finished the preliminary design for the country's first fourth-generation 1-million-kilowatt commercial fast reactor "CFR1000." This was announced during the symposium on advanced nuclear energy development held in Fujian province. CNNC's Deputy Chief Engineer, Zheng Yanguo, said: "The CFR1000, with an installed capacity of 1.2 million kilowatts, demonstrates full alignment with the requirements of fourth-generation

technology for enhanced safety, sustainability, and economic performance.” The fast reactor will be relevant and advantageous for fuel utilization. The CFR1000 is seen as a step towards energy security, promoting green and low-carbon development. ([“China completes preliminary design of 4th-generation commercial fast reactor,” CGTN, 24 July 2025](#))

NHSA reports a 95 per cent rise in health insurance coverage

On 24 July, China’s National Healthcare Security Administration (NHSA) announced that the national basic insurance coverage rate has been stable. In 2024, the total enrollment reached 1.327 billion people. They also informed of the improvements in the insurance system and noted that medical aides were subsidizing premiums for 80 million people annually. The inpatient expense reimbursement rate to 80 per cent for employees and 70 per cent for residents. The long-term care insurance now covers 190 million people. China’s national pooled insurance fund had a cumulative balance of USD 539.1 billion in 2024. They also issued a unified national drug catalog with now lists 3,159 medicines covered in the healthcare plans. ([“China achieves 95% health insurance coverage rate under 14th Five-Year Plan,” CGTN, 24 July 2025](#))

SECURITY

Foreign agents “stealing” rare earths through postal services, informs the Ministry of State Security

On 18 July, China’s Ministry of State Security informed that foreign agents have been stealing through China’s postal services to take rare earths. The security agency reported on this crime as they are cracking down on the smuggling channel. The ministry claimed that an unnamed country that cannot produce its own rare earths has been stealing minerals. The ministry informed that they found foreign contracts and receipts of shipping the material packed in fake labels, with false product names, through express delivery packages. The ministry also informed that they were routed through intermediary countries before reaching the final destination. They were also stashed between mannequins or mixed in with ceramic tile material. The ministry said: “Rare earth-related items are a strategic national resource and can be applied to military and civilian use.” ([“China exposes foreign spy tactics to steal rare earths by post,” SCMP, 18 July 2025](#))

MARITIME

China launches new generation “Type076”

amphibious assault ship, reports *SCMP*
On 17 July, *SCMP* reported on China’s new generation “Type 076” assault ship featuring an advanced electromagnetic catapult launch system. This is China’s latest amphibious warship that is capable of sea-to-land assaults. The flat top part of the vessel will work as a fleet command that will control drones, helicopters, fighters, and landing crafts. Currently, the vessel is undergoing equipment testing, mooring, and sea trials. China is the second country, after the US, to deploy electromagnetic aircraft systems (EMALS), and it is the first time that this has been attached to an assault ship. ([“China’s new Type 076 Sichuan is a next-level amphibious assault ship,” SCMP, 17 July 2025](#))

China launches its first intelligent Oceanographic vessel “Tongji”

On 13 July, *SCMP* reported that China marked a major advancement in maritime science and education by officially delivering China’s first intelligent oceanographic research vessel, Tongji, in Shanghai. The vessel, designed and constructed in China, is 82 meters long and 15 meters wide and can accommodate 15 crew and 30 researchers with a range of 8000 nautical miles. The vessel was built by CSSC Huangpu Wenchang for Tongji University; the 2,000-ton vessel integrates marine geology, chemistry, biology, education, and engineering functions. For real-time coordination across sea, air, and underwater domains, the vessel has features like autonomous navigation, modular labs, and an integrated communication system. The vessel is expected to be optimized for space and energy efficiency with a 460-metre square deck, 320-metre square lab space, and facilities for living, fitness, and meetings. Tongji serves as a floating offshore campus, which highlights China’s capabilities in the Marine arena. ([“China’s first intelligent oceanographic research vessel Tongji delivered in Shanghai,” SCMP, 13 July 2025](#))

China’s LNG carrier “Yuan Hai Kou” completes maiden voyage

On 05 July, *SCMP* reported the successful completion of China’s “Yuan Hai Kou’s” maiden voyage to Greece’s Piraeus Port, which delivered 4,000 Chinese vehicles. Yuan Hai Kou is a large Photovoltaic (PV) and liquefied natural gas (LNG) dual-fuel car carrier. This vessel, operated by China’s COSCO shipping, incorporates advanced green technologies, which include one of the largest solar systems and an LNG dual-fuel engine. These innovations can reduce the ship’s carbon footprint by 35 percent over its lifecycle, with the dual-fuel engine alone cutting energy consumption by 20 Percent and carbon

emissions by over 24 percent. The Yuan Hai Kou has the capability to transport up to 7,000 cars across 12 decks. This achievement marks a milestone in COSCO Shipping's green and clean energy transformation and strengthens China's logistics channels. (["China's large PV, LNG dual-fuel car carrier vessel completes maiden voyage," SCMP, 05 July 2025](#))

China launches its first domestically built aircraft carrier, "Shandong"

On 03 July, *Reuters* reported that China's first domestically built aircraft carrier, Shandong, arrived in Hong Kong for a five-day visit. The event coincided with the 28th anniversary of Hong Kong's return from British rule and was seen as a showdown of China's military prowess. The aircraft was accompanied by three People's Liberation Army vessels, including missile destroyers, the 315-meter-long, 70,000-tonne Shandong showcased J-15 fighter jets and Z-18 helicopters. The arrival of Shandong highlights China's expanding maritime ambitions. The tradition of Hong Kong hosting advanced warships dates back to the 1990's and the spectators gathered around the shoreline to witness the new warship, Shandong, and compare it with previous US naval warships. (["China aircraft carrier 'Shandong' draws crowds in first Hong Kong visit," Reuters, 03 July 2025](#))

China launches UN-backed deep-sea exploration project

On 30 June, *SCMP* reported that China marks its rise as a maritime science power as it secured the approval of the UN for the Global Hadal Exploration Programme (GHEP). The project is part of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021-30 and focuses on studying the hadal Zone, Earth's deepest ocean trenches. The project brings together over ten countries for joint research on marine life, geological processes, carbon cycling, and human impacts. China can support this mission by using its submersibles, which are capable of diving up to 10,000 meters. Experts stated that GHEP enhances China's leadership in global governance. (["China steps up deep-sea science role with UN-backed oceans exploration project," SCMP, 30 June 2025](#))

OUTERSPACE

Tianzhou-9 successfully reaches orbit of Tiangong space station

On 15 July, China's Tianzhou-9 spacecraft launched its cargo to deliver supplies for the orbiting Tiangong space station, informed China's Manned Space Agency. The Long March-

7 Y10 rocket, carrying Tianzhou-9, launched from the Wenchang Spacecraft Launch site, on the southern island of Hainan. After some time, the spacecraft Tianzhou-9 separated from the rocket and was able to reach its designated orbit. The launch was deemed successful. The spacecraft docked at the port of Tianhe of the space station. The Shenzhou-20 crew members will unload the cargo. The essential supplies were 6.5 tons, which included consumables and equipment. A brain organoid chip is also sent to study the brain changes in space. (["China Focus: China launches Tianzhou-9 cargo craft to send space station supplies," Xinhua, 15 July 2025](#))

China's Shijian satellites to dock at geostationary orbit, reports SCMP

On 13 July, *SCMP* reported that according to US-based COMSPOC, China has likely struck a historic achievement with two of its satellites, Shijian-21 and Shijian-25, appearing to dock in geostationary orbit for an autonomous refuelling mission. The observations between 02 July and 06 July indicated that the satellites have visually merged, and it is expected to be a successful proximity operation. Shijian -25, which was launched in 2025, is designed to test on-orbit refuelling, and Shijian -21, launched in 2021 was designed for Space debris mitigation. Optical tracking by Swiss firm S2a Systems also confirmed the proximity of the space mission. This special event at 35,786 kilometres altitude demonstrates China's growing influence in satellite servicing. The mission aims to extend satellite lifespans and reduce space debris, but it also raises security concerns in the US due to potential dual-use military capabilities. (["China's Shijian satellite pair appears to dock in orbit for historic refuelling mission," SCMP, 13 July 2025](#))

China's "Tianzhou-9" was successfully transported to the launch site

On 12 July, China's Tianzhou-9 cargo craft was tasked with carrying supplies to the Chinese space station. Additionally, the Long March-7 carrier rocket, according to the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA). The cargo spacecraft will be launched shortly. The facilities and equipment at the Wenchang Spacecraft Launch are in the province of Hainan. The mission will see comprehensive functionality checks and joint tests planned ahead of the launch. (["China's Tianzhou-9 cargo craft transported to launch site," Global Times, 12 July 2025](#))

Chang'e-6 mission samples finding reveal by Chinese scientist, reports CGTN

On 10 July, CGTN reported on findings by Chinese scientists on the samples collected

from the Chang'e-6 mission of the far side of the moon. They found that there was volcanic activity in the magnetic field, water content in the sample. Research by the Institute of Geology and Geophysics (IGG), the National Astronomical Observatories, both under the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), Nanjing University, and other institutions was published in the Nature journal. In 2024, the Chang'e-6 mission made history by collecting samples from the far side of the moon. CAS academician, Wu Fuyuan said: "The SPA Basin is one of the moon's three major tectonic units, measuring approximately 2,500 kilometers in diameter. The energy from the impact that formed this crater is estimated to be 1 trillion times greater than that of an atomic bomb explosion. Yet, the exact influence of such a massive collision on the moon's evolution has remained an unsolved mystery." ("[China's Chang'e-6 samples unlock deep insights into moon's far side evolution](#)," *CGTN*, 10 July 2025)

China to conduct first-ever satellite-satellite refueling test, reports SCMP

On 02 July, *SCMP* stated that China is expected to conduct its first-ever satellite-satellite refueling test, marking a major milestone in space technology. Tracking data revealed that China's Shijian-21 and Shijian-25 satellites are operating in extremely close proximity in geostationary orbit, and it has the probability of docking and servicing soon. If this mission is successful, it would mark the world's first autonomous refueling operation at such an altitude. The Shijian-25 was launched in January 2025 and was tasked with testing on-orbit refueling and life-extension technologies using robotic arms. The Shijian-21 was launched in 2021 to remove space debris. The test, if successful, has the potential to reduce satellite maintenance costs and mitigate space debris. ("[China could be about to attempt a landmark satellite refuelling test](#)," *SCMP*, 02 July 2025)

CHINA & EAST ASIA

China's Defense Ministry accuses the DPP of forcing its people to be "cannon fodder"

On 30 July, China's Ministry of National Defense accused Taiwanese citizens of being cannon fodder and condemned the national drills near their island. The ministry stated that under the banner of protection, the citizens are destroying their country and that they are coercing their people to be cannon fodder, said the ministry spokesperson Zhang Xiaogang. They also noted that rather than just repelling Chinese attacks, Taiwanese troops are practicing fighting invading forces in their streets. They called the

"Han Kuang" military drills a mere show and said that this cannot change the inevitable demise of Taiwan's independence. The ministry accused the ruling party Democratic Progressive Party, of hatching this evil plan. They warned the DPP authorities of their unjust deeds that will bring destruction no matter what efforts they put in. Taiwan, on the same day, detected 33 stories of Chinese "auxiliary" warplanes, out of which 23 entered its airspace. ("[China accuses Taiwan of forcing its people to be 'cannon fodder'](#)," *The Straits Times*, 30 July 2025)

China condemns Japan's outer space defense plans, reports SCMP

On 30 July, the BBC reported that China condemned Japan's new space defence strategy, calling this a threat to security and stability. Japan unveiled its defence guidelines, where it noted that Chinese and Russian development of military capabilities in outer space is the reason by they are seeking to boost their defense plans in outer space in collaboration with the US and its allies. China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs made a statement that these Western countries have been expanding their military cooperation and have been using defense as a pretext to deploy weapons in outer space. The ministry spokesperson Gui Jiakun said: "These measures threaten the security and stability of outer space and trigger the concerns of neighbouring countries about a revival of militarism." The Japanese guidelines stated that China and Russia have been developing technologies that could jam and neutralize other countries' satellites with killed satellites and their proximity operations. ("[China says Japan's space defence guidelines 'threaten security and stability'](#)," *SCMP*, 30 July 2025)

China-Japan hold forum to boost people-to-people exchanges

On 27 July, 50 experts and scholars from 20 universities and research institutes in China and Japan gathered for a forum. The meeting aimed to boost people-to-people exchanges and foster a culture of understanding. The forum is organized by the China Foundation for Human Rights Development and the Japan-China Friendship Center. The meeting discussed high-quality development, modernization, social governance, China-Japan cooperation in global times, and the joint pursuit of peace and development. China Foundation for Human Rights Development's President Xie Fuzhan stressed the role of people-to-people ties and the need to build an objective understanding between the two countries. Japan's Ambassador

to China, Kenji Kanasugi, stated that the biggest challenge they face is to improve public sentiment towards each other. Japan-China Friendship Center's President Miyamoto Yuji said: "Amid profound global changes, pursuing peace and development has become a common imperative." ("Forum in Beijing aims to boost China-Japan people-to-people exchanges," *CGTN*, 27 July 2025)

Taiwanese citizens to vote to recall pro-China lawmakers, reports the BBC

On 25 July, an editorial in the BBC reported on factions in Taiwan on the campus of "pro-China and anti-China." Taiwan is seeing protests against the overt Chinese influence in the parliament. Taiwan is scheduled to hold votes to remove more than two dozen lawmakers accused of being close to China, called "Dabamian" or the Great Recall. The provision will shift the political balance in Taiwan, which has led to turmoil and political division on both sides. After the DPP leader was chosen as the President in the recent elections, the opposition KMT is accused of partnering with smaller parties is voting against the bills proposed by the majority party. In 2024, Taiwan saw major protests "BlueBird" movement against the pro-China movement, and suspicions were affirmed when KMT leaders visited China last year and met top-ranking CPC leaders. The petition calls to recall 31 lawmakers, and if successful, the DPP will become the majority party. Citizens in 24 districts will vote if they want to remove their legislator. ("How a vote targeting 'pro-China' lawmakers has split Taiwan," *BBC*, 25 July 2025)

Taiwan holds its largest civil-military exercises in light of Chinese invasion threats

On 17 July, air raid sirens were sounded in Taiwan as it held its largest-ever civil defense exercises. The air raid sirens were sounded across the metropolitan area, and in some areas, residents were asked to seek shelter. The city also plans to hold mass evacuation drills. The drills are held after Taiwan's largest ever war games, the annual Hun Kuang exercises. Last year, the annual exercises had civil defence components; this year, they have combined Urban Resilience exercises across the Island. Residents of the designated area in each city must shelter indoors, road traffic must stop, and all are required to head home. They will also hold mock mass casualty events, practice response in treating the injured. ("Sirens and evacuations as Taipei rehearses to counter China invasion threat," *BBC*, 17 July 2025)

Uptick in Chinese hacking against Taiwanese firms, reports Proofpoint

On 16 July, Proofpoint's research informed that Chinese-linked hacking attacks on the Taiwanese semiconductor industry and investments have increased. This is part of their cyber espionage campaigns. The firm stated that while hacking to steal data is not new but there has been an uptick in hacking campaigns by China against Taiwanese firms. The previous unreported hacking campaigns were carried out by Chinese-linked groups. The uptick is also seen amid restrictions by the US for the export of chips to China, as many US chips are made in Taiwan. ("China-linked hackers target Taiwan's chip industry with increasing attacks, researchers say," *The Straits Times*, 16 July 2025)

Japan cautions against China as a strategic challenge in the Indo-Pacific

On 15 July, Japan cautioned against China's activities in the Pacific as a strategic challenge as part of its annual military report by Japan's Ministry of Defence. They raised the warning that China's rapid expansion of military activities in the Pacific is alarming. They also cautioned against the joint operation between China and Russia, posing a serious security concern to Japan. Additionally, tension regarding Taiwan and threats from North Korea were also mentioned. The report stated that the international society is in a new era of crisis and that it faces new and the biggest challenge since WWII. They noted the significant changes in the global power balance between the US and China. Security threats in the Indo-Pacific can be worse in the future. In recent years, Japan has also increased its military presence in the southwestern islands by deploying long-distance cruise missiles. In the past three years, China's warships' use of the southwestern Japan passage has increased. Regardless of the warning, China has continued to fly oddly close to Japanese intelligence-gathering aircraft, which can also cause a collision, stated the report. The report said: "China's frequent dispatch of bombers for long-distance flights in the Pacific by more sophisticated flight routes and fleet organization is seen as Beijing's attempt to show off its presence around Japan and to further advance its operational capability." ("Japan warns of China's military moves as biggest strategic challenge," *Business Standard*, 15 July 2025)

China and Japan accuse each other after a series of tense air encounters, reports SCMP

On 13 July, *SCMP* reported that China and Japan

have traded sharp accusations after a series of tense air encounters over the East China Sea. Beijing accuses Japan's aircraft of repeated intrusions into its Air Defence Identification Zone, while Tokyo accuses China's JH-7 fighter of making unusual approaches towards a surveillance plane of Japan, risking accidental collision. Both countries blame each other for escalating tensions. China is asserting that its actions were lawful, and Japan is warning China about deteriorating airspace and maritime security. The friction adds to the existing strain over Taiwan, resource disputes, and trade restrictions. Japan's Foreign Minister Takeshi Iwaya raised concerns about China's Military drills and its recent restrictions on rare earth minerals. China's counterpart, on the other hand, extended a desire to stabilize ties, despite the frictions, and China's Vice-Premier He Lifeng is expected to visit Japan to promote a constructive bilateral relationship ahead of Expo 2025 Osaka. ("[China and Japan trade barbs after latest close encounter between warplanes](#)," *SCMP*, 13 July 2025)

