



# **SOUTH KOREA SECURITY ANALYSIS REPORT**

**AI-Assisted Open Source Intelligence Assessment**

Analysis Period: May 19, 2026 - May 26, 2026

This report was produced using open-source intelligence analysis. The assessment is grounded in publicly available reporting and should be cross-referenced with primary sources. RSS feed articles are listed in the annex for reference.

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# Security Analysis Report: South Korea (May 19-26, 2026)

## Executive Summary

During the period of May 19-26, 2026, South Korea significantly advanced its defense capabilities and diplomatic engagements amidst persistent regional and global security challenges. Key developments included the formal initiation of a program to acquire nuclear-powered submarines and the finalization of a plan to procure advanced SM-6 interceptor missiles from the United States, underscoring a robust modernization drive. Diplomatic efforts saw a crucial summit with Japan in Andong, strengthening energy and security cooperation, while discussions continued with the US on the wartime operational control (OPCON) transfer. Domestically, a new cybersecurity committee was launched to enhance national resilience against evolving digital threats, particularly those leveraging AI. These actions reflect South Korea's proactive stance in bolstering its self-defense, solidifying alliances, and navigating complex geopolitical dynamics, including North Korea's continued "two-state" policy and maritime security concerns in the Strait of Hormuz.

## Key Security Developments

- Strengthened South Korea-Japan Energy and Security Cooperation

On May 19, South Korean President Lee Jae Myung and Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi held a summit in Andong, South Korea, agreeing to expand cooperation on liquefied natural gas (LNG) and crude oil supply, including stockpiling and petroleum product swap arrangements. This "shuttle diplomacy" also reaffirmed stronger security coordination, including trilateral cooperation with the United States, to confront shared challenges like North Korea and broader regional tensions. The leaders also discussed cooperation in new areas such as artificial intelligence and combating cybercrimes.

- Accelerated Push for Wartime Operational Control (OPCON) Transfer

South Korea's military expects the wartime operational control (OPCON) transfer from the United States could occur as early as the end of 2027. On May 20, a defense ministry official stated that once the target year is determined during this year's Stage

2 Full Operational Capability (FOC) assessment, the process will immediately move to Stage 3, the Full Mission Capability (FMC) assessment. President Lee Jae Myung on May 26 instructed officials to accelerate efforts for the swift and timely transfer of OPCON, emphasizing that self-defense determination strengthens alliances.

- Formal Process Initiated for Nuclear-Powered Submarine Acquisition

South Korea's military has begun the formal process to acquire nuclear-powered submarines, with the Navy submitting a document to the Joint Chiefs of Staff outlining the program's need, desired capabilities, number of systems, and projected deployment schedules. This move, reported on May 20 and 22, comes amid ongoing security talks with the United States, which has previously approved South Korea's plan to build nuclear-powered attack submarines and committed to working on fuel sourcing. President Lee Jae Myung reiterated the need to accelerate this plan on May 26.

- Finalization of SM-6 Interceptor Missile Acquisition

On May 22, South Korea formally approved a long-term plan to acquire US-made Standard Missile-6 (SM-6) ship-based interceptor missiles by 2034. The Defense Acquisition Program Administration (DAPA) announced this decision, valuing the program at 530 billion won (approximately \$351.5 million) for the procurement of long-range SM-6 missiles and related equipment. These missiles, capable of intercepting aircraft, ballistic missiles, and cruise missiles, are slated for deployment on Aegis-class destroyers, significantly enhancing the country's air and missile defense capabilities.

- Completion of Marine Attack Helicopter (MAH) Weapons Tests

South Korea successfully completed weapons operation tests for its homegrown Marine Attack Helicopter (MAH), DAPA announced on May 26. The MAH, based on the Marine Utility Helicopter (MUH) "Marineon," demonstrated the capability to fire an air-to-air guided missile, a first for a Korean-made military helicopter. System development is expected to conclude in August, with mass production scheduled to begin in 2027.

- Integrated Military Firepower Exercise

South Korea conducted an integrated military firepower exercise open to the public in Pocheon, Gyeonggi Province, with sessions on May 18, 21, and 26. This marked the first joint exercise involving the armed forces since the launch of the Lee Jae Myung government, showcasing advanced maneuvering of key defense assets, live-fire drills, and aerial demonstrations by the Black Eagles aerobatic team.

- US-ROK Marine Exchange Program (KMEP 26.1)

On May 19, US Marines with the 12th Littoral Combat Team and Republic of Korea Marines participated in bilateral force-on-force and live-fire training during Korean

Marine Exchange Program 26.1 in South Korea. This joint military exercise aimed to strengthen interoperability, combat readiness, and tactical coordination through helicopter operations, tactical maneuvering, and simulated combat scenarios.

- Launch of Cybersecurity Incident Investigation Review Committee

On May 19, South Korea's Ministry of Science and ICT launched the Cybersecurity Incident Investigation Review Committee. This statutory body, comprising 13 members including private-sector experts, will review whether the government can launch ex officio investigations into major hacking incidents without a company's prior report, ahead of a revised law taking effect in October. This initiative aims to build a rapid-response framework against increasingly sophisticated AI-driven cyberattacks.

- South Korea's Response to Strait of Hormuz Maritime Incident

Following an investigation that revealed an "external impact" caused an explosion on the South Korean-operated civilian vessel *Namu-ho* in the Strait of Hormuz on May 4, South Korea is considering "phased" participation in the US-led multinational operation "Maritime Freedom Construct" (MFC). On May 13, Defense Minister Ahn Gyu-back stated Seoul's intention to participate as a responsible global partner, exploring gradual forms of support such as declarations, personnel deployment, intelligence sharing, and military asset provision.

- North Korea's "Two-State" Policy and Constitutional Revision

North Korea's constitutional revision in May 2026 formally codified territorial division with South Korea and abandoned its reunification commitments, redefining inter-Korean relations as those between separate and adversarial states. On May 19, South Korea's Unification Ministry defended its white paper, which emphasizes "peaceful coexistence" and a "peaceful two-state relations geared toward unification," in response to Pyongyang's stance. North Korea is also set to hold a major party plenary meeting in late June to review policies, potentially addressing its direction toward South Korea and the United States.

## Geopolitical Impact and Regional Dynamics

South Korea's security developments this week reflect a strategic recalibration in response to a complex and increasingly volatile geopolitical landscape. The strengthening of trilateral cooperation with the US and Japan is a cornerstone of this strategy, particularly evident in the May 19 summit in Andong. This alliance aims to counter shared challenges, primarily North Korea's escalating nuclear and missile threats, but also broader regional tensions and economic security concerns, such as disruptions in global energy supply chains exacerbated by the Middle East conflict. The agreement to expand energy cooperation with Japan, including mutual stockpiling

and swap arrangements, directly addresses the vulnerabilities of import-dependent economies to external shocks.

The ongoing discussions regarding the OPCON transfer with the United States signify South Korea's ambition for greater self-reliance in its defense posture, while maintaining the bedrock of the US-ROK alliance. This move, if realized by 2027, would fundamentally alter the command structure on the Korean Peninsula, requiring careful coordination and a robust South Korean military capability to assume leadership in conventional operations. Concurrently, South Korea's consideration of "phased participation" in the US-led "Maritime Freedom Construct" in the Strait of Hormuz highlights its expanding security interests beyond the peninsula, driven by the need to protect vital energy supply lines after an attack on a South Korean-operated vessel. This engagement signals a growing willingness to contribute to international maritime security, aligning with its role as a global trading nation.

The formalization of North Korea's "two-state" policy through constitutional revision presents a significant challenge to inter-Korean relations, effectively abandoning the long-held goal of reunification. This stance, coupled with North Korea's continued military modernization and potential for further provocations, necessitates a robust deterrence posture from South Korea and its allies. While South Korea's Unification Ministry advocates for "peaceful coexistence," the underlying tension remains high. The broader strategic landscape also involves China, with whom South Korea has sought to restore relations earlier in 2026, aiming for economic collaboration amidst regional geopolitical shifts. Balancing these relationships—strengthening alliances with democratic partners while managing complex ties with China and confronting a hostile North Korea—will continue to define South Korea's geopolitical strategy.

## Military and Defense Analysis

South Korea's military and defense posture during this period demonstrates a clear commitment to modernization, enhanced self-defense capabilities, and strengthened alliance interoperability. The formal initiation of the process to acquire nuclear-powered submarines is a transformative step, aiming to provide Seoul with a crucial strategic asset for deterrence and maritime security. While the timeline and fuel sourcing remain subjects of discussion with the US, this move signifies a long-term vision for a more independent and potent naval force. Complementing this, the finalization of the plan to procure US-made SM-6 interceptor missiles by 2034 will significantly bolster South Korea's multi-layered missile defense system, particularly against ballistic and cruise missile threats from North Korea. These missiles, to be deployed on Aegis-class destroyers, represent a substantial upgrade in naval air defense capabilities.

Further enhancing its indigenous defense industry, South Korea successfully completed weapons operation tests for its homegrown Marine Attack Helicopter (MAH). The MAH, with its air-to-air guided missile capability, will provide critical close air support and escort for marine utility helicopters, improving the survivability of airborne assault forces. This development, alongside the planned mass production starting in 2027, highlights South Korea's focus on developing advanced, domestically produced military hardware. The integrated military firepower exercise in Pocheon and the US-ROK Marine Exchange Program (KMEP 26.1) underscore the ongoing efforts to maintain high levels of combat readiness and interoperability between South Korean and US forces. These exercises are vital for refining joint tactics, techniques, and procedures, ensuring a robust combined defense posture against potential adversaries. The persistent push for an early OPCON transfer also indicates a strategic shift towards a more South Korean-led defense of the peninsula, necessitating continued investment in command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (C4ISR) assets to meet the required conditions.

## Outlook and Forecast

**Short-term trends (1-3 months):** In the immediate future, South Korea will likely continue its diplomatic and military coordination with the United States and Japan, particularly in response to North Korea's "two-state" policy and any potential provocations following its upcoming Workers' Party plenary meeting in late June. Discussions on the OPCON transfer are expected to intensify, with South Korea aiming to set a concrete target year, possibly 2027, during the October Security Consultative Meeting. The newly launched Cybersecurity Incident Investigation Review Committee will begin its advisory role, laying the groundwork for more proactive government intervention in cyberattacks. South Korea's "phased participation" in the Strait of Hormuz maritime security initiative will likely be further defined, potentially involving intelligence sharing or deployment of non-combat assets.

**Critical flashpoints and risk areas:** The Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) and the maritime borders with North Korea remain critical flashpoints, especially given Pyongyang's revised constitutional stance and bellicose rhetoric. Any North Korean military activity or missile tests in the coming months could significantly escalate tensions. The Strait of Hormuz continues to be a risk area, with potential for further disruptions to global energy supply chains that directly impact South Korea's economic security. Cyberattacks, particularly those leveraging advanced AI, pose an ever-present and evolving threat to national infrastructure and data, requiring constant vigilance and rapid response capabilities.

Indicators to monitor: Key indicators to monitor include the progress of OPCON transfer negotiations and any official announcements regarding the target timeline. North Korea's statements and actions following its late June plenary meeting will be crucial for assessing inter-Korean dynamics and potential for escalation. The nature and extent of South Korea's involvement in the Maritime Freedom Construct in the Strait of Hormuz will indicate its evolving role in regional and global maritime security. Furthermore, the implementation and effectiveness of the new cybersecurity framework and any reported major cyber incidents will be important to track. Developments in the acquisition of nuclear-powered submarines and the SM-6 missiles, including funding and technical agreements, will signal the pace of South Korea's defense modernization.

Strategic recommendations: South Korea should continue to prioritize the strengthening of its alliances with the US and Japan, leveraging trilateral cooperation to enhance deterrence against North Korea and address broader regional security challenges. Accelerating indigenous defense capabilities, particularly in areas like missile defense, naval power, and advanced air assets, is essential for achieving greater self-reliance. Investing heavily in cybersecurity infrastructure and AI-driven defense mechanisms is paramount to counter sophisticated digital threats. Diplomatically, Seoul should maintain open channels for communication with Pyongyang where possible, while firmly upholding its defense posture. Active participation in international maritime security initiatives, such as in the Strait of Hormuz, will reinforce South Korea's commitment to global stability and protect its vital economic interests.

## Structured Assessment

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## ANNEX: COLLECTED ARTICLES BY SOURCE

### Source: Daily NK

- [North Koreans abandoning market stalls drive surge in Hyesan street trading conflicts](#) (2026-05-26 01:00)

Street vendors in Hyesan are clashing over prime selling spots as growing numbers of North Koreans abandon state market stalls they can no longer afford, spilling out into the city's streets and alleyways. A source in Ryanggang province told Daily NK that fistfights between street traders have become a common sight in Hyesan. Established vendors [...]

- [North Korean defectors in China alarmed as Kuaishou messages reach police](#) (2026-05-25 21:20)

Chinese authorities are monitoring North Korean defectors through Kuaishou, a popular Chinese short-video and messaging platform, raising alarm among defectors hiding in China. According to a Daily NK source inside China, a defector living in Jilin province used Kuaishou on May 11 to exchange messages with another defector in Shenyang, Liaoning province, about plans to [...]

- [Fuel price surge strips North Koreans of intercity bus connections](#) (2026-05-25 18:55)

Rising fuel prices in North Korea are forcing state-run long-distance bus services to cut or cancel routes, significantly worsening intercity travel conditions across the country. According to a Daily NK source in North Pyongan province, privately operated revenue buses — state-sanctioned vehicles that generate income for their operating units — attached to the provincial long-distance [...]

- [North Korea's wheat and barley acreage shrinks in key farming regions, satellite data shows](#) (2026-05-22 13:02)

Satellite imagery analysis of three major North Korean agricultural regions in May 2026 shows that spring wheat and barley cultivation has declined overall compared to the same period in 2025, with gains in Pyongyang offset by significant reductions in South Hwanghae and South Pyongan provinces. Using Sentinel-2 satellite imagery from the European Space Agency (ESA), [...]

- [North Korea's rice planting mobilization drives an unexpected taxi boom](#) (2026-05-22 01:12)

North Korea's annual rice planting mobilization campaign has produced an unexpected side effect: a spike in taxi demand, as people across South Pyongan province pay for rides rather

than risk being stopped on the street and conscripted into farm labor. A Daily NK source in South Pyongan province said Wednesday that taxi demand in Suncheon [...]

- [North Korean women in their 20s now refuse to date men without money or stable jobs](#)  
(2026-05-21 23:27)

Young women in North Korea are increasingly unwilling to date or marry men who lack a stable income or clear earning potential, a sharp departure from norms that prevailed even a decade ago. A Daily NK source in South Pyongan province said Wednesday that women in their 20s in Pyongsong now treat financial standing as [...]

- [North Korean market vendors turn to wig and eyelash work to make ends meet](#)  
(2026-05-21 20:33)

Market traders in North Korea are increasingly taking on home-based piecework to supplement their earnings, with vendors in Hyesan turning to wig and eyelash manufacturing after market income alone proved insufficient to cover basic living costs. A Daily NK source in Ryanggang province said Tuesday that the number of people in Hyesan making wigs, false [...]

- [North Korea's mobile phone insurance scheme draws anger as claims routinely denied](#)  
(2026-05-21 17:10)

North Korea's state-run mobile phone insurance program promises to reimburse policyholders for theft and technical failures, but the benefits rarely materialize in practice, with service center staff routinely denying valid claims and demanding documentation that policyholders cannot realistically provide. A Daily NK source in South Hamgyong province said Wednesday that a middle-aged man in Hamhung [...]

- [TB cases among North Korean overseas workers put Chinese factories on alert](#)  
(2026-05-20 23:19)

Multiple North Korean workers recently deployed to factories in northeastern China have tested positive for tuberculosis, raising serious doubts about the reliability of pre-departure health screenings conducted inside North Korea. A Daily NK source said on Wednesday that approximately 35,000 North Korean workers entered China between early this year and the end of last month. [...]

- [North Korea's new elective curriculum is fueling a teacher reassignment crisis](#)  
(2026-05-20 08:03)

North Korea introduced an elective subject system in its senior middle schools — the equivalent of high schools — this year, but the reform has triggered significant disruption on the ground, with teachers resisting reassignment orders and specialist training falling critically short, a source told Daily NK on Tuesday. A source in North Hamgyong province [...]

- [North Koreans flock to security-gated apartments as crime surges and coal prices climb](#) (2026-05-20 01:37)

North Koreans in major cities are increasingly turning away from traditional single-story homes in favor of apartment buildings, particularly those with staffed security guard posts at building entrances, as rising crime and soaring heating fuel costs make standalone housing feel both dangerous and unaffordable. The trend is most visible in Chongjin in North Hamgyong province [...]

- [Used car imports are fueling a booming vehicle repair industry across North Korea](#) (2026-05-19 20:19)

A surge in used vehicle imports over the past several years has sparked a booming auto repair industry across North Korea, with dedicated repair districts taking shape in major cities as aging cars generate a steady flow of maintenance work. A source in North Pyongan province said Tuesday that trade-linked organizations in Sinuiju have been [...]

- [North Korea's rice price crackdown backfires as traders go underground](#) (2026-05-19 13:59)

North Korea's Cabinet issued an emergency order on May 12, 2026, capping rice prices in the country's markets, but the move has driven traders underground and made rice harder to find than before. A source in North Pyongan province said the Cabinet directed provincial people's committees — the local administrative bodies responsible for overseeing regional [...]

- [North Korean fishers forced to surrender 80% of their catch as state tightens grip on seafood supply](#) (2026-05-19 11:41)

Fishers operating out of Chongjin in North Hamgyong province are struggling to make ends meet during the peak squid season after the state expanded mandatory catch quotas, requiring registered fishing vessels to hand over 80% of their haul to state-run fishery management offices. The squeeze is severe enough that crew members working pre-dawn shifts at [...]

- [North Korea's informal labor markets boom as jangmadang trade loses viability](#) (2026-05-19 09:25)

Growing numbers of North Koreans are turning to informal day-labor markets to earn a living as tightened controls on jangmadang (the semi-official street markets that form the backbone of North Korea's informal economy) during the rice-planting season make everyday trading increasingly untenable. Rising exchange rates and price instability have already squeezed profit margins for small [...]

- [North Korean donju convert apartments into duplexes to shelter wealth from state seizure](#) (2026-05-19 01:18)

Wealthy entrepreneurs in North Korea are buying adjacent apartment units and converting them into private duplexes, a trend driven less by lifestyle aspiration than by fear that

accumulated cash could be seized by the state at any moment, Daily NK has learned. The pattern, observed in Hyesan, the capital of Ryanggang province, points to a [...]

## Source: Hankyoreh

- [\[Book review\] When North Korea led the Third World \(2026-05-25 06:02\)](#)
- [\[Guest essay\] Moscow-Pyongyang ties are rewriting security in NE Asia \(2026-05-25 06:02\)](#)
- [\[Reporter' s notebook\] Trump' s primary purge of 'traitors' won' t win him anything \(2026-05-25 06:02\)](#)
- [Iran war exposes MAGA' s growing rifts \(2026-05-24 06:02\)](#)
- [Series of 'betrayals' leaves MAHA sick of Trump \(2026-05-24 06:02\)](#)
- [Korean anti-war activist captured by Israel says she was beaten, causing partial hearing loss \(2026-05-22 12:02\)](#)
- [Xi positions himself as key arbiter on Korean Peninsula with series of summits \(2026-05-22 12:02\)](#)
- [Despite Lee' s jab at Netanyahu, Israel conveys hope of developing bilateral ties \(2026-05-22 12:02\)](#)
- [Gwangju residents call for Shinsegae chairman' s resignation, launch Starbucks boycott \(2026-05-22 12:02\)](#)
- [\[Editorial\] Samsung' s tentative bonus deal highlights need for profit-sharing rules \(2026-05-22 12:02\)](#)
- [\[Column\] An incompetent ally is worse than no ally at all \(2026-05-22 12:02\)](#)
- [Korea' s Lee orders review of enforcing ICC arrest warrant for Netanyahu \(2026-05-21 12:02\)](#)
- [\[Editorial\] Crisis averted at Samsung, but society must continue chip profit-sharing debate \(2026-05-21 12:02\)](#)
- [Lee slams Israel for 'out of line' seizure of aid boats headed to Gaza \(2026-05-21 12:02\)](#)

- [Nominee for US envoy to Seoul vows to tackle ‘discrimination’ against US companies](#) (2026-05-21 12:02)
- [Korean oil tanker transits through Strait of Hormuz without toll, says Seoul](#) (2026-05-21 12:02)
- [Israel releases 2 Korean nationals seized on Gaza-bound humanitarian vessels](#) (2026-05-21 12:02)
- [Samsung union calls off strike after reaching dramatic wage deal with management](#) (2026-05-21 06:02)
- [Samsung Electronics union says strike is on for Thursday](#) (2026-05-20 12:03)
- [South Korea, Japan to boost energy cooperation in face of Mideast crisis](#) (2026-05-20 12:03)
- [Starbucks global HQ issues apology for ‘Tank Day’ event in Korea](#) (2026-05-20 12:03)
- [Unification Ministry says ‘two peaceful states’ is coexistence strategy, not legal recognition of DPRK](#) (2026-05-20 12:03)
- [Trump’ s ‘negotiating chip’ comment divides Taiwan over reliance on US](#) (2026-05-20 12:03)
- [\[Editorial\] Seoul and Tokyo should focus on pragmatic cooperation, not countering China](#) (2026-05-20 12:03)
- [\[Column\] The real lessons of Samsung Electronics’ labor dispute](#) (2026-05-20 12:03)
- [Starbucks controversy puts Shinsegae chair’ s extreme political leanings back in spotlight](#) (2026-05-20 12:03)
- [Labor minister mediates 11th-hour talks between Samsung union and management](#) (2026-05-20 12:03)
- [Starbucks Korea faces backlash for ‘Tank Day’ promotion on anniversary of Gwangju massacre](#) (2026-05-19 11:28)

- [Lee vows to recognize service to democracy by teen killed in 1980 Gwangju massacre](#) (2026-05-19 11:28)
- [\[Reporter’ s notebook\] The disastrous descent of Trump’ s ‘America first’ to America last’](#) (2026-05-19 11:28)
- [\[Editorial\] The bigger picture of immigration protocol for North Korean women’ s soccer team](#) (2026-05-19 11:28)
- [US agrees to Xi’ s proposal to form ‘constructive relationship of strategic stability’](#) (2026-05-19 11:28)
- [Seoul calls North, South Korea ‘two states’ for first time in unification white book](#) (2026-05-19 11:28)

## Source: Korea Times

- [Seoul turns 2026 color ‘Morning Yellow’ into everyday fashion, lifestyle goods](#) (2026-05-26 05:57)

Seoul is bringing its official city color into daily life with a new line of products that stretches from stationery and fashion accessories to eco-friendly home goods, turning a branding campaign into a citywide lifestyle push. The Seoul Metropolitan Government said Tuesday that it is launching 13 products inspired by “Morning Yellow,” the city’ s designated color for 2026, through partnerships with 11 companies including Noroo Paint, KCC, LG Chem and Monami. The color, unveiled in December 2025, was drawn from the yellow glow of Seoul’ s morning sunlight and follows previous city colors Sky Coral and Green Aurora. City officials said the project was designed to make Seoul’ s visual identity more visible in residents’ everyday routines through commonly used items such as towels, hats, bags and pens. Noroo Paint and KCC released standardized paint products and color books featuring Morning Yellow, allowing the color to be applied consistently across public spaces and consumer products. A promotional “Color Sound” video produced by Noroo Paint, combining imagery and sound insp

- [Seoul expands arts subsidies to cultivate new generation of theatergoers](#) (2026-05-26 05:57)

Seoul is expanding financial subsidies for the arts, betting that heavily discounted access to theater, classical music and dance will cultivate a new generation of theatergoers while shielding small performing arts groups from economic headwinds. The Seoul Metropolitan Government said Tuesday that it will expand two municipal initiatives — the Seoul Youth Culture Pass and the Spring Day of Performance program — designed to eliminate the financial barriers that often insulate high culture from adolescents and young adults. Under the

centerpiece Youth Culture Pass, residents aged 21 to 23 are eligible for an annual stipend of up to 200,000 won (\$152) to spend on plays, musicals, traditional Korean music and museum exhibitions. Since its introduction in 2023, the voucher system has funded admission for roughly 100,000 young citizens, according to city data, which noted a domestic satisfaction rate of 87.2 percent this year. Municipal officials intend to scale up the program next year by transitioning to a rolling application process, extending expiration dates and widening the applic

- [Seoul expands hunt for global unicorns with high-stakes startup prize](#) (2026-05-26 05:57)

Korea's capital is ramping up efforts to position itself as a premier global tech hub, leveraging the international momentum of K-culture to lure promising foreign startups into its ecosystem. The Seoul Metropolitan Government announced Tuesday that it was launching the "2026 Seoul Unicorn Challenge," a prominent international startup competition aimed at discovering innovative companies and embedding them within the city's rapidly growing venture network. The initiative reflects a broader strategy by municipal officials to upgrade Seoul's domestic startup landscape to global standards while forging cross-border corridors for local firms. Established in 2020 as the "Korea Challenge," the competition underwent an institutional pivot in 2023 to allow non-Korean entrants. Past graduates have secured significant venture capital. The 2025 grand prize winner BeringLab, an artificial intelligence translation developer, successfully raised 3 billion won (\$2.2 million) during a pre-Series A round following its victory. This year, the city has adjusted its quotas to heavily favor internationa

- [Korea, US launch joint excavation for Korean War MIA remains](#) (2026-05-26 05:57)

The Ministry of National Defense Agency for KIA Recovery and Identification (MAKRI) and the U.S. Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) have assembled a joint survey team of roughly 10 personnel to locate the remains of American service members killed or missing during the 1950-53 Korean War. The survey runs Tuesday through June 26. The team will operate across six regions nationwide: Hongcheon in Gangwon Province; Yangpyeong in Gyeonggi Province; Changwon in South Gyeongsang Province; Mungyeong and Sangju in North Gyeongsang Province; and Yeongdong in North Chungcheong Province. Two of the six sites — Hwachon and Duchon townships in Hongcheon, and Yangdong township in Yangpyeong — were identified by the DPAA as survey location candidates at a January trilateral working-level coordination meeting with Korean, U.S. and Australian officials. Both areas saw casualties from the U.S. 2nd Infantry Division during the Chinese offensives in February and May 1951; 13 personnel went missing in Hongcheon and 37 were killed or went missing in Yangpyeong. In Changwon's Masan Hapcho District and

- [Korea expands Latin American footprint with advanced farm tech tests in Bolivia](#) (2026-05-26 05:57)

Korea is turning to Bolivia's rugged farmlands to test a new generation of export-ready agricultural machinery, betting that tractors built for the Andes could unlock wider markets

across Latin America. The Rural Development Administration said Tuesday that it has begun joint research and development with Bolivia's National Institute of Agricultural and Forestry Innovation to create customized farm machinery tailored to local agricultural conditions. The project also involves the Korea Agricultural Machinery Industry Cooperative and Korean exporters seeking to expand into emerging overseas markets. Last month, the two agencies signed a technology cooperation agreement that lays the groundwork for jointly developing tractor attachments designed specifically for Bolivian farms. Officials said the initiative marks a shift from traditional technical assistance programs toward export-linked research based on local agricultural infrastructure and field data. The Rural Development Administration said the partnership will cover the full development process, including machinery design, local f

- [Korea rolls out lodging discounts to revive shrinking regional economies](#) (2026-05-26 05:57)

Korea will hand out 300,000 lodging discount coupons this summer in a sweeping push to steer travelers beyond the capital region and into rural communities struggling with population decline. The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism said Tuesday that it will launch the "2026 Summer Lodging Sale Festa" from Thursday, June 11, through Friday, July 31, offering discounted accommodations in 85 regions outside the capital that have been designated as depopulation risk areas. The program is designed to stimulate domestic tourism during the summer season while injecting new spending into local economies facing demographic decline. Under the program, travelers booking one-night stays can receive discounts of 20,000 won (\$13) or 30,000 won depending on the price of the lodging package. New discounts introduced this year offer up to 70,000 won off accommodations for consecutive stays of two nights or more. Officials said the expanded discounts are intended to ease travel costs while encouraging higher spending at local businesses. Eligible accommodations include hotels, resorts, condos and pe

- [YouTuber appears for arrest warrant hearing for alleged defamation against actor Kim Soo-hyun](#) (2026-05-26 05:57)

A YouTuber accused of spreading false and fabricated information about actor Kim Soo-hyun appeared in court Tuesday for an arrest warrant hearing over his allegations. Kim Se-ui, operator of YouTube channel Hover Lab, is accused of defaming the actor by falsely claiming that Kim Soo-hyun had dated late actress Kim Sae-ron while she was a minor and that pressure from his side to repay a debt led to her death early last year. The YouTuber is also accused of creating doctored audio recordings of the late actress using artificial intelligence technology to falsely claim she had sexual relations with the actor when she was in middle school. "I do not acknowledge any of the charges," Kim Se-ui said outside the Seoul Central District Court. "It is a nonsense warrant that does not even sort out the basic facts." He disputed the basis for the warrant, vowing to file complaints against police officers and prosecutors who filed for it. Police filed for the warrant on defamation and other charges on May 14, after determining that Kim must have been aware the allegations against the actor were false. H

- [AI reshapes conservation efforts for Korea's ecological backbone](#) (2026-05-26 05:57)

Korea is turning to artificial intelligence (AI) to protect its most critical ecological asset from the accelerating threats of the climate crisis. The National Institute of Forest Science (NIFOS), an agency under the Korea Forest Service, announced a major technological initiative to systematically assess and safeguard the Baekdudaegan. This vast mountain system spans the length of the Korean Peninsula and serves as the region's core ecological spine and a critical sanctuary for biodiversity. The initiative leverages decades of comprehensive datasets accumulated by the state, including the National Forest Inventory and the Baekdudaegan Resource Status Change Survey. After aggregating this massive volume of data, researchers applied advanced statistical techniques alongside nine distinct machine-learning models. The result is a highly sophisticated, predictive mapping system detailing the distribution of 989 distinct biological species across the mountain range. This allows conservationists to analyze and categorize biodiversity health levels across the entire Baekdudaegan territory at

- [Korea, US launch joint monthlong project to locate Korean War remains](#) (2026-05-26 05:57)

Korea and the United States on Tuesday launched a joint project to locate the remains of American soldiers who were killed or went missing during the 1950-53 Korean War, Seoul's defense ministry said. The project between the ministry's Agency for KIA Recovery & Identification and the U.S. Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) will run from Tuesday through June 26 at six locations across the country, according to the ministry. An investigation team, comprising a dozen personnel, will conduct the search in Hongcheon County in Gangwon Province and Yangpyeong County in Gyeonggi Province, where U.S. soldiers from the 2nd Infantry Division suffered casualties from a Chinese offensive in 1951. The other locations include Changwon in South Gyeongsang Province and Yeongdong County in North Chungcheong Province, where officials received tip-offs from residents who claimed to have witnessed U.S. soldiers killed or buried nearby. The joint search will serve as a preliminary step ahead of an all-out excavation project to identify areas where war remains are believed to be buried, as the allies are

- [Lee calls for stepped-up efforts to acquire nuclear-powered submarines](#) (2026-05-26 05:57)

President Lee Jae Myung on Tuesday instructed officials to accelerate efforts to fulfill South Korea's plan to acquire nuclear-powered submarines. The president made the call during a Cabinet meeting, highlighting the need to enhance the country's self-defense capabilities amid North Korea's growing nuclear and missile threats. In a fact sheet released after a South Korea-U.S. summit late last year, Washington expressed support for Seoul to build nuclear-powered, conventionally armed attack submarines, and to pursue civilian uranium enrichment and spent fuel reprocessing for peaceful purposes. "We need to accelerate the adoption of artificial intelligence and drone technologies, while speeding up the introduction of nuclear-powered submarines, which are core strategic assets for future defense capabilities," Lee said. Lee also stressed the need for the swift transfer of wartime operational control (OPCON) of South Korean troops from Washington to Seoul during the meeting. The president

insisted that "friends will respect us and alliances will be maintained more strongly" when the country

- [Marine chopper development nears completion following successful weapons tests](#) (2026-05-26 05:57)

The arms procurement agency said Tuesday a Marine attack helicopter under development has entered the final stage of development after successfully completing all weapons tests, including recent live-fire tests of air-to-air missiles. The homegrown Marine Attack Helicopter (MAH) has carried out live-fire tests for key weapons systems required in modern warfare, from turret-mounted machine guns and air-to-ground missiles to guided and unguided rockets, the Defense Acquisition Program Administration (DAPA) said. Launched in October 2022, the MAH program is aimed at developing an attack helicopter for multidimensional amphibious operations, expanding the Marine Corps' operational capabilities not only on the ground but also in the air. It conducted its first test flight of a prototype in December 2024. When deployed, the attack helicopter is expected to be tasked with guarding the MUH-1 Marineon helicopter conducting assault operations at enemy sites and providing combat support when requested by ground forces. DAPA said it plans to complete the development by August and enter mass production

- [\[PHOTO\] Honoring Canada's Korean War veterans](#) (2026-05-25 11:57)

Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Kim Kyung-ryul, left, shakes hands with a Canadian veteran of the 1950-53 Korean War during a ceremony in Victoria, Canada, Sunday (local time). The naval commanders from the two countries paid tribute to Korean War veterans at a memorial site in the city ahead of a joint naval cooperation exercise involving a 3,000-ton class Dosan Ahn Chang-ho submarine. Courtesy of Republic of Korea Navy

- [Central Seoul district candidate pushes foreign tourist tax](#) (2026-05-25 11:57)

The increasing number of international tourists visiting Korea has prompted calls to review the introduction of a tourist tax to cover local government expenses to address problems resulting from overtourism. The idea was floated recently by Lee Dong-hyun of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK), a candidate for head of Jung District in central Seoul, with party leaders also supporting the suggestion. Lee has made an international tourist tax a centerpiece of his campaign pledges, promising to turn the tourism boom into benefits for residents. "Jung District is the most visited district in Korea among foreigners, yet the burden of waste and noise falls entirely on residents," Lee said during a Sunday campaign rally. "But not a single benefit from that prosperity flows back to our residents. I will absolutely open the floodgates of our district's development through the introduction of a foreign tourist tax." Jung District, located at the heart of Seoul, is home to some of Seoul's most iconic landmarks, including Myeong-dong, Mount Nam, Namdaemun Market, Dongdaemun Design Pla

- [1 in 14 youths repeat self-harm attempts within 2 months](#) (2026-05-25 11:57)

One in 14 people aged 24 and under who visit an emergency room in Seoul following a suicide attempt or self-harm returns within two months for the same reason, highlighting the need for stronger postcrisis care for young people. According to the findings of a joint research team from Seoul Metropolitan Government-Seoul National University Hospital Boramae Medical Center and Yonsei University College of Medicine, released this month, the 7.1 percent revisit rate was recorded among 1,445 people aged 24 and under who visited Seoul emergency rooms for suicide attempts or self-harm between 2015 and 2022. They made up 32.5 percent of the 4,452 total patients during the period. Among those aged 24 and under, 75.4 percent were female, with most attempts being impulsive and nonlethal, and 79.4 percent were discharged home. The study also identified several factors associated with higher revisit risk. Women were 1.93 times more likely than men to return, while the risk faced by those living alone was 1.57 times higher. A history of psychiatric treatment raised the risk by 2.41 times, and a prior

- [Parties place AI at center of local election pledges](#) (2026-05-25 11:57)

Parties across Korea’s political spectrum are putting artificial intelligence (AI) at the heart of their campaign promises for the June 3 local elections, signaling a rare consensus that AI will shape everything from growth policy to welfare and public administration. Every parliamentary party now mentions AI in its official top 10 pledges, with candidates tailoring campaign promises to suit each region, though with different emphases. Proposals range from attracting a United Nations AI center to building AI-based administrative systems and expanding AI-enabled safety nets for older adults. The ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) lists its overall AI vision as one of the top three policy priorities of its candidates, promising to deploy the technology to fully realize the nation’s potential and improve public services. The centerpiece of the party’s plan is using AI not only for economic growth but also in core regional functions such as education and infrastructure. The party says it will help its candidates, if elected, build AI-powered infrastructure by massively expanding c

- ['Mount Gwanak for exams, Mount Acha for romance': Young Koreans seek luck in mountains, charms](#) (2026-05-25 05:57)

Kim, 23, a university student who enjoys hiking as a hobby, visited Mount Bukhan last month after a friend recommended it. The trip was part of what young Koreans are calling “fortune hiking” — climbing mountains believed to improve luck. Recently, online posts claiming that Mount Bukhan brings success in business and leadership have spread widely on social media. Kim said the hike was meant to help “improve personal fortune.” “I actually started two new tutoring jobs after the hike,” Kim said. “I don’t think it happened because I went to the mountain, but it still made me feel good somehow.” Another college student, Choi, 22, said a visit to Mount Gwanak with family members came after the student’s mother saw a television program claiming that “wishes come true if you climb Mount Gwanak three times.” “At the time, I was going through a difficult period so part of me wanted to believe it,” Choi said. “We talked about our wishes together while climbing, and after some of the problems were resolved, I think it gave me emotional comfort.” Fortune hiking has

- [Samsung Electronics employees now score ‘almost like lawyers’ in Korea’s marriage market](#) (2026-05-25 05:57)

Employees at Samsung Electronics are reportedly seeing their value rise in Korea’s marriage market as the semiconductor boom fuels expectations of massive bonuses. According to matchmaking company Sunoo on Monday, Samsung Electronics employees recently saw their so-called “spouse index” rise from 84 to 87 points — approaching the level typically associated with lawyers, who score around 90 points. The spouse index is a matchmaking metric that evaluates marriage prospects based on factors including socioeconomic status, physical attractiveness and family background. A Sunoo official said in an interview with Yonhap News Agency that such scores rarely change significantly. “The spouse index usually barely moves, so a three-point increase is very unusual,” the official said. “It reflects how strongly people of marriageable age prioritize realistic financial conditions.” The trend comes as Korea’s semiconductor industry experiences another rise, with expectations of enormous performance bonuses for employees at major chipmakers. While SK hynix employees have not yet seen an o

- [Policy chief says high rates, prices, exchange rate are ‘cost of success’ in economic leap forward](#) (2026-05-25 05:57)

The presidential policy adviser assessed that the Korean economy is taking a leap forward, brushing aside concerns over the triple burden of costly borrowing rates, high prices and a weak Korean won, calling them instead the “cost of success.” In a Facebook post titled “The cost of success,” Saturday, Kim Yong-beom, presidential chief of staff for policy, said these three factors are not “a precursor to crisis, but friction emerging as the Korean economy enters a new phase.” “While corporate performance is at an all-time high, interest rates and the exchange rate are rising, and housing prices are starting to heat up again, with markets and the media raising concerns about a crisis,” he said. “The problem lies not in the economy itself, but in the framework through which it is perceived,” he added. Kim’s post came as the lower bound of fixed mortgage rates at major commercial banks bounced back above 5 percent, while the benchmark interest rate remains unchanged at 2.5 percent since May last year. The Korean won is weakening against the U.S. dollar, with the exchange

- [Incheon's Crocat House hosts group exhibition featuring 6 Korean, global artists](#) (2026-05-25 05:57)

A group of Korean and foreign artists opened an exhibition at Crocat House, a new cultural and arts complex in Incheon that is transforming an old industrial waterfront zone into a platform for exhibitions, performances, pop-ups, seminars, busking and community events. The exhibition, titled "Felt Seams — What the Tide Erases, the Body Holds," tells a narrative in which seams emerge between body and world, memory and image, past and present, private feeling and shared space. Hence, six artists moving through different materials, places and sensibilities trace seams between what is felt and what remains. For Korean artist and curator Sung A Jang, art is less about fixed definitions and more about exchanges between ideas, people and spaces.

Having grown up moving between Korea and the United States, she developed a fluid understanding of identity, belonging and place, which strongly informs both her art and curatorial approach. “I’m a third culture kid. I grew up hopping back and forth between Korea and the U.S. I see things as essentially fluid — identity, place, belonging, medium

- [Daegu race tightens as conservatives rally behind Choo](#) (2026-05-25 00:02)

Early in the year, when parties began to select candidates for the June 3 local elections, the Daegu mayoral race appeared to favor liberal Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) candidate Kim Boo-kyum, as the conservative main opposition People Power Party (PPP) was mired in an internal feud over candidate selection. This raised speculation that the liberal candidate could gain an easy win in Daegu, long regarded as a conservative stronghold. That picture is changing. In the final stretch of the campaign, PPP candidate Choo Kyung-ho has narrowed the gap by leaning on his image as an economic policymaker, while conservatives have increasingly framed the race as a battle to keep Daegu in conservative hands. Polls show that the race has tightened significantly over the past month. In a survey of 800 Daegu citizens conducted from May 16 to 20 by Korea Research and commissioned by KBS, released on Thursday, Kim led with 40 percent support, narrowly ahead of Choo at 39 percent. The gap had narrowed steadily from 7 percentage points in a survey conducted by the same pollster between April 27 and 29, with

- [iGoBart expands adventures beyond Seoul’s neighborhoods](#) (2026-05-25 00:02)

Sitting down with Bart van Genugten, one of the most popular Korean travel vloggers both in and out of Korea, is like spending time with a sort of mythical creature. It’s always a unique experience meeting someone in real life whom you’ve watched for dozens, if not hundreds, of hours online on his YouTube channel, iGoBart. Many will know Bart from his “Welcome to my Dong” series, wherein he is attempting to visit, explore and document every single one of Seoul’s 467 neighborhoods, which are known in Korean, somewhat unfortunately to English speakers, as “dong.” A noble goal, to be sure, and one that is not even halfway finished, even after years. I sat down with Bart at a cafe in his neighborhood of Bomun-dong to talk about his larger mission — one that has seen him venturing beyond the borders of Seoul, and even Korea, in a handful of instances. But why leave Seoul? Isn’t Seoul the be-all and end-all of Korea? Bart muses, “Seoul is not Korea.” I press him to expand further. “If you go out (of Seoul), you have all these different cultures, different foods, different

- [Starbucks Korea’s ‘Tank Day’ gaffe spirals into political clash over boycott calls](#) (2026-05-24 11:57)

The controversy over Starbucks Korea’s “Tank Day” promotion is rapidly escalating into a political clash ahead of the June 3 local elections. The government and the ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) are intensifying their response to the coffee chain, which is accused of mocking the May 18 Gwangju Uprising and the 2014 Sewol ferry tragedy, while the opposition party has characterized government-led criticism and boycott campaigns as “state violence.” With the controversy emerging only two weeks before the elections, the conservative opposition

bloc is reacting more sensitively to the liberal ruling party's criticisms, as hate speech directed at the pro-democracy movement and the ferry sinking have largely come from far-right online groups associated with conservative politicians. Starbucks Korea came under fire last week after launching a "Tank Day" tumbler promotion on May 18 that evoked the military suppression in 1980 of pro-democracy protesters in Gwangju under the military junta led by Chun Doo-hwan, who became president later that year. The campaign was scrapped

- [Seoul superintendent candidate faces backlash over anti-queer campaign banners](#) (2026-05-24 11:57)

Criticism is mounting against a Seoul education superintendent candidate over campaign banners, with civic groups accusing him of promoting hatred against sexual minorities. The banners for Seoul Metropolitan Superintendent candidate Cho Jeon-hyeok carry the slogan "expel queer homosexuality education," and his campaign blog also pledges to block the annual queer festival held at Seoul Plaza in front of City Hall. The Korean coalition for sexual minority rights Rainbow Action, youth support center Dding Dong and Coalition for Anti-Discrimination Legislation released a joint statement Friday, condemning the banners as an act that denies the existence of LGBTQ students and openly promotes hatred. The groups expressed outrage over the public display of anti-LGBTQ sentiments during the election campaign, saying these messages undermine the democratic values that elections are meant to represent. They also criticized Cho, lamenting that someone lacking an understanding of the education system and the qualifications of an educator is running in the superintendent race. The groups urged the

- [Over 350 pigeons flock around Seoul Station, topping city survey](#) (2026-05-24 11:57)

Seoul Station had the highest concentration of feral pigeons of any surveyed location in Seoul last year, with as many as 351 birds recorded in a recent government study. These findings were published Sunday in a pigeon research report by Korea's National Institute of Biological Resources (NIBR), which launched the study last year due to an increase in complaints and social conflicts related to wild birds. The research aims to inform measures addressing damage caused by urban bird populations. After surveying 45 major locations across Seoul, the researchers found that pigeons tended to cluster in areas with heavy foot traffic and frequent outdoor dining, such as parks along the Han River. The pigeon survey was conducted twice, in February and November last year, at 36 designated "feeding prohibition zones" and nine areas without such restrictions. Researchers also carried out additional surveys in key locations, including 14 feeding-ban zones and seven nonrestricted areas, in March, April, May, July and August. Among locations without feeding restrictions, Seoul Station recorded th

- [Lee calls for review of closing down far-right website over promoting hate speech](#) (2026-05-24 11:57)

President Lee Jae Myung has called for a policy review of tougher measures against online and offline hate speech and hateful behavior, targeting far-right websites accused of promoting or

enabling such behavior. Lee made the suggestion on X, formerly Twitter, Sunday, while sharing a news report saying that young people believed to be users of the far-right online community Ilbe had visited Bongha Village, the hometown of former President Roh Moo-hyun, during a memorial ceremony for Roh on Saturday and allegedly behaved in provocative and mocking ways. The village, located in South Gyeongsang Province, is where Roh lived after leaving office. According to the news report, which cited an online post by a lawyer who serves as a board member of the Roh Moo-hyun Foundation, around 50 young people entered the memorial hall in the village and took photos while wearing Ilbe-related T-shirts and making hand gestures associated with the community. Ilbe has sparked numerous controversies over content considered offensive or derogatory toward political figures, social groups and victims of national

- [Ruling party candidate suspends Ulsan mayoral primary over flawed poll claims](#) (2026-05-24 05:57)

The ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) candidate for Ulsan mayor said Sunday he would suspend his participation in a primary with a minor party rival meant to choose a unified contender, just days before crucial elections widely seen as a political bellwether for President Lee Jae Myung. Rep. Kim Sang-wook of the DPK, who is running for mayor of the southeastern industrial city home to Hyundai Motor, had agreed with Kim Jong-hoon of the minor Progressive Party to select a unified candidate through a primary. "We have learned that the poll showed highly irregular patterns beyond what would normally be expected, with signs suggesting possible organized intervention by a certain group," Kim said in a statement. "We have concluded that it is no longer possible to proceed with the primary under the current method, as it could lead to an undemocratic situation where voters' rights could be undermined by manipulation by a certain group," he said of the two-day opinion poll that was set to end on Sunday. Still, Kim said he would continue to hold talks with the Progressive Party on selecting

- [Lee calls for review of punitive measures against online hate speech](#) (2026-05-24 05:57)

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- [Lee vows to build gov't that 'saves people's lives' on Buddha's Birthday](#) (2026-05-24 05:57)

President Lee Jae Myung vowed Sunday to build a government that "saves people's lives" and to uphold the teaching that all people are equally worthy, as he attended a ceremony marking Buddha's Birthday. Lee made the remarks during a ceremony hosted by the Jogye Order of Korean Buddhism, as he has increasingly prioritized policies aimed at protecting public safety and addressing issues that directly affect people's daily lives, such as stalking crimes and other safety-related incidents. "We will build a country that looks after the lives of each and every citizen more carefully and listens to the voices of those at the lowest levels of society," he said in his speech at Jogye Temple. "Above all, I will do my utmost to build a government that saves people's lives and put into practice the teaching that all people are equally worthy and equal," he said. Lee said the Buddha's teachings have shared both hardship and joy over the years, helping people heal pain and embrace marginalized neighbors whenever the country experienced crises and sorrow. "Even at times of war, poverty, disasters and so

- [KAIST, Gangnam Severance Hospital use AI to streamline psychiatric interviews](#) (2026-05-24 05:57)

The standard intake interview in a psychiatric clinic is a delicate, time-consuming calculus: A clinician must extract highly structured medical histories while simultaneously evaluating a patient's emotional state. Now, researchers in Korea are outsourcing the administrative half of that equation to artificial intelligence (AI), attempting to solve a chronic bottleneck in mental health triage. A joint team from KAIST and Gangnam Severance Hospital has developed a generative AI assistant designed to conduct preliminary psychiatric interviews. Built on a large language model, the system engages patients before they ever step into a doctor's office, mapping out symptoms and medical histories in real time to build a comprehensive clinical dashboard for the attending physician. The research — led by Lee Ui-chin and Lee Tak-yeon of KAIST, alongside Kim Eun-joo, a professor of psychiatry at Gangnam Severance Hospital — was presented this month at ACM CHI 2026, a premier international conference on human-computer interaction. Unlike rigid digital questionnaires, the conversational agent a

- [2 seriously injured as light aircraft crashes in Haenam](#) (2026-05-23 11:57)

Two people were seriously injured when a light aircraft crashed in the southwestern county of Haenam on Saturday, authorities said. The aircraft went down at around 3:10 p.m. while en route from Muan Airport to Sani Airfield. The two -- an instructor and a student, both in their 20s, from Chodang University -- were taken to nearby hospitals. The student was rescued conscious, while the instructor was found unconscious, according to firefighting officials. One of the aircraft's wings was severely damaged in the crash but did not catch fire, they said. Authorities were investigating the cause of the crash.

- [Lee vows to carry on ex-President Roh's legacy at memorial ceremony](#) (2026-05-23 05:57)

President Lee Jae Myung on Saturday vowed to continue the legacy of late former President Roh Moo-hyun by building a nation founded on fairness, inclusion and respect for human dignity. "After you left, so many 'Roh Moo-hyuns' were born and I am one of them," Lee said in his

eulogy delivered at a ceremony marking the 17th anniversary of Roh's death held in the southeastern rural village of Bongha, where the late president lived after his retirement. "As president, I feel the immense responsibility and weight that comes with the position. I will carry on your legacy," Lee said. Lee pledged to realize Roh's vision of a society where success is possible without privilege, hard work is fairly rewarded, people embrace one another regardless of background and balanced development allows both the capital region and the rest of the country to prosper together. "I will press ahead with reform to root out rule-breaking and privilege, undeterred by resistance from the established order," he said, adding, "This government will bring to fruition the dreams you left unfulfilled." On North Korea, Lee sa

- [Too hot, too cold: Invisible war over Seoul subway AC](#) (2026-05-22 23:57)

As summer temperatures begin to climb, the battle over the thermostat is moving underground. Inside the packed cars of the Seoul subway, transit officials are facing a paradox: hundreds of thousands of commuters demanding freezing air, while thousands of others beg for relief from the chill. According to data released Friday by Seoul Metro, the municipal operator handled over 1.01 million rider complaints last year. A staggering 78.4 percent — nearly 790,000 cases — were related to train temperatures, with the vast majority of riders protesting that cars were too hot. Yet, as customer service centers brace for the seasonal surge, transit officials have a message for frustrated commuters: The conductors cannot help you. Under environmental regulations mandated by the Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment, train temperatures are controlled by an automated climate control system programmed to maintain a baseline of 24 to 27 degrees Celsius in the summer. "Riders often believe train operators can manually crank up the air conditioning on a whim," said Han Ji-hoon, an official at Seo

- [Gongneung-dong, where Nowon has fun](#) (2026-05-22 23:57)

Sick of a long commute out to Hongdae, Itaewon or Gangnam? Are you coming down from the northern parts of the city? You might not have to make a long trip in search of social activities after all, as Gongneung-dong transforms into a hotspot in Seoul's northeastern corner. Located in Nowon District, this low-rise neighborhood is pushed up against the edge of the city, stretching from Jungnang Stream to up the slope of Mount Buram. Gongneung-dong gets its name from the royal tombs in the area, but the area is not nearly as quiet as a tomb. Housing three universities, a military academy, a training complex for Korean Olympians and two UNESCO-listed royal tombs that give the neighborhood its name, the area has had a reputation for being low-key and suburban, yet also well-connected and not overly quiet. Its local businesses are frequently overrun with university students. Gongneung-dong Dokkaebi Market in the area bustles with pedestrians, comparable to some of Seoul's better preserved traditional markets, like Mangwon Market. Three Seoul Metro stations fall within its boundaries: Gongneung

- [Two-thirds of Samsung union members cast ballots on 1st day of wage vote](#) (2026-05-22 18:02)

Around two-thirds of unionized workers at Samsung Electronics Co. on Friday voted on a tentative wage deal following a last-minute agreement with management that averted a strike planned earlier this week. As of 8:25 p.m., around 66 percent of members of the Samsung Electronics Labor Union, the largest union at the tech giant with 70,850 members, had cast their ballots on the first day of the vote, according to the union. Around 69 percent of the 19,000-member National Samsung Electronics Union had also taken part in the vote, which will run through next Wednesday. The labor union and management reached the agreement just an hour before an 18-day strike was set to begin at the world's top memory chipmaker on Thursday. The agreement will be ratified if more than half of eligible union members participate in the vote, with a majority of those voting approving the deal. If the proposal fails to secure majority support, labor and management will have to return to the negotiating table. At stake is disagreement among members of the tech giant's different business divisions, with those in the

- [Suicide tops causes of death among Korean youth for 14th straight year](#) (2026-05-22 11:57)

Suicide has been the leading cause of death among Korean youth for 14 consecutive years since 2011, claiming more than three times as many young lives as safety accidents have in 2024. According to youth statistics released by the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family on Thursday, the number of deaths among those aged 9 to 24 stood at 1,749 in 2024. Suicide was the leading cause at 10.9 deaths per 100,000, followed by safety accidents at 3.3 and cancer at 2.6. A Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency survey of 54,170 middle and high school students last year found that more than one in four, or 25.7 percent, reported experiencing feelings of depression in the past year. The number of people aged 9 to 24 stands at 7.4 million this year, accounting for 14.4 percent of the total population, down 46.5 percent from four decades ago. Students from multicultural backgrounds, by contrast, are on the rise. The number of such students in elementary, middle and high schools surged 145 percent from 82,536 in 2015 to 202,208 last year, now accounting for 4 percent of all students. Students also

- [N. Korea-born former lawmaker Thae Yong-ho's son faces crypto scam allegations](#) (2026-05-22 11:57)

Former People Power Party lawmaker Thae Yong-ho's eldest son has been arrested and handed over to prosecutors on allegations of cryptocurrency fraud involving about 1.6 billion won (\$1.06 million). According to Seoul Gangnam Police Station on Thursday, a man surnamed Thae was indicted and transferred to prosecutors on May 13 on charges including fraud, illegal fundraising, identity theft and embezzlement. He is accused of deceiving acquaintances by using his father's name and promising profits from cryptocurrency investments, then taking their money. Police believe that the eldest son of the former foreign service official for the North Korean regime defrauded seven victims. He is also accused of embezzling from a publishing company run by his mother, author Oh Hye-sun. During a 2024 parliamentary audit, while serving as secretary-general of the Presidential Advisory Council on Democratic and Peaceful Unification, Thae Yong-ho apologized over the allegations involving his eldest son. "I

deeply apologize for causing public concern because of my eldest son' s issue," he said. Before

- [Korea launches tripartite committee to tackle AI's impact on labor](#) (2026-05-22 11:57)

Korea launched a new tripartite body to confront the impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on labor, bringing together unions, employers and the government in a yearlong dialogue on how to manage the transition inside real workplaces, rather than in abstract policy debates. On Friday, the Economic, Social and Labor Council (ESLC), a presidential advisory body on labor and social issues, formed the Committee on Labor-Management Coexistence in the AI Transition and held its first plenary meeting at its headquarters in Seoul. The committee is designed as a formal forum where labor, business and government jointly examine how the spread of AI is changing industrial worksites and employment and develop solutions to better embrace the transformation. Chaired by Hwang Deok-soon, former senior presidential secretary on jobs during the Moon Jae-in administration, the committee consists of 17 members, including three representatives each from labor and management, four from government and six public interest members. The committee will focus on four main themes: the impact and current state of AI

- [Ex-senior presidential official appears for arrest warrant hearing](#) (2026-05-22 11:57)

A former chief of staff to now-jailed President Yoon Suk Yeol appeared at a court Friday for a hearing on his potential arrest over alleged irregularities in the 2022 relocation of the presidential residence. Kim Dae-ki is accused of illegally diverting 2.8 billion won (\$1.8 million) from the interior ministry's budget to pay an interior design company for the renovation of the presidential residence during its relocation from Cheong Wa Dae to the central Seoul district of Yongsan. The company, 21 Gram, is suspected of having won the project despite being unqualified, due to its ties with Yoon's wife, Kim Keon Hee. The former presidential official told reporters that he would "faithfully" explain his position as he arrived at the Seoul Central District Court to attend his arrest warrant hearing. Former presidential secretary for administrative affairs Yoon Jae-soon and former presidential secretary for general affairs Kim Oh-jin also appeared at the court Friday for separate hearings on their potential arrests over the same allegations. Special counsel Kwon Chang-young's team filed for ar

- [Kwangwoon University signs agreement with Tashkent State Technical University to expand cooperation](#) (2026-05-22 11:57)

Kwangwoon University and Tashkent State Technical University (TSTU) have recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to strengthen bilateral cooperation. The MOU was signed between Cho Sun-young, chairperson of the Kwangwoon Educational Foundation, and Sadritdin Turabdjanov, rector of TSTU, during Cho' s visit to Uzbekistan on May 13. Kwangwoon University said Friday that under the agreement, the two institutions will explore the establishment of a Korean Language Center, promote joint research projects, organize academic seminars and training programs, and expand faculty and student exchanges. A university official said the partnership is expected to lay the foundation for deeper collaboration

between the two institutions and help strengthen academic and cultural ties between Korea and Uzbekistan. He said that Cho and Turabdjanoj held a meeting to explore opportunities for expanding cooperation in higher education, research, and innovation. He added that the two discussed a broad range of collaborative initiatives, including academic exchange programs, joint research projects and

- [DAPA launches project to develop hard-kill interceptor drones to counter 'suicide drones'](#) (2026-05-22 11:57)

The state arms procurement agency said Friday it has launched an interceptor drone development project to better respond to "suicide drones" changing the modern warfare landscape. Under the project, the Defense Acquisition Program Administration (DAPA) seeks to develop interceptor drone systems aimed at detecting and physically colliding with an enemy suicide drone. The envisioned drone systems will be capable of detecting targets through an infrared search-and-track system and using a hard-kill method to intercept them. Through the project, DAPA plans to test its capabilities to respond to medium-sized suicide drones infiltrating at low altitude while bypassing low-altitude air defense systems. It will also review the potential for mass development of the weapons systems as a cost-effective means. The Defense Rapid Acquisition Technology Research Institute will invest 17 billion won (\$11.27 million) over the span of two years for the research and development of the envisioned drone systems. The project will proceed as part of a rapid acquisition initiative aimed at swiftly procuring inno

- [Samsung's record bonuses leave many Koreans envious, some bitter](#) (2026-05-22 11:57)

Han Myung-ae starts work before most people are awake and rarely stops before dark. As a real estate agent, her commissions are capped by law, so when she learned that Samsung Electronics employees in the memory chip division could pocket bonuses of up to 600 million won (\$397,000) this year, the news did not sit well. "They already earn more than most of us just for being at Samsung, now they want even more and are making a scene out of it," the 58-year-old told The Korea Times, referring to the drawn-out labor negotiations that ended just short of a strike. Han's sentiment illustrates the mixed reactions of Koreans as Samsung Electronics and SK hynix roll out record bonus packages fueled by an artificial intelligence (AI)-driven semiconductor supercycle. If the tentative wage agreement reached Wednesday between Samsung Electronics and its union is ratified, 10.5 percent of the company's projected 300 trillion won in operating profit this year would fund a special performance bonus pool. Employees in the memory chip division are estimated to receive up to 600 million won before tax

- [Hidden cold zones emerge as last refuge for Korea's disappearing plants](#) (2026-05-22 11:57)

Deep inside rocky mountain slopes across Korea, pockets of cold air are quietly keeping some of the country's rarest plants alive, as rising temperatures squeeze fragile ecosystems and

redraw the boundaries of survival. The Korea National Arboretum said Friday that so-called “punghyeolji,” a kind of microclimate with cooler air than the surrounding environment, are becoming increasingly important as natural refuges for rare, endemic plant species threatened by climate change. The announcement was released in conjunction with the International Day for Biological Diversity, observed Thursday. These microclimates form naturally along rocky slopes where cold underground air escapes during the summer, creating sites significantly cooler than surrounding lowland areas. Researchers say those isolated environments now serve as critical sanctuaries for cold-adapted and northern plant species that would otherwise struggle to survive in warmer regions. A recent study by the arboretum identified 1,203 unique plant species across 25 major sites nationwide. The survey documented 82 rare plant species.

