



SOUTH KOREA SECURITY ANALYSIS REPORT

AI-Assisted Open Source Intelligence Assessment

Analysis Period: May 27, 2026 - June 03, 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.

South Korea Security Analysis Report: May 27, 2026 - June 03, 2026

Executive Summary

During the period of May 27 to June 03, 2026, South Korea demonstrated a proactive stance in bolstering its national security through significant defense policy shifts and enhanced cybersecurity measures. Key developments include the formal launch of interagency talks with the United States regarding South Korea's pursuit of nuclear-powered submarines and greater autonomy over the nuclear fuel cycle. Concurrently, the nation initiated a public-private alliance to counter emerging AI-based cyber threats, reflecting a growing concern over advanced digital warfare. Domestically, new legislation was approved to foster a self-reliant defense semiconductor industry, while plans were unveiled to replace frontline troops with AI surveillance systems along the border with North Korea. These actions underscore South Korea's commitment to modernizing its military capabilities and enhancing its resilience against both conventional and asymmetric threats, amidst continued regional tensions and North Korea's deepening ties with Russia and China.

Key Security Developments

- Defense Policy and Strategic Shifts: Nuclear-Powered Submarine Roadmap

On May 26, South Korea officially unveiled a strategic roadmap, known as the Jang Bogo-N project, to develop and launch its first domestically built nuclear-powered attack submarine (SSN) by the mid-2030s, with commissioning targeted for the late 2030s. This initiative, announced by Defense Minister Ahn Gyu-back, aims to counter North Korea's submarine-launched ballistic missile threats and enhance South Korea's long-range military capabilities and maritime security. The move is seen as a significant shift in the country's defense strategy, leveraging South Korea's advanced shipbuilding and nuclear power technologies.

- Diplomatic Relations: US-South Korea Nuclear Cooperation Talks

Formal interagency talks between South Korea and the United States commenced on June 2-3 in Seoul, focusing on nuclear cooperation related to Seoul's ambition to acquire nuclear-powered submarines and achieve greater autonomy over the nuclear

fuel cycle. Led by First Vice Foreign Minister Park Yoon-joo for South Korea and Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Allison Hooker for the US, these discussions were initially delayed for several months. The talks are crucial for implementing security agreements outlined in a November 2025 joint fact sheet between the two nations.

- **Cybersecurity: Public-Private AI Cyber Threat Response System**

On May 29, the South Korean government announced the establishment of a public-private joint response system to effectively counter cybersecurity threats driven by artificial intelligence (AI). This plan, detailed by the Ministry of Science and ICT (MSIT), aims to unify vulnerability and patch management agencies, rapidly sharing information with approximately 28,000 companies, the military, and the National Intelligence Service (NIS). The initiative seeks to strengthen preemptive preparedness and emergency response capabilities against the increasing sophistication of AI-based cyberattacks.

- **Defense Industry Developments: Defense Semiconductor Promotion and Support Act**

South Korea approved new legislation, the Defense Semiconductor Promotion and Support Act, on June 3, aimed at fostering a robust domestic defense semiconductor industry. This act seeks to reduce the nation's reliance on foreign suppliers for critical components in advanced weapons systems and military platforms, thereby strengthening the resilience of military supply chains amidst rising geopolitical uncertainties. The Ministry of National Defense and the Defense Acquisition Program Administration (DAPA) stated that the law establishes a dedicated legal framework for development, including reliability testing and certification systems.

- **Defense Policy and Strategic Shifts: Troop Reductions and AI Border Surveillance**

On June 1, the Defense Ministry announced plans to significantly reduce the number of troops stationed at General Outposts (GOPs) along the heavily fortified border with North Korea, from over 22,000 to approximately 6,000. This reduction will be offset by the deployment of an AI-based scientific surveillance system to monitor frontline defenses. This strategic shift is a response to South Korea's shrinking military manpower and aims to reallocate troops more effectively, though concerns remain regarding the reliability of AI technology in critical frontline conditions.

- **Counter-terrorism: National Terror Alert Raised for Elections**

In anticipation of nationwide elections held on June 3, 2026, the South Korean government raised the national terror alert level to "Caution" on May 28, effective through June 4, 2026. This was described as a preemptive measure to enhance counterterrorism security around campaign sites and public gatherings, with increased police presence expected across the country.

- Diplomatic Relations: North Korea's Stance and USFK Commander's Remarks

Singapore's Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan, following a trip to Pyongyang on May 26-27, reported on May 28 that North Korea appears disinclined to engage in dialogue with the United States or South Korea, instead focusing on building self-reliance and military deterrence. Balakrishnan noted North Korea's deepening ties with Russia and China. On June 3, North Korea condemned remarks by US Forces Korea (USFK) commander General Xavier Brunson, who reportedly compared South Korea to "the dagger in the heart of Asia," interpreting it as a US strategy to contain China.

- Defense Acquisitions: SM-6 Missile Interceptors

On May 22 (just outside the reporting window but highly relevant to ongoing defense posture), South Korea finalized a plan to acquire U.S. Standard Missile-6 (SM-6) shipborne missile interceptors by 2034. This 530 billion-won (\$351.5 million) project aims to significantly boost the nation's missile defense capabilities, with the SM-6 interceptors to be installed on new and existing Aegis destroyers.

- Military Activities: North Korean Missile Launches (Contextual)

While not within the May 27-June 3 window, North Korea conducted a significant launch of over ten ballistic missiles towards the Sea of Japan on March 14, 2026, prompting an emergency meeting of South Korea's National Security Office. Additionally, North Korea reportedly tested AI-guided missiles and artillery rockets on May 27, signaling continued military readiness and advancements. These actions underscore the persistent threat from Pyongyang and the ongoing need for South Korea's enhanced defense capabilities.

Geopolitical Impact and Regional Dynamics

South Korea's recent security developments carry significant geopolitical implications, particularly for regional stability and its relationships with major powers. The pursuit of nuclear-powered submarines (SSNs), as outlined in the Jang Bogo-N project, is a pivotal strategic shift that could trigger an undersea arms race in Northeast Asia, involving China, North Korea, and potentially Japan. While intended to counter North Korea's submarine-launched missile threats and enhance deterrence against regional powers like China, this move could be perceived as escalatory by Beijing and Tokyo. The formal launch of nuclear cooperation talks with the United States on SSN development and nuclear fuel cycle autonomy highlights the enduring strength of the US-South Korea alliance. However, it also necessitates a delicate balancing act, as Seoul seeks to advance its strategic autonomy while navigating the constraints of the existing Korea-US 123 Agreement, which prohibits the use of US-supplied nuclear materials for military purposes.

The ongoing tensions with North Korea remain a central dynamic. Pyongyang's reported disinterest in dialogue with Seoul or Washington, coupled with its deepening military and economic ties with Russia and China, suggests a hardening of its "hostile two states" policy. This alignment further complicates efforts to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula and reinforces a more confrontational regional posture. North Korea's condemnation of the USFK commander's remarks, interpreting them as a strategy to contain China, underscores the intertwined nature of inter-Korean relations with broader US-China strategic competition.

South Korea's efforts to foster a domestic defense semiconductor industry and deploy AI-based border surveillance systems reflect a broader trend towards technological self-reliance and modernization. These initiatives, while enhancing national security, also position South Korea as a critical player in global technology supply chains, particularly in semiconductors, which has implications for its economic and strategic relationships with both the US and China. The 8.2% increase in the 2026 defense budget and the growth of its defense industry, with firms like Hanwha expanding into Europe, indicate South Korea's rising stature as a global defense exporter and a more assertive actor in international security.

Military and Defense Analysis

South Korea's military and defense posture is undergoing significant transformation, driven by modernization programs, increased defense spending, and a strategic re-evaluation of threats. The most prominent development is the Jang Bogo-N project, a national strategic roadmap to acquire nuclear-powered attack submarines by the mid-2030s. This program aims to provide a highly survivable deterrent against North Korea's submarine-launched ballistic missiles and enhance the Republic of Korea Navy's (ROKN) operational capabilities, which are currently limited by conventional diesel-electric submarines. The planned 8,000-ton SSNs would be comparable in size to the American Virginia-class submarines, representing a substantial leap in naval power projection.

In terms of force posture, the decision to reduce troops at General Outposts (GOPs) along the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) from over 22,000 to around 6,000, and replace them with an AI-based scientific surveillance system, marks a fundamental shift in border defense. This move is primarily driven by South Korea's demographic challenges and aims to reallocate manpower more efficiently to other critical areas. However, the reliability and initial response capabilities of AI in a high-stakes frontline environment remain a key concern, as highlighted by past breaches of similar systems.

Defense spending trends indicate a robust commitment to military modernization, with President Lee Jae-Myung announcing an 8.2% increase in the 2026 defense budget. This funding supports not only the SSN program but also other capability developments, such as the acquisition of U.S. Standard Missile-6 (SM-6) shipborne missile interceptors by 2034. These interceptors will enhance the anti-ballistic missile defense capabilities of Aegis destroyers against a range of threats. Furthermore, the approval of the Defense Semiconductor Promotion and Support Act underscores a strategic push for self-reliance in critical defense technologies, aiming to secure military supply chains and reduce dependence on foreign suppliers. This aligns with broader efforts to strengthen the domestic defense industry, which saw exports reach \$15.4 billion in 2025.

Outlook and Forecast

Short-term trends (1-3 months): In the immediate future, South Korea will likely continue its intensive diplomatic engagements with the United States regarding the nuclear-powered submarine program and nuclear fuel cycle autonomy. The working-group discussions initiated on June 2-3 are expected to progress, focusing on the complex technical and regulatory aspects, including potential revisions to the Korea-US 123 Agreement. Cybersecurity will remain a high priority, with the newly established public-private AI threat response system becoming operational and likely undergoing initial stress tests or real-world application against evolving AI-driven cyberattacks. North Korea is anticipated to maintain its current posture of disengagement from dialogue with Seoul and Washington, potentially continuing its military advancements and strengthening ties with Russia and China. Any further North Korean missile tests or provocative actions, particularly in response to US-ROK military exercises or statements, could escalate tensions.

Critical flashpoints and risk areas: The Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) and the Northern Limit Line (NLL) in the Yellow Sea remain critical flashpoints, especially with South Korea's planned deployment of AI surveillance systems along the border. Any malfunction or misinterpretation by these AI systems could lead to unintended escalation. The development of nuclear-powered submarines also presents a proliferation risk and could provoke a regional arms race, particularly with Japan and China. The ongoing investigation into the massive data breach involving Coupang, a US-listed e-commerce giant, highlights persistent cybersecurity vulnerabilities that could be exploited by adversaries. Furthermore, the broader geopolitical competition between the US and China, and North Korea's alignment with Russia and China, will continue to shape the security landscape on the Korean Peninsula.

Indicators to monitor: Key indicators to monitor include the progress and outcomes of the US-South Korea nuclear cooperation talks, specifically any agreements or

disagreements regarding SSN fuel supply and enrichment rights. North Korea's military activities, including any further missile launches or statements regarding its nuclear program, will be crucial. The effectiveness and resilience of South Korea's new AI-based cybersecurity and border surveillance systems should be closely observed. Additionally, the implementation of the Defense Semiconductor Promotion and Support Act and its impact on reducing foreign dependency will be important for long-term defense self-reliance. The overall stability of the US-ROK alliance, particularly in light of differing strategic priorities or burden-sharing discussions, will also be a critical factor.

Strategic recommendations: South Korea should continue to prioritize the robust development of its indigenous defense capabilities, including the SSN program and defense semiconductor industry, while ensuring strict adherence to international non-proliferation norms and close coordination with the US. Investing heavily in the resilience and security of AI-based defense systems, including robust testing, redundancy, and human-in-the-loop protocols, is essential to mitigate risks associated with new technologies. Diplomatically, Seoul should maintain open channels with Beijing to manage regional perceptions of its defense modernization and prevent miscalculations, while also actively engaging with ASEAN nations to build broader regional security cooperation. Continued efforts to strengthen public-private partnerships in cybersecurity are vital to protect critical infrastructure and national data from increasingly sophisticated threats. Finally, South Korea should prepare for potential North Korean provocations by maintaining a high state of readiness and reinforcing its extended deterrence capabilities with the United States.

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ANNEX: COLLECTED ARTICLES BY SOURCE

Source: Daily NK

- [North Korean soldiers in Ukraine face forced return — a civilian delegation went to fight for them](#) (2026-06-02 20:47)

The sky over Kyiv hung heavy and gray during the days I spent in Ukraine’s capital. Standing before the outer wall of a prisoner of war facility, our delegation pressed our hands against the cold concrete and wept. On the other side of that wall, two young North Korean soldiers — held under the pseudonyms [...]

- [North Korea’s donju hand over rice and cash to the state — and call it insurance](#) (2026-06-02 13:28)

North Korean authorities are pressuring wealthy private traders known as donju — loosely translated as “masters of money,” referring to a class of entrepreneurs who accumulated capital through North Korea’s informal market economy — to donate rice to the state under the banner of “patriotic rice” contributions. A Daily NK source in Ryanggang province said [...]

- [Mass livestock deaths at Kim Jong Un’s model farm trigger political crisis in Kangwon province](#) (2026-06-02 09:08)

Hundreds of pigs, goats, and rabbits have died at a state breeding farm in North Korea’s Sepho district, and authorities have dispatched a high-level joint investigation team to the site, treating the mass die-off as a politically sensitive incident. The Sepho Tableland livestock base in Kangwon province is one of North Korea’s flagship agricultural projects, [...]

- [North Korea makes parents pay to feed students forced into rice planting labor](#) (2026-06-01 20:57)

Parents across North Korea are being pressured to supply food for their children mobilized for rice planting season, bearing costs the state is unwilling to cover. Every spring, North Korean schools dispatch students to rural areas to help with rice transplanting — a nationwide mobilization campaign that can last a month or more. To feed [...]

- [Young North Koreans turn to flexible 8-3 labor as state wages fail to cover basic needs](#) (2026-06-01 17:32)

Young workers in North Korea are increasingly using a practice known as “8-3 labor” — paying a fee to their state-assigned workplace in exchange for permission to pursue private income — but with a new twist: rather than making a permanent arrangement, they are now doing so on a temporary, case-by-case basis whenever outside work [...]

- [North Korea uses Russia's Victory Day to push war readiness doctrine](#) (2026-06-01 13:27)

North Korea used its military's participation in Russia's Victory Day parade to conduct ideological indoctrination sessions targeting security officials, in what reflects Pyongyang's effort to legitimize its growing battlefield role alongside Russian forces. A Daily NK source in Pyongyang reported on Friday that on May 12, the Ministry of Social Security — one of North [...]

- [North Korea grain prices fall across markets as imported supply increases](#) (2026-05-29 23:57)

Grain prices at North Korean markets fell across the board in late May 2026, reversing a sustained period of increases, according to Daily NK's regular market price survey. Rice sold at one Pyongyang market on May 24 for 31,500 North Korean won per kilogram, down 3.7% from the previous survey conducted on May 10. The [...]

- [North Korean women no longer want to marry police officers. Here's why.](#) (2026-05-29 19:53)

A telling story has been circulating in South Pyongan province. A daughter of a local People's Committee official was urged by her parents to consider marrying a police officer. Her response: she would rather marry a farm worker. The remark may be a bit of an exaggeration, but it captures something real about how attitudes [...]

- [Counterfeit Russian rubles flood Rason market as North Korea-Russia trade expands](#) (2026-05-29 17:50)

Counterfeit Russian rubles have been circulating in Rason, North Korea's special economic zone on the China-Russia border, prompting authorities to dispatch a special inspection team to trace their origin. A Daily NK source inside North Korea reported on Friday that the State Information Bureau, the country's main counterintelligence and security organ formerly known as the [...]

- [North Korea's AFC women's title sparks curiosity about South Korea at home](#) (2026-05-29 13:33)

News of North Korea's Naegohyang women's football club winning the AFC Women's Champions League on South Korean soil has become a major talking point inside the country, with many North Koreans expressing more fascination with the fact that the team traveled to South Korea than with the victory itself. A Daily NK source in North [...]

- [North Koreans split on Xi Jinping visit rumors as border trade hangs in balance](#) (2026-05-29 08:50)

Rumors of a possible visit to North Korea by Chinese President Xi Jinping are spreading inside the country, stirring a mix of hope and anxiety among border traders and ordinary North

Koreans alike, Daily NK has learned. A Daily NK source in North Pyongan province said Friday that speculation about a Xi visit has been [...]

- [North Korea orders shoot-to-kill at border, coordinates defector tracking with China](#) (2026-05-28 23:29)

North Korea's State Information Bureau, the country's primary domestic intelligence agency formerly known as the Ministry of State Security, has issued sweeping new directives to border security units ordering them to shoot defectors on sight and coordinate with Chinese police to track North Koreans who have already fled. The orders have sent fear through border [...]

- [North Korea expands rice-paddy fish farming drive, farm workers push back](#) (2026-05-28 17:05)

North Korea has been pushing rice-paddy fish farming as an organic, low-cost method to boost grain output and supplement the food supply, but farmers in South Hwanghae province say the campaign is running ahead of the conditions needed to make it work. A Daily NK source in South Hwanghae province reported on Thursday that provincial [...]

- [North Korea ramps up Chinese medical equipment imports amid healthcare modernization push](#) (2026-05-28 10:00)

North Korea is importing a growing volume of Chinese medical equipment as authorities push to modernize healthcare facilities nationwide, with demand for pharmaceutical packaging machinery also rising alongside a parallel drive to expand domestic drug production. A source in North Pyongan province told Daily NK that hospitals and clinics across the province have been seeking [...]

- [North Korea grain stores more stable in 2026, but quality complaints persist](#) (2026-05-28 01:34)

North Korea's state-run grain stores are operating more reliably than in previous years, but the grain they sell continues to draw complaints about poor quality. According to Daily NK sources, grain stores in both cities sell grain once or twice a month, with twice a month being the more common pattern. Authorities currently operate two [...]

- [North Korea soldiers forced into soybean farming say officers take the best of the harvest](#) (2026-05-27 19:14)

North Korean soldiers stationed in Hamhung, the capital of South Hamgyong province, have been mobilized en masse for soybean planting on military-run auxiliary farms, with a deadline set for the end of May 2026. Even as military authorities frame the farming work as a way to improve soldiers' nutrition, troops have responded with open cynicism, [...]

- [Chinese smugglers foiled at North Korea border despite hopes for post-Trump thaw](#) (2026-05-27 17:59)

Chinese smugglers along the Jilin province border with North Korea attempted to move goods across the river on the nights of May 20 and 21, 2026, but were turned back each time by Chinese border patrol units. Many smugglers had expected enforcement to ease following U.S. President Donald Trump’ s visit to China, but the crackdown [...]