China's coast guard's intrusion near Taiwan's Dongsha Island

On 12 July, Taiwan News reported that Taiwan's Coast Guard reported that Chinese military vessels were found near Dongsha Island, in the South China Sea. The two Chinese vessels disabled their automated identification systems to conceal their movements. The vessels wanted to take advantage of the ongoing Han Kuang military exercises. The Taiwanese Coast Guard was dispatched to confront the Chinese vessel, despite a warning to leave, the Chinese vessel remained. China regularly engages in maneuvering around Taiwan's waters. ("[Chinese coast guard incursions reported near Taiwan's Dongsha Island](#)," *Taiwan News*, 12 July 2025)

Youth representatives from China and Taiwan attend the annual cross-strait youth summit, reported CGTN

On 04 July, *CGTN* reported that the opening ceremony of the annual cross-strait youth summit was held in Beijing, drawing over 700 participants from all walks of life, along with youth representatives from both mainland China and the Taiwan Strait. The head of the Taiwan Work Office of the CPC Central Committee, Song Tao, highlighted the important role of the young generation in national rejuvenation, also encouraged them to oppose the Independence of Taiwan and foreign interference while actively engaging in cross-strait exchanges and integrated development. Former China's Kuomintang Party Chairman Ma

Ying-Jeou attended the summit virtually and emphasized increased interaction and mutual learning among youth to foster a bright future for China. The summit is expected to feature a series of forums and an exhibition focusing on Sci-tech and culturally integrated development. ("[Cross-Straits Youth Summit opens in Beijing](#)," *CGTN*, 04 July 2025)

CHINA & THE SOUTHEAST ASIA

China hosts peace talks between the Cambodian and Thai representatives

On 30 July, China hosted talks between the representatives from Thailand and Cambodia, aimed at restoring stability in the region after tensions flared between the two countries. The discussion was held in Shanghai, hosted by China's Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sun Weidong. He secured a commitment from both sides to abide by the ceasefire. China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson, Gui Jiakun, informed that the meeting was candid, friendly, and conducive. Guo added that China is working towards creating conditions for an early restoration of peace and stability. Guo said: "We stand ready to maintain close communication with Cambodia, Thailand, and Malaysia, and other regional countries to play a constructive role in cementing the ceasefire agreement and to restore regional peace and stability." The conflict between the two countries started after landmines exploded, wounding five Thai soldiers, after months of escalation. ("[China vows to continue Thailand-Cambodia peace efforts after 'informal' post-truce talks](#)," *SCMP*, 30 July 2025)

China's promise of a billion in aid to Philippines fizzles down, reports Lowey Institute

On 27 July, Lowey Institute reported that China pledged to give the Philippines a billion for development, now unfounded. Between 2015-2023, China pledged to give USD 30.5 billion in aid to the Philippines, but today only a fraction of the funding has arrived. Of the total pledged, only USD 700 million was disbursed, which is reckoned to be due to derailed projects and the change in political landscape and relations. The report found that while China promised the most to the Philippines among the Southeast Asian countries, it comes at the bottom when it comes to the actual disbursement. Compared to others, Indonesia has received USD 20.3 billion out of the pledged USD 20.7 billion for energy and transport projects. Most of what was pledged to the Philippines was under Rodrigo Duterte's regime, which fizzled under Ferdinand Marcos

Jnr's regime. (["China promised the Philippines billions in development aid. Why did it fall so short," SCMP, 25 July 2025](#))

China-Vietnam to conduct the first joint army drills, informs China's Defense Ministry

On 20 July, China's Ministry of National Defense reported that China and Vietnam will conduct their first joint army training exercise. The ministry announced that they will be held this month in southern China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, which borders Vietnam. The joint exercise comes in light of growing relations between the two countries as economic partners. The two have previously held joint naval and land border patrols. The future exercise will be the first where the armies of the two countries exchange. The ministry said: "This is the first joint army drill between China and Vietnam, with the theme of 'joint border patrol training.'" They added that this will further deepen the practical cooperation between the two militaries. This year also marks the 75th anniversary of diplomatic ties. This year, China's PLA was also part of Vietnam's annual celebration of the fall of Saigon. It marked 50 years since the end of Vietnam's civil war. (["China, Vietnam set for first joint army drills as US trade war draws neighbours closer," SCMP, 20 July 2025](#))

China's coal imports from Indonesia fell by 30 per cent in June, reports Energy World

On 20 July, Energy World reported that China's coal imports from Indonesia fell by 30 per cent in June, which is its largest supplier. This comes as the coal importers are now shifting away from coal to lower heat content. China imported 90.98 million tons of Indonesian coal, which came down by 21 per cent. There is also a global fall in coal prices, as high-quality coal has become more cost-competitive. This has hurt Indonesia's lower heat coal supply, and China has ramped up its domestic production and reduced overall import tonnage. China's coal imports from all sources fell to 33.04 million tons, which was down by 26 per cent, the lowest in two years. In the first half of 2025, China's total coal imports were down by 11 per cent. (["China's coal imports from Indonesia sink 30% in June," Energy World, 20 July 2025](#))

Chinese firms complicit in supplying bombs to Myanmar, finds SAC-M report

On 18 July, DW reported on the findings by the Special Advisory Council for Myanmar (SAC-M), which stated that Chinese-made bombs are widely used by Myanmar's Air Force against

attacks on civilians. The report titled "Factory of Death: China's Support for the Myanmar Military's Production of Aerial Bombs," found links between Chinese SOE China South and the weapons factory in Magway. The researchers used publicly available information, testimonials, official documents, and expert estimates. SAC-M report said: "China South and its subsidiary Hunan Vanguard have been 'essential to establishing the majority of the factory's current production lines.'"

The Chinese engineers across the border as also training the D1 21 factory staff in Magway, as well as supplying key components for the bombs. The report stated that Chinese firms are providing remote technical assistance to the production of bombs in Myanmar. A former UN special rapporteur, Yanghee Lee said: "China South is a state-owned company — it answers to the government of China. By providing aerial bombs and technical production assistance to the [Myanmar defense industry], China South is complicit in the junta's grave violations against civilians. China must immediately end all support for Myanmar's military arms manufacturing." (["Chinese firm helps supply Myanmar junta with bombs — report," DW, 18 July 2025](#))

Security advisory notice for Chinese students against studying in the Philippines, by the Ministry of Education

On 18 July, China's Ministry of Education issued an advisory warning against studying in the Philippines. The ministry issued that the security situation in the Philippines has been unstable, as there has been a surge in crimes against Chinese nationals. The ministry urged the students to carefully assess the security risks and to practice caution as they consider pursuing education in the Philippines. The statement was also issued by China's embassy in the Philippines, and they stated that the public security situation in the Philippines has been unstable. Incidents of local law enforcement harassing Chinese nationals and firms have increased. Both the embassy and the ministry urged the Chinese nationals to closely monitor local security developments and "strengthen personal safety precautions and emergency preparedness, minimize unnecessary outings, and avoid political gatherings and crowded areas. Chinese nationals are also advised to comply with local laws and regulations and remain alert to potential safety traps or scams." (["China issues study abroad alert over safety risks in the Philippines," Global Times, 18 July 2025](#))

China and Malaysia agree to mutual visa-free travel

On 16 July, China and Malaysia announced mutual visa exemption between the two countries after a year of trial period. As of 17 July, citizens of China and Malaysia with ordinary passports can travel between the two countries for free for up to 30 days and stay for 90 days, with a 180-day period. The trial period started on 01 December 2023, after which 3.8 million Chinese tourists visited Malaysia in 2024. This made China the largest tourist in Malaysia outside ASEAN. China currently has agreements with 159 countries on mutual visa exemption, and in 2025, there was a surge in visa-free entries. This group made up 71.2 percent of all foreign arrivals, marking a 53.9-percent year-on-year increase, according to the National Immigration Administration. ("[China-Malaysia visa-free travel now officially in effect](#)," *CGTN*, 17 July 2025)

China funded rare-earth mines in Myanmar, polluting Thailand, says an editorial in *The Nation*

On 16 July, an editorial in *The Nation* looked into Myanmar's rare earths feeding China and its repercussions faced by Thailand. The note expressed that the Myanmar border region has become a key source of low-cost rare earth minerals, mostly bought and produced by China. The unregulated mining in Myanmar has led to ore leaching, which has contaminated rivers that flow to the north of Thailand. This has polluted Thailand's Chiang Rai province, contaminating the Kok and Sai rivers with arsenic. The low cost of production in Myanmar has led to an increase in mining. China has increasingly invested in foreign mining operations, most of them operated by armed groups supported by Chinese capital. Southeast Asia Campaigns at International Rivers, Director Pianporn Deetes said: "Residents can no longer engage in traditional activities like fishing or operating tour boats, and farmers are worried that rice grown using water from the Kok River may be contaminated with arsenic, as rice tends to absorb arsenic well. Additionally, there have been reports of fish with unusual parasites, which correlate with mining activities disturbing the soil." ("[Low-cost Myanmar rare earths feed China as border mines pollute Thailand](#)," *The Nation*, 16 July 2025)

China sentences Japanese pharma executive to jail over espionage charges, reports *The Straits Times*

On 16 July, *The Straits Times* reported that a Chinese court sentenced a Japanese citizen to

jail over espionage charges. The convict is executive of Astellas Pharma was detained in March. Japan has sought to get the man's release, but China did not agree. Japan's Ambassador to China, Kenji Kanasugi said: "This is extremely regrettable. We will continue to call for the release of the man at the earliest and support him." This is not the first case; executives of other countries in China have been taken into custody. This is expected to further deteriorate their relations. ("[Chinese court jails Japanese executive for 3½ years in spying case](#)," *The Straits Times*, 16 July 2025)

China's Foreign Minister attends 32nd ASEAN Regional Forum

On 11 July, China's Foreign Minister attended the regional ASEAN forum of Foreign Ministers meeting, "32nd ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)." Wang noted that ARF is an important multilateral platform bearing responsibility for maintaining regional peace and stability. He proposed that China will ensure the stable development of the Asia-Pacific region with the vision of "common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security; a balanced, effective and sustainable security architecture; an Asian security model featuring intertwined security, seeking common ground while reserving differences, and dialogue and consultation, to find a new path of security featuring dialogue rather than confrontation, partnership rather than alliance, and win-win rather than zero-sum." He called for Eastern wisdom to come in harmony and coexistence, drawn from the Bandung spirit, and that China is willing to work with the regional countries to resolve differences. ("[Chinese FM attends ASEAN Regional Forum Foreign Ministers' Meeting](#)," *CGTN*, 12 July 2025)

China calls for border resolution between Thailand and Cambodia, reports *Reuters*

On 11 July, *Reuters* reported that China called for Cambodia and Thailand to resolve their border dispute. China offered to play a constructive role in peace resolution, calling to hold a "objective and fair position." China's Foreign Minister, Wang Yi urged both countries to coexist peacefully. Wang said: "China is willing to uphold an objective and fair position and play a constructive role for the harmonious coexistence between Thailand and Cambodia." This comes after Cambodian soldiers were killed in a border dispute with Thailand. ("[China offers to help resolve Thailand, Cambodia border dispute](#)," *Reuters*, 11 July 2025)

Malaysia's Foreign Minister: China will sign non-use of nuclear weapons Treaty

On 10 July, Malaysia's Foreign Minister Mohamad Hasan informed that China will sign a Southeast Asian treaty banning nuclear weapons in the region. The Southeast Asian nuclear weapons Free Zone, or SEANWFZ, was established in 1997, limits the use of nuclear power by the members of the Southeast Asian nations only to peaceful purposes. ASEAN countries want all major nuclear power countries to sign the treaty, committing themselves to the non-use of nuclear weapons. Malaysia's Foreign Minister Mohamad Hasan said: "China committed to ensure that they will sign the treaty without reservation." China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Mao Ning said: "China has always firmly supported the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Southeast Asia, and has repeatedly expressed its willingness to take the lead in signing the protocol to the treaty." Currently, China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi is in Kuala Lumpur meeting his ASEAN counterparts. ("Malaysia says China ready to sign SEA nuclear weapons-free treaty," *Reuters*, 10 July 2025)

The Philippines summons China's envoy in light of sanctions imposed on a former senator

On 08 July, the Philippines' Foreign Minister summoned China's ambassador to the Philippines over the sanctions imposed on former senator Francis Tolentino. He was banned from visiting China, Hong Kong, or Macao over the egregious conduct that is detrimental to China and the Philippines' relations. Philippines Presidential Press Officer, Claire Castro, said: "The imposition of punitive measures ... is inconsistent with the norms of mutual respect and dialogue that underpin relations between two equal sovereign states." China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs accused the senator of making malicious remarks. Relations between the Philippines and China have soured over the dispute of the South China Sea, where Manila claims that China has no claims in the region. ("Philippines summons Chinese envoy over sanctions against former senator," *Reuters*, 08 July 2025)

Second China-Myanmar-Thailand trilateral meeting on telecommunication and cyberspace fraud

On 06 July, *Global Times* reported that China, Myanmar, and Thailand held their second ministerial-level meeting in Nay Pyi Taw to intensify efforts to curb telecommunications and

cyberspace fraud. In 2024 alone, more than 5,400 Chinese nationals involved in cybercrimes have been captured and repatriated under the Joint campaign. The countries agreed to strengthen law enforcement cooperation, focusing on fraud hotspots like Myawaddy. The director of the Hong Kong Research Centre for Asian Studies stated that the regular ministerial-level meetings highlight the commitment of three countries to fight against cross-border telecom fraud and cyber terrorism. These meetings emphasize the strong signal that the fight against cyber terrorism will not derail due to challenges in domestic politics. ("5,400 Chinese suspects involved in telecom fraud in Myanmar's Myawaddy repatriated amid joint crackdown by China, Myanmar, and Thailand," *Global Times*, 06 July 2025)

China conducts military patrols near the Scarborough Shoal

On 03 July, *Reuters* reported that the announcement of the Chinese military's Southern Theatre Command that it conducted a combat readiness patrol around the Scarborough Shoal region in the South China Sea by utilizing both naval and air forces. This event marks the continuation of such patrols initiated by China in June, with China asserting that these actions are crucial for solidifying control over the contested sea and airspace. China reiterated that the main aim is to defend national sovereignty and security. The Scarborough Shoal region is the contested space between China and the Philippines. The Philippines has yet to officially respond to these patrols by China. ("Chinese military conducts combat readiness patrol around Scarborough Shoal," *Reuters*, 03 July 2025)

Pakistan to revitalize Gwadar port for improved trade and connectivity, reports Firstpost

On 02 July, *Firstpost* reported Pakistan's plan to strategically revitalize its China-built Gwadar port. Despite significant investments, the port has largely underperformed, handling less than 2 percent of the country's cargo. The port failed to meet the expectations as a key component of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). To boost its relevance, Pakistan aims to expand shipping lines and introduce ferry services to Gulf countries. The initiative aims to attract both passengers and cargo by positioning Gwadar as a vital transshipment and logistics hub in the Arabian Sea. The long-term vision of Pakistan is to connect the Gulf region with Central Asia by fostering regional connectivity and trade. The initiative also aims to generate economic

opportunities and improve infrastructure in Balochistan, which has been impacted by the instability in Balochistan and a lack of commercial viability for the port. (["Pakistan to link China-built Gwadar port struggling for trade to Gulf countries," Firstpost, 02 July 2025](#))

Indonesia-China lithium battery plant to begin operations by 2026, reports Reuters

On 29 June, *Reuters* reported that, as per Indonesian officials, Indonesia Battery Corp and China's CATL jointly developed a lithium-ion battery plant that is expected to become operational by the end of 2026 with an initial capacity of 6.9 GWh. The plant is part of a six billion project located in West Java and is expected to scale up production to 15 GWh of EV batteries to cater to both domestic and global markets. In North Maluku, the project also includes nickel mining, processing, and battery recycling. Indonesia's Energy Minister, Bahil Lahadalia, stated that the plant will eventually have the capacity to produce batteries for solar energy storage by boosting up to a total capacity of 40 GWh. This initiative highlights Indonesia's push to leverage its vast nickel reserves to achieve its target of producing 600,000 electric vehicles by 2030. (["Indonesia-China lithium battery plant operational by end-2026, official says," Reuters, 29 June 2025](#))

China sanctions former Philippine Senator over anti-China remarks, reports Global Times

On 01 July, *Global Times* reported that China has announced sanctions against former Philippine senator Francis Tolentino, barring him from entering Hong Kong and Macao. The announcement was revealed by China's spokesperson, citing Tolentino's 'egregious behaviour' and repeated anti-China actions. China's authorities accused certain politicians in the Philippines of promoting anti-China sentiments that harm China's interests and further strain bilateral ties. The sanctions highlight Beijing's assertive stance to defend its national sovereignty, security, and development interests amidst growing tensions with Manila. This action adds another layer to an already strained relationship between the two nations on regional security and South China Sea disputes. (["Chinese FM announces sanctions on former Philippine senator Tolentino," Global Times, 01 July 2025](#))

CHINA & THE PACIFIC

Xi Jinping calls for "unswerving" cooperation between China and Australia

On 15 July, *The Guardian* reported on Australia's Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese, meeting China's President Xi Jinping as part of his six-day visit. Xi emphasized that geopolitical turbulence should not disrupt the newfound stability between the two countries and that they should "unswervingly" maintain cooperation. Xi said: "No matter how the international landscape may evolve, we should uphold this overall direction unswervingly." This comes as both countries seek to improve their relations, following China's imposition of USD 2 billion in trade sanctions after 2020. In response to Xi, Albanese expressed that he noted Xi's remarks on seeking common ground and that this approach will be beneficial for both Canberra and Beijing. The issue of Darwin's ownership was not raised. Albanese also expressed his concerns regarding the live fire exercises by China's navy off the New South Wales coast. He said: "I said what I said at the time: it was within international law, there was no breach of international law by China, but that we were concerned about the notice and the ways that it happened, including the live fire exercises." He also emphasized that China and Australia are important trading partners and should strengthen their dialogue. (["Xi says Australia and China should 'unswervingly' work together despite global instability," The Guardian, 15 July 2025](#))