- [Young Koreans take on global misinformation found online](#) (2026-05-22 11:57)

Nearly 170 young people from around the world are joining a new digital campaign led by the Korean government and the Volunteer Agency Network of Korea (VANK) to challenge misinformation about Korea circulating across global media and online platforms. The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism said Friday it held a launch ceremony for the second group of Global Korea Ambassadors at 10 a.m. on the metaverse platform ZEP. The initiative, organized jointly with VANK, a civic organization known for its online public diplomacy campaigns, selected 169 Korean and international youths to participate in efforts aimed at promoting accurate information about Korean history and culture. Participants, all aged 16 or older, will spend about a month identifying and correcting misleading or inaccurate depictions of Korea found in foreign media outlets, digital platforms and online content, according to the ministry. The volunteers will also submit policy suggestions and promotional ideas intended to improve how Korea is introduced overseas. The program follows the first Global Korea Ambassadors campaign.

- [Korea to acquire US SM-6 missile interceptors for deployment by 2034](#) (2026-05-22 11:57)

Korea on Friday finalized a plan to acquire U.S. Standard Missile-6 (SM-6) shipborne missile interceptors and field them by 2034, in a bid to boost its missile defense capabilities, the state arms procurement agency said. The Defense Project Promotion Committee, a decision-making body for arms procurement under the Defense Acquisition Program Administration (DAPA), approved the 530 billion-won (\$351.5 million) project to acquire the SM-6 long-range ship-to-air missile interceptors and related equipment, the agency said. An SM-6 interceptor is an advanced defense missile interceptor for warships that can track and destroy a wide range of incoming threats. It has a maximum range of 460 kilometers, with an altitude of up to 36 km, and is built to directly track targets with its own radar, allowing ships to deal with multiple threats at the same time. The military plans to equip the 8,200-ton Aegis destroyer ROKS *Dasan Jeong Yakyong*, which is scheduled to enter service later this year, as well as the ROKS *Daeho Kim Jong Seo*, another vessel of the same class, with the SM-6 interceptors. The SM

- [Probe under way over alleged irregular drone acquisition linked to Yoon's martial law bid](#) (2026-05-22 11:57)

The defense ministry is investigating how the drones sent into North Korea ahead of former President Yoon Suk Yeol's failed martial law attempt were brought into service, amid allegations of irregularities in the process, an official said Friday. The ministry has launched a joint internal probe with the state arms procurement agency into how drones were sent into Pyongyang in October 2024, weeks before the former president's Dec. 3 martial law attempt, a ministry official said. The drone incursion issue has been at the center of allegations surrounding the martial law case amid suspicion that they were sent across the border to incite the North's provocations in a bid to use it as a pretext for the martial law imposition. "A joint internal audit is currently under way with the Defense Acquisition Program Administration (DAPA) at the request of the National Assembly," the official told reporters. "I am limited in providing specific details as they could affect the fairness of the audit and the ongoing investigation," she said. The ministry and DAPA are reportedly looking into how the Drone

- [Seoul links neighborhoods through sweeping local arts push](#) (2026-05-22 11:57)

Seoul is trying to redraw its cultural map from the ground up, stitching together neighborhoods once separated by administrative borders into a citywide network of shared stages, stories and audiences. The Seoul Foundation for Arts and Culture on Friday launched "Arts for Attractive Seoul," a yearlong initiative that will bring seven collaborative cultural projects to the capital's five "living zones" as defined in the 2030 Seoul Plan. The program brings together cultural institutions from Seoul's central, northeastern, southeastern, southwestern and northwestern districts, with the aim of transforming local assets into interconnected artistic experiences for residents as part of their daily lives. The foundation said the initiative is designed to dissolve administrative boundaries between districts and reframe Seoul's dispersed cultural resources as part of a unified urban narrative. The selected projects span all 25 districts and will run through the end of the year, featuring performances, exhibitions, workshops and neighborhood-based festivals in streets, parks, riverside a

- [Police step up probe into Shinsegae chief over Starbucks Korea's 'Tank Day' event](#) (2026-05-22 05:57)

Police said Friday they were questioning a civic activist who filed a complaint against Shinsegae Group Chairman Chung Yong-jin over Starbucks Korea's controversial marketing campaign. Kim Soon-hwan, secretary general of the People's Welfare Countermeasure Committee, appeared before the Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency's public crime investigation team to be questioned about the complaint filed Wednesday. In the complaint, the civic group alleged that Chung and Sohn Jeong-hyun, former head of Starbucks Korea, defamed and insulted victims of the May 18 pro-democracy movement in 1980 through the coffee franchise's "Tank Day" promotional event. On Monday, Starbucks Korea, operated under Shinsegae in Korea, launched the "tank" coffee tumbler promotion, which coincided with the anniversary of the May 18 democracy uprising in the southwestern city of Gwangju. The marketing campaign was scrapped within

hours of its launch following public backlash over the word "tank," which evoked painful memories of the military deploying tanks to clamp down on pro-democracy protesters. Its promotional materia

- [Constellations and upcycling: Seoul launches overnight eco-camping program](#) (2026-05-22 05:57)

The Seoul metropolitan government is inviting families to swap indoor lighting for starlight next month, launching an overnight camping program designed to blend astronomical observation with environmental education. City officials said Friday that the eighth edition of the “Noh-eul Starlight Camping” event will take place from June 6 to 7 at Noh-eul Park, a sprawling green space within the capital's World Cup Park complex known for its sweeping sunset views. The two-day initiative will select 40 families to participate in an outdoor itinerary that prioritizes sustainability and hands-on recreation. The program, which debuted in 2017, is framed this year around the theme “Splashing Water, Shining Summer Nights.” Municipal organizers have expanded family-oriented programming to focus heavily on ecological stewardship. Scheduled activities include upcycling workshops where participants will repurpose plastic bottle caps, eco-bag painting sessions and a project transforming discarded containers into makeshift lanterns. The centerpiece of the weekend will happen late on the evening

- [Veterans ministry to step up screening of false info related to May 18 uprising amid Starbucks marketing debacle](#) (2026-05-22 05:57)

Veterans Minister Kwon Oh-eul has expressed "deep regret" over a controversial marketing campaign by Starbucks Korea and vowed to step up screening for false information associated with the country's pro-democracy movement in 1980. "As the veterans minister, I express deep regret and serious concern over the controversy caused by Starbucks Korea's 'Tank Day' promotion held on the anniversary of the May 18 Gwangju uprising," Kwon wrote on social media Thursday. Starbucks Korea came under intense public scrutiny this week after it launched an online "Tank Day" promotion, which drew public backlash for evoking painful memories of a bloody military crackdown on the May 18 Gwangju uprising. Kwon also said the veterans ministry will seek to establish a culture where all people, including businesses, can develop a "mature" and "proper" sense of history. He also pledged to strengthen monitoring efforts and take corrective measures of information related to the Gwangju uprising. The campaign drew heavy criticism as the word "tank" evoked memories of the military deploying tanks to clamp down on p

- [Korea National Park Service tracks threatened alpine plants amid climate shifts](#) (2026-05-22 05:57)

As rising global temperatures reshape high-altitude environments, Korea has launched its first comprehensive ecological ledger of the peninsula's alpine plants, cataloging species that scientists warn are vulnerable to climate change. The National Park Service, an agency under the Ministry of Environment, announced the publication of the "Ecological Guide to Alpine

Plants of the Korean Peninsula." The guide marks the culmination of a four-year joint research initiative with the Korean Society of Plant Taxonomists. Researchers systematically surveyed nine mountain-type national parks with peaks exceeding 1,000 meters — including Mount Seorak, Mount Jiri and Mount Halla — along with Mount Baekdu. The study classified 195 distinct species. Among them, 68 are strictly alpine plants thriving above the tree line, while 127 are subalpine species situated between the forest and tree lines. To aid public conservation efforts, the guide features high-resolution photography, distribution maps and ecological profiles for 151 core species, including the rare *Arctostaphylos alpina* (red bearberry) and

- [Teens, octogenarians to share runway at Cheonggye Stream fashion show](#) (2026-05-22 05:57)

A runway stretching across the waters of Cheonggye Stream will become an unlikely stage as teenage and senior citizen models walk side by side in a public fashion show designed to turn one of Seoul's busiest urban landmarks into a living cultural space. Seoul Facilities Corp. said Friday it will host the "Cheonggye Live Fashion Show" at 7 p.m. Wednesday on a floating stage beneath Ogan Bridge near Dongdaemun Fashion Town. The event, themed "Spring Swing," will feature more than 100 citizen models ranging in age from 18 to 81, transforming the streamside venue into an intergenerational showcase of music, fashion and performance art. Students and graduates from the model department at Seoul Culture Arts University will participate in the show, with professor Lee Eun-mi overseeing artistic direction, the corporation said. Among the featured participants are 81-year-old Jang Jeong-rye and 18-year-old Choi Tae-sul, who will appear together on the runway in what organizers described as a performance meant to blur generational boundaries. The show will reinterpret jazz, musical theater

- [University of Seoul student wins world's top 3 design awards](#) (2026-05-22 05:57)

An undergraduate student at the University of Seoul has won three of the world's most prestigious design awards, demonstrating the school's international competitiveness in design. The university said Thursday that Cho Seung-min, a senior in the department of design, achieved the so-called "Design Grand Slam" by winning Germany's iF Design Award 2026 and the Red Dot Design Award: Design Concept 2025, as well as the U.S.' International Design Excellence Awards (IDEA) 2025. The three design awards are internationally renowned competitions entered by global companies such as Samsung Electronics and Apple. It is rare for an individual student project to sweep all three. Cho's signature design project, "Flock," has drawn even greater attention in that his achievement was made through his individual work rather than by a large team or corporation. Flock is a sloped fermentation container designed to improve the usability of traditional kimchi jars, while enhancing visibility, hygiene and comfort. According to the university, the project received high scores for addressing prac

- [Civil servant unions join Starbucks boycott over 'Tank Day' event](#) (2026-05-22 05:57)

Civil servant unions have called on their members to boycott Starbucks Korea over a promotional event that evoked painful memories of a brutal military crackdown on the 1980

pro-democracy movement, officials said Friday. The Korean Government Employees' Union sent notices to its branches nationwide Thursday asking its members to boycott the coffee franchise, taking issue with the "Tank Day" event that coincided with the anniversary of the May 18 Gwangju uprising. The marketing campaign, which offered "tank" tumbler sets on discount, was scrapped within hours of its launch following public criticism over the word "tank," which evoked memories of the military deploying tanks to clamp down on pro-democracy protesters. Its promotional material also featured the phrase, "Put it on the table with a sound of 'Tak!'" The word "Tak" sparked backlash, as it reminded people of student activist Park Jong-chol, who died in 1987 after being tortured. "The (union) recognizes this situation very seriously and proposes a boycott of Starbucks, so we ask for active participation," it said, pointing out that

- [Ex-NIS deputy chief grilled over alleged role in insurrection](#) (2026-05-22 05:57)

Hong Jang-won, former first deputy director of the National Intelligence Service (NIS), appeared before special prosecutors Friday for questioning over alleged involvement in insurrection related to former President Yoon Suk Yeol's imposition of martial law. Hong arrived at the office of the second comprehensive special counsel team, led by Kwon Chang-young, in the morning before being questioned as a suspect. He is accused of performing key duties related to the alleged insurrection, as the NIS allegedly contacted U.S. intelligence agencies after Yoon declared martial law on Dec. 3, 2024, to deliver a message justifying the emergency measure. Kwon's team has booked Hong, former NIS chief Cho Tae-yong and four other former political appointees at the spy agency on the insurrection-related charges. The team said it has confirmed specific charges against the six after obtaining documents explaining the legitimacy of the martial law declaration during an April raid on the NIS and subsequently questioning about 40 NIS officials. Hong denied all the charges, when approached by reporters in fro

- [Lee's approval rating rebounds to 64%: poll](#) (2026-05-22 05:57)

President Lee Jae Myung's approval rating rebounded to 64 percent this week from the previous week, led by positive assessments of his economic policies, a poll showed Friday. The survey by Gallup Korea, conducted Tuesday through Thursday on 1,002 respondents aged 18 and over, showed that the positive assessment of Lee's overall performance gained 3 percentage points from the previous week. The negative assessment remained unchanged at 28 percent. Lee's policies on the economy and people's livelihood were cited most frequently as the reason for the positive evaluation at 24 percent, followed by diplomacy at 12 percent and competency at 7 percent. Among the negative responses, concerns over excessive welfare and subsidies were the most commonly cited reason at 13 percent, followed by economic difficulties, livelihood concerns and high foreign exchange rates at 11 percent. The president's approval rating exceeded 50 percent in all major cities and provinces, with support highest in the southwestern city of Gwangju and Jeolla Province at 89 percent, followed by the central region of Daejeon,

- [Gov't to seek to overhaul KFA as part of nation normalization project](#) (2026-05-22 05:57)

The government will seek to overhaul the way the Korea Football Association (KFA) is run, including introducing a direct election for its president and making the appointment process for the national team's head coach more transparent, as part of efforts to address abnormal social practices, officials said Friday. Overhauling the KFA was one of 164 tasks that the government has finalized under what it calls the "nation normalization project" that was launched after President Lee Jae Myung ordered the correction of abnormal practices and systems, deep-rooted illegal and illicit acts. Reducing bad calls through the improvement of refereeing administration was also part of the KFA overhaul task. A government task force, led by the Office for Government Policy Coordination, finalized the tasks from some 500 collected from officials on the ground and civilian experts over the past month, and the selection was made with a focus on making real changes that can be felt by people, officials said. Other tasks include adjusting speed limits in school zones, the standardization of beach umbrella fee

- [Interior minister expresses 'deep regret' over Starbucks Korea's 'Tank Day' campaign, vows boycott](#) (2026-05-21 11:57)

Interior Minister Yun Ho-jung on Thursday said he will rule out using the Korean operator of Starbucks in future government events, after the coffee chain came under fire for an inappropriate marketing campaign associated with a bloody military crackdown on a pro-democracy movement in 1980. Yun made the remarks in a post uploaded on X, formerly Twitter, saying he expresses "deep regret" over the recent "ahistorical" action by Starbucks Korea on the anniversary of the May 18 Gwangju uprising earlier this week. Operated by Shinsegae affiliate E-Mart, Starbucks Korea faced public backlash after it launched an online "Tank Day" promotion, offering a discount event for "Tank" tumbler sets, along with a controversial phrase, "Put it on the table with a sound of 'Tak!'" The campaign drew criticism as the word "tank" evoked memories of the military deploying tanks to clamp down on pro-democracy protesters, while "tak" reminded people of student activist Park Jong-chol, who died in 1987 after being tortured. "Democracy was built on top of the sacrifice and devotion of many citizens," Yun wrote. "

- [Voice file, messages involving actor Kim Soo-hyun, Kim Sae-ron manipulated by AI: Seoul police](#) (2026-05-21 11:57)

A voice file of deceased actor Kim Sae-ron, in which she admits that she had been a minor when she began a relationship with actor Kim Soo-hyun, had been manipulated by artificial intelligence (AI), Korean language daily Chosun Ilbo reported Thursday, quoting a police document. The female actor committed suicide in February last year, raising allegations that Kim Soo-hyun was in part responsible. Kim Soo-hyun most recently enjoyed popularity with his role in the 2024 drama series "Queen of Tears." Following the spiraling allegations against him, Kim held an emotional press conference, claiming he had not been in a relationship with the deceased at the time of her suicide and that he had not dated Kim when she was a minor. The press conference and ensuing media coverage led to his downfall as an actor. Police have been conducting an investigation into the case since then, and on Wednesday sought an arrest

warrant for Kim Se-ui, head of the controversial YouTube channel HoverLab (GaroSeroInstitute), over allegations of defaming Kim Soo-hyun by spreading fabricated claims about his past r

- [Far-right Koreans rally around Starbucks, use AI-generated dictator to promote coffee chain](#) (2026-05-21 11:57)

Far-right Korean online users began posting artificial intelligence (AI)-generated images and videos in support of Starbucks after the coffee chain's controversial "Tank Day" promotion on May 18 drew criticism for appearing to insult the Gwangju Democratic Uprising. What appeared at first to be a marketing blunder soon turned into a political flashpoint, with Starbucks becoming a symbolic rallying point for far-right users. As insulting posts targeting the May 18 Democratization Movement and messages supporting the coffee chain spread online, concerns grew over the potential for secondary victimization of survivors and bereaved families. AI-generated former dictator promotes Starbucks Multiple posts spread on X Wednesday featuring Starbucks products alongside former President Chun Doo-hwan. Chun ruled the country under a military dictatorship from 1980 to 1988 and violently crushed the Gwangju Democratic Uprising in 1980. In one video, Chun is seen drinking coffee from a Starbucks tumbler and complimenting its taste before stopping mid-sentence after mentioning the words "Gwangju

- [Supreme Court sets new precedent against criminalizing tattooing](#) (2026-05-21 11:57)

The Supreme Court on Thursday reversed a lower court ruling that criminalized tattooing by nonmedical professionals, setting a new legal precedent ahead of the legalization of the practice next year. In a full bench ruling, the court remanded the cases of two people who had been fined in both the first and second trials for giving tattoos in violation of the Medical Act, with instructions consistent with an acquittal. Under a 1992 Supreme Court ruling that classified tattooing as a medical act, nonmedical tattooists had until now faced potential criminal punishment for practicing the body art. Thursday's decision not only set a new legal precedent but also came before the Tattooist Act passed by the National Assembly last year takes effect in October 2027, legalizing tattooing by nonmedical professionals. "Tattooing was practiced widely even before medical professionals with specialized medical knowledge emerged," the top court said. "Successful tattooing does not require a level of medical knowledge and experience comparable to that of medical professionals." The court noted, however, th

- [Appeals court cuts prison term for shaman linked to ex-first lady to 5 years](#) (2026-05-21 11:57)

An appeals court on Thursday reduced the prison sentence for a shaman known for his close ties to former first lady Kim Keon Hee from six years to five years over charges of accepting bribes from the Unification Church. The Seoul High Court handed down the reduced term to Jeon Seong-bae, better known as Geonjin, for accepting 80 million won (\$53,000) worth of luxury goods from a former Unification Church official in 2022 by colluding with Kim, the wife of former President Yoon Suk Yeol, and other offenses. In February, the Seoul Central District

Court handed down a six-year sentence to Jeon for accepting the bribes and ordered him to forfeit 180 million won. The appeals court found Jeon guilty on most charges, including colluding with the former first lady to accept a Graff diamond necklace and Chanel bags, and ordered the forfeiture of the same amount. The court said the Chanel bags gifted to Kim were "not simple bags but compensation for an implicit favor." The court, however, said it reduced the prison term in consideration of Jeon's admission to some of the charges during the trial and

- [Gov't to crack down on illegal private lending disguised as gift certificate transactions](#) (2026-05-21 11:57)

An interagency task force charged with eradicating illegal private lending decided Thursday to step up its clampdown on illicit lending disguised as gift certificate transactions. As the government expands its crackdown on high-interest loan businesses, loan sharks have increasingly turned to gift certificate trades. Under this scheme, borrowers sign contracts to receive money from lenders in exchange for a promise to provide gift certificates worth much more than the borrowed amount. Earlier this month, a woman in her 30s was found dead in an apparent suicide after suffering from pressure by a private lender from whom she had borrowed money through a gift certificate transaction. Police have banned the lender from leaving the country pending an investigation. On Thursday, Government Policy Coordination Minister Yoon Chang-yul presided over the task force meeting and decided to subject these gift certificate transactions to loan business regulations and provide victims with the same support as other victims of ordinary loan sharks. The government will also expand investigations into inte

- [Seoul pushes road map for completing OPCON transfer as early as next year](#) (2026-05-21 11:57)

The transfer of wartime operational control (OPCON) to the Korean military could take place as early as next year, as Seoul moves to finalize a bilateral road map this year and enter the final verification stage of the Future Combined Forces Command. The Ministry of National Defense is seeking to complete the ongoing full operational capability (FOC) assessment this year and use the annual Security Consultative Meeting (SCM) between the allies to establish a target year for the transfer. Once that target year is set, the allies would move directly into the final full mission capability (FMC) verification stage, a defense ministry official said Wednesday. The OPCON transfer process consists of three phases designed to assess the readiness of the future combined command, which would be led by a Korean four-star general: initial operational capability (IOC), FOC and FMC. The allies are currently in the FOC phase after completing an earlier IOC assessment. Officials estimate that the FMC phase will take roughly one year. If the final verification proceeds on schedule, officials believe the t

- [Lee calls for stern punishment for defaming victims of state-led atrocities](#) (2026-05-21 11:57)

President Lee Jae Myung on Thursday called for stern punishment for those who glorify state-led atrocities or defame victims of such violence. Lee made the remarks during a meeting with senior aides, citing the spread of "malicious fake news" claiming that North Korean forces were involved in the 1980 democratization movement in Gwangju as an act deserving punishment. He also listed glorifying violence by state actors and insulting victims of state violence as similar cases. "(They) should be punished sternly through all available means," the president said. He described state violence as a grave, inhumane and anti-social crime that abuses the official authority entrusted to the state to ensure people's safety and improve their lives. The president also called for the prompt enactment of a law eliminating statutes of limitations for criminal charges and damages suits involving state violence.

- [Ex-spy chief Cho Tae-yong sentenced to 1 1/2 years in prison for perjury in martial law trial](#) (2026-05-21 11:57)

A Seoul court on Thursday sentenced former National Intelligence Service (NIS) Director Cho Tae-yong to 1 1/2 years in prison for making false testimony in connection with former President Yoon Suk Yeol's brief imposition of martial law in December 2024. The Seoul Central District Court handed down the sentence for Cho, finding him guilty of making false testimonies at the Constitutional Court by saying he had not received martial law-related documents from Yoon. It also convicted him of creating false public documents for submitting such written testimonies. The sentence, however, fell far short of the seven-year prison term sought by special counsel Cho Eun-suk's team, which had indicted Cho on other offenses, including dereliction of duty. It accused Cho of failing to report Yoon's martial law plan to the National Assembly despite allegedly hearing about a plan to mobilize troops to seal off the National Assembly and arrest politicians. By law, the NIS director must report any situation that has significant impact on national security without delay to the president and the parliamentar

- [Seoul mayoral candidates kick off races on first day of campaign period](#) (2026-05-21 11:57)

With the campaigning period for the June 3 local elections officially kicking off Thursday, Seoul mayoral candidates from both major parties launched their bids in neighborhoods with deep personal roots. While the conservative People Power Party candidate Oh Se-hoon focused his attacks on the Lee Jae Myung administration's housing policy and called for checks on its power, the ruling Democratic Party of Korea candidate, Chong Won-o, highlighted the Lee administration's achievements over the past year while pointing to a catalog of safety lapses under Oh's four terms as mayor. Oh launched his campaign in Gangbuk District, where he spent his childhood. In his subsequent stump speech, he turned to housing, saying the Lee administration had driven the market to a breaking point. "Whether you own or rent, jeonse or monthly, just thinking about moving is enough to send your anxiety through the roof," Oh said. "Jeonse units are nowhere to be found, and renewing a monthly lease at your current rate has become impossible." Jeonse is a unique Korean rental system where tenants pay a large

- [Joseon-era envoy ship returns to sea as Korea turns heritage into living history](#)

(2026-05-21 11:57)

A 34.5-meter wooden vessel once used to carry Korean envoys to Japan has returned to Korea's waters as a floating museum, offering the public a rare chance to step inside a reconstructed piece of 18th-century diplomacy. The National Research Institute of Maritime Heritage said Thursday that the Joseon Tongsinsha ship is taking part in the 16th Hwaseong Sea Leisure Festival in Hwaseong, Gyeonggi Province, running through May 29. The ship is a full-scale reconstruction of a Joseon Dynasty diplomatic vessel built in 2018 and used in modern reenactment voyages along historic Korea-Japan maritime routes since 2023. In 2025, the vessel entered Osaka Port for the first time in 261 years since the last official Joseon envoy mission, according to the institute, highlighting what officials describe as Korea's traditional shipbuilding and navigation expertise. The institute said a safety blessing ceremony for the voyage was held last Friday at its dock in Mokpo, attended by about 50 officials, including local government representatives and cultural tourism interpreters. The ship departed Mokpo on

- [Seoul tightens fire rules for small lodging facilities](#) (2026-05-21 11:57)

Seoul is moving to tighten oversight of capsule hotels and other small lodging facilities, unveiling a sweeping fire safety plan Thursday aimed at closing regulatory gaps that officials say could cost lives in a fast-moving blaze. The city government said it will conduct a full inspection of 7,958 lodging facilities across Seoul, while expanding sprinkler coverage, strengthening emergency equipment requirements and building an integrated safety management system that links construction, tourism and firefighting authorities. City officials said more than 90 percent of lodging facilities in Korea's capital currently lack sprinklers, including many properties under 300 square meters that are not legally required to install them. Capsule hotels and dormitory-style accommodations, which often feature tightly packed sleeping units and narrow corridors, will be designated as "priority management targets" under the new plan. The city said it is also pushing for national legal changes that would classify such facilities as multi-use establishments, which would trigger mandatory sprinkler in

- [Court acquits ex-presidential security chief of evidence destruction](#) (2026-05-21 11:57)

A court on Thursday acquitted a former chief of the Presidential Security Service of destroying evidence related to former President Yoon Suk Yeol's brief imposition of martial law by deleting data from secure phones used by Yoon and other officials. Park Chong-jun had been indicted on charges of deleting data from phones used by Yoon, then National Intelligence Service deputy director Hong Jang-won and then Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency chief Kim Bong-sik to cover up the failed martial law bid in December 2024. The Seoul Central District Court, however, ruled there was not enough evidence to convict him of the charge. A special counsel team had requested a three-year prison term for Park.

- [Presidential office pledges active support for reasonable labor-management settlement](#)

(2026-05-21 11:57)

The presidential office on Thursday pledged to provide active support for companies and labor unions to settle negotiations in a reasonable manner, emphasizing the impact that labor-management disputes can have on the economy. Presidential spokesperson Kang Yu-jung made the remarks at a press briefing a day after Samsung Electronics and its largest labor union reached a last-minute wage agreement over performance-based bonuses, averting a planned 18-day strike that had been scheduled to begin Thursday. The agreement also spared the Korean economy what could have been losses of up to 100 trillion won (\$66.4 billion), according to many expert estimates. Still, the monthslong dispute has raised concerns that labor unions at other companies may follow suit by taking collective action in demand of greater compensation. "The government is planning to provide active assistance so that labor-management negotiations can be mediated in a reasonable direction," Kang said. "The impact such disputes can have on the national economy is significant." She said that, in principle, such negotiations are ma

- [Defense ministry hosts advanced robotics, AI defense tech exhibition](#) (2026-05-21 05:57)

The defense ministry on Thursday hosted an exhibition featuring advanced defense technologies based on robotics and artificial intelligence (AI), officials said. The Advanced Defense Pitch Day event, held at the Army's 55th Infantry Division in Yongin, about 40 kilometers south of Seoul, brought together some 200 military personnel, and those from defense firms and academia, as well as officials from the state arms procurement agency, the ministry said. The fair was organized to promote exchanges between the military and the private sector, and to allow the participants to identify military needs, and discuss ways to improve and further develop military equipment incorporating advanced technologies, the ministry said. A dozen private defense companies took part in the event to present their innovative technologies and products, including three-dimensional mapping robots, AI data platforms and other digital-based systems. It was the third time the ministry has hosted the event this year alone. The previous exhibition in March primarily showcased drone and anti-drone systems for military u

- [Harvesting diplomacy: Korea's Africa rice initiative hits 10,000-ton milestone](#) (2026-05-21 05:57)

A Korean-backed rice initiative in Africa has crossed a symbolic milestone, producing more than 10,000 tons of rice seed in just three years as Seoul deepens its push to position agricultural aid as a pillar of global food security. The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and the Rural Development Administration said Thursday that the K-Rice Belt project produced 6,365 tons of high-yield rice seed across seven African countries in 2025. The total exceeded this year's target of 4,752 tons by 34 percent and marked a 79 percent increase from last year's output of 3,562 tons. With this year's harvest included, cumulative production under the program reached 12,248 tons since its launch in 2023, surpassing the 10,000-ton mark for the first time. The K-Rice Belt project is Korea's flagship agricultural development assistance program aimed at strengthening food security in African countries with weak rice production infrastructure. Participating countries currently include Senegal, Gambia, Guinea, Ghana,

Cameroon, Uganda and Kenya, with Sierra Leone newly added this year. Ugan

- [Korea's tourism boom shatters records as foreign arrivals top 2 mil. again](#) (2026-05-21 05:57)

Korea's tourism rebound is turning into something bigger. Fueled by the global spread of K-culture and surging demand from across Asia and beyond, the country drew more than 2 million foreign visitors in April, crossing that milestone for the second month in a row and setting a new record pace for inbound tourism. The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism said Thursday that 2.03 million foreign travelers visited Korea in April, up 19 percent from 1.71 million a year earlier. The figure follows March, when monthly inbound tourism surpassed 2 million for the first time. From January through April, Korea welcomed 6.77 million foreign visitors, a 21 percent increase from 5.58 million during the same period last year and the highest four-month total on record. Chinese travelers accounted for the largest share in April, with 574,283 arrivals, followed by Japanese visitors at 304,053. Tourist arrivals from Taiwan reached 192,854, while visitors from Hong Kong totaled 70,802. The ministry also reported continued growth from long-haul markets, including the Americas and Europe, which together ac

- [Korea turns to Global South for answers on saving regional tourism](#) (2026-05-21 05:57)

As foreign tourists crowd major cities and rural regions struggle to attract visitors, tourism officials from across the developing world gathered in Korea Thursday to search for a solution that has eluded governments worldwide: how to spread tourism wealth beyond capital cities. The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism said it hosted the 2026 KOPIST High-Level Tourism Policy Forum in Sejong under the theme of "strategic approaches to revitalizing regional tourism." The event brought together senior tourism officials from 10 countries, including Indonesia, Ghana, Mongolia, Peru and Egypt, to discuss policies aimed at expanding tourism benefits across entire countries rather than concentrating them in major urban centers. KOPIST, short for the Korea Partnership Initiative on Sustainable Tourism, is the ministry's flagship official development assistance program focused on tourism cooperation with developing countries. Launched in 2014, the initiative has served as a platform for sharing Korea's tourism development policies with partner nations. Among the keynote speakers was Jul

- [Jeonbuk National University selected for state-funded humanities, social sciences research project](#) (2026-05-21 05:57)

Jeonbuk National University has been selected for a state-funded humanities and social sciences research project as part of an effort to foster regional universities for balanced national development, the school said Wednesday. With a total budget of 20 billion won, the Support Project for University Research Institutes in Humanities and Social Sciences is a key initiative aimed at establishing regional hubs for basic research in the humanities and social sciences at flagship national universities and nurturing talent in nonmetropolitan areas. The Ministry of Education plans to provide three selected universities, including Jeonbuk National

University, with 4 billion won each annually for five years. Jeonbuk National University said it has earned recognition for its differentiated strategy and research capabilities by presenting a detailed plan to build a humanities and social sciences research institute focused on Honam studies and to cultivate future convergence talent in the era of artificial intelligence (AI) transformation. Honam studies is an academic field that examines the history

- [Seoul enlists corporate muscle, rooftop hives to save endangered bees](#) (2026-05-21 05:57)

Amid shifting global climates and expanding urban concrete, the survival of the humble honeybee has become a critical barometer for ecological health. In Korea, where rapid urbanization continues to threaten natural habitats, civic leaders are turning to an unexpected combination of corporate sponsorship and public infrastructure to create sanctuary spaces. The Seoul Metropolitan Government, in partnership with Hyundai Engineering, inaugurated the "Plan Bee No. 2 Garden" Wednesday at Boramae Park in southwestern Seoul. The opening, intentionally timed to coincide with the United Nations' World Bee Day, marks a significant step in a three-year corporate-civic initiative designed to foster biodiversity within the capital. The new pocket sanctuary covers a 120-square-meter honeybee garden alongside a specialized 60-square-meter rooftop apiary housing five distinct bee colonies. To minimize friction between insects and parkgoers, the urban hives have been carefully sequestered atop the park's administrative office building, keeping flight paths clear of major pedestrian walkways. Rather than

- [Korea mobilizes diplomatic outposts for youth employment](#) (2026-05-21 05:57)

Facing a shifting global economy, the Korean government is leaning heavily on its diplomatic network to pave new career paths for its young professionals abroad. The Ministry of Employment and Labor, in tandem with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, announced Thursday the launch of a two-day convention involving overseas employment officers from 17 diplomatic missions across 11 nations, including the United States and Japan. The initiative signals an institutional push to transition state-sponsored youth employment programs from simple local job matching to strategic international career placement. According to state data, approximately 7,700 young Koreans participated in government-backed global employment initiatives last year. While past efforts primarily focused on predeparture language training and initial job scouting, the new framework heavily prioritizes long-term safety, legal security and sustainable career advancement once workers are on the ground. By utilizing embassies and consulates as active career hubs, authorities intend to help young expatriates navigate complex local

- [Kookmin University research team presents paper at international AI conference](#) (2026-05-21 05:57)

A Kookmin University research team presented a paper at the 29th Annual Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics (AISTATS) held in Morocco, the school said Wednesday. The team, under the guidance of assistant professor Kim Jang-ho of the College of Computer Science, includes Chung Jin-woo, a master's student, and two undergraduate students, Lee Hyeon-jun and Jo Hyeon-sik, both from the department of AI, big data and management. The

school highlighted the significance of presenting the study at AISTATS 2026, which took place in the Moroccan city of Tangier from May 2-5. Since its inception in 1985, AISTATS has been regarded as a premier international conference covering both theoretical and applied research in the field of artificial intelligence (AI). The university said the paper, titled “SQuaT: Self-Supervised Knowledge Distillation via Student-Aware Quantized Teacher Features,” proposes a novel method for improving the performance of quantized models without requiring training labels. A quantized model is a machine learning or deep learning model that uses lower-precision

- [Prosecutors seek arrest warrant for YouTuber over Kim Soo-hyun allegations](#) (2026-05-21 05:57)

Prosecutors have sought an arrest warrant for Kim Se-ui, head of the YouTube channel HoverLab (GaroSero Institute), over allegations that he spread false claims about actor Kim Soo-hyun in connection with the death of late actress Kim Sae-ron. The Seoul Central District Prosecutors’ Office said Wednesday that it requested the warrant on charges including distributing illegally filmed material under the Act on Special Cases Concerning the Punishment of Sexual Crimes and defamation under the Information and Communications Network Act. Kim is accused of spreading false claims through YouTube broadcasts that Kim Soo-hyun had dated Kim Sae-ron while she was a minor and that pressure from the actor’s side to repay debts directly led to her death. Prosecutors also said Kim was accused of damaging Kim Soo-hyun’s reputation by allegedly using generative artificial intelligence (AI) to manipulate Kim Sae-ron’s voice and fabricate information. Kim Soo-hyun’s side previously filed a complaint against Kim, saying the audio recording in question had been “manipulated using AI.” Police re

- [Korea’s most-populous province launches multilingual blitz to get foreign residents to vote](#) (2026-05-21 05:57)

As Korea prepares for its upcoming local elections on June 3, Gyeonggi Province is launching an ambitious campaign to ensure its growing foreign population isn’t left out of the democratic process. In a bid to overcome language barriers and systemic information gaps, the provincial government announced the deployment of voter turnout posters translated into 13 different languages. Under Korea’s Public Official Election Act, certain foreign residents hold the right to vote in local elections. Eligible voters must be at least 18 years old, have held permanent residency for at least three years and be officially registered on their local municipality’s foreigner registry. Despite these legal rights, many eligible non-Korean residents sit out of elections due to a lack of accessible information in their native languages. To bridge this gap, Gyeonggi Province’s Department of Immigration and Social Policy designed a highly visual, multilingual informational campaign. In addition to Korean, the promotional materials include languages such as English, Chinese, Vietnamese, Uzbek and Nepali.

- [Gangnam District launches QR-based multilingual safety training for construction workers](#) (2026-05-21 05:57)

In the bustling, skyscraper-laden district of Gangnam in southern Seoul, construction sites operate at a frantic pace. But beneath the gleaming glass towers lies a chronic safety challenge: hundreds of foreign laborers navigating hazardous environments with minimal, outdated safety training. To address this vulnerability, the Gangnam District Office, led by Mayor Cho Seong-myeong, announced an initiative to implement a QR code-based, multilingual smart safety training system. The program targets the district's 326 active construction sites, shifting the burden of safety compliance from top-level managers directly to the workers on the ground. Under current Korean regulations, construction laborers are only required to complete a one-time, four-hour basic safety course. Because this certification remains valid for life, there is no legal mandate for refresher training, even as site conditions constantly evolve. For foreign workers, the language barrier compounds the danger. Existing training modules rely heavily on Korean, leaving nonnative speakers dependent on spotty subtitles or inf

- [Korea sees potential wartime operational control transfer as early as next year](#) (2026-05-21 05:57)

Korea believes that the final verification stage for its retaking wartime operational control (OPCON) from the United States can be completed in about one year, potentially paving the way for the transition as early as next year, according to a source Thursday. The allies are working on the OPCON transfer, based on a three-phase assessment framework aimed at vetting Seoul's capabilities to lead the allies' combined forces after the transition. They are currently at the second stage of verifying "full operational capability (FOC)" and plan to complete the FOC validation by the end of this year so that they can announce a target year for the OPCON transition. Korea is seeking to regain wartime OPCON before President Lee Jae Myung's five-year term ends in 2030, amid speculation it is targeting 2028 for the transfer. Seoul reportedly projects that the final stage of the verification, the full mission capability (FMC), will take less time than the previous two stages, with the process expected to be completed in about one year. This means that, in theory, if the two sides agree to set 2027 as

- [Campaign officially begins for June 3 elections with 7,800 candidates](#) (2026-05-21 00:02)

The campaign period for the June 3 local elections and parliamentary by-elections officially kicked off, Thursday, launching a nearly two-week nationwide race that both the ruling and opposition parties view as crucial to the future course of government. Candidates across the country launched full-fledged voter outreach, with campaigning set to continue through June 2. According to the National Election Commission, as of Wednesday, 7,829 people registered as candidates, of whom 7,820 remain in the race. Voters will elect 16 metropolitan and provincial chiefs, 227 mayors and county heads, 804 metropolitan council members, 2,650 local council members, 16 education superintendents and 14 members of the National Assembly. The governing liberal Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) is casting the elections as a mandate to shore up support for the Lee Jae Myung administration and secure momentum for social and economic reforms. Speaking to reporters on Wednesday, Rep. Jo Seung-lae, one of the senior members of the party's central election committee, called the elections a "golden time to

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- [No longer just a labor dispute: Samsung strike draws global focus](#) (2026-05-20 18:02)

SEATTLE — The threat of a strike at Samsung Electronics this week quickly became an international story, with foreign media outlets closely tracking the potential impact on global semiconductor supply chains during the artificial intelligence (AI) boom. As Samsung and its largest labor union reached a tentative wage agreement and postponed a planned walkout on Wednesday, foreign coverage focused heavily on the potential implications for the global technology industry rather than the details of the labor negotiations themselves. “This was never just a wage dispute,” startup and technology outlet Startup Fortune wrote in its coverage of the potential strike. Samsung is one of the world’s largest suppliers of high-bandwidth memory, or HBM, and NAND flash chips used in AI servers, smartphones, laptops and data centers. Demand for advanced memory chips has surged alongside investment in artificial intelligence infrastructure, increasing the strategic importance of major chipmakers to global technology companies and investors. “A prolonged disruption at the world’s biggest memory c

- [School trip debate highlights pressures of dealing with parental complaints](#) (2026-05-20 18:02)

“You shouldn’t throw out the whole fermentation jar just because you’re afraid it might attract maggots.” The Korean proverb, similar in meaning to the Western idiom “Don’t throw the baby out with the bathwater,” was invoked by President Lee Jae Myung during a Cabinet meeting as he addressed the decline of field trips and multiday school trips across Korea. His comments added to a growing public debate over why schools and teachers are scaling back educational trips, with many educators citing the burden of parental complaints — sometimes over the smallest details. Lee’s comments helped fuel discussion about restoring a wider range of school trips. He suggested subsidizing the cost of additional safety personnel if teachers feel too burdened by the responsibility of supervising students. The Ministry of Education has said it is coordinating with the Ministry of Justice on legal revisions that would strengthen protections for teachers when safety accidents occur. But teachers on the front lines remain concerned. They say stronger safety measures and reduced legal burdens

- [Oceans ministry pushing to develop global maritime hub in southeastern Korea: minister](#) (2026-05-20 11:57)

The oceans ministry is continuing efforts to develop Korea's southeastern region into a global maritime hub in preparation for the envisioned expansion of Arctic shipping routes, Minister Hwang Jong-woo said Wednesday. Hwang made the remarks during a Cabinet meeting, reporting the progress made by the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries in the first year of President Lee Jae Myung's administration. The ministry relocated to the southeastern port city of Busan from the central administrative city of Sejong in December under the government's push to transform Busan and the surrounding region into a global maritime hub. Under the

initiative, SK Shipping and H-Line Shipping relocated their headquarters to Busan, and HMM, the country's biggest shipping firm, also decided to follow suit, Hwang said. He added that an international maritime court is also scheduled to open its doors in Busan in 2028. "With the possible establishment of a state-run corporation for investment in the southeastern region, the envisioned maritime capital equipped with administrative, judicial, corporate and financial infrastructure

- [Korea, India deepen defense ties with new military agreements](#) (2026-05-20 11:57)

Korea and India are deepening their military ties and defense manufacturing cooperation, signing a series of new agreements on Wednesday as both nations seek to fortify their special strategic partnership amid shifting geopolitical alliances across Asia. Defense Minister Ahn Gyu-back met Indian Defense Minister Rajnath Singh at Korea's Ministry of National Defense, where the two sides discussed expanding defense cooperation across military, cybersecurity and peacekeeping operations. The visit marked the first trip to Korea by an Indian defense minister since 2019. The meeting followed agreements reached during last year's Association of Southeast Asian Nations Defense Ministers' Meeting-Plus, where Ahn invited Singh to Seoul. The two ministers said they will build on the joint strategic vision announced during a Korea-India summit in April by broadening cooperation in defense and arms production. Both sides also agreed on the need to strengthen regular bilateral consultation channels to create a more systematic framework for military cooperation. Officials said the ministers highly e

- [From consumers to politicians, Starbucks Korea faces growing boycott](#) (2026-05-20 11:57)

Kim Hye-joon, 30, doesn't go a single day without visiting Starbucks. But her daily routine may change following sharp criticism of the company over its controversial "Tank Day" promotion that briefly ran on Monday, the 46th anniversary of the May 18 Gwangju Uprising. "I think this was extremely careless. I have no idea what they were thinking with the event and the wording," Kim told The Korea Times on Wednesday. "I'm not about to smash my mug like some people on social media, but if there's a local cafe nearby, I'll just go there instead." Kim's sentiment reflects a broader backlash spreading among consumers and politicians, highlighting how a marketing blunder can ignite public fury in a country where the historical wounds around the 1980 uprising run deep. The pro-democracy movement erupted in the southwestern city of Gwangju on May 18, 1980, when citizens stood up against the nationwide extension of martial law by the military junta led by Chun Doo-hwan, who would become president later that year. The crackdown left hundreds dead or missing, and it has since been recogn

- [Rival parties gear up for official campaigning set to begin Thursday](#) (2026-05-20 11:57)

The ruling and opposition parties geared up Wednesday for the June 3 local elections and parliamentary by-elections, a day before the start of the official campaign period for the closely watched nationwide vote. The 13-day campaign period will begin Thursday and last until the eve of the elections, with the ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) and the main opposition People Power Party (PPP) expected to launch full-scale campaigns to woo voters across the

nation. During this period, candidates and their campaign teams will be allowed to give speeches in public places between 7 a.m. and 11 p.m., distribute campaign materials and put up campaign banners. The election is widely considered the first major nationwide test for the Lee Jae Myung administration since it took office last June following former President Yoon Suk Yeol's ouster over his failed martial law bid. The DPK has urged voters to support the party in the elections, stressing the need to "normalize the country" and root out what it calls lingering "insurrectionist forces" linked to Yoon. (The official campaign period) will

- [Special counsel extends investigation into ex-President Yoon by 30 days](#) (2026-05-20 11:57)

A special counsel team said Wednesday it has extended its investigation into unresolved suspicions surrounding former President Yoon Suk Yeol and his wife by 30 days. The team led by special counsel Kwon Chang-young launched in February with a mandate to complete investigations started by three previous special counsel teams into Yoon's failed martial law bid, his wife Kim Keon Hee's alleged corruption scandal and other suspicions. Kwon's team said it decided to extend the investigation before its initial 90-day investigation period expires Sunday in order to continue probes into multiple cases, and reported the reasons to the president and the National Assembly. By law, the team can extend its investigation up to two times, for 30 days each time. With the first extension, the probe will run through June 24. Critics have questioned the team's performance, as it has yet to indict or arrest any suspects. Earlier this week, the team filed for arrest warrants for a former chief of state-funded broadcaster KTV and three former Yoon aides over their alleged involvement in the administration's p

- [Government's idea of 2-state coexistence with N. Korea draws dispute](#) (2026-05-20 11:57)

The South Korean government appears to be floating the idea of officially recognizing North Korea as a sovereign state, drawing backlash from conservatives who see the move as undermining the long-standing constitutional goal of inter-Korean reunification. The Ministry of Unification published the Lee Jae Myung administration's first white paper on unification, Monday, and it stipulated that inter-Korean relations should shift into "a peaceful two-state relationship oriented toward reunification." "The government, considering the reality that the two Koreas effectively exist as two separate states, seeks to develop inter-Korean relations into one of peaceful coexistence while still pursuing reunification," the white paper read. The document drew immediate dispute after its release. Conservatives argued it conflicts with Article 3 of the Constitution, which defines South Korea's territory as the entire Korean Peninsula and its adjacent islands, affirming Seoul's claim to legitimate sovereignty over the whole peninsula with reunification as a guiding objective. The timing added to

- [Seoul concludes urban development training program for Mongolian officials](#) (2026-05-20 11:57)

The Seoul Metropolitan Government said it has completed an eight-day urban development training program for Mongolian public officials and experts aimed at strengthening policy cooperation with Ulaanbaatar. The program, held from May 11-18, was part of the "S-Quad

Project,” a professional training initiative jointly organized by the Korea International Cooperation Agency and the Korea-Mongolia Urban Cooperation Center at Seoul National University. According to Seoul city officials, the training was designed to share Seoul’s urban planning and development experience with Mongolian policymakers facing challenges linked to rapid urbanization, including uncontrolled development, insufficient infrastructure and environmental issues. More than 20 participants joined the program, including members of the Ulaanbaatar city council, officials from the city’s construction and urban development sector and experts from Mongolian University of Science and Technology. Lecture sessions covered sustainable urban planning, Seoul’s housing policy and advanced transportation systems. Participants

- [Labor ministry says 'too early' to speak of using emergency arbitration powers against Samsung strike](#) (2026-05-20 11:57)

The labor ministry said Wednesday it is "too early" to speak of invoking emergency arbitration powers despite the breakdown of wage negotiations at Samsung Electronics earlier in the day. Hong Kyung-ui, a ministry spokesperson, made the remark to reporters after the company's largest labor union vowed to go ahead with its planned strike on Thursday due to the breakdown of government-mediated talks with management. There have been speculations that the government will likely issue an emergency arbitration order to halt a strike and prevent it from causing major harm to the country's economy. "There is still time left for dialogue between labor and management," Hong said at the government complex in the central administrative city of Sejong when asked about the possibility of the order. "It is still too early to specifically speak of that." Under Korean law, the labor minister can issue an emergency arbitration order if a dispute is deemed likely to harm the national economy or seriously disrupt the lives of ordinary people. Such an order would suspend an industrial action for 30 days while

- [President Lee says collective labor action, too, should have 'certain limit'](#) (2026-05-20 11:57)

President Lee Jae Myung said Wednesday that collective actions by labor unions should remain within "certain limits" and do not cause "serious pain" to others. Lee made the remarks at a Cabinet meeting after last-minute wage negotiations between Samsung Electronics and its labor union broke down, only a day before the union's planned general strike. "It is all good for certain labor unions to ... pursue their interests through their right to collective action, but there must be certain limits to it," Lee said. He said the right to collective action should not be abused or exercised in a way that causes "serious harm" to others, adding that it may be the government's role to help members of society observe those limits and to fulfill its responsibilities when the limits are crossed. The presidential office earlier expressed "deep regret" after the last-ditch government-mediated negotiations over bonuses linked to Samsung's record-high earnings collapsed, urging both sides to continue efforts to the end to divert the planned strike, which many say may be devastating not only to the company

- [Seoul deploys ‘mystery shoppers’ to guard against price gouging at Gwangjang Market](#) (2026-05-20 05:57)

Gwangjang Market, a 120-year-old landmark celebrated as the epicenter of Seoul’s bustling street food culture, is facing an institutional crackdown. Following a string of highly publicized scandals involving price-gouging and unsanitary food preparation, municipal authorities announced Wednesday a sweeping regulatory campaign designed to restore public confidence in the historic site. The Seoul Metropolitan Government, in tandem with Jongno District Office, will deploy a team of undercover "mystery shoppers" — including foreign nationals — to spot-check the market’s dense grid of food stalls through June. These covert inspectors will monitor vendors for predatory practices, including pressuring customers to order more food, inflating prices for international tourists and basic health code violations. The regulatory squeeze comes amid fierce online backlash over hidden costs and vendor controversies, such as the widely criticized practice of reusing ice. In response, the city’s food policy inspectors are targeting 159 licensed restaurants and 109 independent food carts to scrut

- [Seoul transforms former landfill into sprawling riverside escape](#) (2026-05-20 05:57)

World Cup Park, a sprawling green space built atop a former municipal landfill, is undergoing a major redesign to reinforce its position as a primary retreat for the capital city’s northwestern districts. The Seoul Metropolitan Government said Wednesday that the sweeping project will add new forested paths, linear gardens and enhanced observation points to better connect the park’s distinct ecological zones. The site, known historically as Nanjido, served as the city’s primary waste dump from 1978 to 1993 before undergoing a massive environmental stabilization and restoration effort. Today, it is split into specialized sectors, including Noeul Park, celebrated for its sunset views over the Han River, and Haneul Park, famous for its elevated meadows of silver grass. A central component of the new initiative is a 1-kilometer extension of the park’s redwood paths. Opening Friday, the new section completes a 2.3-kilometer continuous promenade known as the World Cup Park Metasequoia Road. City planners have installed wooden deck entryways and rest areas along the trail to accommodate walke

- [As crows dive-bomb pedestrians, gov’t warns against eye contact](#) (2026-05-20 05:57)

Environmental authorities in Korea issued a public safety advisory Wednesday, warning urban residents of an increase in aggressive behaviors by large-billed crows as the birds enter their peak breeding season. The Ministry of Environment and the National Institute of Biological Resources said they are distributing ecological guidelines to local governments to help mitigate conflicts between humans and the highly adaptable birds. While crows are a common fixture in metropolitan areas, officials noted that encounters turn hazardous between May and July, when fledgling crows leave their nests but remain clumsy fliers close to the ground. During this fledgling period, parent crows become acutely protective. Perceiving passing pedestrians as imminent threats to their offspring, the adult birds frequently launch defensive dive-bombs, targeting the heads and necks of unsuspecting humans. To minimize confrontations, wildlife

officials urged the public to carry umbrellas, wear hats or use bags to shield their heads when walking through wooded urban parks. Pedestrians are also advised to avoid di

- [Korea launches yearlong cultural diplomacy campaign in Southeast Asia](#) (2026-05-20 05:57)

Korea is expanding its cultural footprint in Southeast Asia with the launch of the “2026 Korea Season,” a yearlong campaign of performances, exhibitions and festivals designed to deepen ties with Thailand and Vietnam. The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism said Wednesday that the initiative will leverage major institutional milestones, including the relocation and reopening of the Korean Cultural Center in Thailand and the 20th anniversary of the cultural center in Vietnam. While regional interest in K-pop and K-dramas remains high, officials are looking to diversify the country's cultural exports by blending traditional heritage with contemporary Western art forms. The program begins this month with a tour by the Yoon Byul Ballet Company, presenting "Gat," a production that reinterprets traditional Korean headwear through Western classical dance. The performance is scheduled for May 23 in Bangkok before moving to Hanoi on May 27. By autumn, the initiative will shift toward modern programming with the "K-Live Festival" in October, which organizers said will feature collaborativ

- [Everland turns into g.o.d. fan festival for boy band's 10,000-day milestone](#) (2026-05-20 05:57)

Everland, Korea's largest theme park, is transforming its expansive grounds into a sprawling festival arena to honor the veteran boy band g.o.d., marking the group's 10,000th day since its debut. The corporate collaboration underscores a growing trend in the entertainment industry of merging physical infrastructure with pop music franchises to capture fan loyalty. Samsung C&T Resort Group, the amusement park's operator, said Wednesday that it will host a four-day celebration, called “Sky Blue Balloon Week,” running from Wednesday through Saturday. The project effectively reengineers the theme park into a massive, site-specific retrospective built around one of Korea's most enduring musical acts. Since entering the music scene in 1999, g.o.d. has remained a prominent fixture in the country's cultural landscape. The five-member group is widely recognized for the emotional ballads and accessible harmonies that helped define the foundational era of contemporary Korean pop music, long before K-pop became a global economic export. The four-day event will feature multimedia exhibiti

- [AI-generated fake news leave Koreans confused, angered](#) (2026-05-20 05:57)

“AI-generated images have become so realistic that it is nearly impossible to tell them apart,” Yoon, 33, said with a deeply concerned look. His parents recently showed him a YouTube video, saying they wanted to buy supplement pills promoted by a doctor in the clip. The doctor's speech and facial expressions appeared so natural that even Yoon almost fell for it, only realizing at the last moment that the video had been generated by artificial intelligence. “A quick search was enough to show that the advertised pills had no scientific basis, but I worry my parents may fall for AI content again,” he said. Yoon's case is one example of the growing dark side of AI technology, as the boundary between reality and fake content becomes

increasingly blurred. AI-generated content is beginning to pose a real risk of deceiving people by featuring figures presented as professionals or mimicking television news broadcasts. Reports of financial and other harm caused by deceptive ads and fake news that conceal their use of AI-generated images continue to emerge, fueling public concern and ca

- [PM pledges zero tolerance for disinformation, vote-buying ahead of local elections](#) (2026-05-20 05:57)

Prime Minister Kim Min-seok pledged zero tolerance Wednesday for disinformation, vote-buying and public servants' election interference, saying the government will make sure to bring perpetrators to justice and seek the maximum penalties for them. Kim made the remark at the start of a meeting of related government ministers convened to discuss measures to ensure fairness in the June 3 local elections that will select provincial governors, mayors and local councilors across the nation. Thousands of posts are up for grabs. "We will deal sternly and swiftly with three major election crimes," Kim said. "These are clearly grave crimes that violate voters' right to know and distort the democratic process of elections. We will never sit idly by." In particular, deep-fake election crimes using artificial intelligence (AI) are serious, Kim said. "We will thoroughly track down those involved from the original creator to distributors to make sure to uproot the crime," he said. "The justice ministry, the interior ministry, the prosecution and police should systematically cooperate and deal with perp

- [Korea to expand onion exports amid domestic oversupply](#) (2026-05-20 05:57)

Korea will push for the expansion of onion exports, mainly to the Southeast Asian market, amid domestic oversupply of the vegetable, the agriculture ministry said Wednesday. The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs announced the plan as domestic supplies of onion are expected to increase by up to 5 percent from a year earlier in 2026 and up to 8.8 percent compared with the annual average. Under the plan, the ministry aims to export more than 2,000 tons of Korean onions mainly to Taiwan and the Southeast Asian market this year.