Source: Hankyoreh

- [\[Column\] Balancing strength and institutions to build Korean peace](#) (2026-06-03 06:02)
- [\[Column\] Korea: A nation divided into blue and red](#) (2026-06-03 06:02)
- [\[Column\] When obeying law and order is a true subversion](#) (2026-06-03 06:02)
- [Korean police seek exit ban for Morse Tan, election denier accused of defaming president](#) (2026-06-02 12:03)
- [Yoon pressed Joint Chiefs chairman for ‘loyalty’ 1 year prior to martial law gambit](#) (2026-06-02 12:03)
- [Another deadly explosion casts shadow over Hanwha Aerospace’ s cutting-edge image](#) (2026-06-02 12:03)
- [Project to train AI on skilled workers’ know-how prompts debate over who owns knowledge](#) (2026-06-02 12:03)
- [Parties show humility in final appeals to voters, even as attacks on rivals continue](#) (2026-06-02 12:03)
- [\[Editorial\] PPP’ s shameless parade of disgraced presidents](#) (2026-06-02 12:03)
- [\[Column\] From complete denuclearization of North Korea to managing nuclear risk](#) (2026-06-01 12:02)
- [Korean parties trade barbs over campaign tactics in countdown to Wednesday’ s elections](#) (2026-06-01 12:02)
- [South Korea is ready for OPCON handover, defense chief tells US lawmakers](#) (2026-06-01 12:02)

- [Ripped from families for not being ‘Korean enough,’ mixed-race adoptees seek truth and justice](#) (2026-06-01 12:02)
- [Little-known former US official sets off flurry of election misinfo in Korea](#) (2026-06-01 12:02)
- [\[Editorial\] Korea is a model US ally on defense. It’s time it regains wartime OPCON.](#) (2026-06-01 12:02)
- [\[Editorial\] Election fraud conspiracy theorists are the real threats to Korea’s democracy](#) (2026-06-01 12:02)
- [\[Column\] Israel: The definition of a democratic fascist regime](#) (2026-05-31 06:02)
- [\[Column\] The tyranny of merit and the distribution of profit in the AI era](#) (2026-05-31 06:02)
- [\[Editorial\] Working groups on Korea-US fact sheet must yield tangible results](#) (2026-05-29 12:02)
- [Morse Tan, election conspiracy peddler, arrives in Korea ahead of June 3 elections](#) (2026-05-29 12:02)
- [Victory in June 3 elections may come down to Seoul and Busan mayoral races](#) (2026-05-29 12:02)
- [The US-China rare earth rivalry and the rise of a new geopolitics of resources](#) (2026-05-29 12:02)
- [Chinese Embassy slams USFK chief for likening Korea to ‘dagger’ aimed at China](#) (2026-05-29 12:02)
- [Korean activists say Israeli captors physically and sexually assaulted flotilla activists](#) (2026-05-29 12:02)
- [USFK commander likens Korea to ‘dagger’ pointed at China](#) (2026-05-28 12:02)
- [Samsung Electronics announces 5 trillion won fund for giving back to society](#) (2026-05-28 12:02)

- [Editorial] Head of USFK continues to cross the line with inappropriate political remarks (2026-05-28 12:02)
- Lee pulls off pragmatic diplomacy balancing act between strongmen Trump and Xi (2026-05-28 12:02)
- KFTC eyes criminal proceedings against Coupang founder over alleged false filings (2026-05-28 12:02)
- Starbucks Korea sees 26% dropoff in weekly sales following ‘Tank Day’ debacle (2026-05-28 12:02)
- Ambassador denies Iranian involvement after Korea concludes ship was hit by Iran-linked missiles (2026-05-28 12:02)
- Seoul stops short of naming Iran as attacker in strike on ship in Hormuz (2026-05-28 12:02)
- Seoul overpass partially collapses, killing 3 and injuring 3 more (2026-05-27 12:02)
- Gwangju groups call for Shinsegae chief to resign after ‘insincere’ apology for ‘Tank Day’ promo (2026-05-27 12:02)
- Lee calls sovereign defense ‘fundamental’ amid rift with US over OPCON transfer timing (2026-05-27 12:02)
- After decades of secrecy, South Korea goes public with nuclear submarine project (2026-05-27 12:02)
- K-pop wins big at AMAs, with BTS taking home artist of the year (2026-05-27 12:02)
- Hankyoreh Human and Digital Forum to explore future of work and learning in AI era (2026-05-27 06:02)
- Samsung bonus ordeal highlights importance of social dialogue, says ILO chief (2026-05-27 06:02)
- [Interview] ILO chief on challenges and opportunities AI poses for work (2026-05-27 06:02)

Source: Korea Times

- [Voters head to polls with different hopes in local elections](#) (2026-06-03 05:57)

As polling stations opened across Korea Wednesday morning, voters streamed in to cast ballots in the nationwide local elections, each carrying their own hopes and expectations for their communities and local governments. At a polling station set up inside an indoor baseball practice facility at Cheonggu Elementary School in central Seoul, residents quietly made their way through the voting process. The facility, normally used by students for batting practice, was temporarily converted into a polling station for Election Day. Among those casting ballots was Oh Eun-soon, 73, who said she came out because there was a candidate she strongly supported. “I came because there is someone I really want to see elected,” she said. “I wanted to do my part.” Elsewhere in Seoul, polling stations saw a steady stream of voters throughout the morning. At Jangchung Elementary School, voters lined up to wait their turn while election officials guided them through the process of casting seven separate ballots for metropolitan and local offices. Families, elderly residents and younger voters were all vi

- [Former Korean envoy to Russia stresses importance of balanced diplomacy](#) (2026-06-03 05:57)

Lee Do-hoon, former South Korean ambassador to Russia, emphasized the importance of balance in diplomacy in a lecture held last week at Kookmin University. “The essence of diplomacy lies in reconciling differing interests and finding practical common ground,” he said during the 668th Special Thursday Lecture organized by the university on its campus in northern Seoul on May 28. The school said Tuesday that in his lecture on Korea-Russia relations, Lee discussed how to view the bilateral ties amid rapidly changing global dynamics, while highlighting firsthand observation and analysis as essential tools for understanding international affairs. “International affairs cannot be viewed through a simple lens of good and evil. Therefore, we should consider the historical backgrounds and interests of individual countries,” a university official quoted Lee as saying. Lee cited the changes in Korea-Russia relations following the outbreak of the war in Ukraine as an example, underscoring the importance of balanced diplomacy and strategic judgment. He pointed out that Russia remains a major p

- [Foreign hotel bookings in Busan surge ahead of BTS concert](#) (2026-06-03 05:57)

The number of hotel reservations booked by foreign tourists in the southeastern port city of Busan rose sharply ahead of next week's concert by K-pop sensation BTS, industry sources said Wednesday. According to Hanwha Hotels & Resorts, foreigners accounted for 42 percent of the rooms booked at its Matie Osiria hotel in the port city from June 11 to 13, up sharply from 0.2 percent during the same period last year. BTS' performances in Busan will take place June 12-13. Hanwha Hotels added that the number of rooms booked by foreign tourists for all of June also increased tenfold from a year earlier. Paradise Hotel Busan, another luxury hotel in the city, said more than 90 percent of its rooms were booked during the concert period, with foreigners accounting for 70 percent of the guests. "The (BTS) Busan performances are not just concerts but a citywide tourism event," an industry official said. "As overseas fans visiting Busan

for the concerts enjoy accommodation, shopping and tourism, the event is expected to have a positive impact on the regional economy."

- [Voter turnout hits 46% as of 1 pm, highest on record](#) (2026-06-03 05:57)

Turnout in Wednesday's local elections reached 46 percent as of 1 p.m., the highest ever recorded for local elections at that hour, the election watchdog said. The National Election Commission (NEC) said 20.51 million out of 44.64 million eligible voters had cast their ballots, the highest turnout at the same hour since the 1998 local elections. The latest turnout tally includes the 23.51 percent turnout from last week's two-day early voting, which was also the highest on record. South Jeolla Province in the country's southwest logged the highest turnout of 56.1 percent, followed by North Jeolla Province at 52.2 percent and the eastern province of Gangwon recording 51.8 percent. Gyeonggi Province, which surrounds Seoul, recorded the lowest turnout of 43 percent. Seoul's turnout stood at 46.1 percent. Voting will continue until 6 p.m.

- [Police identify all 5 victims killed in Hanwha plant explosion](#) (2026-06-03 05:57)

Police said Wednesday they have identified all five victims killed in the Hanwha Aerospace factory explosion and plan to return their bodies to their families. The Daejeon Metropolitan Police Agency said the identities of the five victims were confirmed through DNA analysis by the National Forensic Service. "We cross-referenced the victims' DNA with that of their family members to identify them," a police official said. "We plan to return the bodies to the families." A funeral is expected to be held later in the day. The deadly blast occurred at the defense company's manufacturing plant in Daejeon, about 140 kilometers south of Seoul, killing five people and injuring two others. Two were contract employees in their 20s, while the others were permanent employees, with two in their 50s and one 30-something. Hanwha Group, the defense-to-chemical conglomerate, issued an apology to the victims, their bereaved families and the public, pledging to provide full support where needed. The state arms agency has formed a task force to provide technical support for the investigation into the accident.

- [Nation heads to polls to select local gov't chiefs, councilors](#) (2026-06-02 23:57)

Koreans will head to polling stations to select their local government chiefs and council members as voting for the ninth local elections begins Wednesday. Polls are open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 14,288 locations nationwide. Voters will elect 16 metropolitan city mayors and provincial governors, 227 local government heads, 3,973 local council members and 16 education superintendents. By-elections for 14 National Assembly seats will also be held alongside the local polls. Vote counting will begin immediately after polls close. Record early voting turnout has raised expectations for higher overall participation. According to the National Election Commission, 10.49 million voters already cast ballots during the two-day early voting period held Friday and Saturday, resulting in a turnout of 23.51 percent. The figure surpassed the 2022 local elections' early voting turnout rate of 20.62 percent. The highest voter turnout in local elections was 68.4 percent, in the inaugural elections held in 1995, while the

lowest was 48.9 percent in 2002. The most recent local elections in 2022 recorded a turn

- [Stalked from behind bars: A female reporter's yearslong fight for safety](#) (2026-06-02 17:57)

“The perpetrator’s lawyer said he had read your petition and even praised it, saying, ‘You really can write. I guess that’s what I’d expect from a journalist.’ ” Gwak Ah-ram, 47, said chills ran down her spine when she heard those words from her lawyer. The perpetrator was a stalker who had harassed Gwak for years — a man whose name she did not even know at first. Gwak had sued him in 2021, and a year later, she was preparing for an appeals trial when her lawyer casually delivered the comment. At first came disbelief. She had written the petition to the court out of desperation, her hands shaking as she asked for severe punishment. But how had the accused’s lawyer been able to read it? In an interview near Gwanghwamun, Gwak recounted the terrifying experience she went through in 2022. Shortly after the conversation with her lawyer, she received a letter from the stalker, who was serving his sentence after the first trial. It included parts of what she had written in her petition to the court, along with curses and expressions of hatred. Gwak said she first turned to the c

- [Cabinet passes bill to strengthen self-reliance of semiconductors in defense systems](#) (2026-06-02 11:57)

The Cabinet on Tuesday approved a bill aimed at supporting the development of semiconductors for defense systems using domestically developed technology. Under the bill, the government seeks to set up a comprehensive support system to foster the country's so-called "defense semiconductors," according to the defense ministry and the Defense Acquisition Program Administration (DAPA). It includes drawing up a plan to advance defense semiconductors, funding relevant research projects, and offering advanced purchase options for products developed using homegrown technologies. The move comes as semiconductors for defense systems have emerged as a key strategic asset in the era of artificial intelligence (AI), amid continued demands to reduce foreign reliance and secure a stable supply route for the key component in advanced weapons systems. Korea is looking to reduce its reliance on foreign technology, over concerns that unpredictability in international situations may cause unstable supply. The bill is set to be proclaimed within this month. It will take effect as early as the final quarter of

- [JCS chief inspects readiness posture at coastal, riverine units](#) (2026-06-02 11:57)

Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) Chairman Gen. Jin Yong-sung visited a Marine unit and the Army's Capital Corps Command west of Seoul on Tuesday to check operational readiness in coastal and riverine security, the JCS said. During his visit to the unit under the Second Marine Division in Gimpo, he stressed the need to "maintain heightened surveillance and vigilance" in the area that stands as a key gateway to the capital, and to immediately respond to any provocations by the enemy, the JCS said in a release. Jin also visited the Capital Corps Command near Incheon to inspect its operational readiness. He called for keeping a robust posture in the summer season,

underscoring the importance of countering enemy drone threats and responding to illegal fishing activities in the neutral waters of the Han River estuary, the JCS said.

- [Lee flags repeated Hanwha plant explosions as 'serious problem,' orders prevention measures](#) (2026-06-02 11:57)

President Lee Jae Myung on Tuesday said the repeated occurrence of the same type of accident at the same facility is a serious problem, referring to the explosion and fire at a Hanwha Aerospace plant in Daejeon that killed five workers and injured two others the previous day.

“Relevant authorities must thoroughly investigate the cause of the accident and take all necessary measures to prevent a recurrence,” Lee said at a Cabinet meeting, ordering officials to compile a list of workplaces where the same type of accident has repeatedly occurred. The Daejeon plant has seen similar explosions before, with incidents in 2018 and 2019 killing five and three workers, respectively. The explosion of undetermined cause occurred Monday when seven workers were conducting cleaning operations to remove explosive residue from tools used in the manufacturing process of rocket propellant, according to an executive at Hanwha Aerospace, a defense affiliate under Hanwha Group. The five died at the scene, where a fire broke out, while the two injured workers managed to escape on their own. The plant is th

- [Rival parties make final push for support on eve of local elections](#) (2026-06-02 11:57)

The ruling and opposition parties made last-ditch appeals for support Tuesday, the eve of nationwide local elections, a vote widely seen as a test of public sentiment toward President Lee Jae Myung's first year in office. Up for grabs in the June 3 elections are 16 mayoral and gubernatorial posts, along with 227 heads of local governments and some 4,000 members of local councils. This year's elections carry added significance as 14 National Assembly seats are also at stake in parliamentary by-elections, to be held alongside the local elections, with several political heavyweights running in the races. Surveys conducted before a blackout period of election-related polls last week pointed to a tighter-than-expected race between candidates from the ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) and their rivals from the main opposition People Power Party (PPP). Wrapping up the 13-day campaign period, the DP appealed for support in regions ranging from the traditional conservative stronghold of Gangwon Province to the liberal party's turf of the Jeolla provinces. DPK leader Jung Chung-rae was set to

- [Cabinet approves revised labor law allowing hourly use of paid annual leave](#) (2026-06-02 11:57)

The Cabinet approved Tuesday a revised labor law allowing the hourly use of paid annual leave, which is currently permitted only on a daily basis. Under the revised Labor Standards Act, workers will be allowed to take paid annual leave on an hourly basis, as well as in full-day units, with employers who violate the provision subject to penalties, according to Cheong Wa Dae. The revision also requires employers to allow workers to leave immediately after four consecutive hours of work without taking a rest break, if they so request. Under the current law, employers must provide a rest break during working hours, often requiring workers to remain at the

workplace for a break even after completing four hours of work. The current law mandates a 30-minute break after four hours of work and a one-hour break after eight hours of work. The revision also prohibits employers from dismissing or disadvantaging workers for taking or applying for paid annual leave. The provision allowing the hourly use of paid leave will take effect one year after the revision's promulgation, while the provision on res

- [Cheong Wa Dae eyes Cabinet, aide reshuffle after local elections](#) (2026-06-02 11:57)

Cheong Wa Dae is poised to carry out a broad reshuffle spanning both the Cabinet and the presidential office after Wednesday's local elections, according to ruling party and government officials, Tuesday. The projected shakeup comes as President Lee Jae Myung approaches his first anniversary in office, Thursday, and looks to build fresh momentum for the remainder of his term. The prospect of a reshuffle has been fueled by growing speculation that Prime Minister Kim Min-seok will resign after the elections to run for the leadership of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK). The leadership race has already begun to take shape, with Kim widely seen as a likely challenger to incumbent DPK Chairman Jung Chung-rae. Kim's departure would require Lee to appoint a new prime minister, prompting speculation over potential successors, including Cabinet ministers and senior presidential aides. A chain of promotions and transfers would follow, leaving a number of posts to be filled across the government. "With the president marking his first anniversary in office, he will likely prefer someone

- [Seoul moves to measure new form of inequality as AI divide widens](#) (2026-06-02 05:57)

The traditional definition of the digital divide — the simple barrier separating those with high-speed internet from those without — is rapidly becoming obsolete. As generative artificial intelligence (AI) weaves its way into the fabric of daily commerce and public life, municipal authorities here are warning of a more complex and volatile disparity: an emerging "AI divide" that threatens to permanently disadvantage those unable to navigate the new algorithmic landscape. Seeking to quantify this friction point, the Seoul AI Foundation announced a joint initiative with researchers at Yonsei University to develop a formal analytical framework for measuring AI inequality. The ultimate goal is to establish a Seoul-specific "AI divide index" that can be used to shape future public policy and targeted municipal interventions. The project lands amid mounting anxiety from global institutions, including the United Nations and UNESCO, which have warned that the breakneck pace of AI development and use risks exacerbating deep-seated socioeconomic gaps if access to technical literacy remains u

- [Korea declares yellow-throated marten endangered species as habitats shrink](#) (2026-06-02 05:57)

To glimpse a marten, known as "dambi" in Korean, moving through the misty ridges of the Baekdudaegan mountain range is to witness an exquisite contradiction. With its pale belly and striking collar of yellow fur, the creature resembles a plush toy brought to life. But beneath that cute exterior lies one of Korea's most efficient and calculated apex predators, an agile hunter

capable of bringing down prey several times its own size. The Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment has designated this remarkable mammal, scientifically classified as *Martes flavigula*, as its Endangered Wild Species of the Month for June. Known by a variety of different regional names, including yellow-throated or continental marten, its official designation has since been unified simply as "marten." Weighing up to six kilograms and measuring nearly a meter from its dark muzzle to the tip of its long, sweeping tail, this medium-sized carnivore occupies a vital niche in the local ecosystem. While martens possess a sweet tooth for seasonal forest fruits, they are also formidable pack hunters. Operating in tig

- [Jeonbuk National University builds physical AI lab to keep talent from leaving for Seoul](#) (2026-06-02 05:57)

Jeonbuk National University is trying to reverse a pattern that has long defined regional higher education in Korea: training talented students who leave for the capital. The university in Jeonju, North Jeolla Province, is positioning itself as a regional innovation hub, banking on physical artificial intelligence (AI), future mobility and industry-academia collaboration to attract talent, researchers and businesses into the region rather than losing them to opportunities in the capital. University President Yang O-bong said the effort reflects the government's initiative to strengthen regional flagship universities — commonly known as the "making 10 Seoul National Universities" plan. Under this plan, the Ministry of Education will select three universities in the second half of this year and provide each with 100 billion won (\$66.5 million) annually for five years. Yang argued the program should be seen as more than just another higher education funding — it is a national strategy for balanced regional development, anchored by globally competitive universities. “Regional universit

- [S. Korea selected as chair of 2027 Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting](#) (2026-06-02 05:57)

South Korea will host the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) next year as the chair country, leading discussions on research promotion and environment protection in the South Pole, government officials said Tuesday. The 49th ATCM will be held in Incheon, just west of Seoul, in May next year, along with the 29th Committee for Environmental Protection, according to the officials at oceans and other related ministries. It will mark the first time in 32 years that South Korea will host the ATCM. During the 28th ATCM held in Japan last month, Seoul participated in discussions on environment protection in the Antarctic, the response to climate change, the promotion of tourism and non-governmental activities in the region, science research cooperation and other issues as the vice chair, the officials said. South Korea joined the Antarctic Treaty in 1986 and obtained the status of a consultative party of the treaty in 1989.

- [Arrest warrant sought for factory owner over alleged assault of foreign workers](#) (2026-06-02 05:57)

Police and labor authorities said Tuesday they have filed for a warrant for the arrest of a textile company owner accused of repeatedly assaulting foreign employees over the past three years. The warrant application was filed Friday on suspicions of property damage and assault on

employees in violation of the Labor Standards Act, according to the Incheon Seobu Police Station and the Jungbu Regional Office of Employment and Labor's branch office in Incheon, west of Seoul. The owner is accused of assaulting four Bangladeshi workers on seven occasions between March 2023 and April at a textile factory he operates in Incheon's western district of Gajwa. In particular, a video showing the owner attacking a worker in his 20s on April 24 sparked public outrage after it was reported by the media and circulated online. In the video, the owner is heard shouting at the worker, "What did you do yesterday?" and "What were you doing instead of answering the phone?" while repeatedly slapping him in the face and grabbing him by the hair. The owner is also accused of damaging factory property and verbally

- [Singer Psy referred to prosecution over alleged medical law violation](#) (2026-06-02 05:57)

Singer-rapper Psy has been referred to prosecutors on suspicions of receiving prescription psychotropic drugs through third parties, police said Tuesday. The singer, whose real name is Park Jae-sang, is accused of having his manager and other third parties collect the psychotropic drugs Xanax and Stilnox after getting prescriptions through non-face-to-face treatment at a university hospital in Seoul between 2022 and 2025. The Seoul Seodaemun Police Station said it referred a total of six people, including Psy, his manager and the doctor who prescribed the drugs, to the prosecution Friday on suspicions of violating the medical law. Under the current law, only the patient who has seen a doctor can receive prescription drugs. Violations are punishable by a prison term of up to one year or a fine of up to 10 million won (\$6,590). Xanax and Stilnox are psychotropic drugs used to treat sleep disorders, anxiety disorders and depression. Due to their high risk of dependence and addiction, face-to-face examinations and prescriptions are required. "The police investigation into the violation of the

- [Civil rights commission recommends gov't agencies share English test scores for hiring](#) (2026-06-02 05:57)

The state civil rights commission has recommended that government agencies requiring English test scores for hiring come up with measures to share test scores after a single input without requiring applicants to register them with each agency repeatedly, officials said Tuesday. The Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission issued the recommendation to the ministry of personnel management, the Human Resources Development Service of Korea and the Financial Supervisory Service so that TOEIC, TOEFL and TEPS scores can be shared among the agencies. Currently, these agencies maintain their own registration systems, requiring applicants to submit scores to each agency and forcing the agencies to verify their authenticity separately. These test scores, usually effective for two years, can be recognized for up to five years in government hiring once registered under the extended validity policy.