China and Australia sign MoU to review the Free Trade Agreement

On 16 July, China's Ministry of Commerce and Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade signed an MoU to review the China-Australia Free Trade Agreement (FTA). The agreement was first signed in 2015 and has been responsible for the development of their bilateral economy and trade relations. The year 2025 marks the 10th anniversary of the FTA implementation where "both sides will maintain close cooperation, continue high-quality implementation of the agreement, jointly conduct a review to identify areas for further improvement or expansion, enhance the liberalization and facilitation of trade and investment, and provide higher-level institutional guarantees for bilateral economic and trade cooperation," said China's Commerce Ministry. China has been Australia's largest trading partner and export destination and source of imports for 16 years. Since the agreement of 2015, the trade has increased, estimated to USD 210 billion in 2024. Australia China Business Council and the Bankwest Curtin Economics Center reported that trade with China has increased Australia's household income by USD 1709 and even supported

595,600 jobs, showcasing a 4.2 per cent increase. ("[China, Australia sign MoU to implement, review bilateral FTA amid 10th anniversary](#)," *Global Times*, 16 July 2025)

Australia refuses to join the US's "Hypothetical" war with China, says Minister of Defence Industry

On 13 July, *The Guardian* reports on Australia's stance on China-US tensions. Australia's Minister of Defence Industry, Pat Conroy, informed that they refuse any request by the US to join the "Hypothetical" conflict with China over Taiwan, and that they will not make any advanced commitment. Australia's Prime Minister Anthony Albanese also pushed back on such a request he noting that the US also practices "strategic ambiguity." He informed that Australia will just want to see peace and security in the region. The statement comes in light of a recent report informing that the Pentagon is demanding that Australia guarantee a response in case of conflict in the Indo-Pacific. Newspapers in Australia are reporting that the US officials are seeking a clear sense of what they can expect from Australia. Currently, Albanese is in China for a six-day visit with includes meeting China's President Xi Jinping. On Taiwan Albanese in the past has said : "We support the status quo when it comes to Taiwan. We don't support any unilateral action there ... We want peace and security in our region." ("[Australia rebuffs calls to commit to joining hypothetical US-China conflict](#)," *The Guardian*, 13 July 2025)

Australia's Prime Minister to visit China to discuss bilateral ties and trade, reports BBC

On 12 July, the BBC reported that Australia's Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese, is scheduled to visit China to meet President Xi Jinping. The three-day visit will include Beijing, Shanghai, and Chengdu. Albanese said: "My government will continue to cooperate with China where we can, disagree where we must, and engage in our national interest." This will be his second official trip to China, and the first one since his re-election. China accounts for a third of Australia's total trade and is the largest trading partner. This meeting comes in light of increasing concerns in Canberra over China's expanding presence in the Pacific. Australia-China Relations Institute, Director, James Laurenceson said: "They need to keep the politics stable and constructive so that other parts of the relationship, like businesses, cultural organisations, universities and so on can forge ahead with engagement in their areas." He also noted how the US will not be

pleased with Albanese's visit to China. ("[Trade trumps geopolitics as Australia PM visits China](#)," *BBC*, 12 July 2025)

Australia's diplomatic heads to meet China's President, reports The Guardian

On 04 July, *SCMP* reported that Australia's Prime Minister, Antony Albanese, was preparing for a meeting with China's President Xi Jinping. Albanese is in the middle of a delicate diplomatic tightrope between newfound stability in the Australia-China relationship and the unpredictable resurgence of Donald Trump in US politics. Australia and China are in a phase of diplomatic and strategic rapprochement; meanwhile, the Prime Minister's immediate challenge with the US involves securing assurances on the AUKUS nuclear submarine deal, addressing defence spending demands, and seeking preferential treatment under potential US tariff regimes. The situation highlights the complexities of Australia's "cooperate where we can, disagree where we must" foreign policy approach, applicable to both China and the US while navigating through the choppy waters of geopolitics. ("[Albanese heads to China as Trump upends the global order. The PM may wish he lived in less interesting times](#)," *The Guardian*, 05 July 2025)

China's Embassy in Fiji denies the claims of military ambitions in the region, reported Reuters

On 03 July, *Reuters* reported that China's embassy in Fiji has rejected the claims of seeking a military base or sphere of influence in the Pacific islands by stating it is a false narrative propaganda. The denial comes as a response to concerns raised by Fiji's Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka on China's expanding regional influence. China's embassy spokesperson reaffirmed that China's presence in the Pacific is focused on development projects like roads and bridges rather than military installations. Despite China's assurances, Rabuka still raises concerns over China's capability of projecting power without a physical base, citing recent missile tests of China's intercontinental ballistic missiles over Fiji. Concerns about China's military ambitions in the Pacific have been ongoing, with the past attempt of Beijing to redevelop naval facilities and the recent security pact with the Solomon Islands. ("[China denies military base ambitions in Pacific Islands](#)," *Reuters*, 03 July 2025)

CHINA & SOUTH ASIA

Nepal silent on agreed opening of border points with China, reports Republica

On 29 July, *Republica* reported an agreement between Nepal and China to open seven border points and to construct two dry ports. The locals of Olangchungola, a remote village in eastern Nepal, have expressed support for the operation. These border points have not been in operation for over a decade, despite the announcements. The opening of the Kimathanka border is strategic as it will be part of the Koshi-Lhasa highway connecting Nepal and China. Nepal's Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Bishnu Paudel called on the Chinese government to open these borders during his last visit. Chian replied and agreed to prioritize these requests, asking for a detailed proposal and requirements. The Ministry of Nepal is yet to reply. Nepal Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Lok Bahadur Poudel Chhetri informed that the matter was under regular process and that "the issues you've mentioned are likely progressing through regular channels. There's no specific update available at this point—I'll need to look into it." ("Nepal remains silent on China's proposal to open border points," *Republica*, 29 July 2025)

Pakistan signs MoU with Chinese firm to advance its shipping maritime sector

On 24 July, Pakistan signed an MoU with Shandong Xinxu Group to advance ship leasing, sales, and crew management. This was signed with Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (PNSC) as part of modernizing the shipping industry, informs Pakistan's Maritime Affairs Minister Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry. He expressed that this is the beginning of their joint development and said: "It will strengthen Pakistan's role in the growth of the shipping industry and create an enabling environment for further investment in the maritime sector." The Chinese firm has agreed to give capital and a vessel to the PNSC. This comes days after Karachi ports halved port charges for their largest deep-sea facility, where Chaudhry said: "By lowering operational costs and streamlining logistics, we are not only boosting trade competitiveness but also contributing to climate resilience." ("Pakistan signs maritime deal with Chinese shipping giant to boost fleet, attract investment," *Arab News*, 24 July 2025)

China wants to accelerate the trans-Himalayan network with Nepal, reports SCMP

On 24 July, SCMP reported that China aims to expedite the building of the trans-Himalayan network with Nepal. China's International Development Cooperation Agency Head, Chen Xiaodong went for a three-day visit to Nepal.

Chen said: "[We] should implement more projects in areas such as agriculture, new energy, health, and education to promote Nepal's economic and social development and improve people's livelihoods." In 2017, Nepal signed a BRI initiative for a trans-Himalayan multidimensional connectivity network. This has been heavily criticized by India over the strategic influence of the Himalayas. ("China keen to ramp up trans-Himalayan project with Nepal, vying with India for influence," *SCMP*, 24 July 2025)

India opens tourist visa application for Chinese nationals after five years

On 24 July, India's Embassy in China announced that they are resuming applications for tourist visas. Noting that they now allow Chinese citizens to acquire it for the first time in five years, as they inch towards improving relations. The applicants will be required to complete an online form and book an in-person appointment to submit their required documents. China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs called it a "positive move" that serves their common interests. The ministry spokesperson, Guo Jiakun, said: "China stands ready to maintain communication and coordination with India to keep facilitating people-to-people exchanges between the two countries." From 2020, India suspended all tourist visas for Chinese nationals after the clash in Doklam and the Covid. The Indian Business media were also considering having tighter restrictions on Chinese citizens entering India to curb the dumping of goods in light of the US tariffs. They have also agreed to restore the direct flights between the two countries, and China's Ambassador to India called to revive the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra to further the mending of ties. ("India to issue first tourist visas to Chinese nationals in 5 years," *SCMP*, 23 July 2025)

China's Ambassador to India calls for resolving the border dispute, revival of direct flights, and the Kailash Manasarovar yatra

On 21 July, The Hindu published an interview with China's Ambassador to India, Xu Feihong. He noted that China is ready to discuss the border management and control rules with India to resolve the dispute. He also wished to revive the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra to "inject impetus" between their ties, and to revive direct flights. He said: "Resuming the pilgrimage for Indian pilgrims to the sacred mountain and lake in [Tibet] is an important initiative taken by China to improve relations between the two

countries.” On direct flights, he said: “Currently, the government departments of both China and India, as well as major airlines, have done a lot of work for the resumption of direct flights. We hope that direct flights between the two countries will be launched as soon as possible.” Xu also rejected the claims that they supported Pakistan during Operation Sindoor. It was also noted that the comments made by ministers and Indian officials on the Dalai Lama can cause tensions between China and India. He stressed that China does not engage in third-party targeting of the Operation Sindoor incidents, Xu said: “Defence and security cooperation is part of the normal cooperation between China and Pakistan.” On India’s support of the statement by the 14th Dalai Lama, Xu said: “Such words and deeds are, in essence, promoting interfering in China’s internal affairs using [Tibet]-related issues, contrary to the Indian government’s public stance.” (“[Reviving Kailash-Mansarovar yatra to ‘inject new impetus’ in India-China ties, direct flights to follow: Chinese Ambassador to India](#),” *The Hindu*, 21 July 2025)

Pakistan’s Foreign Minister meets China’s President on the sidelines of the SCO meeting

On 15 July, Pakistan’s Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar met China’s President Xi Jinping, where he affirmed to deepen their enduring friendship and advance shared regional goals. He met the President on the sidelines of the SCO meeting held in Beijing. Dar posted on X and stated that he was delighted to meet the President, and he conveyed warm regards from the leadership and the people of Pakistan. Dar said: “As iron-clad brothers and All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partners, we remain committed to deepening Pak-China enduring friendship and advancing shared regional goals.” Dar arrived in Tianjin with other foreign ministers before the SCO meeting. He met his counterparts from Russia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Belarus. (“[Pakistan Foreign Minister Dar meets Chinese President Xi; reaffirms commitment to strengthen bilateral ties](#),” *The Hindu*, 16 July 2025)

India’s External Affairs Minister meets China’s President, appraising revived ties

On 15 July, India’s External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met China’s President Xi Jinping. This is Jaishankar’s first visit to China in six years as the relations between the two countries improved after the de-escalation of tensions. Jaishankar visited China as part of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Foreign Ministers’ meeting. Jaishankar posted on X and informed that: “Conveyed the greeting of

President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Apprised President Xi of the recent development of our bilateral ties. Value the guidance of our leaders in this regard.” Jaishankar emphasizes that both countries need to continue to build a positive momentum and that differences should not become disputes. (“[SCO meet: Jaishankar meets Chinese President in Beijing](#),” *Times of India*, 15 July 2025)

China-India to resume direct flights, informs India’s Ministry of External Affairs

On 14 July, China’s Foreign Minister Wang Yi and India’s External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar agreed to restart mutual personnel travel of direct flights after suspension of five years. India’s Ministry of External Affairs said: “The two sides agreed to take additional practical steps, including travel to each other’s country and direct flight connectivity, for facilitating people-to-people exchange.” While China’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs has made no statement on the same. The flight transfer between the two countries was stopped in 2020, after the border clash of Doklam and the COVID-19 scare. (“[China and India to restart direct flights after more than five years](#),” *SCMP*, 14 July 2025)

Foreign Ministers of India and China meet and discuss cooperation

On 14 July, India’s External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met China’s Foreign Minister Wang Yi on the sidelines of the SCO meeting. Wang Yi expressed that India and China should maintain good-neighborliness, practice mutual respect, trust, peaceful coexistence, and common development. He also expressed that China is ready to work with India to expand their exchanges and cooperation. Wang Yi said: “China will safeguard the multilateral trading system, the stability of the global industrial and supply chains, and the international environment of openness and cooperation with India.” Jaishankar stated that both countries are development partners rather than competitors. he also expressed India’s willingness to approach bilateral relations from a long-term perspective. He said: “both sides should work together to build positive momentum, prevent differences from escalating into disputes, and ensure that competition does not lead to conflict.” (“Wang Yi: China, India should adhere to good-neighborliness, friendship,” *CGTN*, 14 July 2025)

Pakistan to join the SCO’s Council of Foreign Ministers meeting in China

On 13 July, *Dawn* reported that Pakistan’s

Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar is expected to travel to China to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organization's (SCO) Council of Foreign Ministers meeting. This gathering ahead of the SCO Heads of State Summit on 31 August-01 September is expected to see top diplomats from all member states, including China, Russia, India, Iran, and Central Asian countries. The Council of Foreign Ministers is SCO's third-highest forum, focusing on foreign and security matters, and approves key declarations and decisions for the summit. Dar also held discussions with Uzbekistan's Foreign Minister on the Uzbekistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan railway project and agreed to meet again during the SCO summit. Pakistan is joining the meeting amidst escalating tensions with India following the April Pahalgam attacks and subsequent military exchanges. Last month's SCO Defence Minister's meeting failed to yield a joint statement due to Indian objections, and these events highlight regional divisions within the bloc. ("[Foreign Minister Isaq Dar to travel to China for SCO meeting](#)," *Dawn*, 13 June 2025)

China and Pakistan jointly agree to tackle fake news through media cooperation

On 10 July, China and Pakistan agreed to tackle fake news and disinformation by enhancing ties with joint broadcasting projects. The government and the Inter-Service Public Relations Director General, Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry, have called on the digital terrorism plaguing Pakistan. The agreement was made between Pakistan's Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Attaullah Tarar, and China's Deputy Head of the Publicity Department of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and Minister and Party Secretary of the National Radio and Television Administration (NRTA), Cao Shumin. Both leaders agreed to work jointly against the fake news and emphasised technical training and institutional collaboration. ("[Pakistan, China agree on joint media cooperation against fake news](#)," *DAWN*, 11 July 2025)

China and Pakistan Air Force chiefs discuss military collaboration on training

On 10 July, SCMP reported on a Pakistan Air Force (PAF) general calling for greater cooperation in training with China, as they held talks with his Chinese counterpart in Islamabad. PAF, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sindhu met with China's Chief of Staff of PLA Air Force, Lieutenant General Wang Gang. They discussed the operational synergy between the two branches. Wang also was informed of PAFs

modernization, and their growing cutting-edge capabilities. Wang said: "textbook example of precision, discipline and courage in the face of unprovoked aggression" and commended the "decisive and measured response delivered by PAF pilots." He also called for the Chinese Air Force to learn from Pakistan learned battle experience in multidomain operations. Sindhu also appreciated the strong bond between the two air forces, rooted in mutual trust, strategic convergence, and shared aspiration for regional stability. ("[Chinese and Pakistani air chiefs seek military synergy on training and tech fronts](#)," *SCMP*, 10 July 2025)

Student delegation from Balochistan, Pakistan, visits China

On 08 July, Global Times reported on a delegation of Pakistani schoolgirls from Balochistan visiting China. The eight female students visited the Forbidden City and also engaged in women-led agricultural enterprises. China's embassy in Pakistan has been running projects in aiding with health kits to remote areas of Balochistan in over 36 districts. It is estimated that over 7000 female students from 310 schools have benefited from these health kits, and 151 teachers have also been trained to ensure the projects are sustainable. The Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries facilitated trips to China. A student from the project, Asma Munir, said: "Coming from Balochistan, I have seen the struggles of people. Now I see the change -- how lives are improving." ("[Beijing hosts delegation of schoolgirls from Balochistan, Pakistan](#)," *Global Times*, 08 July 2025)

China condemns India's Prime Minister for wishing the 14th Dalai Lama birthday wishes

On 07 July, China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Mao Ning protested against India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi wishing the Dalai Lama of Tibet birthday wishes. Ning said: "India should fully appreciate the great sensitivity of Tibet-related issues, recognise the separatist nature, honour the commitments it has made to China related to Tibet-related issues, act prudently, and stop using these issues to meddle in China's internal affairs." Modi, on the spiritual leader's birthday, posted on social media and said: "I join 1.4 billion Indians in extending our warmest wishes to His Holiness the Dalai Lama on his 90th birthday." He noted that the Dalai Lama is the symbol of compassion, patience, moral discipline, and love. Mao Ning also informed that the 14th Dalai Lama is a political exile who has participated in anti-China activities aimed at separating Tibet

from China. She warned that India should avoid undermining the improvement in their relations. This comes after the Dalai Lama announced that his successor will be reincarnated after his death and that he will be born outside China. ([“China protests over Indian PM Narendra Modi’s birthday greetings to Dalai Lama,” SCMP, 07 July 2025](#))

China-Nepal Friendship Bridge in the Rasuwa collapses after heavy floods

On 08 July, a massive flood washed away the Nepal-China Friendship bridge built at Rasuwagadhi border point in Rasuwa district. During the flood, several newly imported EVs parked at the port were also washed away. Chief District Officer of Rasuwa, Arjun Paudel, said: “The floods have swept away the Friendship Bridge and several EVs at the dry port.” He also said: “There is suspicion that some people were inside vehicles when the flood hit, but that is yet to be confirmed.” The Rasuwagadhi border point was an important trade link between China and Nepal. Currently, the Nepal army is conducting a rescue mission in the area. Some of the individuals trapped in the floods have been rescued. ([“Flood washes away Nepal-China border bridge at Rasuwagadhi,” The Kathmandu Post, 08 July 2025](#))