- [Military begins formal procedures to acquire nuclear-powered submarines](#) (2026-05-20 05:57)

The military has initiated the formal process to acquire nuclear-powered submarines, a Navy document showed Wednesday, amid little progress in security talks with the United States over Seoul's push for the project. The Navy recently submitted the document to the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) outlining the need for the program and specifying requirements, such as desired capabilities, the number of systems needed and projected deployment schedules, according to the document provided to Rep. Kang Dae-sik of the main opposition People Power Party. The U.S. gave approval for Korea to build nuclear-powered attack submarines and committed to working with Seoul to advance requirements for the project, including avenues to source fuel, under a joint fact sheet released after a summit of the allies' leaders. The JCS is reviewing the Navy's proposal and is expected to hold a meeting later this month to finalize the requirements for the project. Once requirements are finalized, the program would typically proceed with

preliminary research and feasibility studies, followed by consultations with budge

- [What are Samsung union workers demanding and how might strike play out?](#) (2026-05-20 05:57)

SEOUL — Korean memory chip maker Samsung Electronics is facing its worst-ever strike, with nearly 48,000 workers threatening to walk off production lines on Thursday for 18 days over a dispute about bonus payouts. Here are key things to know: What does Samsung's union want? Samsung's union has asked the company to abolish a cap that limits bonuses to 50 percent of annual salaries and to allocate 15 percent of annual operating profit to a bonus pool that would be distributed to workers. It also wants Samsung to make the changes binding beyond this year. Samsung made a very different offer. Transcripts of negotiations between the union and Samsung showed that in March, Samsung cited estimates that some staff at smaller rival SK hynix could receive bonuses equivalent to 607 percent of their annual salary and proposed that its memory chip workers would gain a bonus exceeding levels that SK hynix workers receive. Samsung also proposed bonuses of 50 percent to 100 percent for staff in its logic chip businesses. These bonuses, however, would be a one-off payment for this year. In principle, it d

- [Samsung, labor union to resume talks Wednesday as they edge to avert strike](#) (2026-05-19 17:57)

SEJONG, South Korea — Samsung Electronics and its South Korean labor union will resume talks on Wednesday, the National Labor Relations Commission said, as they edge toward an agreement to avert a damaging and lengthy strike. "The management and union have not reached common ground on one issue," Park Su-keun, chair of the commission, told reporters when asked why more than 15 hours of talks on Tuesday had failed to produce an agreement. He added that it was "the most important issue," without elaborating. Amid pressure from the South Korean government and industry, the two sides are seeking to hash out a deal on bonus payments before nearly 48,000 workers walk off the job for 18 days on Thursday. A strike of that magnitude and length has the potential to inflict significant damage on South Korea's economy as Samsung accounts for almost a quarter of the country's exports. Samsung is also the world's largest memory chip maker and production disruptions could dent global supply at a time when the boom in artificial intelligence has caused shortages. Samsung and the union plan to resume t

- [Samsung, union wage talks to resume at 10 a.m. Wednesday as strike threat looms](#) (2026-05-19 17:57)

Samsung Electronics and its largest labor union will resume government-led wage negotiations at 10 a.m. Wednesday after marathon talks failed to narrow differences over performance-based bonuses tied to the company's booming AI chip business. The National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC) said the second round of post-mediation talks was adjourned at 12:30 a.m. after labor and management remained deadlocked on key compensation issues. Samsung management and union representatives had resumed

negotiations at 10 a.m. Tuesday following an earlier round of talks the previous day, extending discussions past midnight in an effort to avert a prolonged strike threatened for later this week. The two sides remained sharply divided over whether to remove the current bonus cap set at 50 percent of annual salary, how to distribute bonus resources and whether related agreements should be institutionalized. The issue has gained significance amid a global memory chipupcycle driven by artificial intelligence demand, which has sharply boosted earnings in Samsung's memory business while its foundry ope

- [What are Samsung union workers demanding and how might a strike play out?](#)

(2026-05-19 17:57)

SEOUL — South Korean memory chip maker Samsung Electronics is facing its worst-ever strike, with nearly 48,000 workers threatening to walk off production lines on Thursday for 18 days over a dispute about bonus payouts. Here are key things to know: What does Samsung's union want? Samsung's union has asked the company to abolish a cap that limits bonuses to 50 percent of annual salaries and to allocate 15 percent of annual operating profit to a bonus pool that would be distributed to workers. It also wants Samsung to make the changes binding beyond this year. Samsung made a very different offer. Transcripts of negotiations between the union and Samsung showed that in March, Samsung cited estimates that some staff at smaller rival SK Hynix could receive bonuses equivalent to 607 percent of their annual salary and proposed that its memory chip workers would gain a bonus exceeding levels that SK Hynix workers receive. Samsung also proposed bonuses of 50 percent to 100 percent for staff in its logic chip businesses. These bonuses, however, would be a one-off payment for this year. In principle

- [Korea reports 24 African swine fever cases this year: data](#) (2026-05-19 11:27)

Korea has reported 24 confirmed cases of African swine fever (ASF) as of this week in 2026, the agriculture ministry said Tuesday, vowing to take actions to prevent further spread of the contagious animal disease. The cases were reported from seven provinces, including Gyeonggi, Gangwon, South Chungcheong, South Jeolla and South Gyeongsang, between Jan. 16 and March 16, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. No additional cases have been reported since the middle of March. Of the 24 cases, three cases were of strains previously identified in domestic outbreaks, while 21 cases were found to be of strains that originated outside the country, the ministry said. Notably, ASF genes were detected in six undeclared illegal livestock products, suggesting the possible introduction of external sources of contamination, with three ASF cases that broke out at pig farms in the northern cities of Pocheon and Yeoncheon found to have been caused by transmission from wild boars, it added. With no further outbreaks reported for the past two months, the ministry has lifted standst

- [Appellate court affirms life sentence for man who fatally shot own son](#) (2026-05-19 11:27)

A court of appeals on Tuesday upheld a life sentence for a man convicted of killing his son with a homemade gun and attempting to shoot his daughter-in-law and two grandchildren during his

birthday party last year. The Seoul High Court's branch in Incheon, 30 kilometers west of Seoul, handed the 63-year-old man the same sentence as the lower court after finding him guilty of murder, attempted murder and violating the firearms control law. The man is accused of fatally shooting his 33-year-old son during the party at the victim's home in Incheon in July 2025 and attempting to kill four people, including his daughter-in-law and two grandchildren, at the scene. The court said the nature of the defendant's crime was extremely heinous and that there were no special circumstances warranting a change to the sentence handed down by the lower court. Prosecutors found that the defendant shot his son once more as the victim begged for his life while leaning against a wall. The man had reportedly planned the crime since August 2024 after his ex-wife and their son stopped providing him with financial

- [1 in 8 elementary students face school violence, as half of witnesses stay silent](#)  
(2026-05-19 11:27)

School violence among elementary school students has more than doubled in the past two years, raising alarm over the growing vulnerability of the country's youngest students. According to a survey released Tuesday by the Blue Tree Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to school violence prevention, the proportion of elementary school students who reported being victims of school violence jumped from 4.9 percent in 2023 to 12.5 percent last year. The survey polled 8,476 elementary, middle and high school students nationwide between November and December last year. Middle and high school students reported lower rates, at 3.4 percent and 1.6 percent, respectively, highlighting the outsized impact on younger students. The foundation linked the rise to elementary school students' struggle to differentiate violence from play, noting that children at that age often cannot draw a clear line between roughhousing and actual harm. Verbal abuse was the most common form of school violence, accounting for 23.8 percent of cases, followed by physical violence at 17.9 percent and cyberbullying at 14.5 percent

- [Korea to build at least 10 solar power complexes for renewable energy expansion](#)  
(2026-05-19 11:27)

The government will create at least 10 massive solar power complexes in the central and eastern regions in a bid to expand Korea's renewable energy capacity to 100 gigawatts (GW) by 2030, the climate ministry said Tuesday. The scheme was announced as part of the government's 10-year plan for renewable energy distribution, the first-ever national basic plan devised for the energy source. Under the nationally determined contribution (NDC) target for 2035, Korea aims to generate 30 percent of power through renewable energy by 2035 and expand the installed capacity of renewable energy facilities to 100 GW by 2030. Last year, renewable energy accounted for 11.4 percent of the country's total energy generation. To this end, the government will work to establish at least 10 large-scale solar power complexes in the greater Seoul area, the central Chungcheong Province and the eastern Gangwon Province, to secure up to 12 GW of renewable energy generation capacity, according to the Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment. The government will also install solar power facilities with a combined ge

- [Korea's biggest industrial union recruits migrant workers amid shipbuilding boom](#)

(2026-05-19 11:27)

A major industrial labor union has launched a membership drive targeting migrant workers at Hyundai's shipbuilding complex in Ulsan, seeking to expand its reach to tens of thousands of subcontracted workers — many of them foreign — as members prepare for new talks with the company. A senior official at the Korean Metal Workers' Union (KMWU) said the campaign's goal is to integrate migrants, a rapidly increasing demographic in shipyards, into the union so they can be covered by collective bargaining and formal representation. "In many workplaces, especially in the shipyards, the number of migrant workers is growing rapidly, and they are often forced to endure poor conditions while left in a blind spot in terms of their rights," the official told The Korea Times Monday. The three-day campaign includes early morning leaflet distribution at the shipyard gates, multilingual leaflets and QR code surveys, and trucks broadcasting messages in different languages, including English, Chinese, Nepali and Vietnamese, aimed specifically at migrant workers. He said the recent passage of a

- [Korea launches language initiative to bridge safety gaps on factory floors](#) (2026-05-19 11:27)

Korea is launching a new public-private initiative to teach foreign factory workers job-specific Korean language skills, as companies and government officials grapple with growing concerns over workplace safety and communication barriers in industrial sites. The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism said Tuesday it signed a memorandum of understanding with Hyundai Motor Group, the King Sejong Institute Foundation and the K-Mobility Bridge Foundation to develop customized Korean language education programs for foreign workers in the manufacturing sector. The ministry said the number of foreign workers employed in Korea surpassed 1.1 million in 2025, intensifying calls for stronger language education in workplaces where misunderstandings involving instructions and safety rules have become a recurring concern. Under the partnership, the organizations will develop Korean language textbooks and educational content tailored to manufacturing jobs, focusing on workplace communication and industrial safety. The initiative expands on existing Korean-language materials already developed for worke

- [From pagers to cassette tapes, Seoul museum hunts for relics of Korea's Generation X](#)

(2026-05-19 11:27)

The Seoul Museum of History said Tuesday that it is launching a public campaign to salvage the cultural artifacts of the 1990s, calling on citizens to scour their closets, drawers and storage boxes for the relics of Korea's Generation X before they dissolve entirely into nostalgia. The archiving initiative, which runs through Dec. 31, seeks to capture the everyday texture of a decade that fundamentally transformed the country socially, economically and technologically. The collected materials will anchor a major retrospective exhibition next year. Museum curators are casting a wide net, soliciting everything from cassette tapes, CDs and pagers to music magazines, comic books, early PC communication records and fashion staples like vintage

denim and sneakers. The campaign also seeks political slogans and memorabilia tied to the 1997 Asian financial crisis, known locally as the IMF crisis. According to museum officials, Korea's Generation X came of age at a unique historical fault line. They were the first cohort to enjoy the fruits of the nation's rapid peacetime economic boom, indul

- [Ex-defense minister sentenced to 3-year prison term for obstruction of justice](#) (2026-05-19 11:27)

Former Defense Minister Kim Yong-hyun was sentenced to a three-year prison term Tuesday for deceiving the Presidential Security Service into issuing a secure phone for use following former President Yoon Suk Yeol's imposition of martial law. The Seoul Central District Court handed down the sentence after convicting Kim of obstruction of official duties by deception for obtaining the phone on Dec. 2, 2024, a day before Yoon's martial law declaration, and handing it to Noh Sang-won, a civilian and a former commander of the Defense Intelligence Command. Noh then used the phone as chief of an investigation team set up to look into election fraud allegations under Yoon's martial law, the court said. Kim was also found guilty of instigating the destruction of evidence by ordering his aide to get rid of all martial law-related documents on Dec. 5, 2024, a day after the decree was lifted through a vote by the National Assembly. The three-year prison term is less than the five years sought by special counsel Cho Eun-suk's team. Kim's case was the first indictment by the team after it was launched

- [Lost in translation no more: Seoul overhauls subway app for foreign riders](#) (2026-05-19 05:57)

Seoul's metropolitan transit agency announced on Tuesday a thorough redesign of its mobile navigation app, aiming to strip away the language barriers that have long complicated travel for international visitors on the city's massive subway system. The transit agency, Seoul Metro, is shifting its mobile strategy away from simple text translation to a complete infrastructural redesign of its "Seoul Subway" application. The initiative, which entered a one-month public pilot phase on May 15, seeks to transform how foreign tourists and expatriates navigate one of the world's busiest subway systems. At the core of the upgrade is an expansion of linguistic support. The app, which previously offered only Korean and English, has integrated Chinese and Japanese into its core interface. To streamline user experience, the system automatically syncs with a smartphone's native language settings, defaulting to English for any unsupported languages. Beyond superficial menu updates, engineers completely overhauled the user interface and the underlying guidance system to make first-time navigation in

- [PPP slams unification ministry's reference to Koreas as 'two-state relationship'](#) (2026-05-19 05:57)

Lawmakers of the main opposition People Power Party (PPP) denounced the unification ministry Tuesday for describing South and North Korea as a "two-state relationship" in its latest white paper, calling it a clear violation of the Constitution. In the annual white paper released Monday, the first such document issued under the Lee Jae Myung administration, the ministry

highlighted the need to shift toward a "peace-oriented two-state relationship" aimed at achieving unification, considering the reality that the Koreas exist as de facto two states. The ministry's reference to the Koreas as two states sparked backlash among opposition lawmakers, who argue that it could be interpreted as effectively recognizing the North as a separate state in violation of Article 3 of the Constitution, which stipulates that the territory of the Republic of Korea consists of the Korean Peninsula and its adjacent islands. In late 2023, North Korean leader Kim Jong-un declared inter-Korean relations as those between "two states hostile to each other." In a statement, PPP Rep. Park Choong-kwon, a North Korean d

- [Philippine food innovators chase global spotlight at IFEX trade show](#) (2026-05-19 05:57)

Tropical ingredients, export-ready products and a new generation of Filipino food entrepreneurs took center stage, as IFEX Philippines opened its annual showcase in Pasay City with a push to bring the country's flavors to global markets. The Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions, or CITEM, hosted the media preview and KATHA Award for Food ceremony ahead of the 19th edition of IFEX Philippines, scheduled for Thursday to Saturday at the World Trade Center Metro Manila. Held at the newly opened Likhang Filipino Exhibition Halls, the event highlighted products ranging from mangoes and pineapples to coconut-based goods and heritage grains, reflecting what organizers described as the growing sophistication of micro, small and medium-sized Filipino food enterprises. Department of Trade and Industry Assistant Secretary Al Valenciano said local food enterprises are increasingly shaping the Philippines' position in the global supply chain, not only as producers but also as innovators driving demand for premium tropical ingredients. This year's IFEX Philippines carries the t

- [Korea, Vietnam tighten crackdown on cross-border crime networks](#) (2026-05-19 05:57)

Korean and Vietnamese police officials met in Hanoi Sunday to deepen cooperation against a surge in cross-border criminal networks that authorities said have expanded rapidly across Southeast Asia. The National Police Agency said Tuesday that the talks focused on strengthening joint responses to organized crimes such as voice phishing, cyber gambling, romance scams and online investment fraud, while also enhancing protection for Korean nationals abroad. Park Jun-sung, acting commissioner general for international affairs at the agency, met with officials from Vietnam's Ministry of Public Security to discuss what investigators described as a growing "balloon effect," in which criminal groups relocate operations to neighboring countries after crackdowns intensify elsewhere. The two sides signed an action plan under an existing police cooperation agreement, outlining expanded collaboration in tracking fugitives, sharing criminal intelligence, responding to cyber and financial crimes and protecting overseas citizens. Officials also agreed to revise operational agreements tied to the Ko

- [Incheon to track illicit drugs via quantum wastewater sensors](#) (2026-05-19 05:57)

The metropolitan government of Incheon said Tuesday that it will begin monitoring municipal wastewater for trace amounts of illicit drugs using highly sensitive quantum sensors, marking a

novel marriage of deep tech surveillance and public health infrastructure. The initiative, led by Incheon's AI (artificial intelligence) Innovation Division in partnership with Incheon Technopark, aims to establish a real-time, screening-based monitoring network across the western port city. By deploying advanced quantum sensors directly into the sewer lines, local authorities hope to map drug consumption patterns with unprecedented speed and precision. Wastewater-based epidemiology is an increasingly common tool for public health officials worldwide looking to measure communitywide drug usage. Traditionally, however, the process has relied on a slow, laboratory-centered pipeline. Municipal workers must manually collect samples and transport them to central facilities for liquid chromatography and mass spectrometry analysis — a bureaucratic track that can take weeks to yield actionable results. The

- [Ahead of Korea's dog meat ban, this meat is booming](#) (2026-05-19 05:57)

As Korea's ban on dog meat consumption is set to take effect next year, the goat market is seeing a boom as an alternative source of restorative food, signaling a potential shift in the livestock industry landscape in Gyeonggi Province, the country's largest such market. Gyeonggi Province said Monday that the Paju-Yeoncheon Livestock Cooperative, which operates a goat auction market, sold 174 goats in the first half of last year and 381 in the second half. The market opened in August 2024 and sold 151 goats that year, making the second-half figure last year more than double its opening-year volume. The total trade value also nearly doubled from the year earlier and reached 186 million won (around \$124,000). The goat auction market recorded a total of 171 goats traded through April this year, despite disruptions caused by a foot-and-mouth disease outbreak at a farm in Ganghwa County, Incheon, on Jan. 30 that forced the market to close in February and March. The report showed each auction sold more than 40 goats on average, up from 34 a year earlier. Goats sold for medicinal use gener

- [Army revokes 33 commendations awarded to soldiers linked to 1980 pro-democracy crackdown](#) (2026-05-19 05:57)

The Army said Tuesday it has revoked 33 commendations that were awarded to soldiers in the name of an Army chief for their roles in a bloody crackdown during the 1980 pro-democracy uprising in the southwestern city of Gwangju. The move is the latest in a series of military efforts to address past wrongdoing by the troops during the brutal crackdown on civilians who rose up against the military junta, led by then Army Gen. Chun Doo-hwan, in the nine-day revolt. Chun seized power through a coup on Dec. 12, 1979, and ultimately became president in August 1980. After a review of the commendations related to the Gwangju crackdown operations, the Army found a total of 33 troops had received commendations, Bae Seok-jin, the Army spokesperson, said in a press briefing. "The Army decided to revoke the 33 commendations at a merit review committee on April 28," Bae said. "We are proceeding with required procedures in line with relevant laws and regulations to address commendations that were inappropriately conferred, as we take very seriously the historical significance of the May 18 pro-democracy u

- [Kookmin University student's paper on AI accepted for presentation at ICML 2026](#) (2026-05-19 05:57)

A research paper on artificial intelligence (AI) co-authored by a Kookmin University student has been accepted for presentation at the 43rd International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML), the school said Monday. Kim Min-woo, a senior in the university's department of software engineering, is the first author of the paper titled "Memory as Dynamics: Learning Reliability-Guided Predictive Models for Online Video Perception." The university said the paper presents a new framework in the field of online video perception that reinterprets video memory as a "dynamic latent process" rather than a "static buffer." In the paper, Kim introduced reliability-guided predictive memory (RPM), a framework that explicitly regulates when and how predictive dynamics should influence online video perception. His research demonstrated that the new framework utilized temporal information in video sequences more accurately and efficiently. By dynamically estimating the reliability of each video frame and incorporating this assessment into memory updates and predictions, the study showed that

- [Korea turns to eco-friendly pesticides to combat surge of lovebugs](#) (2026-05-19 05:57)

Korean forest researchers are accelerating field trials of eco-friendly pesticides to combat a massive surge of *Plecia longiforceps* — commonly known as lovebugs — that has swarmed mountains and residential areas near the capital. The National Institute of Forest Science said Monday that it is conducting outdoor trials using three types of organic pest-control agents on Mount Baeknyeon in Seoul and Mount Gyeyang in neighboring Incheon. The move comes after the insects mass-reproduced in these areas, causing widespread discomfort for hikers and residents and emerging as a distinct local nuisance. The lovebugs, which are a species of march fly, earn their nickname from their behavior of flying in mating pairs. While harmless to humans and ecologically beneficial as decomposers, their sheer numbers in urban forests and apartment complexes have triggered public complaints. Looking for a sustainable solution, the institute's forest pest research division recently tested two entomopathogenic fungal agents and a plant-extract based pesticide in a lab setting. After the eco-friendly mixtures

- [PM calls for proactive support for Hyundai Motor's Saemangeum project](#) (2026-05-19 05:57)

Prime Minister Kim Min-seok instructed the government Tuesday to preemptively remove any administrative obstacles for the success of Hyundai Motor Group's massive investment project to turn the Saemangeum reclaimed land in southwestern Korea into a hub for artificial intelligence, robotics and hydrogen industries. The 9 trillion-won (\$6.26 billion) project, announced in February, calls for utilizing 1.12 million square meters of land in the Saemangeum area to build an AI data center, a robotics manufacturing and components cluster, a water electrolysis plant and solar power facilities, among others. The investment is expected to create around 70,000 jobs and generate an estimated 16 trillion won in economic impact. "Without a need to speak long, this project must succeed no matter what," Kim said during a meeting on the project at the Saemangeum Development and Investment Agency in Jeonju, some 192

kilometers south of Seoul. "Beyond a corporate investment, this project is a model case that creates hope and new growth jobs in a provincial region and takes the lead in balanced national development."

- [University of Seoul to host Harvard Model Congress Asia 2027](#) (2026-05-19 05:57)

The University of Seoul will host the Harvard Model Congress Asia (HMCA) 2027, a globally recognized debate program for high school students, according to the institution. The school said Friday that it plans to hold HMCA 2027 for three days from January 11 at its campus in northeastern Seoul, adding that it signed an agreement with HMCA organizers to support the event. The congress is expected to bring together approximately 520 participants, including some 30 students from Harvard, around 470 high school students from across Asia and about 20 students from the University of Seoul. The university noted that participants will engage in English-language debates, crisis response simulations and negotiation activities focused on pressing global issues and policy challenges under the guidance of Harvard students. HMCA, a nonprofit education program run by Harvard students, is a global conference that brings together high school students from across Asia to take part in English-language debates and mock parliamentary activities on international affairs and public policy issues. Since its debut

- [Busan concert hall marks 1st anniversary with star-studded classical festival](#) (2026-05-19 05:57)

Busan Concert Hall will celebrate its first anniversary with a weeklong classical music festival in July, bringing together maestro Chung Myung-whun, internationally acclaimed soloists and young musicians from Busan for performances ranging from Beethoven to Mahler. Classic Busan said Tuesday that the 2026 Busan Concert Hall First Anniversary Festival will run from July 2 to 8 at the venue, which opened last year as the city's first dedicated classical music hall. The festival will feature the Asia Philharmonic Orchestra (APO) under the direction of Chung, the hall's artistic director. Twenty young musicians from Busan will also join the orchestra during the festival. The opening concert on July 2 will feature Beethoven's Symphony No. 9, performed by APO alongside the Busan Metropolitan Chorus and Ulsan Metropolitan Chorus. Soprano Lee Hye-ji, mezzo-soprano Yang Song-mi, tenor Kim Jung-hoon and baritone Park Ju-sung will appear as soloists. On July 5, Chung and APO will perform Mahler's Symphony No. 5, one of the composer's best-known works. A July 7 concert titled "Into the Ne

- [Seoul Global Student Center helps int'l students bridge gap from campus to career](#) (2026-05-19 05:57)

Every week, Shapalayeva Aisulu spends nearly three hours on a round trip from Seongnam, Gyeonggi Province, to the Seoul Global Student Center in Seodaemun District. For the Kazakh student studying in Korea, every minute of the commute is worth it. "Korean language programs at universities can cost over 1.5 million won (\$997) per semester, but here you can take nearly the same course for free," the 24-year-old told The Korea Times. "I recommend it to anyone who wants in-person feedback from teachers or the chance to connect with other

students.” Shapolayeva is among the growing number of international students seeking to build careers and settle in Korea after graduation, a trend the Seoul Metropolitan Government is stepping up to support. According to the Ministry of Justice, the number of international students in Korea reached 308,838 as of December 2025, up 17.1 percent from the same month the previous year. A 2023 Ministry of Data and Statistics survey of 188,000 international students found that 63 percent hoped to remain in Korea after graduation. Opened in May right next t

## Source: The Korea Herald

- [Samsung bonuses, cheap loans stoke chip-belt housing boom](#) (2026-05-26 05:49)

Samsung Electronics' new compensation package for chip employees is raising expectations that fresh liquidity could further boost apartment prices across South Korea's semiconductor corridor. The company and its labor union agreed on May 20 to introduce a low-interest housing loan program for employees, alongside a revamped performance bonus scheme tied to semiconductor profits. Under the housing program, employees without homes will be able to borrow up to 500 million won (\$370,000) for home pu

- [Sweeter diets, stress fuel rise in diabetes among Korean youth](#) (2026-05-26 05:41)

Sweet desserts and abundant food delivery options have become a source of comfort for many young Koreans navigating their increasingly competitive and stressful lives. But those habits may be taking a toll: diabetes cases among younger generations are rising faster than among older age groups. Experts stress the importance of early lifestyle management, warning that earlier onset of the disease increases the risk of complications because patients must live with the condition for longer. Accordin

- [Kospi roars past 8,100 on Iran ceasefire hopes](#) (2026-05-26 05:37)

The South Korean benchmark Kospi soared above 8,100 points for the first time during intraday trading Tuesday on expectations of an end to the war in Iran as Washington and Tehran inch closer to a deal. The index opened at 8,070.91, up 2.84 percent from Friday's close, as markets were closed Monday for a public holiday. It extended gains to hit as high as 8,131.15, shattering its previous intraday record of 8,046.78 set on May 15. As of 1 p.m., the index stood at 8,104.01, up 3.27 percent for th

- [SK hynix' s iHBM tackles heat choking next-gen HBM](#) (2026-05-26 05:36)

SK hynix on Tuesday introduced a packaging technology that builds cooling channels directly into its high-bandwidth memory chips to combat heat, one of the engineering challenges standing between today's AI memory and the next generation. High-bandwidth memory, or HBM, is the specialized memory stacked next to AI accelerator chips, and SK hynix is the world's leading supplier of it. As stacks grow taller and faster to feed AI workloads, they generate more

heat, and that heat now caps how far the

- [Nongshim targets India' s rapid-delivery market with Blinkit tie-up](#) (2026-05-26 05:33)

Nongshim is stepping up its push into India through a partnership with Blinkit, the country' s largest instant delivery platform. Through Blinkit' s delivery network, which accounts for roughly half of India' s rapid-delivery grocery market, Nongshim plans to expand sales of Shin Ramyun in major cities such as New Delhi and Mumbai. The Korean food maker recently held a launch event in Gurugram for Shin Ramyun Kimchi Stir Fry, targeting younger Indian consumers familiar with app-based instant delive

- [SK hynix cuts staff turnover to 1% as Samsung lags: study](#) (2026-05-26 05:30)

Two of the world's largest memory chipmakers are riding the same artificial intelligence boom, but in recent years one has held on to its workers far more tightly than the other. A study released Tuesday by corporate research firm Leaders Index found that by 2024, staff turnover at SK hynix had fallen to roughly 1 percent, while rival Samsung Electronics was losing staff at more than 10 times that rate. Part of the gap could be due to differences between the two firms' areas of operation. While

- [Twice wins best female K-pop artist at AMAs](#) (2026-05-26 05:24)

Twice won best female K-pop artist at the 52nd American Music Awards on Monday, adding another major US accolade to the group' s growing list of achievements. The group beat fellow nominees Aespa, Blackpink, Illit and Le Sserafim in one of the ceremony' s most closely watched categories. Monday' s win marked Twice' s first trophy at the AMAs, though it was nominated in 2022. Following the win, the group shared a message through its official X account, thanking their fans, known as Once. “Thank you s

- [Hyundai builds new robot units to scale Atlas deployment](#) (2026-05-26 05:22)

Hyundai Motor Group is accelerating its push into humanoid robotics by establishing new divisions to support the deployment of Atlas, a humanoid robot developed by its US-based subsidiary Boston Dynamics, across vehicle production lines. According to media reports on Tuesday, Hyundai created a software-defined factory promotion division and appointed Alpesh Patel as its executive vice president. SDF refers to a smart manufacturing facility where AI manages production, logistics and quality contr

- [Hyundai taps former Nvidia engineer to boost self-driving, AI](#) (2026-05-26 05:18)

Hyundai Motor Group has hired former Nvidia autonomous driving expert Lee Hee-seok to its software research unit 42dot, amid the South Korean automaker' s push to strengthen its software-defined vehicles and self-driving technology capabilities. According to industry sources Tuesday, 42dot appointed Lee, an expert in computer vision technology, as vice president to lead research on vision-language action models. This marks the first time an executive has been brought in from outside the company s

- [Son Heung-min joins World Cup camp](#) (2026-05-26 05:10)

Son Heung-min of Los Angeles FC will join South Korea's national team camp Tuesday in Salt Lake City as he prepares for his fourth World Cup appearance. Son, who played in LAFC's 1-0 home win over the Seattle Sounders FC a day earlier, is set to link up with coach Hong Myung-bo's squad at its pre-tournament training camp in Utah. Widely regarded as Asia's greatest striker and still South Korea's most dangerous attacking weapon, Son is aiming to lead the country at the 2026 FIFA World Cup in North

- [Mexican YouTuber faces backlash over Rising Sun flag in World Cup video](#) (2026-05-26 05:05)

A Mexican YouTuber has come under fire for using footage of the Rising Sun flag in a video introducing the 48 countries competing in the 2026 FIFA World Cup. Seo Kyung-duk, a professor of liberal arts at Sungshin Women's University, on Tuesday criticized the YouTuber who runs a soccer-focused channel for using the flag that represented the Japanese Imperial Army. "The report came from a Korean resident in Mexico. The video has garnered more than 1.3 million views and 10,000 likes on YouTube," th

- [Nonchip union seeks injunction against Samsung wage vote](#) (2026-05-26 05:04)

The vote on Samsung Electronics' tentative 2026 wage agreement faces a last-minute legal challenge after a union representing employees outside the company's chip business asked a court to halt the ballot, claiming its members were unfairly excluded. The Samsung Electronics Donghaeng Labor Union said Tuesday it had filed for an injunction with the Suwon District Court to suspend the ongoing vote on the tentative agreement reached between the company and the bargaining representative union. Aroun

- [Herald Media Group hosts charity golf tournament for Hangeul promotion](#) (2026-05-26 04:59)

Herald Media Group, publisher of The Korea Herald and Herald Business, held a charity golf tournament Thursday to support the global promotion of Hangeul, the Korean writing system. About 180 participants, including business leaders from Korea and abroad, artists and professional golfers, took part in the Herald Charity Golf Tournament at Serenity Country Club in Cheongju, North Chungcheong Province. Now in its fourth year, the charity event was first launched in 2023 to mark the 70th anniversary

- [Spotify names Can't Be Blue as 2026 'Radar Korea' artist](#) (2026-05-26 04:58)

Spotify has selected indie band Can't Be Blue as a new artist for its 2026 "Radar Korea" program, the streaming platform announced Tuesday. Radar is Spotify's artist development program designed to support emerging musicians and help them grow into global acts. "We're truly honored and grateful to be selected as a Radar Korea artist," Can't Be Blue said in a statement. "We hope this opportunity helps us connect more closely with listeners around the

world through music. We'll continue sharing st

- [Lithuania-Korea defense partnership a 'win-win' : security adviser](#) (2026-05-26 04:20)

Defense industry cooperation between South Korea and Lithuania will be advantageous to both countries, said Lithuanian National Security Adviser Deividas Matulionis. In an interview with The Korea Herald, Matulionis described bilateral defense cooperation as a “win-win” partnership driven by shared security concerns and complementary military capabilities.

“South Korea has developed its defense industry over many years, and you have everything that you need because you have always felt the need

- [Campaign trucks draw backlash over illegal parking, safety issues](#) (2026-05-26 04:18)

Concerns are growing that campaign trucks are violating traffic rules and endangering pedestrians ahead of the June 3 elections, with some vehicles parked illegally near intersections, crosswalks and sidewalks. A post uploaded Friday to Bobaedream, an online community for car enthusiasts, showed a large campaign truck parked on a sidewalk near an intersection in Jinju, South Gyeongsang Province. As well as blocking a crosswalk, the truck appeared to obstruct the view of drivers attempting to tur

- [Giant 23 kg watermelon harvested in Changwon](#) (2026-05-26 04:11)

The city government in Changwon, South Gyeongsang Province, said Tuesday that a 23.63-kilogram “super watermelon” was harvested at a farm in Wollim Village in Uichang-gu. The watermelon is more than twice the size of a typical watermelon sold in stores, which typically weigh between 5 and 10 kilograms. The grower, Yoon Jeong-won, who also serves as head of the village, donated the watermelon to the Daesan-myeon Administrative Welfare Center, saying he hoped it would help promote the quality of w

- [Man sets wife' s hair on fire after drinking dispute](#) (2026-05-26 03:43)

A man in his 50s was arrested in Cheongju after allegedly threatening to kill his wife, and setting her hair on fire when she told him not to drink alcohol, police said Tuesday. The Cheongju Sangdang Police Station said the man was taken into custody at the scene on suspicion of special assault and special intimidation. The incident occurred at around 10:20 p.m. Monday at an apartment in Sugok-dong, Cheongju, North Chungcheong Province. Police said the man sprayed flammable hair spray on his wif

- [Israel steps up Lebanon strikes as Netanyahu escalates offensive](#) (2026-05-26 03:02)

The Israeli army intensified strikes in southern Lebanon Monday, as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he had ordered the military to escalate its offensive in Lebanon in an effort to “crush” Hezbollah. The airstrikes come as the US and Iran seek to finalize the terms of an agreement to end the Middle East conflict, which could include the Lebanon front, where Israel and Hezbollah have waged war since March 2. Despite a ceasefire that came into effect on April 17, Israel and Iran-bac

- [Brazilian government commits \\$617.5m to Amazon ecological investment](#) (2026-05-26 03:01)

The Brazilian government said Monday it has committed 3.1 billion reais (\$617.5 million) to foster ecological investment in the Amazon region, as part of a plan to expand a federal program known as Eco Invest that was announced during last year's COP30 — the annual United Nations climate summit it hosted last year. The resources are expected to go toward businesses that support sustainable tourism, improve infrastructure in the Amazon and expand the “bioeconomy” — the so-called economic activity

- [Chinese man arrested after entering Korean waters off Taean in rubber boat](#) (2026-05-26 02:59)

A Chinese national was arrested after entering South Korean territorial waters on a rubber boat off the coast of Taean, South Chungcheong Province, the Korea Coast Guard said Tuesday. According to the Taean Maritime Police Station, a suspicious rubber boat was spotted at around 9:36 p.m. Monday about 18 kilometers northwest of West Gyeongnyeolbi Island, off Taean County. The location was about 3.6 kilometers inside South Korea's territorial waters. The boat was first spotted by the captain of a

- [Russia threatens strikes on Kyiv defense sites, urges foreigners to leave](#) (2026-05-26 02:57)

Russia said Monday that it intended to launch "systematic strikes" on targets in Kyiv linked to the Ukrainian military as well as decision-making centres, and urged foreigners to leave, a day after one of its heaviest bombardments of the city since the start of the war. But Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha urged Kyiv's allies not to give in to "Russian blackmail." And the head of the EU mission in the city said the 27-nation bloc was "not going anywhere." Russian Foreign Minister Serge

- [BTS wins artist of the year at American Music Awards](#) (2026-05-26 02:55)

BTS won artist of the year at the 52nd American Music Awards on Monday, marking the group's second victory in the ceremony's top category. The group received the award after returning as a full group earlier this year with its fifth studio album, “Arirang,” following the completion of all seven members' military service. BTS claimed the award over fellow nominees including Taylor Swift, Bruno Mars, Bad Bunny and Lady Gaga, underscoring the group's continued global influence. The win also marked

- [Shinsegae chief bows in apology over Starbucks Korea ‘Tank Day’ controversy](#) (2026-05-26 02:53)

Shinsegae Group Chair Chung Yong-jin on Tuesday bowed in apology over Starbucks Korea's controversial “Tank Day” marketing campaign, vowing to make himself fully accountable for the incident. “To the bereaved families of the May 18 Democratic Movement and late activist Park Jong-chul, the citizens of Gwangju and the Korean people, I wholeheartedly bow in apology

and ask for forgiveness as the chair of Shinsegae Group,” said Chung, speaking at a pressconference at Josun Palace in Seoul. “I will

- [Katseye wins new artist of the year at AMAs](#) (2026-05-26 02:51)

Katseye won new artist of the year at the 52nd American Music Awards on Monday, marking another milestone for the global girl group formed through Hybe x Geffen. "I feel so thankful for being able to celebrate this moment with the members," said Yoonchae in Korean, upon receiving the award. Daniela then thanked the AMAs, her fellow members, and the group's fans, Eyekons. "Thank you so, so much to the AMAs. Thank you to our friends, family and to us," she said. "We did this together. Thank you, E

- [Shinee gears up to drop 6th EP](#) (2026-05-26 02:51)

Shinee whetted fans' appetite for its forthcoming sixth EP "Atmos," uploading teaser photographs via label SM Entertainment on Tuesday. The four-member act will release the album, themed on feelings rooted in love, on Monday. It will do so with six tracks, including the main track of the same title and "Still Raining," an R&B pop tune hinted at by one of the teaser pictures. The mini album is its first endeavor in about a year to feature all members, after single "Poet | Artist," which marked t

- [Stray Kids marks 40m albums sold](#) (2026-05-26 02:45)

Stray Kids has sold more than 40 million albums as of April, label JYP Entertainment announced Tuesday, citing a local tally. The group has released 19 albums in Korea, from its pre-debut album "Mixtape" in 2018 to the "Do It" mixtape released in November 2025. In Japan, the group has released nine albums, from its first best-of album, "SKZ2020," to its third EP in the country, "Hollow," released June 2025. Overall, the group's third studio album "5-Star" (2023) logged the most sales at 5.3 mill

- [Dreame Technology names Cristiano Ronaldo global ambassador](#) (2026-05-26 02:39)

Dreame Technology said Tuesday it has appointed Cristiano Ronaldo, the five-time Ballon d' Or winner and one of the world's most recognized athletes, as its global ambassador. The company said the partnership seeks to strengthen its global brand presence by combining Ronaldo's image with Dreame's AI-powered smart home technologies and high-speed motor systems. Dreame described the collaboration as going beyond a typical sports marketing campaign, saying Ronaldo's image of discipline and constant

- [Lee calls for stepped-up efforts to acquire nuclear-powered submarines](#) (2026-05-26 02:38)

President Lee Jae Myung on Tuesday instructed officials to accelerate efforts to fulfill South Korea's plan to acquire nuclear-powered submarines. The president made the call during a Cabinet meeting, highlighting the need to enhance the country's self-defense capabilities amid North Korea's growing nuclear and missile threats. In a fact sheet released after a South Korea-US summit late last year, Washington expressed support for Seoul to build

nuclear-powered, conventionally armed attack submar

- [Van Leeuwen heads to Korea with first Gangnam store](#) (2026-05-26 02:34)

A Twosome Place said Tuesday it will officially launch the premium US ice cream brand Van Leeuwen in Korea this summer, starting with its first store near Gangnam Station in Seoul. The Korean cafe chain said it signed a master franchise agreement with Van Leeuwen and will oversee the brand's local operations. The company plans to open additional stores later this year, expanding to three locations in major commercial districts across Seoul. Founded in New York in 2008 as an ice cream truck busin

- [Bush-painted portrait of ex-President Roh Moo-hyun displayed for 1st time](#) (2026-05-26 02:30)

A portrait of late former President Roh Moo-hyun, painted by former US President George W. Bush, has been unveiled to the public for the first time at a special exhibition, organizers said Tuesday. The portrait was personally painted by Bush during his attendance at a memorial service for Roh in 2019 and presented to his bereaved family. It was featured at the special exhibition "Hello, I'm Roh Moo-hyun," which opened at the Awakened Citizens Cultural Experience Exhibition Hall in Gimhae, 310 ki

- [Joseon Royal Tombs to open free every Wednesday](#) (2026-05-26 02:24)

The royal tombs of the Joseon Dynasty, a collection of UNESCO World Heritage sites, will be opened free of charge every Wednesday beginning this week as Korea moves to expand public access to its historic palaces and royal sites. The Korea Heritage Service said Tuesday that it would gradually expand free admission to royal heritage sites, in line with the government's broader "Culture Day" initiative. Until now, free admission had been offered on the last Wednesday of each month. Known collectiv

- [BTS takes home AMA win with 'Swim'](#) (2026-05-26 02:20)

BTS won song of the summer at the 52nd American Music Awards on Monday with "Swim," the lead track from the group's fifth studio album, "Arirang." The win follows its full-group comeback earlier this year after all seven members completed their military service. Accepting the award, leader RM reflected on the pressure BTS faced while preparing its first album together in nearly four years. "Thank you so much for giving all the love to 'Swim,'" said RM during the group's acceptance speech. "When

- [S-Oil launches AI data center cooling pilot](#) (2026-05-26 02:17)

S-Oil said Tuesday it has launched a pilot project to test liquid immersion cooling technology for AI data centers, as surging AI workloads drive up power consumption and heat generation. The pilot, designed to replicate real-world data center conditions, aims to verify the performance and operational safety of next-generation cooling systems. S-Oil will supply its immersion cooling fluid, "S-Oil E-Cooling Solution," and provide technical support for the project. The

pilot also includes particip

- [Industry ministry discusses AI transformation of battery industry with LGES](#) (2026-05-26 02:12)

The industry ministry on Tuesday discussed ways to accelerate the artificial intelligence transformation of the battery industry, currently facing sluggish growth amid the electric vehicle market slowdown. The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Resources met with representatives from leading battery maker LG Energy Solution Ltd. to explore measures to help the domestic battery industry strengthen its manufacturing competitiveness under the government's initiative aimed at promoting the AI transform

- [Cortis amasses 12m Spotify listeners, curates Apple Music playlist](#) (2026-05-26 02:06)

Cortis exceeded 12 million monthly listeners on Spotify, hitting the third-highest spot for a K-pop boy group, according to label Big Hit Music on Monday. The rookie group achieved the feat after the momentum gained from the release of its second EP “Greengreen.” The focus track from the latest set, “Redred,” has spent over a month on Spotify’s Daily and Weekly Top Songs Global rankings, peaking at No. 36 on the daily chart. At home, it earned Cortis nine trophies from television music chart sho

- [Drunk driver who killed Japanese tourist appeals ruling](#) (2026-05-26 02:05)

A drunk driver sentenced to five years in prison for killing a Japanese tourist has appealed the ruling, court officials said Tuesday. The defendant, surnamed Seo, submitted the appeal to the Seoul Central District Court last Tuesday, a week after the court found him guilty of death by dangerous driving. The court also ordered the seizure of his vehicle, holding him responsible for the death of a woman in her 50s and the injuries suffered by her daughter. Seo’s reasons for appeal had not been di

- [Maxim Mocha Gold marks 37 years as Korea’s top coffee mix](#) (2026-05-26 02:05)

Dongsuh Foods’ s Maxim Mocha Gold is marking its 37th anniversary this year, underscoring the enduring popularity of what has become one of Korea’s most recognizable coffee brands. Since its launch in 1989, Maxim Mocha Gold has established itself as the country’s leading coffee mix product, maintaining the top spot in the instant coffee mix market for decades. Sales over the past year alone reached about 5.3 billion sticks, equivalent to roughly 170 every second. Dongsuh Foods attributes the bran

- [Renault Korea bets on practical hybrids with Filante](#) (2026-05-26 02:03)

Renault Korea is betting that the next phase of Korea’s automotive electrification will be driven less by fully electric vehicles and more by consumers seeking practical, low-stress alternatives. Its answer is the Filante, a hybrid crossover positioned as a balance between EV-like efficiency and the convenience of conventional gasoline vehicles. As Korean consumers become more familiar with EVs, concerns over charging infrastructure and driving range have

eased. But buyers are increasingly prior

- [India's trade minister says visit by Canada's Carney reset ties after 2023 killing of Sikh activist](#) (2026-05-26 02:02)

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney's recent visit to India has helped pave the way for a complete reset of Canada-India relations, India's trade minister said Monday. The ties were strained under Carney's predecessor in the wake of the 2023 killing of a Sikh activist in Canada. The remarks by India's Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, who is visiting Canada, came as he met with Canada's International Trade Minister and just before he met with Carney. "We're negotiating a free trade de

- [Pope calls for robust regulation of AI in manifesto that ponders the future of humanity](#) (2026-05-26 01:59)

VATICAN CITY (AP) -- Pope Leo XIV called Monday for robust regulation of artificial intelligence and for its developers to work for the common good rather than profit, issuing a sweeping manifesto on safeguarding humankind as the technology impacts everything from work to war. "Magnifica Humanitas" (Magnificent Humanity), Leo's first encyclical, has been eagerly awaited ever since history's first US-born pope announced days after his election that he considered AI to be the biggest challenge fac

- [Bolivian leader to slash own salary by 50% in gesture to protesters](#) (2026-05-26 01:53)

Bolivian President Rodrigo Paz said Monday he would slash his salary by 50 percent to try to end weeks of anti-government protests. But the announcement by the center-right leader fell on deaf ears, with protesters calling for his resignation and clashing again with police in the Andean city of La Paz. The US-backed Paz has made various gestures aimed at ending a popular revolt that has exploded just six months into his presidency. The demonstrations have radicalized since trade unions began pro

- [Babymonster to drop single next month](#) (2026-05-26 01:47)

Babymonster is poised to make a comeback on June 8 with digital single "Sugar Honey Ice Tea," announced label YG Entertainment on Tuesday. The single, eyeing to be a summer anthem, comes barely a month after its third EP "Choom," which topped the iTunes Worldwide Albums Chart. The mini album sold more than 750,000 copies in the first week, while the music video for the title track amassed 100 million hits on YouTube in two weeks. On June 26, the group will kick off an international tour named af

- [Senegal names economist Lo as new PM after Sonko's sacking](#) (2026-05-26 01:44)

Senegal's president on Monday named a senior economist as prime minister after sacking his estranged former mentor in a shock move, saying the new appointee had the expertise to steer the west African country out of crippling debt. Senegal is mired in a deep political crisis after President Bassirou Diomaye Faye on Friday sacked the popular Ousmane Sonko and dissolved

the government after months of tensions. Former central banker Ahmadou Al Aminou Lo, who worked at the Central Bank of West Africa

- [Nexon's blockchain arm expands Web3 playground with MapleStory Universe](#) (2026-05-26 01:31)

Marking its 23rd anniversary this year, MapleStory — Nexon's megahit side-scrolling massively multiplayer online role-playing game — has cemented itself as one of the Korean game company's most prominent intellectual properties. As the internet world enters the Web3 era, Nexspace, Nexon's blockchain arm based in Abu Dhabi, is doubling down expanding the megahit IP's playground with MapleStory Universe. "Over the past year, we were able to lay down the groundworks for our vision of MapleStory Univ

- [WHO urges Congo's neighbors to act immediately on Ebola risk](#) (2026-05-26 01:26)

States neighboring Congo are at great danger from Ebola and should act immediately to counter the deadly virus, the head of the World Health Organization said Monday. "Countries bordering (Congo) are at especially high risk and should take immediate action," said WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, adding that he would travel on Tuesday to (Congo), the vast, central African country at the epicenter of the current outbreak. "The outbreak is spreading rapidly," Tedros told a virtual m

- [Heat dome over Europe scorches UK, France, Spain](#) (2026-05-26 01:19)

Temperatures hit record highs for May in the UK and France Monday, as forecasters warned of a prolonged period of extreme heat across Europe throughout the week. A so-called "heat dome" of warm air from northern Africa trapped under a high-pressure system over western Europe is behind the high temperatures not usually seen until high summer. Temperatures in Spain were expected to peak later this week at 38 degrees Celsius, while parts of Italy imposed restrictions on working outdoors. In the UK,

- [LIV Golf visits S. Korea amid uncertainty over future](#) (2026-05-26 01:15)

LIV Golf, a renegade circuit launched by Saudi Arabia featuring former PGA Tour and European Tour stars, will make its second visit to South Korea this week with its future thrown into uncertainty. LIV Golf Korea will be played from Thursday to Sunday at the par-70, 7,024-yard Asiad Country Club in the southeastern city of Busan. Last year, LIV Golf made its South Korea debut at Jack Nicklaus Golf Club Korea in Incheon, some 30 kilometers west of the capital city. This is the eighth tournament o

- [TikTok creators bring Africa Day 2026 to social media audiences](#) (2026-05-26 01:14)

The Korea Herald invited six content creators to cover Africa Day 2026, hosted by the African Group of Ambassadors in the Republic of Korea, The Korea Herald and the Korea-Africa Foundation in Seoul on Wednesday, as part of efforts to expand the event's reach to online audiences. Among the invited creators were YoungJay, Rachelenergyx, Riritv, Mini, Luluboi and

Stellagalaxies, whose content ranges from K-pop entertainment and dance videos to travel and multicultural storytelling. The creators p

- ['KPop Demon Hunters' takes first K-pop win at 2026 AMAs](#) (2026-05-26 01:04)

Netflix animated film “KPop Demon Hunters” notched up a win at the 52nd American Music Awards as fictional girl group Huntrix took home the song of the year award for “Golden.” Accepting the award, singer-songwriter Ejae — the singing voice for the character Rumi and the lyricist and composer for the track — thanked fans for the achievement. “This movie, this song is fueled by the fans. You guys truly sealed the honmoon,” said Ejae, during her acceptance speech, referencing the mythic barrier in

- [From discount to premium 저평가에서 고평가로](#) (2026-05-25 23:58)

A market that leaps on reform rhetoric only to falter a day later is not yet a premium market. At Wednesday’s meeting on capital market stability and normalization, President Lee Jae Myung tried to shift the narrative from the familiar “Korea discount” to the promise of a “Korea premium,” a phrase that has long captured both ambition and frustration in Korean finance. 혁신이라는 수사에 힘입어 반등했지만 하루만에 흔들리는 시장을 고평가하기는 아직 이르다. 수요일 자본 시장 안정과 정상화 회의에서 이재명 대통령은 익숙해진 "코리아 디스카운트"에서 "코리아 프리미엄"이라는 희망으로 흐름을 전환하고자

- [Zombie thriller 'Colony' breaks 2 m admissions](#) (2026-05-25 23:57)

The zombie spectacle "Colony" has drawn more than 2 million admissions following its release last week, data showed Tuesday, hitting the milestone at the fastest pace among films released this year. The Korean film had recorded 2,018,644 accumulated admissions Monday, just five days following its release on Thursday, according to the data released by the Korean Film Council. It maintained its No. 1 spot on the daily box office chart for a fifth straight day Monday with 517,011 admissions. The Ho

- [BTS eyes top prize again at American Music Awards](#) (2026-05-25 23:18)

K-pop supergroup BTS is seeking to clinch its second Artist of the Year award, considered the top honor, at the American Music Awards as the ceremony takes place in Las Vegas on Monday (US time). The septet is nominated in three categories this year, including the flagship Artist of the Year award, where it will compete against global stars, such as Bad Bunny, Bruno Mars and Taylor Swift. BTS will attend the ceremony at the MGM Grand Garden Arena for the first time in five years, having last app

- [Trump says Iran negotiations proceeding 'nicely,' warns of stronger attack if no deal is reached](#) (2026-05-25 23:16)

US President Donald Trump said Monday that peace negotiations with Iran are proceeding "nicely," while warning that if a peace deal is not reached, US attacks would resume on a scale "bigger and stronger than ever before." Trump made the remarks on social media, stressing that

an agreement with Iran will be a "great deal" or "no deal at all," as the United States and Iran are working to sign a framework that reports said would include extending their ceasefire for 60 days, reopening the Strait o

- [\[팟캐스트\] \(795\) 가정용 감시카메라 확산... 안전과 사생활 사이의 한국](#) (2026-05-25 23:16)

진행자: 홍유, Tannith Why is surveillance expanding inside Korean homes? 기사요약: 1인 가구와 맞벌이 가구 증가 및 아이·노인·반려동물 돌봄 수요 확대로 한국 가정 내 감시카메라 사용이 빠르게 늘면서 범죄 증거 확보 등 순기능과 함께 해킹·사생활 침해, 영상의 무단 유통 등 법적 위험도 커지고 있다. [1] Voices layered over a faint electronic hum, a wide-angle view, and a real-time timestamp — footage previously associated with security feeds — are turning up in a plethora of social media clips featuring everything from babies’ cute moments to newlyweds at the dinner table. faint: 희미한, 어렴풋한 hum: (낮

- [\[팟캐스트\] \(794\) 두아 리파 220억원 소송에...삼성 "사진 무단사용 아냐"](#) (2026-05-25 23:14)

진행자: 홍유, Tannith Samsung says Dua Lipa TV box image was authorized 기사요약: 삼성전자가 미국에서 판매된 TV 포장에 영국 팝스타 두아 리파의 사진을 무단 사용했다며 제기된 1,500만달러 규모 소송과 관련해, 콘텐츠 제공 파트너를 통해 사용 권한을 확인한 뒤 해당 이미지를 사용한 것이라 반박했다. [1] Samsung Electronics on Tuesday denied claims that it used a photo of British pop star Dua Lipa without permission, saying the image had been cleared for use through a content partner before it appeared on TV packaging in the US. be cleared for: ~에 대한 승인(허가)을 받다, 사용이 허가되다 [2] The statement came afte

- [Blood, marriage and those left outside Korea’ s family system](#) (2026-05-25 22:00)

In South Korea, recognition as "family" can determine who is allowed to visit a hospital room, take care leave, remain in a shared home or make decisions in an emergency. For decades, this has largely been limited to spouses and blood relatives. But as more Koreans live alone or build households outside marriage and kinship, that definition is coming under renewed pressure. The debate, long driven by calls from the LGBTQ+ community for legal recognition of same-sex partners, is increasingly expa

- [\[Lim Woong\] Discerning the difference: Good AI vs. bad AI](#) (2026-05-25 20:30)

In the early innings of a technological shift, the public narrative is almost always fear and “pushback.” We fret over video games that swallow adolescents’ interest in books, internet pornography that "trains" the user’ s brain into compulsion, and teenagers trapped in the dopamine loops of social media. Layered atop this is the geopolitical sludge of propaganda, surveillance and industrial-scale disinformation, often orchestrated by state actors like China and Russia. Soon enough, the counter-n

- [\[Pinelopi Koujianou Goldberg\] US, China must learn to coexist](#) (2026-05-25 20:30)

The recent summit between Donald Trump and Xi Jinping in Beijing produced no major breakthroughs on tariffs, Taiwan, or ongoing geopolitical conflicts like the Iran war, prompting

many observers to dismiss it as inconsequential. Yet its restrained and cordial tone suggested anew, more pragmatic approach that implicitly acknowledges the two countries' deep economic interdependence. The American and Chinese presidents were not viewing the bilateral relationship solely through the lens of geopolitics.