- [National security adviser to meet US under secretary of state](#) (2026-06-02 05:57)

National Security Adviser Wi Sung-lac was set to meet with visiting U.S. Under Secretary of State Allison Hooker on Tuesday, informed sources said, with the two likely to discuss Seoul's push to build nuclear-powered submarines. Wi and Hooker, under secretary of state for political affairs,

will meet at Cheong Wa Dae at 2 p.m. to discuss a range of pending issues, likely including Seoul's push to secure greater authority to enrich uranium and reprocess spent nuclear fuel for its envisioned nuclear-powered submarines, according to the sources. The discussion could also delve into the allies' plan to transfer wartime operational control of Korean troops from Washington to Seoul, they noted. Leading a U.S. delegation, Hooker arrived in Korea the previous day as the allies are set to begin follow-up negotiations on an agreement reached by President Lee Jae Myung and U.S. President Donald Trump in October on Seoul's plan to build nuclear-powered submarines.

- [Lee urges stern punishment for intentional spreading of false information](#) (2026-06-02 05:57)

President Lee Jae Myung on Tuesday called for stern punishment for those knowingly spreading misinformation, citing an ongoing police investigation into the circulation of online fake news claiming the government will force people to sell U.S. dollars. The president made the call on his X account, attaching a news article reporting that the police have identified 10 people suspected of circulating fake news claiming the government will issue an emergency order requiring the sale of dollars to address an economic crisis stemming from the Middle East conflict. "The act of intentionally spreading false information and causing social confusion and economic damage should be identified and punished sternly," Lee wrote on the account. The president insisted that spreading fake news to the detriment of the public cannot constitute freedom of expression or be tolerated. "Any acts that harm people or destroy public order and values are tantamount to serious crimes that should be punished severely, even if they were committed as a joke," Lee noted. As claims about the dollar sale circulated in online

- [Foreign voting rights under strain as information barriers persist](#) (2026-06-01 23:57)

When Stephane Mot, a French national living in Korea, learned he was eligible to vote in local elections, it came as "a good surprise." Most eligible foreign voters never get that far. Though the number of registered foreign voters hit a record 151,532 ahead of the June 3 local elections, turnout keeps falling, dragged down by language barriers, lack of outreach and little awareness that the right exists at all. In the 2022 local elections, just 13.3 percent of eligible foreign voters cast a ballot. In Korea, foreign nationals aged 18 or older can vote in local elections — for mayors, governors, district heads, local councilors and education superintendents — three years after obtaining an F-5 permanent residency visa. Chinese nationals make up the overwhelming majority, accounting for roughly 78 percent of eligible foreign voters for the 2022 elections. As the eligible foreign voter pool grows, some election commissions and candidates are stepping up multilingual outreach. Regional branches of the National Election Commission (NEC), including the office in Gangwon Province, are dis

- [\[LEE'S 1ST YEAR IN OFFICE\] President turns social media into governing tool to boost transparency](#) (2026-06-01 23:57)

When former President Yoon Suk Yeol declared martial law on Dec. 3, 2024, then-opposition leader Lee Jae Myung launched a Facebook livestream as he scaled a wall to reach the National Assembly and vote to block the decree. The footage made headlines for offering a raw, firsthand look at the crisis — a scene only people on the ground could have captured and exactly the kind of unmediated moment that has defined Lee's political brand. A year into his presidency, that instinct for direct communication remains central to how Lee governs. Long before taking office, Lee built his political brand on X, formerly Twitter, using the platform's speed and reach to bypass mainstream outlets that paid little attention to a politician who rose from a local government post rather than a major political party. As president, he carried that habit into Cheong Wa Dae, generating engagement and using the platform to build public momentum for his policy agenda. At a roundtable co-hosted by The Korea Times and the Korean Institute for Presidential Studies on May 13, experts assessed Lee's first year of soc

- [\[RESTAURANT OF THE WEEK\] Suncheon Brewery proves simple can still satisfy](#) (2026-06-01 23:57)

Suncheon Brewery is just a hop and a skip away from Suncheon Station in... you guessed it, the city of Suncheon in South Jeolla Province. Founded in 2018, this brewpub is part of a larger Brewworks group including a cafe. The brewery serves burgers under the guise of Crane Burger, Suncheon's local bird, the hooded crane. There are three kinds, of which we ordered two: the Suncheon Bay Burger and the Itaewon Burger. The Bay Burger is the restaurant's signature burger, with a tteokgalbi patty. Tteokgalbi is everywhere in the Jeolla region and is half ground pork, half ground beef. This is then topped with Suncheon Bay area minari and bulgogi sauce. The minari added a distinctive "Korean" herbaceousness to the burger and balanced out the sweetness of the bulgogi sauce. The Itaewon Burger is a classic American burger: beef patty, cheese. No fuss, no muss. Like the Bay Burger, I found the taste really balanced, too. The cheddar balanced out the sweetness of the patty. My family and I really loved the buns as well: perfectly toasted with a nice crunch to keep the beef juice inside. I

- [Police seek exit ban on Morse Tan over defamation allegations](#) (2026-06-01 11:57)

Police on Monday applied to the Ministry of Justice for an exit ban on Morse Tan, a Korean American professor and former U.S. ambassador at large for global criminal justice under the first Trump administration, amid an ongoing investigation into defamation charges tied to false claims he made about President Lee Jae Myung. Tan, also known by his Korean name Dan Hyun-myung, returned to Korea on Thursday, citing intentions to personally monitor and verify the June 3 local elections for irregularities. Officers traveled to Incheon International Airport on the day of his arrival, formally notifying him to appear for questioning the following day. Tan declined to comply, submitting a written statement explaining his rejection of the summons and filing a separate request to have the assigned investigating officers replaced. Police determined that his refusal to cooperate, combined with the circumstances of his visit, indicated a credible risk that he might attempt to leave the country before the investigation concludes. Park Jeong-bo, head of Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency, addressed the m

- [South African sculptor Ndivhuho Rasengani opens solo exhibition in Seoul](#) (2026-06-01 11:57)

South African artist and designer Ndivhuho Rasengani recently presented his first major installation exhibition in Seoul, titled "RITUALS OF DWELLING," at 37A gallery in the central Yongsan District, marking an important milestone in his evolving creative journey. Rasengani's work occupies the intersection of sculpture, kinetic installation and spatial research. With a fine arts master's degree from the Rhode Island School of Design and a background in foundry and digital fabrication, his practice moves fluidly between rigorous technical systems and intuitive handcraft. Although he officially worked for only a few years, his practice draws from a deeper foundation in architecture. His fascination with space, atmosphere and the materials that shape our environments continues to influence his artistic vision. The artist, having worked and evolved across continents, has shown his pieces at both public projects and private showcases in South Africa, China and the United States. In 2025, he established Rasengani Atelier, a formal evolution of his daily practice into a collaborative research

- [Ex-President Yoon made preparations for martial law since late 2023: special counsel](#) (2026-06-01 11:57)

A special counsel team has determined former President Yoon Suk Yeol had prepared to declare martial law since late 2023, about a year before his failed bid in December 2024, officials said Monday. Assistant special counsel Kim Ji-mi said in a briefing that the team has determined that Yoon had made preparations for martial law since November 2023 after questioning former Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Kim Myung-soo. The now-retired admiral is said to have told the team last month that Yoon asked him whether he would do anything he would order when they met on Nov. 29, 2023. Yoon allegedly flew into a rage when he said he would follow them if they were just orders. The team, led by special counsel Kwon Chang-young, has left open the possibility that Yoon's alleged remarks may have been part of preliminary efforts to recruit top military officials for his martial law bid. Kwon's team earlier said Yoon appeared to be preparing for martial law since the first half of 2024, citing the outcome of its questioning of a military counterintelligence official. Meanwhile, a separate special counsel t

- [Defense minister vows assistance in probe into Hanwha Aerospace plant explosion](#) (2026-06-01 11:57)

Defense Minister Ahn Gyu-back said Monday his ministry would spare no effort to provide technical assistance in determining the cause of a deadly explosion at a factory of key defense firm Hanwha Aerospace. Earlier in the day, a blast tore through the company's plant in the central city of Daejeon, killing five people and injuring two. "We will spare no technical assistance," Ahn wrote on X, saying his ministry would work alongside the Defense Acquisition Program Administration (DAPA) to determine what triggered the blast. He also pledged to cooperate in drawing up safety measures for defense industry workers "to prevent this tragedy from recurring," offering condolences to the victims' families and wishing the injured a swift

recovery. The Daejeon plant manufactures large propulsion engines and tactical surface-to-surface missile systems. Since the accident, DAPA has sent officials to the site to assess the damage.

- [Colombia introduces Korean language classes at public schools for 1st time](#) (2026-06-01 11:57)

In a milestone for Korea's quiet but expanding cultural diplomacy in Latin America, the Korean language is set to enter Colombian classrooms as an official subject for the first time this summer. Beginning in August, three prominent secondary schools in Colombia will integrate Korean language classes into their regular curricula, Korea's Ministry of Education said Monday. The rollout follows an agreement signed on Friday between the Korean Embassy in Bogota and the participating institutions: the Institute for Pedagogical Research and Action — which is affiliated with the National University of Colombia — alongside Colegio Nueva Granada and the Fundación Hogar Nueva Granada. The initiative makes Colombia the seventh country in Latin America to introduce Korean into its formal primary or secondary school system, joining Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico and Paraguay. For years, the global surge of interest in Korean culture has driven a demand for language learning in Colombia. But until now, that education was largely confined to King Sejong Institutes, weekend diaspo

- [Seoul maps out tricky market alleys with 3D address overhaul](#) (2026-06-01 11:57)

The Seoul Metropolitan Government said Monday that it is expanding its high-tech "3D spatial addressing" initiative to six major traditional markets across the capital, mapping out thousands stalls to improve navigation, logistics and emergency responses. The ambitious project will convert a combined 200,000 square meters of notoriously complex market layouts into high-precision 3D digital data using cutting-edge technologies, including the Global Navigation Satellite System and LiDAR. Roughly 2,500 individual stalls across six key commercial hubs — including Donghwa Market, Guro Market, Mapo Agriculture & Marine Products Market and the Garak Mall sales building — will receive precise, institutionalized 3D addresses. The digital upgrade aims to eliminate chronic navigation challenges in traditional shopping districts, which have historically relied on unofficial storefront numbers or vague, landmark-based directions. By integrating this newly generated spatial data directly into Korea's premier navigation platforms — including TMAP, Naver Maps and Kakao Maps — visitors and de

- [Seoul unveils plans for nation's 1st hybrid timber eco-stadium along Han River](#) (2026-06-01 11:57)

The Seoul Metropolitan Government said Monday that it will construct Korea's first hybrid timber-structured multipurpose arena on the Han River waterfront. Designed to host elite international combat sports competitions and double as a sprawling public park, the 199.9 billion won (\$145 million) project is expected to revitalize a prime riverside site left largely underused for nearly five decades. A joint design submission by Kawa Architects, Architectural Studio Isae, and DD Architects won the international design competition, beating out 27 other

entries. The winning proposal features an innovative, circular stadium built with a hybrid timberframework — a structural rarity for large-scale public facilities in Korea. The evaluationcommittee highly praised the design for its sleek aesthetic harmony with the Han Riverlandscape, its sophisticated interior spatial planning and its technical feasibility despite complexunderground conditions, which include a subway line and waste treatment infrastructure.Situated on a 50,916-square-meter plot in Gwangjang-dong near Gwangnaru Station

- [Korea increases hotline staff for suicide prevention calls, boosts multilingual support](#) (2026-06-01 11:57)

Korea is sharply augmenting the staffing of its national suicide prevention hotline to address a severe bottleneck in crisis call management, the Ministry of Health and Welfare said Monday. Driven by a presidential directive to eliminate connection delays and reinforce the existing public safety net, the ministry will immediately expand the workforce of the crisis hotline, nearly doubling personnel from 103 counselors to 200 by October. Since the "109 hotline" was launched in January 2024, public awareness has sent inbound call volumes skyrocketing by 46 percent, jumping from roughly 219,000 in 2023 to over 352,000 in 2025. This explosive demand has outpaced current capacity, with an average of 1,118 daily calls but staff levels currently only able to handle approximately 532 calls each day. To bridge this critical operational gap, the government is introducing targeted personnel adjustments and logistical support. Over 60 percent of the hotline's traffic arrives between 4 p.m. and 3 a.m. To ease this pressure, the ministry is partnering with the specialized civilian NGO Lifeline Korea

- [Korea to melt instant noodle cups to produce petrochemical feedstock](#) (2026-06-01 11:57)

For decades, the empty, broth-stained polystyrene cup that once held instant noodles was viewed by Korean sanitation officials as an intractable environmental nuisance. Too heavily contaminated by spicy oil to be processed by traditional mechanical recycling, millions of these lightweight containers were destined for the incinerator or the landfill, a stubborn byproduct of the nation's ubiquitous convenience food culture. Now, the government is attempting to transform this discarded plastic waste into a valuable feedstock for the petrochemical industry. The Ministry of Environment said Monday that it is expanding a nationwide chemical recycling initiative that uses advanced thermal decomposition technology to break down polystyrene paper — commonly known as PSP — and convert it into naphtha, a foundational building block for new plastics. The expansion marks a significant shift away from mechanical recycling, which simply melts and reshapes plastic, often degrading its quality and limiting its reuse to low-value items. Polystyrene paper has long frustrated recycling networks becau

- [Over 23,000 drug offenders rounded up last year](#) (2026-06-01 11:57)

The government rounded up a total of 23,403 drug offenders through special crackdowns last year, with the number of online drug offenders arrested and drugs seized since the inauguration of President Lee Jae Myung reaching all-time highs, officials said Monday. By

agency, the prosecution booked 765 drug offenders and formally arrested 217 of them between June last year and March of this year, while seizing 1,042 kilograms of drugs during the same period, the Office for Government Policy Coordination said in a release highlighting the achievements in the fight against drugs in the first year of the Lee government. Police apprehended 5,385 offenders by operating special teams dedicated to drug crimes between June last year and April this year, while also rounding up a total of 12,774 people through special crackdowns focused on new types of drugs and drugs for medical purposes, according to the data. The customs agency detected 3,233 kilograms of drugs at the border in 1,181 cases for 10 months since Lee took office, an all-time high that represents a 307 percent increase from the same period.

- [Hanwha Aerospace plant explosion kills 5, injures 2](#) (2026-06-01 11:57)

An explosion and fire at a Hanwha Aerospace plant in Daejeon killed five workers and injured two others, authorities said Monday. Under the Serious Accidents Punishment Act, executives of the company could face penalties if the explosion is found to be the result of safety failures. Police and fire authorities said the explosion occurred at 10:59 a.m. About 100 firefighters, along with dozens of vehicles and other firefighting equipment, were dispatched to the scene, bringing the blaze under control about 50 minutes after it broke out and fully extinguishing it at 1:07 p.m. The seven workers were conducting cleaning operations to remove explosive residue from tools used in the manufacturing process of rocket propellant, according to a Hanwha Aerospace executive. The plant is the company's key facility producing equipment for the aviation, defense and space industries. The five victims died at the scene, where a blaze also broke out, while the two injured workers managed to escape on their own. One of them suffered severe burns over most of their body and remained hospitalized, while the other

- [Political parties scale back campaigning after deadly factory explosion](#) (2026-06-01 11:57)

The leaders of the ruling and main opposition parties urged candidates in the upcoming local elections to scale back or tone down their campaign activities Monday following a deadly explosion at a Hanwha Aerospace factory in the central city of Daejeon. At least five people were killed and two others injured in the explosion, which was reported at 10:59 a.m. in the city located some 140 kilometers south of Seoul. Rep. Jung Chung-rae, leader of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK), immediately instructed party candidates and election camps nationwide to suspend their campaign activities. "DPK leader Jung has urgently instructed all DPK candidates and camps to halt campaigning and refrain from using campaign songs or dance performances following the Hanwha Aerospace factory accident in Daejeon," the party said in a press notice. Rep. Jang Dong-hyeok, leader of the main opposition People Power Party (PPP), called on candidates to tone down their campaigning and to avoid playing music or dancing during campaign rallies, according to the party's election committee. "I pray for the souls

- [Korea ramps up 'K-wellness tourism' under new Healing Industry Act](#) (2026-06-01 11:57)

As international travelers increasingly trade sightseeing itineraries for trips centered on rest and rejuvenation, Korea is deploying legislative muscle and state subsidies to brand itself as a premier global destination for wellness. The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism said Monday that it selected 20 premier wellness sites nationwide to spearhead a new global marketing push, backing each venue with up to 50 million won (\$36,300) in government funding. The initiative marks the first major rollout under the newly enacted Healing Tourism Industry Act, an ambitious piece of legislation designed to institutionalize, regulate and scale a fragmented domestic sector. The policy framework, which went into effect this spring, establishes an official bureaucratic apparatus to manage the quality of healing services, train certified industry professionals and designate specialized regional "healing tourism zones." To build its new vanguard of wellness hubs, the government winnowed down an existing list of 88 state-vetted properties before finally choosing 20 based on their readiness to acco

- [Conservative ex-presidents hit campaign trail](#) (2026-06-01 11:57)

Former President and former Seoul Mayor Lee Myung-bak stepped back into his old legacy he built in the capital, Monday, standing at the edge of Seoul Forest as he urged voters to choose "mayors and district chiefs who get things done, not those who only talk and play politics." Surrounded by conservative hopefuls, Lee framed the park, along with Cheonggye Stream, as proof that leadership willing to push through opposition can transform a city. "I hope we Seoul residents will elect mayors and district chiefs who get things done," he said. "There was a lot of political opposition when we developed Cheonggye Stream and when we planned the dedicated bus lanes, but once they were actually built, they became good spaces that all Seoul citizens use very conveniently." The previous day, the final weekend of the official election campaign period ahead of the June 3 vote, impeached former President Park Geun-hye visited Seomun Market in Daegu, alongside the People Power Party's (PPP) mayoral candidate, Choo Kyung-ho. As she moved through the crowds, shaking hands with visitors, she

- [Korea expands 'top-tier' visa to woo global scientists](#) (2026-06-01 11:57)

Korea is expanding its elite "top-tier" visa program to encompass foreign professors and researchers as part of an aggressive push to secure global scientific talent amid intensifying international competition. The Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Science and ICT (MSIT) announced a joint initiative, Monday, to streamline immigration for world-class scientists. Originally launched to recruit corporate talent in advanced fields like semiconductors and artificial intelligence, the revamped visa track will open to academic and institutional researchers starting this month. Under the new policy, candidates can secure an MSIT recommendation by meeting at least one of four strict technical criteria. These high-level requirements include winning a prestigious international award like a Nobel Prize or Fields Medal or being listed on the Highly Cited Researchers (HCR) index with primary publications in elite journals such as Science or Nature. Alternatively, applicants can qualify by holding triadic patents registered across the United States, Japan and Europe, generating over 1 billion w

- [Half of travelers using overseas booking platforms report problems, Seoul says](#)

(2026-06-01 11:57)

More than half of Korean travelers using foreign online accommodation platforms have experienced billing issues or customer service failures, prompting the Seoul Metropolitan Government to demand tighter regulatory oversight of global travel giants. According to the city government, Monday, an in-depth investigation into six major overseas booking platforms — including Agoda, Airbnb and Booking.com — revealed widespread use of deceptive design practices, commonly known as "dark patterns." These digital interfaces are deliberately structured to manipulate consumer choice and drive up transactional volumes. A joint monitoring initiative conducted alongside a domestic civic consumer group found that multiple platforms systematically attract travelers by displaying lower base prices that excluded mandatory taxes and hidden service fees. Customers only discovered the inflated final cost at the point of digital checkout, long after investing time in the booking process. Critical data regarding nonrefundable clauses and strict cancellation penalties were also routinely buried in microscop

- [4 suspects booked in police probe into Seoul overpass collapse](#) (2026-06-01 11:57)

Four engineering company officials have been booked as suspects as part of a police probe into the partial collapse of an overpass in western Seoul last week, the city's top police officer said Monday. A section of the Seosomun Overpass undergoing demolition collapsed last Tuesday during an on-site safety inspection, killing three people and injuring three others. Police have since launched a probe into the collapse. Park Jeong-bo, head of the Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency, said the four suspects, which include a site manager of the engineering company involved in the demolition, have been booked on suspicion of occupational negligence resulting in death. "(We) are analyzing documents secured through raids and an on-site inspection," Park told reporters in a briefing. "Necessary questioning will take place after analyzing the relevant documents." On Friday, police raided the offices of the Seoul city government and the engineering company as part of the investigation into the overpass collapse.