Sri Lanka’s largest Chinese investment in an oil refinery stalled by the government, reports Asian News

On 07 July, *Asian News* reported that due to disputes over market access, Sri Lanka’s largest FDI, Sinopec’s USD 3.7 billion oil refinery project in Hambantota, has been stalled since early 2025. The deal was signed with Sri Lanka’s Ministry of Energy for an unrestricted domestic market share, which has clashed with the government’s cap of 20 percent, which aims to protect the struggling state-run Ceylon Petroleum Corporation. On top of that, there are other challenges such as disagreements over land allocation, tax concessions, and shareholder structure that persist. The Sinopec refinery is expected to process 200,000 barrels per day and boost foreign exchange through exports, but concerns still persist regarding national energy security. Analysts highlight that the tensions reflect a deeper conflict between commercial interests and political priorities, showcasing uncertainty over a project once considered a pillar of Sri Lanka’s economy. ([“Sri Lanka, Chinese mega investment of US\\$3.7 billion stalled,” Asian News, 07 July 2025](#))

China’s crucial backing during Operation Sindoor for Pakistan, says India’s Deputy

Chief of Army Staff

On 05 July, *The Hindu* reported the statements by India’s Deputy Chief of Army Staff, Lieutenant General Rahul R Singh, on 04 July that China used the recent India-Pakistan conflict as a live test lab to test its weapons by providing significant support to Pakistan. He emphasized that India faced three rivalries during Operation Sindoor: Pakistan as the direct front, with China and Turkey offering crucial backing, including real-time intelligence from China to Pakistan. He said: “We had one border and two adversaries, actually three. Pakistan was in the front. China was providing all possible support. 81% of the military hardware with Pakistan is Chinese.” Following the statements, the Congress party, through Jairam Ramesh, renewed its five-year-long demand for a comprehensive parliamentary debate on India-China relations, which was alleged to be consistently denied by the Modi government. Ramesh highlighted the need for a national consensus to address geopolitical and economic challenges posed by China directly and indirectly through Pakistan. Lt. Gen Singh also emphasised the need for India to establish a robust air defence system. ([“China used conflict between India and Pakistan as a live lab: Deputy Chief of Army Staff,” The Hindu, 05 July 2025: “Congress renews call for discussion on India-China ties,” The Hindu, 05 July 2025](#))

China warns India over Dalai Lama succession remarks, reports SCMP

On 04 July, *SCMP* reported that China has warned India to stop using Tibet-related issues to interfere in its internal matters, such as China’s stance on the Dalai Lama succession. This statement is a response to a statement by a senior Indian Minister, Kiren Rijiju, that only the Dalai Lama and his Gaden Phodrang Trust have the authority to choose his successor. China’s Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, Mao Ning, emphasized that succession must align with the traditional ‘golden urn’ procedure and should get approval from the central government. She urged India to “exercise caution in word and deed” to avoid tensions in bilateral relations. The ongoing debates and disputes regarding the succession of the Dalai Lama highlight the sensitive nature of Tibet in India-China relations despite the recent rapprochement efforts. ([“China tells India to stop using Tibet to interfere in Beijing’s affairs,” SCMP, 04 July 2025](#))

China’s export curbs on fertilizers trigger shortage in India, reports The Indian Express

On 30 June, *The Indian Express* reported that China’s abrupt halt in DAP exports squeezed

global supplies and drove up fertilizer prices. DAP is India's second most consumed fertilizer. China, being the third largest exporter of DAP, has ceased to export since the start of this calendar year. This sudden shortage has forced Indian importers to turn to Saudi Arabia, Morocco, and Russia. The cost of Phosphoric Acid, a key DAP input, has surged to USD 950 per tonne. Though this shortage poses short-term challenges, experts foresee potential long-term benefits of more diversified and efficient use of fertilizers in India's agriculture, as farmers have started to adapt by shifting to alternatives like APS and NPKS complexes. (["How China has caused a DAP supply squeeze,"](#) *The Indian Express*, 30 June 2025)

China and Pakistan to form new regional bloc to replace SAARC, reports an editorial in *The Hindu*. On 30 June, an editorial in *The Hindu* reported that, according to *The Express Tribune*, Pakistan and China are in advanced talks to establish a new regional bloc to replace the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). Countries like Sri Lanka, the Maldives, and Afghanistan are expected to join the forum with a focus on regional integration, trade, and connectivity. The move follows a trilateral meeting between China, Pakistan, and Bangladesh in Kunming. However, Bangladesh has dismissed the claims by stating that the meeting was not political. The proposed bloc is expected to reinvigorate regional cooperation in South Asia as SAARC remains largely inactive due to India-Pakistan tensions since 2014. (["Pakistan, China working to establish new regional bloc with potential to replace SAARC: Report,"](#) *The Hindu*, 30 June 2025)

China rolls out USD 3.4 billion loan to Pakistan, reports Firstpost

On 29 June, *Firstpost* reported that China gives over USD 3.4 billion in loans to Pakistan as a significant financial boost. The loan includes USD 2.1 billion retained in Pakistan's central bank reserves and the refinancing of a USD 1.3 billion commercial loan. This move, along with fresh inflows of USD 1 billion from the Middle Eastern banks and USD 500 billion in multilateral support, is expected to help Pakistan meet the IMF's foreign reserves target of over USD 14 billion by 30 June. This development is of paramount importance to Pakistan's ongoing stabilization programme under a USD 7 billion IMF bailout programme. (["China rolls over \\$3.4 billion in loans to Pakistan, helping boost reserves,"](#) *Firstpost*, 29 June 2025)

China-Nepal NPR 27 billion buffalo meat export deal, reports The Kathmandu Post

On 01 July, *The Kathmandu Post* reported that Nepal is expected to export buffalo meat to China under a NPR 27 billion business partnership with plans to export 5,000 tons per day. China approves NPR 9.5 billion in investment as part of its soft trade diplomacy. The deal is led by Himalayan Food International and China's Shanghai Ziyuan Food, and it includes meat processing and livestock rearing with facilities in Sindhuli, Udayapur, and Chitwan. Construction is expected to begin in September and to be completed by April 2026. Experts raise concerns about Nepal's current Buffalo population, which could struggle to meet export and domestic demand. China is expecting to import up to USD 1.5 billion worth annually and also highlighted the deal as a game-changer in bilateral trade. (["Nepal to export buffalo meat to China as part of a Rs27 billion project,"](#) *Kathmandu Post*, 1 July 2025)

CHINA & AFRICA

South Africa is seeking to increase exports to China, reports an editorial in SCMP

On 20 July, an editorial in *SCMP* reported on how South Africa is pushing to grow its exports to China. They noted Deputy President Paul Mashatile's visit to China seeking investments and pitching for investment opportunities. South Africa is now seeking to diversify its exports beyond basic goods to more sophisticated products like pharmaceuticals, automotive parts, and green energy. South is also seeing a growing trade deficit with China, as the countries in the region have a more balanced trade relationship. They also acknowledge China's role as an alternative market, but the note cautions against seeing the investments as a replacement for the US. China is also strategically relevant to Africa as a provider of agricultural products. African products also see competition from the Chinese market, even though China has removed tariffs from all 53 African countries, excluding Eswatini. (["South Africa pushes to increase trade exports to China amid US' 30% tariff hike,"](#) *SCMP*, 20 July 2025)

Africa is the testing ground for the Yuan currency rollout, says an editorial in SCMP

On 16 July, an editorial in *SCMP* reported on Africa being China's testing ground for the internationalization of the Yuan. China seeks to expand the global use of its currency and to become an alternative, and even break the dollar's dominance. Recently, China and Egypt signed a series of agreements to promote the

use of the Yuan for trade and investments. This will be done through panda bond issues to overseas companies. The deal will also include electronic payments by using China's UnionPay services, aimed at facilitating cross-border business in Yuan between banks. Those are in the China-Egypt TEDA Suez Economic and Trade Cooperation Zone. Egypt has joined the growing list of African countries that have Yuan-based deals, like Nigeria and Angola. AustChina Institute senior research fellow, Lauren Johnston, said: "For China, there may be a chance to test the internationalization of the RMB via a few countries in Africa first, where volumes might be small on a global scale and China's footprint in the region relatively large." ("[China looks to Africa as testing ground for global roll-out of yuan](#)," *SCMP*, 16 July 2025)

China-Tanzania military ties are Africa's most enduring security partnership, says an editorial in reports SCMP

On 06 July, an editorial in *SCMP* reported that, according to a recent Africa Centre for Strategic Studies report, Tanzania holds an enduring deep military relationship with China, which is unmatched by any other African country. The defence doctrine of Tanzania is heavily influenced by the People's Liberation Army, and more than 90 Percent of Tanzania's military weapons come from China. This enduring military tie-up dates back to 1964 when China helped Tanzania to rebuild its army after a mutiny, which replaced the Soviet, British, and Canadian advisors. Since then, China has provided extensive military support for infrastructure development, training, and joint drills like Peace Unity 2024. This "very special" relationship reflects Tanzania's historical non-alignment and its founding father, Julius Nyerere's, admiration of China's military model. ("[Inside China and Tanzania's 'very special relationship' – found nowhere else in Africa](#)," *SCMP*, 06 July 2025)

Chinese nationals are part of an illegal gold mining scheme in Ghana, reports SCMP

On 30 June, *SCMP* reported on gold mines in Ghana and the growing presence of China in the illegal gold mining scheme. China is the largest producer of gold in Africa and is currently considered part of the growing illegal gold mining in Africa. The prices of gold are soaring. In Africa, there is an increasing number of Chinese firms investing in Africa, where the Chinese nationals are directly linked with illegal sale and illicit mining. China's ambassador to Ghana, Tong Defa, refuted these allegations that Chinese nationals are solely part

of the illegal mining. Tong said: "The issue did not originate from the Chinese. Some of those who are even caught red-handed are simply migrant workers trying to make a living." He informed that Chinese nationals can not obtain a local mining license and were in cahoots with Ghanaians to facilitate these illegal operations. He called this allegation unfair against China and unjust. This comes after hundreds of Chinese nationals were detained for illegal mining. One of the biggest cases was "Galamsey Queen" Aisha Huang, who was sentenced to over four and a half years in prison. ("[Ghana at loggerheads with China over rampant illegal gold mining](#)," *SCMP*, 30 June 2025)

CHINA & THE MIDDLE EAST

China's embassy in Israel condemns the Knesset's call for Taiwan's inclusion in international organizations

On 25 July, China's Embassy in Israel condemned the Israeli Knesset who signing to calling for Taiwan's participation in the international organization, challenging the one-China policy. The bipartisan group of 72 members of Knesset signed a declaration condemning the systematic exclusion of Taiwan from International forums. The embassy said: "Taiwan's participation in international organizations and agreements under the UN framework must be handled by the one-China principle. Since coming to power, the Taiwan's Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) authorities have obstinately pursued a separatist agenda for "Taiwan independence" and refused to recognize the one-China principle, thereby dismantling the political foundation for Taiwan's participation in the activities of organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)." The embassy called this Israel's attempt to split China, and if they are willing to be complicit in jeopardizing peace and stability in the region. The embassy called the Knesset to be right side of history to promote China-Israel relations. ("[Chinese embassy in Israel lodges solemn representations following Knesset's joint call on Taiwan's participation in international organizations](#)," *Global Times*, 25 July 2025)

China refutes allegation of selling weapons to Iran, reports SCMP

On 09 July, *SCMP* reported that China denied sending surface-to-air missile batteries to Iran during the Israel-Iran conflict. Chinese air defence equipment is reportedly being sent to Iran. Sources informed that China received the

payment in oil shipments. China's embassy in Israel denied the accusation and stated that they never exported weapons to countries that are engaged in war, as they maintain strict control over the export of dual-use items. The embassy said: "China firmly opposes the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems and continuously strengthens its enforcement capabilities regarding non-proliferation." China has criticized its role in the conflict and has offered to play the role of a peacemaker. (["China denies giving Iran air defence systems after conflict with Israel," SCMP, 09 July 2025](#))

China's Premier meets Egypt's Prime Minister to discuss future cooperation

On 10 July, CGTN China's Premier Li Qiang met with Egypt's Prime Minister Mostafa Kamal Madbouly. Li expressed that China is willing to work with Egypt to safeguard economic globalization and international trade. He said that both countries need to work towards defending their common interests as developing countries and to promote peace and stability. Li also noted that in 2024, they celebrated their 10th anniversary of a comprehensive strategic partnership. Li said: "China supports Egypt in playing a greater role in international and regional affairs and is willing to closely coordinate and cooperate with Egypt within multilateral frameworks such as the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization to practice genuine multilateralism, safeguard economic globalization and international economic and trade order, defend the common interests of developing countries, and promote peace and stability in the Middle East and the world." Madbouly expressed the long-standing friendship between the two countries. He said: "Egypt highly appreciates China's just and fair stance on Mideast issues and stands ready to strengthen coordination with China within the United Nations, the BRICS, and other multilateral frameworks to safeguard common interests and uphold regional peace and stability." (["Premier Li: China to work with Egypt to safeguard intl trade order," CGTN, 11 July 2025](#))

Hike in kidnapping of Chinese nationals in Africa, reports SCMP

On 10 July, SCMP reported on increasing cases of Chinese nationals being kidnapped in African countries. This comes after more Chinese investors began arriving in Africa, investing in a range of infrastructure and development projects. China's embassy in South

Africa has issued a warning about the rise in kidnapping of Chinese women. In Somalia and Ghana, there has been a rise in targeted attacks on Chinese fishing vessels demanding ransom for release. In the Democratic Republic of Congo and Nigeria, armed robbery and abduction of Chinese nationals have occurred. It is reckoned that Chinese traders are being targeted because they are perceived to have money due to the large investments they are making in Africa. The embassy warning said: "These cases seriously threaten the personal and property safety of Chinese nationals." On women's safety, they said: "If you are unable to travel with others, please inform your relatives and friends of your whereabouts." (["Chinese nationals in Africa 'vulnerable to kidnappings' as cases rise," SCMP, 10 July 2025](#))

China's envoy to the UN calls for peace in the Middle East

On 09 July, China's Deputy Permanent Representative at the United Nations, Geng Shuang, called on the Houthi forces to safeguard the security of navigation in the Red Sea. He noted China's deep concern about recent attacks on two cargo ships in the Red Sea, as he calls for Houthis to respect the rights of commercial vessels traveling from all around the world. Geng also expressed concerns regarding the renewed exchange of fire between Houthis and Israel. He said: "The conflict in Gaza must come to an end as soon as possible, the humanitarian crisis there must be alleviated without delay, and the two-state solution must be implemented at the earliest opportunity. The long-delayed high-level meeting on implementing the two-state solution must be convened promptly." (["Chinese envoy to UN urges 'seven must-to-do' on Middle East situation," Global Times, 10 July 2025](#))

Armenia envisions deepening ties with China, says Armenia's Foreign Minister

On 03 July, SCMP reported that the Foreign Minister of Armenia stated that following the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War, Armenia aims to diversify its foreign policy away from Russia and seeks to deepen ties with China, without limitations. Armenia's Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan emphasized interests in elevating relations in terms of trade, infrastructure, and cultural exchange in an exclusive interview during his Beijing visit. This marks Mirzoyan's first official visit to China, and he underscored Armenia's "crossroads of peace" plan for enhanced regional connectivity linking with China's Belt and Road Initiative. And the EU's global gateway. Armenia also aims to

normalize its relationship with Turkey and Azerbaijan to reshape its strategic role in the South Caucasus. ([“Armenia looks to deepen ties with China while eyeing foreign relations beyond Russia,” SCMP, 03 July 2025](#))

CHINA & RUSSIA

China and Russia to hold joint Pacific naval exercise “Joint Sea 2025”

On 30 July, China’s Ministry of National Defense announced that China and Russia will hold their “Joint Sea 2025” naval exercise in August. This will be the sixth joint maritime patrol to take place in the Pacific region. The Ministry spokesperson, Zhang Xiaogang, informed that the exercise will take place near the Vladivostok airspace. He said: “This is an arrangement within the annual cooperation plan between the Chinese and Russian militaries. It is not targeted at any third party, nor is it related to the current international and regional situation.” The announcement comes considering the US hosting Air Force exercise “Resolute Force Pacific 2025,” in Hawaii, Guam, and Japan. Zhang extrapolated that the US is clinging to a Cold War mentality and his flexing in the Asia-Pacific region by ganging up in the guise of military drills. This, in turn, will undermine the peace and stability in the region. The China-Russia exercise involves warships, aircraft, and support staff from both sides. ([“China announces joint Pacific naval exercise with Russia in August,” SCMP, 31 July 2025](#))

Chinese engines sold as refrigerators to support Russia’s drone production, reports Reuters

On 23 July, Reuters reported that Chinese-made engines were being covertly shipped to state-owned manufacturers in Russia, through front companies. Many of these engines were reported as “industrial refrigeration units,” aimed to avoid detection, reports European security officials to Reuters. These shipments have supported Russian weapon makers like IEMZ Kupol to boost their production of Garpiys-A1 attack drone. Kupol had signed a contract with Russia’s Ministry of Defense to produce 6000 drones, and they have already delivered 1500 drones. The Chinese-made engines are made by Xiamen Limbach Aviation Engine Co., who were sanctioned by the US. In light of the sanctions, a new company named Beijing Xichao International Technology and Trade is supplying L550E. China’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs informed that they are unaware of the export part, and said: “China has always opposed unilateral sanctions that lack basis in international law and are not authorized by the

U.N. Security Council.”