- [Singapore foreign minister to visit Seoul after stops in China, N. Korea](#) (2026-05-25 12:30)

Foreign Minister Cho Hyun will meet his Singaporean counterpart, Vivian Balakrishnan, in Seoul this week, following the latter's visits to China and North Korea, the ministry here said Monday. The foreign ministry said Cho and Balakrishnan will explore ways to strengthen the countries' bilateral cooperation and discuss the state of affairs on the Korean Peninsula during their talks Thursday, while also exchanging views on regional and international developments. Singapore's foreign ministry had

- [Food poisoning outbreak hits Incheon bus depot, threatening service](#) (2026-05-25 11:57)

A suspected food poisoning outbreak among bus drivers on Yeongjongdo, Incheon, is expected to disrupt several bus routes Tuesday, city officials said Monday. The Incheon Metropolitan Government said 50 people reported symptoms such as stomach pain and diarrhea after eating at a cafeteria inside a public bus depot in Unbuk-dong, Jung-gu, on May 21. Five have been hospitalized. The city expects disruptions on five of the 14 routes departing from the depot, with six buses likely to be affected Tuesday.

- [Pope makes historic apology for Holy See's own role in legitimizing slavery](#) (2026-05-25 11:43)

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Leo XIV made a historic apology on Monday for the role the Holy See itself played in legitimizing slavery and for having failed to condemn it for centuries, calling the Vatican's record a "wound in Christian memory." Past popes have apologized for Christians' involvement in the trans-Atlantic slave trade. But no pope has ever publicly acknowledged, much less apologized for, the role that past popes themselves played in giving European sovereigns explicit authority to sub

- [Foreign ministry calls on Israel to investigate assault claims by activists](#) (2026-05-25 11:35)

The foreign ministry said Monday it has pressed Israel to conduct a thorough investigation into claims by two South Korean activists that they were assaulted by Israeli forces after being detained aboard aid vessels bound for the Gaza Strip. The ministry said it called in deputy Israeli ambassador to South Korea to its office Saturday and conveyed its concerns over those allegations. The two activists, Kim Ah-hyun and Kim Dong-hyeon, returned home Friday following their release. Upon arrival, th

- [Elderly man found burned to death in Asan yard: police](#) (2026-05-25 11:32)

An elderly man was found burned to death in the front yard of a home in Asan, South Chungcheong Province, on Monday, prompting a police investigation. Police and fire authorities

said a passerby called 119 at around 6:16 p.m. after finding a person collapsed in the yard of a residential home in Sinchang-myeon. Paramedics dispatched to the scene found the body of a man in his 80s who had been burned to death and handed the case over to police. The door to the home was locked at the time, and no f

- [Pope calls for robust regulation of AI in manifesto that ponders the future of humanity](#) (2026-05-25 11:31)

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Leo XIV called Monday for robust regulation of artificial intelligence and for its developers to work for the common good rather than profit, issuing a sweeping manifesto on safeguarding humankind as the technology impacts everything from work to war. “Magnifica Humanitas” (Magnificent Humanity), Leo’s first encyclical, has been eagerly awaited ever since history’s first US-born pope announced days after his election that he considered AI to be the biggest challenge fac

- [Hyundai creates dedicated units for software-defined factory, robot components](#) (2026-05-25 11:17)

Hyundai Motor Group has created units dedicated to advancing its software-defined factory strategy and procuring robot components as part of broader plans to deploy Atlas humanoid robots at its auto manufacturing facilities, industry sources said Monday. The group recently created a position overseeing its SDF initiative and appointed Alpesh Patel, who serves as chief innovation officer at Hyundai Motor Group Innovation Center Singapore, according to the sources. An SDF refers to a factory where

- [Park Geun-hye hits campaign trail for ruling party candidates](#) (2026-05-25 11:10)

Former President Park Geun-hye called on voters in the central Chungcheong region Monday to give People Power Party candidates “a chance to work,” stepping up her campaign-trail appearances ahead of the June 3 local elections. Park visited the campaign office of Lee Jang-woo, the People Power Party candidate for Daejeon mayor, in Seo-gu, in what local media described as her first visit to Daejeon in about 20 years. Speaking to reporters after meeting Lee, Park praised him as a longtime political

- [Bernard Werber, R. O. Kwon, the Ven. Sunjae join Seoul Int'l Book Fair lineup](#) (2026-05-25 09:23)

The 2026 Seoul International Book Fair, Korea’s largest book festival, will take place from June 24-28 at Coex in Seoul’s Gangnam-gu, according to the Korean Publishers Association. The fair will bring together about 530 publishers, literary organizations and copyright agencies from 18 countries, including South Korea. About 180 publishers and organizations from 17 countries, including France, Germany and the United States, will operate booths in the international exhibition hall. This year’s th

- [Avoid eye contact with crows, as they may remember you](#) (2026-05-25 08:54)

As large-billed crows enter their fledging season in late May, attacks on people are expected to increase, prompting government warnings and the distribution of response guidelines to local authorities. According to the Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment on Monday, the government has been advising people in South Korea to prepare for possible attacks by the birds since last week. Large-billed crows become highly protective of their offspring during the fledging season, when chicks often

- [AmCham Korea hosts Mick Mulvaney to discuss Trump 2.0 policy direction](#) (2026-05-25 08:45)

The American Chamber of Commerce in Korea hosted a special luncheon in Seoul on Thursday featuring Mick Mulvaney, former acting White House chief of staff under US President Donald Trump, to discuss the future direction of US policy and its implications for Korea and global business. Held at the Grand Hyatt Seoul under the theme “The Return of America First: What Trump 2.0 Means for Business and Geopolitics,” the event brought together more than 120 executives and business leaders from multinationals

- [LG Electronics OLED TVs top consumer reviews in 14 countries](#) (2026-05-25 08:36)

LG Electronics said its OLED TVs ranked first in consumer media evaluations across 14 countries, strengthening its position in the global premium TV market. Consumer review organizations in the US, Europe and Australia gave LG OLED TVs top scores for picture quality, sound performance and overall viewing experience. In the US, Consumer Reports ranked LG OLED TVs highest across several categories, including models above 70 inches, 65 inches and 55-60 inches. The publication praised the 65-inch LG

- [Foreign ministers of S. Korea, Croatia discuss arms, energy cooperation](#) (2026-05-25 08:27)

Foreign Minister Cho Hyun and his Croatian counterpart, Gordan Grlic Radman, met in Seoul on Monday to discuss ways to expand bilateral cooperation in the weapons and energy sectors, Seoul's foreign ministry said. Cho welcomed Radman's visit, which marked the first trip to South Korea by Croatia's top diplomat in eight years, and called for enhancing their future-oriented cooperation in areas ranging from the arms industry to batteries, according to the ministry. In response, Radman noted that p

- [Heavy rain, strong winds put government on alert](#) (2026-05-25 08:27)

Heavy rain forecast to hit South Korea on Tuesday is expected to ease drought concerns in many areas, where precipitation has remained far below average over the past six months. But the rain is expected to bring strong winds and thunder, raising safety concerns as it comes less than a week after heavy rain hit southern regions. According to the Korea Meteorological Administration on Monday, rain currently falling on Jeju Island is expected to expand nationwide from Monday night. Total precipita

- [Derrick Milano approached BTS as 'a student' — and ended up shaping 'Arirang'](#) (2026-05-25 08:01)

When Derrick Milano first walked into a Los Angeles studio to work with BTS, he did not even know which songs he would be touching. He only knew one thing: He did not want to arrive with the attitude of a hitmaker who already knew everything. Instead, the Grammy-winning songwriter behind tracks for Beyonce, Nicki Minaj and Megan Thee Stallion approached the sessions as "a student." That mindset eventually led Milano to become one of the most heavily involved contributors on BTS' latest studio al

- [Angels fans protest against management, demand 'Sell the team'](#) (2026-05-25 08:00)

Reuters reported on Sunday that Los Angeles Angels fans held boycotts and protests inside and outside Angel Stadium during a home game against the Texas Rangers, calling for owner Arte Moreno to sell the team, as criticism over prolonged poor performance and management decisions continued to grow. The root cause is disappointments with performance and management. Since 2015 (85-77 record), the team has not had a winning season, and this year it sits at the bottom of MLB with a 19-34 record. Even

- [Messi joins ranks of billionaires](#) (2026-05-25 08:00)

Argentine media outlet Ambito reported that Lionel Messi's net worth is estimated to have exceeded \$1 billion, moving beyond salary and advertising income into investments and equity participation, and joining the ranks of global "billionaire athletes." Since 2007, Messi has earned more than \$700 million from salary and bonuses alone and has built his wealth through endorsement deals, investment income and business equity stakes. Born in Rosario, Argentina, Messi is famously known for signing hi

- [Kim Si-woo falls short at CJ Cup Byron Nelson](#) (2026-05-25 07:59)

Kim Si-woo failed to hold onto the lead in the final round of the PGA Tour's The CJ Cup Byron Nelson event and finished in disappointing second place, three strokes behind the winner. Kim shot a 6-under-par 66 in the final fourth round, recording 7 birdies and 1 bogey at the TPC Craig Ranch in McKinney, Texas on Sunday. As a result, he finished with a total of 27-under-par 257, but was overtaken by a comeback win from Wyndham Clark (30-under-par 254), settling for second place. This marks Kim S

- [\[Photo News\] CJ doubles down on US expansion](#) (2026-05-25 07:48)

CJ Group Chair Lee Jay-hyun (left) underscored the importance of expanding the CJ Cup into a platform where Americans can experience Korean culture, the food and entertainment conglomerate said Monday. Visiting the CJ Cup Byron Nelson PGA Tour event for the first time this year, Lee called for leveraging the golf tournament to advance the group' s global businesses while creating more opportunities for young Koreans in global markets. (CJ Group)

- ['This is the way': Hyundai Steel taps Star Wars for green steel push](#) (2026-05-25 07:37)

Hyundai Steel has released a promotional video in collaboration with the upcoming "Star Wars" film "The Mandalorian and Grogu," set to hit theaters Tuesday, highlighting its low-emission steelmaking technology. The trailer centers on Hyundai Steel's electric arc furnace-blast furnace hybrid process, a carbon-reduction technology that cuts emissions by about 20 percent compared with conventional blast furnace production. Drawing on the film's outer-space adventure storyline, the video parallels t

- [K-rail in motion: Woojin breathes new life into aging LA subway cars](#) (2026-05-25 07:36)

Subway cars that once rumbled through darkened tunnels beneath Los Angeles, their steel exteriors stripped of shine, are ready to roll again half a world away. Painted canary yellow and fully reengineered, they run again on a test track in Osong, North Chungcheong Province. The resurrection was the work of Woojin Industrial Systems, a Korean rolling stock manufacturer. In 2024, it won a 300 billion won (\$200 million) contract from the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority to o

- [Chinese EV retreat opens window for Hyundai in Canada](#) (2026-05-25 07:36)

Major Chinese electric vehicle makers, including BYD, Chery and Geely, are scaling back their expansion into Canada — a strategic entry point to North America beyond the US market, where intensifying anti-China trade policies have effectively shut out Chinese EVs. Experts indicate the shift could help Hyundai Motor Group to defend its ground in the profitable market, where demand for high-margin SUVs and eco-friendly vehicles remains strong. According to a recent report by Automotive News Canada

- [Ahn Eun-me turns Matisse's 'Unfinished Dance' into living circle at Paris museum](#) (2026-05-25 07:02)

On Saturday evening, pink smoke rose above the Musee d'Art Moderne de Paris (Museum of Modern Art Paris) and drifted across the Seine, coloring the early summer sky against the backdrop of the Eiffel Tower. The scene was part of "White Savage Night, Night of Baekman," a performance by the contemporary dance choreographer Ahn Eun-me. The performance began in the museum lobby, where about 50 mediators participating in Ahn's long-running project "01min 59sec" spun alone throughout the exhibition sp

- [Lotte promotes Korean brands in Europe with Madrid Expo](#) (2026-05-25 06:48)

Lotte said Monday it will hold the 2026 Lotte-Korea Brand Expo in Madrid from May 27-29 to support the global expansion of Korean small and medium-sized enterprises. The Brand Expo is a co-prosperity program designed to help Korean SMEs expand overseas, jointly organized by Lotte, the Korean Commission for Corporate Partnership and Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency, with support from the Ministry of SMEs and Startups. This years' expo will feature 50 Korean SMEs from sectors including beau

- [Veteran Zerg champion defends title at ASL Season 21](#) (2026-05-25 06:36)

Park Sang-hyun has defended his title on the final stage of the Google Play AfreecaTV StarCraft League, or ASL, Season 21, defeating Lee Young-ho four to three in a best-of-seven match to become the fourth player to repeat as an ASL champion. Lee, better known as his in-game moniker Flash, specializes in playing the Terrans in StarCraft. Looking to become the first five-time ASL champion, he took the early 2-to-0 set score, but Park stormed back to tie the scoreboard at 2-to-2, making the game a

- [Kakao Mobility becomes early test of Korea's tougher listing rules](#) (2026-05-25 06:35)

Kakao Mobility is considering a Nasdaq listing as pressure mounts from financial investors seeking an exit nearly nine years after their initial investment, as South Korea's planned crackdown on spin-off listings of large conglomerates complicates the company's domestic IPO options. According to investment banking sources on Monday, Kakao Mobility has selected Bank of America, Morgan Stanley and UBS as lead underwriters for a potential Nasdaq listing through American depositary receipts, or ADSs

- [Guardiola, Salah bid farewell](#) (2026-05-25 06:34)

MANCHESTER, England (AP) -- Pep Guardiola fought back tears on the sideline as he brought 10 years at Manchester City to an end on Sunday. His final game ended in a 2-1 loss to Aston Villa on a day charged with emotion as he said goodbye to the fans he gave so much joy during a decade of dominance in English soccer. "I never could have imagined the amount of love I've found," said Guardiola, standing in the center of the field at the Etihad Stadium and addressing the crowd. "It is an incredible,

- [S. Korea a model in Ukraine's postwar reconstruction: governor](#) (2026-05-25 06:24)

South Korea's rapid industrial rise after the Korean War could serve as a blueprint for Ukraine's reconstruction, according to Vitaliy Kim, governor of Ukraine's Mykolaiv region. In an interview with The Korea Herald, Kim said Ukraine is looking to South Korea for investment, industrial technology and long-term strategic cooperation as it prepares for a recovery effort estimated at over \$588 billion. "As an example, I want to see the model of South Korea in the 1970s, when they imported technolo

- [Politicians hijack Starbucks furor with fight over hate speech](#) (2026-05-25 06:07)

The furor over a recent Starbucks marketing campaign has become a battlefield in the country's political divide, with a poll released Monday suggesting it is now shaping shifts in support for the rival parties mere days before South Korea holds its local elections. The backlash over promotions by the coffee chain that were accused of trivializing the May 18 Gwangju Democratic Uprising has widened into a fight over how far the state should go to rein in freedom of expression — including whether f

- [S. Korea, Singapore foreign ministers to hold talks on peninsula, regional issues](#) (2026-05-25 06:06)

Foreign Minister Cho Hyun is set to hold talks in Seoul on Thursday with Singaporean counterpart Vivian Balakrishnan, who is visiting South Korea following trips to China and North Korea, Seoul's Foreign Ministry said Monday. According to the ministry, the two sides are expected to discuss ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation, review progress on follow-up measures from the two Korea-Singapore summits held earlier this year, and exchange views on developments on the Korean Peninsula. The mini

- [Korea's latest dessert trend sounds as good as it tastes](#) (2026-05-25 06:05)

A new wave of fruit-shaped mousse cakes encased in thin chocolate shells is pulling morning lines to bakeries, with customers chasing the sharp crack of the coating as much as the dessert inside. The cakes, nicknamed "agjak" after the Korean onomatopoeia for a crisp snap, look so much like actual fruit that it's hard to believe it's a dessert on first glance. But the appeal extends beyond the visual with the first bite: a thin chocolate shell breaks with an audible crack, giving way to soft mous

- [Korea's chip-driven rally fuels global ETF appetite](#) (2026-05-25 06:00)

Hong Kong's CSOP Asset Management is preparing to roll out more exchange-traded funds tracking South Korean equities later this year, as a relentless rally in Seoul fuels global demand for exposure to Asia's best-performing major market. CSOP is working to list an ETF tracking the Kospi 200 index on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange in the second half of this year, industry reports showed Sunday. The product would mark the first overseas-listed ETF tracking Korea's blue-chip index, giving offshore in

- [Tottenham wins to relegate West Ham](#) (2026-05-25 05:53)

LONDON (AFP) -- Tottenham secured Premier League survival at the expense of West Ham on Sunday. The Spurs knew a draw against Everton would realistically keep them up as they had a two-point advantage over West Ham and a significantly superior goal difference. Joao Palhinha released the mounting pressure at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium just before half-time, poking home after his header thundered back off a post, before being mobbed by his teammates. Just a few kilometers away, at the London St

- ['Natural Wegovy' egg recipe stirs weight-loss buzz in Korea](#) (2026-05-25 05:47)

While the use of weight-loss injections such as Wegovy and Mounjaro grows in Korea, some people looking for cheaper ways to curb their appetites are turning to an egg-and-oil recipe that has circulated on social media. The recipe, usually made with boiled eggs, extra virgin olive oil and pepper, is promoted online as a way to increase the body's secretion of GLP-1, a hormone linked to satiety and reduced food intake. Some users have compared it to injectable GLP-1 drugs such as Wegovy and Mounja

- [Samsung wage deal nears approval as internal backlash grows](#) (2026-05-25 05:42)

Samsung Electronics' tentative wage agreement is set to be approved this week, ending a five-month labor dispute that nearly triggered the company's largest-ever strike. But the workers the deal leaves out are going to court to stop it. Turnout in the union ratification vote passed 86 percent as of Monday morning, the fourth day of balloting, according to the company's largest union. The electronic vote closes at 10 a.m. Wednesday and approval is widely expected. Roughly 80 percent of that union

- [Hiker found safe at home after triggering massive search on Cheonmasan](#) (2026-05-25 05:20)

A woman who called emergency services after getting lost during a hike in South Korea was later confirmed to have returned home while police and fire authorities' search for her continued for another day, local reports said Monday. The woman, a Hong Kong national in her 50s, was confirmed to have returned to her residence in Seoul at around 9:40 a.m. Saturday, according to authorities. She first called 119 at about 9:06 p.m. Friday, saying she was lost while hiking. During the call, she reported

- [Professor faces penalty after saying female students could 'turn to prostitution if desperate'](#) (2026-05-25 05:20)

A professor at a private university in Daejeon is under disciplinary review after students accused him of making sexually offensive remarks in class, including allegedly saying that 8 out of 10 women in Korea had likely earned money through prostitution. The case is currently being reviewed by the university's disciplinary committee, after its faculty ethics committee recommended severe disciplinary action to the school foundation. The allegations first surfaced in November through posts on Ever

- [African heritage takes center stage at Seoul event](#) (2026-05-25 05:14)

From Rwandan attire to Angolan sculptures and Egyptian mummies, the Grand Hyatt Seoul became a showcase of African cultures on Wednesday for this year's Africa Day event. The gathering, held ahead of Africa Day on May 25, drew about 500 people to the hotel in Yongsan-gu, central Seoul, for a forum and cultural exchange event jointly hosted by the Korea-Africa Foundation, the African Group of Ambassadors in Korea and The Korea Herald. Outside the main venue, booths set up by 13 African countries

- [North Korea to hold major party plenary meeting next month](#) (2026-05-25 05:10)

North Korea will convene a key plenary meeting of the ruling Workers' Party of Korea in late June to conduct an interim review of this year's party and state policies and discuss major tasks for the second half of the year, state media reported Monday. The decision was made during a meeting of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, according to the Korean Central News Agency. KCNA said the Second Plenary Meeting of the Ninth Central Committee of the WPK will

- [Foreign envoys applaud Africa Day 2026 in Seoul](#) (2026-05-25 05:10)

Diplomats from more than 50 nations gathered Wednesday to celebrate Africa Day 2026, experiencing growing cultural ties between Africa, Korea, and the broader international community. Africa Day commemorates the founding of the Organization of African Unity — now the African Union — in 1963, marking liberation, unity and cultural heritage on the continent. This year's event, jointly hosted by the African Group of Ambassadors, the Korea-Africa Foundation, and Herald Media Group, featured cultural

- [‘Go to the nursing room for hot water’ : Tourists’ Incheon Airport cup noodle hack sparks backlash](#) (2026-05-25 05:07)

Travelers using nursing rooms at Incheon Airport to get free hot water for cup noodles have come under fire following complaints from parents who use the facilities for infant care. Footage circulating on Chinese media platforms, including China's most popular lifestyle and social commerce platform Xiaohongshu, showed Sunday that some tourists have been sharing a "travel hack" for making instant noodles at the airport. One user wrote that airport convenience stores do not provide hot water, but

- [African and Korean beats collide and connect](#) (2026-05-25 04:51)

A cultural crossover that wove the percussive heartbeats of Korea and Africa into a single performance brought together the unifying theme of Africa Day 2026 at the Grand Hyatt Seoul on Wednesday. Directed by Seodo, the leader of Korean fusion group Seodo Band, the program traced an arc from awakening to communion, framing the evening as a meeting of two traditions rather than a side-by-side showcase. The first half, "Awakening," opened with Kulekan, a Seoul-based troupe led by Burkina Faso-born

- [Samsung tops emerging smartphone markets in Q1](#) (2026-05-25 04:50)

Samsung Electronics ranked first in smartphone market share across Latin America, the Middle East and Southeast Asia in the first quarter, maintaining its lead despite weaker regional demand and rising smartphone prices. According to market research firm Omdia on Monday, Samsung shipped 12.9 million smartphones in Latin America during the January-March period, capturing a 37 percent market share and posting 9 percent on-year growth. The company recorded its highest quarterly market share in the

- [Samsung eyes record Q2 profit as union votes on wage deal](#) (2026-05-25 04:49)

Samsung Electronics is forecast to post its strongest quarterly results on record in the second quarter, as a memory market reshaped by AI demand keeps prices climbing even as the wage settlement that pulled the company back from a strike still awaits a ratification vote closing Wednesday. According to financial data provider FnGuide, the analyst consensus for the April-June quarter stands at 165.48 trillion won (\$109.7 billion) in revenue and 85.25 trillion won in operating profit, up 121.9 per

- [Korean banks race to defend turf ahead of stablecoin rules](#) (2026-05-25 04:49)

Hana Financial Group's recent 1 trillion won (\$662 million) bet on Upbit operator Dunamu was not just a crypto investment. It was a wager on whether banks can keep their place at the center of money as finance moves onto digital rails. Korea has yet to finalize who can issue won-backed stablecoins or how exchanges and fintechs can participate. But financial groups are not waiting. They are moving to secure the exchanges, card networks, wallets and remittance channels that could decide whether wo

- [Shinsegae chair to offer bow of apology as Starbucks anger continues](#) (2026-05-25 04:44)

Shinsegae Group Chair Chung Yong-jin will apologize again over Starbucks Korea's controversial "Tank Day" marketing campaign at a press conference Tuesday and announce the findings of the group's internal investigation into the incident, the retail conglomerate said Sunday. According to Shinsegae Group, Chung plans to personally deliver an apology to those hurt by Starbucks Korea's marketing campaign, released on the anniversary of the May 18 Democratic Uprising. The press conference will take p

- [Africa's coexistence offers lesson for divided world: Assembly's Africa forum chief](#) (2026-05-25 04:42)

Lee Hun-seung, chair of the National Assembly's Forum for Africa, praised Africa's resilience and spirit of harmony across diverse cultures as values the world should learn from at a time of rising global tensions. "The fact that countries with different languages, cultures, histories and religions chose the path of cooperation and coexistence rather than conflict and confrontation continues to carry great significance for the international community today," Lee said. Lee made the remarks during

- [Africa Day 2026 celebrates Korea-Africa friendship through culture, rhythm](#) (2026-05-25 04:40)

The rhythmic beats of Korea's traditional "samulnori" percussion blended seamlessly with the energy of African drums, creating a vibrant display of cultural unity at Africa Day Seoul. The event, jointly hosted Wednesday by the Korea-Africa Foundation, the African Group of Ambassadors in Korea and The Korea Herald ahead of Africa Day on May 25, brought together around 500 diplomats, government officials, business leaders and cultural figures at Grand Hyatt Seoul in Yongsan-gu, central Seoul. The

- [Foreign minister highlights Africa's growing strategic importance at Africa Day event](#) (2026-05-25 04:40)

Foreign Minister Cho Hyun on Wednesday emphasized Africa's rising importance as a strategic partner for South Korea, citing the continent's young population, abundant resources and growing role in global supply chains amid geopolitical uncertainty. Speaking at the "2026 Africa Day" celebration, Cho said Africa was emerging as "a key hub for global connectivity and future growth" as global logistics and energy networks faced mounting disruptions due to

geopolitical tensions. The event was jointly

- [Kospi rally goes beyond Samsung, SK hynix: JP Morgan](#) (2026-05-25 04:25)

JPMorgan Chase & Co. Asia equity and quant strategist Mixo Das says South Korea's stock rally still has room to run, as the artificial intelligence-driven memory cycle, earnings upgrades and governance reform continue to support the bank's most bullish regional market call. In a May 10 report titled "Embracing the AI momentum; Kospi 10K?" Das and his team raised JPMorgan's Kospi base, bull and bear targets to 9,000, 10,000 and 6,000, respectively, only weeks after lifting them to 7,000, 8,500 an

- [African flag-inspired hanbok hit runway at Africa Day 2026](#) (2026-05-25 04:14)

Models walked the runway in hanbok themed on the colors of 20 African nations' flags in a fashion show during Africa Day 2026 in Seoul on Wednesday. The event was hosted by the African Group of Ambassadors in South Korea, The Korea Herald and the Korea-Africa Foundation. Each participating country was given a turn on the runway. Algeria opened the show with a hanbok in the country's signature green and white, followed by two Algerian models in a shimmering gold dress and a velvet skirt-and-jacke

- [Herald CEO invokes Ubuntu in call for stronger Korea-Africa ties](#) (2026-05-25 04:08)

Herald Media Group CEO Choi Jin-young called for closer cooperation between South Korea and African countries during his welcoming address at Africa Day 2026, citing the spirit of Ubuntu. The southern African concept stresses shared humanity, mutual understanding and interconnectedness. The event was jointly hosted by The Korea Herald, the Korea-Africa Foundation and the African Group of Ambassadors in Korea on Wednesday at Grand Hyatt Seoul. It was attended by Foreign Minister Cho Hyun, delegat

- [Peace and development central to Korea-Africa future: African envoys' dean](#) (2026-05-25 03:37)

Peace, development and shared responsibility are the three keys to understanding the continent of Africa, Moroccan Ambassador to Korea Chafik Rachadi said at the Africa Day 2026 event in Seoul on Wednesday. In his speech, Rachadi, who also serves as dean of the Diplomatic Corps and the African Group of Ambassadors, said that Africa should no longer be seen merely through the lens of culture or aid, but as an emerging global partner driving innovation, growth and transformation. "The first key, p

- [Pilgrims from West flock to hajj despite Mideast war](#) (2026-05-25 03:33)

Despite the Middle East war and a US government travel advisory, there was never any doubt in Fadel's mind that he would attend this year's hajj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia. "Even if the war were still ongoing, I would not have backed out," the 49-year-old US national, who asked that only his first name be used, told Agence France-Presse. "We are undoubtedly in the safest place in the world," he added, referring to a passage from the Quran. This sentiment is common

among many Muslims from Western

- [Blackswan's Fatou brings 'My Own Voice' to Africa Day stage](#) (2026-05-25 03:02)

Fatou of Blackswan, a Senegal-born K-pop idol, performed at "Africa Day 2026," hosted by the African Group of Ambassadors in the Republic of Korea, The Korea Herald and the Korea-Africa Foundation in Seoul, Wednesday, showcasing her solo track "Me, Myself and I." Fatou took part in the first section of the cultural performance segment of the Africa Day commemorative forum under the theme "Awakening." Following a performance by Koule Kan, an African percussion and contemporary dance group in Sout

- [Seodo turns Africa Day stage into celebration of rhythm, coexistence](#) (2026-05-25 03:02)

When performers stepped off the stage and into the audience during the finale of the 2026 Africa Day in Seoul on Wednesday, the moment symbolized exactly what performance director Seodo had envisioned — the dissolving of boundaries through music, rhythm and shared experience. Serving as the overall director of this year's Africa Day, the leader of the Korean gugak band crafted a collaborative production under the theme "Neorang Narang" ("You and I"), bringing together African traditional perform

- [The Korea Herald marks three years of Africa Day events](#) (2026-05-25 03:01)

The Korea Herald has hosted events to mark Africa Day on May 25 since 2024, bringing together African diplomats, Korean government officials and business leaders to strengthen ties through diplomacy, business and cultural exchange. Over the past three years, the event has evolved into a platform aimed at expanding cooperation and understanding between Korea and African nations. The first event was organized ahead of the inaugural Korea-Africa Summit, and focused on exploring opportunities for ec

- [Far right and newcomers make gains in Cyprus election](#) (2026-05-25 02:42)

Cyprus' far right made gains in Sunday's parliamentary election while anti-corruption newcomers and social media influencers captured seats, results showed, which analysts said would reshape the island's political landscape. Just over half a million Cypriots went to the polls Sunday to elect 56 lawmakers, in an election seen as a litmus test for trends ahead of presidential elections in two years. Key parties backing incumbent President Nicos Christodoulides, a centrist who ran as an independe

- [Ecuador's president touts US-backed crime-fighting efforts and vows to keep hunting down criminals](#) (2026-05-25 02:06)

QUITO, Ecuador (AP) — Ecuadorian President Daniel Noboa on Sunday used his State of the Union address to tout his government's US-backed crime-fighting strategies as well as improvements of some economic indicators. Addressing the National Assembly in the capital, Quito, Noboa cited the extradition of a dozen crime bosses to the United States and the seizure of almost 300 tons of drugs as examples of what he described as a decisive and effective

approach to combat organized crime, the main conce

- [Turkish police storm offices of main opposition CHP party, firing tear gas and rubber bullets](#) (2026-05-25 02:01)

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Police stormed the offices of Turkey's main opposition CHP party on Sunday, firing tear gas and rubber bullets at party supporters and officials who had been holed up inside for three days. It was a violent end to a standoff between members of the Republican Peoples' Party, or CHP, and a leadership team appointed by an appeals court, escalating tensions between the opposition and the government of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Supporters had barricaded the courtyard entra

- [N. Korea to hold key party meeting in late June: KCNA](#) (2026-05-25 02:00)

North Korea will convene a plenary meeting of the ruling Workers' Party of Korea next month for an interim review of state and party policies for this year, state media reported Monday. The WPK's political bureau has decided to hold the second plenary meeting of the ninth central committee in late June, according to the Korean Central News Agency. The meeting will be convened "in order to have an interim review of the implementation of the party and state policies for 2026 and discuss the work i

- [Lee's approval rating inches down to 59.3%: poll](#) (2026-05-25 01:37)

President Lee Jae Myung's approval rating fell slightly from a week earlier last week, marking its first decline in three weeks, a survey showed Monday. In the poll conducted by Realmeter and commissioned by EKN newspaper, the positive assessment of Lee's job performance dropped 1.2 percentage points from a week before to 59.3 percent. The weekly survey was conducted on 2,507 people aged 18 and older. The figure stood at 59.5 percent in the fifth week of April, down 2.7 percentage points from th

- [Kospi's daily turnover tops W40tr for 1st time amid stock rally](#) (2026-05-25 01:21)

Average daily transactions in South Korea's benchmark index surpassed 40 trillion won (\$26.4 billion) for the first time this month amid a record-breaking market rally, bourse data showed Monday. The daily turnover of the Korea Composite Stock Price Index averaged 48.05 trillion won during the first 22 days of May, according to the data from the Korea Exchange. The figure marked the highest monthly average on record, surpassing the previous high of 32.23 trillion won set in February. The increas

- [Kim Si-woo falls short in bid to end 3-yr PGA Tour title drought](#) (2026-05-25 00:30)

Kim Si-woo has come up short in a bid to end his three-year PGA Tour title drought near his home in Texas, settling for his second runner-up finish of the year instead. Kim finished alone in second place at the CJ Cup Byron Nelson at TPC Craig Ranch in McKinney, Texas, on Sunday with a four-round total of 27-under 257. After shooting six-under 65 in the final round, Kim ended up three shots behind the champion, Wyndham Clark of the United States, who carded an

11-under 60 in the final round to f

- [N. Korea's Kim sends condolences to Xi over deadly coal mine blast](#) (2026-05-25 00:27)

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has sent a message of condolences to Chinese President Xi Jinping over a deadly gas explosion at a coal mine in northern China, state media reported Monday. A gas explosion at a coal mine in northern China's Shanxi Province on Friday killed 82 people and injured 182 others, while two remained unaccounted for, marking the country's worst mining disaster in nearly two decades, according to foreign media reports. "Upon hearing the sad news that a gas explosion accide

- [Stocks rise, oil and dollar slide on Middle East peace hopes](#) (2026-05-25 00:11)

US stock futures rose on Monday while the dollar and oil prices slipped as the prospect of a deal to end the Iran war buoyed risk appetite although a lack of clarity over when the Strait of Hormuz would open kept enthusiasm in check. The nearly three month war in the Middle East has sent energy prices soaring and rewired global rates outlook due to worries over inflation as Tehran effectively shut down the strait through which much of the world's energy supply passes. US President Donald Tru

- [Trump says not to rush as details emerge of a potential Iran deal](#) (2026-05-25 00:08)

The United States is close to reaching a deal with Iran that would end the war , reopen the Strait of Hormuz and see Iran give up its stockpile of highly enriched uranium , regional officials told The Associated Press on Sunday, though US President Donald Trump said he told representatives "not to rush into a deal." Trump said negotiations were "proceeding in an orderly and constructive manner," and the relationship with Iran was becoming "much more professional and productive." He pushed back a

- [Chungnam National University to launch Korean program in Uzbekistan](#) (2026-05-25 00:00)

The Ministry of Education said Monday it has opened a Korean language education center in Uzbekistan with Chungnam National University, laying the groundwork for the university's planned overseas program in Tashkent. Chungnam National University signed a memorandum of agreement on April 14 with the Uzbek government and local universities, including Tashkent Perfect University and Bukhara Innovation University, to operate a university to be established in Uzbekistan as a franchise program under C

- [Stony-faced N. Korean women's football team leaves S. Korea after tournament win](#) (2026-05-24 10:30)

The North Korean women's football team left for China on Sunday en route to Pyongyang after winning Asia's top tournament in South Korea, maintaining a stony-faced, restrained demeanor in what appeared to be a carefully staged display amid strained inter-Korean ties. Naegohyang Women's FC arrived at Incheon International Airport, west of Seoul, at around 1:50 p.m. to board an Air China flight to Beijing for a stopover before flying back to Pyongyang. The team,

led by head coach Ri Yu-il, walked

- [Seoul moves to allow foreigners to trade S. Korean ETFs directly](#) (2026-05-24 10:16)

South Korea's financial authorities are moving to allow foreign investors to trade domestic exchange-traded funds (ETFs) directly, a measure that could help draw more overseas money into Korean assets amid a record-setting rally in the benchmark KOSPI, sources said Sunday. The KOSPI has been among the world's best-performing stock indexes this year, rising 82 percent from 4,309.63 on the first trading day of the year to close at 7,847.71 on Friday, driven largely by strong gains in Samsung Elect

- [Lee vows to build gov't that 'saves people's lives' on Buddha's Birthday](#) (2026-05-24 10:05)

President Lee Jae Myung vowed Sunday to build a government that "saves people's lives" and to uphold the teaching that all people are equally worthy, as he attended a ceremony marking Buddha's Birthday. Lee made the remarks during a ceremony hosted by the Jogye Order of Korean Buddhism, as he has increasingly prioritized policies aimed at protecting public safety and addressing issues that directly affect people's daily lives, such as stalking crimes and other safety-related incidents. "We will

- [Lee offers condolences over deadly China coal mine explosion](#) (2026-05-24 09:57)

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung on Sunday expressed condolences over the deadly gas explosion at a coal mine in China's Shanxi Province that caused heavy casualties. In a message posted on X, Lee said he felt "profound regret and sorrow" upon hearing news of the accident and extended sympathy to the victims and their families. "I pray for the eternal peace of those who lost their lives in this sudden tragedy, and extend my deepest condolences and comfort to the bereaved families and the Chi

- [India, South Korea unveil Korean War memorial near DMZ](#) (2026-05-24 09:56)

PAJU, Gyeonggi Province — India and South Korea on Thursday unveiled a memorial honoring Indian troops who served in the Korean War, in a ceremony near the Demilitarized Zone that highlighted the countries' shared wartime history and growing strategic ties. The memorial, located at Imjingak Peace Park in Paju near the border with North Korea, commemorates the Indian Army's 60 Parachute Field Ambulance and the Custodian Force of India, which took part in frontline medical operations and prisoner-

- [New Zealand showcases wines in Seoul](#) (2026-05-24 09:52)

The New Zealand Chamber of Commerce in Korea on Saturday showcased premium New Zealand wines at its annual wine festival in Seoul, highlighting the country's growing presence in South Korea's premium wine market. Held under the theme "Where Wine Meets Art," the event presented wine as "liquid art" shaped by terroir and time, while introducing Korean consumers to New Zealand's wine culture, cuisine and lifestyle. "New Zealand wine is going from strength to strength in Korea's premium wine market,

- [S. Korean submarine arrives in Canada amid Seoul's bid for US\\$39.6 bln Canadian submarine deal](#) (2026-05-24 08:45)

A South Korean Navy submarine has arrived at a port in Canada for joint drills with the Royal Canadian Navy amid Seoul's push to win a Canadian submarine deal estimated at around 60 trillion won (US\$39.6 billion). The 3,000-ton ROKS Dosan Ahn Chang-ho entered a port at the Canadian naval base in Esquimalt, Victoria, on the country's southwest coast on Saturday (local time) after traveling some 14,000 kilometers via Guam and Hawaii on the first trans-Pacific voyage ever undertaken by a South Korea

- [Can art heal the brain?](#) (2026-05-24 07:00)

Kim Bung-nyun has spent more than a decade trying to answer one question: What does art actually do for the brain and body? The child and adolescent psychiatrist at Seoul National University Hospital began his work in 2014, when his team put 600 adolescents referred from the juvenile justice system through a six-month program combining cognitive behavioral therapy with art therapy: emotional literacy exercises, music therapy, and picture book bibliotherapy. About 100 of the participants — perpet

- [From sports day to matchmaking, Seoul's luxury towers form their own league](#) (2026-05-24 07:00)

Seoul's luxury apartment towers are emerging not only as symbols of wealth, but also as hubs of exclusive social networking. Residents of Raemian One Bailey and Maple Xi, prestigious luxury apartment complexes in Seoul's Seocho-gu where prices have reportedly surpassed 200 million won (\$132,448) per 3.3 square meters, recently held a joint sports festival featuring screen golf, table tennis and basketball, according to news reports Friday. Organized by the residents' association of Maple Xi in J

- [7-Eleven Japan gets K-beauty corner](#) (2026-05-24 07:00)

7-Eleven stores across Japan will introduce dedicated sections for Korean cosmetics this September, eBay Japan said Thursday. According to eBay Japan, its online marketplace Qoo10 Japan has agreed with 7-Eleven Japan to launch "Qoo10 Pick," a K-beauty section featuring Korean cosmetics popular on Qoo10 Japan. Qoo10 Japan has been conducting test sales at selected 7-Eleven stores across Japan since September last year, offering 24 products from eight brands. Based on the results of the yearlong t

- [Lee Ufan: 'The process matters. Above all, encounters matter.'](#) (2026-05-24 07:00)

VENICE, Italy -- Large brushstrokes spread across white canvases evoke both tension and harmony through rhythm and negative space. In another room, stones and steel plates face one another in silent confrontation. Korean-born artist Lee Ufan's works may initially appear minimal and deceptively simple, but the artist says they emerged only after countless repetitions, effort and moments of contemplation. "Controlling strength is important (when

painting). It only emerges after an enormous amount

- [2 seriously injured as light aircraft crashes in Haenam](#) (2026-05-23 07:48)

Two people were seriously injured when a light aircraft crashed in the southwestern county of Haenam on Saturday, authorities said. The aircraft went down at around 3:10 p.m. while en route from Muan Airport to Sani Airfield. The two -- an instructor and a student, both in their 20s, from Chodang University -- were taken to nearby hospitals. Authorities are investigating the cause of the crash. (Yonhap)

- [Coal mine gas explosion in China kills 90 people, state media say](#) (2026-05-23 07:38)

A gas explosion at a coal mine in China's northern province of Shanxi killed at least 90 people, state media reported Saturday. Official news agency Xinhua said the accident at Changzhi city's Liushenyu coal mine happened on Friday evening. Around 247 workers were on duty at the time. The agency initially reported early Saturday eight people were killed and 38 were trapped underground. Nine were still trapped as of Saturday afternoon, Xinhua said. The cause of the explosion was under investigati

- [Naegohyang wins AFC women's title on South Korean soil](#) (2026-05-23 07:00)

North Korean soccer club Naegohyang Women's FC captured the AFC Women's Champions League title on South Korean soil Saturday, defeating Japan's Tokyo Verdy Beleza 1-0 in the final to become only the second club to win the tournament since its launch in 2024. The match, held in Suwon, Gyeonggi Province, opened with Tokyo Verdy Beleza pressing high up the pitch, while Naegohyang sat deep and looked to counter with long balls. Tokyo Verdy Beleza midfielder Yuzuho Shiokoshi threatened in the 16th mi

- [Casting coup helps K-pop comedy hit the right notes](#) (2026-05-23 07:00)

Before K-pop became the global phenomenon it is today, there was the 1990, the decade that laid the groundwork for Korea's modern pop music industry. That era has found new life. A retro boom is evoking nostalgia among older generations while overwhelming younger audiences with a style that, ironically, feels fresh to them. Opening in theaters June 3, "Wild Sing" taps directly into that trend, blending 1990s music, throwback music videos and broad comedy. What further sets the project apart is i

- [Hanwha turns Korea's industrial rise into global ETF strategy](#) (2026-05-23 07:00)

As the US-China rivalry reshapes global supply chains around security and resilience, global investors are increasingly viewing South Korea as a long-term manufacturing beneficiary rather than simply a China alternative. Against that backdrop, Hanwha Asset Management is pursuing what it calls a "K-ETF export" strategy — packaging Korea's strategic manufacturing sectors into globally listed exchange-traded funds through partnerships with overseas financial platforms. "Korea is moving beyond the l

- ['We eat not just for pleasure but for spiritual practice'](#) (2026-05-23 07:00)

The Ven. Hyebeom pressed her fingertips into a mound of soaked glutinous rice, opening small holes for steam to pass through, then settled a cloth over the bamboo steamer. Buddha's Birthday is on Sunday, and she was preparing the lotus leaf rice often served in Korea's Buddhist temples. "We're making yeonipbap because it's May, Buddha's Birthday is here, and it's one of the most representative Buddhist dishes," she told The Korea Herald. The Ven. Hyebeom of Suwolam in Seongbuk-dong, Seoul, was n

- [K-beauty's next formula: Makeup that works like skincare](#) (2026-05-23 07:00)

The luminous skin promised by elaborate skincare rituals has long been a draw for Korean cosmetics. The newer frontier, perhaps, is makeup that doubles as skincare. Products are now expected to care for the skin as much as they cover it, with heavy foundation yielding to sheer, breathable formulas rich in active ingredients. Demand for skincare-infused complexion products and premakeup preparation categories is rising, and export figures are climbing alongside it. Korean cosmetics exports hit a

- [Absentee ballots readied for local elections](#) (2026-05-23 06:13)

Election officials inspect absentee ballots and campaign materials at the Guro-gu Election Commission in Seoul on Saturday, ahead of mailing them to voters unable to cast their ballots in person for the ninth nationwide local elections. Absentee ballots are sent to voters who registered by May 15 because they are unable to vote in person due to reasons such as mobility impairments. Voters using absentee ballots must mail them back after voting so that they arrive at their district election commi

- [Lee vows to carry on ex-President Roh's legacy at memorial ceremony](#) (2026-05-23 05:41)

President Lee Jae Myung on Saturday vowed to continue the legacy of late former President Roh Moo-hyun by building a nation founded on fairness, inclusion and respect for human dignity. "After you left, so many 'Roh Moo-hyuns' were born and I am one of them," Lee said in his eulogy delivered at a ceremony marking the 17th anniversary of Roh's death held in the southeastern rural village of Bongha, where the late president lived after his retirement. "As president, I feel the immense responsibili

- [Actor Ryoo Seung-bum fined for bus-only lane violations, former agency apologizes](#) (2026-05-23 04:54)

Actor Ryoo Seung-bum's former agency, Y.One Entertainment, apologized Saturday after acknowledging that the actor had violated traffic laws by driving in bus-only lanes while using a company vehicle in 2024. "We paid the fines as soon as we received the notices," Y.One Entertainment said. "There is no excuse. We sincerely apologize for failing to strictly comply with traffic laws." The apology came after entertainment outlet TenAsia reported Friday that Ryoo had been fined multiple times for dri

- [Mongolian man gets suspended sentence for trying to exchange fake yen found at waste site](#) (2026-05-23 04:36)

The Seoul Central District Court sentenced a Mongolian man to six months in prison, suspended for one year, for attempting to exchange 9.4 million won (\$6,200) worth of counterfeit Japanese yen he found at his workplace, local media reported Saturday. The man found 100 fake 10,000 yen bills in November 2025 at a waste disposal company in Namyangju, Gyeonggi Province, where he worked, according to reports. He later attempted to exchange the bills at a currency exchange shop in Jung-gu, central Se

- [Actor Jang Dong-joo deletes account after graphic post sparks concern](#) (2026-05-23 02:40)

Actor Jang Dong-joo sparked concern among fans Friday after posting a graphic video on social media that appeared to show him injuring himself, before later deleting his account. In the post, Jang wrote that he had cut off his finger because he “hated it for making so many promises” he could not keep, adding, “Get a hold of myself. This is the last chance.” It also included an apology for uploading the video, saying he had posted it to “burn the resolution” over what he described as his “failed

- [40,000 people under evacuation orders after a chemical tank leak in Southern California](#) (2026-05-23 02:12)

Authorities in Southern California on Friday were racing to figure out how to prevent the explosion of a storage tank that has been leaking a hazardous chemical used to make plastic parts, as some 40,000 people were under evacuation orders in the area. A storage tank holding between 22,700 and 26,500 liters of methyl methacrylate overheated Thursday, local time, and began venting vapors into the air at an aerospace plastics facility in Garden Grove, a city in Orange County, the county’s fire aut

- [Bill seeks to raise Korea immigration chief to vice ministerial rank](#) (2026-05-23 01:53)

A bill has been introduced at the National Assembly to elevate the head of the Justice Ministry’s Korea Immigration Service to vice ministerial rank, in a move aimed at strengthening Korea’s immigration policy apparatus amid a growing foreign resident population, legal circles said Saturday. The bill, submitted by Democratic Party of Korea Rep. Chae Hyeon-il, seeks to amend the Government Organization Act to create a vice ministerial-level post overseeing immigration and foreign resident affairs

- [SpaceX carries out mostly successful Starship test flight](#) (2026-05-23 01:53)

SpaceX’s Starship spacecraft splashed down into the Indian Ocean Friday after the company performed a mostly successful test flight of the latest version of its enormous rocket. The voyage was not without a few glitches, but SpaceX employees shown on a livestream roared in delight following the trial flight that comes as the firm owned by Elon Musk prepares a potentially record initial public offering. The mammoth rocket blasted off into space at just after 5:30 p.m. local time. The company did

- [8 dead, dozens trapped in China coal mine blast](#) (2026-05-23 01:47)

At least eight people have died and dozens are trapped underground after a gas explosion at a coal mine in northern China, state media reported on Saturday. The blast occurred at 7:29 p.m. Friday, local time, at the Liushenyu coal mine in Shanxi province, according to state news agency Xinhua. A total of 247 workers were underground at the time, of whom 201 had been brought to the surface safely as of 6:00 am on Saturday, Xinhua said. Eight people have been confirmed dead, while 38 remain trapped

- [Pyongyang brands Japan's security overhaul bid to become 'war state'](#) (2026-05-23 01:31)

North Korea has stepped up its criticism of Japan's push to overhaul its key security legislation, denouncing it as "reckless militaristic acts." Pyongyang accused Tokyo of seeking to turn itself into a "war state" in a bid to revive "the Empire of Japan" and said that it "has exploited the good will of the international community to revive militarism," according to an article published by Rodong Sinmun, the official mouthpiece of the ruling Workers' Party of Korea, on Saturday. Pyongyang's late

- [Two-thirds of Samsung union members cast ballots on 1st day of wage vote](#) (2026-05-22 12:53)

Around two-thirds of unionized workers at Samsung Electronics Co. on Friday voted on a tentative wage deal following a last-minute agreement with management that averted a strike planned earlier this week. As of 8:25 p.m., around 66 percent of members of the Samsung Electronics Labor Union, the largest union at the tech giant with 70,850 members, had cast their ballots on the first day of the vote, according to the union. Around 69 percent of the 19,000-member National Samsung Electronics Union

- [Ex-NIS deputy chief denies allegations of delivering message backing Yoon's martial law](#) (2026-05-22 11:21)

A former senior official of South Korea's spy agency denied allegations that he delivered a message to the United States supporting former President Yoon Suk Yeol's failed martial law bid during questioning by a special counsel team Friday. Hong Jang-won, former first deputy director of the National Intelligence Service, is accused of playing a key role in the alleged insurrection, as the NIS allegedly contacted US intelligence agencies after Yoon declared martial law on Dec. 3, 2024, to convey

- [BTS fans create a sea of Korean flags at sold-out Stanford Stadium concert](#) (2026-05-22 11:19)

BTS transformed Stanford Stadium into a sea of Korean flags during its sold-out concerts in California, underscoring the group's global influence as it continues its "Arirang" world tour. The group held three concerts at Stanford Stadium on May 16, 17 and 19, drawing approximately 152,000 fans over the three days. All tickets sold out immediately after going on

sale, prompting the addition of an extra show on May 19, which also quickly sold out. With the three shows, BTS became only the second a

- [Samsung chief discusses potential partnership with Taiwan's top fabless firm](#) (2026-05-22 10:37)

Samsung Electronics Chairman Lee Jae-yong met with the head of MediaTek, Taiwan's leading fabless semiconductor company, earlier this week to discuss partnership, industry sources said Friday. Lee met with Rick Tsai, chief executive officer of MediaTek Inc., in Taiwan on Thursday as part of Samsung's efforts to bolster its foundry business in response to soaring chip demand from the artificial intelligence industry, according to the sources. The meeting was also seen as part of Samsung's efforts

- [Police investigating fake news mocking May 18 democracy uprising](#) (2026-05-22 10:34)

Police said Friday they were investigating fake news posted online mocking the 1980 democracy uprising in the southwestern city of Gwangju by claiming the movement was orchestrated by North Korea. The National Office of Investigation launched the probe after an artificial intelligence-generated newspaper clip dated May 20, 1980, surfaced online with the headline that spies who received instructions from Pyongyang had seized weapons and attacked troops enforcing martial law. On May 18, 1980, citi

- [Civil servant unions join Starbucks boycott over 'Tank Day' event](#) (2026-05-22 10:29)

Civil servant unions have called on their members to boycott Starbucks Korea over a promotional event that evoked painful memories of a brutal military crackdown on the 1980 pro-democracy movement, officials said Friday. The Korean Government Employees' Union sent notices to its branches nationwide Thursday asking its members to boycott the coffee franchise, taking issue with the "Tank Day" event that coincided with the anniversary of the May 18 Gwangju uprising. The marketing campaign, which of

- [Kosdaq soars 5% on public investment fund hopes](#) (2026-05-22 08:14)

South Korea's secondary bourse Kosdaq surged nearly 5 percent on Friday, backed by growing expectations over a public investment fund aimed at fostering strategic industries. The junior bourse closed at 1,161.13, advancing 4.99 percent from the previous session. Foreign investors lifted the index, net buying 702.8 billion won (\$468.5 million), while institutional investors added 288.1 billion won to the rally. Retail investors were the sole net sellers, offloading a net 969.2 billion won. A buy-

- [SM launches monthly concert series with Samsung TV Plus](#) (2026-05-22 08:11)

SM Entertainment is expanding its partnership with Samsung Electronics through a new monthly concert streaming project on Samsung TV Plus. The agency announced Friday that it would launch a new K-pop series called "Monthly SM Concert" in collaboration with Samsung TV Plus, Samsung's ad-supported streaming service. The project is the second collaboration

between the two companies. Last year, Samsung TV Plus drew large attention from global K-popfans with its exclusive livestream of “SMTown Live

- [S. Korea finalizes plan to buy SM-6 missiles for Aegis destroyers](#) (2026-05-22 08:11)

South Korea has finalized a plan to purchase US-made SM-6 long-range surface-to-air missiles for its Aegis destroyers, the state arms procurement agency said Friday. The Defense Acquisition Program Administration said the plan was approved during the 175th meeting of the Defense Project Promotion Committee, the country’s top defense project decision-making body. The long-range naval surface-to-air missile project is aimed at acquiring SM-6 missiles through the US Foreign Military Sales program f

- [K-pop artists to look out for at 2026 American Music Awards](#) (2026-05-22 08:08)

K-pop artists are set to make a major showing at the 52nd American Music Awards, with acts ranging from BTS to Katseye earning nominations across some of the ceremony’s biggest categories. According to the nominations announced on May 14, BTS secured three nominations, including one considered as the ceremony’s top honor — artist of the year — as well as best male K-pop artist and song of the summer, with “Swim,” the lead track from its fifth LP “Arirang” earning a nod in the latter category. It

- [Landmark Supreme Court ruling says tattooing by nondoctors is legal](#) (2026-05-22 08:04)

A landmark ruling by the Supreme Court on Thursday stated that tattoo procedures performed by nonmedical practitioners do not constitute illegal medical practice, overturning a 34-year-old legal precedent that had effectively criminalized tattooing by nondoctors. The Supreme Court’s full bench unanimously overturned lower court rulings that had fined two tattoo artists for violating the Medical Service Act, sending the cases back to lower courts with suggestions to acquit them. “The act of tatto

- [Spotify wants K-pop fans to experience music beyond the app](#) (2026-05-22 07:56)

Spotify outlined its vision for expanding music experiences beyond streaming platforms into offline fan engagement during a press meeting held at Spotify Korea’s office in Seoul on Thursday, ahead of an exclusive live event with Le Sserafim. John Han, head of music at Spotify Korea, said the company aims to connect artists and fans through both online and offline experiences, describing it as a key part of Spotify’s long-term strategy for Korean music globally. “Our mission is always, how do we

- [Inside 'Perfect Crown' controversy: Why its portrayal of Joseon royal rituals sparks outrage in Korea](#) (2026-05-22 07:56)

“Perfect Crown,” one of the biggest K-dramas of the first half of 2026 starring IU and Byeon Woo-seok, is facing mounting backlash over its depiction of royal traditions, with potential repercussions including the repayment of government production funding. The series performed strongly during its broadcast run. According to Nielsen Korea, the final episode,

which aired on May 16, recorded a nationwide rating of 13.8 percent, up 0.3 percentage points from episode 11's 13.5 percent, marking a ser

- [Seoul education chief candidates clash over student rights ordinance](#) (2026-05-22 07:47)

Candidates for Seoul education superintendent clashed over the city's student rights ordinance in Friday's televised debate, ahead of the June 3 local elections. Conservative candidate Cho Chun-hyuk pledged to scrap what he said was "one-sided" ordinance, while liberal candidates, including incumbent Seoul education superintendent Jung Geun-sik, defended the Seoul Metropolitan Office's decision to protect it. Cho said it places too much emphasis on students' rights without sufficiently addressin

- [S. Korea to develop interceptor drones against exploding drone threats: DAPA](#) (2026-05-22 07:42)

South Korea has started developing interceptor drones designed to collide directly with incoming medium-sized exploding drones, the state arms procurement agency said Friday. The Defense Acquisition Program Administration said the project is aimed at countering medium-sized exploding drones that are changing the nature of modern warfare. The rapid demonstration project is designed to quickly apply civilian technologies to the defense sector. Under the program, prototypes of weapons systems whose

- [Korea's SpaceX-linked shares surge ahead of blockbuster IPO](#) (2026-05-22 07:21)

With Elon Musk's rocket company SpaceX set to make its record-breaking stock market debut next month, South Korean stocks tied to the firm have rallied sharply on expectations surrounding what could become the world's largest initial public offering. SpaceX on Wednesday disclosed its filing for an IPO with the US Securities and Exchange Commission. Under the schedule, the listing could come as early as June 12. The clearer timeline for the IPO has sent Korean stocks linked to the rocket company

- [Appellate court grants leniency to teens who harassed classmate for years](#) (2026-05-22 07:18)

Teens convicted of years of violence and sexual harassment against a classmate were ordered to be tried under the Juvenile Act, after an appellate court on Friday overturned an earlier ruling that sentenced them to prison. The Daejeon High Court reversed the lower court's decision to jail the three defendants, saying the 17-year-olds should be subject to protective detention instead of criminal punishment. It sided with the defendants' claim that the prison term is overly severe. The defendants

- [EcoPro Innovation wins first direct lithium supply deal with automaker](#) (2026-05-22 06:54)

South Korean battery materials maker EcoPro Innovation said Friday it had signed a four-year deal to supply lithium hydroxide to a global automaker, enough to power roughly 200,000 vehicles. The deal, covering 12,000 metric tons of lithium hydroxide, marks the first time the

company has secured a direct supply contract with an automaker rather than a battery cellmaker. Financial terms and the name of the automaker were not disclosed due to a confidentiality agreement. The company previously sig

- [8 out of 10 diabetics in their 30s also have obesity: study](#) (2026-05-22 06:52)

Over half of adults with diabetes in Korea have obesity, a recent study by local scholars showed on Friday, with cases particularly high among patients in their 30s and 40s. Some 81 percent of people with diabetes in their 30s and 76.4 percent of diabetics in their 40s were found to be obese, in the study led by Park Se-eun, a professor of endocrinology and metabolism at the Kangbuk Samsung Hospital. Overall, 52.4 percent of the patients with diabetes were obese. The study noted that the tendenc

- [CICI forum examines what makes K-content globally competitive](#) (2026-05-22 06:29)

The Korea Image Communication Institute (CICI) held the 17th Culture Communication Forum on Thursday, exploring the future of Korean cultural content and its competitiveness. Held at the residence of the Italian ambassador in Seoul, the forum brought together some 50 leading cultural figures and business leaders. Italian ambassador to Korea Emilia Gatto described the Italian ambassador's residence as a "place where Italy and Korea meet," adding that the residence was "your home" for the evening.