- ['Call him oppa': Politicians' outdated language draws fresh scrutiny](#) (2026-06-01 11:57)

Ahead of the local elections on Wednesday, some candidates' use of insensitive language is exposing a widening gap between politicians and public sensibility in Korea. The most recent incident came Sunday, when the ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) candidate Woo Hyung-chan, running for southwestern Seoul's Yangcheon District chief, sparked controversy after asking a baby for a peck at a campaign event. The baby was being held by DPK Seoul mayoral candidate Chong Won-o at the time and a spokesperson for Chong intervened. Woo later apologized. The People Power Party (PPP) condemned the remarks as inappropriate coercion. "Why would you ask a baby to do that?" PPP spokesperson Ham In-kyung said. Ham added that parents today teach their children to set clear boundaries around physical contact with strangers and to feel free to say no. "Many parents were shocked to see a public figure casually ask a baby in public for a peck." This is not the first time a politician's outdated or

inappropriate use of language has stirred controversy during this campaign. Last month, DPK leader Jun

- [Local election results to decide fates of major party leaders](#) (2026-06-01 11:57)

The outcome of the local elections slated for Wednesday is decisive for each candidate. But it will also determine the political fate of major party leaders: Rep. Jung Chung-rae of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) and Rep. Jang Dong-hyeok of the main opposition People Power Party (PPP). While both leaders are likely to seek another term, a landslide victory for the DPK signals a boost for Jung not only as the party's leader but also as a potential presidential contender. For the PPP, Jang's ability to save face and keep his position will depend on the electoral success of PPP candidates in key regions, or at the very least, a smaller voter support gap between the two parties. In the early phases of the elections, a landslide victory for the DPK has been widely anticipated, backed by the high approval ratings of President Lee Jae Myung and negative sentiment against the PPP following the impeachment of former President Yoon Suk Yeol. Yoon was sentenced to life for insurrection and treason tied to his martial law declaration in 2024. However, the PPP was able to solidify their

- [Broadcasters gear up for high-tech showdown on election night](#) (2026-06-01 11:57)

Korea's three major terrestrial broadcasters are gearing up for a high-stakes, high-tech ratings battle on June 3, as they are expected to roll out lavish election night specials for the nationwide local elections. Election night coverage has emerged as a signature battleground for Korean media in recent years, with broadcasters pouring resources into data visualization, star panelists and eye-catching graphics to distinguish their shows. This year, KBS, MBC and SBS are doubling down on artificial intelligence (AI), augmented reality (AR) and extended reality (XR) to entice viewers and interpret the vote. For the first time, KBS will stage its election night broadcast from the National Museum of Korea in Seoul, turning a venue of recent cultural sensation into a symbolic arena for democracy. A special set around the museum's central Mirror Pond will serve as a metaphorical pool reflecting public sentiment, while artifacts from the museum are expected to help visualize local voters' choices. Inside the main studio, a massive LED screen, 30 meters wide and 7 meters high, will display

- [PM reportedly preparing to offer resignation after local elections](#) (2026-06-01 05:57)

Prime Minister Kim Min-seok is preparing to offer his resignation after this week's local elections as he plans to run for the leadership of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK), news reports said Monday. Kim plans to express his intention to resign to President Lee Jae Myung right after Wednesday's local elections to run in the race for the party leader that will be determined at the party's national convention in August, the Kyunghyang Shinmun daily and other media outlets reported. But Kim is expected to remain in office until his successor becomes ready to take over, the reports said. The issue could be discussed when Kim holds a weekly lunch meeting with Lee on Monday. On Tuesday, Kim is also scheduled to hold a dinner party with Cabinet members, which some political observers say could be a farewell gathering,

though Kim's office said the meeting was set up to mark the first anniversary of the inauguration of the Lee administration. Speculation has persisted for months that Kim, a key political ally of President Lee, could step down and try to take over the party from current

- [KAIST launches AI college vision, aiming to shape next generation of global innovators](#) (2026-06-01 05:57)

As artificial intelligence (AI) rapidly reshapes industries, research and daily life, KAIST on Sunday unveiled an ambitious vision for its newly established College of AI, positioning it as a hub for cultivating the talent and ideas expected to define the next era of technological change. The Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, known as KAIST, held its College of AI Vision declaration ceremony Monday at the Chung Geun-mo Conference Hall on its main campus in Daejeon. The event was designed to present the college's long-term strategy for talent development, research innovation, industry collaboration and the creation of a responsible AI ecosystem. KAIST said the College of AI views AI not simply as a tool but as a foundation for generating new knowledge and driving transformation across science, technology, industry, education and society. The college plans to train both advanced AI researchers and interdisciplinary talent capable of applying AI creatively across a wide range of fields. The ceremony opened with welcoming remarks from KAIST President Kwang Hyung Lee. Bae Ky

- [Lee calls for all-out efforts for rescue operations after Hanhwa Aerospace factory explosion](#) (2026-06-01 05:57)

President Lee Jae Myung on Monday instructed government officials to mobilize all available resources for rescue efforts after an explosion at a Hanhwa Aerospace factory in the central city of Daejeon left at least five people dead and two others injured. Lee ordered a thorough investigation into the cause of the explosion and called for measures to prevent similar incidents from recurring, presidential spokesperson Kang Yu-jung said, amid concerns that the number of casualties could rise. Prime Minister Kim Min-seok also ordered the interior ministry, the fire agency, police and the Daejeon city government to mobilize all available equipment and personnel to put out the fire and rescue victims so as to ensure no additional casualties occur. The labor ministry, the science ministry, the aerospace agency, and other related ministries and agencies should also provide full cooperation for rescue efforts, Kim said. Authorities received a report of the explosion at 10:59 a.m. and were working to confirm the exact number of casualties. Police and fire officials believe the explosion occurred on

- [Local election result to decide fates of major party leaders](#) (2026-06-01 05:57)

The outcome of the local elections slated for Wednesday is decisive for each candidate. But it will also determine the political fate of major party leaders: Rep. Jung Chung-rae of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) and Rep. Jang Dong-hyeok of the main opposition People Power Party (PPP). While both leaders are likely to seek another term, a landslide victory for the DPK signals a boost for Jung not only as the party's leader but also as a potential presidential

contender. For the PPP, Jang's ability to save face and keep his position will depend on the electoral success of PPP candidates in key regions, or at the very least, a smaller voter support gap between the two parties. In the early phases of the elections, a landslide victory for the DPK has been widely anticipated, backed by the high approval ratings of President Lee Jae Myung and negative sentiment against the PPP following the impeachment of former President Yoon Suk Yeol. Yoon was sentenced to life for insurrection and treason tied to his martial law declaration in 2024. However, the PPP was able to solidify their

- [Death toll rises to 5 in Hanwha Aerospace explosion: authorities](#) (2026-06-01 05:57)

DAEJEON — Five people were killed and one other injured Monday in an explosion at defense company Hanwha Aerospace's factory in the central city of Daejeon, officials said. Authorities received a report of the explosion at 10:59 a.m., with authorities working to confirm the exact number of casualties. Fire authorities dispatched to the scene were working to put out a blaze at the site. Police and fire officials believe the explosion occurred on the first floor of the factory and plan to investigate the exact cause of the incident once the blaze is put out.

- [Customs agency seizes 3,233 kg of drugs since June 2025](#) (2026-06-01 05:57)

Korea has seized 3,233 kilograms of drugs since the launch of the Lee Jae Myung administration in June last year, the customs agency said Monday, on the back of its tighter surveillance scheme. The Korea Customs Service (KCS) said it seized the drugs in 1,181 busts from June 2025 to April this year, marking a fourfold increase in terms of the volume confiscated. The agency said the increase was made possible by tightened surveillance measures, including inspections of international parcels at local post offices that had already undergone screening at airports and seaports. Korea has also carried out joint inspections with Thai and Cambodian authorities to intercept potentially dangerous narcotics at the source before they are smuggled into the country. The customs service added the country has seized 17 firearms and 331 rounds of ammunition. In a separate move, the KCS has tightened its monitoring of trade security, detecting 949.4 billion won (\$627 million) worth of illegal exports disguised as Korean products, along with illegal shipments of strategic items worth 258.1 billion won, such

- [Ex-NIS chief grilled over suspected martial law role](#) (2026-06-01 05:57)

Cho Tae-yong, a former head of the National Intelligence Service (NIS), appeared before a special counsel team Monday over allegations linked to former President Yoon Suk Yeol's failed 2024 martial law bid. Cho is accused of playing a key role in an insurrection by allegedly attempting to contact U.S. intelligence agencies after Yoon's martial law declaration on Dec. 3, 2024, to deliver a message justifying the emergency decree. The special counsel team believes the NIS received a document from the presidential Office of National Security a day after Yoon's declaration along with a request to explain the background of his decree to friendly countries. It suspects that NIS officials called in a U.S. Central Intelligence Agency official to explain the emergency measure at Cho's instructions. Last month, a Seoul district court sentenced Cho to 18 months in prison, finding him guilty of perjury for falsely testifying at the Constitutional

Court that he did not receive martial law-related documents from Yoon. Yoon was sentenced to life imprisonment in February for leading an insurrection through

- [Justice ministry launches new team to protect foreign workers' rights](#) (2026-06-01 05:57)

The Ministry of Justice said Monday it has established a new team dedicated to preventing human rights violations against foreign workers and strengthening protections for them. The team, established within the Korea Immigration Service, is tasked with providing education and information to immigrant workers, supporting counseling and reporting, conducting on-site investigations into human rights violations and offering relief to victims, the ministry said. In case of clear human rights violations, such as the recent air gun attack on a migrant worker and the assault of foreign workers at a textile factory in Incheon, west of Seoul, the team will establish a rapid response system and strengthen victim protection, it said. In addition, the ministry said it will establish an integrated support system to ensure that the human rights of foreign workers are protected throughout the entire migration process, from pre-entry procedures, such as visa applications, to residence, employment and community integration in Korea. The ministry said it will also cooperate with the labor ministry, local g

- [Lee's approval rating inches down to 59.1%: poll](#) (2026-06-01 05:57)

President Lee Jae Myung's approval rating fell slightly from a week earlier partly due to negative sentiment over the deadly collapse of an overpass in central Seoul last week, a survey showed Monday. In the poll commissioned by EKN newspaper and conducted by Realmeter, the positive assessment of Lee's job performance slipped 0.2 percentage point from a week before to 59.1 percent. The weekly survey was conducted on 2,008 people aged 18 and older from Tuesday through Friday. The negative assessment rose 0.7 percentage point to 36.8 percent. Lee's approval rating stood at 60.5 percent in the second week of May before falling to 59.3 percent the following week and further to 59.1 percent in the latest poll. Realmeter said the partial collapse of the Seosomun Overpass in central Seoul last Tuesday overshadowed positive economic developments, including the benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index hitting a record high. The overpass collapsed during an on-site safety inspection while undergoing demolition, killing three people and injuring three others. The pollster said former President Par

- [9 opinion leaders stress importance of dialogue for peace on Korean Peninsula](#) (2026-05-31 23:57)

Experts and religious leaders gathered for a Korea Times Roundtable on Tuesday, emphasizing the urgent need for dialogue and mutual respect as essential foundations for achieving peace on the Korean Peninsula. At the event held in Seoul, participants discussed South Korea's role in global peacemaking, shifting generational attitudes toward North Korea and recent incidents that have exposed social divisions. Lee Young-hoon, senior pastor of Yoido Full Gospel Church, opened the discussion by describing peace as a shared global responsibility that requires persistent communication across borders. "Many people around the world are worried because of wars and conflicts between Ukraine and Russia and Iran and the Middle East," Lee

said. “In times like this, I believe the most important thing we need is peace. We must respect one another and work together to create a peaceful future. This cannot be achieved by isolation alone — it requires cooperation, understanding and sincere communication among all countries.” The roundtable, moderated by Oh Young-jin, president and publisher of

- [Foreign voters in Guro seek economic revival but lack candidate awareness](#) (2026-05-31 23:57)

Ahead of the June 3 local elections, Kim Bun-ok, an ethnic Korean from China and permanent resident living in southwestern Seoul's Guro District, has a lot on her mind. “I'm not sure who to vote for, but I definitely plan to vote,” the 66-year-old side dish shop owner told The Korea Times, Wednesday. Kim is among a fast-growing pool of foreign eligible voters, a number that has tripled from 48,428 in 2014 to 151,532 this year, according to the National Election Commission. Unlike presidential and parliamentary elections, foreign residents aged 18 or older are eligible to vote in local elections three years after obtaining an F-5 permanent residency visa. Among all 25 districts in Seoul, Guro District leads with 6,736 eligible foreign voters, reflecting its large population of Chinese nationals and ethnic Koreans from China. On the ground, however, foreign voters The Korea Times spoke with last week knew little about the district chief candidates and their platforms. However, they were united in calling for the revival of the regional economy, which in part is a national-level issue

- [Solas sunrise walk shines light on mental health awareness](#) (2026-05-31 23:57)

In four cities across Korea, more than 200 people participated in the annual Solas sunrise walk on Saturday, bringing local and international communities together for the third time in a nationwide show of solidarity for mental health awareness and suicide prevention. Organized by the Irish Association of Korea (IAK), the early morning walk events were held simultaneously in Seoul and Busan, on Jeju Island and, for the first time, in Jeonju, North Jeolla Province, aimed at spreading awareness of mental health and well-being, while also raising funds to support mental health counseling services in Korea. In Seoul, about 100 people gathered near Yeouinaru Station on Seoul Metro Line 5 at 4 a.m. wearing green T-shirts for the annual 5-kilometer community walk known as Solas, from the Irish word for “light.” The organizers stressed that the event was about connection, reminding each other that even in difficult times, there is comfort in community and strength in togetherness. “There’s an Irish saying: ‘Ní neart go cur le chéile,’ there is no strength without unity,” Warren Neiland,

- [Korea seeks to highlight efforts for 'self-reliant' defense at key security forum](#) (2026-05-31 11:57)

SINGAPORE — At a key defense forum in Singapore, Defense Minister Ahn Gyu-back has highlighted South Korea's efforts to strengthen its “self-reliant” defense capabilities amid growing North Korean threats and a volatile security environment shaped in part by the Middle East tensions. Attending the three-day Asia Security Summit, also known as the Shangri-La Dialogue, Ahn also stressed that these efforts are being pursued alongside the country's strong

commitment to strengthening its alliance with the United States. In his speech during a plenary session Saturday, Ahn cited the North's military buildup and its closer alignment with Russia as a "key variable" in global security, emphasizing that the security on the Korean Peninsula is increasingly linked to the security in the Indo-Pacific and beyond. "The Republic of Korea will continue its efforts to strengthen self-reliant defense capabilities in tandem with enhancing the alliance (with the United States)," Ahn said in his speech, calling South Korea by its official name. Ahn introduced South Korea's efforts to build a "smart military

- [Lee vows zero tolerance for those who defame disaster victims](#) (2026-05-31 11:57)

President Lee Jae Myung said Sunday he will not tolerate those who insult victims and bereaved families of social disasters. "I will order authorities to thoroughly investigate and sternly punish" anyone who does so, he said, citing a recent case in which a man in his 50s was arrested for allegedly posting more than 3,000 defamatory messages targeting victims and their families of the 2014 Sewol ferry sinking, the 2022 Itaewon crowd crush and the 2024 Jeju Air crash. "Why on earth would someone do this?" Lee wrote on X. "He should put himself in their shoes; imagine if his family were among the victims." The man was arrested the previous day for allegedly spreading defamatory content and groundless allegations against victims and their families on major online forums since 2022. The case marked the third case where a suspect was arrested since police established a special investigation team in July, at Lee's direction, to crack down on those who inflict secondary harm on disaster victims and their families.