([“Exclusive: Chinese engines, shipped as ‘cooling units’, power Russian drones used in Ukraine,” Reuters, 24 July 2025](#))

China-Russia resumes joint oceanographic research expedition after five years

On 22 July, China and Russia set sail for a joint oceanographic expedition, informed by China’s First Institute of Oceanography (FIO) under China’s Ministry of Natural Resources. This expedition is aimed at investigating the evolution of oceans and the forces of climate change. They have 25 25-member crew from both countries, and this is the ninth such expedition between the two countries, but the first one since the pandemic and the war. This is also in collaboration with the Pacific Oceanological Institute (POI) at the Far East Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, estimated to last 45 days. The researchers will conduct environmental surveys at the Bering Sea and the Pacific Ocean. Chinese Consulate General in Vladivostok, Wang Jung said: “The resumption of China-Russia joint oceanographic surveys shows a shared commitment to addressing global climate change and exploring cutting-edge marine science and marks a new chapter in bilateral marine research cooperation.” ([“China, Russia relaunch joint maritime research missions, eyeing Arctic ambitions,” SCMP, 24 July 2025](#))

Russia-China Foreign Ministers discuss Ukraine War and US relations, reports Reuters

On 14 July, *Reuters* reported the meeting between the Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and China’s Foreign Minister Wang Yi on 13 July to discuss the Ukraine war, bilateral ties with the US, and broader geopolitical coordination. The talks ahead of the SCO Foreign Ministers meeting highlight the enhanced cooperation across multilateral platforms like the UN, BRICS, G20, and APEC. Both nations reaffirmed their ‘no limits’ partnership and pledged to jointly address global instability. The talks also touched on issues related to the Korean peninsula and Iran’s nuclear issue. Russia highlighted the importance of resolving the crisis in Ukraine, and China emphasized deepening cooperation and coordination to counter global challenges. ([“Russia, China discuss Ukraine war and ties with the United States,” Reuters, 14 July 2025](#))

CHINA & EUROPE

China’s embassy condemns the Czech President meeting the 14th Dalai Lama

On 27 July, China's Embassy in the Czech Republic expressed firm opposition against Czech Republic President Petr Pavel meeting the 14th Dalai Lama and Penpou Tseringem. The embassy issued that this regards China's overall relations with the Czech. The embassy spokesperson said: "The Xizang region has been an integral part of China's territory since ancient times, and Xizang affairs are purely China's internal affairs and allow no external interference." They noted that the current Dalai Lama is a political exile who, under the guise of religion, is engaging in a secessionist movement against China. They also noted that the Tibetan government in exile is a separatist political body that strives to gain independence and form a country that no one recognizes. The embassy urged: "The Czech side to uphold its one-China commitment, take effective measures at once to eliminate the adverse impact of this incident, cease sending any wrong signals to "Xizang independence" separatist forces, and in deeds safeguard the healthy and stable development of China-Czech relations." (["Chinese Embassy in Czech expresses strong dissatisfaction, firm opposition to President Pavel's meeting with Dalai Lama," *Global Times*, 28 July 2025](#))

Xi Jinping calls for the EU and China to grow their bilateral cooperation at the summit

On 24 July, China's President Xi Jinping during the 25th China-EU Summit where he met European Council President Antonio Costa and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen. Expressed that they both are constructive forces of multilaterals, openness, and cooperation. He called for the importance of China-EU communication to further enhance their cooperation. He said: "China and the EU, both 'big guys' in the international community, should keep their bilateral relationship growing in the right direction, and work together to usher it into an even brighter next 50 years." Xi noted that they faced accelerated global transformation not seen in a century, and that they both should demonstrate vision and leadership. He noted that the EU and China do not face any direct conflict of interest, and therefore their cooperation should outweigh competition. Xi called for the EU to uphold openness and multilateralism in the region. (["President Xi calls for China-EU cooperation to provide more stability, certainty for world," *CGTN*, 24 July 2025](#))

China to host the 25th China-European Union summit, informs China's Foreign Ministry

On 22 July, China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs

announced that it will be holding the 25th China-European Union Summit to enhance bilateral strategic communication between the two. The ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun stressed the significance of the summit as they face growing turbulence in the international landscape and the rise of unilateralism and protectionism. The President of the European Council, Antonio Costa, and the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, will be visiting China for the summit. The summit also takes place on the 50th anniversary of diplomatic ties between China and the EU. Jiakun said: "Bilateral cooperation has yielded fruitful results, which boost the development and progress of both sides, deliver tangible benefits to the nearly two billion people of China and the EU, and make a significant contribution to global peace and development. This cooperation sets an example of mutually beneficial cooperation in the era of economic globalization." (["Upcoming China-EU summit to deepen bilateral cooperation, says Beijing," *CGTN*, 17 July 2025](#))

EU's 18th package of Russian sanctions includes two Chinese firms

On 18 July, the Mission of China to the European Union opposed the unilateral sanctions imposed by the EU. These sanctions are adopted under the 18th package of sanctions against Russia, which includes two Chinese companies. They said: "By listing two Chinese financial institutions in its 18th sanctions package, the EU has acted in a manner both egregious in nature and harmful in effect. China expresses strong dissatisfaction and resolute opposition and has already lodged stern representations with the EU. China will take firm measures to safeguard its legitimate rights and interests." The Mission of China stated that on the Ukraine issue, they have remained consistent, calling for peace and dialogue, as they are committed to promoting a political settlement. They urged the EU to stop the smear campaign claiming China, and to immediately correct its wrongful inclusion of Chinese firms. (["China expresses strong dissatisfaction, resolute opposition over EU's 18th Russia sanctions package listing two Chinese banks: spokesperson," *Global Times*, 19 July 2025](#))

Secondary sanctions on China, Brazil, and India if they continue trade with Russia, says NATO Chief

On 15 July, NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte informed that China, Brazil, and India can face a second set of sanctions if they continue to engage in business with Russia. Rutte made the

statement while meeting the US Congress, a day before President Donald Trump made a statement that they are sending weapons to Ukraine, and that there will be “biting” secondary tariffs on the buyers of Russian exports unless a peace deal is reached in 50 days. Rutte said: “My encouragement to these three countries, particularly, is, if you live now in Beijing, or Delhi, or you are the president of Brazil, you might want to take a look into this, because this might hit you very hard.” And that “So please make the phone call to Vladimir Putin and tell him that he has to get serious about peace talks, because otherwise this will slam back on Brazil, on India, and China in a massive way.” Rutte also informed that Europe will find money to ensure Ukraine is in the best possible position for peace talks and that the US will now supply massive air defense missiles and ammunition paid by the EU. (“[NATO chief says Brazil, China and India could be slammed by sanctions](#),” *Reuters*, 15 July 2025)

China’s Foreign Ministry refutes accusations of its naval vessel attacking German aircraft

On 10 July, SCMP reported that China refuses that its vessels laser-targeted German aircraft. The German Foreign Ministry informed that their aircraft were conducting their maritime protection activity in the Red Sea when the PLA naval vessel laser targeted the aircraft for no prior reason. China’s ambassador to Berlin was summoned in this regard. China’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs informed that the accusation does not match the facts with what they have gathered. The spokesperson of the ministry, Mao Ning, stressed that there is a need to increase communication to avoid misunderstanding and miscalculations. Mao clarified PLA’s naval presence in the region and said: “The Chinese navy’s escort missions in the Gulf of Aden and the waters off Somalia are aimed at fulfilling China’s responsibility as a major country and contributing to the safety and security of international shipping lanes.” (“[China denies German accusation that PLA laser-targeted aircraft patrolling Red Sea](#),” *SCMP*, 10 July 2025)

Germany accuses a Chinese ship of laser targeting their aircraft

On 08 July, Germany summoned China’s ambassador after China’s military was accused of laser targeting German aircraft. The German Federal Foreign Office called this: “Putting German personnel at risk and disrupting the operation is completely unacceptable.” Germany’s Federal Ministry of Defence informed that the aircraft were taking part in the EU’s

ASPIDES mission aimed at protecting international sea routes in the Red Sea, and they provide flying eye reconnaissance help. The Chinese ship is accused of laser targeting aircraft for no reason. (“[Germany accuses China of laser targeting aircraft in EU mission](#),” *Reuters*, 08 July 2025)

China is spreading an anti-Rafale narrative to undermine the global sales, reports French Intelligence

On 06 July, *Al Jazeera* reported the allegations of Intelligence Officials in France that China is orchestrating a disinformation campaign to undermine global sales of France’s Rafale fighter jets after the India-Pakistan airstrikes in May. According to a report released by Associated Press, Chinese embassies are allegedly reported to warn countries like Indonesia against purchasing Rafales and promote alternatives from China. The disinformation campaign is alleged to include social media posts, AI-generated content, and imagery portraying Rafales in a poor light, following the first known Rafale combat loss during the clash between India and Pakistan. France claims that these disinformation campaigns have sown the seeds of doubt and uncertainty among countries which already purchased or are considering the purchase of French Rafales. The claims of French Intelligence for China’s role in anti-Rafale narratives have been denied by China as “groundless”. The Rafale is one of the key defence exports of France, selling over 500 units globally to countries like India, Egypt, Qatar, and Indonesia. (“[French intelligence claims China trying to foil global sale of Rafale jets](#),” *Al Jazeera*, 06 July 2025)

China retaliates against EU ban with medical device import curbs, reports Reuters

On 06 July, *Reuters* reported that China has imposed restrictions on government purchases of EU medical devices exceeding 45 million yuan. This retaliatory action is a response to the EU’s recent ban on China’s firms from bidding on medical contracts worth more than 60 billion euros annually. This decision by the EU was made under the 2022 international procurement instrument, aimed at ensuring reciprocal market access. The Ministry of Commerce of the People’s Republic of China accused the EU of protectionist barriers, stating it had ‘no choice but to respond’. The new rules also restrict imports of non-EU medical devices containing more than 50 Percent EU-made components. The latest escalation comes amidst rising economic tensions like the EU’s tariffs on China’s EV

and China's new duties on the EU's brandy ahead of a scheduled China-EU summit. (["China retaliates to EU ban with import restrictions on medical devices,"](#) Reuters, 06 July 2025)

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China imposes anti-dumping duties on EU brandy

On 04 July, *CGTN* reported the announcement of the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China on a five-year anti-dumping tariff on brandy imports from the EU. The ruling concludes the investigation initiated in January 2024, which found that EU brandy imports constituted dumping and threatened China's domestic industry. China's dumping margins were determined to be between 27.7 percent and 34.9 percent. The Ministry of Commerce stated that it would not impose duties on imports from EU industry associates and enterprises that comply with the accepted price undertakings. The Spokesperson stated that the EU should work together with China to strengthen dialogue and negotiations to create favorable conditions for enhanced China-EU economic and trade cooperation. (["China issues final ruling of anti-dumping probe into EU brandy imports,"](#) *CGTN*, 04 July 2025)

China cannot accept Russia's failure in the Ukraine war, says China's Foreign Minister On 03 July, *CNN World* reported the statement of China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi to the EU's top diplomat that China cannot accept Russia losing the war against Ukraine as it could allow US to turn its full attention to China. The statement came during the high-level diplomatic meeting with the EU's foreign affairs Chief Kaja Kallas, where they exchanged thoughts on various issues like cybersecurity, rare earths and trade imbalances. This statement echoes concerns of critics on China's stake in the Russo-Ukraine War. This statement is contradictory to official statements of China on negotiation and ceasefire, marking a complex picture of China's public statements. (["China tells EU it can't accept Russia losing its war against Ukraine, official says,"](#) *CNN*, 04 July 2025)

China and Germany engage in 8th strategic dialogue on security and diplomacy in Berlin, reports CGTN

On 04 July, *CGTN* reported the eighth round of diplomatic dialogue on diplomacy and security between China and Germany in Berlin. The meeting saw China's Foreign Minister Wang yi and German counterpart Johann Wadepful discussing about strengthening bilateral ties amidst global challenges. Wang Yi emphasized the need for Worlds second and third largest economies to reaffirm trust, cooperation, and counter all forms of protectionism and unilateralism. He advocated the importance of multilateralism, upholding the UN-centred international system, and maintaining a rule-based international order. Wang also urged Germany to adhere to one-China policy and continue its constructive role in EU-China relations. Wadepful responded by highlighting the importance of communication and cooperation, affirming Germany's One-China policy. Both sides also discussed critical regional issues such as the Ukraine crisis and Iran's nuclear issue. (["China, Germany hold 8th round of strategic dialogue on diplomacy, security,"](#) *CGTN*, 04 July 2025)

China-US rifts persist on war and trade, says China's Foreign Minister

On 02 July, *SCMP* reported that despite efforts to prepare for a major EU-China leaders' summit in Beijing, recent visit of China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi exposed sharp rifts between China and EU over Ukraine and trade. While Wang called for united EU and China against unilateralism and hegemony, EU leaders expressed their concerns over Beijing's support to Russia in Russo-Ukraine war. EU Foreign Policy Chief Kaja

Kallas urged China to halt material support to Russia's military. The EU voiced its support for China's One-China policy while expressing opposition to altering the status quo. Brussels also criticized China's rare earth export controls and trade imbalances. The diplomatic meetings ahead of the China-EU summit in Beijing highlighted the geopolitical and economic tensions between the EU and China, despite shared interest in a multipolar world order. ("Wang Yi's Brussels visit lays bare EU-China rifts on Ukraine, trade," *SCMP*, 02 July 2025)

CHINA & THE AMERICAS

The US earth imaging satellites are landmines, says China Academy of Science

On 30 July, China's Academy of Sciences researchers reported that the US's largest earth imaging satellite fleet is like "low-cost landmines," and that they are a threat to space operations. The scientists found that the US Dove constellation, which was responsible for launching hundreds of CubeSats since 2013, has provided hundreds of images of Earth's surface. Out of these, more than 80 per cent of the 662 Doce satellites have deorbited, which raised concerns that their uncontrolled re-entry will lead to a potential collision. They have now become an Earth orbit minefield. The researchers noted that it is time to revisit the regulatory framework of these satellites and to find a balance between innovation and responsibility. ("US Earth imaging satellite fleet is creating 'low-cost orbital landmines', China team says," *SCMP*, 30 July 2025)

Trump to have the final say on US-China tariff halt extension, says US Treasury Secretary

On 29 July, officials from China and the US agreed to seek an extension on their 90-day truce talks in Stockholm. No breakthroughs were announced after the trade talks. A US official expressed that it was up to US President Donald Trump to decide whether they want to extend their trade truce. US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent stated that the meeting was constructive and that they are yet to sign off. Bessent also informed that he will be meeting with Trump, and he will have the final say on the extension. US Trade Representative, Jamieson Greer, said: "We had constructive meetings for sure, to go back with the positive report. But the extension of the pause, he'll decide." China's top trade negotiator Li Chenggang said: "The Chinese and U.S. economic and trade teams will maintain active communication, exchange

views on economic and trade issues promptly, and continue to promote the stable and healthy development of bilateral economic and trade relations." ("US, China tariff truce holds for now but US says Trump has final say," *Reuters*, 30 July 2025)

Tariff talks with the US constructive, says China's trade representative

On 29 July, China's International Trade Representative, Li Chenggang, with China's Ministry of Commerce, held talks with a US official on tariffs in Stockholm. Li said: "The economic and trade teams of both countries held in-depth, candid, and constructive discussions on major issues of mutual concern, under the framework of the China-U.S. economic and trade consultation mechanism." He noted that both sides conducted a comprehensive exchange. Li informed that China and the US have agreed to extend the pause as they engage in frank conversation. Other senior Chinese officials informed that both countries will maintain close contact and ensure timely communication. ("China's representative terms U.S. trade talks in Stockholm 'in-depth, candid, constructive'," *CGTN*, 29 July 2025)

China and the US to extend the tariff pause at the Stockholm meeting, reports SMCP

On 27 July, *SCMP* reported that China and the US are expected to extend their tariff truce for another three months as their trade talks continue in Stockholm. China and the US in May removed heavy tariffs they imposed on each other for a period of 90 days, which is scheduled to expire on 12 August. The Stockholm discussion will discuss China's industrial overcapacity. While the Chinese team is set to press the Trump administration against the fentanyl related tariffs. It is estimated that during the 90 extension, the two countries will not engage in additional tariffs. China sees the 20 per cent fentanyl related tariffs as unfair, but might agree to the baseline tariff of 10 per cent, said sources privy to *SCMP*. US President Donald Trump said that they are very close to reaching a deal with China, while European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen also informed that they struck a deal with China and will see how that goes. ("China, US to extend tariff pause at Sweden talks by another 90 days: sources," *SCMP*, 27 July 2025)

TikTok to go dark without divestment, says US Commerce Secretary

On 24 July, US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick announced that TikTok would be brought up for discussion with China on trade.

