

1	<p>The City Celebrates a Historic Victory as Hong Kong Team Excels at Hangzhou Asian Games</p> <p>During the Hangzhou Asian Games, Hong Kong won 8 gold medals, 16 silver, and 29 bronze, totaling 53 medals, breaking previous records. Among them, Ho Sze Pui (SBS) won 2 gold, 1 silver, and 3 bronze medals in swimming. Cheung Ka Long secured the gold medal in the men's individual foil event, becoming the first Asian Games champion in Hong Kong's fencing history. Hong Kong Football Team also advanced to the semifinals for the first time.</p>
2	<p>Historically Torrential Rains Drenched Hong Kong and Causes Severe Damage in Many Areas</p> <p>In September, Hong Kong was hit by a once-in-500-years rainstorm that lasted over 16 hours, with the rainfall reaching the highest recorded rainfall since 1884. For the first time, the government declared an "extreme situation". Severe flooding impacted the market, and several roads were blocked. The MTR Wong Tai Sin station was closed due to flooding, and the lower floors of Wong Tai Sin Center were flooded with mud and water.</p>
3	<p>Decline in Student Numbers Leads to Rosaryhill Secondary School's Sudden Closure</p> <p>Due to significant financial pressure, Rosaryhill School announced the closure of its secondary school starting from the 2026 academic year. The school will stop admitting new students next year, and current Form 1 students will transfer after completing Form 3. The secondary school division will be taken over by the Dalton School in Hong Kong. The sponsoring body cited a decrease in student numbers as the reason for being unable to meet class-opening requirements.</p>
4	<p>ChatGPT Downloads Exceed 100 Million and Sparks Artificial Intelligence Craze</p> <p>OpenAI's ChatGPT, an artificial intelligence chatbot program with translation and writing capabilities, was launched at the end of last year. Within two months, it surpassed 100 million downloads. Many universities introduced their versions of ChatGPT, but precautions were taken to prevent students from using AI tools for academic dishonesty.</p>
5	<p>Japan's Nuclear Wastewater Discharge Opposed by All Sides</p> <p>Starting from August 24, Japan began phased discharge of Fukushima nuclear wastewater, expected to last 30 years. The residual pollutants in the wastewater have raised concerns, leading to opposition from local fishermen, environmental organizations, and citizens worldwide. A number of neighboring countries have strongly condemned the decision, and some have even banned the import of local seafood, including China and Hong Kong.</p>
6	<p>Hong Kong Government Launches "Night Vibes Hong Kong" for Economic Revitalization to Tackle Post-Pandemic Night Market Slump</p> <p>Following a downturn in Hong Kong's night market business post-pandemic, the government announced the "Night Vibes Hong Kong" initiative in September. Collaborating with various sectors, a series of nighttime activities covering entertainment, arts, and culture will be held until early next year. Discounts on night-time spending are also offered to promote the development of the night-time economy.</p>
7	<p>Over a Hundred Million Cross Mainland-Hong Kong Border as Full Customs Clearance Implemented</p> <p>After nearly three years of the pandemic, Hong Kong and China fully reopened on February 6, with all entry points open, no numerical restrictions, no reservations needed, and no nucleic acid testing required. By September of this year, according to data from the Shenzhen immigration authorities in Guangdong Province, the cumulative number of entries and exits had exceeded one billion, restoring to 80% of pre-pandemic levels.</p>
8	<p>Murder of Socialite Abby Choi Shocks Hong Kong</p> <p>In February, 28-year-old Hong Kong fashion socialite Abby Choi was found dismembered and cooked in Lung Mei Tsuen, Tai Po. Police seized partial body parts and cooking tools during the investigation. Six people, including Abby Choi's ex-husband, former father-in-law, and former uncle, were arrested and charged, suspected of being involved in a monetary dispute. The case caused a sensation throughout Hong Kong.</p>
9	<p>Hong Kong Mall stabbing Raises Concerns about Mental Health Support</p> <p>On the evening of June 2, two women were chased and stabbed by a man with a knife in Plaza Hollywood, resulting in one fatality. The suspect was arrested on the spot. The police stated that the suspect had a history of mental illness, and there was no evidence indicating that the victim knew the assailant, categorizing it as a random killing. The incident raised concerns about support for mental health services.</p>
10	<p>Observatory Raises Typhoon Signal No. 10 as Super Typhoon Saola Hits Hong Kong</p> <p>On September 1, Super Typhoon Saola lashed Hong Kong, marking the second No. 10 typhoon signal in five years, maintained for 7.5 hours. Strong winds and heavy rain caused flooding, fallen trees, and injuries to citizens. Authorities activated the "government-wide mobilization" response for the first time to deploy civil servants to assist in post-typhoon relief efforts.</p>