- [KBO League hits 4m fans in record time](#) (2026-05-22 06:04)

South Korea's professional baseball league surpassed 4 million spectators for the 2026 season in just 222 games, the fewest ever needed to reach the milestone. The Korea Baseball Organization said Thursday that a combined 68,838 fans attended games at five ballparks across the country, bringing the season's cumulative attendance to 4,035,771. The league reached the 4 million mark eight games faster than last year, when it took 230 games to hit the milestone. The sight of packed stands at ballpar

- [S. Korea says actions will be taken if Gaza activists' abuse claims are verified](#) (2026-05-22 05:52)

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Friday said that Seoul will take measures in a corresponding manner if claims of abuse by South Korean activists who were held by Israel are verified. "The government is taking the testimony of our citizens regarding beatings by the Israeli military very seriously," Seoul's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement. The ministry said that the "seriousness" with which Seoul is taking the claims has been conveyed to Israel, and that that it would "take corr

- [Samsung wage deal faces backlash over chip-heavy bonus plan](#) (2026-05-22 05:43)

Samsung Electronics' tentative 2026 wage agreement is facing backlash from employees in its consumer electronics and mobile division. Union leaders accuse management of shaping the deal around the company's booming memory chip business while leaving finished-product

workers behind. The Suwon branch of the National Samsung Electronics Union and Samsung Electronics Donghaeng Labor Union, whose members are largely from the Device eXperiencedivision, held a press conference Friday outside Samsung D

- [Coupang Eats' free delivery promotion fuels dominance concerns](#) (2026-05-22 05:42)

Coupang Eats' decision to temporarily extend free delivery to non-paying users has met with considerable pushback, with critics warning that small merchants will ultimately foot the bill. The company announced Thursday that general users would receive free delivery on every order through August, opening up a benefit previously reserved for subscribers to Coupang's Wow membership program. Coupang Eats framed the campaign as a response to elevated inflation and fuel prices, and as a way to help re

- [Lee, ILO chief discuss S. Korea's global AI hub initiative](#) (2026-05-22 05:33)

President Lee Jae Myung and International Labor Organization Director-General Gilbert Hounghbo held talks at Cheong Wa Dae in Seoul on Friday to discuss the ILO's participation in South Korea's global artificial intelligence hub initiative. During the talks, Lee welcomed the ILO's decision to join Seoul's initiative and expressed his anticipation for the ILO's role in addressing the global trend of AI taking over human jobs. Lee also expressed his appreciation for the ILO's role in improving labo

- [Posco International to build US rare earth refining plant with ReElement](#) (2026-05-22 05:17)

Posco International said Friday it would build a rare earth separation and refining facility in the US through a joint venture with US-based ReElement Technologies. The trading and energy arm of Posco Group said it signed an agreement with US rare earth refining company ReElement Technologies in Washington on Thursday to establish a joint venture for the new facility. The signing ceremony was attended by Posco International CEO Lee Kye-in, Mark Jensen, CEO of ReElement and senior officials from

- [Vice FM discusses alliance, strategic cooperation in Washington visit](#) (2026-05-22 05:06)

South Korean Vice Foreign Minister Park Yoon-joo met with US congressional and policy figures during a visit to Washington this week, discussing the bilateral alliance, the Korean Peninsula and regional security issues, Seoul's Foreign Ministry said Friday. According to the ministry, Park held talks with senior figures from the Hudson Institute, including President and CEO John Walters, on Monday, before meeting Rep. Young Kim on Wednesday. During the meetings, Park explained that Seoul and Wash

- [South Korea, US to begin enrichment, nuclear submarine talks in June](#) (2026-05-22 05:06)

A US delegation will visit South Korea in the coming weeks to launch security consultations on uranium enrichment, spent fuel reprocessing and nuclear-powered submarines under the Korea-US Joint Fact Sheet agreed to by the two countries' leaders last year, Seoul's Foreign

Ministry said Friday. Vice Foreign Minister Park Yoon-joo met US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Allison Hooker in Washington on Wednesday, where the two sides discussed the overall Korea-US relationship, issues

- [Starbucks boycott spreads to schools as educators urge stronger history lessons](#) (2026-05-22 04:43)

Boycotts of Starbucks Korea are spreading to the education sector after the coffee chain came under fire for a “Tank Day” tumbler promotion launched Monday, which critics said insulted victims of the May 18 Gwangju Democratic Uprising. According to education circles Friday, the Korean Federation of Teachers’ Unions recently received multiple inquiries from teachers about canceling or refunding Starbucks gift cards received as Teachers’ Day gifts. The Gwangju branch of the Korean Teachers and Edu

- [Man arrested for threats against Starbucks customers, as 'Tank Day' controversy grows](#) (2026-05-22 04:39)

A man in his 60s is under investigation for public intimidation, police said Friday, after he posted a threatening message against people using Starbucks products. The man on Wednesday posted that he will “kill anyone carrying around Starbucks coffee,” according to the Uijeongbu Police Station. He told police that he did not actually intend to kill anyone when he wrote the post. The incident is part of a widespread boycott of Starbucks Korea, which sparked outrage Monday with its “Tank Day” mark

- [Hearts2Hearts logs 100m views for 1st time](#) (2026-05-22 04:18)

Hearts2Hearts garnered 100 million views on YouTube with the music video for “Rude!,” said label SM Entertainment on Friday. This is the first time the eight-member act has reached the milestone. The group performed the digital single for the first time on stage at its fan meetup in Seoul. The upbeat dance tune, released in February, ranked No. 2 on Melon’s Top 100 and earned the group first place on television music chart shows five times. Hearts2Hearts also released a remix and sang the song i

- [Samsung wage vote begins amid chip bonus divide](#) (2026-05-22 04:16)

Unionized workers at Samsung Electronics will begin voting Friday on a proposed wage agreement that includes a new chip performance bonus scheme and a 6.2 percent average pay raise, as a widening bonus gap fuels discontent among employees outside the company’s core memory business. The electronic vote will run from 2 p.m. Friday through 10 a.m. on May 27. Eligible voters are union members registered as of 2 p.m. Thursday. The agreement will become binding if more than half of the eligible member

- [Le Sserafim says shared fears strengthened group bond](#) (2026-05-22 04:00)

Le Sserafim says its newest album may be centered on fear, but the message behind it ultimately came from learning how to face those emotions together. Ahead of the release of its

second LP “Pureflow Pt. 1,” members Yunjin, Sakura, Kazuha and Eunhae sat down for around interview Monday at a cafe in Seongdong-gu, eastern Seoul, where they reflected on the pressures they experienced while growing as a group and how those fears ultimately brought them closer together. Leader Chaewon was unable to

- [Stray Kids’ Seungmin to miss New York gig due to ankle injury](#) (2026-05-22 02:51)

Seungmin of Stray Kids will not be able to perform at The Governors Ball in New York on June 6, label JYP Entertainment said Thursday. Although he has been treated for pain in his left ankle, he was diagnosed with a stress fracture, it explained. Due to the condition that prevents him from taking long flights, the idol will have to miss out on the gig. Stray Kids are still set to take the stage at the music event on the second day as a headlining artist, but will do so with seven members. Separat

- [The Guardian corrects Dokdo error](#) (2026-05-22 02:38)

The Guardian corrected an article that had mistakenly stated that Dokdo was administered by Japan, following complaints from Koreans in Britain. The article, called “Full steam ahead: How ‘navy curry’ conquered hearts in Japan,” at first gave the wrong information about who controls the islets. The correction was made Wednesday, the same day the article was published. “An earlier version said that the Takeshima islands were administered by Japan but claimed by South Korea,” the correction note s

- [Samsung, union agree to drop legal complaints after strike dispute](#) (2026-05-22 02:35)

Samsung Electronics and its labor union have agreed to withdraw legal complaints related to a recent strike, including allegations that employees drew up and circulated a list of colleagues who did not join the walkout. The agreement was reflected in minutes from a labor-management meeting on performance-based pay, according to industry sources Friday. The document was prepared after the two sides reached a tentative agreement Wednesday on Samsung’ s incentive scheme, setting out details of the d

- [Riize to return with second EP ‘II’ in June](#) (2026-05-22 02:34)

Riize is set to return next month with its second EP ‘II.’ The six-track EP, led by the lead track “Do Your Dance,” will be released on June 15, SM Entertainment said Friday. Preorders for the album opened the same day through online and offline music retailers. The upcoming release follows Riize’ s November 2025 single “Fame.” According to the agency, “II” is intended to capture the group “in its most direct and intuitive form,” reflecting the inspiration and experiences Riize has accumulated th

- [Arte Museum launches immersive BTS exhibition inspired by 'Arirang'](#) (2026-05-22 02:23)

Arte Museum in Las Vegas has opened “BTS The City Arirang” as an official partner of the K pop company Hybe’ s project “The City,” a citywide fan experience program connecting concerts and events across cities, coinciding with BTS tour. The immersive art museum,

operated by D' strict, unveiled the exhibition "Arte Museum X BTS The City Arirang" on Wednesday ahead of BTS concert in the city Saturday. The exhibition centers on BTS' fifth studio album "Arirang," which topped both the Billboard 200 and

- [Samsung Electronics shares top W300,000 for first time as strike put on hold](#) (2026-05-22 02:21)

Shares of Samsung Electronics surpassed 300,000 won (\$198) in intraday trading for the first time Friday, marking a new milestone as the labor union's walkout has been suspended. Samsung Electronics started trading at 300,000 won in regular trading on the day, rising to as high as 300,500 won. It later pared the gains on profit-taking and stood at 294,000 won as of 10:40 a.m. Though the memory chip giant touched the 300,000 won mark in pre-trading Thursday, following the last-minute tentative la

- [South Korea's cosmetics trade surplus tops \\$10 bln for 1st time in 2025](#) (2026-05-22 02:20)

South Korea's trade surplus in cosmetic products exceeded \$10 billion for the first time last year, government data showed Friday, marking a significant milestone for the country's K-beauty industry. The trade surplus in cosmetics rose 13.5 percent from a year earlier to reach \$10.1 billion in 2025, the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety said in a press release. South Korea first posted a cosmetics trade surplus in 2012, at \$90 million, and the figure has grown rapidly ever since, rising from \$6.6

- [Newborn assaulted by 9-year-old while mom left the room for 3 minutes](#) (2026-05-22 02:10)

Footage of an assault against a 70-day-old baby by a 9-year-old boy has sent shock waves across the nation. According to the mother's online post accompanying the video, the incident took place while her oldest son and his friend were visiting her home. The son's friend was momentarily left alone with the baby inside a room, while the mother went to the bathroom about three minutes. The mother later realized that the baby was lying in a different place from where she left it, and that it appear

- [Mamamoo to drop single next month before world tour](#) (2026-05-22 02:04)

Mamamoo's special single, "4ward," will be released on June 4, the group's agency RBW Entertainment confirmed Friday. The single will be the first new material to feature all four members in more than 3 1/2 years, and the timetable poster for the digital single underlined the reunion saying: "Four as one. Moving 4ward." Now in its 12th year the group will follow up its new release with an international tour bearing the same title. The quartet will kick it off in Seoul in June with a three-night

- [Daewoo E&C; chair awarded for promoting Korea-Africa ties](#) (2026-05-22 01:40)

Daewoo Engineering & Construction Chairman Jung Won-ju received the 2026 Korea-Africa Contribution Award at Africa Day in Seoul on Wednesday, in recognition of his efforts to bolster

industrial and cultural cooperation with African nations. Moroccan Ambassador to South Korea Chafik Rachadi presented the award at the event, jointly hosted by the African Group of Ambassadors, the Korea-Africa Foundation and The Korea Herald, citing Jung' s “visionary leadership and unwavering commitment” to Korea-A

- [Actress Kim Gyu-ri injured in burglary](#) (2026-05-22 01:27)

South Korean police officers said Thursday they had arrested a man in his 40s who broke into actress Kim Gyu-ri's home and assaulted her the previous day. The suspect is accused of bodily injury resulting from robbery for the crime he committed at around 9 p.m. on Wednesday, according to the Seoul Jongno Police Station. The suspect broke into Kim's home in Seoul and assaulted the 46-year-old actress and her acquaintance, demanding money. The two victims escaped while the suspect was distracted,

- [Ateez hails return with 14th EP](#) (2026-05-22 01:18)

Ateez teased June comeback with short clip for 14th EP on Friday, released through agency KQ Entertainment. The sliver of trailer for mini album, “Golden Hour: Part 5,” showed “sopro,” a ruby-colored magical artifact that is featured throughout the group' s “Golden Hour” series, captured the eyes constantly changing shapes while a voice chanted “Be doubtful” in Korean. The upcoming set rolls out on June 26, about four months since the previous EP, which sat at No. 3 on Billboard 200. Two days aft

- [Govt. to supply 90,000 rental homes in greater Seoul area for youths by 2027](#) (2026-05-22 01:08)

Finance Minister Koo Yun-cheol said Friday the government plans to supply some 90,000 rental housing units for young people in the greater Seoul area by 2027, as part of broader efforts to stabilize the housing market and improve living conditions for youths. "The government is seeking various ways to expand non-apartment housing, which is one of the key pillars of the public housing supply program," Koo said during a meeting of ministers related to real estate policy. "We plan to supply 90,000

- [2 S. Koreans seized on Gaza-bound aid vessels return home](#) (2026-05-22 00:37)

Two South Korean activists returned home Friday after being released by Israeli forces that had captured them aboard aid vessels bound for the Gaza Strip. Kim Ah-hyun was aboard an aid vessel seized by Israeli forces in waters off the Gaza Strip, while Kim Dong-hyeon's ship was intercepted near Cyprus -- both earlier this week. They were released Wednesday and flew home together, arriving at Incheon International Airport, west of Seoul, at 6:24 a.m. "Many people are dying not only from bombings,

- [Seoul shares open higher on overnight Wall Street gains amid Iran hope](#) (2026-05-22 00:28)

South Korean stocks opened slightly higher Friday following the previous session's sharp rise, tracking overnight gains on Wall Street amid rising hopes for a diplomatic resolution to the conflict between the United States and Iran. After starting 0.74 percent higher, the benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index trimmed earlier gains to edge up 2.71 points, or 0.03 percent, to 7,818.3 as of 9:15 a.m. Overnight, US stocks advanced after Iran said the latest proposal from the US partly bridged

- [Consumer sentiment rises at sharpest pace in 1 yr in May on robust chip exports, stock rally](#) (2026-05-22 00:13)

Consumer sentiment rose at the fastest pace in about a year in May, driven by robust semiconductor exports and the stock market rally, the central bank said Friday. The composite consumer sentiment index stood at 106.1 this month, up 6.9 points from April and surpassing the 100-point mark for the first time in two months, according to a survey by the Bank of Korea. The reading had fallen for two straight months in March and April. The latest figure also marked the sharpest on-month increase since

- [Trump says US will send additional 5,000 troops to Poland](#) (2026-05-22 00:11)

US President Donald Trump said Thursday the United States will send 5,000 more troops to Poland, after concerns arose over reports that the Pentagon had canceled plans to deploy 4,000 rotational troops to the European country. Trump made the announcement in a social media post, citing his relationship with Polish President Karol Nawrocki. "Based on the successful Election of the now President of Poland, Karol Nawrocki, who I was proud to Endorse, and our relationship with him, I am pleased to an

- [From saints to 'girl crushes': The evolution of K-drama heroines](#) (2026-05-22 00:00)

The ideal K-drama heroine was once poor, kind and endlessly forgiving — a woman who endured hardship with quiet resilience before eventually melting the heart of a cold, emotionally distant male lead through sheer devotion. Today, she might ruin your life over the course of 12 episodes. From the self-sacrificing melodrama heroines of the 1980s to the unapologetically driven women dominating screens today, Korean television's female protagonists have undergone a striking transformation over the p

- [Packages and promotions](#) (2026-05-22 00:00)

Inspire Entertainment Resort launches summer playcation packages Inspire Entertainment Resort is rolling out three summer packages ahead of peak travel season, each centered on a four-hour pass to Splash Bay, its indoor waterpark. The two-night basic package, with rates starting at 709,500 won, bundles 100,000 won in dining credit usable across 11 resort restaurants with two 10,000-won Olive Young vouchers. The two-night Gourmet option, with rates starting at 753,500 won, swaps the shopping perk

- [Festivals, sights across Korea](#) (2026-05-22 00:00)

Everland's Rose Festival opened Friday at the amusement park in Yongin, Gyeonggi Province, with 3 million roses across 720 varieties in bloom through June 21. This year's theme reimagines the Rose Garden as a European-style hotel garden. Guests pass through a hotel gate at the entrance and follow a path that ends at the Rose Castle, decorated with vintage luggage and drawings by artist Daria Song. A 3-meter chandelier anchors the central Purple Rose Zone, glowing alongside garden lighting after

- [2 S. Korean flotilla activists return from Israel](#) (2026-05-21 23:07)

Two South Korean activists from Gaza-bound flotillas returned to Incheon Airport on Friday morning, a day after Cheong Wa Dae announced that they had been released from Israel. Kim Ah-hyun, was aboard a Gaza-bound flotilla named Lina Al Nabulsi that was intercepted by Israeli forces in international waters Tuesday, and Kim Dong-hyeon, whose vessel, Kyriakos X, was seized on Monday. They were among an estimated 430 activists from countries including Spain, Ireland, Turkey, France and Indonesia, w

- [No longer fearless, Le Sserafim comes back stronger](#) (2026-05-21 23:00)

Le Sserafim is returning with its second LP, this time revisiting the very idea that defined its debut. The girl group releases its second LP “Pureflow Pt. 1” on Friday. Led by the lead track “Boompala,” the 11-track album captures the group’s shift from declaring itself “fearless” to acknowledging fear as part of growth. Ahead of the album's release, four members held a round interview on Monday at a cafe in Seongdong-gu, eastern Seoul. Leader Chaewon was unable to attend, as she is recovering

- [\[Lee Byung-jong\] Michael Jackson, MTV and K-pop](#) (2026-05-21 20:30)

While watching the newly released movie about Michael Jackson last week, I began to wonder whether the pop superstar of the 80s is in any way connected to the global success of K-pop today. Perhaps not directly. But indirectly, I could clearly see connections linking the two sensational phenomena of yesterday and today — MTV and the music video format that the medium introduced to the world. MTV, founded in 1981 on the back of the rise of cable TV, fundamentally changed the way people enjoy musi

- [KBO tops 4 mln fans in fewest games](#) (2026-05-21 12:57)

The South Korean baseball league reached 4 million fans at the fastest pace in its history on Thursday. The Korea Baseball Organization announced that the attendance for the season amounted to 4,035,771 through 222 games played, with five games on the slate for Thursday drawing a combined 68,838 fans. The previous record was the 230 games it took to reach 4 million in 2025. The KBO set a single-season record last year with just over 12.3 million fans and it remains on pace to break that mark thi

- [High school teacher who reported school misconduct found dead](#) (2026-05-21 11:16)

A high school teacher in his 50s who had reportedly exposed corruption and misconduct at his school was found dead after falling from an apartment building in Icheon, Gyeonggi Province, police said Wednesday. According to police and local reports, the teacher, surnamed Ahn, was found dead near the entrance of an apartment complex in Janghowon-eup at around 2 p.m. on Wednesday. He lived on the 13th floor of the building. Police said no suicide note was found at the scene. Based on CCTV footage an

- [Korea-US Alliance Foundation holds joint memorial to commemorate Korean War veterans in Paju](#) (2026-05-21 10:56)

The Korea-US Alliance Foundation on Thursday held a joint memorial in the border city of Paju in commemoration of the war veterans who fought during the 1950-53 Korean War, officials said. The event, which took place at the US military memorial at Imjingak in Paju, north of Seoul, was attended by some 150 figures, including Veterans Minister Kwon Oh-eul and Deputy National Security Adviser Kim Hyun-jong. "The South Korea-US alliance is not just a military one, but a blood-forged alliance that ha

- [Bears extend deal with temporary injury replacement Benjamin](#) (2026-05-21 10:56)

The Doosan Bears announced Thursday they have extended their contract with temporary injury replacement pitcher Wes Benjamin. Benjamin agreed to a new six-week deal, which runs through July 1, at \$50,000, the Bears said. The Bears gave Benjamin his first six-week contract on April 6, asking the American left-hander to fill in for injured starter Chris Flexen. Since 2024, the Korea Baseball Organization has been allowing teams to sign short-term replacements for foreign players who are sidelined

- [Gov't freezes price caps on fuel products for 4th straight time](#) (2026-05-21 10:56)

The government froze the price ceilings on fuel products for the fourth consecutive time Thursday, amid lessening volatility in global crude prices and a relatively stable supply of oil entering the country. Maximum prices for regular gasoline, diesel and kerosene supplied to gas stations by local oil refineries will remain unchanged at 1,934 won (\$1.3), 1,923 won and 1,530 won per liter, respectively, for the next two weeks, according to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Resources. It marks t

- [Interior minister expresses 'deep regret' over Starbucks Korea's 'Tank Day' campaign, vows boycott](#) (2026-05-21 10:55)

Interior Minister Yun Ho-jung on Thursday said he will rule out using the South Korean operator of Starbucks in future government events, after the coffee chain came under fire for an inappropriate marketing campaign associated with a bloody military crackdown on a pro-democracy movement in 1980. Yun made the remarks in a post uploaded on X, formerly Twitter, saying he expresses "deep regret" over the recent "ahistorical" action by Starbucks Korea on the anniversary of the May 18 Gwangju uprising

- [Industry minister discusses expanding economic cooperation with Kyrgyzstan](#) (2026-05-21 10:55)

Industry Minister Kim Jung-kwan met with his Kyrgyz counterpart Thursday to discuss ways to expand trade and critical minerals cooperation between South Korea and the Central Asian country, Kim's office said. Kim and Kyrgyzstan's Minister of Economy and Commerce Bakyt Sydykov agreed on the need to expand bilateral trade by diversifying trade items during their meeting in Seoul, commending that the two countries traded \$3.5 billion worth of goods last year, which marks the highest figure since th

- [Seoul police agency takes over probe into Shinsegae chief over Starbucks campaign](#) (2026-05-21 09:04)

Shinsegae Group Chairman Chung Yong-jin, whose group is Starbucks Korea's largest shareholder, will be investigated directly by the Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency after a civic group filed a complaint over the coffee chain's controversial "Tank Day" tumbler promotion. The Seoul police agency reassigned the case involving Chung and former Starbucks Korea CEO Son Jeong-hyun to the public crime investigation unit under its metropolitan investigation division, according to Yonhap News Agency. The

- [After 11 years, Monsta X's Shownu and Hyungwon still seek growth onstage](#) (2026-05-21 09:00)

Beyond the release of their unit's second EP "Love Me," Monsta X members Shownu and Hyungwon are reflecting on what it means to continue performing together 11 years into their career. The release arrives as Monsta X marks its 11th anniversary this year, with the group preparing to continue its world tour, "The X: Nexus." Looking back, both members said their approach to music and performance has naturally changed over time. "Sometimes I feel more relaxed than before when it comes to performing

- [SK On completes BlueOval SK split with Ford](#) (2026-05-21 08:51)

SK On, the battery manufacturing unit of SK Group, said Thursday it has completed the dissolution of its US joint venture with Ford Motor, taking full control of the previously co-operated BlueOval SK battery plant in Tennessee. SK On said it has finalized the restructuring and now independently operates the facility, which was renamed from BlueOval SK to SK On Tennessee. The restructuring comes five months after the two companies announced plans to end their three-year joint operation of BlueOv

- [\[단독\] 삼성·닉스 단일종목 레버리지 상품 2만원에 출시](#) (2026-05-21 08:50)

삼성전자와 SK하이닉스(삼성·닉스) 단일종목 레버리지 상품이 오는 27일 상장을 앞둔 가운데, 시초가 2만원으로 책정됐다. 국내 최초 첫 개별종목 레버리지 상품 출시로 본주 가격 대비 최대 97분의 1 가격으로 나올 예정이다. 21일 금융투자업계에 따르면 최근 한국거래소는 자산운용사들이 제시한 삼성전자·SK하이닉스 단일종목 레버리지 상품의 기준가격 2만원 안을 최종 승인했다. 금융감독원이 상품 보수 가격을 심사하지만, 초기 상장가는 운용사가 정하고 거래소가 승인하는 구조다. 일

반적으로 국내 ETF 시장에서는 레버리지·인버스 상품을 제외한 신규 상장 ETF의 기준가격(NAV)이 1좌당 1만원으로 설정된다. 이에 따라 상장 첫 거래일 시초 기준가격도 통상 1만원 수준에서 형성된다. 다만 이번 상품은 단일종목 레버리지 상품인 만큼, 운용사들이 초기 상장 가격을 2만원대로 책정한 것으로 풀이된다. 상장가 2만원은 기초 주가와 비교하면 매우 낮다. 삼성전자는 약 30만 원 수준에서 거래되고

- [Samsung' s hefty bonus deal sparks backlash online](#) (2026-05-21 08:45)

News that Samsung Electronics' management and labor unions agreed to a compensation plan linking bonuses to over 10 percent of business profits prompted significant online backlash Thursday. Under the agreement, employees in Samsung' s semiconductor division, known as DS, could receive performance bonuses as high as 600 million won (\$398,000) before taxes this year, based on an annual salary of 100 million won. As reports of the deal circulated online, reactions ranged from admiration to resentment

- [Cheap entry, high risk: Leveraged Samsung, SK hynix ETFs to debut at W20,000](#) (2026-05-21 08:36)

Leveraged products tied to Samsung Electronics and SK hynix will debut at an initial listing price of 20,000 won (\$13.30), investment banking industry sources said Thursday, setting the entry point far below the underlying chip stocks as Korea prepares to launch its first leveraged single-stock products. The Korea Exchange recently approved asset managers' proposed listing price ahead of the products' scheduled debut on May 27, according to sources. Unlike management fee approvals overseen by th

- [Ex-spy chief gets 18 months for perjury over Yoon's martial law](#) (2026-05-21 08:31)

The Seoul Central District Court on Wednesday sentenced former National Intelligence Service chief Cho Tae-yong to 18 months in prison, finding him partially guilty of giving false testimony to the National Assembly and creating false official documents in the aftermath of former President Yoon Suk Yeol' s 2024 martial law declaration. The special counsel had sought seven years in prison for Cho, accusing him of perjury before the National Assembly and failing to report the matter to lawmakers de

- [\[인터뷰\] 베니스서 만난 단색화 거장 이우환 'AI 시대 예술, 중요한 건 과정... 무엇보다 만남'](#) (2026-05-21 08:21)

(베니스=코리아헤럴드 박윤아 기자) 흰 캔버스 위를 가로지르는 거대한 붓질 하나가 공간의 공기를 단숨에 바꿔 놓는다. 절제된 선은 금방이라도 끊어질 듯한 긴장감을 품으면서도, 이상하리만치 고요한 조화를 만들어낸다. 또 다른 전시 공간에서는 차가운 돌과 철판이 서로를 마주한 채 아무 말 없이 서 있다. 침묵 속의 두 물성은 밀어내고 끌어당기기를 반복하며 묘한 울림을 남긴다. 한국 단색화의 거장 이우환의 작품이 지닌 마법 같은 힘이다. 언뜻 그의 작업은 미니멀하고 단순해 보인다. 그러나 베니스에서 우연히 만난 구순의 작가는 그 단순함이야말로 수없이 반복한 몸의 움직임과 긴 시간의 사유 끝에 겨우 도달할 수 있는 것이라고 말했다. "(회화 작업에서는) 힘을 조절하는 것이 중요합니다. 단순해 보여도 그것은 엄청난 연습 끝에 나오는 거예요. 돌 하나를 옮기는 것도 재료를 제대로

이해하면 자신만의 다루는 방식이 생깁니다." 5월 8일 아침 베니스 해안 산책로 리바 델리 스키아보니를 산책하던 작

- [Frieze House Seoul launches summer relay exhibition series for Korean contemporary art](#) (2026-05-21 08:19)

Frieze House Seoul, Frieze's permanent exhibition venue in Seoul, will launch a new relay exhibition series to highlight the breadth of Korea's contemporary art scene. The "Summer Sparks" exhibition program will run from May 28 through July 22, bringing together 15 Korean galleries across three consecutive rounds of exhibitions held throughout the venue's five exhibition spaces at Frieze House Seoul. The series unfolds through three chapters — "Summer Sparks I: Impulse," "Summer Sparks II: Ignit

- [Hybe x Geffen's final Saint Satine member Sakura Tobi reflects on whirlwind debut journey](#) (2026-05-21 08:19)

A 16-year-old girl from a small town in Toyama, Japan, is preparing to step onto the global stage after beating odds of 14,000-to-1 through Hybe and Geffen Records' audition program "World Scout: The Final Piece." Sakura Tobi, who was selected as the final member of the upcoming four-member girl group Saint Satine, is set to debut later this year alongside Emily, Lexie and Samara — trainees previously introduced through "The Debut: Dream Academy," the audition program that produced global girl g

- [BTS to livestream Busan concert in theaters worldwide](#) (2026-05-21 08:19)

BTS' upcoming Busan concert will be broadcast live in movie theaters around the world through a global live viewing event on June 13, Big Hit Music announced Thursday. According to the group's agency, the second day of BTS' "Arirang" performances in Busan will be livestreamed, allowing fans around the world to experience the performance in real time through large cinema screens and immersive sound systems. The live viewing event will take place in some 3,800 theaters across more than 80 countrie

- [Police probe conclude Kim Soo-hyun falsely accused of dating Kim Sae-ron as minor: report](#) (2026-05-21 08:15)

Accusations raised by a YouTube channel against actor Kim Soo-hyun that he dated late actress Kim Sae-ron while she was a minor were based on manipulated evidence, including altered KakaoTalk messages and an AI-generated voice recording, according to police documents reviewed by local media Thursday. JoongAng Ilbo cited police documents from Seoul Gangnam Police Station's investigation into Kim Se-ui, head of the YouTube channel HoverLab, also known as Garo Sero Institute. In the documents, inve

- [Seoul shares rally over 8% on tech gains after Samsung wage deal, Nvidia outlook; won rises](#) (2026-05-21 07:05)

South Korean stocks spiked more than 8 percent Thursday on tech gains, after Samsung Electronics averted a strike and strong earnings from Nvidia, along with optimism over its robotics business outlook, boosted investor sentiment. The local currency gained ground against the US dollar. The benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index gained 606.64 points, or 8.42 percent, to close at 7,815.59. after rising as high as 7,819.23. The index opened sharply higher, tracking overnight gains on Wall Stre

- [Furyk, Bradley join US Presidents Cup staff](#) (2026-05-21 06:46)

Jim Furyk and Keegan Bradley have been appointed assistant captains for the 2026 Presidents Cup US team. US team captain Brandt Snedeker announced on Tuesday that Furyk and Bradley would serve as his vice captains. Furyk captained the US team to victory at the 2024 Presidents Cup and is also set to captain the American side at the 2027 Ryder Cup against Europe. He is well known for his distinctive "figure-eight swing." A veteran golfer, Furyk has won 17 titles on the PGA Tour and competes on the

- [Sound trucks, banners and colored jackets: election campaigns kick off](#) (2026-05-21 06:27)

South Korea shifted into election mode Thursday, with candidates and campaigners permitted to use microphones and sound trucks for two weeks. From Thursday until June 2, a day before the local election, eligible candidates and campaigners may use microphones and operate sound trucks for campaigning in open spaces from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., according to election authorities. Screens on the trucks may remain on until 11 p.m., but loudspeakers are restricted from 9 p.m. Campaigning in South Korea is re

- [Samsung deal ignites bonus pressure across industries](#) (2026-05-21 06:25)

The last-minute agreement between Samsung Electronics and its labor union may have averted a potentially crippling strike at the world's largest memory chipmaker, but it could set off a new wave of labor demands across Korea's major corporate sector. The tentative wage deal, reached less than an hour before an industrial action was due to begin on Thursday, includes a provision to allocate a fixed portion of Samsung Electronics' chip performance toward employee bonuses. Analysts warn that the la

- [A decade after Gangnam murder, women ask: What has changed?](#) (2026-05-21 06:20)

On May 5, a 16-year-old girl walking home alone in Gwangju was fatally stabbed by a man she had never met. The suspect, identified as a 23-year-old man, had allegedly prepared a weapon intending to kill a woman who had rejected him romantically. After failing to find her, he wandered the streets before targeting the teenage girl, following her for more than a kilometer before attacking her in an alley. The attack came almost exactly 10 years after the 2016 Gangnam Station murder, one of the coun

- [Samsung chip bonus breakdown: How new payout formula works](#) (2026-05-21 06:13)

Samsung Electronics' memory-chip employees could receive close to 600 million won (\$398,900) each in combined incentives this year, while colleagues in loss-making chip units may receive less than a third of that amount. The gap is built into the bonus formula at the center of Samsung's tentative labor deal, which creates a floor for all semiconductor employees but lets memory business staff earn far more because the biggest portion of a workers' bonus is tied to the performance of the business

- [‘Tank Day’ tumbler promo pulls Starbucks Korea into ideological fight](#) (2026-05-21 06:13)

Starbucks Korea's canceled "Tank Day" tumbler promotion has turned into a political firestorm, after far-right internet users began posting memes defending the coffee chain and mocking the country's pro-democracy movement. The backlash began after Starbucks Korea unveiled a tumbler campaign Monday using the phrases "Tank Day" and "Slam on the desk!" The wording appeared on the anniversary of the May 18, 1980, Gwangju Democratic Uprising and was widely criticized for echoing two of the most painful

- [Kospi surges 8% as Samsung averts strike](#) (2026-05-21 06:13)

The South Korean benchmark Kospi surged over 8 percent on Thursday, driven by improved investor sentiment after the country's memory chip giant Samsung Electronics averted a strike through a last-minute labor agreement. The Kospi closed 8.42 percent higher at 7,815.59, according to the Korea Exchange. The index opened 3.85 percent higher as investors priced in a labor truce at Samsung Electronics, the market's biggest heavyweight. An overnight rebound in US semiconductor stocks following strong

- [Samsung labor truce marks end of no-union era](#) (2026-05-21 06:07)

A last-minute tentative wage agreement reached Wednesday between Samsung Electronics and its unions defused what had become the company's biggest labor crisis since Chairman Lee Jae-yong took over the group and marked a major turning point in Samsung's labor culture. The agreement, signed after marathon negotiations at the Gyeonggi Regional Employment and Labor Office in Suwon, led the union to suspend an 18-day strike planned to begin Thursday. The deal came 160 days after labor and management

- [Aston Villa and Prince William celebrate Europa League triumph ending team's 30-year trophy drought](#) (2026-05-21 06:02)

In front of the future king of England, Unai Emery reaffirmed his status as the king of the Europa League. Aston Villa beat Freiburg 3-0 in Istanbul on Wednesday to secure Emery a record-extending fifth title in this competition. Celebrating wildly inside the Tupras Stadium was lifelong Villa fan Prince William, who traveled to watch his beloved team end a 30-year wait for a major trophy. "Amazing night!! Huge congratulations to all the players, team, staff and everyone connected to the club!" t

- [Lim Ae-ji wins Belgrade boxing gold](#) (2026-05-21 06:01)

Lim Ae-ji of South Korea's national boxing team won a gold medal at the 63rd Belgrade Winner Tournament, raising expectations ahead of the 2026 Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games. Lim, a bronze medalist at the 2024 Summer Olympics, defeated Nilay Yaren Cam of Turkey by a 4-1 split decision in the women's 54-kilogram final held Monday in Belgrade. She secured victory with her experienced and technical ring management to claim the top spot on the podium. One of Europe's oldest boxing tournaments, the event

- [‘Poisonous mushrooms’ insulting May 18 victims must be rooted out: Lee](#) (2026-05-21 05:57)

President Lee Jae Myung on Thursday ordered officials to mobilize every available means to punish acts that glorify state violence or insult its victims, denouncing them as “poisonous mushrooms” that must be rooted out. Lee’s remarks came after Starbucks Korea drew criticism for marketing that some say belittled the May 18 Gwangju Democratic Uprising against the oppressive military government of Chun Doo-hwan. “Malicious fake news, such as claims of North Korean military involvement, ... and act

- [Gyeonggi Province unveils voting guide for foreign residents in 13 languages](#) (2026-05-21 05:39)

The Gyeonggi Provincial Office on Thursday unveiled a voting guide for foreign residents in 13 languages to encourage eligible foreign voters to cast their ballots in the June 3 local elections. According to the province government, the voting guide was disseminated on its social media in Burmese, Chinese, English, Indonesian, Khmer, Korean, Mongolian, Nepali, Russian, Tagalog, Thai, Uzbek and Vietnamese. The voting guide used pictograms to describe voting procedures inside the polling station.

- [Kolmar develops targeted antiaging ingredient](#) (2026-05-21 05:22)

Kolmar Korea said Thursday it had developed a new antiaging ingredient called Tocopherol-Oxalate-Tocopherol, or TOT, through joint research with a team led by Lee Dong-won at Jeonbuk National University. The research was selected as the cover article for the April 2026 issue of *Molecules*, an SCI-indexed international journal. TOT is a targeted antiaging material that combines two vitamin E molecules — known for their antioxidant properties — with a special binding agent called peroxalate. The in

- [Posco marks 22 years of community meal support](#) (2026-05-21 05:20)

Posco said Thursday that its free meal program that supports senior citizens living alone and people with disabilities marked its 22nd anniversary with a volunteer meal service event at Songrim Senior Welfare Center in Pohang. Since launching Nanum House in 2004, Posco has operated five meal centers in Pohang and Gwangyang, providing meals to about 903 people a day and serving a cumulative 4.16 million meals. The company said the centers have evolved into community spaces where elderly residents

- [South Korea seeks quicker OPCON transfer than US timeline suggests](#) (2026-05-21 05:04)

South Korea seeks to accelerate the transfer of wartime operational control, with the final review possibly completed in about a year, a senior Defense Ministry official said Wednesday, suggesting a possible timeline that differs from a 2029 target recently presented by the US side. A ranking ministry official familiar with the matter said the assessment and verification of the Future Combined Forces Command's full mission capability could begin immediately after the allies complete the precedin

- [Korea expands education center in Paraguay amid growing demand for Korean language](#) (2026-05-21 04:43)

The Ministry of Education said Thursday it has expanded and relocated its Korean Education Center in Paraguay, as demand for Korean-language education grows in the South American country. Korean education centers are overseas institutions established by the ministry to promote educational cooperation with host countries, expand Korean-language education, and support education programs for overseas Koreans. The first such center was set up in Japan in the 1960s, and there are now 47 centers in 22

- [Samsung Electronics to ramp up share buybacks to fund chip bonus](#) (2026-05-21 04:22)

Samsung Electronics is expected to accelerate its treasury share buyback to fund a special bonus for its chip employees under a tentative labor agreement reached to avert a planned strike, Herald Business reported on Thursday. Under the pending agreement, the company will allocate a special semiconductor performance bonus equivalent to 10.5 percent of business performance earnings. The bonus will be paid in treasury shares over the next 10 years without a cap. Considering the chip giant holds ro

- [Nearly 3m Korean workers left out of Buddha's birthday holiday](#) (2026-05-21 04:19)

While many South Korean office workers anticipate Monday's substitute holiday for Buddha's Birthday, nearly 3 million employees at businesses with fewer than five staff members may not receive the day off. South Korea's labor law excludes several key protections for workplaces with fewer than five employees, including paid leave for public and substitute holidays. If employers do not provide paid leave, workers at these small businesses are not guaranteed time off. They also lack a legal right t

- [Olive Young opens first US store in Pasadena next week](#) (2026-05-21 04:13)

Olive Young said Thursday it will open its first US offline store in Pasadena on May 29, marking a major step in its expansion into the world's largest beauty market. The Pasadena store will carry around 5,000 products from roughly 400 beauty and wellness brands, featuring a mix of popular Korean beauty labels, brands already gaining traction in North America and global products tailored to local consumer preferences. The store will feature ingredient-focused sections highlighting trending K-bea

- [HD Hyundai joins TerraPower's Sodium reactor supply chain](#) (2026-05-21 04:10)

HD Hyundai said Thursday that its shipbuilding arm HD Hyundai Heavy Industries signed a framework agreement with TerraPower to supply key components for next-generation sodium-cooled nuclear reactors, strengthening its push into the global small modular reactor market. The signing ceremony was attended by Won Kwang-sik, head of HD Hyundai Heavy Industries' offshore and energy business unit, and Chris Levesque, CEO of TerraPower, along with executives from both companies. Under the agreement, HD

- [Israel releases Korean activists, hopes to advance ties: Seoul](#) (2026-05-21 03:32)

Israel has released two South Korean activists detained aboard Gaza-bound aid flotillas, while expressing its hope that the incident would not affect bilateral ties with Seoul, Cheong Wa Dae said Thursday. "The Lee Jae Myung government expresses strong regret over Israel's arrest of Korean nationals through its seizure of Gaza-bound aid vessels," senior presidential spokesperson Kang Yu-jung said during a live broadcast press briefing. "However, we welcome and highly appreciate Israel's immediat

- [Bolivia plans cabinet shakeup amid protests, dismisses Colombian ambassador](#) (2026-05-21 03:17)

Bolivian President Rodrigo Paz on Wednesday said that he would reshuffle his cabinet in response to weeks of nationwide protests over austerity measures, while his government expelled Colombia's ambassador on grounds of interference in internal affairs. "We are going to reorganise the cabinet," Paz told journalists at a press conference. "The president cannot be everywhere, the president cannot solve all the problems." He did not give a timeline for the reshuffle or detail what changes it woul

- [Jung Ku-ho reimagines ballet through the eyes of a ballerina](#) (2026-05-21 03:11)

After a string of sold-out dance productions that showcased his minimalist visual aesthetic, fashion-designer-turned-director Jung Ku-ho is returning to ballet with "Tale of Tales," a production that reimagines four canonical classics through a contemporary lens on the grit and sacrifice of ballerinas. Best known in recent years for directing the award-winning "Ilmu" (One Dance) with the Seoul Metropolitan Dance Theater and the National Dance Company repertory works "Mukhyang" and "Hyangyeon," J

- [Oh My Girl's Hyojung brings out 1st solo digital single](#) (2026-05-21 03:08)

Hyojung of Oh My Girl is releasing her first solo single album "Purple Note" on Thursday, her agency WM Entertainment announced. The digital single will contain three songs: the main single "Dear My Little Youth" and its instrumental version, as well as "Look Around." As hinted in the teaser video, Hyojung conveys hope and courage with her clear and upbeat voice in the pop-rock tune. The single album is her first solo endeavor in almost 1 1/2 years, after the special single "Christmas Night Trai

- [Sempio connects with US consumers through online cooking class](#) (2026-05-21 02:59)

Korean food supplier Sempio said Thursday it had run its first live-streamed online cooking class with consumers in the United States to make the most of the growing popularity of Korean culinary culture. According to Sempio, about 100 people from across the US joined the Korean company's hourlong cooking class via Zoom at the Sempio headquarters in Seoul on Thursday morning. Sempio officials showcased how to make omelet-covered gimbap and Korean-style egg soup while communicating with the audience

- [Samsung bonus deal faces shareholder revolt](#) (2026-05-21 02:44)

Samsung Electronics' tentative wage agreement with its labor unions came under fresh legal scrutiny Thursday after a shareholders group threatened legal action over a new bonus scheme tied to operating profit. The Korea Shareholder Action Headquarters staged a rally near the residence of Samsung Electronics Chair Lee Jae-yong, arguing that parts of the labor-management agreement signed a day earlier could violate Korea's Commercial Act. "The agreement to accumulate and distribute 12 percent of p

- [Daewoong Pharmaceutical acquires anti-aging platform from Turn Biotechnologies](#) (2026-05-21 02:42)

Daewoong Pharmaceutical said Thursday it had acquired technology assets and related rights from Turn Biotechnologies through an auction bid, marking a major step into therapies targeting aging-related diseases. At the center of the acquisition is Turn Biotechnologies' ERA platform, a partial reprogramming technology that uses mRNA-delivered reprogramming factors to restore aged cells to a younger and healthier state while preserving their original cellular identity. Unlike full reprogramming app

- [BoyNextDoor again joins forces with Zico for 1st LP](#) (2026-05-21 02:42)

BoyNextDoor will demonstrate the musical capabilities of its members through its first studio album "Home," according to its agency KOZ Entertainment on Thursday. All six bandmates participated in writing the songs for the upcoming album, the list of which was revealed on Thursday. The album will consist of nine tracks, including the main track "Viral." Singer-songwriter and executive producer Zico co-wrote the single's lyrics and melody along with Myung Jaehyun and Woonhak. The two members part

- [Water tank overflow leaves 1,376 Daegu homes without power](#) (2026-05-21 02:39)

Several hundred tons of water overflowed from an apartment building storage tank poured into the complex's electrical room in Daegu on Wednesday afternoon, disrupting power and water supply to 1,376 homes until Thursday morning. According to officials at the city's Dong-gu district office, a valve controlling the water level in the apartment complex's storage tank malfunctioned at around 3 p.m. Wednesday. Water overflowed from the tank and eventually flooded the electrical room in the basement,

- [SpaceX IPO filing lays bare losses and Musk control](#) (2026-05-21 02:38)

SpaceX took the wraps off its IPO filing Wednesday, laying bare for investors just how much Elon Musk is losing on artificial intelligence while betting the company's future on transforming the rocket maker into an AI powerhouse. Much of its outlook relies on SpaceX dominating technologies and markets that do not yet exist -- from Mars missions to AI data centers in space. For many, Musk's record turning Tesla into the most valuable auto company in the world and developing the world's first full

- [BTS eyes second artist of the year win at American Music Awards](#) (2026-05-21 02:33)

BTS is set to return to the American Music Awards (AMA) for the first time in four years, as the group competes once again for the ceremony's top honor. According to the AMAs on Wednesday, BTS will attend the awards ceremony scheduled for May 25 at MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas, Nevada. The boy group has been nominated for artist of the year, competing against global pop stars including Bad Bunny, Bruno Mars, Taylor Swift and Lady Gaga. BTS became the first Korean act to win the category i

- [CJ Olive Young to open 1st US store in Pasadena next week](#) (2026-05-21 02:25)

CJ Olive Young Corp., South Korea's leading health and beauty retailer, said Thursday it is opening its first US outlet in Pasadena, California, next week, set to serve as an advance base for the brand's global expansion. The 803-square-meter venue is located in a major commercial district in the city and will feature around 5,000 products from some 400 beauty and wellness brands, the company said. Around 80 percent of the products will be Korean brands. To reflect rapidly changing K-beauty tren

- [NH NongHyup deepens Indonesia push with Mayapada partnership](#) (2026-05-21 02:24)

NH NongHyup Financial Group said Thursday it had signed a strategic partnership with Mayapada Group, a prominent Indonesian conglomerate spanning banking, health care, property, retail and media. The memorandum of understanding was signed Wednesday at Mayapada's headquarters in Jakarta, with NH NongHyup Financial Group Chairman and CEO Lee Chan-woo and Mayapada Group founder and Chairman Dato Sri Tahir in attendance. Mayapada is controlled by Tahir, one of Indonesia's best-known business figures

- [Man charged with threatening to shoot Nepali co-workers with homemade gun](#) (2026-05-21 02:22)

South Korean police said Thursday they plan to refer a man in his 70s to prosecutors for allegedly threatening two Nepali co-workers with a homemade gun. The suspect is accused of swinging a blunt object at the two victims, one in his 20s and the other in his 40s, and threatening them with the makeshift gun at around 4 p.m. on April 14 at a poultry farm in Hwaseong, Gyeonggi Province. The gun was not loaded at the time. According to Hwaseong Seobu Police Station, the suspect became angry after t

- [US presses Cuba, indicts Castro](#) (2026-05-21 02:21)

MIAMI (AP) — US federal prosecutors on Wednesday announced criminal charges against former Cuban President Raul Castro in the 1996 downing of civilian planes flown by Miami-based exiles as the Trump administration escalated pressure on the island's socialist government. The indictment accuses Castro of ordering the shutdown of two small planes operated by the exile group Brothers to the Rescue. Castro, who turns 95 next month, was Cuba's defense minister at the time. The charges, which were sec

- [Nvidia posts record \\$81.6b quarterly revenue on AI boom](#) (2026-05-21 02:13)

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) -- Chip giant Nvidia on Wednesday posted record quarterly revenue of \$81.6 billion, blowing past Wall Street forecasts as insatiable demand for its artificial intelligence hardware powered another blockbuster quarter. The results for the first quarter of fiscal 2027, ending April 26, marked an 85 percent jump from the same period a year ago and a 20 percent rise from the prior quarter, underscoring Nvidia's status as the primary beneficiary of a global AI infrastructure build

- [Official campaigning for June 3 local elections begins](#) (2026-05-21 02:12)