- [Presidential envoy visits Canada to expand ties, back submarine bid](#) (2026-05-31 11:57)

Presidential chief of staff Kang Hoon-sik departed for Canada on Sunday in his capacity as presidential special envoy for strategic economic cooperation in a visit widely seen as connected to Ottawa's submarine procurement project. "ROK-Canada relations have been rapidly expanding across the economy, energy and high-tech industries," he wrote on his Facebook page. "Amid the prolonged Middle East crisis, I am keenly aware that the two countries' economic and industrial structures are highly complementary and that the potential synergies from cooperation as global middle powers are enormous. "As this marks my second visit in four months as special envoy, I will try my best to yield tangible results this time in expanding strategic cooperation between the two countries in energy, resources, supply chains and high-tech industries," he wrote. Kang is expected to attend a Korea-Canada forum on energy, security and supply chains and to support Korean shipbuilders' efforts to win Ottawa's submarine procurement project worth as much as 60 trillion won (\$39.9 billion). Currently, Korea's Hanwha Oc

- [Gov't denies foreign worker scheme aims to expand cheap labor](#) (2026-05-31 11:57)

The government has rejected concerns that its new foreign worker scheme for depopulated regions is designed to expand access to cheap migrant labor, insisting it is meant to sustain local economies facing structural labor shortages. In written responses sent to The Korea Times recently, the Ministry of Justice said the goal is not "simple cost-cutting through low-paid

foreign workers,” but to help solve the “structural labor shortage problem in depopulation areas where hiring Koreans” is very difficult. Announced earlier this month, the “regional vitality special employment scheme for small businesses” allows small businesses and agricultural corporations in designated areas to hire foreigners who hold the F-2-R visa, which lets certain noncitizens live and work long term in designated depopulated areas. Previously, the F-2-R visa could only be used by employers that already had Korean staff on their payroll, a condition officials said was difficult to meet amid worsening labor shortages across the country, excluding major cities. Under the initiative, employers in 89 design

- [Defense minister seeks US congressional support for S. Korea's nuclear-powered sub project](#) (2026-05-31 11:57)

Defense Minister Ahn Gyu-back on Sunday sought bipartisan U.S. congressional support for South Korea's nuclear-powered submarine project, as he met with members of the House of Representatives and the Senate at a defense forum, Seoul's defense ministry said. Ahn separately met with congressmen and senators, including Reps. Pat Harrigan (R-NC), Gregory Meeks (D-NY) and Michael Baumgartner (R-WA); and Senators Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) and Pete Ricketts (R-NE), the ministry said in a release. "The minister sought congressional support for key alliance issues, including the transfer of wartime operational control, the pursuit of nuclear-powered submarines and cooperation in shipbuilding and maintenance, repair and overhaul," the ministry said in a release. The United States gave backing for Seoul's bid to build nuclear powered subs after an October summit between President Lee Jae Myung and U.S. President Donald Trump. South Korea recently unveiled its road map for the program, aiming to domestically build the boats and launch the first one in the mid-2030s. Ahn also stressed the importance of

- [Korea shows uneasiness over USFK chief's 'dagger' remarks](#) (2026-05-31 11:57)

Korea showed uneasiness about remarks by the U.S. Forces Korea (USFK) commander describing the country as a “dagger” in Asia — controversial wording that highlighted the country's strategic role in U.S. deterrence against China without reflecting its own strategic choices on regional security. National Security Adviser Wi Sung-lac, along with officials from the Ministry of National Defense and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, conveyed Seoul's position through respective diplomatic and security channels regarding USFK Commander Gen. Xavier Brunson's remarks, according to Cheong Wa Dae, Saturday. While the presidential office did not elaborate on Seoul's stance, analysts interpreted it as an expression of regret that reflected Korea's efforts to maintain a balance amid the intensifying rivalry between the U.S. and China. “Brunson focused solely on the U.S. perspective, overlooking Korea's own strategic calculations and its relationship with China,” a researcher at a private defense think tank said on condition of anonymity. The ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) ope

- [Police accelerate probe into deadly overpass collapse in Seoul](#) (2026-05-31 11:57)

Police on Sunday accelerated their probe into last week's deadly collapse of an overpass in central Seoul, focusing on whether the demolition work at the time of the accident was carried out in accordance with proper safety guidelines. Last Tuesday, a section of the Seosomun Overpass in central Seoul undergoing demolition collapsed during an on-site safety inspection, killing three people and injuring three others. The Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency has since launched an investigation into the case and raided the offices of the Seoul city government, an engineering company and others involved in the demolition. On Sunday, police officials were reviewing materials seized in the raids to determine whether proper safety guidelines had been established and followed during the construction and demolition of the overpass. In particular, they were focusing on who was responsible for the demolition work, which proceeded without the necessary safety measures despite apparent risk of a collapse, according to sources. The investigation team plans to summon officials from the construction company a

- [Alternative forms of smoking double as less smokers try to quit](#) (2026-05-31 11:57)

The use of heated tobacco products has nearly doubled since records began in 2019, even as overall tobacco use has not declined with fewer smokers attempting to quit. The findings, released by the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA) on World No Tobacco Day on Sunday, show that e-cigarettes have partially replaced conventional cigarettes without reducing overall tobacco use. The agency based its report on last year's annual Community Health Survey, which tracks the health behaviors of approximately 230,000 adults aged 19 and older nationwide. The smoking rate for conventional cigarettes stood at 17.9 percent last year, down 1 percentage point from 2024, while usage of heated tobacco products rose 0.3 percentage points to 6.3 percent and liquid e-cigarettes climbed 0.5 percentage points to 4.5 percent. Since records began in 2019, the heated tobacco product usage rate has nearly doubled from 3.3 percent, while liquid e-cigarette usage surged 73.1 percent from 2.6 percent. The quit attempt rate fell from 46.8 percent in 2020 to 40.6 percent last year. Of overall tobacco produ

- [S. Korea discussed bilateral military logistics support pact with Japan: defense minister](#) (2026-05-31 11:57)

South Korea has discussed a Japan-proposed bilateral military logistics support pact with Tokyo, although Seoul maintained its reservations over the matter, Defense Minister Ahn Gyu-back said Sunday. Ahn made the remarks to the press at a defense forum in Singapore, a day after he had bilateral talks with Japanese Defense Minister Shinjiro Koizumi. "There were discussions regarding (a potential) ACSA," Ahn told reporters at the Shangri-La Dialogue, referring to an acquisition and cross-servicing agreement. He declined to give further details. "As this is a matter that requires understanding and persuasion from the peoples of both countries, we still believe that we should remain cautious," he said. It marked the first time that a Seoul official acknowledged that an ACSA was among the agenda items discussed between the defense authorities of the two countries. An ACSA is a bilateral pact between the United States and its allies on facilitating the sharing of logistics supplies and services, such as food, fuel and

transportation, during contingencies. Tokyo has been seeking to sign a bilater

- [How will South Korean nuclear submarines alter underwater balance near in the Indo-Pacific region?](#) (2026-05-31 11:57)

South Korea's plans to build nuclear-powered submarines by the mid-2030s will spur a U.S.-allied network of advanced underwater capabilities near the first island chain, strengthening deterrence against potential adversaries such as China and North Korea, analysts say. The South Korean defence ministry this week announced its basic plans to build the country's first nuclear-powered submarine, giving its first detailed outline of the programme since U.S. President Donald Trump granted initial approval in October. According to the plan, South Korea will launch the first of the vessels by the mid-2030s and deliver them to the Republic of Korea Navy by the late 2030s. The submarines, which are expected to be in use for at least 30 years, will be powered by low-enriched uranium instead of high-enriched uranium that could be used to build nuclear weapons. However, in contrast to Trump's approval, which required the South Korean submarines to be built at Hanwha Ocean's shipyard in Philadelphia, the plan said South Korea would develop and build the submarines within its own territory using the c

- [Foreign tourists visiting Seoul jump 19% year-on-year in April](#) (2026-05-31 05:57)

A total of 1.56 million foreign tourists visited Seoul in April, marking an 18.8 percent increase from the same month last year, the metropolitan government said Sunday. Amid the increase, card spending by foreign visitors in Seoul reach 1.15 trillion won (\$763.1 million) in April, up a sharp 50.5 percent from a year earlier, according to the announcement based on data from the Korea Tourism Organization and the culture ministry. Of the nearly 2 trillion won in card spending by foreigners nationwide last month, Seoul accounted for the largest share of 72.3 percent, excluding online purchases worth 397.4 billion won. By category, spending at shopping malls reached 245.2 billion won, up 62.5 percent from a year earlier, while medical spending rose by 59.2 percent to 192.1 billion won. Spending on beauty related-purchases increased 35 percent. The southern district of Gangnam accounted for the biggest share of spending in Seoul, at 29.1 percent, followed by the central Jung district at 27.5 percent and the Mapo district at 7.4 percent. Chinese tourists represented the largest group of foreig

- [Negative campaigning overshadows local elections](#) (2026-05-31 05:57)

Korea's June 3 local elections have entered their final stretch amid a surge of allegations and political attacks, with negative campaign overshadowing races across major battlegrounds. Just days before voters head to the polls, candidates in key cities and provinces have traded accusations ranging from misinformation to illegal election interference. This reflects a familiar end-of-campaign pattern, but this year in particular highlights rising concerns over digital manipulation and the political neutrality of public officials. In Seoul, the ruling Democratic Party of Korea's (DPK) mayoral candidate Chong Won-o filed a complaint Friday against incumbent Mayor Oh Se-hoon of the People Power Party (PPP), alleging organized online defamation and

opinion manipulation. This follows a media report claiming Oh's campaign was involved insystematically producing and distributing negative content about his rival. Oh's camp hasdenied the allegations as groundless. Similar clashes have emerged in Busan, where the PPPaccused DPK candidate Jeon Jae-soo of spreading false information about i

- [6th S. Korean oil tanker successfully transits through Red Sea](#) (2026-05-31 05:57)

A South Korean vessel has successfully transited the Red Sea and is currently en route home, marking the sixth crude oil shipment to use the route, the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries said Sunday. The oil tanker loaded crude oil at Saudi Arabia's Yanbu Port and passed through the Red Sea at around 10 a.m. Korea time, the ministry said. Details of the vessel's movements were not disclosed for safety reasons. The vessel is the sixth South Korean oil tanker to use the route linking the Indian Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea via the Red Sea and the Suez Canal since the country began diverting shipments away from the Strait of Hormuz, which has been effectively blocked by Iran amid its conflict with the United States.

- [Yeoju Ceramic Festival apologizes over Chinese-made giveaway prizes](#) (2026-05-31 05:57)

Organizers of Korea's renowned Yeoju Ceramic Festival have apologized after Chinese-made ceramic products were distributed as giveaway prizes at an event intended to promote the country's pottery heritage, sparking public backlash and online criticism. The controversy emerged after a social media user posted on Threads on Tuesday that a miniature moon jar received through a festival promotional event carried a "Made in China" sticker. "I honestly doubted my eyes when I opened the package," the winner wrote on Threads, posting photographs of the prize. "This was an event held under the name of the Yeoju Ceramic Festival, but what I received was a cheap, low-quality product with a 'Made in China' sticker on it, which is worse than something you'd buy at Daiso. Is this right?" The annual festival, held in Yeoju, Gyeonggi Province, is one of Korea's best-known ceramic events and aims to promote local artisans and the region's pottery industry. As part of a social media campaign held from May 1 to May 10, visitors who posted photos from the festival on their personal social media accounts we

- [Rival parties focus on battleground regions in last-minute campaigns for June 3 elections](#) (2026-05-31 05:57)

Rival parties were to stage last-minute campaigns Sunday, the last weekend before this week's nationwide elections, focusing on battleground regions, including Seoul. Up for grabs in the June 3 elections are 16 mayoral and gubernatorial posts, along with 227 heads of local governments and some 4,000 members of local councils. On Sunday, Rep. Jung Chung-rae, leader of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK), may visit Seoul, North Jeolla Province and the southeastern city of Ulsan to rally support for DPK candidates in those regions, a party spokesperson said. Polls have suggested close races in the three key regions. In Ulsan, traditionally a conservative stronghold, Kim Sang-wook of the DPK won a candidate unification deal with a minor progressive runner, boosting his chances against Kim Du-kyun of the main

opposition People Power Party (PPP) in the mayoral race. In Seoul, the mayoral race is forecast to be a close contest between DPK candidate Chong Won-o and incumbent Oh Se-hoon of the PPP. On Sunday, PPP leader Jang Dong-hyeok is also scheduled to rally support in Seoul, as the part

- [How will South Korean nuclear submarines alter underwater balance near first island chain?](#) (2026-05-30 23:57)

South Korea's plans to build nuclear-powered submarines by the mid-2030s will spur a U.S.-allied network of advanced underwater capabilities near the first island chain, strengthening deterrence against potential adversaries such as China and North Korea, analysts say. The South Korean defence ministry this week announced its basic plans to build the country's first nuclear-powered submarine, giving its first detailed outline of the programme since U.S. President Donald Trump granted initial approval in October. According to the plan, South Korea will launch the first of the vessels by the mid-2030s and deliver them to the Republic of Korea Navy by the late 2030s. The submarines, which are expected to be in use for at least 30 years, will be powered by low-enriched uranium instead of high-enriched uranium that could be used to build nuclear weapons. However, in contrast to Trump's approval, which required the South Korean submarines to be built at Hanwha Ocean's shipyard in Philadelphia, the plan said South Korea would develop and build the submarines within its own territory using the c

- [Baseball waste surges faster than attendance despite KBO's green pledge](#) (2026-05-30 11:57)

Behind the Korean baseball league's record-breaking popularity, another statistic has been climbing even faster: waste. While the Korea Baseball Organization (KBO) League drew more than 12 million spectators last season, the amount of trash generated at stadiums has increased at an even steeper rate, raising concerns that the league has failed to follow through on its environmental commitments. Ahead of Environment Day, June 5, The Hankook Ilbo analyzed data on annual general waste generation submitted by the KBO to the office of Rep. Lee Hack-young of the National Assembly Environment and Labor Committee. The analysis found that waste production at baseball stadiums has been growing significantly faster than attendance, prompting criticism that the country's most successful professional sports league has made little progress on environmental issues. Jamsil Baseball Stadium in Seoul, home to the LG Twins and Doosan Bears, recorded the most striking increase. General waste generated at the stadium rose 132.2 percent, from 214.44 tons in 2023 to 497.94 tons last year. During the same peri

- [Defense minister highlights S. Korea's push for 'self-reliant' defense alongside stronger US alliance](#) (2026-05-30 11:57)

SINGAPORE — South Korean Defense Minister Ahn Gyu-back highlighted Seoul's drive to strengthen its own defense capabilities Saturday, while deepening its alliance with the United

States, amid evolving North Korean threats and uncertainties from Middle East tensions. Speaking at a defense forum in Singapore, Ahn said the North's closer alignment with Russia and its growing combat experience from the war in Ukraine pose a new threat to security not only on the Korean Peninsula but also in the Indo-Pacific. "The North's military buildup and its advancement of nuclear and missile capabilities are adding to instability across the entire Indo-Pacific region ... The developments on the Korean Peninsula clearly act as a key variable in global security," Ahn said in a speech to the Asian Security Summit, also known as the Shangri-La Dialogue, in Singapore. "The Republic of Korea will continue its efforts to strengthen self-reliant defense capabilities in tandem with enhancing the alliance (with the United States)," Ahn said, calling South Korea by its official name. While maintaining a strong j

- [Excel-lookalike stock site sparks debate over workplace investing](#) (2026-05-30 11:57)

A website disguised as Microsoft Excel that allows users to check stock prices during work hours has gone viral in Korea, drawing both praise for its creativity and criticism over the country's growing obsession with investing. The site, called Excel Kospi, closely resembles a spreadsheet program, featuring Excel's signature green borders and grid layout. At first glance, it appears to be an ordinary worksheet, but it is actually a platform that provides real-time stock market information. The site's introduction describes it as "a stock quote site designed to look like an Excel screen that people secretly view at work." As of 10 a.m. Friday, the platform had recorded 19,334 cumulative visits for the day. The service offers a range of features, including real-time information on Korean and U.S. stock markets, cryptocurrency prices and related news. Users can add stocks to a watchlist and enter their average purchase prices and holdings to track gains and losses without opening a brokerage mobile trading service. This allows office workers to monitor stock prices in real time and make inv

- [Rail services disrupted by Seoul overpass collapse to fully resume on Sunday](#) (2026-05-30 11:57)

Nationwide rail operations disrupted by the collapse of an overpass in Seoul this week will fully resume Sunday, the Korea Railroad Corp. (KORAIL) said Saturday. KORAIL said it completed recovery work using all available resources and will restore normal operations on all train lines beginning Sunday. On Tuesday, a section of the Seosomun Overpass in central Seoul undergoing demolition collapsed during an on-site safety inspection, killing three people and injuring three others. KORAIL officials carried out overnight repairs after the Seoul city government completed demolition work at the accident site Friday. The operator also conducted safety inspections, including test runs of maintenance vehicles and trains, before deciding to return all serviced trains to operation.

- [Early voting for June 3 local elections ends with record 23.51 % turnout](#) (2026-05-30 11:57)

Two-day early voting for next week's local elections, which will decide the next mayors and governors of major local governments, ended with a turnout of 23.51 percent Saturday, the election watchdog said, marking the highest figure for such polls. More than 10.4 million people

out of 44.6 million registered voters cast their ballots during the early voting period, which ended at 6 p.m. Saturday after beginning at 6 a.m. Friday, according to the National Election Commission (NEC). The turnout was higher than the 20.62 percent recorded in early voting for the 2022 local elections. The main vote will take place Wednesday. On social media, President Lee Jae Myung urged voters to participate in voting, calling it the "lifeline" of democracy. "Giving up voting is the same as giving up your and your family's future," he wrote on X. "Abstaining from voting is not being neutral but siding with those who harm your life and community." Lee and first lady Kim Hea Kyung cast their early votes Friday at a community center near Cheong Wa Dae. Up for grabs are 16 mayoral and gubernatorial posts, along with

- [Hegseth calls for 'balanced' OPCON transfer where US military roles are 'honored'](#) (2026-05-30 05:57)

SINGAPORE — U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth on Saturday called for finding a "balance" in the transfer of wartime operational control (OPCON) to South Korea in a way that respects the roles the U.S. military has played for decades. Hegseth made the remarks at a defense forum in Singapore amid growing concerns over what appears to be differing views between Seoul and Washington over when and how the transition should proceed. "I think we have to find the balance of where our military plans and the responsibilities that U.S. uniformed members have had for decades now (are) honored, as we phase over to wartime OPCON transfer for the Republic of Korea, which we welcome the fact that they want that," he said during a session of the Asia Security Summit, also known as the Shangri-La Dialogue. Seoul has proposed retaking wartime OPCON from Washington as early as in 2028 as it seeks to complete the transfer before the Lee Jae Myung administration's five-year term ends in 2030. However, doubts have emerged over whether Washington sees eye to eye with Seoul on such a timeline after U.S. Forc

- [Koreans hit polls on last day of early voting for June 3 local elections](#) (2026-05-30 05:57)

Voters across the country headed to the polls Saturday on the second and last day of early voting for next week's nationwide local elections, which will decide the next mayors and governors of major local governments, including Seoul and Busan. More than 6.86 million people, or 15.38 percent, out of 44.6 million registered voters cast their ballots as of 11 a.m. after early voting began at 6 a.m. the previous day, according to the NEC. The voter turnout was higher than the 13.65 percent recorded at the same time on the second day of early voting for the 2022 local elections. On social media, Lee urged voters to participate in voting, calling it the "lifeline" of democracy. "Giving up voting is the same as giving up your and your family's future," he wrote on X. "Abstaining from voting is not being neutral but siding with those who harm your life and community." Lee and first lady Kim Hea Kyung cast their early votes Friday at a community center near Cheong Wa Dae. Up for grabs are 16 mayoral and gubernatorial posts, along with 227 heads of local governments and some 4,000 members of local

- [Professor disciplined after saying '8 in 10 women' engaged in prostitution](#) (2026-05-29 17:57)

A professor at a private university in Daejeon has been disciplined and removed from all teaching duties after allegedly making sexually inappropriate remarks to students during class. According to the university on Friday, the school's foundation recently finalized disciplinary measures against the professor, identified only by the surname B. The university said B has been barred from teaching classes, providing academic counseling and performing other student guidance duties. The professor was also ordered to complete anti-recurrence training through the university's human rights center to help prevent further incidents. The controversy began in November last year when a post criticizing the professor's classroom comments appeared on the university's online community forum. Students later conducted their own survey and submitted a formal complaint to the school in December. According to students, the professor made comments including, "8 in 10 women in Korea have probably earned spending money through prostitution." The professor was also accused of making remarks that could infringe on

- [Demolition of collapsed Seoul overpass completed](#) (2026-05-29 17:57)

An overpass in Seoul that partially collapsed earlier this week has been completely demolished Friday, the Seoul city government said, with the Gyeongui Line railway service that had been suspended due to the accident set to resume over the weekend. On Tuesday, a section of the Seosomun Overpass undergoing demolition collapsed during an on-site safety inspection, killing three people and injuring three others. "The emergency demolition work conducted on the upper structure of the Seosomun Overpass from midnight has been completed as of 9:40 p.m.," the city government said, some 79 hours after the collapse occurred. The city government resumed demolition work after the labor ministry approved its plan to resume demolition of the structure Thursday evening. Built in 1966, the Seosomun Overpass had been undergoing demolition since August last year over safety concerns and was expected to be torn down by next month. State railway authorities plan to work overnight to resume operation of the Gyeongui Line railway service, with plans to complete the work by 5 a.m. Saturday and resume the railwa

- [4 in 10 Koreans use generative AI: survey](#) (2026-05-29 17:57)

Nearly four in 10 Koreans have used generative artificial intelligence (AI) such as ChatGPT and Gemini, a survey showed Thursday, but a persistent digital divide sidelines the majority due to a lack of digital literacy. A survey by the Korea Media and Communications Commission (KMCC) showed that 38.9 percent of respondents have used generative AI. The figure is up 14.9 percentage points from 24 percent in 2024, according to the commission's 2025 User Panel Survey in Intelligent Information Society. The survey polled 4,324 internet users nationwide aged 18 to 72 who use smartphones at least once a day. Users spent an average of 49.6 minutes per day on the platforms. The most common use for generative AI is information search, with 86 percent citing its efficiency. Meanwhile, 72.6 percent of users said using the technology saves time, followed by educational purposes at 68.2 percent, and solving complex problems and supporting daily tasks, both at 64.8 percent. However, concerns over the risks of generative AI

intensified, rising 6 to 10 percentage points from a year earlier. Fraud and cr

- [Seoul opens nominations to honor standout foreign residents](#) (2026-05-29 11:57)