11	<p>Whale Spotted in Sai Kung Draws Crowds; Suspected Propeller Injury Leads to Fatality</p> <p>A Bryde's whale appeared in the waters of Sai Kung in mid-July, sparking citywide discussions. Despite the Fisheries Department's warning, many citizens ventured out to sea for a close-up view. The whale, later suspected to be injured by a propeller, died by the end of the month. Its body was transported to the Tai Tam Reservoir for autopsy and on-site burial. Experts criticize the lack of conservation awareness among the government and the public.</p>
12	<p>Virtual Platform JPEX Involved in Fraud with Wide-ranging Implications</p> <p>The Securities and Futures Commission (SFC) accused the virtual asset trading platform JPEX of operating without a license and engaging in illegal sales in September. The case was subsequently handed over to the police for investigation. The Commercial Crime Bureau found that over 2,600 victims were involved, with a total amount exceeding 1.5 billion. Over 30 individuals have been arrested, including celebrities and internet influencers.</p>
13	<p>Hong Kong Nears the End of the Pandemic: Government Lifts Three-Year Mask Mandate</p> <p>On February 28, the government announced the removal of the mandatory mask-wearing requirement starting from March 1. With Hong Kong having established a robust immune barrier and enhanced capabilities in medical treatment and societal response, the risk of the local spread of the novel coronavirus has significantly decreased. The government aims to restore normalcy to society.</p>
14	<p>National Anthem Blunder: Hong Kong Government Expresses Strong Dissatisfaction at Ice Hockey Championships</p> <p>In February, during the World Ice Hockey Championship in Bosnia, the national anthem was mistakenly played during a match involving the Hong Kong men's team. Team members promptly signaled the error with a "T" gesture, demanding an immediate correction. The Ice Hockey Association was criticized for not adhering to international guidelines on anthem and flag protocols.</p>
15	<p>Director Mabel Cheung Apologizes for Her Controversial Documentary "To My Nineteen-Year-Old Self"</p> <p>Director Mabel Cheung's documentary "To My Nineteen-Year-Old Self," produced for her alma mater, Ying Wa Girls' School, was released in February. The film stirred controversy as two main characters accused the school and the production team of disrespecting student privacy. The movie was halted after four days of screening, and Mabel Cheung expressed her apologies to the film crew and students.</p>
16	<p>Over 100,000 people Killed or Injured in Turkey-Syria 7.8-magnitude Earthquake</p> <p>A powerful 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck the southern border of Turkey with Syria in February, with numerous aftershocks, causing a 300-kilometer-long rift along the border between the two countries. The earthquake caused the collapse of thousands of buildings, destroyed much of the infrastructure, killed more than 60,000 people, injured 120,000, and left tens of thousands homeless.</p>
17	<p>Giant Rubber Duck Returns to Hong Kong After a Decade, Drawing Large Crowds</p> <p>The giant rubber duck, created by Dutch artist Florentijn Hofman, has returned to Hong Kong after ten years. Open for public viewing from June 10 to 18, the event attracted large crowds of locals and tourists. The organizers hosted the maritime art show "The Double Ducks", showcasing the yellow duck drifting leisurely along the Victoria Harbour shoreline.</p>
18	<p>Cathay Pacific Dismisses Cabin Crew over Alleged Discrimination Against Passenger from Mainland China</p> <p>A mainland Chinese netizen reported on social media a case of alleged discrimination by Cathay Pacific flight attendants against non-English speaking passengers, saying that during a Cathay Pacific flight in May, a flight attendant mocked a passenger for saying the word "blanket" in English as "carpet". The incident caused widespread concern in both mainland China and Hong Kong, leading Cathay Pacific to issue two apologies and dismiss three flight attendants involved.</p>
19	<p>Xi Jinping Secures a Third Term as China's President in Ceremonial Vote</p> <p>Xi was unanimously re-elected president and chairman of the Central Military Commission of the People's Republic of China at the 14th National People's Congress, receiving 2,952 votes. Xi Jinping became the first leader to serve three consecutive terms since the proposal to amend the constitution removing term limits for the President and Vice President in the 13th National People's Congress in 2018.</p>
20	<p>Multiple Organizations Hacked and Blackmailed in Hong Kong</p> <p>Hong Kong experienced a series of network security incidents in the second half of the year. Computer systems of institutions such as Cyberport and the Consumer Council were successively invaded, leading to data theft. Some organizations faced blackmail and threats of data leaks by hackers. The government expressed concern about these incidents and plans to enhance network security through legislative measures.</p>