Official campaigning for the June 3 local elections and parliamentary by-elections kicked off Thursday, with the ruling and opposition parties launching all-out efforts to sway voters. The 13-day campaign period will run through the eve of the elections, during which candidates and their campaign teams will be allowed to give speeches in public places between 7 a.m. and 11 p.m., distribute campaign materials and put up campaign banners. This year's elections have drawn greater attention as 14 Na

- [Presidential office says expects constructive role over Xi's reported plan to visit N. Korea](#) (2026-05-21 02:09)

The presidential office said Thursday that it expects China to play a constructive role in issues concerning the Korean Peninsula following reports that Chinese President Xi Jinping may visit North Korea as early as next week. Cheong Wa Dae released the statement in response to reports that Xi is highly likely to visit North Korea later this month or in early June. "The government is monitoring related movements," Cheong Wa Dae said. "The government hopes that exchanges between North Korea and C

- [Exports up 65% during first 20 days of May on chips](#) (2026-05-21 02:02)

South Korea's exports rose 65 percent from a year earlier in the first 20 days of May, data showed Thursday, with semiconductor shipments more than tripling over the period. Outbound shipments reached \$52.7 billion in the May 1-20 period, compared with \$31.9 billion tallied in the same period last year, according to data released by the Korea Customs Service. The figure was the largest ever recorded for the first 20 days of May. Imports went up 29.3 percent on-year to \$41.6 billion over the cite

- [Seoul shares open sharply higher on US-Iran hope, Samsung wage deal](#) (2026-05-21 02:00)

South Korean stocks opened markedly higher Thursday on rising hopes for a possible peace deal between the United States and Iran, and an end to labor unrest at Samsung Electronics, triggering a buy-side sidecar. After starting 3.85 percent higher, the benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index rose 277.42 points, or 5.27 percent, to 7,388.52 as of 9:30 a.m. As stocks extended gains, a buy-side order in the Kospi futures was suspended for five minutes at around 9:23 a.m., according to the Korea

- [Cortis tops 100m Spotify hits with 2nd EP](#) (2026-05-21 01:54)

The second mini album from Cortis generated 100 million plays on Spotify in 15 days, its label Big Hit Music said Thursday. EP “Greengreen” accomplished the feat Tuesday, less than half the time it took the previous EP “Color Outside The Lines,” which marked its debut in September last year. The boy group currently has over 11 million monthly listeners on the platform. The rookie quartet’s latest effort landed on Billboard 200 at No. 3, a leap from the debut EP which peaked at No. 15 on the main

- [Ive unveils title track ahead of 4th Japan EP drop](#) (2026-05-21 01:25)

Ive surprised fans dropping the title track from its fourth EP in Japan, “Lucid Dream,” on Wednesday via its agency Starship Entertainment. The dreamy tune was released one week ahead of the full album release. As the title suggests, the single is about a dream in which the members face their inner selves and express their feelings rather than running away from reality, conveying hope and positive energy. The upcoming mini album also includes Japanese-language versions of “Rebel Heart” and “Atti

- [WHO memorial honors late chief Lee Jong-wook](#) (2026-05-21 00:24)

Health officials from six countries gathered at the World Health Organization headquarters in Geneva on Wednesday to mark the 20th anniversary of the death of former WHO Director-General Lee Jong-wook, who became the first South Korean to head a UN organization in 2003. The memorial ceremony, co-hosted by South Korea’s Ministry of Health and Welfare and the Korea Foundation for International Healthcare, honored Lee’s legacy of advancing global health equity and strengthening international cooper

- [N. Korea briefly reports women’s football win over S. Korean side](#) (2026-05-20 23:48)

North Korea's state media on Thursday briefly reported on its women's football club's advancement to the final of a top Asian club tournament, after beating a South Korean rival. In a short dispatch, the North Korean Central News Agency said the semifinal between "the Naegohyang Team of the DPRK and the Suwon Team of the ROK" took place in South Korea the previous day, using the acronym of each country's official name. "The Naegohyang Team beat its rival 2:1 and advanced into the final" of the A

- [US ambassador nominee vows to protect US firms in S. Korea from discrimination](#)

(2026-05-20 23:27)

The nominee for the United States' top envoy to South Korea vowed Wednesday to ensure that American companies operating in the Asian country are not discriminated against, if she is confirmed by the Senate. During a confirmation hearing at the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Michelle Steel, a former Korean American congresswoman, made the remarks, highlighting her commitment to enhancing US national security and economic prosperity by strengthening the Seoul-Washington alliance. "Last year i

- [BTS to make special appearance at this year's AMAs](#) (2026-05-20 23:16)

K-pop supergroup BTS will make a special appearance at this year's American Music Awards, organizers said, marking its first in-person participation at the ceremony in nearly five years. The group is set to attend the 52nd awards show on May 25 at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas, according to an announcement released by the AMAs on Wednesday (US time). BTS has been nominated in three categories, including the top prize of Artist of the Year, as well as Song of the Summer and Best Male K-

- [\[Graphic News\] Generational divide grows over pet-friendly restaurants](#) (2026-05-20 23:00)

Though pet-friendly restaurants have continued to spread across South Korea, a recent survey showed widening generational differences over dining with pets in public spaces. According to a survey of 1,000 adults nationwide conducted by market research firm Embrain Trendmonitor, only 28.5 percent supported expanding pet-friendly restaurants, while 62.6 percent expected conflict between pet owners and non-pet owners. Another 70.6 percent said there is not enough social consensus on the issue. The

- [Shownu X Hyungwon return with deeper take on love](#) (2026-05-20 22:00)

Nearly three years after debuting as Monsta X' s first unit, Shownu X Hyungwon are returning with a fuller, more layered take on love. The duo' s second EP, "Love Me," marks its first release since "The Unseen" in July 2023. Led by "Do You Love Me," the seven-track album explores different shades of love, from attraction and uncertainty to emptiness and emotional collapse near the end of a relationship. The EP also highlights the duo' s creative involvement, with Hyungwon credited for producing fou

- [\[Lee Jae-min\]Sixteen years on the fence: Time for Korea to come down](#) (2026-05-20 20:30)

This project has had quite a journey — it started as an American idea, was dropped by America, and was then picked up and brought to life by Japan and Australia. It is the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), which finally entered into force in December 2018. It now has 12 member states: Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, Vietnam and the United Kingdom. With a combined gross domestic product of around

- [\[Wang Son-taek\]From derisking to deconflicting](#) (2026-05-20 20:30)

The recent summit between US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing has generated various reactions around the world. Focusing on the visible details of the meeting, many observers struggled to identify outstanding results. Many US media outlets pointed out that Xi spoke aggressively on Taiwan, and Trump did not respond forcefully to the provocative rhetoric. Chinese state media emphasized images of equality between the two powers. Even in the US, there are assessment

- [Samsung Electronics union calls off strike, puts wage deal to vote](#) (2026-05-20 14:17)

Samsung Electronics labor unions on Wednesday called off a planned strike just over an hour before it was set to begin, paving the way for a membership vote on a tentative wage agreement with management. The joint strike committee representing the unions said the planned walkout from Thursday through June 7 would be suspended “until further notice.” Union members will vote on the proposed 2026 wage deal from 9 a.m. Saturday through 10 p.m. May 28. The breakthrough followed post-mediation talks a

- [Naegohyang FC beats Suwon FC in historic inter-Korean match](#) (2026-05-20 12:07)

Naegohyang Women's FC defeated Suwon FC Women 2-1 in the Asian Champions League semifinals Wednesday, taking the win in the first-ever face-off between women's soccer teams from the two Koreas on South Korean soil. North Korean club Naegohyang's captain Kim Kyong-yong scored the winning goal 22 minutes into the second half of the match held at Suwon Stadium in Suwon, Gyeonggi Province. Kim's goal broke the tie after both teams scored a goal apiece in the second half. South Korea's Suwon took an

- [American YouTuber' s Korean song sparks buzz among K-pop fans](#) (2026-05-20 11:53)

Trisha Paytas, a popular American internet personality with more than 5 million YouTube subscribers, has been making waves in the K-pop community with the release of a new song written entirely in Korean. Her new song, titled “Saranghae,” Korean for “I love you,” features approximately two minutes and four seconds of Korean lyrics, according to her YouTube channel. One of the lines reads, “Eoduun bam byeolbit arae geudae saenggage jam mot deureo,” which translates to “I couldn’ t fall asleep last

- [S. Korea-operated vessel passes through Strait of Hormuz: foreign ministry](#) (2026-05-20 11:50)

A vessel operated by a South Korean shipping company has successfully passed through the Strait of Hormuz, Seoul's foreign ministry said Wednesday, marking the first such case since the outbreak of the US-Iran war. "An oil tanker is continuing its voyage outside the waters of the Strait of Hormuz," the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a notice to the press. "Some 10 crew members are aboard the ship." The ministry said it had asked Iran to ensure the safe passage of the ship through multiple d

- [Rain expected nationwide through Thursday with heavy rain advisories in some regions](#) (2026-05-20 10:58)

Early summer rain accompanied by gusty winds soaked much of the country Wednesday, with heavy rain advisories issued for parts of Greater Seoul, which includes Incheon and Gyeonggi Province. The Korea Meteorological Administration issued heavy rain advisories at around 4:30 p.m. for parts of Incheon, Gyeonggi Province, South Jeolla Province and South Gyeongsang Province. The alert is issued when rainfall is expected to exceed 60 millimeters over three hours or 110 millimeters over 12 hours. In r

- [NPS warns uncertainty remains high despite record returns](#) (2026-05-20 10:49)

South Korea's National Pension Service said Wednesday that uncertainty in global financial markets remains elevated despite the pension fund posting a third straight year of record-breaking returns. Speaking at Asia Asset Management's 11th Korea Roundtable in Seoul, Seo Won-joo, chief investment officer of the NPS, said market volatility has intensified this year amid geopolitical tensions, rising protectionism and rapid advances in artificial intelligence. "The NPS recorded an annual return of

- [Musinsa issues fresh apology over controversial 2019 ad](#) (2026-05-20 09:15)

Musinsa issued a fresh apology Wednesday over a controversial 2019 marketing campaign that mocked South Korea's democratization movement, after President Lee Jae Myung publicly condemned the advertisement amid the growing fallout from Starbucks Korea's recent "Tank Day" controversy. In a statement, Musinsa said it had been "watching the recent controversy surrounding another company's historical mockery issue with a heavy heart" before recognizing that its own "major mistake from seven years ago

- [Iranian soccer star Azmoun posts support for players ahead of World Cup](#) (2026-05-20 08:52)

ANTALYA, Turkey (AP) -- Excluded from Iran's soccer squad for the World Cup in what seemed to be a political decision, former star forward Sardar Azmoun posted his support for teammates on social media Tuesday. Iran squad members who play for clubs at home arrived in Turkey on Monday for an extended training camp ahead of traveling to the United States early in June. They are preparing to play three group-stage games, at Inglewood, California and Seattle. Azmoun, who played at the last two World

- [Lee questions legality of Israel's seizure of Gaza-bound flotillas carrying Koreans](#) (2026-05-20 08:48)

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung on Wednesday publicly questioned the legality and humanitarian implications of Israeli forces intercepting aid flotillas carrying Korean nationals bound for the Gaza Strip. Lee made the comments during a weekly Cabinet meeting at Cheong Wa Dae after Israeli naval forces intercepted two humanitarian flotillas in international waters this week carrying South Korean activists attempting to reach Gaza. "While belligerent states

may engage with one another during

- [S. Korean, Indian defense ministers discuss expanding ties](#) (2026-05-20 08:45)

South Korean and Indian defense chiefs held talks in Seoul on Wednesday to discuss bilateral defense and arms industry cooperation, Seoul's Defense Ministry said. Indian Defense Minister Rajnath Singh met with South Korean Defense Minister Ahn Gyu-back in Seoul, marking the first visit to South Korea by an Indian defense minister since 2019. The meeting at the Defense Ministry came after Ahn invited Singh on the sidelines of the 12th ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting-Plus last year. The two minis

- [S. Korea, US to launch nuclear sub working groups](#) (2026-05-20 08:45)

South Korea and the United States are set to launch bilateral working groups on nuclear-powered submarines and other nuclear cooperation issues, as Seoul formally began internal military procedures to acquire nuclear-powered submarines, officials said Tuesday. The moves mark the clearest sign yet that the allies are accelerating implementation of agreements reached during last year's summit between President Lee Jae Myung and US President Donald Trump, including US cooperation on Seoul's efforts

- [Colombian nun honored for 27 years of youth support in Korea](#) (2026-05-20 08:35)

Carmen Margarita Avendano Cubillos, a Colombian nun with the Capuchin Tertiary Sisters of the Holy Family, received a presidential commendation Wednesday for 27 years of volunteer work supporting underprivileged youth in Korea. The award was presented at the Ministry of Justice's annual Together Day ceremony, held at Yongsan Art Hall in Seoul, to mark the 19th anniversary of the commemorative day celebrating Korea's growing diversity. The ministry invited some 700 Koreans and foreign residents t

- [Ruling party chair urges not to go to Starbucks](#) (2026-05-20 08:30)

Rep. Jung Chung-rae, chair of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea, urged the party's election candidates and their campaigners not to go to Starbucks, as the chain's "Tank Day" promotion continues to draw backlash. "To Democratic Party campaigners or candidates, entering a Starbucks store can leave a very negative impression on the public," Jung said in a party supreme council meeting held in Yeosu, Gyeonggi Province, Wednesday. "To me, refraining from visiting Starbucks stores would align with

- [How athletes have helped bridge the inter-Korean divide](#) (2026-05-20 08:24)

The match between Suwon FC Women and Naegohyang Women's FC on Wednesday will be the first time women's football clubs from the two Koreas have played each other on South Korean soil. While both teams have vowed to focus only on the match, an Asian Champions League semifinal, South Korean civic groups have held out hopes that the game could help ease tensions on the Korean Peninsula. The group's have formed a joint cheering squad to support both sides, while the Unification Ministry is providing

- [Man convicted of murdering TikTok user dies in prison](#) (2026-05-20 08:24)

A man in his 50s who was sentenced to 40 years in prison for killing a female TikTok user in her 20s has died while in custody, legal sources said Wednesday. According to legal sources, the man was found after an apparent suicide attempt at Anyang Prison at around 2:20 a.m. Wednesday. He had been detained on charges including murder, abandoning a body and special obstruction of official duties. He was taken to a hospital but died at around 3 a.m. The defendant was indicted on charges of killing the

- [Japanese national probed over alleged illegal filming at Seoul hotel pool](#) (2026-05-20 08:19)

A Japanese national is under police investigation in Seoul after allegedly filming a female guest without permission at a hotel swimming pool, according to a report from the Dong-A Ilbo on Wednesday. Police received a report on May 7 that a man had used a camera to illegally film a woman at a pool inside a hotel in Seoul's Jung-gu district, said the report. The man has been booked on suspicion of violating the Act on Special Cases Concerning the Punishment of Sexual Crimes, which bans nonconsens

- [LS Electric wins \\$64m high-voltage switchgear deal for US data centers](#) (2026-05-20 07:16)

LS Electric said Wednesday it has secured a \$64 million contract to supply high-voltage switchgear for microgrids powering data centers in the United States, strengthening its foothold in North America's fast-growing AI infrastructure market. The deal follows a recent contract to supply power distribution equipment for a US tech company's data center, reinforcing LS Electric's growth momentum in the North American data center and power infrastructure sectors. Under the agreement, LS Electric wil

- [Samsung Electronics shares flat despite strike threat; Chinese rivals gain](#) (2026-05-20 07:03)

Shares of Samsung Electronics ended little changed Wednesday despite the company's largest labor union confirming plans to launch a full-scale strike the following day after last-minute mediation talks collapsed. A final round of government-led mediation ended without agreement after Samsung Electronics requested additional time to review the proposal while the union accepted it. Samsung Electronics shares closed at 276,000 won (\$183), up 0.18 percent from the previous session, according to the

- [Korea's medical school competition pushes applicants overseas](#) (2026-05-20 06:37)

As competition for admission to South Korea's elite medical schools intensifies, more are looking overseas for an alternative path to help their children become doctors. According to overseas study agencies, interest in so-called "medical study abroad" programs has surged, especially in Seoul's affluent Gangnam district, where parents have long invested heavily in private education in hopes of securing admission to top universities. But domestic medical schools accept only a fraction of applican

- [Kia sharpens Europe EV strategy as China fuels price war](#) (2026-05-20 06:36)

Facing intensifying price competition from Chinese automakers in Europe, Kia is betting that a broader electric vehicle lineup and tighter EU rules on Chinese battery supply chains will help narrow the price gap with rivals and lift market share. Kia recently outlined the strategy to investors during non-deal roadshows in Singapore and Hong Kong led by CEO Song Ho-sung. Chinese automakers have accelerated their push into Europe — the world’s second-largest EV market — after effectively being shut

- [MC Mong's livestream controversy recalls Min Hee-jin — but with key differences](#) (2026-05-20 06:26)

MC Mong, a hip-hop artist and music producer who co-founded One Hundred Label and its subsidiary Big Planet Made, abruptly went live on social media Monday evening to address mounting controversies surrounding him. The move that immediately drew comparisons to former Ador CEO Min Hee-jin's explosive press conference two years ago. During the livestream, MC Mong, alone, delivered emotional remarks addressing rumors surrounding his alleged affair with Cha Ga-won, co-founder of One Hundred Label and

- [Seoul says Korean tanker exits Hormuz under coordination with Iran](#) (2026-05-20 06:21)

A South Korean tanker has passed through the Strait of Hormuz under coordination with Iran, Seoul said Wednesday, marking the first known transit by a South Korean vessel since the outbreak of the US-Iran war in late February. Foreign Minister Cho Hyun first disclosed the development during a parliamentary session, saying, “At this very moment, a South Korean tanker is exiting the Strait of Hormuz under coordination with the Iranian side.” Cho added consultations with the Iranian authorities had

- [Samsung, union resume talks after mediation breakdown](#) (2026-05-20 06:21)

With a full-scale strike at Samsung Electronics just a day away, labor and management returned to the negotiating table Wednesday afternoon, only hours after talks collapsed, as Labor Minister Kim Young-hoon stepped in to broker a last-minute compromise. The Labor Ministry said the negotiations differ from the earlier post-mediation process led by the National Labor Relations Commission, describing them instead as autonomous talks between labor and management arranged and supported directly by t

- [Who built Samsung’s AI boom? Bonus split divides chip unit](#) (2026-05-20 06:12)

Samsung Electronics has spent years selling the AI chip market a promise of integration. Memory. Logic design. Foundry manufacturing. Advanced research. One company for customers trying to secure the chips behind artificial intelligence. Inside Samsung, that same promise has become difficult to price. The last-minute mediation that collapsed Wednesday did not break down simply over the size of a bonus. By the end, the fight had narrowed to how far profits from the AI memory boom should travel in

- [Lee rebukes Samsung union over demand for profit sharing](#) (2026-05-20 06:11)

President Lee Jae Myung sharply criticized Samsung Electronics' labor union over its profit-sharing demands Wednesday, signaling that the government could invoke its emergency arbitration authority if a strike goes ahead. Lee's remarks came shortly after Samsung Electronics and its union failed to reach an agreement in a second round of wage negotiations mediated by the National Labor Relations Commission, a quasi-judicial agency tasked with resolving labor-management disputes. Speaking at a wee

- [LG CNS showcases AI-powered factory platform at US expo](#) (2026-05-20 06:03)

LG CNS said Wednesday it showcased its AI-powered smart factory solutions at IoT Tech Expo 2026 in San Jose as the company accelerates its push into the North American manufacturing market. The exhibition drew around 200 global technology and manufacturing companies, including IBM, SAP, NVIDIA and Schneider Electric. At the event, LG CNS introduced key solutions under its integrated smart factory brand "Factova," which combines AI, big data and internet of things technologies to optimize manufac

- [Samsung Electronics unveils new AI smart glasses with Google](#) (2026-05-20 06:03)

Samsung Electronics on Wednesday unveiled two Android XR-based AI glasses developed with Google at the Google I/O 2026 conference in Mountain View, California, ahead of their official launch this year. The companies revealed the actual designs of the devices for the first time following Samsung's earlier partnership announcements with eyewear brands Gentle Monster and Warby Parker. Samsung said the AI glasses combine its hardware technology with Google's AI services and the fashion-oriented desi

- [KGM bets on new Torres to revive SUV momentum](#) (2026-05-20 05:56)

KGM is banking on an upgraded Torres SUV — featuring stronger performance, rugged design and improved convenience — to regain momentum in Korea's highly competitive compact SUV market. First launched in 2022, the Torres became a key model for KGM, helping the automaker survive its corporate restructuring, recording monthly sales of around 6,000 units at its peak. Following an interior facelift in 2024 and the launch of a hybrid variant last year, the SUV has now returned with broader product enh

- [Calls for boycott spread after Starbucks Korea 'Tank Day' campaign](#) (2026-05-20 05:56)

Criticism over Starbucks Korea's "Tank Day" marketing campaign is escalating into a boycott movement, with social media users posting photos and videos of themselves damaging Starbucks products or demanding refunds. Social media posts showing people destroying Starbucks Korea mugs and tumblers have been spreading online, with some users tagging friends and urging them to join the boycott. Some users shared tips on how to receive refunds for prepaid Starbucks Korea cards, explaining the company's

- [Korean won slides past 1,510 amid foreign selloff](#) (2026-05-20 05:54)

The South Korean won weakened past the 1,510 per dollar level in intraday trading Wednesday, hitting its lowest level in more than a month as soaring US Treasury yields and heavy foreign selling in local equities pressured the currency. The won opened onshore trading at 1,509 per dollar and quickly fell past the 1,510 threshold. It later weakened to as low as 1,513.4 before trading at around 1,512.5 as of 2 p.m. The currency breached the 1,510 level during daytime trading for the first time since

- [\[Bridge to Africa\] Kenya launches Africa's first university modelled on KAIST](#) (2026-05-20 05:53)

Kenya has officially launched the Kenya Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (Kenya AIST), a postgraduate research university modeled on the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) in Daejeon, marking a major step in Africa's science and technology ambitions. In a statement shared with The Korea Herald, the Kenyan Embassy in Seoul cited the institution as Africa's first university to be modelled on KAIST and a symbol of the continent's shift toward homegrown innovation

- ['I've never heard my songs in Korean before — this is a gift.' Alicia Keys brings 'Hell's Kitchen' to Korea](#) (2026-05-20 05:48)

Grammy-winning singer-songwriter Alicia Keys is about to meet Korean audiences in an unfamiliar role — not as the voice behind "Fallin'" or "If I Ain't Got You," but as the lead producer of "Hell's Kitchen." She spent 13 years developing the semi-autobiographical Broadway jukebox musical. On July 24, the show will open its first non-English-language licensed production at Seoul's GS Arts Center. Keys, who has 17 Grammy wins to her name, has been intimately involved in the Korean production — dir

- [Tether could be gearing up for Korean market entry](#) (2026-05-20 05:47)

Tether, the world's largest stablecoin issuer, has made new trademark filings for its corporate name and logos, suggesting preparations for a more formal presence in the country. Trademark records from the Korea Intellectual Property Rights Information Service, or KIPRIS, showed Wednesday that Tether Operations filed nine applications last week covering its brand and products. The applications include the Tether name, its gold-backed digital asset XAUT, decentralized AI platform QVAC, USAT, a US

- [Posco Future M to mass produce silicon anodes by 2028](#) (2026-05-20 05:36)

Posco Future M said Wednesday it has secured technology for the mass production of silicon anode materials, a next-generation lithium-ion battery component, and plans to begin commercial production in 2028. The South Korean battery materials maker said silicon anodes, which offer high energy density and faster charging speeds than conventional graphite-based anodes, are expected to see rapid demand growth as automakers seek longer-range and faster-charging electric vehicles. The company said its

- [China's Xi, Russia's Putin praise ties at Beijing talks](#) (2026-05-20 05:31)

China and Russia's leaders lauded on Wednesday the progress in their strategic ties, as they met in Beijing for summit talks where Moscow is expected to push for stronger energy links. President Xi Jinping welcomed President Vladimir Putin with an honour guard and a gun salute at the Great Hall of the People, as children waved Chinese and Russian flags. Alongside formal talks, the pair are expected to cap the day with an intimate meeting over tea. Coming on the heels of US President Donald Trump

- [Kakao union votes to strike at five affiliates](#) (2026-05-20 05:26)

Kakao's labor union said Wednesday that workers at five affiliates had voted in favor of a strike, deepening a dispute over pay and performance-based compensation at the IT company. The union made the announcement during a rally in Seongnam, Gyeonggi Province, saying strike ballots held at the affiliates had all passed as of 11 a.m. The affiliates include Kakao Pay, Kakao Enterprise, XL Games and DK Techn, according to the union. The name of the fifth affiliate was not immediately specified. "T

- [Could Starbucks buy back Korean business after marketing fiasco?](#) (2026-05-20 05:26)

The fallout from Starbucks Korea's controversial "Tank Day" marketing campaign is drawing renewed attention to a high-stakes ownership agreement that could become a major financial risk for Emart and its parent, Shinsegae Group. In July 2021, Emart acquired an additional 700,000 shares in unlisted Starbucks Korea from Starbucks Coffee International, the overseas business and licensing arm of Starbucks, for 474.3 billion won (\$314 million). This raised its stake to 67.5 percent to secure manage

- [Dior Korea accused of misleading customer over handbag repair](#) (2026-05-20 05:22)

Dior's Korean business is facing legal complaints after a customer accused the luxury brand of misleading her over repairs to a limited-edition handbag, saying she was told the item would be sent to Paris but later found a local shop had handled the repairs. Seoul-based law firm Pyeongjeong said Wednesday it filed a complaint with Yongin Dongbu Police Station on behalf of the customer, accusing Christian Dior Couture Korea's chief executive, employees at a Dior boutique in a department store in

- [Gyeongbokgung nights come alive with royal court music and dance](#) (2026-05-20 05:09)

The National Gugak Center will present "Seeds of Sound" at Gyeongbokgung, Seoul, as part of the palace's nighttime program. The court music production reinterprets King Sejong's philosophy of music through a modern lens and features a range of traditional court performances, including "Daechwita," "Bongraeui," "Chunaengjeon," "Cheoyongmu" and "Yeominrak." Performances will be held 24 times in total on a special outdoor stage in front of the palace's Sujeongjeon hall — nine performances from Thur

- [Singaporean hiker rescued after emailing for help on restricted Jeju mountain](#) (2026-05-20 04:55)

A Singaporean hiker was rescued from a restricted mountain in Jeju after sending an email for help when his phone could not make local calls, authorities said Wednesday. The man in his 60s was booked on suspicion of violating the Act on the Preservation and Utilization of Cultural Heritage after climbing Sanbangsan in Andeok, Seogwipo. Public access to the mountain, designated Scenic Site No. 77, has been banned for safety and conservation reasons, according to Jeju municipal police. According to

- [\[Treasures from National Museum of Korea\] Stone Standing Maitreya Bodhisattva from Gamsansa](#) (2026-05-20 04:53)

Stone Standing Maitreya Bodhisattva from Gamsansa Period - Unified Silla (668–935)  
Provenance - North Gyeongsang Province Materials - Granite Dimensions - 270 cm in height  
Designation - National Treasure 81 In the late seventh century, Silla unified the three kingdoms of Silla, Baekje and Goguryeo, ushering in the Unified Silla period (676-935). An era of relative stability and prosperity, it saw Korean Buddhism and Buddhist art reach new heights. The granite statues of Maitreya and Amitabha we

- [S. Korean captain vows to stand firm against NK' s Naegohyang](#) (2026-05-20 04:51)

Suwon FC Women captain Ji So-yun said her team would not be intimidated by aggressive tactics in Wednesday's Champions League semifinal against North Korea' s Naegohyang Women' s FC. "North Korean players are tough and they curse a lot, but we won' t back down. If they talk trash, we' ll talk trash. If they kick us, we'll kick back," Ji said during a press conference Tuesday at Suwon Stadium in Suwon, Gyeonggi Province. The upcoming match offers Suwon a chance for redemption after its 3-0 loss to Na

- [Kim Ha-seong records first RBI of season](#) (2026-05-20 04:49)

Kim Ha-seong of the Atlanta Braves recorded his first hit in five games and also picked up his first RBI of the season. Kim started at shortstop and batted ninth in the Braves' away game against the Miami Marlins on Tuesday at LoanDepot Park in Miami, Florida. He went 1-for-4 with one RBI. Kim's batting average rose slightly to .087 (2 hits in 23 at-bats). He grounded out to third base in the second inning, grounded out to the pitcher in the fourth, and hit an outfield fly in the sixth. After a

- [Hyundai Motor Group to deploy 25,000 Atlas robots across factories](#) (2026-05-20 04:49)

South Korea' s Hyundai Motor Group plans to deploy more than 25,000 Atlas humanoid robots developed by its US robotics subsidiary Boston Dynamics across its vehicle manufacturing operations, with plans to manufacture key robot components in the US. The group unveiled the plan at an investor relations session hosted by JPMorgan Chase on Monday (local time). The event, held in Boston, brought officials from six affiliates, including Hyundai Motor, Kia, Hyundai Mobis, Hyundai Glovis, Hyundai AutoEve

- [Former AOA member Kwon Min-a says court ruling brings closure in sexual assault case](#) (2026-05-20 04:45)

Former AOA member Kwon Min-a said Monday that a recent court ruling in her sexual assault case had brought her a sense of closure, 18 years after she was assaulted at age 14. In a social media post, Kwon said the appeals court recognized the rape allegation against her perpetrator, describing the outcome as meaningful despite legal limits on punishment due to the expired statute of limitations. According to the singer, the court, while acknowledging the rape charge, did not accept the charge of

- [Why everybody is talking about stocks in Korea, and why it's worrisome](#) (2026-05-20 04:25)

At lunch tables, office coffee breaks and weekend family gatherings, conversations increasingly revolve around which shares surged overnight, which semiconductor stock might be the next to double and who made how much money in a single day. Social media feeds are flooded with screenshots of investors' portfolios showing eye-popping gains. Bookstores have turned bestseller sections over to investing guides and stock market strategy books. Even teenagers are joining the frenzy. The fever comes as

- [LG helps native honeybee population buzz back](#) (2026-05-20 04:19)

LG Group said Wednesday it has quadrupled the population of endangered native Korean honeybees to 4 million within a year as part of its biodiversity and ecosystem preservation initiative. The group said it established a habitat for the native "Halla honeybee" near Hwadam Botanic Garden in Gwangju, Gyeonggi Province, last year and increased the bee population from 1 million to 4 million through a breeding project carried out with Korea's first officially recognized native bee master, Kim Dae-rip

- [Samsung Electronics launches industry's first 6K gaming monitor](#) (2026-05-20 04:02)

Samsung Electronics on Wednesday unveiled four new Odyssey gaming monitors, including what it called the industry's first 6K gaming monitor, the Odyssey G6, as the company steps up its push into the premium gaming display market. The 32-inch Odyssey G6 features ultra-high 6K resolution and Samsung's Dual Mode technology, allowing users to switch seamlessly between 6K and 3K resolutions depending on gameplay and performance needs. Samsung also introduced a 27-inch Odyssey G8 model with refresh ra

- [Trump purges another Republican critic](#) (2026-05-20 03:41)

US President Donald Trump scored another victory in his campaign to punish disloyal Republicans on Tuesday as Representative Thomas Massie of Kentucky lost his primary race, underscoring the risks for lawmakers who defy Trump. Massie, who angered Trump by leading a push to release Justice Department files tied to the late sex offender Jeffrey Epstein and emerged as an outspoken critic of the war with Iran, was defeated by Ed Gallrein, a former Navy SEAL backed by the president and bolstered by h

- [LIV Golf focused on funding solution amid reports of potential bankruptcy](#) (2026-05-20 03:40)

LIV Golf said on Tuesday it remains focused on securing a transaction that positions the organization for the long-term in response to a report that said the rebel circuit has begun laying the groundwork for a potential US bankruptcy filing as a last resort if it fails to raise new funds. Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund, which has spent more than \$5 billion on LIV Golf since it launched in 2022, said in April that investing in the league no longer fit with its investment strategy. The PIF'

- [More Korean-language lessons coming for migrant-background students](#) (2026-05-20 03:00)

The Ministry of Education said Wednesday it would add 130 new online Korean-language lessons for students from migrant backgrounds, as part of efforts to help them adapt to school life and better follow classroom instruction. The new content will be added to “Korean for Everyone,” an online platform that provides AI-based Korean proficiency diagnosis, personalized learning management and study materials tailored to students’ proficiency levels. The platform currently offers 1,820 lessons coverin

- [King Charles III bangs drum for Irish music, eyes hip-hop lesson](#) (2026-05-20 02:50)

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AFP) -- Britain's King Charles III and Queen Camilla joined in with traditional Irish musicians Tuesday when they beat bodhrans, a type of drum and the monarch requested a hip-hop lesson, on a visit to Belfast. The royal couple picked up the instruments for the performance at Thompson Dock, one of the city's main tourist attractions and the last place that the Titanic stood on dry ground before her doomed maiden voyage in 1912. The ship was built at the Harland & Wolff

- [Le Sserafim’ s Chaewon to suspend activities due to neck pain](#) (2026-05-20 02:48)

Chaewon of Le Sserafim will take time off for health reasons, her agency Source Music said Tuesday. She has been treated for neck pain recently and will focus on recovery for the time being, according to the agency. Chaewon will miss a series of group activities, including a live showcase and television music chart shows to promote the group’ s second full album, “Pureflow pt. 1.” Fans had been worried after witnessing the idol seemingly in pain while performing the prerelease track “Celebration,

- [Rapper apologizes for insulting ex-president after concert was cancelled](#) (2026-05-20 02:46)

Rapper Rich Iggy on Tuesday issued an official apology for repeatedly mocking late former President Roh Moo-hyun, after his concert was canceled following a legal challenge from the Roh Moo Hyun Foundation. The 19-year-old rapper, whose real name is Lee Min-seo, had been scheduled to hold his first solo concert on Saturday, the anniversary of Roh’ s death on May 23, 2009. Lee scheduled the event to begin at 5:23 p.m. and priced tickets at 52,300 won

(\$34.60), repeatedly using the number 523 in re

- [Drone attack kills 28 at market in southern Sudan](#) (2026-05-20 02:44)

A drone strike on a crowded market in southern Sudan killed 28 people and injured 23 more on Tuesday, a medical source and witnesses told Agence France-Presse, in one of the deadliest recent attacks on civilians in the country's three-year war. The strike hit the town of Ghubaysh in West Kordofan, an area controlled by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces whose conflict with the Sudanese military has devastated much of the country since April 2023. The wounded and the dead were taken to the tow

- [\[Breaking\] Samsung Electronics union to launch strike after talks collapse](#) (2026-05-20 02:43)

Samsung Electronics' Labor Union said Wednesday it would proceed with a general strike starting Thursday after last-minute government-mediated talks failed to produce a breakthrough. Union chief Choi Seung-ho said the union had accepted a mediation proposal presented by the National Labor Relations Commission, but negotiations collapsed after management failed to present its position. "The union agreed to the mediation proposal presented by the National Labor Relations Commission, but the post-m

- [Trump says US may strike Iran again but that Tehran wants deal](#) (2026-05-20 02:39)

US President Donald Trump said Tuesday that the US may need to strike Iran again and that he had been an hour away from ordering an attack before postponing it. Trump made the comments a day after saying he had paused a planned resumption of hostilities following a new proposal by Tehran to end the US-Israeli war. "I was an hour away from making the decision to go today," Trump told reporters at the White House Tuesday. Iran's leaders are begging for a deal, he said, adding that a new US attack

- [Climate report says world won't get as hot as feared but will pass warming limit](#) (2026-05-20 02:38)

Scientists are jettisoning their worst and best case scenarios for a warming world as no longer plausible. That shows how modest gains in the fight to curb climate change have dialed back the most catastrophic of future heating but also confirmed that there's no chance to limit warming to the international goal set in 2015. Researchers' new list of seven plausible carbon pollution scenarios for the future are pushing aside two staples of climate policy: the extremes on either end. The extremes h

- [Court names Mango tycoon's son as suspect in probe into father's death](#) (2026-05-20 02:35)

The son of Isak Andic, founder of fashion group Mango, was named by a judge in Barcelona on Tuesday as a suspect in an investigation into his father's death in a 2024 cliff-top fall. Jonathan Andic, 45, was arrested by police in Catalonia before appearing in court, where the judge set

bail of 1 million euros (\$1.16 million) and required him to hand over his passport and barred him from leaving the region. The judge said in a statement after the court hearing that the case was being investigate

- [Hyundai Department Store Group wins top global HR development award](#) (2026-05-20 02:35)

Hyundai Department Store Group said Wednesday it has won the top honor at the Association for Talent Development's ATD 2026 Awards, becoming the first Korean retailer to do so. The award is presented to companies with talent development systems that meet global standards and closely align with corporate strategy. Founded in 1943, the Association for Talent Development is the world's largest professional association for talent development, with around 30,000 members worldwide. Its annual awards a

- [Trump shows off site of new \\$400m ballroom](#) (2026-05-20 02:22)

WASHINGTON (AFP) -- US President Donald Trump on Tuesday showed off the site of his huge new White House ballroom, a \$400 million project that critics say flies in the face of voter anger over the cost of living. The billionaire property magnate appeared in his element as he took reporters to see the construction work, barely audible above the sounds of hammering, sawing and clanging. "This is a gift to the United States of America," said Trump, standing by yellow railings on the edge of a caver

- [SpaceX's Starship V3 ready for debut launch ahead of IPO](#) (2026-05-20 02:21)

STARBASE, Texas (Reuters) -- SpaceX is poised this week to conduct the 12th uncrewed test flight of its next-generation Starship rocket, the first of a newly upgraded vehicle seen as critical to Elon Musk's efforts to satisfy investors and push deeper into space. The debut flight of the Starship V3, outfitted with new features designed to support future missions to the moon and Mars, poses a key test for both the vehicle itself and investor confidence ahead of an initial public offering for Sp

- [Infertility treatment increases by 40 percent in 4 years: data](#) (2026-05-20 02:17)

Infertility treatment cases in South Korea rose nearly 40 percent over four years to reach 203,101 in 2023, according to data released Wednesday by the Health Insurance Review and Assessment Service. The HIRA data showed a particularly sharp increase in in vitro fertilization, which jumped 55.4 percent to 171,510 cases from 110,390 in 2019. Intrauterine insemination, on the other hand, decreased 12.2 percent over the same period to 31,591 cases. A total of 77,660 women received infertility treat

- [Samsung Bioepis launches first biosimilar in Japan](#) (2026-05-20 02:08)

Samsung Bioepis said Wednesday it has launched autoimmune disease treatment SB17 in partnership with Nipro Corporation, marking the company's first product launch in Japan and its full-scale entry into the market. SB17 is a biosimilar referencing Stelara and is used to treat

immune-mediated diseases, including plaque psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis. The drug works by inhibiting interleukin-12 and interleukin-23, proteins linked to abnormal immune responses. Samsung Bioepis signed a strategic p

- [Stray Kids tops 100m views with ‘Walkin On Water’ music video](#) (2026-05-20 02:06)

Stray Kids’ “Walkin On Water” music video surpassed 100 million YouTube views as of Tuesday, label JYP Entertainment said Wednesday. It is the group’ s 20th video to do so.

“Walkin On Water” is the lead single from “Hop,” a mixtape released in December 2024 comprising 12 tracks. The album landed at the top of the Billboard 200 and became the group’ s sixth consecutive album to debut at No. 1 on the main albums chart. The set sold more than 1.8 million copies in its first week and was certified gol

- [Auto exports down over 5% in April amid Middle East crisis: data](#) (2026-05-20 02:05)

South Korea’s auto exports decreased more than 5 percent from a year earlier in April, amid a sharp decrease in shipments to the Middle East due to a geopolitical crisis there, government data showed Wednesday. The combined value of automobile exports came to \$6.17 billion last month, down 5.5 percent from the same month last year, according to the data from the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Resources. Outbound shipments to North America, Latin America and Oceania went up by 2.4 percent, 23.7

- [LX Pantos joins UN women’ s empowerment initiative](#) (2026-05-20 01:54)

LX Pantos said Wednesday it had joined UN Women’ s Empowerment Principles, underscoring its commitment to building a more inclusive corporate culture based on gender equality and women’ s empowerment. Established jointly by the UN Global Compact and UN Women, the Women’ s Empowerment Principles provide guidelines for advancing women’ s rights and gender equality across workplaces, supply chains and local communities. More than 12,000 companies globally, including over 100 in Korea, have joined the i

- [Finance minister highlights AI capacity building for developing nations at G7](#) (2026-05-20 01:45)

South Korea’s finance minister stressed the importance of building artificial intelligence capacity in developing countries to achieve sustainable growth during the Group of Seven finance ministers and central bank governors’ meeting, his office said Wednesday. Finance Minister Koo Yun-cheol made the remarks at the G7 finance ministers and central bank governors’ meeting held in Paris on Tuesday, where South Korea was invited along with India, Brazil and Kenya, according to the Ministry of Finan

- [UN cuts global growth forecast over Mideast energy crisis](#) (2026-05-20 01:40)

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Responding to Middle East crises and rising oil prices, the United Nations on Tuesday lowered its forecast for global economic growth and raised the prospects for inflation this year. UN economists said global GDP growth is now forecast at 2.5 percent for

2026, down from 2.7 percent in January, and they said it could fall to only 2.1 percent “in amore adverse scenario.” That would be one of the weakest growth rates this century, outsideof the COVID-19 pandemic and the glo

- [BTS shatters record on Billboard global chart](#) (2026-05-20 01:31)

BTS reclaimed the top spot on Billboard’ s Global excl. US chart with “Swim,” totalling six weeks at No. 1. The main track from its fifth studio album “Arirang” dethroned Taylor Swift for the most No. 1s in global chart history, said label Big Hit Music on Wednesday, quoting Billboard. The single has spent eight weeks on Hot 100, the main songs chart, ranking No. 34 in the week of May 23, after a chart-topping debut. Meanwhile, Jimin and V each reached a milestone on Spotify with solo music. Jimi

- [Google adds AI agent to search](#) (2026-05-20 01:29)

MOUNTAIN VIEW, United States (AFP) -- Google on Tuesday showed off new plans to turn its famous search bar into an AI assistant that can book restaurants, track news and contact businesses -- just by asking a question. After three years of struggling to keep up with ChatGPT, Google is racing to roll out artificial intelligence tools that build on its grip over online search. The company's Gemini AI app now has 900 million monthly users, twice as many as last year. Its AI-powered search feature,

- [Cortis breaks into top 5 on Billboard’ s Artist 100](#) (2026-05-20 01:28)

Cortis ranked No. 5 on Billboard’ s Artist 100, label Big Hit Music said Wednesday, citing the latest chart published on Tuesday in the US. The rookie group debuted on the chart in September at No. 24 with its breakout hit debut EP, “Color Outside The Lines.” Its second EP “Greengreen” claimed the No. 3 spot on the Billboard 200 dated May 23, the highest rung for the group so far, making it among the top three on the main singles chart in the fastest time ever for a K-pop group except for subunit

- [N. Korea's U-17 women get grand welcome after AFC win](#) (2026-05-20 01:26)

North Korea's U-17 women's football team has received a grand welcome ceremony in Pyongyang upon its return following a win at the Asian Football Confederation U17 Women's Asian Cup, state media reported Wednesday. The team was received by government and party officials the previous day at Pyongyang International Airport, where players were presented with flower garlands and bouquets before parading through the city on a flower-decorated bus. Pyongyang citizens lined the streets, waving at the p

- [Israeli forces seize another aid flotilla carrying Korean activists: civic group](#) (2026-05-20 01:21)

Israeli forces have seized another humanitarian aid flotilla, carrying two activists from a South Korean civic group, headed for the Gaza Strip, the group said Wednesday. The Lina Al Nabulsi, carrying South Korean activist Kim Ah-hyun and Korean American activist Jonathan Victor Lee,

was confirmed to have been intercepted by the Israeli military in waters near the Gaza Strip at 2:50 a.m. Wednesday, according to the Korean Flotilla for a Free Palestine. The capture comes after Israeli forces seized

- [Japan PM Takaichi heads home after 2-day visit to Andong, summit with Lee](#) (2026-05-20 01:17)

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi headed home Wednesday after a two-day visit to South Korea's Andong, the hometown of South Korean President Lee Jae Myung, where the two held a bilateral summit. A vehicle carrying the prime minister left a hotel in Andong, 190 kilometers southeast of Seoul, at around 8:50 a.m., heading to Daegu International Airport, where she will board a plane bound for Japan. Police and security officials were deployed around the hotel, while citizens and reporters gathered

- [Arsenal wins its first EPL title in 22 years after Man City draws with Bournemouth](#) (2026-05-20 01:10)

Arsenal's decades-long wait is over: Mikel Arteta's team was crowned Premier League champion for the first time since 2004 on Tuesday after Manchester City drew 1-1 with Bournemouth. "I told you all ... it's done," Arsenal midfielder Declan Rice posted on social media with a photo of his team celebrating. The result put an end to what might be Pep Guardiola's final title challenge with City after the decorated manager didn't dismiss reports he was set to leave the club at the end of the season.

- [S. Korea, China's Jiangsu discuss ways to expand trade, industrial ties](#) (2026-05-20 01:00)

South Korea's trade ministry and the government of China's Jiangsu Province on Wednesday held a joint forum aimed at promoting economic and trade cooperation between the two sides. The event also helped Korean companies ink \$2.3 billion worth of export deals with Chinese buyers, officials said. The seventh Korea-Jiangsu business and trade exchange forum was held at Yancheng city in the eastern Chinese province and attended by some 400 government officials and business leaders from the two sides,

- [\[Graphic News\] Half of farming population is over 65](#) (2026-05-19 23:00)

South Korea's farming, forestry and fisheries communities are aging rapidly, with more than half now aged 65 or older, according to government data. The Ministry of Data and Statistics said about 2.58 million people live in households related to the sectors, accounting for roughly 5 percent of the country's population. The number of households stood at around 1.27 million. Small households continued to rise in rural areas, with one- and two-person households making up about 80 percent of the total

- [\[Kim Seng-kon\] From 'little old men' to great old men](#) (2026-05-19 20:30)

In Greek, "gerontion" means "little old man." The famous poet T. S. Eliot published a poem titled "Gerontion" in 1920, in which a disillusioned elderly man reflects on Europe after World

War I. In the poem, an old man's voice laments the barren landscape of modern civilization with the intellectual frivolity and spiritual barrenness of postwar Europe. Later, T. S. Eliot called this bleak world "The Waste Land." Just as Eliot's little old man did in the early 20th century, today's "little old men

- [\[Allison Schrager\]US job market tilts female](#) (2026-05-19 17:30)

America is fast becoming a country with two economies: A stagnant one for men and a growing one for women. So far this year, the US has created more than 165,000 private-sector jobs, and 72 percent of them went to women. To some extent this reflects a structural change in the economy, as growth is in industries more likely to employ women, such as health care. But it is also the result of a series of policy choices that aim to make the economy safer — and have made it less favorable to men. The

- [Unification ministry defends white paper against criticism over 'two-state' language](#) (2026-05-19 11:41)

The unification ministry on Tuesday pushed back against criticism that its newly published white paper violates the Constitution, clarifying the controversial "two-state" language falls under broader peace efforts on the Korean Peninsula. The ministry characterized the "two-state" language as an "implementation strategy" to achieve the current administration's policy of peaceful coexistence with North Korea. "(It) is an implementation strategy to achieve the goal of the policy of peaceful coexis

- [Uber becomes top shareholder in Delivery Hero, Baemin parent](#) (2026-05-19 11:28)

Uber has become the largest shareholder in the parent company of Woowa Brothers, operator of the South Korean food delivery app Baemin, after acquiring an additional stake. Germany-based Delivery Hero said Monday that Uber had acquired additional shares, raising its holding from around 7 percent to 19.5 percent of issued capital, as well as options to obtain an additional 5.6 percent stake. "Delivery Hero welcomes Uber's additional investment as a further endorsement of its platform and Everyday

- [Seoul, Tokyo agree to pursue oil, petroleum product swaps amid energy shock](#) (2026-05-19 11:19)

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung and Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi agreed Tuesday to pursue cooperation on swaps and mutual supplies of crude oil and petroleum products, Cheong Wa Dae said. The agreement, reached during their summit in Lee's hometown of Andong, North Gyeongsang Province, expands the two countries' energy security agenda beyond their existing cooperation on liquefied natural gas swaps. Lee and Takaichi discussed global issues, including the conflict in the Middle East

- [S. Korea raises travel alert to Cuba amid country's political uncertainty](#) (2026-05-19 10:15)

South Korea on Tuesday raised its travel alert level for Cuba from a Level 2 alert to a special travel advisory, citing uncertain political developments surrounding the Caribbean island nation, the foreign ministry said. The special travel advisory is part of South Korea's five-tier travel alert system and corresponds to a level above a Level 2 warning but below a Level 3 recommendation urging citizens to leave the country unless travel is essential. The ministry said the move also reflects dete

- [Lee, Takaichi forge energy front as Hormuz crisis bears down](#) (2026-05-19 09:14)

Seoul-Tokyo ties accelerated Tuesday as South Korean President Lee Jae Myung and Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi agreed to deepen energy and supply chain cooperation under shared pressure from the effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz. Lee and Takaichi met in Lee's hometown of Andong, North Gyeongsang Province, in a reciprocal trip following Lee's visit to Takaichi's home region of Nara Prefecture in mid-January. The two-day visit marked the first exchange of hometown visits between s

- [Uzbek officials visit Hoseo University for semiconductor cooperation talks](#) (2026-05-19 08:53)

Uzbek government officials visited Hoseo University on Tuesday to tour the university's semiconductor packaging lab and participate in a seminar on semiconductor industry-academia cooperation. The visit was organized under the Young Leaders Governance Program, an ongoing Korea-Uzbekistan exchange program focused on industrial cooperation and talent development. It marked the delegation's second visit to the university, following a visit in May last year. The delegation consisted of young Uzbek p

- [Korea's 'value-up' push may pressure bank capital: Moody's](#) (2026-05-19 08:50)

Moody's Ratings warned Tuesday that rising shareholder returns and policy-driven lending expansion could pressure Korean banks' capital buffers, even as the country's banking system remains broadly sound. The ratings agency said Korea's corporate value-up campaign has lifted shareholder returns closer to global peers, while major financial groups have adopted clearer capital targets. "The value-up policy itself has positive aspects," said Arlene Sohn, assistant vice president and analyst at Mood

- [May roses in full bloom](#) (2026-05-19 08:24)

With spring in full swing, roses are blooming across the country, filling parks and streets with vibrant colors. Roses, one of the signature flowers of May, begin blooming in early May and reach full bloom from late May to early June. In line with the blooming season, a variety of rose festivals are set to take place nationwide. The Ulsan Grand Park Rose Festival, jointly hosted by the southeastern city of Ulsan and SK Innovation, will open Wednesday for five days, attracting picnicgoers with so

- [Foreign travelers are booking rail trips to see beyond Seoul](#) (2026-05-19 08:24)

Foreign visitors booking Korean rail tickets on Klook are increasingly heading to cities like Gyeongju, Daegu and Busan, according to the travel platform. Klook, a booking platform for accommodations, transportation and activities, launched a real-time Korail ticketing service for foreign travelers on April 20. The service lets users check schedules and seat availability across all Korail routes on the Klook app or website and board with a digital voucher. In the first three weeks after launch,

- [Apple Pay drives 30-fold surge in EMV payments at Hyundai Card](#) (2026-05-19 08:23)

Hyundai Card said Tuesday that EMV contactless payments by its customers have surged roughly 30-fold since the launch of Apple Pay in South Korea in 2023, highlighting how the service has accelerated the country's shift toward global tap-to-pay standards. The card issuer said the number of EMV-type contactless transactions climbed to around 160 million in 2025 from about 5 million in 2022, before Apple Pay's local debut. EMV payments now account for a share of Hyundai Card's total transactions t

- [New Hilton in Busan's Gijang to lean into wellness and medical tourism](#) (2026-05-19 08:21)

A new Hilton hotel scheduled to open in 2028 in Gijang, a coastal county on the northeastern edge of Busan, will pitch itself to a growing market of travelers who combine vacations with spa retreats and medical procedures. Hilton signed a franchise agreement Saturday with Korean developer MS&C for the 111-room Hilton Garden Inn Busan Gijang, the companies announced. The signing took place at Bexco, Busan's convention center. The hotel includes a private hot spring, an all-day dining restaurant,

- [Citibank Korea, Korea Eximbank back KoMiCo's US chip expansion](#) (2026-05-19 08:16)

Citibank Korea said Tuesday it will provide \$100 million in syndicated financing alongside the Export-Import Bank of Korea to support Korean equipment parts supplier KoMiCo's expansion in the US semiconductor market. The financing agreement was signed on Monday at KoMiCo's headquarters in Anseong, Gyeonggi Province. Citibank Korea Commercial Banking Head Hwang Jae-won, KoMiCo CEO Choi Yong-ha and Korea Eximbank Senior Executive Vice President Kim Jin-seop were in attendance. KoMiCo specializes i

- [Dutch Korean War veteran buried in Busan](#) (2026-05-19 08:09)

A Dutch veteran of the Korean War has been laid to rest at the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Busan, where service members of UN forces who fought in the war are honored. According to the cemetery, the late Jacob Cornelis Constandse of the Netherlands was buried there on May 14 in accordance with his final wishes. He was known to those around him by the nickname Jaap. Constandse was born on Dec. 7, 1927, in Dubbeldam, the Netherlands, and died on April 13 in Roosendaal at the age of 97. The

- ['Uncle Vanya' is their stage debut. Both wonder if they can survive another play](#) (2026-05-19 07:58)

During the 2000s, Lee Seo-jin was a familiar face in Korean drama series: polished, composed and quietly charismatic. By the 2010s, he had become one of variety television's defining stars, winning audiences over with his deadpan humor and his now-signature persona: a perpetually grumbling yet friendly uncle-next-door figure. Which made it both surprising and oddly fitting to see him grumbling nervously ahead of his theater debut. When the 55-year-old actor appeared at a press conference in April

- [Kim Jang-jun becomes first Korean to win NCAA Division I men's tennis title](#) (2026-05-19 07:55)

Rising star Kim Jang-jun of the University of Virginia became the first Korean player ever to win an National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I men's tennis title. The University of Virginia, where Kim plays, defeated the University of Texas 4-3 in the 2026 NCAA Division I Men's Tennis Championship final held in Georgia, Sunday. With the victory, Virginia captured its seventh NCAA Division I championship title overall. Playing in the No. 3 singles match in the final, Kim defeated Sebast

- [Bang Shin-sil Climbs to World No. 47 After KLPGA Victory](#) (2026-05-19 07:55)

Bang Shin-sil, who won the Doosan Match Play on the KLPGA Tour, has risen to No. 47 in the women's golf world rankings. In the weekly women's world rankings released on Tuesday, Bang jumped 14 spots from No. 61 the previous week. Bang captured her first win of the season on Sunday, defeating Choi Eun-woo in a playoff thriller in the final of the Doosan Match Play. Runner-up Choi Eun-woo surged 31 places to No. 131 in the rankings. Meanwhile, Ryu Hae-ran, who finished runner-up at the Kroger Quee

- [Seoul shares dip 3.25% on tech slide; won drops](#) (2026-05-19 07:02)

South Korean stocks closed lower Tuesday as a foreign-selling spree of major techs continued, tracking an overnight tech slump on Wall Street. The local currency weakened against the US dollar. After choppy trading, the benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index lost 244.38 points, or 3.25 percent, to close at 7,271.66. After opening 1.2 percent lower, the index plunged as much as 4.98 percent to 7,141.91 in the morning session before rebounding in the afternoon, suffering extreme swings through

- ['No-union' policy left Samsung open to strike threat: Gyeonggi candidate](#) (2026-05-19 06:38)

An imminent strike threat is the latest illustration of how Samsung Electronics' decadeslong "no-union" policy left the tech giant vulnerable, according to the main opposition People Power Party's candidate for Gyeonggi Province governor, Yang Hyang-ja. Samsung Electronics — which runs chip manufacturing bases in Gyeonggi Province cities like Giheung, Yongin and Pyeongtaek — has missed the opportunity to build a culture that embraces unions. This, in turn, has exposed the company to a strike at

- [‘Father of Mexican Taekwondo’ Moon Dai-won dies at 83](#) (2026-05-19 06:32)

Grand Master Moon Dai-won, widely regarded as the “Father of Mexican Taekwondo,” died Saturday at his home in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. He was 83. According to reports from Mexican media and Korean news outlets, Moon had reportedly lived with chronic lung illness. Born in Hongseong, South Chungcheong Province, in 1943, Moon first arrived in Mexico in 1968 and opened the "Moo Duk Kwan" Taekwondo school in Mexico City the following year, becoming the first Korean master to systematically intr

- [Samsung strike fears ripple across Korea Inc.](#) (2026-05-19 06:21)

South Korea’s industrial backbone is facing its most serious wave of labor unrest in years, raising fears of disruptions to global technology and automotive supply chains at a critical moment for the economy. At the center of the tensions is Samsung Electronics, where workers are preparing for an unprecedented 18-day strike beginning Thursday. The company’s largest labor union is demanding the removal of the current cap on performance bonuses and a new system that would allocate up to 15 percent

- [Shinsegae chief apologizes over Starbucks Korea ‘Tank Day’ backlash](#) (2026-05-19 06:17)

Shinsegae Group Chair Chung Yong-jin on Tuesday issued a formal apology over Starbucks Korea’s “Tank Day” marketing campaign, vowing to overhaul the retail group’s decision-making process. “Starbucks Korea, a Shinsegae Group affiliate, yesterday conducted an unforgivable, inappropriate marketing campaign that should have never happened,” he said. “As a result, it left a deep scar on the souls of the May 18 Democratization Movement, their bereaved families and the public. On behalf of (Shinsegae

- [Samsung Electronics, union race for deal ahead of Thursday strike](#) (2026-05-19 06:16)

Samsung Electronics and its largest labor union resumed government-mediated talks for a second day Tuesday, with attention focused on whether the two sides can reach a last-minute compromise before a planned strike Thursday. The closed-door talks at the National Labor Relations Commission in Sejong followed an earlier round of mediation on May 11 and 12 that ended without an agreement. The latest round, which began Monday, has centered on performance bonus calculations, bonus caps and how the bo

- [BOK warns Samsung strike could cut growth by 0.5%p](#) (2026-05-19 06:00)

The Bank of Korea warned in an internal report that a planned strike by Samsung Electronics workers could shave as much as 0.5 percentage point off South Korea’s economic growth this year. According to the report, disruptions to semiconductor production from the union’s planned 18-day strike starting Thursday could cause up to 30 trillion won (\$20.1 billion) in economic losses, lowering annual gross domestic product growth to the 1 percent range from the central bank’s previous 2 percent forecas

- [Taeyang embraces authenticity, reinvention on 'Quintessence'](#) (2026-05-19 05:59)

Taeyang is entering one of the most significant years of his career as Big Bang celebrates its 20th anniversary and he returns with his first solo album in nearly a decade. After kicking off 2026 with Big Bang's appearance at Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival in Indio in April, Taeyang released his fourth studio album "Quintessence" on May 18, the same day as his birthday. As both a Big Bang member and solo artist returning to music after a hiatus, Taeyang said he spent nearly a year work

- [Police review easing school zone speed limits at night](#) (2026-05-19 05:57)

South Korean police are reviewing whether to change speed restrictions in school zones, currently set at 30 kilometers per hour around the clock, amid growing criticism that the limits are unnecessary late at night. The National Police Agency commissioned the Korea Road Traffic Authority earlier this month to conduct a study on possible reforms to school zone speed regulations. The changes would not require revisions to the Road Traffic Act. The move came after the government's recently launched

- [S. Korea's vice foreign minister visits Washington amid stalled nuclear submarine talks](#) (2026-05-19 05:56)

South Korea's First Vice Foreign Minister Park Yoon-joo visited Washington on Tuesday for high-level talks with US officials amid mounting concerns in Seoul over delays in implementing key bilateral security agreements, including cooperation on nuclear-powered submarines. Park began his US schedule after arriving at Dulles International Airport near Washington. During the visit, he is set to meet Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Allison Hooker and Deputy Secretary of State Christop

- [Centre Pompidou Hanwha unveils rare Cubist masterpieces in Seoul](#) (2026-05-19 05:55)

The Centre Pompidou has arrived in Seoul with a major Cubism exhibition, marking the start of its four-year partnership with Hanwha. The four-story Centre Pompidou Hanwha building is located at the annex of the 63 Building in Yeouido, Seoul. The building, designed by French architect Jean-Michel Wilmotte, opened following the renovation of the annex's long-running aquarium space. The partnership reflects Seoul's growing prominence in the global art scene. "Not only will we introduce works from t

- [K-drama, K-film locations pulling travelers to Korea's smaller cities](#) (2026-05-19 05:51)

Yeongwol, a quiet Gangwon Province town best known as the exile site of a dethroned Joseon king, is drawing a different kind of pilgrimage. Accommodation searches there rose 190 percent from January through April this year compared with the same period in 2025, according to booking platform Agoda. The increase appears to ride on the success of "The King's Warden"; the historical film drew 16.8 million admissions and used Yeongwol as a primary filming location. Visitors to the town can take in Ch

- [Chefs bring ancient Korean culinary texts back to life in modern recipes](#) (2026-05-19 05:50)

When chef Lee Jun began studying centuries-old Korean cookbooks for his Michelin two-star restaurant Soigne, he kept returning to one question: Was he holding a piece of history that must be preserved as it is, or someone's working recipe? He landed on the second answer, and that conclusion has shaped how the chef approaches traditional Korean cuisine. "A cookbook is a record left by a cook of the recipes they use," Lee said at the 2026 Hansik Forum, held Monday at the Korea House in Seoul. "Tas

- [MakinaRocks IPO to test Kosdaq's appetite for AI beyond chips](#) (2026-05-19 05:49)

MakinaRocks, a Korean industrial artificial intelligence company, is set to debut on the Kosdaq on Wednesday in one of the junior bourse's most closely watched IPOs this year, testing whether investor enthusiasm for AI can expand beyond semiconductor giants into smaller software firms. The company attracted about 14 trillion won (\$9.4 billion) in retail subscription deposits, placing it among the strongest Kosdaq IPOs on record. Institutional demand was also robust, with lock-up commitments reac

- [Yu Jae-seok becomes first-time camp host in Netflix's new B&B-style; reality show](#) (2026-05-19 05:48)

Veteran entertainer Yu Jae-seok is bringing his first namesake reality show to Netflix with "Jae-seok's B&B Rules!" a new reality TV series that transforms the familiar Korean bed-and-breakfast variety format into a large-scale group camp. The show follows Yu as a first-time camp host alongside staff members Lee Kwang-soo, Byeon Woo-seok and Ji Ye-eun as they run a two-night, three-day retreat for guests seeking a temporary escape from everyday life. Directed by producers Jung Hyo-min, Lee So-m

- [S. Korea enhances cyber command unit amid push for 'soft-kill' deterrence](#) (2026-05-19 05:47)

South Korea's military has upgraded a key operational unit under its Cyber Operations Command, in a move seen as part of efforts to strengthen cyber and electromagnetic capabilities against North Korea's growing nuclear and missile threats, according to data submitted to a lawmaker Tuesday. The Cyber Operations Command has raised the rank of the commander of its 1st Operations Group from colonel to brigadier general starting this year, according to data submitted by the Defense Ministry to Rep.