And that if China and ByteDance do not approve the divestment of the app, TikTok will go dark in the US. He stated that the Trump administration will allow TikTok to exist if it remains under US control, and that China can retain a stake as the current owner. Lutnick said: "Americans will have control. Americans will own the technology, and Americans will control the algorithm. That's something Donald Trump is willing to do. If that deal gets approved by the Chinese, then that deal will happen." TikTok is part of the current trade negotiations with China, as a relevant topic, but is not officially part of the trade deal. ByteDance, the parent company, is under pressure by the US to divest its stake in the app, which has a major following in America. During the Biden administration, they came out with a sale-or-ban law of foreign adversary apps to no longer control the app over national security concerns. ("[US commerce secretary says next week's China trade talks could include TikTok](#)," *SCMP*, 25 July 2025)

China's Embassy in the US refutes Microsoft's accusation of cyber-attacks

On 23 July, China's Embassy in the US refuted claims by Microsoft of cyber-attacks on their SharePoint servers, linked to China. Microsoft claimed that they observed two Chinese "nation-state" actors, Linen Typhoon and Violet Typhoon. Who were claiming to share the firm's vulnerabilities on the SharePoint servers. The embassy's spokesperson, Liu Pengyu, stated that cyber-attacks are a common threat faced by all countries and that China is also a victim of these attacks. Liu stressed that China has always been consistent and clear, as it has firmly opposed such threats; they have been actively working to crack down on all forms of cyberattacks and cybercrimes. And also stated that at the same time, they are against a smear campaign without any solid evidence. ("[China rejects baseless accusations of links to Microsoft SharePoint attack](#)," *CGTN*, 23 July 2025)

BlackRock memo restricts its employees from using company tech while travelling to China

On 22 July, BlackRock advised its staff visiting China to use temporary phones and not to use their company's laptops. BlackRock is a global investment firm of the US, they one of the world's largest asset managers. The memo notes that company-issued devices like iPhones and iPads are permitted for use. They also barred to use of their company laptops with remote access via virtual private networks, and that during their travel, they will not have access to the

BlackRock network. Before this, the US Department also informed that China is blocking the exit of US government employees from leaving China. Wells Fargo also issued a ban against their employees traveling to China. ("[BlackRock restricts use of company devices for China travel](#), *Bloomberg News reports*," *Reuters*, 22 July 2025)

Argentina eases Chinese entry into Argentina with a US passport and visa

On 21 July, Argentina announced that Chinese citizens holding a valid US visa will be permitted to travel to Argentina, and that they will not require a separate visa for Argentina. This will be expanded for tourism and business purposes, showcasing better ties between the two countries. Argentina is a key supplier of beef, soy, and lithium products to the Chinese market. The decision was made by Argentine President Alberto Fernández, aimed at boosting tourism and to "deactivate" mechanisms that curtail the development of the Argentine economy. China in May also extended its visa-free policy for citizens of Argentina and other Latin American countries, Brazil, Chile, Peru, and Uruguay. He said: "deemed appropriate to adopt equivalent measures for Chinese nationals holding ordinary passports who enter for tourism and business purposes." China is Argentina's second-largest trading partner after Brazil and is also a key investor in infrastructure, energy, and mining projects. ("[Argentina loosens visa requirement for Chinese citizens](#)," *Reuters*, 22 July 2025)

US complaints against China's presence in the South China Sea refuted

On 22 July, China's representative to the United Nations, Fu Cong, refuted the US claims against China's actions in the South China Sea. Fu stated that China holds indisputable sovereignty over the islands in the South China Sea and its adjacent waters, as it has historical and legal rights backing the territorial claims. He also thanked the efforts of China and the ASEAN countries, and the situation in the South China Sea has been stable in recent years, and they advocate for resolving the maritime disputes through dialogue and cooperation. He also criticized the US's disregard of the historical context and the objective facts related to the South China Sea, and the being a signatory to the UNCLOS, it should not interfere with other countries. ("[China rejects U.S. accusations on South China Sea at UN Security Council debate](#)," *CGTN*, 23 July 2025)

US government employees barred from leaving China, reports SCMP

On 20 July, SCMP reported that American citizens working for the US government have been blocked from leaving China for months, citing national security issues. It was reported that authorities detained a naturalized US citizen upon landing in Chengdu. The clear reason for the exit ban is not made public. The Washington Post also reported that their employees were being held for failing to disclose in their visa application that they worked for the US government. Other than that, people who have worked for the US Army, US Commerce Department, Trademark Office, and have made a personal visit to China have been held as well. The US State Department said: “nothing to share” regarding the case, and that the “highest priority is the safety and security of US citizens.” According to China’s Exit and Entry Administration Law, Chinese citizens and foreigners can be barred from leaving China if they are involved in unresolved civil cases or are under criminal investigation. This exit ban can remain for months or even years. A CIA deputy assistant director for East Asia and the Pacific Forum, Wilder, informed that while most prior cases of ban concerned Chinese descendants, this is the first time individuals working for the US government are also detained. A week prior, a Wells Fargo executive of Chinese descent was barred from leaving the country; since then, the firm has suspended all travel to China. ([“US government worker, target of exit ban, prevented from leaving China for months,” SCMP, 20 July 2025](#))

China's exports of rare earths to the US increased in June, reports the General Administration of Customs

On 20 July, the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC) showcased that China’s export of rare earth magnets to the US increased seven times in June. This showcased a recovery flow of critical minerals that are paramount in the production of electric vehicles and wind turbines. China is responsible for 90 per cent of the global supply of rare earth magnets, and after the tariff tensions with the US. They added several rare earth items to the export restriction list to retaliate. The exports and shipments fell in April, which upset the supply chain as it took time to secure export licenses again. It is reckoned that China exported 3,188 tons of rare earths of permanent magnets in June, which is a 157.5 per cent increase from 1,238 exports in May. The shipments of magnets are estimated to recover by July as more exporters recover their licenses.

([“China's exports of rare earth magnets to the US surge in June,” Reuters, 21 July 2025](#))

Forced “decouple” of US-China to fail, says China’s Commerce Minister

On 18 July, China’s Commerce Minister, Wang Wentao, stated that any forcible “decouple” of China-US economic and trade relations will fail. He stated that while their relationship has seen ups and downs over the years, through it all, they have remained important partners to each other. And that despite their sour relations, their bilateral trade has remained relatively stable. He said: “The trade volume of goods and services between China and the United States rose by 18 percent and 34.7 percent in 2024 from 2017 levels, respectively. The two countries also remain key investment partners, with close exchanges between their business communities.” And that “In essence, China-U.S. economic and trade relations benefit both sides and bring win-win outcomes. Cooperation is the only right path.” He reiterated that both China and the US are fully capable of maintaining equal footing and consultation, as China’s stance has remained the same, defending its national interest while upholding international fairness and justice. ([“Any attempt at forced China-U.S. 'decoupling' bound to fail, says commerce minister,” CGTN, 18 July 2025](#))

Canada's duties on Chinese steel imports condemned by the Chinese embassy in Ottawa

On 18 July, China’s embassy in Canada condemned the duties imposed on Chinese steel imports, stating that they violated the World Trade Organization (WTO) rules and disrupted the global trade order. Canada’s Prime Minister Mark Carney informed that Canada will impose 25 per cent tariffs on steel imports from all countries that contain melted steel from China. The move comes in light of Canada protecting Canadian steel after countries were dumping after the US imposed its tariff sanctions. The Chinese Embassy in Ottawa said: “Canada’s approach lacks justification in principle, has no legal basis, and will prove ineffective. It will severely undermine normal economic and trade cooperation between China and Canada.” ([“Canada's Steel Import Duties Violate WTO Rules, Says China,” US News, 18 July 2025](#))

China’s embassy in Panama opposes US Ambassador’s “Neo-Monroe Doctrine” remarks

On 19 July, Global Times reported on China’s Embassy in Panama calling the US Ambassador’s statement having “Neo-Monroe Doctrine”

mentality, noting that he overstepped his diplomatic mandate. The Chinese embassy noted that the Panama Canal is Panama's asset and that China respects the canal's neutrality. They refuted the statements by the ambassador of the US claiming China has been using "malign influence" over Panama and the canal. Panama's President Jose Raul Mulino also refuted the claims, and China noted that it was in fact the US that once closed the canal and now wants free passage, as it attempts to retake. They also went against the statement that BRI is not good for Panama or the Latin American countries. They also claimed that China provides "predatory loans," leaving them in distress. The US ambassador said: "We reiterate that China always requires its companies operating overseas to comply with local laws and regulations, and we always oppose any coercive economic measures or hegemonic, abusive practices that harm the legitimate rights and interests of other countries." (["Chinese Embassy in Panama rebukes US ambassador's lies on China, criticizes him for exposing 'Neo-Monroe Doctrine' mentality," Global Times, 19 July 2025](#))

Wells Fargo suspends its employees from travelling to China, reports Reuters

On 18 July, *Reuters* reported on a US-based company, Wells Fargo, banning all travel to China, after their bankers were blocked from leaving the country. Chenyue Mao was subjected exit ban after entering China. Wells Fargo issued a statement and said: "We are closely tracking this situation and working through the appropriate channels so our employee can return to the United States as soon as possible." This can also affect multinational companies recalibrating the risks of doing business with China. Wells Fargo has been warning its employees to travel with additional documents, considering the geopolitical risks around the immigration policies. (["Wells Fargo suspends China travel after employee exit ban, source says," Reuters, 18 July 2025](#))

The US plans to impose 93.5 per cent duties on Chinese graphite, reports Bloomberg

On 17 July, *Bloomberg* reported that the US Commerce Department plans to impose preliminary anti-dumping duties of 93.5 per cent on the imports of graphite from China. Graphite is an important battery component. The trade associations in the US issued a petition to investigate if China was violating anti-dumping laws. The duties planned to be imposed will make the tariff total 160 per cent. This will further stress the tensions on the

global electric vehicle supply chain as it faces export control from China as well. The tariff will affect battery manufacturers, where the charges will wipe out any profit. Tesla and Panasonic were pushing against the new tariffs; they argued that the reliance comes from the underdevelopment of domestic companies meeting quality standards. (["US Set to Impose 93.5% Duty on China Battery Material," Bloomberg, 17 July 2025](#))

China to reprimand fentanyl producers, claims Donald Trump

On 17 July, *Reuters* reported on US President Donald Trump's statement that he thinks China will soon sentence people to death for fentanyl manufacturing and the distribution of the drug. He expressed optimism towards China's handling of the production of illicit drugs. The US accused the Chinese government of failing to curb the flow of chemicals of fentanyl causing many overdose deaths in the US. While China defended itself with records stating that the US is using fentanyl as a "blackmail" against China. Trump also imposed sanctions citing concerns, now he said: "I think we're going to work it out so that China is going to end up going from that to giving the death penalty to the people that create this fentanyl and send it into our country." It is estimated that over 450,000 Americans have died due to synthetic opioids. Since the simmering down of tensions, Trump expressed that China is helping out. (["Trump thinks China will sentence fentanyl traffickers to death," Reuters, 17 July 2025](#))

Nvidia to resume the sale of US H2O AI chips to China

On 15 July, Nvidia announced that it will resume the sale of H2O AI chips to China, informing US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick. He informed that this is part of the trade deal on magnets. This is the reversal of the export restriction imposed by the US on AI chips over national security concerns, which garnered the rare bipartisan support. Some are unhappy about it, where Democratic Representative Raja Krishnamoorthi said: "would not only hand our foreign adversaries our most advanced technologies but is also dangerously inconsistent with this Administration's previously-stated position on export controls for China." Additionally, similar concerns were expressed by Republican John Moolenaar who said: "The H2O is a powerful chip that, according to our bipartisan investigation, played a significant role in the rise of PRC AI companies like DeepSeek," and that "it is crucial that the U.S. maintain its lead and keep advanced AI out of

the hands of the CCP.” Nvidia’s CEO, Jensen Huang, expressed that the leadership of the firm can slip away if they do not sell to Chinese developers. He said: “The Chinese market is massive, dynamic, and highly innovative, and it’s also home to many AI researchers.” ([“Nvidia’s resumption of AI chips to China is part of rare earths talks, says US,” Reuters, 16 July 2025](#))

Chinese brain drain is a “great loss” for the US, says Nvidia CEO

On 16 July, SCMP reported on Nvidia CEO, Jensen Huang’s view on Chinese brain drain from the US and how detrimental it will be for America. He expressed that it is a “great loss” for the US, as many Chinese academicians and researchers are leaving the country to return to China over the tense bilateral ties. Huang said: “But it’s an enormous loss for America when the brightest minds decide to come to you for education and decide to go home.” Huang is set to make his third visit to China to attend the China International Supply Chain Expo. He wished that the US continues to become a place where people from around the world can chase the American dream. Huang, born in Taiwan, expressed that his parents did the same. Huang stated that he is an immigrant, and because of the US, all of his colleagues were able to dream and create a company that is successful company. ([“Chinese brain drain a great loss for US, Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang says,” SCMP, 16 July 2025](#))

China’s President extends congratulations to the newly elected President of Suriname

On 13 July, SCMP reported that China’s President Xi Jinping extended his congratulations to Jennifer Simons on her election as President of Suriname. China’s President highlighted in his message that Suriname is a strategic and cooperative partner of China in the Caribbean. He also emphasized that bilateral ties established 49 years ago have steadily grown through practical cooperation and multilateral coordination. Xi also expressed his readiness to work with the newly elected President to deepen their friendly and mutually beneficial partnership. The message highlighted China’s intention to further enhance ties and deliver greater benefits to both countries through stronger strategic cooperation. ([“President Xi Jinping congratulates Jennifer Simons on election as Surinamese president,” SCMP, 13 July 2025](#))

US State Secretary calls for China-US cooperation at the 32nd ASEAN Forum

On 11 July, China’s Foreign Minister Wang Yi

and US Secretary of State Marco Rubio agreed to explore “areas of possible cooperation.” They met on the sidelines of the ASEAN regional forum. Rubios said: “Look, we’re two big, powerful countries, and there are always going to be issues that we disagree on,” and that “I think there are some areas of potential cooperation. I thought it was a very constructive, positive meeting and a lot of work to do.” Rubio also hinted at a possible visit by US President Donald Trump to China. He stated that the odds are high and that both sides have to make it happen. Wang Yi called to mutually find a correct for China and the US to get along in this new era. On trade, Rubio said: “We certainly appreciate the role trade plays in our bilateral relationships with individual countries. But the bulk of our talks here have been about all the other things that we cooperate on.” ([“Rubio and Wang stress cooperation after talks in Malaysia as US-China tensions simmer,” AP, 12 July 2025](#))

China and Bolivia celebrate 40 years of diplomatic ties

On 09 July, China’s President Xi Jinping sends a congratulatory note to Bolivia’s President Luis Arce on their 40th anniversary of diplomatic ties. Xi stated that over the past 40 years, countries have stood the test of changing international circumstances. Additionally, both sides support each other’s issues and concerns, and the BRI relationship has yielded fruitful results. Xi said: “Great importance to the development of China-Bolivia relations and is willing to work with the Bolivian president to carry forward the traditional friendship, elevate the China-Bolivia strategic partnership to new heights, to bring more benefits to the two peoples.” Arc commended China’s support and assistance in areas of infrastructure and technology development and lauded the China-Latin America’s growing friendship. ([“Xi, Bolivian president exchange congratulations on 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations,” Global Times, 09 July 2025](#))

China-Brazil to reach a building transcontinental railway, reports SCMP

On 09 July, SCMP reported that both China and Brazil agreed to study the feasibility of a transcontinental railway. The network can reshape the route connecting Brazil’s Atlantic Ocean coast to Peru’s Pacific Ocean port of Chancay. The MoU was signed between Infra S.A., the Brazilian state-owned company linked to the Ministry of Transport, and the China Railway Economic and Planning Research Institute, part of China State Railway Group. The plan is to build a railway track of

45000 km running from northern Brazil. ([“Brazil and China to study South American transcontinental railway project,” SCMP, 09 July 2025](#))

US ocean imports from China decline by 28 per cent, reports Reuters

On 08 July, Reuters reported that the US imports of container goods from China decreased by 28.3 per cent, after the tariff tensions between US-China. There was a steep decline in May as the US’s top trading ocean’s partner. The overall decline is 3.5 per cent from June 2024. China’s imports to the US were 28.8 per cent in June, really low from the 2024 peak of 40 per cent. The imports from other Southeast Asian countries have surged as they have diversified sources to Indonesia, Thailand, and Vietnam. ([“US ocean imports from China tumbled 28% in June on tariff hikes,” Reuters, 08 July 2025](#))

TikTok to build new version of its app for American users, reports SCMP

On 07 July, SCMP reported that TikTok is building a new version of its app specifically for US users ahead of a potential sale to a group of American investors. The revamped app is expected to be launched on 05 September, with users required to transition to it by March next year. This action follows US President Donald Trump’s recent statement indicating that the talks with China over a possible TikTok deal could begin early this week. Trump extended the deadline for ByteDance to divest its US assets. The previous attempt to TikTok’s US operations into a US-controlled company was stalled due to escalating US-China trade tensions. The final deal still requires the approval of China, and TikTok has not yet formally responded. ([“TikTok building new version of app ahead of expected US sale: report,” SCMP, 07 July 2025](#))

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TikTok has not yet formally responded. ([“TikTok building new version of app ahead of expected US sale: report,” SCMP, 07 July 2025](#))

China-Brazil pledge to strengthen their AI partnership in farming, reports SCMP

On 07 July, SCMP reported that at the 17th BRICS summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil’s president Lula da Silva and China’s premier Li Qiang pledged to jointly advance artificial intelligence in agriculture, focusing on semi-arid regions. In partnership with Brazil’s National Semi-Arid Institute and China’s agricultural university, the two leaders announced plans to establish an AI lab to support family farming. The initiative aims to integrate AI into farming to improve soil monitoring and environmental sustainability. They also agreed to expand their cooperation on semiconductors, renewable energy, and shipbuilding. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to multilateralism, climate action, and deeper strategic ties under the BRICS framework ([“China’s Li, Brazil’s Lula pledge joint effort to bring AI to farming in both of their countries,” SCMP, 07 July 2025](#))

Bolivia’s congress questions lithium contracts with China, reports Reuters

On 04 July, Reuters reported that chaos erupted in Bolivia’s congress, as the Energy Minister Alejandro Gallardo was assailed during a debate on controversial lithium contracts with China and Russian firms. This two billion worth of deals aim to fast-track the exploitation of Bolivia’s vast lithium reserves. The opposition disrupted the session, alleging that the contracts are unfavorable to the state. The session devolved into scuffles, shouting, and throwing objects. They warned President Luis Arce of mobilized resistance if the illegal and unconstitutional process continues, as the deal does not serve local communities or address environmental concerns. ([“Bolivian congress brawls over China, Russia lithium deals, Reuters, 04 July 2025](#))

China condemns America’s hegemonic acts, says China’s envoy at the World Peace Forum

On 03 July, SCMP reported that at the World Peace Forum, China’s diplomat Liu Jianchao warned that the Trump administration’s “Peace through strength rhetoric” and “hegemonic thinking” lead to shared destruction. He argued that the mindset fuels the Thucydides trap, leading to inevitable conflict between rising and established powers. Liu advocated for China’s vision of common security and shared future, rejecting zero-sum games in an era of technology. Despite trade tensions between the

two countries, Liu expressed his optimism in bilateral relations, emphasizing that both countries and the world desire a friendly relationship. He also reiterated that China's goal is not global dominance but self-empowerment, rejecting hegemonic powers.