21	<p>Russian Wagner Group Leader' s Fatal Plane Crash Raises Speculation</p> <p>The Wagner Group, a Russian mercenary organization led by Yevgeny Prigozhin, staged a mutiny in June, marching towards Moscow. The mutiny was quelled the following day with an agreement brokered by Belarusian President Sergei Lukashenko. However, in August, a private plane carrying Prigozhin crashed. His purported death fueled speculation of retaliation by the Russian president.</p>
22	<p>Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: Global Call for Ceasefire for the Humanitarian Disaster</p> <p>October witnessed intense bombings by Hamas on Israel, leading to civilian massacres and abductions. Israel retaliated with airstrikes, resulting in significant casualties. The blockade of the Gaza Strip added to the crisis. Nations worldwide urged a humanitarian pause to allow civilians to evacuate.</p>
23	<p>Wildfires Ravage Hawaii with Death Toll Near One Hundred</p> <p>Severe wildfires broke out in Maui, Hawaii, U.S.A. in August and were aggravated by hurricane and drought conditions. Hawaii' s governor declared an emergency as the disaster caused hundreds of fatalities and the destruction of over 2,200 buildings, marking the worst wildfire in the US in a century.</p>
24	<p>Two Trapped Workers Die at Austin Road Construction Site</p> <p>In July, an industrial accident occurred at the Austin Road West construction site in West Kowloon, in which two men in their sixties were trapped underground in a pipeline overnight, and died of fatal poisoning due to inhalation of high concentrations of hydrogen sulfide. Subsequent investigations revealed that project personnel had left without conducting inspections, leading to the incident. Authorities have arrested the subcontractor of the underground site on charges of manslaughter. The incident has sparked societal concerns regarding worker safety.</p>
25	<p>Two Suspects Arrested in Series of Alleged Sexual Assaults at University Orientation Camps</p> <p>Several universities have faced allegations of sexual misconduct in their orientation program. Incidents involved suspected drug use and misconduct at the University of Hong Kong, indecent game behavior at Lingnan University, and assault and harassment at the Education University. Investigations are ongoing and two suspects have been detained.</p>
26	<p>Hong Kong Policy Address 2023: Building a 'Vibrant Economy for a Caring Community'</p> <p>Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chiu revealed the theme of his second policy address was "A vibrant economy for a caring community" in October. He outlined 640 measures including property market adjustments, stock transaction tax reductions, newborn subsidies, and talent acquisition initiatives, aiming at boosting the economy and improving residents' lives in the coming year.</p>
27	<p>'A Huge Loss' : Death of China' s Former Premier Li Keqiang Sparks Mourning</p> <p>Li Keqiang, former Premier of China, passed away at the age of 68 in Shanghai, after suffering a heart attack. His sudden demise has shocked many citizens, leading to an outpouring of floral tributes at his childhood home on Red Star Road in Hefei. Residents continue to arrive in a steady stream to pay their respects.</p>
28	<p>Two Mentally Disabled Brothers Found Starving to Death in Flat</p> <p>In September, two brothers aged 53 and 55 were discovered, suspected to have starved to death in Kowloon' s Sau Mau Ping Estate. Both individuals suffered from mental illness and intellectual disabilities and had been under the care of their mother, who had to live alone for the past four months due to her hospitalization. Chief Executive John Lee expressed deep sadness and emphasized the government' s responsibility to uncover similar hidden cases and provide greater support.</p>
29	<p>District Council Ordinary Election to Be Held in December, Adopting Double-Seat Single-Vote System</p> <p>As the nomination period for the reformed District Council Ordinary Election concludes, the Electoral Affairs Office has received a total of 400 nominations. There is competition among nominees in all 44 constituencies across Hong Kong. The voting system for the election adopts a double-seat, single-vote system, with each constituency having two available seats. The District Council Ordinary Election is scheduled to be held on December 10.</p>
30	<p>The Titan Tourist Submersible Implodes, Claiming 5 Lives</p> <p>The Titan, a tourist submersible designed to explore the wreck of the Titanic, was reported missing just two hours after its dive in June. The United States Coast Guard later confirmed the discovery of undersea submersible debris near the bow of the Titanic. Preliminary assessments suggest a "catastrophic implosion" happened to the Titan in the deep sea, resulting in the death of five people aboard.</p>

The above candidate news is presented in a random order, with news updates current as of October 31, 2023. Election results will be announced in early January 2024.