- [Over 500 local election candidates win even before polling day](#) (2026-05-19 05:41)

At least 504 candidates in 307 constituencies in the June 3 local elections are expected to be elected uncontested, as no rival candidates registered for their races, the National Election Commission said Monday. According to NEC data based on candidate registrations that closed Friday, about 12 percent of all elected posts are expected to be filled without a vote because the number of candidates is equal to the number of seats — some districts elect two officials. It is the second-largest numbe

- [SK Innovation breaks ground on \\$2.3b Vietnam LNG project](#) (2026-05-19 05:41)

SK Innovation said Tuesday that a consortium formed with PetroVietnam Power and Vietnamese partner NASU, an affiliate of TH Group, held a groundbreaking ceremony for the Quynh Lap liquefied natural gas project in Nghe An province. Ceremony attendees included SK Innovation CEO Choo Hyeong-wook, PV Power Chairman Hoang Van Quang, PV Power President Le Nhu Linh, TH Group Chair Thai Thi Huong and NASU CEO Ngo Van Tu. The \$2.3 billion project involves the construction of a 1.5-gigawatt LNG combined-c

- [Neymar picked for Brazil's World Cup squad despite doubts on fitness](#) (2026-05-19 05:33)

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) -- Neymar made Brazil's World Cup squad on Monday, a selection many local analysts and former footballers deemed unlikely only days ago. The striker will appear at his fourth World Cup. The 34-year-old Neymar is Brazil's all-time top goal-scorer with 79 but has struggled to return to top fitness since he tore his left ACL in October 2023. He's played eight matches for Santos this year with four goals and two assists. "He has improved his fitness, he will be an important playe

- [Korea marks 15 years of UNESCO arts education week with debate, dance and Dream Orchestra](#) (2026-05-19 05:31)

South Korea opened its 15th UNESCO Culture and Arts Education Week on Tuesday, kicking off two weeks of forums, concerts, workshops and one ambitious international symposium on what arts education actually does. The observance, running through May 31, is organized by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism and the Korea Arts & Culture Education Service. Korea proposed the international observance in November 2011, and the UNESCO General Conference declared the fourth week of May as the annua

- [Uniqlo returns to Myeong-dong — bigger and more localized](#) (2026-05-19 05:28)

Five years after Uniqlo vanished from Myeong-dong amid the “No Japan” boycott and the COVID-19 pandemic, the Japanese retailer is coming back to Seoul’ s most storied shopping district with its largest store in Korea to date. Opening Friday, the sheer scale of the new flagship signals confidence: three floors, roughly 3,200 square meters, 42 checkout counters and 54 fitting rooms. More revealing, though, is its dual mandate to function as a global retail destination and an homage to a neighborhoo

- [N. Korea’ s MDL crossings decline as border work advances](#) (2026-05-19 05:26)

North Korean troops have not crossed the Military Demarcation Line this year, according to military sources Tuesday, in what appears to reflect the near completion of North Korea’ s frontline clearing work near the inter-Korean border. The shift marks a sharp contrast from last year, when North Korean troops violated the MDL 17 times. But military sources said the absence of crossings does not necessarily suggest reduced tensions, but rather a change in the phase of North Korea’ s work to turn the

- [Samsung Electronics salaries hit new high in Q1](#) (2026-05-19 05:23)

Samsung Electronics employees earned an estimated average of 36 million won (\$26,500) in the first quarter of 2026, or roughly 12 million won per month, according to a report released Monday by the Korea CXO Institute. The chaebol tracker estimated Samsung's total payroll at between 4.25 trillion won and 4.79 trillion won based on the company's reported "salary by nature" figure of 5.6 trillion won for the January-March period. Historically, Samsung's payroll has accounted for about 76 percent t

- [KT courts foreign residents with multilingual stores, family reunion event](#) (2026-05-19 05:22)

KT is stepping up services for foreign residents in Korea, combining multilingual retail support with customer events as the company seeks to reach a growing segment of the telecom market. The company recently invited the family of Curiba Ma Jo-velle, a Filipino KT customer working in Korea, through a reunion event organized by its Global Store in Ansan, Gyeonggi Province. Her husband and daughter arrived at Incheon International Airport on May 12 and spent six nights and seven days travelling i

- [Russia attacks Danube, Ukraine launches drones](#) (2026-05-19 05:21)

A Russian air attack damaged port infrastructure in Ukraine's Izmail city in the early hours of Tuesday, while Russian authorities said they had downed four drones launched by Ukraine that were headed toward Moscow. Izmail, in the southern Odesa region and home to the largest Ukrainian port on the Danube River, is a frequently hit strategic location. "Port infrastructure facilities in the city of Izmail were damaged," local officials said on Telegram, adding that nearly all aerial attack weapo

- [Surveillance footage captures man wearing plastic bag stealing from unstaffed bakery](#) (2026-05-19 05:16)

Surveillance footage captured a late-night theft at an unstaffed bakery in Chuncheon, Gangwon Province, where a man wearing a plastic bag over his head emptied shelves of bread and pastries, according to a report by JTBC on Monday. JTBC reported that the man entered the bakery around 11:20 p.m. Saturday. He wore a plastic bag pulled tightly over his head with eye holes cut into the front. Carrying another plastic bag, the man calmly moved through the store, sweeping baked goods off the shelves a

- [Greenland says US talks make progress but island is not for sale](#) (2026-05-19 05:12)

Greenland's government said Monday that progress has been made in high-stakes talks with the US over the territory's future, but that the giant island sought by US President Donald Trump will never be for sale. US special envoy Jeff Landry, appointed by Trump last year to push for American control of Greenland, arrived in Nuuk Sunday and met on Monday with Prime Minister Jens-Frederik Nielsen and Foreign Minister Mute Egede. "We believe there is progress, and from Greenland's side we are foc

- [Chinese president hosts 'old friend' Putin](#) (2026-05-19 05:10)

Chinese leader Xi Jinping was set to host his "old friend" Vladimir Putin less than a week after Donald Trump's high-profile visit, as Beijing seeks to project itself as a stable and predictable power in a world shaken by trade tensions, wars and an energy crisis. China and Russia have cast Putin's two-day trip this week — his 25th visit to China — as further evidence of their "all-weather" partnership, even as the West urges Beijing to pressure Moscow into ending its war in Ukraine. While Chin

- [Can't find a seat on the subway? There's an app for that](#) (2026-05-19 05:08)

After the train doors close to the noise and crowds outside, the silent battle for a seat begins. Standing passengers quietly scan those seated, searching for signs they may be about to leave. Are they pulling a backpack closer? Is anyone glancing up from their phone to check the digital display showing the next stop? Anyone who commutes by subway during rush hour has likely taken part in this silent ritual, dreaming of swapping seats with someone just before they exit the train. That dream has

- [North Korean soccer players to focus on match, not supporters](#) (2026-05-19 04:46)

The head coach of North Korea's Naegohyang Women's FC said Tuesday that his team was focused only on its match against Suwon FC Women, not on the South Korean supporters who plan to cheer for both teams. Ri Yu-il said his players are well prepared for the semifinal of the Asian Football Confederation Women's Champions League. The game will kick off at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Suwon Stadium in Suwon, Gyeonggi Province, marking the first time women's soccer teams from the two Koreas have faced each other.

- [Seoul Subway app revamped to improve access for foreign riders](#) (2026-05-19 04:20)

Seoul Metro said Tuesday it has overhauled its Seoul Subway mobile app to help foreign residents and tourists navigate the city's subway system with ease by expanding language support, including for live updates. The app now supports four languages, with Chinese and Japanese added to its existing Korean and English services. The app's user interface and guidance system were also redesigned to help first-time subway users navigate the system more easily, according to the public transit operator.

- [Embassy marks first-ever India Day in Seoul](#) (2026-05-19 04:19)

The Indian Embassy in Seoul hosted its first India Day festival on Saturday, drawing thousands as New Delhi and Seoul seek to deepen cultural and people-to-people ties alongside the two nations' special strategic partnership. Held at Yeouido Hangang Park under the theme "Unity in Diversity," the event featured Indian classical dance, fusion Indian-Korean and Bollywood performances, regional cuisine, and cultural exhibitions showcasing India's 28 states and eight union territories. The celebration

- [Can apartments ban nonresident kids?](#) (2026-05-19 04:15)

An apartment complex in Busan has reportedly banned nonresident children from using its playground, sparking controversy over whether such restrictions are justified. A resident of the complex posted a complaint about the ban, protesting the policy implemented by the apartment management, according to local media outlets Tuesday. “We all had experience playing at the playgrounds of friends who lived in other apartment complexes. Why would we, as adults, ban children who should be playing freely?”

- [Korean activist detained by Israeli military en route to Gaza](#) (2026-05-19 04:11)

A second South Korean activist was detained by the Israeli military while sailing toward the Gaza Strip on Monday, months after another Korean activist was detained during a similar voyage in October, a human rights group said. The activist, 34-year-old Kim Dong-hyeon, was aboard a vessel named Kyriakos X along with seven other international activists. It is believed that he is being on an Israeli naval vessel after the boat was intercepted overnight, according to the Korean Flotilla for a Free

- [S. Korea to send 93 Korean language teachers to 13 countries](#) (2026-05-19 03:19)

The Ministry of Education said Tuesday it would dispatch 93 Korean-language teachers to 13 countries this year to meet growing demand for Korean-language education in regions with limited teaching resources. The ministry said it has begun accepting applications from teachers who wish to be dispatched for the fall semester to nine countries: Cambodia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Vietnam. Four other countries had teachers chosen for dispatch in April

- [Seoul opens Korean-Chinese speech contest](#) (2026-05-19 03:14)

Applications are open for the fifth Korean-Chinese bilingual speech contest, which invites youths from elementary through high school across Korea to speak under the theme “My Dream.” Participants are asked to deliver speeches in both Korean and Chinese, sharing stories about the dreams they hope to achieve, the experiences that inspired them, or the efforts they are making toward their goals. Organizers say the event aims to create a space where migrant youths and Korean youths can grow together

- [Russian embassy showcases Hermitage in Seoul](#) (2026-05-19 02:51)

The Russian Embassy in Seoul is holding an immersive digital exhibition of the Hermitage Museum at the Oil Tank Culture Park, showcasing more than 80 digital works and recreations of the Winter Palace through July 30. The Hermitage Museum, founded by Empress Catherine the Great in the 18th century, is widely regarded as one of the world’s largest and most prestigious art museums, housing millions of artifacts in St. Petersburg’s historic Winter Palace. Held at the transformed Oil Tank Culture Pa

- [Ateez to headline British Summer Time Hyde Park](#) (2026-05-19 02:47)

Ateez will be a headliner at British Summer Time Hyde Park, its agency KQ Entertainment said Tuesday. The music festival, slated to be held in London from June 27 to July 11, recently announced its partial lineup, which includes Garth Brooks, Maroon 5, Duran Duran and Mumford & Sons alongside Ateez. The eight-piece team has participated in a series of major festivals worldwide after debuting at the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival in 2024. Ateez wrapped up its “In Your Fantasy” world tou

- [Korean diva Han Young-ae to host six-hour live radio marathon](#) (2026-05-19 02:41)

Han Young-ae, a Korean diva often referred to as the “witch of sound,” will host a six-hour live radio marathon ahead of her 50th debut anniversary concerts in June, her agency Namu Music said Monday. Han will appear consecutively on three programs on Gyungin Broadcasting System iFM on Thursday, beginning with “Park Hyun-joon’s Radio Gaga” from noon to 2 p.m., followed by “Always a Good Day” hosted by special DJ Jungin from 2-4 p.m., and concluding with “Always Incheon with Bae Chil-soo” from 4-

- [7-year-old girl dies after being hit by SUV at apartment complex](#) (2026-05-19 02:33)

A 7-year-old girl died Monday after being hit by an SUV inside an apartment complex in Boryeong, South Chungcheong Province, Seoul Shinmun reported Tuesday. According to police and fire authorities, the girl was hit by a moving SUV at around 5:50 p.m. inside an apartment complex in Jukjeong-dong, Boryeong. She was seriously injured and lost consciousness. She was first taken to a nearby hospital in cardiac arrest, then transferred by emergency medical helicopter to Dankook University Hospital in

- [Language exchange with Korean grandparents](#) (2026-05-19 02:28)

Most language exchanges in Seoul take place among students and young professionals. This one brings together foreign residents and senior Koreans, with life stories and decades of Korean history at its center. A volunteer program organized with the Gangnam Senior Welfare Center invites foreign residents to spend afternoons chatting with senior Koreans in English, Japanese or Chinese. Rather than structured lessons, the sessions are designed as relaxed conversations on topics ranging from daily r

- [CN Blue expands international tour to Europe](#) (2026-05-19 02:24)

CNBlue will visit four cities in Europe, expanding the scope of its overseas concert trip “3logy,” agency FNC Entertainment announced Tuesday. The three-member band will begin the European leg in Berlin on June 30, followed by shows in Paris, London and The Hague, Netherlands. The tour, now to encompass 18 cities, began in Seoul in January and will take the trio to Bangkok and Kaohsiung, Taiwan, before flying over to Europe. The tour is named after the third studio album CNBlue released in Janua

- [HanmiGlobal’s Otak secures W45b US park research contract](#) (2026-05-19 02:22)

HanmiGlobal's US subsidiary Otak said Tuesday it had secured a \$30 million socioeconomic research contract from the US National Park Service under the Department of the Interior. The five-year agreement expands Otak's role with the NPS beyond park planning and engineering into policy support and research services, following a separate \$400 million national park renovation and maintenance contract awarded in April. Under the latest deal, Otak will conduct consulting and research projects supporti

- [Knife slips through Incheon airport security, prompting probe](#) (2026-05-19 02:22)

A small kitchen knife mistakenly packed by a passenger recently went undetected at a security checkpoint at Incheon International Airport, prompting authorities to investigate how a restricted item was brought on board. The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport said Tuesday it was looking into how the knife passed through security screening at the airport and whether the Aviation Security Act was violated in the incident. At around 6:20 p.m. on Sunday, a female passenger on board an Eti

- [Nol Universe to launch Korea's largest indoor music festival in October](#) (2026-05-19 02:21)

Nol Universe, the leisure platform operator affiliated with Yanolja Group, said Tuesday it would launch "Nol Festival," which it described as Korea's largest indoor music festival, as the company moves to expand its platform beyond travel into broader leisure and cultural experiences. The company officially unveiled the festival during a media event held at Blue Square in Seoul's Hannam-dong, outlining its strategy, key programs and first-round artist lineup. The two-day event is scheduled to ta

- [Women make up just 2.7% of CEOs at top Korean firms](#) (2026-05-19 02:06)

Women held just 2.7 percent of chief executive posts at South Korea's leading companies this year, showing that women remain rare in top corporate leadership despite a slight increase, according to local corporate tracker Leaders Index on Tuesday. The survey, which looked at 370 companies out of the country's top 500 by revenue that submitted business reports this year, found that there were 14 women among the 510 CEOs. The number of female CEOs had stayed at 12 for the previous three years befo

- [Hyundai Mobis deepens robotics, physical AI push in Silicon Valley](#) (2026-05-19 02:05)

Hyundai Mobis said Tuesday it held its fifth Mobis Mobility Day in Silicon Valley to expand collaboration in robotics and physical AI with global partners. Held Monday in Sunnyvale near Silicon Valley in California, the annual event serves as Hyundai Mobis' flagship open innovation platform, bringing together startups, global automakers and investors to discuss business strategies and explore partnership opportunities. This year's event drew around 400 participants — more than double last year's

- [Arab nuclear site attack warns Gulf, US](#) (2026-05-19 01:56)

The first attack targeting an Arab nuclear site has sent a symbolic warning to the United Arab Emirates and its allies, even as Iran and the US remain in negotiations to end the Middle East war, analysts say. An unclaimed drone struck an electrical generator Sunday near the Arab world's first nuclear power plant in Barakah in the emirate of Abu Dhabi, triggering a fire but causing no injuries nor radiation leak. The UAE has yet to officially blame anyone for the attack, in which drones crossed i

- [Teenage gunmen kill 3, selves at San Diego mosque](#) (2026-05-19 01:55)

Two teenage shooters opened fire at a San Diego mosque Monday and killed three men — then killed themselves a few blocks away — in an attack police are investigating as a hate crime. There was no specific threat made against the Islamic Center of San Diego but authorities found evidence that the suspects engaged in “generalized hate rhetoric,” San Diego Police Chief Scott Wahl said. He declined to give more details, but said the “circumstances that led up to this” would come out in the days ahead

- [US extends Russian oil waiver for vulnerable nations](#) (2026-05-19 01:55)

PARIS (Reuters) -- US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent on Monday announced another 30-day extension of a sanctions waiver allowing purchases of Russian seaborne oil to aid "energy-vulnerable" countries hit by the Iran war, reversing plans not to grant an extension. Bessent said in a posting on X that the Treasury was issuing the 30-day general license after a previous waiver lapsed Saturday. This will allow temporary access to Russian oil and petroleum products stranded on tankers without viol

- [BTS' V hits 500m on Spotify with 'Christmas Tree'](#) (2026-05-19 01:55)

V of BTS raked in 500 million plays on Spotify with his solo digital single “Christmas Tree,” according to label Big Hit Music on Tuesday. This is his fifth solo endeavor to achieve the feat, after “Love Me Again,” “Winter Ahead,” “Fri-(end)s,” and “Slow Dancing.” The winter-themed tune was released in 2021 as part of the soundtrack for the Korean drama “Our Beloved Summer.” It landed on Billboard’s Hot 100 at No. 79, a first for a Korean soundtrack. It also made Billboard's “The 30 Best Christm

- [Caregiver license course opens extra seat for foreign resident in Suwon](#) (2026-05-19 01:53)

Suwon Migrant Community Service Center is accepting one additional participant for its caregiver certification course, with the center covering 820,000 won (\$547) of the 920,000 won tuition fee. According to the center, applications for the single vacant spot will open at 11 a.m. Tuesday. The course will run from June 24 to Aug. 20, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekdays, at a caregiver training center in Jangan-gu, Suwon, Gyeonggi Province. Applicants must live in Suwon or nearby areas and hold a va

- [Maduro ally charged in Venezuela bribery case](#) (2026-05-19 01:53)

A close ally of ousted Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro was charged Monday with bribing top officials to steal hundreds of millions of dollars from lucrative contracts to import food at a time of widespread hardship in the South American country. Alex Saab made his initial court appearance after being deported over the weekend by acting President Delcy Rodriguez as part of a purge of insider businessmen who are believed to have enriched themselves through corrupt dealings with Maduro. Shackle

- [Lee, Takaichi hold Andong summit as need for energy cooperation grows](#) (2026-05-19 01:48)

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung and Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi met for their third summit on Tuesday in Lee's hometown of Andong, North Gyeongsang Province. Takaichi's two-day visit, beginning Tuesday, comes four months after Lee traveled to Nara Prefecture, the Japanese prime minister's hometown, in a deeply symbolic gesture of personal diplomacy between the neighboring leaders at a moment of growing regional uncertainty. With Takaichi now visiting Andong, Korea and Japan will

- [Watchdog chief voices concerns over retail speculation amid increased volatility](#) (2026-05-19 01:25)

The chief of the country's financial watchdog has expressed concerns that retail investors could suffer losses amid increased market volatility, according to the Financial Supervisory Service on Tuesday. During a meeting on consumer risk response a day earlier, FSS governor Lee Chan-jin said retail investors could increasingly pivot toward highly volatile, risky assets as the country is set to introduce single-stock leveraged, or inverse, exchange-traded funds next week. Single-stock leveraged,

- [Samsung, union hold final mediation as strike deadline nears](#) (2026-05-19 01:23)

Samsung Electronics Co. and its largest labor union resumed government-led wage mediation Tuesday, entering the final day of talks in a last-ditch effort to avert a strike at the world's largest memory chipmaker. The two-day negotiations resumed days after the first round of mediation ended without a deal, as the two sides remained divided over performance-based bonuses ahead of an 18-day strike set to begin Thursday. Labor and management remain sharply split over performance-based bonuses tied

- [Workplace Korean class opens for foreign jobseekers](#) (2026-05-19 01:22)

The Seoul Foreign Resident Center is organizing a Korean language class for foreign residents in Korea who are preparing to find jobs, with a focus on real-life expressions used in the workplace. According to the Seoul Foreigner Portal on Monday, the program consists of four sessions held every Sunday from June 7-28. Each class will run from 10 a.m. to 11:50 a.m. at the center's third-floor classroom in Yeongdeungpo-gu, southwestern Seoul. The class is free, but applicants are required to have a

## Source: Yonhap

- [42 conglomerates under tight scrutiny on heavy debts; Samsung tops list](#) (2026-05-26 05:53)

SEOUL, May 26 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's financial watchdog said Tuesday it has p...

- [\(2nd LD\) Lee calls for stepped-up efforts to acquire nuclear-powered submarines](#) (2026-05-26 05:52)

SEOUL, May 26 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Tuesday instructed official...

- [\(URGENT\) N. Korea's ballistic missiles flew about 80 km; multiple types of projectiles detected: JCS](#) (2026-05-26 05:51)

(END)

- [\(LEAD\) N. Korea fires close-range ballistic missiles toward Yellow Sea: JCS](#) (2026-05-26 05:48)

SEOUL, May 26 (Yonhap) -- North Korea fired multiple close-range ballistic missi...

- [\(3rd LD\) Shinsegae chief apologizes for controversial Starbucks promotional campaign](#) (2026-05-26 05:36)

SEOUL, May 26 (Yonhap) -- Shinsegae Group Chairman Chung Yong-jin said Tuesday h...

- [S. Korean financial firms, pension funds' overseas private debt investments near 56 tln won](#) (2026-05-26 05:30)

SEOUL, May 26 (Yonhap) -- South Korean financial companies and pension funds' in...

- [\(URGENT\) N. Korea fires multiple close-range ballistic missiles from near Jongju in North Phyongan Province: JCS](#) (2026-05-26 05:25)

(END)

- [Russia denies alleged transfer of Ukrainian children, claims "humanitarian evacuation"](#) (2026-05-26 05:24)

SEOUL, May 26 (Yonhap) -- Russia on Tuesday rejected accusations it has deported...

- [\(3rd LD\) BTS wins top prize again at American Music Awards](#) (2026-05-26 05:17)

SEOUL, May 26 (Yonhap) -- K-pop supergroup BTS clinched Artist of the Year, cons...

- [\(LEAD\) S. Korea, African FMs to gather in Seoul next week to discuss stronger ties amid global challenges](#) (2026-05-26 05:10)

SEOUL, May 26 (Yonhap) -- Foreign ministers of South Korea and more than 50 Afri...

- [Today in Korean history](#) (2026-05-26 05:00)

May 27

- [Customs agency to ease rules on U.S. crude routed through third countries](#) (2026-05-26 05:00)

SEJONG, May 26 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's customs agency said Tuesday it has simp...

- [PM orders thorough measures against damage from downpours expected to hit southern regions](#) (2026-05-26 04:42)

SEOUL, May 26 (Yonhap) -- Prime Minister Kim Min-seok on Tuesday ordered thorough...

- [S. Korea, China hold 3rd round of export control dialogue](#) (2026-05-26 04:30)

SEOUL, May 26 (Yonhap) -- Trade officials from South Korea and China have held t...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-05-26 04:30)

The following is the first summary of major stories moved by Yonhap News Agency ...

- [\(LEAD\) LIV Golf visits S. Korea amid uncertainty over future](#) (2026-05-26 04:26)

BUSAN, May 26 (Yonhap) -- LIV Golf, a renegade circuit launched by Saudi Arabia ...

- [Tigers release Australian shortstop Dale](#) (2026-05-26 04:24)

SEOUL, May 26 (Yonhap) -- The Kia Tigers announced Tuesday they have waived thei...

- [\(2nd LD\) BTS wins top prize again at American Music Awards](#) (2026-05-26 04:15)

SEOUL, May 26 (Yonhap) -- K-pop supergroup BTS clinched Artist of the Year, cons...

- [N. Korea fires unidentified projectile toward Yellow Sea: JCS](#) (2026-05-26 04:12)

SEOUL, May 26 (Yonhap) -- North Korea fired at least one unidentified projectile...

- [\(URGENT\) N. Korea fires unidentified projectile toward Yellow Sea: JCS](#) (2026-05-26 04:05)

(END)

- [Pro-Pyongyang Korean group in Japan drops reunification goal at 1st congress in 4 years](#) (2026-05-26 04:00)

SEOUL, May 26 (Yonhap) -- Chongryong, the largest organization of pro-Pyongyang ...

- [Finance ministry to prepare post-Middle East crisis growth strategy for H2](#) (2026-05-26 03:59)

SEJONG, May 26 (Yonhap) -- South Korea will seek to promote a post-Middle East c...

- [Gov't to tighten surveillance on cross-border crypto trading](#) (2026-05-26 03:12)

SEJONG, May 26 (Yonhap) -- South Korea aims to tighten surveillance on cross-bor...

- [S. Korea, African FMs to gather in Seoul next week to discuss stronger ties amid global challenges](#) (2026-05-26 02:54)

SEOUL, May 26 (Yonhap) -- Foreign ministers of South Korea and more than 50 Afri...

- [\(LEAD\) BTS wins top prize again at American Music Awards](#) (2026-05-26 02:51)

SEOUL, May 26 (Yonhap) -- K-pop supergroup BTS clinched Artist of the Year, cons...

- [\(URGENT\) BTS wins top honor at American Music Awards](#) (2026-05-26 02:45)

(END)

- [S. Korea aims to open regular Arctic shipping route to Europe in 2030: ministry](#) (2026-05-26 02:45)

SEOUL, May 26 (Yonhap) -- South Korea will work to open a regular shipping route...

- [YouTuber appears for arrest warrant hearing for alleged defamation against actor Kim Soo-hyun](#) (2026-05-26 02:32)

SEOUL, May 26 (Yonhap) -- A YouTuber accused of spreading false and fabricated i...

- [Seoul shares trade over 8,000 on optimism for U.S.-Iran deal, Hormuz reopening](#) (2026-05-26 02:31)

SEOUL, May 26 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks traded higher over the 8,000-point...

- [\(LEAD\) Lee calls for stepped-up efforts to acquire nuclear-powered submarines](#) (2026-05-26 02:30)

SEOUL, May 26 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Tuesday instructed official...

- [Bush-painted portrait of ex-President Roh Moo-hyun displayed for 1st time](#) (2026-05-26 02:24)

SEOUL, May 26 (Yonhap) -- A portrait of late former President Roh Moo-hyun, pain...

- [BTS' 'Swim' wins Song of the Summer at AMAs](#) (2026-05-26 02:17)

SEOUL, May 26 (Yonhap) -- "Swim," the latest hit from South Korean boy group BTS...

- [S. Korea, U.S. launch joint monthlong project to locate Korean War remains](#) (2026-05-26 02:07)

SEOUL, May 26 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and the United States on Tuesday launched ...

- [\(News Focus\) BOK expected to hold key rate steady, signal hawkish stance amid inflation concerns](#) (2026-05-26 02:06)

SEOUL, May 26 (Yonhap) -- The Bank of Korea (BOK) is expected to keep the benchm...

- [\(URGENT\) BTS' 'Swim' wins Song of the Summer at AMAs](#) (2026-05-26 02:05)

(END)

- [Industry ministry discusses AI transformation of battery industry with LGES](#) (2026-05-26 02:00)

SEOUL, May 26 (Yonhap) -- The industry ministry on Tuesday discussed ways to acc...

- [\(LEAD\) 'Golden' wins Song of the Year at American Music Awards](#) (2026-05-26 01:58)

SEOUL, May 26 (Yonhap) -- "Golden," from the original soundtrack of Netflix's an...

- [\(2nd LD\) Shinsegae chief apologizes for controversial Starbucks promotional campaign](#) (2026-05-26 01:58)

SEOUL, May 26 (Yonhap) -- Shinsegae Group Chairman Chung Yong-jin said Tuesday h...

- [Lee calls for stepped-up efforts to acquire nuclear-powered submarines](#) (2026-05-26 01:35)

SEOUL, May 26 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Tuesday instructed official...

- ['Golden' wins Song of the Year at American Music Awards](#) (2026-05-26 01:18)

SEOUL, May 26 (Yonhap) -- "Golden," from the original soundtrack of Netflix's an...

- [\(URGENT\) Lee stresses need for swift transfer of wartime operational control](#) (2026-05-26 01:15)

(END)

- [\(URGENT\) Lee calls for stepped-up efforts to acquire nuclear-powered submarines](#) (2026-05-26 01:12)

(END)

- [\(LEAD\) Shinsegae chief apologizes for controversial Starbucks promotional campaign](#) (2026-05-26 01:03)

SEOUL, May 26 (Yonhap) -- Shinsegae Group Chairman Chung Yong-jin said Tuesday h...

- [LIV Golf visits S. Korea amid uncertainty over future](#) (2026-05-26 01:01)

BUSAN, May 26 (Yonhap) -- LIV Golf, a renegade circuit launched by Saudi Arabia ...

- [IPEF members discuss response to supply chain disruptions caused by Middle East crisis](#) (2026-05-26 01:00)

SEOUL, May 26 (Yonhap) -- Members of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) ...

- [Shinsegae chief apologizes for controversial Starbucks promotional campaign](#) (2026-05-26 00:35)

SEOUL, May 26 (Yonhap) -- Shinsegae Group Chairman Chung Yong-jin said Tuesday h...

- [\(LEAD\) Seoul shares open at new record high over 8,000 on hopes for U.S.-Iran deal](#) (2026-05-26 00:27)

SEOUL, May 26 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks opened at a new record high of ove...

- [Marine chopper development nears completion following successful weapons tests](#) (2026-05-26 00:10)

SEOUL, May 26 (Yonhap) -- The arms procurement agency said Tuesday a Marine atta...

- [Seoul shares open at new record high over 8,000 on hopes for U.S.-Iran deal](#) (2026-05-26 00:07)

SEOUL, May 26 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks opened at a new record high of ove...

- [\(URGENT\) Seoul shares open at new record high of over 8,000 on hopes for U.S.-Iran deal](#) (2026-05-26 00:02)

(END)

- [Healthy at last, oft-injured midfielder eyes quarterfinal berth at World Cup](#) (2026-05-25 23:36)

HERRIMAN, United States, May 25 (Yonhap) -- South Korean international Hwang In...

- [Zombie thriller 'Colony' breaks 2 mln admissions](#) (2026-05-25 23:29)

SEOUL, May 26 (Yonhap) -- The zombie spectacle "Colony" has drawn more than 2 mi...

- [\(3rd LD\) Trump says Iran negotiations proceeding 'nicely,' warns of stronger attack if no deal is reached](#) (2026-05-25 22:20)

WASHINGTON, May 25 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump said Monday that peac...

- [BTS eyes top prize again at American Music Awards](#) (2026-05-25 22:20)

SEOUL, May 26 (Yonhap) -- K-pop supergroup BTS is seeking to clinch its second A...

- [\(EDITORIAL from Korea JoongAng Daily on May 26\)](#) (2026-05-25 21:59)

Kim Yong-beom, the presidential chief of staff for policy, recently described Ko...

- [\(EDITORIAL from Korea Times on May 26\)](#) (2026-05-25 21:59)

The recent wage agreement between Samsung Electronics management and its labor u...

- [\(EDITORIAL from Korea Herald on May 26\)](#) (2026-05-25 21:59)

Police recently filed for an arrest warrant against a YouTuber on charges of spr...

- [Top headlines in major S. Korean newspapers](#) (2026-05-25 21:58)

SEOUL, May 26 (Yonhap) -- The following are the top headlines in major South Kor...

- [\(2nd LD\) Trump says Iran negotiations proceeding 'nicely,' warns of stronger attack if no deal is reached](#) (2026-05-25 18:38)

WASHINGTON, May 25 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump said Monday that peac...

- [\(LEAD\) Trump says Iran negotiations proceeding 'nicely,' warns of stronger attack if no deal is reached](#) (2026-05-25 13:52)

WASHINGTON, May 25 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump said Monday that peac...

- [Trump says Iran negotiations proceeding 'nicely,' warns of stronger attack if no deal is reached](#) (2026-05-25 13:26)

WASHINGTON, May 25 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump said Monday that peac...

- [Singapore foreign minister to visit Seoul after stops in China, N. Korea](#) (2026-05-25 11:54)

SEOUL, May 25 (Yonhap) -- Foreign Minister Cho Hyun will meet his Singaporean co...

- [Foreign ministry calls on Israel to investigate assault claims by activists](#) (2026-05-25 11:26)

SEOUL, May 25 (Yonhap) -- The foreign ministry said Monday it has pressed Israel...

- [\(LEAD\) Kim Si-woo falls short in bid to end 3-yr PGA Tour title drought](#) (2026-05-25 08:04)

SEOUL, May 25 (Yonhap) -- Kim Si-woo has come up short in a bid to end his three...

- [Hyundai Motor Group creates dedicated units for software-defined factory, robot components](#) (2026-05-25 07:33)

SEOUL, May 25 (Yonhap) -- Hyundai Motor Group has created units dedicated to adv...

- [Foreign ministers of S. Korea, Croatia discuss arms, energy cooperation](#) (2026-05-25 06:54)

SEOUL, May 25 (Yonhap) -- Foreign Minister Cho Hyun and his Croatian counterpart...

- [Today in Korean history](#) (2026-05-25 05:00)

May 26

- [Justice ministry recoups 139.6 bln won in criminal proceeds in 2025](#) (2026-05-25 04:53)

SEOUL, May 25 (Yonhap) -- The justice ministry retrieved a combined 139.6 billio...

- [Samsung Electronics leads smartphone markets in S. America, Middle East, Southeast Asia in Q1](#) (2026-05-25 04:52)

SEOUL, May 25 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Electronics Co. topped the smartphone markets ...

- [Foreigner believed to be missing returns safely](#) (2026-05-25 02:38)

NAMYANGJU, South Korea, May 25 (Yonhap) -- A foreign national who called emergen...

- [Manufacturing sentiment turns positive for June](#) (2026-05-25 02:37)

SEOUL, May 25 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's manufacturing confidence has rebounded i...

- [Foreign investors dump 10 tln won in Samsung Electronics, SK hynix stocks last week](#) (2026-05-25 02:12)

SEOUL, May 25 (Yonhap) -- Foreign investors sold more than 10 trillion won (US\$6...

- [N. Korea to hold key party meeting in late June: KCNA](#) (2026-05-25 01:56)

SEOUL, May 25 (Yonhap) -- North Korea will convene a plenary meeting of the ruli...

- [Lee's approval rating inches down to 59.3 pct: poll](#) (2026-05-25 01:31)

SEOUL, May 25 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung's approval rating fell slightl...

- [KOSPI's daily turnover tops 40 tln won for 1st time amid stock rally](#) (2026-05-25 01:16)

SEOUL, May 25 (Yonhap) -- Average daily transactions in South Korea's benchmark ...

- [Top headlines in major S. Korean newspapers](#) (2026-05-25 00:24)

SEOUL, May 25 (Yonhap) -- The following are the top headlines in major South Kor...

- [\(EDITORIAL from Korea JoongAng Daily on May 25\)](#) (2026-05-25 00:13)

Export polarization in Korea is deepening. According to data from the Korean Sta...

- [\(EDITORIAL from Korea Times on May 25\)](#) (2026-05-25 00:13)

Testimonies from international activists detained and deported by Israeli forces...

- [Kim Si-woo falls short in bid to end 3-yr PGA Tour title drought](#) (2026-05-25 00:05)

SEOUL, May 25 (Yonhap) -- Kim Si-woo has come up short in a bid to end his three...

- [N. Korea's Kim sends condolences to Xi over deadly coal mine blast](#) (2026-05-24 21:34)

SEOUL, May 25 (Yonhap) -- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has sent a message of ...

- [Police looking into social media accounts for spreading false info about May 18 uprising](#) (2026-05-24 13:42)

SEOUL, May 24 (Yonhap) -- Police said Sunday they have launched a preliminary in...

- [Lee offers condolences over deadly coal mine explosion in China](#) (2026-05-24 11:51)

SEOUL, May 24 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Sunday expressed condolence...

- [Shinsegae chairman to apologize again over Starbucks Korea's 'Tank Day' event](#) (2026-05-24 11:00)

SEOUL, May 24 (Yonhap) -- Shinsegae Group Chairman Chung Yong-jin will issue ano...

- [Stony-faced N. Korean women's football team leaves S. Korea after tournament win](#) (2026-05-24 07:16)

INCHEON, May 24 (Yonhap) -- The North Korean women's football team left for Chin...

- [S. Korean submarine arrives in Canada amid Seoul's bid for US\\$39.6 bln Canadian submarine deal](#) (2026-05-24 06:27)

SEOUL, May 24 (Yonhap) -- A South Korean Navy submarine has arrived at a port in...

- [Today in Korean history](#) (2026-05-24 05:00)

May 25

- [Ruling party candidate suspends Ulsan mayoral primary over flawed poll claims](#) (2026-05-24 04:56)

ULSAN, May 24 (Yonhap) -- The ruling Democratic Party (DP) candidate for Ulsan m...

- [Lee vows to build gov't that 'saves people's lives' on Buddha's Birthday](#) (2026-05-24 03:12)

SEOUL, May 24 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung vowed Sunday to build a govern...

- [Starbucks Korea prepaid balances top 420 bln won amid regulatory blind spot](#) (2026-05-24 03:11)

SEOUL, May 24 (Yonhap) -- The combined balance of prepaid funds loaded onto Star...

- [Lee calls for tougher punishment for hateful speech, conduct](#) (2026-05-24 02:37)

SEOUL, May 24 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung called Sunday for a public deb...

- [Man killed after gunfire near White House](#) (2026-05-24 02:02)

WASHINGTON, May 23 (Yonhap) -- A man was shot and killed by Secret Service perso...

- [Seoul moves to allow foreigners to trade S. Korean ETFs directly](#) (2026-05-24 01:40)

SEOUL, May 24 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's financial authorities are moving to allo...

- [S. Korea's Middle East crude imports down 37 pct in April amid tensions](#) (2026-05-24 01:37)

SEOUL, May 24 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's imports of crude oil from the Middle Eas...

- [N. Korea reports women's football win, makes no mention of S. Korean venue](#) (2026-05-24 01:01)

SEOUL, May 24 (Yonhap) -- North Korean state media reported Sunday that a North ...

- [Top 5 firms account for 44 pct of S. Korea's exports in Q1: data](#) (2026-05-24 00:26)

SEOUL, May 24 (Yonhap) -- The top five companies, including Samsung Electronics ...

- [S. Korean high school pitcher Park Chan-min signs with Phillies](#) (2026-05-24 00:23)

SEOUL, May 24 (Yonhap) -- South Korean high school pitching prospect Park Chan-m...

- [Trump says peace agreement with Iran has been 'largely' negotiated](#) (2026-05-24 00:05)

WASHINGTON, May 23 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump said Saturday that a ...

- [Lee slams Starbucks over 2024 promo evoking Sewol ferry sinking](#) (2026-05-23 12:57)

SEOUL, May 23 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung slammed Starbucks Korea on Sat...

- [Lee congratulates N. Korean club on winning top Asian women's football title](#) (2026-05-23 12:05)

SEOUL, May 23 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung congratulated North Korea's Na...

- [Over 44.6 million people eligible to vote in June 3 elections](#) (2026-05-23 11:09)

SEOUL, May 23 (Yonhap) -- More than 44.6 million people will be eligible to vote...

- [Culture minister congratulates film director Jin Mi-song on Cannes win](#) (2026-05-23 10:40)

SEOUL, May 23 (Yonhap) -- Culture Minister Chae Hwi-young has sent a congratulat...

- [\(LEAD\) 2 seriously injured as light aircraft crashes in Haenam](#) (2026-05-23 10:14)

SEOUL, May 23 (Yonhap) -- Two people were seriously injured when a light aircraf...

- [Coach for N. Korean women's football club thanks country for support after winning Asian title](#) (2026-05-23 09:06)

SEOUL, May 23 (Yonhap) -- After guiding his North Korean club Naegohyang Women's...

- [S. Korea captain Son Heung-min taking childlike joy to 4th World Cup](#) (2026-05-23 08:13)

SEOUL, May 23 (Yonhap) -- Whenever he thinks about playing at a FIFA World Cup, ...

- [2 seriously injured as light aircraft crashes in Haenam](#) (2026-05-23 07:37)

SEOUL, May 23 (Yonhap) -- Two people were seriously injured when a light aircraf...

- [\(LEAD\) N. Korean club Naegohyang crowned Asian women's football champions](#) (2026-05-23 07:36)

SEOUL, May 23 (Yonhap) -- North Korean side Naegohyang Women's FC captured the t...

- [N. Korean club Naegohyang crowned Asian women's football champions](#) (2026-05-23 07:03)

SEOUL, May 23 (Yonhap) -- North Korean side Naegohyang Women's FC captured the t...

- [Giants outfielder Lee Jung-hoo placed on injured list with back strain](#) (2026-05-23 06:50)

SEOUL, May 23 (Yonhap) -- Lee Jung-hoo of the San Francisco Giants has landed on...

- [\(LEAD\) Lee vows to carry on ex-President Roh's legacy at memorial ceremony](#) (2026-05-23 05:51)

SEOUL, May 23 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Saturday vowed to continue ...

- [Lee vows to carry on ex-President Roh's legacy at memorial ceremony](#) (2026-05-23 05:30)

SEOUL, May 23 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Saturday vowed to continue ...

- [Today in Korean history](#) (2026-05-23 05:00)

May 24

- [Pyongyang brands Japan's security overhaul bid to become 'war state'](#) (2026-05-23 01:13)

SEOUL, May 23 (Yonhap) -- North Korea has stepped up its criticism of Japan's pu...

- [Top headlines in major S. Korean newspapers](#) (2026-05-23 00:07)

SEOUL, May 23 (Yonhap) -- The following are the top headlines in major South Kor...

- ['I've always believed I could hit': ex-MLB slugger Hiura ready to showcase what he has in KBO](#) (2026-05-22 23:00)

SEOUL, May 23 (Yonhap) -- Having flashed power potential earlier in his career, ...

- [\(LEAD\) Rubio says Iran talks show 'some progress,' but two sides are 'not there yet'](#) (2026-05-22 20:59)

WASHINGTON, May 22 (Yonhap) -- U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Friday too...

- [USTR says no immediate chip tariffs coming: report](#) (2026-05-22 19:56)

WASHINGTON, May 22 (Yonhap) -- U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer said Fri...

- [Rubio says Iran talks show 'some progress,' but two sides are 'not there yet'](#) (2026-05-22 19:33)

WASHINGTON, May 22 (Yonhap) -- U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Friday too...

- [\(LEAD\) Warsh sworn in as Fed chair; Trump says he wants him to be 'totally independent'](#) (2026-05-22 18:10)

WASHINGTON, May 22 (Yonhap) -- Kevin Warsh was sworn in as the new Federal Reser...

- [Warsh sworn in as Fed chair; Trump says he wants him to be 'totally independent'](#) (2026-05-22 17:21)

WASHINGTON, May 22 (Yonhap) -- Kevin Warsh was sworn in as the new Federal Reser...

- [\(LEAD\) Two-thirds of Samsung union members cast ballots on 1st day of wage vote](#) (2026-05-22 12:36)

SEOUL, May 22 (Yonhap) -- Around two-thirds of unionized workers at Samsung Elec...

- [\(LEAD\) Ex-NIS deputy chief denies allegations of delivering message backing Yoon's martial law](#) (2026-05-22 11:14)

SEOUL, May 22 (Yonhap) -- A former senior official of South Korea's spy agency d...

- [Samsung chief discusses potential partnership with Taiwan's top fabless firm](#) (2026-05-22 08:54)

SEOUL, May 22 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Electronics Chairman Lee Jae-yong met with the...

- [Police investigating fake news mocking May 18 democracy uprising](#) (2026-05-22 08:33)

SEOUL, May 22 (Yonhap) -- Police said Friday they were investigating fake news p...

- [\(LEAD\) Civil servant unions join Starbucks boycott over 'Tank Day' event](#) (2026-05-22 08:01)

SEOUL, May 22 (Yonhap) -- Civil servant unions have called on their members to b...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-05-22 08:00)

The following is the second summary of major stories moved by Yonhap News Agency...

- [S. Korea's currency hits 1 1/2-month low as oil prices climb](#) (2026-05-22 07:53)

SEOUL, May 22 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean won sharply weakened against the U.S....

- [Busan temples offer lodging for fans coming to attend BTS concerts](#) (2026-05-22 07:43)

SEOUL, May 22 (Yonhap) -- Buddhist temples in Busan and surrounding regions will...

- [Ex-senior presidential official appears for arrest warrant hearing](#) (2026-05-22 07:39)

SEOUL, May 22 (Yonhap) -- A former chief of staff to now-jailed President Yoon S...

- [\(2nd LD\) Seoul shares end higher for 2nd day on U.S.-Iran deal hope; won sharply down](#) (2026-05-22 07:35)

SEOUL, May 22 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks closed mildly higher Friday, exten...

- [\(2nd LD\) Lee discusses S. Korea's labor policy in AI era with ILO chief](#) (2026-05-22 07:32)

SEOUL, May 22 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung met with International Labour ...

- [\(LEAD\) S. Korea to acquire U.S. SM-6 missile interceptors for deployment by 2034](#) (2026-05-22 07:30)

SEOUL, May 22 (Yonhap) -- South Korea on Friday finalized a plan to acquire U.S....

- [\(LEAD\) Seoul shares end higher for 2nd day on U.S.-Iran deal hope; won sharply down](#) (2026-05-22 07:05)

SEOUL, May 22 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks closed mildly higher Friday, exten...

- [DAPA launches project to develop hard-kill interceptor drones to counter 'suicide drones'](#) (2026-05-22 07:00)

SEOUL, May 22 (Yonhap) -- The state arms procurement agency said Friday it has l...

- [Key developments on North Korea this week](#) (2026-05-22 07:00)

SEOUL, May 22 (Yonhap) -- The following are key developments regarding North Kor...

- [Summary of domestic news in North Korea this week](#) (2026-05-22 07:00)

SEOUL, May 22 (Yonhap) -- The following is a summary of domestic news in North K...

- [Summary of external news of North Korea this week](#) (2026-05-22 07:00)

SEOUL, May 22 (Yonhap) -- The following is a summary of external news on North K...

- [Summary of inter-Korean news this week](#) (2026-05-22 07:00)

SEOUL, May 22 (Yonhap) -- The following is a summary of inter-Korean news this w...

- [Seoul shares end higher for 2nd day on U.S.-Iran deal hope; won sharply down](#) (2026-05-22 06:40)

SEOUL, May 22 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks closed mildly higher Friday, exten...

- [\(URGENT\) Seoul shares end higher for 2nd day on U.S.-Iran deal hope; won sharply down](#) (2026-05-22 06:32)

(END)

- [\(LEAD\) Lee discusses S. Korea's labor policy in AI era with ILO chief](#) (2026-05-22 06:00)

SEOUL, May 22 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung met with International Labour ...

- [S. Korea plans to acquire U.S. SM-6 missile interceptors by 2034](#) (2026-05-22 06:00)

SEOUL, May 22 (Yonhap) -- South Korea on Friday finalized a plan to acquire U.S....

- [Foreign ministry conveys concerns to Israel over assault claims by returned activists](#) (2026-05-22 05:57)

SEOUL, May 22 (Yonhap) -- The foreign ministry said Friday it has conveyed conce...

- [Probe under way over alleged irregular drone acquisition linked to Yoon's martial law bid](#) (2026-05-22 05:48)

SEOUL, May 22 (Yonhap) -- The defense ministry is investigating how the drones s...

- [Police step up probe into Shinsegae chief over Starbucks Korea's 'Tank Day' event](#) (2026-05-22 05:38)

SEOUL, May 22 (Yonhap) -- Police said Friday they were questioning a civic activ...

- [N. Korean football club coach bristles at 'rough' label ahead of top Asian tournament final](#) (2026-05-22 05:23)

SEOUL, May 22 (Yonhap) -- The head coach of the North Korean women's football cl...

- [Samsung union begins vote on tentative wage deal](#) (2026-05-22 05:22)

SEOUL, May 22 (Yonhap) -- Unionized workers at Samsung Electronics Co., the worl...

- [Veterans ministry to step up screening of false info related to May 18 uprising amid Starbucks marketing debacle](#) (2026-05-22 05:10)

SEOUL, May 22 (Yonhap) -- Veterans Minister Kwon Oh-eul has expressed "deep regr...