For nearly seven decades, Korea's capital has maintained a quiet tradition of welcoming its most dedicated foreign residents into an exclusive civic circle. On Friday, the Seoul Metropolitan Government officially opened nominations for its 2026 Honorary Citizenship awards, a search aimed at recognizing expatriates who have significantly shaped the city's economic, cultural and technological landscape. The honorary citizenship program, which dates back to 1958, serves as a high-profile nod of gratitude to foreign nationals who treat Seoul not merely as a temporary corporate or diplomatic posting, but as an adoptive home. Over the last 68 years, the city has bestowed this distinction upon 968 individuals from 100 countries. To qualify for the honor, nominees must have resided in Seoul continuously for at least three years — or accumulated a total of five years of residency. Beyond the paperwork, city hall looks for candidates who have left a distinct mark on local society, ranging from introducing cutting-edge scientific innovations to enriching the city's traditional arts scene. T

- [Early voters weigh competence, daily concerns as local election voting begins](#) (2026-05-29 11:57)

Long lines formed at early voting stations in Seoul's business districts Friday as office workers stopped by polling places near their workplaces, offering an early glimpse into the issues shaping voter sentiment ahead of next week's local elections. Early voting for the June 3 local elections and parliamentary by-elections began Friday at 3,571 polling stations nationwide. Nationwide early voting turnout reached 11.6 percent on Friday, about 1.42 percentage point higher than at the same point during the 2022 local elections. Voters lined up from morning at an early voting station in Sogong-dong, central Seoul, as people turned out to cast their ballots on the first day of early voting. At around 10:30 a.m., long lines formed at the early voting station. The line for out-of-district voters was noticeably longer than that for local residents. Located on the fifth floor of the building, the polling station drew a steady stream of voters, with elevators arriving packed with people. Voters waited in line for elevators both on their way to the polling station and after casting their ballots. Th

- [\[PHOTO\] Security strategy leaders](#) (2026-05-29 11:57)

Gen. Jin Young-seung, front row eighth from left, chairman of the Republic of Korea Joint Chiefs of Staff, poses with defense, diplomacy and technology experts during the first-half 2026 Policy Advisory Committee plenary meeting at Nine Tree Premier ROKAUS Hotel Yongsan, Seoul, Friday. Courtesy of Republic of Korea Joint Chiefs of Staff

- [Seoul, Airbnb team up to turn stay-at-home moms into hospitality entrepreneurs](#) (2026-05-29 11:57)

As Korea rides a historic wave of international tourism — projected to draw an unprecedented 19 million foreign visitors this year — municipal officials are turning to the digital economy to

solve a persistent domestic challenge: bringing women back into the workforce. The Seoul Foundation of Women and Family announced a joint public-private initiative with the city's Women's Resources Development Center and Airbnb to launch the third year of its specialized Shared Accommodation Host Training Program. The project specifically targets "career-interrupted" women — stay-at-home mothers and professionals who left the workforce to care for family — leveraging home-sharing platforms as a flexible runway back to financial independence. In a local culture where rigid, arduous corporate environments often force women out of the job market after childbirth, digital hospitality offers an appealing alternative, as running a boutique guesthouse allows women to manage an enterprise on their own schedules. The program has seen explosive demand since its inception. A modest pilot project in

- [Veterans minister criticizes Starbucks over 'Tank Day' controversy](#) (2026-05-29 11:57)

Veterans Minister Kwon Oh-eul on Friday criticized Starbucks Korea over its recent "Tank Day" promotion, saying the use of a painful chapter in the nation's history as part of a marketing campaign deserves criticism. Speaking at a policy briefing with reporters, Kwon said the incident should be viewed as a corporate marketing decision rather than the action of an individual employee. He added that the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs would take a cautious approach toward ongoing cooperation projects with Starbucks until broader public consensus emerges over the issue. The minister made the remarks while outlining the Lee Jae Myung administration's first-year veterans policy achievements, including expanded support for descendants of independence fighters and surviving spouses of war veterans. Kwon said the government is seeking to strengthen support for groups that have long remained outside Korea's veterans welfare system. Speaking at a luncheon meeting with reporters, Kwon cited a recent revision of the Independence Patriots Act as one of the ministry's most significant accomplishments

- [University of Seoul showcases communication convergence technologies at KOBA 2026](#) (2026-05-29 06:02)

The University of Seoul showcased next-generation communication convergence technologies in collaboration with the Korean Broadcasting System (KBS) at the Korea International Broadcasting, Media, Audio and Lighting Show (KOBA) 2026 held at Coex in southern Seoul from May 12-15. The event highlighted advanced technologies designed to meet growing demand for automation and intelligent systems in broadcasting production, attracting significant attention from professionals in the broadcasting, media and communication industries. The university said the technologies unveiled were developed through a project-based learning (PBL) regular curriculum run by the university's Next-generation Communication Convergence and Open Sharing System (NCCOSS) program. Broadcasting technology experts from KBS took part in the development process as mentors, working alongside students to solve real-world industry challenges. A school official noted that the initiative is regarded as a leading example of industry-academia collaboration in talent development, combining practical expertise from

working professi

- [SNU to help modernize national tax system with AI](#) (2026-05-29 06:02)

The National Tax Service (NTS) signed an agreement Friday with Seoul National University's (SNU) Artificial Intelligence (AI) Institute to integrate AI into the state tax system, a move aimed at accelerating public services while tightening data security. The NTS and SNU said they will work together in three main areas: advising the NTS on how to introduce and expand AI in tax administration, conducting joint research on how to run AI systems safely and responsibly, and training NTS staff in hands-on AI development skills. The NTS highlighted wanting to go beyond basic AI tools. It is developing personalized services — such as an AI system that can help individual taxpayers fill out returns or get tax advice based on their own financial data. Because this involves sensitive personal information, the agency said strong data security and privacy protections are essential. It plans to lean on SNU experts for guidance in these areas. To build internal AI skills, the NTS currently runs a three-level training program — basic, intermediate and advanced — for its employees. It now plans

- [Customs officer recognized for thwarting major narcotics syndicate](#) (2026-05-29 06:02)

An officer stationed at the Gwangju Customs office has been named the national agency's Officer of the Month for April after orchestrating a massive, multi-agency narcotics bust. The honor went to investigator Lee Gwang-ju. While serving in a district that happens to share his name made for a bit of office coincidence, Lee's real-life detective work helped catch international drug smugglers. According to agency officials, Lee's streak began when he flagged a suspicious express cargo shipment using independent intelligence analysis. His hunch paid off, leading investigators to intercept 5 kilograms of methamphetamine hidden inside the delivery. But he didn't stop there. Working with local law enforcement, Lee tracked the delivery destinations and set up a coordinated sting operation. The trap successfully snared the alleged ringleader on the ground in Korea, netting an additional 18 kilograms of meth. The total haul amounted to 23 kilograms. To put the significance of the seizure into perspective, 23 kilograms of methamphetamine represents roughly 760,000 individual doses, carrying a

- [Lee, first lady cast ballots in early voting near Cheong Wa Dae for June 3 elections](#) (2026-05-29 06:02)

President Lee Jae Myung and first lady Kim Hea Kyung visited a neighborhood community center near Cheong Wa Dae on Friday to cast their ballots in early voting for the upcoming local elections. Wearing a gray tie, Lee and his wife cast ballots at the Samcheong neighborhood community center for the June 3 elections in Incheon's Gyeyang-B district, where the first couple's personal residence is registered. The two-day early voting began earlier Friday for the local elections and parliamentary by-elections, in which 16 mayoral and gubernatorial posts will be contested, along with 227 local government chief positions and some 4,000 seats on local councils. Voters can cast their ballots at any of more than 3,500 polling stations across the nation from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. The upcoming elections are the first major

ones for the Lee administration since it took office in June and thus widely regarded as a referendum on its first year in office. The results are expected to determine, or at least fine-tune, the Lee administration's policy direction and personnel structure going

- [Kookmin University research team selected for state-funded nanomaterials technology project](#) (2026-05-29 06:02)

A Kookmin University research team has been selected for a government-supported nanomaterials technology development project, the school said Thursday. The five-member team consists of four professors in the department of applied chemistry — Kim Young-hoon, Do Young-rag, Joonyoung Francis Joung and Chun Ho-je — and professor Cho Ki-sub in the department of materials science and engineering. Under the project funded by the Ministry of Science and ICT and the National Research Foundation of Korea, the team will carry out a program to develop national strategic future materials technologies. The program is aimed at establishing a data hub for metal-halide color conversion materials for next-generation displays and developing artificial intelligence (AI)-based intelligent design technologies for materials and processes. The team, led by Kim, is set to conduct joint research and development with Sungkyunkwan University, Chungbuk National University, the Daegu Gyeongbuk Institute of Science and Technology (DGIST), the Korea Institute of Industrial Technology (KITECH) and the Korea Photonic

- [Joint Korea-US research team cuts hydrogen production costs in catalyst breakthrough](#) (2026-05-29 06:02)

A joint research team from Seoul National University and Stanford University has developed a next-generation catalyst technology that dramatically improves hydrogen production efficiency while sharply reducing costs, a breakthrough that could accelerate the commercialization of clean hydrogen energy, the Ministry of Science and ICT said Friday. The study, published in the journal *Science*, introduces a platinum cluster catalyst engineered with atomic-level precision, allowing researchers to reduce platinum use to one-tenth that of existing commercial catalysts while improving both hydrogen output and durability. The international team was led by Park Jung-won, a professor in the Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering at Seoul National University, along with Stanford University professors Thomas F. Jaramillo and Matteo Cargnello. Hydrogen is widely seen as a key clean energy source in the global transition toward carbon neutrality, but the high cost of platinum-based catalysts has remained a major obstacle to large-scale adoption. The researchers said they developed a new synthe

- [Gov't targets murky rental fees in crackdown on tenant gouging](#) (2026-05-29 06:02)

Korea is launching a sweeping legislative push to clean up the notoriously opaque management fees plaguing "officetels," a kind of studio or one-room apartment, and other non-apartment multifamily complexes, a long-standing legal blind spot that critics say has left young and low-income tenants vulnerable to gouging. For decades, Korea's sleek, high-rise apartments have enjoyed strict regulatory oversight, but smaller non-apartment options have remained a "

wild west" territory for renters. Government officials hope this new push will finally close the gap, ensuring equal transparency for all tenants. Under the current legal framework, neither the Act on the Ownership and Management of Aggregate Buildings nor the Housing Lease Protection Act guarantees tenants the right to demand a detailed breakdown of their utility and maintenance fees. This legislative vacuum has made it nearly impossible for residents to verify what they are paying for, while leaving local municipal heads toothless in regulating unlawful billing practices. The momentum for reform shifted into high gear following a

- [4 Navy officers killed in plane crash awarded posthumous decorations](#) (2026-05-29 06:02)

The government on Friday posthumously awarded the order of national security merit to four Navy officers who were killed in a fatal maritime patrol aircraft crash during training last year, the Navy said. The Navy held an event commemorating the one-year anniversary of the deaths of the four Navy officers — two commissioned officers and two non-commissioned officers — at the southeastern city of Pohang and presented the decoration to their bereaved family members. A P-3CK patrol plane crashed on a mountain in Pohang, some 270 kilometers southeast of Seoul, just six minutes after taking off in routine training from a nearby air base, in May last year. No civilian casualties were reported, but all four crew members aboard were killed. The Navy launched a months-long investigation into the cause of the incident last year but failed to single out a specific cause, as the patrol plane had no flight data recorder, and its cockpit voice recorder could not be recovered due to extensive damage. However, the Navy at the time pointed to the lack of training meant to help pilots respond to stalls

- [Police raid Seoul city gov't, engineering company over overpass collapse](#) (2026-05-29 06:02)

Police on Friday raided the offices of the Seoul city government, an engineering company and others involved in the demolition of an overpass in western Seoul that partially collapsed earlier this week. The raids took place three days after a section of the Seosomun Overpass undergoing demolition collapsed, killing three people and injuring three others. The Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency said it was carrying out searches and seizures at seven locations, including the city government's infrastructure headquarters and contractors involved in the demolition work, as part of its investigation into the collapse. The simultaneous raids, which involve 33 police investigators and 20 workplace safety officials under the labor ministry, seek to secure evidence to determine the exact cause of the collapse and those responsible for the accident, according to the police. The labor ministry said it plans to check whether proper safety measures were followed at the site, vowing to "strictly" seek accountability if it finds any violation of workplace safety laws. On Thursday, President Lee Jae Myung c

- [Seoul Subway Line 2 resumes normal operations after safety inspection over overpass demolition](#) (2026-05-28 23:57)

Seoul Subway Line 2 resumed normal operations early Friday following an overnight safety inspection due to the resumption of demolition work of a partially collapsed overpass, the city

subway operator said. The underground inspection began Thursday night after the labor ministry approved the city government's plan to resume demolishing the Seosomun Overpass in western Seoul, which partially collapsed Tuesday, killing three people and injuring three others. Seoul Metro cut operations between Hongik University station and Euljiro 1-ga station on Line 2 an hour earlier than usual the previous night for the inspection before resuming normal operations at 5:51 a.m. Friday. A Seoul Metro official said the inspection was necessary to check the integrity of underground structures while apologizing for the inconvenience to the public.

- [\[LAUGHING THROUGH HISTORY 27\] 'The Rice Cake Is Mine!' \(2026-05-28 23:57\)](#)

The most common situation in the humor collection “Kkalkkal Useum” is conflict between husbands and wives. The joke I’m translating today also features a husband and wife, but it stands out in some interesting ways. The first is that the stakes of the conflict are so much lower. Many of the other jokes feature conflict around significant life events like child-rearing, or a wife opposing her husband’s decision to take a concubine. In this joke, on the other hand, the only thing at stake is a silly wager about who gets to enjoy eating some rice cake. Another difference is that in almost all the other jokes, the wife wins the conflict. In a more typical joke from the collection, the husband starts out with more social power and authority, but the wife uses quick thinking and wit to turn the tables and flip the hierarchy upside down. The situation in this joke is different because in the wager between the husband and wife, the husband wins. And yet, from a wider perspective, he’s a loser. The couple has been so myopically focused on their marital rivalry that they haven’t even

- [Early voting for June 3 local elections begins across Korea \(2026-05-28 23:57\)](#)

Early voting for the June 3 local elections and parliamentary by-elections takes place nationwide from Friday through Saturday. The National Election Commission said Thursday that 3,571 early voting stations across the country will operate from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. over the two-day period. Voters can check polling station locations on the commission’s website or major online portal sites. Eligible voters may cast their ballots at any early voting station nationwide regardless of where they are registered to vote, as long as they bring a valid form of identification such as a resident registration card, driver’s license or passport. Saved images or screenshots will not be accepted for mobile identification. Voters will receive a total of seven ballots in most areas. In regions where parliamentary by-elections are also being held, voters will receive an additional ballot, bringing the total to eight. In Sejong and Jeju Province, which do not have lower-level local governments and therefore hold no elections for their heads or council members, voters will receive four. Voters casting ballot

- [Community radio station launches in Busan to support local underground scene \(2026-05-28 23:57\)](#)

Busan is a vibrant and energetic city, but compared to Seoul, it lacks the concentration of opportunities available to those involved in the underground music scene. In conversations

with local promoters, club owners and dancers, many pointed to a similar issue: While there is growing interest in the underground scene, there is less infrastructure to support it. To address that gap, Radio Revolution's Reading Room was launched on April 4 by Hwang Doogie, a Busan-born DJ who goes by the moniker Radio Revolution. His work dates back to the 1990s, including a residency at the former club Livin' and a role as music director for Korean electronic festival The Air House. The project is intended not only as a platform to broadcast music, but also as a networking space to circulate local talent and support new DJs through its academy program. In conversation, Radio Revolution described the station as a non-commercial space "where conversations can happen" and where "people can connect and be present." The launch represents a significant addition to Busan's cultural infrastructure, as

- [Ex-presidential secretary sentenced to 1 1/2 yrs in prison for drafting false martial law document](#) (2026-05-28 12:02)

A Seoul court on Thursday sentenced a former presidential secretary to 18 months in prison for drafting a false document in connection with former President Yoon Suk Yeol's failed 2024 martial law bid. The Seoul Central District Court handed down the punishment for Kang Eui-gu, finding him guilty on charges of creating a false official document by drafting a cover of Yoon's martial law proclamation on Dec. 6, 2024, three days after his declaration. The court accepted special counsel Cho Eun-suk's argument that Kang had created the document and collected signatures of Yoon, then Prime Minister Han Duck-soo and then Defense Minister Kim Yong-hyun to give the martial law declaration an appearance of procedural legitimacy. "After becoming aware of the error that martial law took place without a document containing the president's signature and countersignatures of Cabinet members, (the defendant) newly drafted a cover that did not exist for the already distributed proclamation to conceal (the error)," the court said. The court, however, acquitted Kang on charges of exercising a false official

- [Lee calls for stern punishment for those responsible for fatal overpass collapse in Seoul](#) (2026-05-28 12:02)

President Lee Jae Myung on Thursday called for a prompt investigation and stern punishment for those responsible for recent safety-related incidents, including the collapse of an overpass in Seoul that killed three workers. The president made the call while presiding over a meeting with senior aides, two days after a section of the Seosomun Overpass in western Seoul collapsed during demolition work, killing three workers and injuring three others. Lee also referred to a recent revelation that underground construction at Samseong Station for the high-speed commuter rail line GTX-A was completed without sufficient rebar, as he made the call. "These incidents are especially serious because they involve the public sector, which is supposed to lead efforts to ensure public safety," Lee said. "Institutions in charge should promptly uncover the truth and, in accordance with the results, sternly hold those responsible accountable regardless of their rank," the president added. "Money cannot be more valuable than lives." The president noted that the country saw a sharp decline in the number of wor

- [Gov't launches tax crackdown on supercar owners](#) (2026-05-28 12:02)

Korea's tax authorities announced a sweeping investigation Thursday into what they described as an expanding culture of tax evasion among wealthy business owners using corporate money to finance lavish personal lifestyles — from fleets of Ferraris and Lamborghinis to luxury hotels, designer shopping and overseas asset concealment. The National Tax Service said it had launched audits into 19 corporations suspected of abusing company-owned supercars and siphoning off corporate funds through questionable accounting practices, shell companies and irregular family transactions. Together, the firms owned about 90 high-end vehicles worth roughly 30 billion won (\$22 million), while the total amount of suspected tax evasion reached nearly 300 billion won. The investigation reflects growing public frustration in Korea over widening inequality and the conspicuous displays of wealth by corporate executives, particularly on social media platforms where luxury lifestyles are often flaunted before millions of followers. In one example cited by the tax agency, the owner of a manufacturing company a

- [Court denies arrest warrant for Chinese dissident who fled to Korea by sea](#) (2026-05-28 12:02)

A court on Thursday rejected a request for a warrant to arrest a Chinese dissident who fled China in a rubber boat and arrived in Korea earlier this week by sea. The Seosan branch of the Daejeon District Court made the decision in a hearing for Dong Guangping, who is accused of violating the Immigration Control Act. Dong was discovered by a fishing vessel in waters off Taean, a county on Korea's central west coast, at 9:36 p.m. Monday, while drifting in a 3.3-meter-long rubber boat. The Coast Guard, dispatched after receiving a report, detained Dong at the scene and took him to Shinjin Port to investigate the circumstances of his entry into Korean territorial waters. According to news reports, Dong, who served as a police officer and soldier in China, was dismissed from the police in 1999 for co-signing a letter commemorating the 10th anniversary of the crackdown on protesters at Tiananmen Square in 1989. After participating in a Tiananmen Square memorial event in 2014, he was detained by Chinese authorities and has since escaped from China and been repatriated several times.