("Veteran Chinese diplomat warns Trump's policies risk 'shared destruction'," SCMP, 03 July 2025)

Trump administration resumes exports of chip-design software to China

On 03 July, *Business Standard* reported that because of the new China-US trade deal, the Trump administration has lifted some export license requirements for chip design software sales to China. The US Commerce Department informed a leading provider of EDA software that it no longer requires government approval to conduct business in China. The original restrictions imposed in May were a response to China's rare earth mineral export restrictions. Under the new agreement US has agreed to resume exports of chip-design software, ethane, and jet engines. The EDA software restrictions were part of broader US efforts to curb China's semiconductor and AI development ambitions. ("Trump admin lifts chip design export curbs as part of new China deal," *Business Standard*, 03 July 2025)

China-Brazil to conduct its third China-Latin America Cultural Tour Exhibition

On 02 July, CGTN reported that the third China-Latin America Cultural Tour Exhibition will be open in Brazil. This event is expected to have 150 participants, which will include representatives from both China and Brazil. They will be faculty, students, and other representatives from cultural sectors. The exhibition will showcase 500 Chinese books, dual-language books on China. 100 cultural and creative products showcasing traditional Chinese culture will be kept. In recent years, schools in Brazil have showcased increased cooperation with China, and they even sent 10 graduate students to Hubei University. The event is aimed at promoting the in-depth development of bilateral cultural ties and cooperation. ("The third China-Latin America Cultural Tour Exhibition opens in Brazil," *CGTN*, 02 July 2025)

Canada bans Chinese surveillance tech firm Hikvision, reports Al Jazeera

On 30 June, *Al Jazeera* reported that China has strongly condemned Canada's decision to shut down the operations of a Chinese surveillance

tech giant, Hikvision, and warned of trade disruptions. Canada announced the decision following an intelligence review, with Industry Minister Melanie Joy emphasizing the national security threats posed by Hikvision. In response to the decision, the Ministry of Commerce, People's Republic of China, urged the correction of wrongdoing and the necessity to protect China's business interests. China urged Canada not to target China's firms and called for a non-discriminatory business environment. ("China claims Canada's order for Hikvision closure 'damages' trade relations," *Al Jazeera*, 30 June 2025)

US ratifies a bill barring clean energy tax credits for China-linked firms, reports SCMP

On 02 July, *SCMP* reported that the US Senate has passed President Donald Trump's 900-page "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" with a narrow 51-50 votes. The bill bars clean energy firms linked to China from receiving federal tax credits. The bill also ends the low-value imports or 'de minimis' trade rule, which bypasses duties, particularly to target rising shipments from platforms like Shien and Temu. If over 25 Percent of ownership or key components originate from China, Iran, North Korea, and Russia, the companies will be disqualified from receiving the credits. The legislation can disrupt over 100 China-linked clean energy projects in the US. Before it reaches Trump's desk for final approval, the House must approve the Senate version of the bill. ("US Senate, passing Trump bill, bars clean energy tax credits for firms with ties to China," *SCMP*, 02 July 2025)

US Justice Department charges two Chinese national for espionage, reports Reuters

On 02 July, *Reuters* reported that the US Justice Department captured two individuals from China for espionage. Nationals from China named Yuance Chen and Liren Ryan Lai are accused of gathering intelligence on US Navy bases and are alleged to be working on behalf of China's Ministry of State Security. The duo attempted to recruit American service personnel to spy for Beijing. Authorities reported that the suspects tried to facilitate a secret 'dead-drop' payment of USD 10,000 in Northern California to receive classified national security information. While responding to the issue, China's Spokesperson Liu Pengyu dismissed the claims as speculative. This case highlights growing concerns over espionage and external interference in the US. ("US charges two Chinese nationals with attempting to recruit US service members," *Reuters*, 02 July 2025)

EAST ASIA & THE PACIFIC READER

TAIWAN

Taiwan's investments in China decline, reports SEF

On 14 July, Taipei Times reported that Taiwanese investments in China have been declining since 2010, according to the Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF). This is attributed to the growing US-China trade war and China's economic slowdown. From 2010 to 2023, Taiwan's total investments in China decreased from 83.4 per cent to 11.4 per cent. In 2024, it reached 7.5 per cent, and the first quarter of 2025 saw the lowest rates of 2.7 per cent in investments. The foundation informed that 70 per cent of the businesses saw a drop in profits in 2024. This is also caused by increasing Taiwanese firms investing in other parts of the world, in light of growing tensions between China. The business's also realized the cost of investing in China is increasing. Additionally, China's "Made in China" policy also bolstered the competition. (["Taiwanese investment in China steadily declining," Taipei Times, 14 July 2025](#))

Taiwan's rocket crash after launch from Japan

On 12 July, Taiwanese-made rockets crashed shortly after their launch from Japan's island of Hokkaido. The mission aimed to reach the Karman Line. Which is an imaginary line 100 kilometers above the sea level, a boundary between the Earth's atmosphere and outer space. The rocket was made by a Taiwan-based company called Tispace Inc. with its Japanese subsidiary Jtspace. Soon after its launch, the rocket was seen drifting with smoke escaping from the panels. The successful journey to the Karman Line would have meant that the Taiwanese satellite would no longer have to depend on foreign-made rockets. (["Taiwan rocket crashes shortly after Japan launch," Taiwan News, 12 July 2025](#))

US think tanks suggest the military withdraw from Taiwan

On 09 July, a US-based think tank, Defense Priorities, suggested that the US should withdraw all military personnel from Taiwan. The report suggested that training is required; it can happen in the US. It noted that though Taiwan has increased its defence spending, but US's willingness to carry an additional burden does not stand in the core interest. It suggests that the current position of the US on Taiwan is too offense-oriented. And that this will lead to escalation rather than deter Chinese aggression.

US Assistant Secretary of Defense for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs John Noh said: "Arming Taiwan and strengthening Taiwan's defense capabilities is extremely important for not only the defense of Taiwan, but for strengthening our posture and re-establishing deterrents," (["US think tank urges full withdrawal of military personnel in Taiwan," Taiwan News, 11 July 2025](#))

Taiwan to hold the largest war games, "Han Kuang exercise"

On 09 July, Al-Jazeera reported that Taiwan launched its largest ever annual war game exercise, focused on role-playing responses to a hypothetical attack. The ten-day live fire drill, "Han Kuang exercise." The annual drills are held amid escalating tensions with China. Taiwan's Defence official said: "We are learning from the situation in Ukraine in recent years and realistically thinking about what Taiwan might face ... in real combat." Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense informed that the war games exercises will include "grey zone tactics." About 300 reservists were seen entering a junior high school in the city of Taoyuan that has been emptied for summer recess, with troops receiving weapons training. (["Taiwan holds huge war games to role-play Chinese invasion scenarios," Al-Jazeera, 09 July 2025](#))

China adds eight Taiwanese entries to the export control list

On 09 July, China's Ministry of Commerce announced eight Taiwanese entities as part of their export list. The imposition is in line with the Export Control Law and the Regulations on the Export Control of Dual-Use Items. This is in light of safeguarding national security and based on international obligations, says the ministry. They informed that the eight firms in Taiwan are prohibited from selling dual-use items to China, and all relevant exports come to an immediate halt. The eight firms are: Aerospace Industrial Development Corp, GEOSAT Aerospace & Technology Inc, National Chung-Shan Institute of Science & Technology, JC Technology Inc, CSBC Corporation, Taiwan, Jong Shyn Shipbuilding Co Ltd, Lungteh Shipbuilding Co Ltd, and Gong Wei Co Ltd. The ministry also reasoned that these entities have been collaborating with the "Taiwan independence" movement. Taiwan Affairs Office spokesperson Chen Binhua said: "Taiwan independence" stance, vigorously propagated separatist fallacies, and attempted to "seek independence

by relying on foreign forces.” ([“MOFCOM adds 8 entities from Taiwan island on export control list,” *Global Times*, 09 July 2025](#))

Typhoon Danas hits Taiwan

On 07 July, Typhoon Danas landed in the southern region of Taiwan. The strong winds and record rain killed two people, and more than 330 people were injured. Taiwan has been struck by typhoons regularly in the mountainous region on the east coast. Taiwan’s weather authority informed that this is the second-strongest typhoon to ever strike Taiwan. Taiwan’s President William Lai said: “The typhoon track is rare ... the whole of Taiwan will be affected by the wind and rain one after another.” There was a power outage in more than 500,000 homes, and over 300 domestic and international flights were cancelled. ([“Typhoon Danas lashes south with record winds, injuring hundreds,” *Taipei Times*, 07 July 2025](#))

Taiwan’s President calls for tighter security checks amid Chinese espionage threat, reports *Taiwan News*

On 05 July, *Taiwan News* reported on Taiwan’s President Lai Ching-te calling to impose tougher measures against suspected Chinese espionage efforts, as the cases have been surging in this regard. The security agencies from Taiwan have informed that the breach has reached the President’s Office, the Defense and Foreign Affairs office, the armed forces, and the legislature. He informed that they are present across political parties of both the DPP and KMT. Lai in March called for 17 security reforms for stricter residency vetting of all Chinese nationals in Taiwan. This move was heavily criticized by the opposition KMT, stating that this was for Lai to shield his political positioning. Taiwan’s National Security Bureau reported that 159 people have been indicted on suspicion of spying. In 2024, some 64 cases of espionage were reported. ([“Taiwan confronts Chinese spy threat with security reforms,” *Taiwan News*, 05 July 2025](#))

Taiwan’s textile manufacturer is against 20 per cent tariffs on Vietnam

On 03 July, Textile manufacturer New Wide Group’s Director, Huang Kuan-hua, informed that a 20 per cent tariff imposition on Vietnamese goods will affect the supply chain and profit model. He noted that if the tariffs were under 10 per cent, the brands would be able to share the burden of the supply chain. A 20 per cent tariff imposition will require a new framework to address the supply chain issue. This will demand structural adjustments in

companies for a case-by-case issue. He also informed that sudden US tariffs jolted the global textile trade sector, and affirmed against the idea that they are not a “sunset industry.” The New Wide Group is the largest textile manufacturer in Taiwan, providing integrated production by catering to major brands like Adidas, Zara, and Calvin Klein. ([“Taiwan’s New Wide Group warns 20% Vietnam tariff will shake up textile chains,” *Taiwan News*, 04 July 2025](#))

Chinese apps found violating and collecting personal data of Taiwanese nationals

On 02 July, Taiwan’s National Security Bureau informed that China’s social media apps like TikTok, RedNote, and WeChat pose a cybersecurity threat to Taiwan, leading to the leaking of biometrics. The bureau tested the Chinese apps in Taiwan and noted that they all show “excessive data collection” and “privacy infringement.” The bureau called for the public to be aware and to refrain from downloading Chinese apps that have questionable data protection policies. The bureau plans to conduct a joint investigation with Taiwan’s Ministry of Justice Investigation Bureau and Criminal Investigation Bureau. The apps were tested under the Ministry of Digital Affairs’ Basic Information Security Testing Standard for Mobile Applications. 15 criteria were used, and the indicators were in five categories of violation. These included personal data collection, data transmission, excessive permission of usage, biometric data access, and system information extraction. In all 15 criteria, TikTok and Weibo failed in 13, Baidu Cloud in 9, and WeChat in 10. All of the above apps were gathering data and misusing permissions; they had access to screenshots, clipboards, contact lists, and location. ([“Chinese apps such as TikTok and RedNote fail Taiwan security tests,” *Taiwan News*, 03 July 2025](#))

Taiwan’s President criticizes the opposition party for freezing a hike in the defence budget

On 02 July, Taiwan’s President Lai Ching-te calls for increased military spending in his fourth address at the Lions’ Club. He noted that the national defence in Taiwan needs more unity, and criticized the opposition party for freezing the military spending. He looked into the history of the “Battle of Gunningtou” of 1949, when the country came together against the Chinese forces of Kinmen. Additionally, he criticized the KMT administration’s defence spending of just 2 per cent. Lai noted that under Tsai Ing-wen, the spending reached 2.5 per cent last year. The

freezing of the defence budget will affect the critical areas of defense, stated Lai. He also quoted US Senator San Sullivan, who expressed that the Taiwanese opposition party is playing a “dangerous game.” Lai’s administration wants to increase the defence budget to 3 per cent of its GDP. He noted that the budget is not just important for the military but also for the entire nation. ([“Lai praises Taiwanese military in fourth address,” Taiwan News, 02 July 2025](#))

Taiwan nationals apprehended for scheming to generate revenue for North Korea

On 30 June, two Taiwanese nationals were apprehended in Boston for scheming to generate revenue to get North Korea’s weapons of mass destruction. The suspects Liu Meng-ting and Liu En-chia raised USD 5 million for the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK), notes US Attorney Leah Foley. Additionally, six Chinese and one American national were also detained for the same. It is alleged that North Korea has sent thousands of skilled IT professionals all around the world to generate revenue for the DPRK. The above detainees are also accused of compromising 80 US nationals information and have obtained remote jobs in more than 100 US-based companies. Foley said: “The threat posed by DPRK operatives is both real and immediate. Thousands of North Korean cyberoperatives have been trained and deployed by the regime to blend into the global digital workforce and systematically target US companies.” ([“Taiwanese indicted over alleged N Korea scheme,” Taipei Times, 02 July 2025](#))

UK and Taiwan officials discuss trade and economic cooperation

On 30 June, officials from Taiwan and the UK held talks in the British Office Taipei to discuss AI applications, semiconductors, and commercial drones. The meeting was co-hosted by the Taiwan Deputy Economics Ministry, Chiang Wen-jo, and the UK Minister of State Department for Business and Trade, Douglas Alexander. Chiang noted that Taiwan is a vital player in the global industrial supply chain. Cooperation between the two countries will now focus on AI, semiconductors, and green technology and energy. For the UK, Taiwan is an important economic and trade partner, according to the International Trade Administration. The UK government released its Industrial Strategy and Trade Strategy, according to which the focus will be on inviting investment for high-value industries from other countries. This will create opportunities for international companies to conduct business.

([“Taiwan-UK trade talks kick off in Taipei,” Taiwan News, 01 July 2025](#))

KOREA

South Korea is planning the OPCON transfer from the US, reports The Korea Times

On 14 July, *The Korea Times* reported on the South Korean government reassessing the transfer of operational command (OPCON) from the US forces stationed in South Korea. The transfer is a central part of the current government’s list, while no discussions or plan of action have been decided on. South Korea’s State Affairs Planning Committee informed that the administration is evaluating the conditions necessary for transfer. The committee’s spokesperson, Jo Seung-lae, said: “The agreement states that the transfer should take place once certain benchmarks have been met. This government is now evaluating those benchmarks.” And that “e will decide on the pace based on our assessment. This is the position of not only the committee, but also the presidential office and the Ministry of National Defense.” South Korea’s Ministry of National Defence informed that this issue is not hinged on the ongoing trade issue and that it is part of their long-standing policy with the US. Wartime control of South Korean forces was handed to the US after the Korean War; the reclamation of authority has seen delays. ([“Seoul cautious on OPCON transfer as US moves to restore restriction,” The Korea Times, 14 July 2025](#))

Russia and North Korea’s Foreign Ministers meet at the signing ceremony of the Wonsan resort

On 12 July, Russia’s Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov met his North Korean counterpart, Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui. Lavrov visited right after the ASEAN meeting in Kuala Lumpur. Lavrov said: “We exchanged views on the situation surrounding the Ukrainian crisis ... Our Korean friends confirmed their firm support for all the objectives of the special military operation, as well as for the actions of the Russian leadership and armed forces.” This comes in light of reports surfacing that North Korea will send more soldiers to Russia over the Ukraine war. North Korea also reportedly agreed to send 6000 military engineers and builders for the reconstruction of the Kursk region. Direct trains from Moscow to Pyongyang were opened as the new Wonsan coastal resort was opened. ([“Russia, North Korea foreign ministers meet, Pyongyang backs Ukraine war,” Reuters, 12 July 2025](#))

South Korea-Japan-US hold an air drill with strategic bombers

On 11 July, the US, Japan, and South Korea conducted a joint air drill with USD B-52 strategic bomber and fighter jets. The US strategic bomber was deployed in South Korea for a drill, as a move to deter North Korea's increasing nuclear and missile threat in the region. US Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Dan Caine said: "We're illuminating a future path together, a path where partnerships can evolve through persistent and regular engagement from building capacity to really sharing responsibility." He warned that both China and North Korea are going through unprecedented military buildups. ("South Korea, Japan and U.S. conduct air drill as defense chiefs meet," *The Japan Times*, 11 July 2025)

South Korea repatriates six North Koreans rescued from the sea

On 09 July, South Korea informed that they repatriated six North Koreans who were caught crossing the maritime border in East Asia. A wooden boat carrying them had all the fishermen who crossed the Northern Limit Line. The boat was headed towards two North Korean ships. In May, South Korea rescued North Koreans that has drifted to Seoul. South Korea's Ministry of Unification said: "The repatriation would have been carried out much more smoothly and promptly if the two Koreas had been in close contact and communication." The ministry spokesperson Koo Byoung-sam stated that humanitarian grounds on which they returned to North Korea. The rescued requested multiple times their wish to be returned to North Korea. ("S. Korea repatriates 6 N. Koreans rescued at sea across eastern maritime border," *The Korea Herald*, 09 July 2025)

