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A1: Yiu cleared to join by-election race as government backs off

Former opposition lawmaker Edward Yiu Chung-yim was given a last-minute green light on Monday to run in the coming legislative by-election, preventing a further escalation of the political row gripping Hong Kong over the disqualification of another candidate.

Barely an hour before the nomination period ended in the afternoon, Yiu was informed by a returning officer from the Electoral Affairs Commission that he would be allowed to run for a seat in the Kowloon West constituency on March 11.

The pro-democracy politician was in danger of being barred from the race, having been stripped of his Legislative Council seat just six months ago, but political commentators said he had dodged a bullet with the government deciding to limit the fallout from the disqualification of activist Agnes Chow Ting on Saturday.

A1: White House plan to build 5G network may be misguided

A plan by US President Donald Trump's national security team to build a government-owned 5G network, designed to counter the threat of China spying on calls, is seen as reflecting the mistrust by Washington towards Chinese hi-tech capabilities.

Some analysts, however, expect that plan to backfire on the US and slow down the country's deployment of the latest advance in mobile technology.

That programme to develop a centralised nationwide 5G mobile network within three years was first reported by US news site Axios, which cited documents from a senior National Security Council official.

In a separate report, Reuters confirmed the plan from a senior administration official who said it was "six to eight months away from being considered by the president himself".