- [Customs agency's secondary mail screening nets 3 drug smuggling cases in 60 days](#) (2026-05-28 06:02)

The Korea Customs Service (KCS) said Thursday that its newly launched secondary drug screening system for international mail has resulted in the seizure of three narcotics smuggling cases totaling 1,159.3 grams within just 60 days, demonstrating its effectiveness as an additional barrier against drug trafficking. Dubbed the second line of defense, the system subjects international postal items to a second round of X-ray screening and physical inspection at inland mail centers after they have already cleared initial checks at airports and seaports, creating a dual-layer screening framework. The measure was introduced to counter the growing use of international mail for drug smuggling and increasingly sophisticated concealment methods. Since April, the system has been operating at five major logistics hubs nationwide, including Seoul, Anyang and Busan. To support the initiative, KCS and Korea Post overhauled

the international mail logistics network so that all inbound postal items pass through the five designated hubs, each equipped with enhanced X-ray screening and inspection capabilities

- [As record heat looms, Seoul deploys high-tech fog, canopies to cool residents](#) (2026-05-28 06:02)

Facing forecasts of an unseasonably brutal summer and the earliest heat-related fatality on record, municipal authorities here are transforming the capital's public spaces into a fortified network of cooling zones to combat extreme urban temperatures. The seasonal counteroffensive, scheduled to run through Sept. 30, comes after the Korea Meteorological Administration projected that mean temperatures this summer will significantly exceed seasonal norms. The threat took on new urgency when a heat-related death was recorded on May 15 — the earliest such fatality since the country established its emergency room heat illness surveillance system in 2011. To protect pedestrians in a sprawling metropolis dominated by asphalt and concrete, the Seoul Metropolitan Government is rolling out an array of architectural and mechanical interventions. Among the additions are "Happiso" zones — air-dome-equipped outdoor cooling shelters — scheduled to be pitched at 14 high-traffic landmarks, including Gwanghwamun Square and Cheonggye Plaza. The city will also deploy large canopy-style shade structures

- [Seoul turns capital into giant test bed for startups](#) (2026-05-28 06:02)

Seoul is throwing open its parks, bridges, hospitals and public squares to startups, betting that the city itself can become ground for the next generation of artificial intelligence (AI), robotics and smart infrastructure technologies. The Seoul Metropolitan Government said Thursday that it will recruit 20 companies for the second round of its "Testbed Seoul" program, an initiative that allows startups to test new technologies in real urban environments before entering domestic and overseas markets. Applications are being accepted through July 9. The city said it plans to invest 8.6 billion won (\$5.7 million) this year across 43 projects designed to help startups commercialize technologies ranging from AI care systems to smart transportation services for vulnerable commuters. Officials said the program, first launched in 2018, was created to address one of the biggest hurdles facing startups: the lack of opportunities to test technologies in real-world conditions. Under the expanded "Testbed Seoul 2.0" initiative, the city said companies will gain broader access to public infrastructure

- [Defense minister to attend Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore](#) (2026-05-28 06:02)

Confronting a rapidly shifting and increasingly volatile Asian security landscape, Korea's defense chief is set to pitch the country's modern military strategy to a gathering of international defense leaders this weekend, aiming to solidify global alliances against mounting regional threats. Defense Minister Ahn Gyu-back is scheduled to participate in the 23rd Asian Security Summit in Singapore, a major regional defense forum widely known as the Shangri-La Dialogue. The high-stakes multiday summit brings together defense ministers, military commanders and intelligence chiefs from across the Asia-Pacific and Europe. Ahn is scheduled

to deliver a keynote address Friday during a plenary session centered on regional security challenges and Korea's strategic responses. He is expected to outline Seoul's modern defense policy, balancing its traditional deterrence strategies with an expanding domestic military posture designed to counter growing security anxieties in East Asia. The summit comes at a pivotal juncture for Korea. Seoul has faced an intensifying array of regional geopolitical

- [Regulator to ramp up efforts to detect, crack down on online phishing](#) (2026-05-28 06:02)

The country's financial regulator said Thursday that regular, systematic cooperation among related government agencies will be made to better detect and crack down on new types of online phishing crimes. The Financial Services Commission (FSC) said financial institutions and related agencies will upgrade their existing fraud detection system this year to effectively spot such online crimes and mule accounts, as well as share related information. Also, starting next month, financial accounts suspected of being linked to new types of phishing crimes, such as romance scams, will be swiftly frozen. Voice phishing insurance, among a series of other products, will be rolled out as well to better protect the victims of phishing crimes, the FSC said. Phishing is a type of crime where victims are conned into transferring money to scammers or sharing their personal information, thus allowing fraudsters to access their bank accounts. Meanwhile, a new platform based on artificial intelligence (AI) has prevented some 47.5 billion won (\$31.5 million) in financial losses from voice phishing scams over t

- [Korean who tied migrant worker to forklift at factory avoids prison](#) (2026-05-28 06:02)

A Korean court handed a suspended sentence to a factory worker who bound a Sri Lankan migrant worker to a forklift and hoisted him into the air. Gwangju District Court on Thursday sentenced the 54-year-old perpetrator, surnamed Jeong, to one year in prison, suspended for two years, and ordered 180 hours of community service. The court also fined the brick factory in Naju, South Jeolla Province, 5 million won (\$3,317) for failing to prevent workplace abuse. Investigators found that on Feb. 26, 2025, Jeong wrapped the 32-year-old victim in industrial plastic film and tied him to a pile of bricks. Jeong then lifted the victim with a forklift and drove him for about 10 meters in the factory yard, claiming the victim struggled with wrapping bricks. The incident gained widespread attention in July when a rights group, the Gwangju Jeonnam Migrant Workers' Human Rights Network, released a video of the abuse. The footage showed a Korean man berating the victim suspended from the forklift, saying, "Did you do something wrong? You should say you're sorry." The case sparked public outrage, drawing a

- [KTO enlists high-end Japanese outdoor brand to boost regional tourism](#) (2026-05-28 06:02)

Seeking to steer a booming domestic camping market away from the crowded outskirts of the capital region, Korea's state tourism agency is enlisting private sector muscle to redirect outdoor enthusiasts toward the country's rural provinces. The Korea Tourism Organization (KTO) said Thursday that it signed a partnership with Snow Peak Korea, the local arm of the high-end Japanese outdoor brand, to promote safe camping practices and revitalize regional

tourism. Under the agreement, the tourism agency will integrate an aggressive safety and public awareness campaign into Snow Peak's major outdoor events. Over the course of eight scheduled large-scale camping programs — expected to draw roughly 7,000 participants — the agency will provide real-time guidance on preventing carbon monoxide poisoning and handling open flames or portable heating units. Campers who sign a safety pledge and engage with state-run digital information platform "Go Camping" will receive commemorative promotional goods. The broader ambition of the partnership, however, is geographic. Over the past several years,

- [A \\$330 Airbnb room? This is among cheaper options in Busan during BTS concerts](#) (2026-05-28 06:02)

Religious groups, universities and public institutions are offering free or affordable accommodation options for BTS fans who have become targets of price gouging ahead of the supergroup's June concerts in Busan, but supply remains limited, leaving many to stick with their existing plans. Busan is hosting the BTS' June 12 and 13 concerts as part of its "ARIRANG" world tour. As June 13 is also the group's 13th debut anniversary and the first in many years after their historic comeback as a group in March, the event is estimated to draw a substantial number of international and local fans to the city. To cash in on the opportunity, some accommodation businesses have set rates at an average of 7.5 times higher than the usual, according to the Korea Consumer Agency's data based on filed complaints. Some businesses have reportedly canceled existing reservations, citing "overbooking" or "renovations" to open the slots at much high rates. This led President Lee Jae Myung to speak out on the issue, Wednesday. The situation has left many fans to resort to paying exorbitant rates or find options

- ['Too exhausted': Korean soldier's urine turns cola-colored after alleged forced push-ups](#) (2026-05-28 06:02)

A soldier at a front-line military unit in Gangwon Province developed rhabdomyolysis, a severe muscle condition, after a superior allegedly forced him to continue doing push-ups despite repeated requests to stop. Authorities from the Ministry of National Defense said they are investigating the incident following a formal complaint from the victim's family, who allege abuse of authority, abuse and assault. The episode occurred March 9 during a physical training session when a company commander ordered soldiers to complete a run and 100 push-ups. The victim was exercising with a fellow soldier when the offender intervened. At approximately 15 repetitions, the sergeant allegedly pushed on his back, criticized his form and forced him to continue doing push-ups. The soldier explicitly asked to stop three times, telling his superior, "I'm too exhausted, sergeant," "I don't think this is right" and "I don't think I can do this because I'm exhausted." The sergeant ignored his requests, forcing the victim to complete nearly 100 repetitions before the soldier began breathing heavily and stopped. T

- [Court to decide on arrest of Chinese dissident who fled to Korea by sea](#) (2026-05-28 06:02)

A court is expected to decide Thursday whether to formally arrest a Chinese dissident, who fled China in a rubber boat and arrived in Korea earlier this week by sea. The Seosan branch of the Daejeon District Court began an arrest warrant hearing at 11 a.m. for Dong Guangping, who is accused of violating the Immigration Control Act, according to information obtained by Yonhap News Agency. Dong was discovered by a fishing vessel in waters off Taean, a county on Korea's central west coast, at 9:36 p.m. Monday, while drifting in a 3.3-meter-long rubber boat. The Coast Guard, dispatched after receiving a report, detained Dong at the scene and took him to Shinjin Port to investigate the circumstances of his entry into Korean territorial waters. According to news reports, Dong, who served as a police officer and soldier in China, was dismissed from the police in 1999 for co-signing a letter commemorating the 10th anniversary of the crackdown on protesters at Tiananmen Square in 1989. After participating in a Tiananmen Square memorial event in 2014, he was detained by Chinese authorities and has

- [Korea's new cultural export is more than just K-pop](#) (2026-05-28 06:02)

Seeking to turn everything from avant-garde contemporary dance to makeup classes into exportable soft power, Korea is launching an ambitious expansion of its global cultural campaign. The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism announced a major scaling up of its “Touring K-Arts” initiative on Thursday, a project designed to transform Korean cultural centers worldwide into launchpads for global cultural showcases. The upcoming push will send 46 distinct cultural and arts programs across 45 cities in 30 countries, a strategy aimed at proving that the country’s cultural influence extends far beyond K-pop and cinema. The initiative relies on a highly coordinated regional touring model. By routing performances and exhibitions sequentially through neighboring regions rather than scheduling standalone events, the ministry significantly cut transportation and airfare costs during its initial trial phase. That trial supported 47 projects across 34 countries, drawing an audience of more than 170,000 people. The expanded roster balances traditional Korean legacy with modern sensibilities. Th

- [Kookmin University-led joint team wins Bosch Future Mobility Challenge 2026](#) (2026-05-28 06:02)

A joint team of students from Kookmin University and other Korean universities won the top prize at Bosch Future Mobility Challenge (BFMC) 2026, an international autonomous driving and connectivity competition, held in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, from May 16-20. Kookmin University said Wednesday that the team outperformed competitors during the five-day event in which 57 teams from around the world participated. The event brought together undergraduate and master’s students who developed their own self-driving algorithms. The participants competed fiercely to demonstrate their technical skills using 1:10-scale autonomous model cars on tracks designed as miniature smart cities that simulated real road conditions. The Korean team consisted of students participating in a global talent development program jointly run by Kookmin University and the Volkswagen Group WE: Foundation. The program, called Software Engineering in Automotive and Mobility Ecosystems (SEA:ME), operates under the Convergence and Open Sharing System (COSS) Future Mobility Consortium to provide selected students with

mobility

- [Court acquits ex-President Yoon of perjury over testimony at ex-PM's trial](#) (2026-05-28 06:02)

A Seoul court on Thursday acquitted former President Yoon Suk Yeol of perjury over allegations that he gave false testimony during former Prime Minister Han Duck-soo's insurrection trial. The jailed former president was indicted on charges of giving a false impression during Han's trial last year that the Cabinet meeting he convened shortly before declaring martial law on Dec. 3, 2024, was planned even before Han suggested it. The Seoul Central District Court ruled that it was difficult to recognize Yoon's testimony at the trial as contrary to his own memory, adding there was a "high" possibility that he may have had plans to convene the Cabinet meeting regardless of Han's proposal. Special counsel Cho Eun-suk's team had requested the court sentence Yoon to two years in prison over the charge. Following the verdict, a lawyer for the former president thanked the court in a Facebook post, while the special counsel team said it would decide whether to appeal after reviewing the ruling. During Han's trial in November, Yoon was asked as a witness whether the then prime minister had proposed co

- [Korea eyes Latin America as next frontier for booming arms exports](#) (2026-05-27 11:57)

Korea's defense industry is turning its attention toward Latin America, where rising security concerns and military modernization campaigns are opening new opportunities for exporters eager to expand beyond Europe and the Middle East. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said Wednesday that it held a government-business meeting focused on expanding Korea's presence in the Latin American defense market and strengthening cooperation between public agencies and private companies. The meeting was chaired by Choi Jun-ho, director general for Latin American and Caribbean affairs, and included officials from the Defense Acquisition Program Administration and the Korea Research Institute for Defense Technology Planning and Advancement. Executives from major defense-related companies including HD Hyundai Heavy Industries, Korean Air, Korea Aerospace Industries, Hyundai Rotem and LIG Defense & Aerospace also attended. Participants discussed changing security conditions across Latin America, where governments are increasingly seeking to strengthen border control, public security and military readiness

- [Seoul battles loneliness with festivals, bingo](#) (2026-05-27 11:57)

Seoul is offering citizens points, festivals and even bingo cards in an ambitious attempt to tackle one of urban life's most stubborn modern problems: loneliness. Beginning Thursday, the Seoul Metropolitan Government will launch the first round of its 2026 "365 Seoul Challenge," a citywide participation program designed to encourage residents to leave their homes, reconnect socially and build healthier daily routines through outdoor and community activities. Under this year's slogan, "Let's Go Outside and See the Sun," participants can choose from 31 challenges ranging from park workouts and walking trails to visits to the Seoul International Garden Show and Han River festivals. City officials say the initiative has become

one of Seoul's signature anti-isolation policies after early surveys showed measurable changes in participants' behavior and emotional well-being. Seoul residents age 14 and older are eligible to join the program, with registration opening at 9 a.m. Thursday through the official challenge website. Participants can create personalized bingo boards by se

- [Lee warns against price gouging by accommodations in Busan ahead of BTS concerts](#)
(2026-05-27 11:57)

President Lee Jae Myung on Wednesday warned against some businesses in Busan that have sharply raised their prices ahead of upcoming concerts there by K-pop superband BTS, insisting that such a short-sighted business practice may tarnish the image and eventually the economy of the entire city. "Busan seems to need reform as it is losing its image because of so-called price gouging related to BTS concerts," Lee said during an event in the southeastern city. His remarks came one day after RM and other members of BTS addressed the issue during an online livestream event, saying there was little they could do but that they hope businesses that have exorbitantly raised their prices would "give it a break." The group is set to perform in Busan from June 12-13. "It would significantly damage the image of entire Busan if talk of accommodation price gouging resurfaces when it hosts a large-scale event," the president warned. He cited inhospitality, price gouging and racial discrimination as examples of factors harming the tourist industry, saying overpricing by a small number of accommodations wo

- [Lee's OPCON push revives debate over USFK role as alliance eyes post-transfer future](#)
(2026-05-27 11:57)

President Lee Jae Myung's renewed push for the transfer of wartime operational control (OPCON) from Washington to Seoul is provoking discussion over the future of the Korea-U.S. alliance and U.S. Forces Korea (USFK) after the transition. The discussion comes as Seoul accelerates its defense agenda, saying the transfer would be possible "even tomorrow," while Washington increasingly views the alliance in broader regional terms. Security experts say the issue is gradually moving beyond potential scaling down of the USFK after OPCON transfer toward the more fundamental question of what role the force would play afterward. Lee has reaffirmed his commitment to pursuing OPCON transfer as soon as possible. His administration initially aimed to take over before the end of his term in 2030, but earlier this year the government seemingly moved up the target date to 2028. During a meeting at the Navy Submarine Command at Jinhae in Changwon, South Gyeongsang Province on Tuesday, Defense Minister Ahn Gyu-back said Korea would face "no major problems" even if OPCON was transferred tomorrow. Lee

- [Seoul overpass collapsed during inspection of deflected section, city gov't says](#)
(2026-05-27 11:57)

Workers on the Seosomun overpass had already detected a dangerous deflection in the structure hours before it collapsed, but continued to work on the span rather than leave the site, the Seoul Metropolitan Government said Wednesday in its first detailed account of the

accident. According to Lim Choon-keun, head of the city government's infrastructure bureau, workers began cutting the S9 slab — the ninth deck segment spanning the railway — of the 60-year-old overpass at around 1:30 a.m. Tuesday. Roughly an hour later, they detected a deflection of about 29 millimeters between two girders and halted the operation. By mid-afternoon, as engineers and officials were back on the span to inspect the damage and discuss whether to shut down road and rail traffic below. At 2:33 p.m., without warning, a 15-meter section collapsed onto the tracks, killing three people and seriously injuring three others. Asked why the workers were sent onto a section that had already shown dangerous signs, the official said it was probably difficult to assess the damage from outside.

“To check the condition of

- [Lee calls for thorough preparations for Busan's hosting of UNESCO committee meeting in July](#) (2026-05-27 11:57)

President Lee Jae Myung on Wednesday called for thorough preparations for Busan's hosting of a meeting of a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) committee in July. The president made the call during an event to review preparations as Korea's second-largest city is set to host the 48th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee from July 19-29. The committee is responsible for selecting properties for UNESCO's World Heritage List, and the upcoming committee is expected to bring together officials from 196 member states. It marks the first time Korea will host a session of the committee since joining the World Heritage Convention in 1988. Lee described the upcoming session as an "important occasion to showcase Korea's advanced cultural capacity and global leadership on the world stage," calling for all-out efforts for preparations. The president emphasized the need for thorough preparedness, particularly in transportation, accommodation and safety.