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North Korea. ("S. Korea repatriates 6 N. Koreans rescued at sea across eastern maritime border," *The Korea Herald*, 09 July 2025)

North Korea invites western tourists except journalists, content creators, and influencers, reports The Korea Times

On 07 July, The Korea Times reported on North Korea inviting Western tourists to their newly opened tourism site. The international trade fair in Pyongyang bans journalists, content creators, and influencers from participating. The trip is planned by Young Pioneer Tours for an eight-day trip to Pyongyang. This tour will include major landmarks like Kim Il Sung Square and UUS Pueblo. The restriction against journalists and influencers follows after a short-lived tourism in the Rason Economic Zone was shared by the visitors. Due to which the program was halted. ("North Korea opens doors to Western tourists for trade fair, but bars journalists and influencers," *The Korea Times*, 07 July 2025)

South Korea to send cash handouts for citizens to increase consumer spending

On 05 July, South Korea will distribute cash handouts to all its citizens aimed at stimulating domestic consumption. This comes after the cabinet approved USD 23.3 billion in supplementary budget, passed by the National Assembly. The national cash handout is part of the supplementary budget policy by Lee Jae-myung. Under this policy, all South Korean citizens residing in the country as of 18 June will receive a one-time payment of 150,000 won, intended to boost consumer spending. Additionally, targeted assistance will be based on income levels. Individuals coming from near-poverty households and single-parent families will get 30,000 won and 40,000 won for recipients of the basic living allowance. Those living in the rural regions will receive an additional 30,000 won and 50,000 won in communities facing population decline. The second round of payments will go bottom 90 per cent of the income earners with 100,000 won. South Korea's Vice Interior Minister Kim Min-jae said: "We will ensure thorough preparations for the rollout of these payments so that they can serve as a catalyst for economic recovery by boosting consumption and supporting those in need." ("Korea to begin cash handouts to all citizens July 21," *The Korea Times*, 05 July 2025)

North Korean civilians found crossing the Military Demarcation Line towards South Korea

On 04 July, North Korean civilians were found crossing the fortified inter-Korean land border,

reported to the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The South Korean troops apprehended a man near the shallow stream running along the Military Demarcation Line (MDL), which is part of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ). The man was unarmed and identified himself as a civilian. The individual captured is now transferred to the relevant authorities for investigation. The military has not detected any unusual signs from the North Korean military. South Korea and North Korea have a 4-kilometer-wide buffer zone called the DMZ. Most of the defectors usually come from the northern border with South Korea, but rarely from the demarcated zone. ("N. Korean civilian crosses heavily fortified border in presumed defection to S. Korea," *Yonhap News Agency*, 04 July 2025)

North Korea plans to send 30,000 troops to Russia

On 02 July, *Firstpost* reported that North Korea plans to send an additional 30,000 troops to Russia, informs Ukraine's intelligence. It is estimated that 11,000 North Korean troops have aided Russia in the war with Ukraine, out of which 4,000 have died or have been injured. The new batch of troops is likely to arrive in Russia in the following months. Russia's Ministry of Defence, in turn, will supply North Korea with equipment, weapons, and ammunition. The new troops are likely to be deployed in Russia-occupied areas of Ukraine and will be part of a large-scale invasion operation against Ukraine. Satellite imagery shows that ships are being prepared to facilitate the deployment of troops. ("North Korea to send 30,000 troops to Ukraine frontlines in support of Russia: Report," *Firstpost*, 02 July 2025)

Kim Jong-un pays tribute to his fallen soldiers in the Russia-Ukraine war

On 01 July, *The Guardian* reported on images being shared of North Korea's leader Kim Jong-un paying tribute to its soldiers killed in the Russian war. In a rare first, Kim was photographed resting his hands on the demised soldier's coffin. The image was shared during the first anniversary of the military treaty meeting signed between Russia and North Korea. The defence pact was signed last year. Other images include images of fallen soldiers as the troops from both countries wave their flags, and a blood-stained notebook of a North Korean soldier was also showcased. The contents of the book said: "Let us bravely fight this sacred battle with the boundless love and trust bestowed upon us by our beloved Supreme Commander," and that "The decisive moment has finally come." It is inclusive when was this meeting

held, since for the longest time, North Korea refuted any deployment of its soldiers. It is reckoned that both countries agreed to showcase these images after they formally agreed to the defence pact. ("Kim Jong-un pays rare public tribute to North Korean soldiers killed in Ukraine," *The Guardian*, 01 July 2025)

South Korea's President is unsure if they can reach a trade negotiation with the US by the deadline

On 03 July, *The Korea Herald* reported that South Korea's President Lee Jae Myung informed that even after utmost efforts in negotiating tariffs with the US, he cannot say when the deal will be concluded. He is unsure if they can reach consensus by the 08 July deadline. South Korea seeks to reduce the 25 per cent reciprocal tariffs imposed by the Trump administration. Lee said: "We are actively identifying and developing many agenda items across various areas. We will do our very best." He also informed that they are trying to establish peace in the Korean peninsula and Lee said: "Just as North Korea responded to the government's recent preemptive suspension of propaganda broadcasts, a virtuous cycle of peace is possible." ("Lee says making utmost efforts on tariff talks with US ahead of July 8 deadline," *The Korea Herald*, 03 July 2025)

Former Prime Minister and Industry Minister probed on martial law imposition

On 02 July, former Prime Minister Han Duck-soo and Industry Minister Ahn Duk-geun were summoned to investigate the martial law imposed by the former President of South Korea, Yoon Suk Yeol. The counsel is checking whether the authorities abused their power and if they cooperated with Yoon to impose martial law on 03 December 2024. Both Ahn and Han refused to talk to the reporters. Special counsel Cho Eun-suk also informed that another alleged document on martial law declaration was written shortly after Yoon imposed the emergency. Han is accused of signing the documents, which were drafted by the former secretary to the Presidential Office, Kang Eui-gu. The second round of questioning for the counsel will be held soon for Yoon. ("Special counsel questions ex-PM, industry minister in martial law probe," *The Korea Times*, 02 July 2025)

North Korea's military academy director heads to Russia

On 01 July, North Korea's president of Kim Il Sung Military University, Kim Kum-chol, left for Russia to visit the military Academy of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Russia. This

was reported by KCNA, which did not note the purpose of the visit, but it is reckoned that it is due to growing military cooperation between the two countries. Additionally, the trip is also aimed at boosting cooperation between military academies and educational institutions. Kim's last trip was in July 2024, right after both countries signed a mutual defense treaty to deepen cooperation. ([“N. Korea's delegation of elite military academy leaves for Russia amid deepening ties,” *The Korea Times*, 01 July 2025](#))

JAPAN

Foreigners' presence is the major debate in the upcoming elections, reports Japan Today

On 14 July, Japan Today reported on the debate over foreign nationals in Japan ahead of the elections. The House of Councilors election will be held on 20 July, where policies towards foreign nationals are the primary debate. The minor nationalist Sanseito party calls for stricter control over foreign residents as part of their “Japanese First” policy. The discussion is not based on election campaigns, but also on the larger xenophobic rhetoric gaining in Japan. The ruling party in Japan Liberal Democratic Party in Japan is seen as encouraging foreigners in Japan, while the party itself calls for “zero illegal foreigners.” The major opposition Democratic for the People, which has gained momentum in support, has called for stricter regulation on foreigners buying real estate. While the Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan calls for a “multicultural coexistence society.” The Sanseito Party remains the only hardliner on the issue, calling for ending welfare support for foreigners, banning employment in the public sector, and stricter cultural conformity by foreigners. The Conservative Party of Japan accused foreigners of disrespecting Japanese culture, ignoring the rules, and assaulting the locals by stealing their belongings. ([“Foreigners at center of debate in Japan's tense election campaign,” *Japan Today*, 14 July 2025](#))

US State Secretary refutes any “drama” between US-Japan relations

On 11 July, US State Secretary Marco Rubio expressed that there is no drama between US-Japan relations, as the Japanese Prime Minister calls for weaning off the US. Rubio also refuted the claims that the US was pressuring to increase defence spending, noting that it was more of an encouragement rather than a demand. He said: “It's less to do with the amount of money and more to do with certain things they can do.” This comes in light of the Trump administration urging Japan and its other allies to increase their defense spending by 5 per cent

of their GDP. Japan also cancelled its annual defence and foreign ministers meeting with the US, in light of the demand. Rubio said: “Anyone who's looking for, like, drama or division there ... shouldn't be doing it because the truth of the matter is our relationship with Japan is very solid.” Additionally, “The idea that Japan's military would become more capable is not something we would be offended by; it's something we would be encouraged by.” ([“Rubio says no 'drama or division' in U.S. relations with Japan,” *Japan Today*, 12 July 2025](#))

Japan-US-Philippines Foreign Ministers affirm freedom of navigation in the oceans

On 10 July, the Foreign Ministers of Japan, the US, and the Philippines affirmed the importance of freedom of navigation in the East and South China Seas. The ministers agreed to opposition against any unilateral actions in the sea. The event was attended by Japanese Foreign Minister Takeshi Iwaya, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, and their Philippine counterpart Maria Theresa Lazaro. Iwaya is also called boost future-oriented cooperation. Iwaya said: “We will continue to work closely together with China and South Korea so that we can advance future-oriented cooperation that will also contribute to ASEAN nations.” ([“Japan, U.S., Philippines reaffirm importance of navigation freedom,” *Japan Today*, 11 July 2025](#))

Japan deploys Osprey fleet in its new military defense base

On 09 July, Japan's Self-Defense Force started deploying its fleet of V-22 Ospreys in the new open base in the southwestern region of Japan. This comes after Japan has been beefing up its defence capabilities as tensions brew in the region. The first fleet of 17 Ospreys in the new home base, Camp Saga, by the SDF. The tilt-rotor aircraft have been temporarily based at Camp Kisarazu, near Tokyo, since 2020 during the construction of the base and other necessary facilities. The rest of the fleet is scheduled to complete its relocation in mid-August. Defense Minister Gen Nakatani said: “The security environment surrounding Japan has been increasingly severe, and it is our pressing task to strengthen our island defense capabilities.” ([“Japan starts deploying Osprey fleet at a new base to beef up southwestern defense,” *abcNews*, 09 July 2025](#))

Japan to conduct deep-sea mineral extraction

On 05 July, Japan Today reported that they plan to extract rare earth minerals from the ocean floor. Mining rare earths of 17 metals is

extremely difficult to extract from the Earth's crust, and they are in high demand. China currently accounts for two-thirds of the rare earth mining production and is responsible for 92 per cent of the global refined output. Japan's deep-sea drilling boat Chikyu will conduct a "test cruise" to retrieve ocean floor sediments, informs Japan's Cross-ministerial Strategic Innovation Promotion Program's Director Shoichi Ishii. He said: "The test to retrieve the sediments from 5,500 meters water depth is the first in the world," and that "Our goal... of this cruise is to test the function of all mining equipment," so the amount of sediment extracted." ("[Japan plans 'world first' deep-sea mineral extraction](#)," *Japan Today*, 05 July 2025)

Japan's eighth round of discussion with the US to reduce 25 per cent tariffs

On 04 July, Japan Today informed that the government plans to send its Chief Tariff negotiator to the US for the eighth round of talks on the reciprocal tariff issue. The Trump administration has taken a hard stance on the tariff, which is seen as the last effort by the negotiator Ryosei Akazawa to secure a deal between the two countries. The deal aims to reduce tariffs on cars. The US has been reluctant to reduce the additional 25 per cent tariffs on cars. Japan Prime Minister, Shigeru Ishiba, said: "We need to cover a wide range of areas, including nontariff barriers. But we are steadily and certainly making progress on each of them." He also said: "Japan is the largest investor in the United States and the biggest contributor in terms of creating jobs. we hope that this will be taken into consideration." ("[Japan seeks 8th round of tariff talks next week in U.S.](#)," *Japan Today*, 04 July 2025)

LDP faces tough competition ahead of the upper house elections, says an editorial in Japan Today

On 03 July, an editorial in the Japan Times reported on the tough political landscape awaiting Japan's Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba. This comes after the minority government lost in the snap elections. During his tenure, he made concessions to the opposition party so that the Liberal Democratic Party could stay in power. Campaigning begins today, and on 20 July, they will vote for the upper house. Ishiba said: "I will defend Japan's national interest at all costs," and that "Japan has its national interest and I will do my utmost to protect it." Ishiba will need a simple majority with its minority coalition by winning 50 seats combined. Ishiba said: "It won't be easy. But in this difficult situation, it is

a must-attain goal." If there are poor results in the upper house elections, this will not immediately change the government but will bring a change in the LDP leadership. The loss in last year's election is attributed to the votes being divided between centrist and conservative groups, after a major corruption scandal was out. ("[Japan's minority government faces tough test in upper house election](#)," *Japan Today*, 03 July 2025)

Trump plans to increase import tariffs on Japan by 35 per cent

On 02 July, US President stated that he plans to further increase tariffs on imports from Japan as high as 30-35 per cent. This comes after stalled negotiations with the Japanese government. Trump stated that he is not sure if they are going to make a deal and that the overseas Air Force One is calling Japan "very tough" and "very spoiled." Trump also complained that Japan does not import enough cars and rice from the US, and claimed that they have been ripping them off for 30-40 years. He praised the bilateral relations with Japan but noted that when it comes to trade, Japan has been "very unfair." Trump said he plans to send a letter to Japan saying: "ank you very much...we know you can't do the kind of things that we need, and therefore you pay a 30 percent, 35 percent or whatever the number is that we determine." ("[Trump calls Japan 'very spoiled' as he floats idea of imposing 30% or 35% tariff](#)," *Japan Today*, 02 July 2025)

Trump complains that Japan is not importing enough rice from America

On 30 June, US President Donald Trump expressed concerns regarding Japan not importing enough American rice. This statement came in light of the stuck trade negotiations between the Trump administration and Japan's government. Trump posted on social media, where he said: "won't take our RICE, and yet they have a massive rice shortage. In other words, we'll just be sending them a letter, and we love having them as a Trading Partner for many years to come." He also noted that he has no plan to take back the hefty tariffs on Japanese automakers, where he said: "I could send one (letter) to Japan: 'Dear Mr Japan, here's the story. You're going to pay a 25 percent tariff on your cars.'" Japan imports 770,000 tons of rice every year, where the top exporter being the US. ("[Trump complains about Japan not importing enough American rice](#)," *Japan Today*, 01 July 2025)

AUSTRALIA & THE PACIFIC

Approval of “Agreement Project of the Future of New Caledonia” by major political parties, reports RNZ

On 14 July, RNZ reported that parties in New Caledonia from both pro- and anti-independence agreed on the future political status as a French Pacific territory. This will make New Caledonia the first “State” in France. The 13-page agreement is “Agreement Project of the Future of New Caledonia,” was convened by France’s President Emmanuel Macron. Macron called to restore New Caledonia’s economy. The released document, signed by almost 20 politicians, details what the deal would imply for New Caledonia’s future. The population of New Caledonia will be called to vote on the agreement in 2026. The agreement awards New Caledonia “State of New Caledonia,” which has dual citizenship with France. (“[New Caledonia’s political parties commit to ‘historic’ deal in France](#),” RNZ, 14 July 2025)

Cook Islands’ MPS claims that a minimum wage worker pays more taxes, reports RNZ

On 11 July, RNZ reported on the Cook Islands’ MP accusing the government of taxing low-wage earners more by not adjusting the tax-free threshold. This comes after the government pushed the minimum wage slightly up, and the tax system has a zero percent threshold for income per year. The Opposition leader, Teariki Heather, said: “You can’t increase the threshold when the minimum wage increases, because then the government doesn’t get any benefit from it, no tax.” Cook Islands’ Prime Minister Mark Brown responded and said: “It should always be below, so if it needs to increase the tax-free threshold, then that is something that we need to do.” Heather stated that the minimum wage announced is not enough, as the living costs have also increased. (“[Cook Islands MP warns workers to pay more tax despite minimum wage increase](#),” RNZ, 11 July 2025)

New Zealand reports visa fraud by Samoan nationals, reports RNZ

On 08 July, RNZ reported that the Immigration department in New Zealand found that workers in Samoa aided individuals to obtain visas fraudulently. The INZ general manager reported that they were brought to New Zealand through fraud. A Samoan national was sentenced to jail for aiding other Samoans working in New Zealand illegally by forging fake working visas. The primary offender was sentenced in April, and other paid associates were working for them. The General Manager said: “The individual would then either directly or

indirectly, through extended family or friends, sponsor a worker’s visitor visa and manage the process of applying for visas through Immigration New Zealand. Even paying for related visa fees and airfares.” (“[Immigration NZ confirms fraud in Samoa: Staff bribed to help Samoan nationals obtain visas](#),” RNZ, 08 July 2025)

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France’s President suggests “associate state” status for New Caledonia

On 05 July, RNZ reported that France’s President Emmanuel Macron suggested options for the future of New Caledonia in the ongoing meeting with the representatives of New Caledonia. He suggested a “associated state” status for New Caledonia, having strong links with France. The other option proposed by Macron was the “large autonomy.” These measures will require a refoundation period of 15-20 years in order to rebuild the economy and social fabric. The riots in May 2024 shook the GDP of the country 14 deaths and EUR 2 billion in material damage. They suggested that during the transition period, New Caledonia will be ruled by a “fundamental law,” which will be a de facto constitution. (“[Macron suggests new options for New Caledonia’s future status](#),” RNZ, 05 July 2025)

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