- [Today in Korean history](#) (2026-05-22 05:00)

May 23

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-05-22 04:30)

The following is the first summary of major stories moved by Yonhap News Agency ...

- [Civil servant unions join Starbucks boycott over 'Tank Day' event](#) (2026-05-22 03:03)

SEOUL, May 22 (Yonhap) -- Civil servant unions have called on their members to b...

- [S. Korea to widen travel ban in DR Congo to 3 provinces over Ebola outbreak](#) (2026-05-22 03:01)

SEOUL, May 22 (Yonhap) -- The foreign ministry said Friday it will widen a trave...

- [New mortgage loans per borrower hit record high in Q1: BOK](#) (2026-05-22 03:00)

SEOUL, May 22 (Yonhap) -- New mortgage loans per borrower rose to a record high ...

- [Farming households' income hits record high in 2025: data](#) (2026-05-22 03:00)

SEOUL, May 22 (Yonhap) -- The average income of South Korea's farming households...

- ['Baby Shark' surpasses 1 bln streams on Spotify, a first for character IP](#) (2026-05-22 02:54)

SEOUL, May 22 (Yonhap) -- The English version of "Baby Shark," the hugely popula...

- [Japanese club coach predicts tough final vs. N. Korean foe at top Asian women's football tournament](#) (2026-05-22 02:48)

SEOUL, May 22 (Yonhap) -- Sitting a win away from claiming the top Asian women's...

- [Seoul stocks up late Fri. morning after previous session's rally](#) (2026-05-22 02:33)

SEOUL, May 22 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks traded higher late Friday morning,...

- [Ex-NIS deputy chief grilled over alleged role in insurrection](#) (2026-05-22 02:07)

SEOUL, May 22 (Yonhap) -- Hong Jang-won, former first deputy director of the Nat...

- [Lee's approval rating rebounds to 64 percent: poll](#) (2026-05-22 01:50)

SEOUL, May 22 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung's approval rating rebounded to...

- [Zombie thriller 'Colony' sets year's opening-day record](#) (2026-05-22 01:32)

SEOUL, May 22 (Yonhap) -- Director Yeon Sang-ho's newest film, "Colony," has cla...

- [KOGAS signs 10-yr LNG purchase deal with BP](#) (2026-05-22 01:23)

SEOUL, May 22 (Yonhap) -- Korea Gas Corp. (KOGAS), the country's state-run gas u...

- [South Korea's cosmetics trade surplus tops US\\$10 bln for 1st time in 2025](#) (2026-05-22 01:22)

SEOUL, May 22 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's trade surplus in cosmetic products excee...

- [S. Korea to host K-culture expo in Los Angeles](#) (2026-05-22 01:16)

SEOUL, May 22 (Yonhpa) -- South Korea will hold a Korean culture expo in Los Ang...

- [Gov't to seek to overhaul KFA as part of nation normalization project](#) (2026-05-22 01:08)

SEOUL, May 22 (Yonhap) -- The government will seek to overhaul the way the Korea...

- [Lee set to discuss S. Korea's labor policy in AI era with ILO chief](#) (2026-05-22 01:02)

SEOUL, May 22 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung was set to meet with Internati...

- [Loss coverage, tax break-armed fund goes on sale](#) (2026-05-22 01:00)

SEOUL, May 22 (Yonhap) -- An investment fund offering tax break and loss coverag...

- [Gov't to supply 90,000 rental homes in greater Seoul area for youths by 2027](#) (2026-05-22 00:53)

SEOUL, May 22 (Yonhap) -- Finance Minister Koo Yun-cheol said Friday the governm...

- [Boy group Ateez to return with new EP next month](#) (2026-05-22 00:40)

SEOUL, May 22 (Yonhap) -- K-pop boy group Ateez will be back with its 14th EP ne...

- [\(Yonhap Interview\) Back in KBO, Heroes starter Rosenberg trying to be good teammate](#) (2026-05-22 00:32)

SEOUL, May 22 (Yonhap) -- He pitched for only about three months in South Korea ...

- [\(LEAD\) Seoul shares open tad higher on overnight Wall Street gains amid Iran hope](#) (2026-05-22 00:25)

SEOUL, May 22 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks opened slightly higher Friday foll...

- [Seoul shares open higher on overnight Wall Street gains amid Iran hope](#) (2026-05-22 00:03)

SEOUL, May 22 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks opened higher Friday following the...

- [\(LEAD\) 2 S. Koreans seized on Gaza-bound aid vessels return home](#) (2026-05-22 00:03)

SEOUL, May 22 (Yonhap) -- Two South Korean activists returned home Friday after ...

- [\(URGENT\) Seoul shares open 0.74 pct higher on overnight Wall Street gains amid Iran hope](#) (2026-05-22 00:01)

(END)

- [Jin Mi-song's 'Silent Voices' wins 2nd prize in Cannes' student film section](#) (2026-05-21 23:54)

CANNES/SEOUL, May 22 (Yonhap) -- "Silent Voices" by South Korea's Jin Mi-song ha...

- [Vice FM meets U.S. lawmaker, policy expert to discuss alliance, joint fact sheet](#) (2026-05-21 23:44)

SEOUL, May 22 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's First Vice Foreign Minister Park Yoon-jo...

- [Le Sserafim confronts fear, finds new inner strength with 2nd studio album](#) (2026-05-21 23:00)

SEOUL, May 22 (Yonhap) -- Four years after arriving on the K-pop scene with a me...

- [\(EDITORIAL from Korea JoongAng Daily on May 22\)](#) (2026-05-21 21:58)

Lee Seok-yeon, chair of the presidential National Integration Committee, reporte...

- [\(EDITORIAL from Korea Times on May 22\)](#) (2026-05-21 21:58)

President Lee Jae Myung reacted furiously to Israel's interception and detention...

- [\(EDITORIAL from Korea Herald on May 22\)](#) (2026-05-21 21:58)

On Monday, as South Korea marked the 46th anniversary of the 1980 Gwangju Democr...

- [Top headlines in major S. Korean newspapers](#) (2026-05-21 21:58)

SEOUL, May 22 (Yonhap) -- The following are the top headlines in major South Kor...

- [2 S. Koreans seized on Gaza-bound aid vessels return home](#) (2026-05-21 21:43)

SEOUL, May 22 (Yonhap) -- Two South Korean activists returned home Friday after ...

- [\(URGENT\) 2 S. Koreans seized aboard Gaza-bound aid vessels return home](#) (2026-05-21 21:30)

(END)

- [Trump says U.S. will send additional 5,000 troops to Poland](#) (2026-05-21 21:13)

WASHINGTON, May 21 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump said Thursday the Uni...

- [\(Yonhap Interview\) U.N. rights expert says resolving N.K. abductee issue prerequisite for peace](#) (2026-05-21 21:00)

SEOUL, May 22 (Yonhap) -- North Korea has failed to properly cooperate in resolv...

- [Consumer sentiment rises at sharpest pace in 1 yr in May on robust chip exports, stock rally](#) (2026-05-21 20:00)

SEOUL, May 22 (Yonhap) -- Consumer sentiment rose at the fastest pace in about a...

- [Trump expresses opposition to toll system in Strait of Hormuz](#) (2026-05-21 18:08)

WASHINGTON, May 21 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump on Thursday voiced hi...

- [Slump in rearview mirror, young Heroes catcher having fun amid power surge](#) (2026-05-21 13:26)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- There were nights earlier this season when Kiwoom Hero...

- [\(LEAD\) Heroes earn season-high 4th straight win with sweep of Landers](#) (2026-05-21 13:17)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- This was a memorable day for the Kiwoom Heroes battery...

- [\(LEAD\) Court rejects arrest warrant for ex-KTV chief over alleged insurrection propaganda](#) (2026-05-21 12:50)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- A Seoul court on Thursday denied an arrest warrant for...

- [KBO tops 4 mln fans in fewest games](#) (2026-05-21 12:45)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean baseball league reached 4 million fan...

- [Heroes earn season-high 4th straight win with sweep of Landers](#) (2026-05-21 12:41)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- This was a memorable day for the Kiwoom Heroes battery...

- [\(LEAD\) Bears extend deal with temporary injury replacement Benjamin](#) (2026-05-21 12:06)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- The Doosan Bears announced Thursday they have extended...

- [Korea-U.S. Alliance Foundation holds joint memorial to commemorate Korean War veterans in Paju](#) (2026-05-21 10:25)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- The Korea-U.S. Alliance Foundation on Thursday held a ...

- [Bears extend deal with temporary injury replacement Benjamin](#) (2026-05-21 10:22)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- The Doosan Bears announced Thursday they have extended...

- [Gov't freezes price caps on fuel products for 4th straight time](#) (2026-05-21 10:00)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- The government froze the price ceilings on fuel produc...

- [Interior minister expresses 'deep regret' over Starbucks Korea's 'Tank Day' campaign, vows boycott](#) (2026-05-21 09:43)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- Interior Minister Yun Ho-jung on Thursday said he will...

- [Industry minister discusses expanding economic cooperation with Kyrgyzstan](#) (2026-05-21 08:49)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- Industry Minister Kim Jung-kwan met with his Kyrgyz co...

- [\(4th LD\) Presidential office welcomes Israel's release of 2 S. Koreans captured on Gaza-bound aid vessels](#) (2026-05-21 08:36)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- Israel has released two South Korean nationals capture...

- [N. Korean women's football club going for top Asian prize on S. Korean soil](#) (2026-05-21 08:26)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- A North Korean women's football club will chase their ...

- [SK On ends U.S. EV battery joint venture with Ford](#) (2026-05-21 08:25)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- South Korean battery maker SK On Co. said Thursday it ...

- [Presidential official considers visit to Canada next month possibly over Ottawa's submarine project](#) (2026-05-21 08:24)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- The presidential chief of staff is considering visitin...

- [N. Korea slams Washington's arms deal with Seoul, vows to bolster military deterrent](#) (2026-05-21 08:16)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- North Korea on Thursday warned of countermeasures agai...

- [S. Korea to impose anti-dumping tariffs on PVC paste resin from 4 European countries](#) (2026-05-21 08:00)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's trade watchdog decided Thursday to impos...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-05-21 07:56)

The following is the second summary of major stories moved by Yonhap News Agency...

- [\(2nd LD\) Seoul shares rally over 8 pct on tech gains after Samsung wage deal, Nvidia outlook; won rises](#) (2026-05-21 07:46)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks spiked more than 8 percent Thursda...

- [\(3rd LD\) Presidential office welcomes Israel's release of 2 S. Koreans captured on Gaza-bound aid vessels](#) (2026-05-21 07:35)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- Israel has released two South Korean nationals capture...

- [\(LEAD\) S. Korea unveils Global AI Hub vision aimed at tackling global challenges](#) (2026-05-21 07:32)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- South Korea on Thursday unveiled its vision to launch ...

- [Supreme Court backs HD Hyundai in bargaining feud with subcontractor workers](#) (2026-05-21 07:31)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- The Supreme Court on Thursday upheld a lower court's r...

- [\(LEAD\) Ex-spy chief Cho Tae-yong sentenced to 1 1/2 yrs in prison for perjury in martial law trial](#) (2026-05-21 07:30)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- A Seoul court on Thursday sentenced former National In...

- [S. Korea's currency makes slight gain on optimism over possible Iran deal](#) (2026-05-21 07:28)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean won rose slightly against the U.S. do...

- [Appeals court cuts prison term for shaman linked to ex-first lady to 5 yrs](#) (2026-05-21 07:27)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- An appeals court on Thursday reduced the prison senten...

- [Supreme Court sets new precedent against criminalizing tattooing](#) (2026-05-21 07:14)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- The Supreme Court on Thursday reversed a lower court r...

- [Korean works, including Han Kang's, to make return to Avignon Festival after 28 years](#) (2026-05-21 07:10)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- Nine Korean works have been invited to the Avignon Fes...

- [Gov't to crack down on illegal private lending disguised as gift certificate transactions](#) (2026-05-21 07:04)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- An interagency task force charged with eradicating ill...

- [\(LEAD\) Seoul shares rally over 8 pct on tech gains after Samsung wage deal, Nvidia outlook; won rises](#) (2026-05-21 07:03)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks spiked more than 8 percent Thursda...

- [Lee calls for stern punishment for defaming victims of state-led atrocities](#) (2026-05-21 06:44)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Thursday called for stern p...

- [Court sentences ex-spy chief Cho Tae-yong to 1 1/2 yrs in prison in perjury trial](#) (2026-05-21 06:41)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- A Seoul court on Thursday sentenced former National In...

- [Seoul shares rally over 8 pct on tech gains after Samsung wage deal, Nvidia outlook; won rises](#) (2026-05-21 06:36)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks spiked more than 8 percent Thursda...

- [\(URGENT\) KOSPI spikes over 8 pct on tech rally on Samsung wage deal, Nvidia outlook; won rises](#) (2026-05-21 06:33)

(END)

- [\(URGENT\) Court sentences ex-spy chief Cho Tae-yong to 1 1/2 yrs in prison in perjury trial](#) (2026-05-21 06:30)

(END)

- [S. Korea, IDB discuss bilateral cooperation building on AI](#) (2026-05-21 06:26)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and the Inter-American Development Bank (I...

- [Celltrion to issue bonus shares, repurchase stocks to boost shareholder value](#) (2026-05-21 06:18)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- Celltrion Inc., a South Korean bio firm, said Thursday...

- [Offshore retail investors to be allowed ETF trading via omnibus accounts: chief regulator](#) (2026-05-21 06:15)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- The chief of the country's financial regulator said Th...

- [Financial firms vow support for shippers hit by Middle East war](#) (2026-05-21 06:00)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- The chief of the country's financial regulator said Th...

- [S. Korea unveils Global AI Hub vision aimed at tackling global challenges](#) (2026-05-21 06:00)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- South Korea on Thursday unveiled its vision to launch ...

- [Court acquits ex-presidential security chief of evidence destruction](#) (2026-05-21 05:59)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- A court on Thursday acquitted a former chief of the Pr...

- [S. Korea discusses cyberthreat response with U.S., Japan, other like-minded nations](#) (2026-05-21 05:56)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- The foreign ministry said Thursday it held a cyber det...

- [Presidential office pledges active support for reasonable labor-management settlement](#) (2026-05-21 05:55)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- The presidential office on Thursday pledged to provide...

- [HD KSOE secures 1.7 tln-won order to build 6 ammonia carriers](#) (2026-05-21 05:48)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- HD Korea Shipbuilding & Offshore Engineering Co. (...)

- [Defense ministry hosts advanced robotics, AI defense tech exhibition](#) (2026-05-21 05:30)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- The defense ministry on Thursday hosted an exhibition ...

- [\(LEAD\) Group of Samsung Electronics shareholders vows legal action against tentative wage deal with union](#) (2026-05-21 05:14)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- A group of shareholders of Samsung Electronics Co. on ...

- [Ex-Trump chief says U.S. trade protectionism to continue even after Trump](#) (2026-05-21 05:12)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- Mick Mulvaney, former acting White House chief of staf...

- [\(2nd LD\) Presidential office welcomes Israel's release of 2 S. Koreans captured on Gaza-bound aid vessels](#) (2026-05-21 05:06)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- Israel has released two South Korean nationals capture...

- [Loss rate for auto insurance up through April](#) (2026-05-21 05:03)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- Non-life insurers' loss rate for their auto insurance ...

- [Today in Korean history](#) (2026-05-21 05:00)

May 22

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-05-21 04:30)

The following is the first summary of major stories moved by Yonhap News Agency ...

- [Defense ministry working to fix fuel support payment recipient errors for military personnel](#) (2026-05-21 03:12)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- The defense ministry said Thursday it is working to fi...

- [\(LEAD\) Presidential office welcomes Israel's release of 2 S. Koreans captured on Gaza-bound aid vessels](#) (2026-05-21 03:03)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- Israel has released two South Korean nationals capture...

- [Top 10 businesses account for more than half of exports in Q1](#) (2026-05-21 03:00)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's top 10 businesses accounted for more tha...

- [Watchdog to carry out survey on AI platforms amid growing demand](#) (2026-05-21 03:00)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- South Korea will conduct an investigation into artific...

- [Gov't seeks to complete 70 pct of tasks for S. Korea's MSCI inclusion in H1](#) (2026-05-21 03:00)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- South Korea plans to complete at least 70 percent of t...

- [S. Korean Earth-observation satellite to be launched from U.S. base in July](#) (2026-05-21 03:00)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- A South Korean Earth-observation satellite is set to b...

- [HD Hyundai chosen as preferred bidder for TerraPower's SMR project](#) (2026-05-21 02:58)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- HD Hyundai said Thursday its shipbuilding unit HD Hyun...

- [Lee's approval rating inches down to 66 pct: poll](#) (2026-05-21 02:52)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung's approval rating fell for a s...

- [\(LEAD\) N. Korea briefly reports on women's football team's AFC final bid](#) (2026-05-21 02:51)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- North Korea's state media on Thursday briefly reported...

- [Presidential office welcomes Israel's release of 2 S. Koreans captured on Gaza-bound aid vessels](#) (2026-05-21 02:44)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- Israel has released two South Korean nationals capture...

- [Late theater actor Yoon Seok-hwa posthumously awarded cultural merit](#) (2026-05-21 02:37)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- The culture ministry has awarded the Eungwan (Silver) ...

- [\(URGENT\) Cheong Wa Dae says Israel released 2 S. Koreans captured on Gaza-bound aid ships, welcomes decision](#) (2026-05-21 02:36)

(END)

- [Seoul stocks sharply up late Thu. morning on tech rallies](#) (2026-05-21 02:34)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks traded sharply higher late Thursda...

- [Group of Samsung Electronics shareholders vows legal action against tentative wage deal with union](#) (2026-05-21 02:34)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- A group of shareholders of Samsung Electronics Co. on ...

- [Kim-Trump summit could be discussed if Xi visits Pyongyang: unification minister](#) (2026-05-21 02:32)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- Unification Minister Chung Dong-young said Thursday a ...

- [Ex-KTV chief attends arrest warrant hearing over alleged insurrection propaganda](#) (2026-05-21 02:30)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- Lee Eun-woo, former head of public broadcaster KTV, ap...

- [S. Korea raises travel alert for Uganda, plans ban for part of DR Congo over Ebola outbreak](#) (2026-05-21 02:27)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- South Korea on Thursday raised its travel alert for Ug...

- [\(Movie Review\) 'Colony': inventive zombie spectacle with little room for characters](#) (2026-05-21 02:23)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- Director Yeon Sang-ho's "Colony" is the latest additio...

- [S. Korea, Netherlands sign upgraded MOU for agriculture cooperation](#) (2026-05-21 02:14)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and the Netherlands have upgraded their me...

- [S. Korea, Mongolia discuss ways to enhance bilateral ties](#) (2026-05-21 02:10)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and Mongolia have held director general-le...

- [S. Korea's food exports up in Jan.-April period on popularity of ramyeon, fruits](#) (2026-05-21 02:06)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's food exports increased nearly 5 percent ...

- [CJ Olive Young to open 1st U.S. store in Pasadena next week](#) (2026-05-21 02:03)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- CJ Olive Young Corp., South Korea's leading health and...

- [S. Korea, EU discuss ways to expand supply chain cooperation](#) (2026-05-21 02:00)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and the European Union (EU) held a policy ...

- [Watchdog calls on financial firms to push for customer-centered digital transformation](#) (2026-05-21 02:00)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- The country's financial watchdog said Thursday financi...

- [BTS concert in Busan to be streamed live at cinemas worldwide](#) (2026-05-21 01:49)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- K-pop sensation BTS will broadcast a Busan concert fro...

- [\(LEAD\) Seoul shares open sharply higher on U.S.-Iran hope, Samsung wage deal](#) (2026-05-21 00:48)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks opened markedly higher Thursday on...

- [\(LEAD\) S. Korea sees potential wartime operational control transfer as early as next year](#) (2026-05-21 00:44)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- South Korea believes that the final verification stage...

- [KRX issues buy-side sidecar for KOSPI on sharp rise](#) (2026-05-21 00:35)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- The Korea Exchange (KRX) on Thursday activated a tradi...

- [\(URGENT\) KRX issues buy-side sidecar on KOSPI's sharp surge](#) (2026-05-21 00:26)

(END)

- [S. Korea sees potential wartime operational control transfer as early as next year](#) (2026-05-21 00:26)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- South Korea believes that the final verification stage...

- [\(LEAD\) Exports up 65 pct during first 20 days of May on chips](#) (2026-05-21 00:23)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's exports rose 65 percent from a year earl...

- [Presidential office says expects constructive role over Xi's reported plan to visit N. Korea](#) (2026-05-21 00:14)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- The presidential office said Thursday that it expects ...

- [Official campaigning for June 3 local elections begins](#) (2026-05-21 00:08)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- Official campaigning for the June 3 local elections an...

- [Seoul shares open sharply higher on U.S.-Iran hope, Samsung wage deal](#) (2026-05-21 00:04)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks opened markedly higher Thursday, I...

- [Exports up 65 pct during first 20 days of May](#) (2026-05-21 00:03)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's exports moved up 65 percent from a year ...

- [\(URGENT\) Seoul shares open nearly 4 pct higher on Iran hope, Samsung wage deal](#) (2026-05-21 00:01)

(END)

- [Seoul to seek financial support for Mideast partners amid geopolitical crisis](#) (2026-05-21 00:00)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's finance minister said Thursday the count...

- [Seoul official says no special U.S.-N. Korea contact appears to be under way](#) (2026-05-20 23:58)

WASHINGTON, May 20 (Yonhap) -- A senior South Korean official said Wednesday the...

- [N. Korea briefly reports on women's football team's AFC final bid](#) (2026-05-20 23:34)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- North Korea's state media on Thursday briefly reported...

- [BTS to make special appearance at this year's AMAs](#) (2026-05-20 23:02)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- K-pop supergroup BTS will make a special appearance at...

- [Gov't to extend fuel tax cut through July amid consumer price pressure](#) (2026-05-20 23:00)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- South Korea plans to extend the fuel tax cut scheme by...

- [\(News Focus\) Samsung wage deal eases fears of economic shock, global chip supply disruption](#) (2026-05-20 22:58)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Electronics Co., the world's largest memory ch...

- [\(EDITORIAL from Korea JoongAng Daily on May 21\)](#) (2026-05-20 22:02)

Han Byung-do, floor leader of the Democratic Party (DP), said Wednesday that the...

- [\(EDITORIAL from Korea Times on May 21\)](#) (2026-05-20 22:01)

Talking intensely until the 11th hour, Samsung Electronics' management and its u...

- [\(EDITORIAL from Korea Herald on May 21\)](#) (2026-05-20 22:01)

Workers in South Korea do not all face the same circumstances.

- [Top headlines in major S. Korean newspapers](#) (2026-05-20 22:00)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- The following are the top headlines in major South Kor...

- [Monsta X's Shownu X Hyungwon explores many shades of love in 'Love Me'](#) (2026-05-20 22:00)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- Shownu X Hyungwon, a unit of veteran K-pop boy group M...

- [Banks' net income from overseas business edges up in 2025](#) (2026-05-20 21:00)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- South Korean banks' net income from overseas business ...

- [Producer prices rise at fastest pace in 28 yrs in April on oil cost surge](#) (2026-05-20 21:00)

SEOUL, May 21 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's producer prices increased at the fastest...

- [\(2nd LD\) U.S. ambassador nominee pledges to ensure U.S. firms operating in S. Korea do not face discrimination](#) (2026-05-20 20:03)

WASHINGTON, May 20 (Yonhap) -- The nominee for the United States' top envoy to S...

- [Trump voices willingness to wait a few more days for Iran's 'right answers'](#) (2026-05-20 19:57)

WASHINGTON, May 20 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump on Wednesday expresse...

- [\(LEAD\) U.S. ambassador nominee pledges to ensure U.S. firms operating in S. Korea do not face discrimination](#) (2026-05-20 19:03)

WASHINGTON, May 20 (Yonhap) -- The nominee for the United States' top envoy to S...

- [Nominee for U.S. envoy to S. Korea stresses commitment to security, prosperity through stronger alliance](#) (2026-05-20 16:03)

WASHINGTON, May 20 (Yonhap) -- The nominee for the top U.S. envoy to South Korea...

- [\(7th LD\) Samsung Electronics management, labor reach wage deal ahead of planned strike](#) (2026-05-20 15:11)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- Management and labor of Samsung Electronics Co. on Wed...

- [\(6th LD\) Samsung Electronics management, labor reach wage deal ahead of planned strike](#) (2026-05-20 14:47)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- Management and labor of Samsung Electronics Co. on Wed...

- [Chinese President Xi likely to visit N. Korea as early as next week: sources](#) (2026-05-20 14:39)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- Chinese President Xi Jinping will likely visit North K...

- [\(5th LD\) Samsung Electronics management, labor reach wage deal ahead of planned strike](#) (2026-05-20 14:12)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- Management and labor of Samsung Electronics Co. on Wed...

- [Inter-Korean women's football showdown lives up to hype with thrilling battle](#) (2026-05-20 13:52)

SUWON, South Korea, May 20 (Yonhap) -- One side established control early but th...

- [\(4th LD\) Samsung Electronics union holds off strike plan, puts tentative wage deal to vote](#) (2026-05-20 13:46)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- Unionized workers of Samsung Electronics Co. said Wedn...

- [N. Korean club coach appreciates S. Koreans' passion for football](#) (2026-05-20 13:44)

SUWON, South Korea, May 20 (Yonhap) -- With a supportive South Korean crowd behi...

- [\(URGENT\) Samsung Electronics union holds off strike plan, puts tentative wage deal to vote](#) (2026-05-20 13:37)

(END)

- [S. Korean club coach 'felt hurt' by pro-N. Korean crowd at home stadium during historic football match](#) (2026-05-20 13:17)

SUWON, South Korea, May 20 (Yonhap) -- Suwon FC Women played in their own backya...

- [Soaked but undeterred, fans see hope in rare inter-Korean match](#) (2026-05-20 13:15)

SUWON, South Korea, May 20 (Yonhap) -- Undeterred despite a relentless downpour,...

- [\(LEAD\) N. Korea's Naegohyang beat S. Korea's Suwon FC Women in hyped-up football match](#) (2026-05-20 12:26)

SUWON, South Korea, May 20 (Yonhap) -- Naegohyang Women's FC of North Korea defe...

- [N. Korea's Naegohyang beat S. Korea's Suwon FC Women in hyped-up football match](#) (2026-05-20 12:00)

SUWON, South Korea, May 20 (Yonhap) -- Naegohyang Women's FC of North Korea defe...

- [\(2nd LD\) S. Korea-operated vessel passes through Strait of Hormuz: foreign ministry](#) (2026-05-20 11:10)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- A vessel operated by a South Korean shipping company h...

- [\(URGENT\) S. Korea-operated vessel clears Strait of Hormuz for 1st time since U.S.-Iran war: foreign ministry \(2026-05-20 10:25\)](#)

(END)

- [Lee criticizes Israel's seizure of Gaza-bound aid ships carrying S. Koreans \(2026-05-20 09:00\)](#)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Wednesday criticized Israel...

- [Oceans ministry pushing to develop global maritime hub in southeastern S. Korea: minister \(2026-05-20 08:46\)](#)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- The oceans ministry is continuing efforts to develop S...

- [DAPA chief discusses arms cooperation with India's defense minister \(2026-05-20 08:00\)](#)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- The chief of South Korea's defense procurement agency ...

- [Yonhap News Summary \(2026-05-20 07:58\)](#)

The following is the second summary of major stories moved by Yonhap News Agency...

- [Defense chiefs of S. Korea, India discuss arms cooperation \(2026-05-20 07:58\)](#)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- Defense Minister Ahn Gyu-back on Wednesday met with In...

- ['Peaceful two-state' vision fundamentally different from Pyongyang's Korean policy: minister \(2026-05-20 07:55\)](#)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- Unification Minister Chung Dong-young said Wednesday t...

- [\(LEAD\) Tokyo Verdy Beleza beat Melbourne City to reach AFC Women's Champions League final \(2026-05-20 07:49\)](#)

SUWON, South Korea, May 20 (Yonhap) -- Tokyo Verdy Beleza struck twice early and...

- [\(3rd LD\) Samsung, union resume last-minute talks mediated by labor minister \(2026-05-20 07:45\)](#)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- Last-minute wage talks between Samsung Electronics Co....

- [\(2nd LD\) Seoul shares end lower for 2nd day on foreign-selling spree; won rises \(2026-05-20 07:42\)](#)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks closed lower Wednesday, extending ...

- [S. Korea's food exports up 4.7 pct on-year in Jan.-April period: ministry \(2026-05-20 07:40\)](#)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's exports of foodstuffs and agriculture-re...

- [\(LEAD\) Labor minister to mediate Samsung wage negotiations as strike looms](#) (2026-05-20 07:40)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- Labor Minister Kim Young-hoon will mediate a fresh rou...

- [Top court upholds prison terms for husband and son in ailing matriarch's murder](#) (2026-05-20 07:24)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- The Supreme Court on Wednesday confirmed prison terms ...

- [Tokyo Verdy Beleza beat Melbourne City to reach AFC Women's Champions League final](#) (2026-05-20 07:21)

SUWON, South Korea, May 20 (Yonhap) -- Tokyo Verdy Beleza struck twice early and...

- [\(2nd LD\) President Lee says collective labor action, too, should have 'certain limit'](#) (2026-05-20 07:07)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung said Wednesday that collective...

- [Navy chief to depart for Canada this week amid major Canadian submarine bid](#) (2026-05-20 07:01)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Kim Kyung-ryul is set t...

- [\(LEAD\) Seoul shares end lower for 2nd day on foreign-selling spree; won rises](#) (2026-05-20 07:00)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks closed lower Wednesday, extending ...

- [Defamation complaint filed against Shinsegae chief over Starbucks Korea's 'Tank Day' campaign](#) (2026-05-20 06:46)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- A civic group on Wednesday filed a complaint against S...

- [Rival parties gear up for official campaigning set to begin Thursday](#) (2026-05-20 06:45)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- The ruling and opposition parties geared up Wednesday ...

- [Seoul shares end lower for 2nd day on foreign-selling spree; won rises](#) (2026-05-20 06:38)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks closed lower Wednesday, extending ...

- [\(URGENT\) Seoul shares dip 0.86 pct on foreign-selling spree; won rises](#) (2026-05-20 06:35)

(END)

- [Samsung Electro-Mechanics wins 1.5 tln-won AI chip part deal in U.S.](#) (2026-05-20 06:34)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Electro-Mechanics Co. said Wednesday it has si...

- [Special counsel extends investigation into ex-President Yoon by 30 days](#) (2026-05-20 06:30)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- A special counsel team said Wednesday it has extended ...

- [\(LEAD\) S. Korea-operated vessel passing through Strait of Hormuz: foreign minister](#) (2026-05-20 06:29)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- Foreign Minister Cho Hyun said Wednesday a vessel oper...

- [PM meets with Albanian counterpart](#) (2026-05-20 06:09)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- Prime Minister Kim Min-seok met with Albanian Prime Mi...

- [\(News Focus\) Hyundai Motor gears up for robot deployment under physical AI push](#) (2026-05-20 06:06)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- Hyundai Motor Company is accelerating its transformati...

- [Seoul to continue efforts to tackle consumer price hikes amid Middle East war](#) (2026-05-20 06:01)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's finance ministry said Wednesday the gove...

- [Recent FX volatility excessive compared to S. Korea's fundamentals: official](#) (2026-05-20 06:00)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- Recent volatility in the South Korean won appears exce...

- [S. Korea-operated vessel passing through Strait of Hormuz: foreign minister](#) (2026-05-20 05:57)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- Foreign Minister Cho Hyun said Wednesday a vessel oper...

- [\(LEAD\) President Lee says collective labor action, too, should have 'certain limit'](#) (2026-05-20 05:53)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung said Wednesday that collective...

- [\(URGENT\) S. Korea-operated vessel passing through Strait of Hormuz: foreign minister](#) (2026-05-20 05:51)

(END)

- [\(LEAD\) Auto exports down over 5 pct in April amid Middle East crisis; domestic EV sales surge](#) (2026-05-20 05:44)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's auto exports decreased more than 5 perce...

- [Labor ministry says 'too early' to speak of using emergency arbitration powers against Samsung strike](#) (2026-05-20 05:44)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- The labor ministry said Wednesday it is "too early" to...

- [Inter-Korean football match offers chance to set 'good precedent': minister](#) (2026-05-20 05:32)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- Unification Minister Chung Dong-young said Wednesday t...

- [Heroes sign ex-KBO MVP Seo Geon-chang to 2-yr extension](#) (2026-05-20 05:29)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- The Kiwoom Heroes announced Wednesday they have signed...

- [\(URGENT\) Lee says collective labor action, too, should have 'certain limit'](#) (2026-05-20 05:20)

(END)

- [\(LEAD\) Workers at Kakao, 4 affiliates vote in favor of strike: union](#) (2026-05-20 05:08)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- A labor union of Kakao Corp., the operator of South Ko...

- [Today in Korean history](#) (2026-05-20 05:00)

May 21

- [Gov't to raise terror alert ahead of local elections](#) (2026-05-20 04:37)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- The government decided Wednesday to raise the terror a...

- [\(2nd LD\) Samsung Electronics' union to launch strike Thurs. after failed talks](#) (2026-05-20 04:36)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- Wage talks between Samsung Electronics Co. and its lar...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-05-20 04:33)

The following is the first summary of major stories moved by Yonhap News Agency ...

- [Cheong Wa Dae expresses 'deep regret' over collapse of Samsung wage talks, urges continued efforts](#) (2026-05-20 04:31)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- The presidential office on Wednesday expressed deep re...

- [\(URGENT\) Cheong Wa Dae expresses 'deep regret' over collapse of Samsung wage talks, urges continued efforts](#) (2026-05-20 04:20)

(END)

- [Kakao union says strike vote passes at 5 affiliates](#) (2026-05-20 04:11)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- A labor union of Kakao Corp., the operator of South Ko...

- [\(URGENT\) Kakao union says 5 affiliates, including headquarters, vote in favor of staging strike](#) (2026-05-20 03:54)

(END)

- [S. Korea, India sign MOU to cooperate on veterans projects](#) (2026-05-20 03:09)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- The veterans ministry on Wednesday signed a preliminar...

- [\(LEAD\) Israeli forces seize another aid flotilla carrying Korean activists: civic group](#) (2026-05-20 03:04)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- Israeli forces have seized another humanitarian aid fl...

- [Lee lambasts another commercial referencing torture death of pro-democracy activist](#) (2026-05-20 03:04)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Wednesday lashed out at an ...

- [\(LEAD\) Samsung Electronics' union says it will proceed with strike Thurs.](#) (2026-05-20 03:03)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Electronics Co.'s union said Wednesday it will...

- [Industrial production up 2.6 pct in Q1 on chips, machinery: data](#) (2026-05-20 03:00)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's industrial output expanded 2.6 percent f...

- [Corporate retirement pension funds top 500 tln won in 2025](#) (2026-05-20 03:00)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- Corporate retirement pension schemes soared 16 percent...

- [Watchdog slaps 671 bln-won fines on seven flour producers for price fixing](#) (2026-05-20 03:00)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's antitrust watchdog on Wednesday imposed ...

- [\(LEAD\) PM pledges zero tolerance for disinformation, vote-buying ahead of local elections](#) (2026-05-20 02:58)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- Prime Minister Kim Min-seok pledged zero tolerance Wed...

- [Samsung Electronics' union says it will proceed with strike Thu.](#) (2026-05-20 02:44)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Electronics Co.'s union said Wednesday it will...

- [\(URGENT\) Samsung union says it will proceed with strike Thurs.](#) (2026-05-20 02:35)

(END)

- [Seoul stocks tad lower late Wed. morning despite tech gains](#) (2026-05-20 02:30)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks trimmed earlier losses late Wednes...

- [FM Cho says probe into Hormuz Strait vessel attack in final stage](#) (2026-05-20 02:28)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- Foreign Minister Cho Hyun said Wednesday that an inves...

- [PM pledges zero tolerance for disinformation, vote-buying ahead of local elections](#) (2026-05-20 02:13)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- Prime Minister Kim Min-seok pledged zero tolerance Wed...

- [S. Korea to expand onion exports amid domestic oversupply](#) (2026-05-20 02:01)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- South Korea will push for the expansion of onion expor...

- [S. Korean stock markets to close on June 3 for local elections](#) (2026-05-20 02:00)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean stock markets will be closed on June ...

- [Auto exports down over 5 pct in April amid Middle East crisis: data](#) (2026-05-20 02:00)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's auto exports decreased more than 5 perce...

- [\(3rd LD\) Samsung, union resume wage mediation talks, day before deadline](#) (2026-05-20 01:50)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Electronics Co. and its largest labor union re...

- [Military begins formal procedures to acquire nuclear-powered submarines](#) (2026-05-20 01:41)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- The military has initiated the formal process to acqui...

- [Israeli forces seize another aid flotilla carrying Korean activists: civic group](#) (2026-05-20 01:13)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- Israeli forces have seized another humanitarian aid fl...

- [Finance minister highlights AI capacity building for developing nations at G7](#) (2026-05-20 01:00)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's finance minister stressed the importance...

- [Japan PM Takaichi heads home after 2-day visit to Andong, summit with Lee](#) (2026-05-20 00:46)

ANDONG, South Korea, May 20 (Yonhap) -- Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi h...

- [S. Korea, China's Jiangsu discuss ways to expand trade, industrial ties](#) (2026-05-20 00:38)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's trade ministry and the government of Chi...

- [\(LEAD\) Seoul shares open lower, tracking overnight U.S. losses](#) (2026-05-20 00:25)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks opened lower Wednesday as investor...

- [Seoul shares open higher despite overnight U.S. losses](#) (2026-05-20 00:03)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks opened higher Wednesday led by tec...

- [\(URGENT\) Seoul shares open 0.72 pct higher despite overnight U.S. losses](#) (2026-05-20 00:01)

(END)

- [N. Korea's U-17 women get grand welcome after record 5th AFC win](#) (2026-05-19 23:31)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- North Korea's U-17 women's football team has received ...

- [Starbucks' U.S. headquarters also apologizes over 'Tank Day' event in S. Korea](#) (2026-05-19 22:35)

WASHINGTON, May 19 (Yonhap) -- Starbucks' U.S. headquarters apologized Tuesday o...

- [\(2nd LD\) Senior U.S. diplomat to visit Seoul in coming weeks to launch working groups on Oct. summit agreements](#) (2026-05-19 22:30)

WASHINGTON, May 19 (Yonhap) -- A senior U.S. diplomat will visit Seoul in the co...

- [\(Yonhap Interview\) Angola to prioritize crude oil supply to S. Korea amid Middle East crisis: envoy](#) (2026-05-19 22:02)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- Angola is willing to provide South Korea with greater ...

- [\(EDITORIAL from Korea JoongAng Daily on May 20\)](#) (2026-05-19 21:58)

Global bond yields are surging due to concerns that a prolonged conflict in the ...

- [\(EDITORIAL from Korea Times on May 20\)](#) (2026-05-19 21:57)

As unionized workers and Samsung Electronics management attempted to hash out an...

- [\(EDITORIAL from Korea Herald on May 20\)](#) (2026-05-19 21:57)

The warning did not arrive with a stock market crash, but with a quiet breach in...

- [Top headlines in major S. Korean newspapers](#) (2026-05-19 21:56)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- The following are the top headlines in major South Kor...

- [Banks' Q1 earnings down on fall in non-interest income](#) (2026-05-19 21:00)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- South Korean banks' net profit edged down in the first...

- [\(LEAD\) Senior U.S. diplomat to visit Seoul in coming weeks to launch working groups on Oct. summit agreements: State Dept.](#) (2026-05-19 20:32)

WASHINGTON, May 19 (Yonhap) -- A senior U.S. diplomat will visit Seoul in the co...

- [Senior U.S. diplomat to visit Seoul in coming weeks to launch working groups on Oct. summit agreements: State Dept.](#) (2026-05-19 20:05)

WASHINGTON, May 19 (Yonhap) -- A senior U.S. diplomat will visit Seoul in the co...

- (URGENT) Senior S. Korea, U.S. diplomats reaffirm importance of freedom of navigation in Strait of Hormuz: State Dept. (2026-05-19 19:45)

(END)

- (URGENT) Senior U.S. diplomat to visit S. Korea in coming weeks to launch bilateral working groups on Oct. summit agreements: State Dept. (2026-05-19 19:45)

(END)

- Trump says U.S. could resume strikes on Iran within days if no deal is reached (2026-05-19 19:20)

WASHINGTON, May 19 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump indicated Tuesday tha...

- (2nd LD) Samsung, union to resume wage mediation talks at 10 a.m. Wednesday (2026-05-19 18:24)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Electronics Co. and its largest labor union wi...

- (LEAD) Samsung, union to resume wage mediation talks at 10 a.m. Wednesday (2026-05-19 17:40)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Electronics Co. and its largest labor union wi...

- Samsung, union to resume wage mediation talks at 10 a.m. Wednesday (2026-05-19 16:19)

SEOUL, May 20 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Electronics Co. and its largest labor union wi...

- U.S. to host G20 trade ministerial talks in Wisconsin this fall to discuss forced labor, excess capacity (2026-05-19 14:08)

WASHINGTON, May 19 (Yonhap) -- The Office of U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) sa...

- (7th LD) Lee, Takaichi agree to boost cooperation in supply chains, procurement of crude oil, LNG (2026-05-19 12:43)

SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung said Tuesday he and Japanese P...

- (4th LD) Samsung, union hold final mediation amid looming possibility of last-minute deal (2026-05-19 11:13)

SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Electronics Co. and its largest labor union re...

- (LEAD) Unification ministry defends white paper against criticism over 'two-state' language (2026-05-19 10:30)

SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- The unification ministry on Tuesday pushed back agains...

- [S. Korea raises travel alert to Cuba amid country's political uncertainty](#) (2026-05-19 09:33)

SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- South Korea on Tuesday raised its travel alert level f...

- [\(LEAD\) Uber increases stake in Delivery Hero, becomes largest shareholder](#) (2026-05-19 09:30)

SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- Uber has acquired an additional stake in Delivery Hero...

- [\(6th LD\) Lee, Takaichi agree to boost cooperation in supply chains, procurement of crude oil, LNG](#) (2026-05-19 09:03)

SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung said Tuesday he and Japanese P...

- [\(3rd LD\) Israeli forces seize humanitarian aid flotilla carrying S. Korean activist: civic group](#) (2026-05-19 08:57)

SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- Israeli forces have seized a humanitarian aid flotilla...

- [\(5th LD\) Lee, Takaichi agree to boost cooperation in supply chains, procurement of crude oil, LNG](#) (2026-05-19 08:21)

SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung said Tuesday he and Japanese P...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-05-19 08:00)

The following is the second summary of major stories moved by Yonhap News Agency...

- [\(URGENT\) Lee says upcoming DNA tests on remains from wartime mine would serve as 1st step in cooperation on history issues](#) (2026-05-19 07:59)

(END)

- [\(URGENT\) Lee, Takaichi reaffirm commitment to trilateral cooperation with U.S. for regional peace, stability](#) (2026-05-19 07:56)

(END)

- [S. Korea, Iran continue 'close, serious' discussions regarding recent vessel attack: foreign ministry](#) (2026-05-19 07:56)

SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and Iran continue to hold close and seriou...

- [\(URGENT\) Lee says Seoul, Tokyo agreed to boost cooperation in crude oil, liquefied natural gas supplies](#) (2026-05-19 07:55)

(END)

- [\(URGENT\) Lee says agreed with Takaichi to further boost supply chain cooperation amid Mideast conflict](#) (2026-05-19 07:55)

(END)

- [S. Korea reports 24 African swine fever cases this year: data](#) (2026-05-19 07:50)

SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- South Korea has reported 24 confirmed cases of African...

- [\(4th LD\) Lee says Japan an important partner in overcoming global rainstorm together](#) (2026-05-19 07:45)

SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung said Tuesday that Japan is an ...

- [\(2nd LD\) Seoul shares dip 3.25 pct on tech slide; won drops](#) (2026-05-19 07:34)

SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks closed lower Tuesday as a foreign-...

- [\(3rd LD\) Samsung, union hold final mediation amid looming possibility of last-minute deal](#) (2026-05-19 07:32)

SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Electronics Co. and its largest labor union re...

- [\(News Focus\) Backlash over 'Perfect Crown' underscores need for historical accuracy in K-drama](#) (2026-05-19 07:28)

SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- The rom-com drama series "Perfect Crown" has come unde...

- [\(2nd LD\) Israeli forces seize humanitarian aid flotilla carrying S. Korean activist: civic group](#) (2026-05-19 07:25)

SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- Israeli forces have seized a humanitarian aid flotilla...

- [Appellate court affirms life sentence for man who fatally shot own son](#) (2026-05-19 07:19)

INCHEON, May 19 (Yonhap) -- A court of appeals on Tuesday upheld a life sentence...

- [\(LEAD\) Seoul shares dip 3.25 pct on tech slide; won drops](#) (2026-05-19 07:01)

SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks closed lower Tuesday as a foreign-...

- [\(2nd LD\) Finance minister highlights 'Korea premium' during London visit](#) (2026-05-19 07:00)

SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- Finance Minister Koo Yun-cheol highlighted South Korea...

- [Special counsel seeks arrest warrant for Yoon's ex-chief of staff in Yongsan relocation probe](#) (2026-05-19 06:57)

SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- A special counsel team on Tuesday sought arrest warran...

- [Vice defense chief inspects drone operation drills by reserve forces](#) (2026-05-19 06:54)

SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- Vice Defense Minister Lee Doo-hee on Tuesday visited t...

- [\(LEAD\) PPP slams unification ministry's reference to Koreas as 'two-state relationship'](#) (2026-05-19 06:45)

SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- Lawmakers of the main opposition People Power Party (P...

- [\(LEAD\) Shinsegae chairman offers apology over Starbucks Korea's 'Tank Day' event](#) (2026-05-19 06:41)

SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- Shinsegae Group Chairman Chung Yong-jin on Tuesday iss...

- [Seoul shares dip 3.25 pct on tech slide; won drops](#) (2026-05-19 06:33)

SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks closed lower Tuesday as a foreign-...

- [\(URGENT\) Seoul shares dip 3.25 pct on tech slide; won drops](#) (2026-05-19 06:31)

(END)

- [S. Korea to build at least 10 solar power complexes for renewable energy expansion](#) (2026-05-19 06:30)

SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- The government will create at least 10 massive solar p...

- [PM promises to build startup-centered society](#) (2026-05-19 06:26)

SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- The government of President Lee Jae Myung aims to make...

- [LG Energy Solution, Honda partner to penetrate Vietnam's e-motorcycle market](#) (2026-05-19 06:17)

SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- South Korean battery maker LG Energy Solutions Ltd. sa...

- [\(2nd LD\) Samsung, union hold final mediation amid looming possibility of last-minute deal](#) (2026-05-19 06:14)

SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Electronics Co. and its largest labor union re...

- [Unification ministry defends white paper against criticism over 'two-state' language](#) (2026-05-19 06:14)

SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- The unification ministry on Tuesday pushed back agains...

- [Giants' Lee Jung-hoo exits game with back spasms after extending hit streak to 5](#) (2026-05-19 06:11)

SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- Lee Jung-hoo of the San Francisco Giants was pulled fr...

- [\(3rd LD\) Lee holds talks with Japan PM Takaichi in his hometown of Andong](#) (2026-05-19 06:03)

SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung held a summit meeting with Jap...

- [\(LEAD\) Finance minister highlights 'Korea premium' during London visit](#) (2026-05-19 06:00)  
SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- Finance Minister Koo Yun-cheol highlighted South Korea...

- [\(LEAD\) Ex-defense minister sentenced to 3-yr prison term for obstruction of justice](#) (2026-05-19 05:49)  
SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- Former Defense Minister Kim Yong-hyun was sentenced to...

- [Naver says no decision has been made on acquisition of Baemin](#) (2026-05-19 05:44)  
SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- Naver Corp. said Tuesday it has yet to reach a decisio...

- [\(2nd LD\) Japan PM Takaichi arrives in S. Korea ahead of summit with Lee in Andong](#) (2026-05-19 05:32)  
SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi arrived Tuesday...

- [Samsung Electronics' strike could cut S. Korean economy by 0.5 pct point: BOK](#) (2026-05-19 05:30)  
SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- The Bank of Korea (BOK) has estimated that a general s...

- [Ex-defense minister sentenced to 3-yr prison term for obstruction of justice](#) (2026-05-19 05:26)  
SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- Former Defense Minister Kim Yong-hyun was sentenced to...

- [PPP slams unification ministry's reference to Koreas as 'two-state relationship'](#) (2026-05-19 05:22)  
SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- Lawmakers of the main opposition People Power Party (P...

- [\(LEAD\) PM calls for proactive support for Hyundai Motor's Saemangeum project](#) (2026-05-19 05:21)  
SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- Prime Minister Kim Min-seok instructed the government ...

- [Industry minister urges Samsung labor, management to reach deal to prevent strike](#) (2026-05-19 05:17)  
SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- Industry Minister Kim Jung-kwan on Tuesday called on S...

- [Today in Korean history](#) (2026-05-19 05:00)  
May 20

- [Industry minister commends gas stations' efforts to stabilize fuel prices](#) (2026-05-19 05:00)  
SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- Industry Minister Kim Jung-kwan on Tuesday commended g...

- [Army revokes 33 commendations awarded to soldiers linked to 1980 pro-democracy crackdown](#) (2026-05-19 04:46)

SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- The Army said Tuesday it has revoked 33 commendations ...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-05-19 04:30)

The following is the first summary of major stories moved by Yonhap News Agency ...

- [Suwon FC Women won't back down vs. N. Korean foe in historic football match: captain](#) (2026-05-19 04:23)

SUWON, South Korea, May 19 (Yonhap) -- Suwon FC Women captain Ji So-yun said Tue...

- [\(LEAD\) Japan PM Takaichi arrives in S. Korea ahead of summit with Lee in Andong](#) (2026-05-19 03:50)

SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi arrived Tuesday...

- [Coach for N. Korean football club keeps mum on S. Korean supporters: 'We're here for football'](#) (2026-05-19 03:41)

SUWON, South Korea, May 19 (Yonhap) -- The head coach of the North Korean women'...

- [Japan PM Takaichi arrives in S. Korea ahead of summit with Lee in Andong](#) (2026-05-19 03:14)

SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi arrived Tuesday...

- [\(URGENT\) Japan PM Takaichi arrives at Daegu airport in S. Korea ahead of summit with Lee in Andong](#) (2026-05-19 03:02)

(END)

- [Household credit rises for 8th quarter in Q1 amid tighter lending regulations](#) (2026-05-19 03:00)

SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's household credit rose for the eight cons...

- [S. Korea adds 221,000 wage jobs in Q4; youth employment declines](#) (2026-05-19 03:00)

SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- South Korea added 221,000 wage jobs in the fourth quar...

- [Listed firms' profits jump in Q1 thanks to chip boom](#) (2026-05-19 03:00)

SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- South Korean listed firms reported record earnings dur...

- [Hyundai Motor Group unveils plan to deploy 25,000 Atlas humanoid robots](#) (2026-05-19 02:58)

SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- Hyundai Motor Group has outlined plans to deploy 25,00...

- [Police seeking to ease late-night speed limit in school zones](#) (2026-05-19 02:55)

SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- Police are pushing to relax school zone speed limits, ...

- [Australian club ready to build on experience in pursuit of Asian women's football title](#) (2026-05-19 02:54)

SUWON, South Korea, May 19 (Yonhap) -- On the verge of reaching their second str...

- [\(Movie Review\) 'Namtaeryeong' captures spirit of unlikely solidarity in aftermath of martial law](#) (2026-05-19 02:49)

SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- In South Korea, "dongji" or winter solstice, is the lo...

- [\(Yonhap Interview\) Seoul, Helsinki share complementary interests amid supply strains: Finnish minister](#) (2026-05-19 02:45)

SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and Finland have opportunities to pursue m...

- [Seoul stocks sharply down late Tues. morning on tech slide](#) (2026-05-19 02:32)

SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks extended losses late Tuesday morni...

- [\(LEAD\) Israeli forces seize humanitarian aid flotilla carrying S. Korean activist: civic group](#) (2026-05-19 02:32)

SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- Israeli forces have seized a humanitarian aid flotilla...

- [Uniqlo to open flagship store in Myeongdong, 5 yrs after closing outlet amid COVID outbreak](#) (2026-05-19 02:16)

SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- Japanese casual wear brand Uniqlo is reopening its fla...

- [PM calls for proactive support for Hyundai Motor's Saemangeum project](#) (2026-05-19 02:09)

SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- Prime Minister Kim Min-seok instructed the government ...

- [\(Yonhap Interview\) 'Wars have limits,' but 'blatant disregard' for rules growing: ICRC Korea head](#) (2026-05-19 02:05)

SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- Disclosing the identity of prisoners of war (POWs) run...

- [Asia's biggest startup fair to be held in Seoul next month](#) (2026-05-19 02:00)

SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- Asia's largest startup fair, NextRise, will open in Se...

- [\(LEAD\) Lee set to hold summit talks with Japanese PM Takaichi in Andong](#) (2026-05-19 01:45)

SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung was set to hold a bilateral su...

- [\(LEAD\) Samsung, union hold final mediation as strike deadline nears](#) (2026-05-19 01:36)  
SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Electronics Co. and its largest labor union re...
- [S. Korea, Papua New Guinea pledge stronger ties on 50th anniv. of diplomatic relations](#) (2026-05-19 01:32)  
SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- The foreign ministers of South Korea and Papua New Gui...
- [Shinsegae chairman offers apology over Starbucks Korea's 'Tank Day' event](#) (2026-05-19 01:19)  
SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- Shinsegae Group Chairman Chung Yong-jin on Tuesday iss...
- [\(LEAD\) Watchdog chief voices concerns over retail speculation amid increased volatility](#) (2026-05-19 01:15)  
SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- The chief of the country's financial watchdog has expr...
- [Xikers to drop new album 'Route Zero: The Ora'](#) (2026-05-19 01:13)  
SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- K-pop boy group Xikers will put out its seventh EP, ti...
- [Samsung, union hold final mediation as strike deadline nears](#) (2026-05-19 01:12)  
SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Electronics Co. and its largest labor union re...
- [Finance minister highlights 'Korea premium' during London visit](#) (2026-05-19 01:00)  
SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- Finance Minister Koo Yun-cheol highlighted South Korea...
- [No reports of MDL crossings by N. Korean troops this year amid border fortification: source](#) (2026-05-19 00:58)  
SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- North Korean troops have not crossed the inter-Korean ...
- ['Hope' director says film was inspired by 'ominous' feeling about the world](#) (2026-05-19 00:49)  
CANNES, May 19 (Yonhap) -- Na Hong-jin, the director behind the sci-fi thriller ...
- [SK Innovation breaks ground for 3.3 tln-won LNG project in Vietnam](#) (2026-05-19 00:32)  
SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- SK Innovation Co., South Korea's leading refiner, said...
- [\(LEAD\) KOSPI opens lower amid inflation woes, U.S. tech slump](#) (2026-05-19 00:30)  
SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks opened lower Tuesday as investors ...
- [Israeli forces seize humanitarian aid flotilla carrying S. Korean activist: civic group](#) (2026-05-19 00:23)  
SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- Israeli forces have seized a humanitarian aid flotilla...

- [KOSPI opens lower on inflation woes, U.S. tech slump](#) (2026-05-19 00:03)

SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks opened lower Tuesday as investors ...

- [\(URGENT\) KOSPI opens 1.2 pct lower on inflation woes, U.S. tech slump](#) (2026-05-19 00:01)

(END)

- [Lee set to hold summit talks with Japanese PM Takaichi in Andong](#) (2026-05-19 00:01)

SEOUL, May 19 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung was set to hold a bilateral su...