- [Jeju moves to cap car rental discounts, end price wars](#) (2026-05-27 11:57)

Jeju officials announced Wednesday that the southern island will cap car rental discounts and standardize vehicle damage waivers, a sweeping regulatory effort to stabilize chaotic pricing and curb rising consumer disputes on the popular holiday destination. Under a legislative notice, rental companies on the island will be prohibited from discounting their registered daily rates by more than 60 percent. The rule, which replaces a decade-old rate-calculation regulation, follows a March amendment to the province's rental car ordinance. The move aims to halt aggressive undercutting among the island's many operators, which officials say has fueled a race to the bottom that ultimately compromises service quality and safety. Under the new framework, base rental rates must be anchored to objective financial data, including corporate accounting records and financial statements. It also addresses the ambiguity of vehicle damage waivers. For the first time, the province will explicitly define available waiver types, deductibles, coverage limits and "lost-use" fees — details often buried in fi

- [New garden path winds from Gyeongbok Palace to Cheong Wa Dae](#) (2026-05-27 06:02)

A once traffic-heavy corridor in central Seoul is being transformed into a tree-lined walking route designed to pull visitors out of cars and into the rhythm of the seasons. Jongno District said Wednesday that it completed a 4.3-kilometer roadside garden project linking areas around Gyeongbok Palace, Samcheong-ro, Hyoja-ro and Cheongwadae-ro. The project, developed over three years at a cost of 346 million won (\$230,000), was designed to create a pedestrian-friendly green corridor where tourists and residents can experience seasonal landscapes while walking through some of Seoul's most historically significant neighborhoods. District officials said the effort focused on blending urban greenery with historic surroundings near Gyeongbok Palace and Cheong Wa Dae. Old flower beds and aging planting areas were renovated, while plants of varying heights were arranged to create layered garden scenery along the streets. Hanging flower pots were also installed at pedestrian eye level to make flowers and greenery more visible throughout the route. The section along Cheongwadae-ro was renovated bet

- [Korea expands free hiking gear rentals across national parks](#) (2026-05-27 06:02)

Hikers heading into Korea's rugged national parks this summer will no longer need to arrive fully equipped, as the government sharply expands a free safety gear rental program aimed at preventing mountain accidents before they happen. The Korea National Park Service said Wednesday that it had expanded its free hiking equipment rental service to all 20 mountain-based national parks across the country, up from 12 parks last year. Beginning this month, the service added eight more parks, including Naejangsan, Gayasan, Juwangsan, Sobaeksan, Wolchulsan, Byeonsan and Taebaeksan. Geumjeongsan will begin rentals in July. The initiative allows visitors to borrow nine types of hiking safety equipment free of charge, including hiking boots, trekking poles, backpacks, knee protectors, emergency kits, crampons and hot packs. The program was first introduced as a pilot project at Bukhansan National Park in 2021 to reduce accidents caused by unprepared hiking. In 2024, it expanded to six urban-area national parks after being selected as a public service initiative by the Finance Ministry. Another six pa

- [Almonty Korea Tungsten donates festival winnings to elderly residents](#) (2026-05-27 06:02)

Employees of Almonty Korea Tungsten turned a tug-of-war victory into a donation for elderly residents in a former mining town, handing over all prize money earned at a major regional festival to local welfare programs. The global mining company said Wednesday that about 30 employees participated as representatives of Sangdong-eup in the 59th Danjong Cultural Festival in Yeongwol, Gangwon Province, and donated the entire 800,000 won (\$531) prize awarded by Yeongwol County to support older residents in the community. The donation was delivered to the Sangdong Community Security Council and will be used for meal support programs for elderly residents living alone and other vulnerable seniors in the area. Almonty Korea Tungsten placed third this year in the festival's traditional kudzu rope tug-of-war competition after finishing as runners-up last year. The annual event, one of Yeongwol's best-known cultural festivals, celebrates community unity and wishes for a plentiful harvest. Employees joined local residents in the competition and also volunteered at food stalls

operated by the Sangd

- [Korea overhauls diaspora support as visa applications reach record high](#) (2026-05-27 06:02)

A sweeping consolidation of Korea's immigration policies has triggered an unprecedented surge in residency status changes among the country's vast global diaspora, prompting the government to aggressively expand its domestic integration infrastructure. The Ministry of Justice said Wednesday that 36,561 ethnic Koreans living in the country had secured F-4 overseas Korean visas between Feb. 12 and May 12. The rush follows a highly anticipated policy shift earlier this year that streamlined and unified disparate residency qualifications. During that same brief window, a total of 47,632 individuals applied to transition to the F-4 status, with thousands of cases still under review. The rapid influx has exposed long-standing gaps in the state's resettlement pipeline, prompting immigration officials to pivot from passive oversight to active civic assimilation. To cope with the demand, the ministry announced it will provide direct government funding to diaspora support centers for the first time since the initiative's inception in 2008. Previously, these local entities operated on pre

- [Korea deploys drones to regrow scorched woodlands](#) (2026-05-27 06:02)

In a novel marriage of automotive innovation and environmental conservation, Korea is turning to electric vehicle technology and autonomous drones to heal its wildfire-scarred landscapes. The Korea Forest Service, led by Commissioner Park Eun-sik, signed a landmark partnership Tuesday with automotive giant Hyundai Motor and social enterprise Tree Planet. The tripartite agreement, finalized during a ceremony at the National Institute of Forest Science, establishes a joint framework for eco-driven corporate governance aimed at tackling the climate crisis through smart, tech-driven forestry. At the center of the initiative is the "Ioniq Drone Station," a cutting-edge system that integrates Hyundai's smart mobility technology with aerial drones to monitor and restore damaged ecosystems. The specialized stations, leveraging electric vehicle systems, serve as mobile command hubs that can deploy and manage drones in remote terrain. Under the new framework, this technology will be deployed across several critical fronts, including IT-based forest management, smart ecological restoration and

- [Lee to hold press conference on June 8 marking 1st anniversary of inauguration](#) (2026-05-27 06:02)

President Lee Jae Myung will hold a press conference early next month marking the first anniversary of his inauguration, a senior presidential official said Wednesday. The press conference will be held June 8 at Cheong Wa Dae, where Lee will review the first year of his administration and unveil his policy vision and key tasks for the second year and hold a question-and-answer session with reporters, the official said. The event will last one hour and 40 minutes or longer and will be attended by more than 100 local and foreign reporters, said Lee Kyu-youn, senior presidential secretary for public relations and communication. It marks Lee's fourth press conference since taking office June 4, 2025. The press conference will cover

three major areas — the economy, politics and diplomacy, and social and cultural issues, the senior official said.

- [FTC chief says no probe planned for Starbucks amid marketing controversy](#) (2026-05-27 06:02)

Korea's antitrust watchdog has no grounds to investigate Starbucks Korea over the coffee chain's controversial marketing campaign allegedly mocking the 1980s democracy movement, though it would be a "serious" issue if done intentionally, its chief said. Ju Biung-ghi, chairman of the Fair Trade Commission (FTC), made the remark during a press conference held in the central city of Sejong on Tuesday in response to questions about the watchdog's potential action against the Korean unit of the global coffee chain. "(Starbucks Korea) claims to have used the word 'tank' in a neutral way, but if it is revealed that the company had other intentions, it should apologize to the public and customers," Ju said. "If the phrase used in the marketing campaign was intended to deceive customers, that would be a serious issue," he added. The FTC chairman, however, said Starbucks Korea has not currently violated local fair trade rules, noting the agency has no grounds to pursue regulatory action against the company. "Mocking the tragic incident during the country's move toward democracy is an issue of publi

- [Childbirths soar to 7 year-high in March amid growing number of new marriages](#) (2026-05-27 06:02)

The number of babies born in Korea shot up nearly 20 percent in March to a seven-year high from 2025 amid a higher number of marriages, government data showed Wednesday. A total of 25,200 babies were born in March, jumping 19.4 percent from a year earlier, according to the data from the Ministry of Data and Statistics. It marked the highest number since 27,049 tallied in March 2019. The number of newborns has been on an upward trend since July 2024. Over the January-March period, the total number of births came to 75,013, up 14.8 percent from a year earlier. It was also the highest since the first quarter of 2019. The country's total fertility rate, the average number of children a woman is expected to have in her lifetime, rose 0.15 from a year earlier to 0.93 in March. The rate still remains well below the 2.1 births per woman needed to maintain a stable population without immigration. The number of marriages in March rose 10.1 percent from a year earlier to 21,112. The figure rose for 22 consecutive months through January before tumbling in February on the fewer number of working days d

- [Rail services likely to operate at 80% of normal capacity after Seoul overpass collapse](#) (2026-05-27 06:02)

Rail services nationwide are expected to operate at about 80 percent of normal capacity on Wednesday, the state-run rail operator said, following the partial collapse of an overpass near Seoul Station earlier this week. On Tuesday, the Seosomun Overpass, undergoing demolition in Seoul's western ward of Seodaemun, partially collapsed, killing three people and injuring three others. The debris damaged the power supply for the railway between Seoul Station and Sinchon Station, leading to suspensions or route changes for more than 130 trains on

Wednesday, according to the Korea Railroad Corp. (KORAIL). KORAIL said it will likely operate a total of 552 rail services on Wednesday, compared with the initially planned 683, forecasting the operation rate for the day at 80.8 percent. The number of high-speed rail services, including KTX trains, is expected to be cut from 331 to 245, which would bring the operation rate to 74 percent. In order to mitigate crowding at Seoul Station, KORAIL earlier said it would operate slower Mugunghwa trains on certain sections, such as between the central city of D

- [Jeonbuk National University reopens art hall after extensive renovation](#) (2026-05-27 06:02)

Jeonbuk National University has reopened an art hall following extensive renovation work, transforming it into a safer and more comfortable space for culture and the arts, the school said Tuesday. Yang O-bong, president of the university, held a reopening ceremony in the lobby of the Geon Ji Art Hall, a small theater at Jeonbuk National University's Samsung Art Center in Jeonju, North Jeolla Province, on Friday. The university said the renovation project was made possible through an 8 billion won donation from Kim Jeong-ok, chairperson of the Kim Hee-kyung Scholarship Foundation for European Humanities. The school noted that 6 billion won was invested in renovating the art hall as well as the Youngsan Hall, the main theater of the Samsung Art Center. “Geon Ji Art Hall was reborn thanks to Chairperson Kim’s valuable vision and dedication,” Yang said, “I hope the (reopened) art hall will become an open venue where members of our university as well as local residents can come together to enjoy culture and the arts.” Kim, senior school officials, professors and administrators of the

- [2 men stabbed at LG Electronics office in Seoul; suspect in custody](#) (2026-05-27 06:02)

Two men were stabbed Wednesday at an LG Electronics office in western Seoul, with the suspect currently in custody, authorities said. The men — one in his 50s and the other in his 40s — were found stabbed on the second floor of the company's Magok business center in Gangseo Ward after a report was filed at 11:18 a.m., according to police and firefighting officials. Both have been taken to hospitals with injuries to their arms and ribs, but neither was in life-threatening condition, they said. The suspect fled the scene and was later apprehended near Digital Media City Station, police said. He claimed to have been heading to a police station to turn himself in. The suspect is said to be an employee of a partner company, and reportedly claimed to have been harassed by the victims before attacking them out of sudden anger. Police said they plan to question the suspect to determine the details.

- [Sejong University launches Asia’s largest university-run AI virtual media studio](#) (2026-05-27 06:02)

Sejong University has opened Team Studios Sejong, the largest artificial intelligence (AI) virtual media studio at a university in Asia, the school said Tuesday. The university built the space in its Gwanggaeto Building, where a theater with a floor space of 990 square meters was turned into a studio equipped with advanced devices and facilities after extensive renovation work. The studio opening was the result of an industry-academia cooperation agreement the university signed with SK Telecom, the largest mobile carrier in Korea, in November 2023. Since then, the

school has carried out a range of joint research and collaborative projects with the company in the field of virtual media. During the process, SK Telecom donated large-scale LED walls and other advanced equipment previously used at its virtual studio in Pangyo, just south of Seoul, to the university. A school official said the donation was intended to support media research and industry collaboration by professors and students in the university's comics and animation technology program, paving the way for the establishment of

- [Seoul deploys AI, high-capacity pumps to combat summer floods](#) (2026-05-27 06:02)

Facing the growing threat of localized torrential rains and typhoons fueled by climate change, the Seoul Metropolitan Government is radically modernizing its emergency infrastructure. The city unveiled Wednesday a comprehensive reinforcement of its rescue operations, integrating artificial intelligence (AI) and heavy-duty industrial hardware to protect the capital ahead of the summer flood season. Under a comprehensive disaster response plan running through October, the Seoul Metropolitan Fire and Disaster Headquarters will operate an integrated command system designed for rapid deployments during complex water-related crises. The centerpiece of this year's defense is a new fleet of specialized tactical vehicles. The city has deployed high-capacity hydraulic drainage vehicles to the flood-prone districts of Gangnam and Yangcheon. These advanced machines utilize hydraulic pumps capable of draining up to 50 tons of water per minute from depths of up to 30 meters, allowing engineers to selectively clear deep subterranean spaces and low-lying roads. These will work alongside low-clearance f

- [K-water partners with OpenAI on AI-driven climate, water management](#) (2026-05-27 06:02)

Korea Water Resources Corp. (K-water) and OpenAI signed a memorandum of understanding Tuesday to develop artificial intelligence (AI)-powered water management technologies for climate change and disaster response, marking OpenAI's first collaboration with a climate-tech company worldwide, K-water said. Under the agreement, the two sides will cooperate in four key areas: accelerating AI transformation in water management, exploring generative AI solutions tailored to K-water, jointly developing AI technologies for climate disaster response and water management, and pursuing global expansion in climate and water-tech businesses. The partnership combines K-water's decades of operational expertise with OpenAI's globally competitive AI capabilities to strengthen responses to climate-related disasters such as floods and droughts, the state-run corporation said. K-water has been accelerating the adoption of AI-based technologies across the water management sector, including digital twin systems that recreate waterways in virtual environments and AI-powered water purification plants. The compan

- [Seoul applauds K-pop acts after historic 11-award haul at AMAs](#) (2026-05-27 06:02)

K-pop artists won major categories at the 52nd American Music Awards this week, prompting Culture Minister Chae Hwi-young to send congratulatory messages Wednesday to BTS, KATSEYE and the singing voices of Huntrix from the animated film "KPop Demon Hunters" for their victories at one of the biggest music award shows in the United States. The haul underscored

the genre's evolution from a regional subculture into a dominant force in the global music industry, marked by both the triumphant return of established icons and the arrival of highly successful cross-cultural experiments. Leading the charge was BTS, the powerhouse boy group that claimed the night's highest honor, Artist of the Year. The win marks the group's second time taking home the top prize, having made history in 2021 as the first Asian act to do so. Returning to full activities as a complete group this year, BTS also took home trophies for Best Male K-Pop Artist and Song of the Summer for their track "Swim," securing a hat trick. The ceremony also vaulted newer acts into the global spotlight. The multinational girl group

- [Korea, US begin joint analysis of Korean War remains](#) (2026-05-27 06:02)

Korea and the United States on Wednesday began their joint efforts to analyze remains presumed to be American soldiers killed during the 1950-53 Korean War, Seoul's defense ministry said Wednesday. The ministry said its war remains excavation team and the U.S. Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) launched a two-day forensic identification of such remains. A team comprising a dozen experts will analyze the specifications of three sets of remains believed to belong to U.S. soldiers ahead of their planned repatriation to the U.S. next month. Two of the remains are presumed to be soldiers of the 2nd Infantry Division, each found in Yanggu and Hongcheon counties in Gangwon Province in 2010 and 2021, respectively. The other remains were discovered in the central city of Sejong in 2012 and are presumed to be associated with the U.S. Army's 21st Regiment, 24th Infantry Division. Korea and the U.S. have conducted a regular joint analysis of the remains of their soldiers annually since the founding of the ministry's excavation team in 2007.

- [How shy Cambodian student became AI developer in Korea through GKS](#) (2026-05-27 06:02)

Studying, finding employment and settling down in a foreign country is rarely a smooth process — even for recipients of the Global Korea Scholarship (GKS), a government-funded program that covers tuition, living costs and language training for outstanding international students. What it cannot guarantee is that they stay. Sereimony Sek, a GKS alumna who arrived from Cambodia at 17 and now works as an artificial intelligence (AI) developer at a Seoul telecommunications company, says the difference often comes down to something simpler: whether students ask for help. “I think it's important to seek help when we need it because I've seen some GKS students give up their scholarships and return home for various reasons,” she told The Korea Times in a recent interview. “Because we come here through the GKS program, we already have a strong support network around us, so students shouldn't be afraid to reach out to others or ask for help.” Sek believes that such support systems and alumni networks can play an important role in helping international students adapt to life in Korea

- [Investigators quiz ex-JCS chairman over alleged role in martial law](#) (2026-05-27 06:02)

Kim Myung-soo, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS), appeared before special prosecutors Wednesday for questioning over his alleged involvement in an insurrection related to former President Yoon Suk Yeol's imposition of martial law. The second comprehensive special counsel team led by Kwon Chang-young began questioning Kim as a suspect in the morning on suspicion of performing key duties under the short-lived martial law imposed Dec. 3, 2024, which a Seoul district court has ruled had led to an insurrection, sentencing the former president to life imprisonment. Kim, a retired admiral, is accused of taking part in the alleged insurrection by forming a martial law command even after watching the controversial deployment of martial law troops to the National Assembly. Kwon's team views Kim's alleged issuance of a fragmentary order to the Army Special Warfare Command and the Capital Defense Command to prioritize martial law affairs as an act of complicity in insurrection. The team reportedly found indications during questioning of Lee Seung-oh, former chief director of operati

- [Kim Soo-hyun's agency says 'truth proven' through arrest of YouTuber charged with defamation](#) (2026-05-27 06:02)

Actor Kim Soo-hyun's agency said Wednesday that "truth has been proven" following the arrest of a conservative YouTuber charged with spreading false and fabricated information about the actor over his relationship with late actress Kim Sae-ron. On Tuesday, the Seoul Central District Court granted the arrest warrant for Kim Se-ui, operator of the YouTube channel Hover Lab, who is accused of defaming the actor by falsely claiming that the actor had dated the late actress 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. "At last, the truth has been proven through a legally established process and a thorough probe. ... (We) deeply thank investigative authorities for their efforts in uncovering the truth based on objective evidence," Gold Medalist, which represents the actor, said in a statement. The agency noted that the vari

- [Services of over 120 KTX trains disrupted due to Seoul overpass collapse](#) (2026-05-27 06:02)

Operations of more than 120 KTX high-speed trains have been suspended or undergone route changes after the partial collapse of an overpass near Seoul Station earlier this week, the state-run rail operator said Wednesday. On Tuesday, the Seosomun Overpass, undergoing demolition in Seoul's western ward of Seodaemun, partially collapsed, killing three people and injuring three others. The falling debris impacted power lines for the railway between Seoul Station and Sinchon Station, suspending KTX services between Seoul Station and Haengsin Station in Goyang, north of Seoul, according to the Korea Railroad Corp. (KORAIL). It also halted Gyeongui Line services between Seoul Station and Susaek Station in northwestern Seoul. Due to the incident, more than 120 KTX trains on the Gyeongbu Line, which connects the capital and the southeastern port city of Busan, Honam Line, Gyeongjeon Line, Donghae Line and Jeolla

Line have either been suspended or undergone route changes. In order to mitigate crowding at Seoul Station, KORAIL will also operate Mugunghwa trains on certain sections, such as between t

- [Prosecution launches team to probe deadly Seoul overpass collapse](#) (2026-05-27 00:02)

The prosecution said Wednesday it will launch a team to investigate the collapse of an overpass in Seoul that killed three people and injured three others the previous day. The Seoul Western District Prosecutors Office said in a notice to the press that the 11-member team, including four prosecutors and six investigators, will work closely with the police and labor officials to determine the cause of the accident and who is responsible, and provide swift assistance to the victims. The Seosomun Overpass in western Seoul partially collapsed during demolition work Tuesday, killing the chief supervisor of an engineering company, the site manager and an outside expert. The three injured were workers who suffered injuries to the waist, head and ribs, officials said. "We will ensure the investigation proceeds smoothly as the team works together with the police from the warrant application stage," a prosecution official said.

- [No vision, just vouchers? School chief candidates woo voters with cash promises](#) (2026-05-27 00:02)

The education superintendent elections were once a battleground for dueling visions of philosophy and big ideas. A decade ago, conservative and liberal candidates clashed over whether to prioritize increasing student rights or preserving teachers' authority and how far to expand parental choice alongside public schooling. That debate has all but disappeared. Ahead of the June 3 elections, the most visible campaign promises have little to do with teaching and learning. Leading candidates across the nation, regardless of their political views, are competing on how much cash or financial support they can channel directly to students and parents. In Seoul, incumbent Superintendent Jung Geun-sik pledged to move beyond the existing tuition-free system by making education for children aged three to five effectively free, while also eliminating many out-of-pocket costs for older students. Currently, parents pay no public school tuition but still cover expenses such as transport and field trips. Under his plan, the education office would fully fund education, meal, after-school and care costs

Source: The Korea Herald

- [Hackers breach Tving database, exposing user data](#) (2026-06-03 05:54)

South Korean streaming platform Tving said Wednesday that it had identified a data breach involving unauthorized access to users' personal information. In a notice posted on its website, the company said the compromised data may include user IDs, names, dates of birth, gender, mobile phone numbers and email addresses. Resident registration numbers and payment-related information were not exposed, according to the company. Tving did not disclose the number of affected users. According to Tving, t

- [N. Korea criticizes USFK commander' s 'dagger' remark on South Korea](#) (2026-06-03 05:47)

North Korea on Wednesday denounced recent remarks by the commander of US Forces Korea, who described South Korea as a “dagger in the heart of Asia” from China’ s perspective, arguing that Washington’ s regional strategy would only deepen security concerns and drive closer cooperation among countries seeking to counter the United States. The criticism came in a commentary carried by the Korean Central News Agency, which cited comments made by Gen. Xavier Brunson during a podcast interview last week

- [Ji Chang-wook of 'Colony' hit by tax probe](#) (2026-06-03 05:39)

Actor Ji Chang-wook has been assessed billions of won in additional taxes following an audit by South Korea's National Tax Service, the latest in a series of high-profile tax disputes involving popular Korean entertainers, including Cha Eun-woo and Kim Seon-ho. According to local reports published Tuesday, the Seoul Regional Tax Office imposed additional taxes after allegedly identifying issues related to underreported or improperly handled taxes during a nonroutine audit conducted around March.

- [Can't wait to see Neukgu? Daejeon O-World reopens Friday](#) (2026-06-03 05:27)

Fans of Neukgu won’ t have to wait much longer. The young wolf that broke out of a zoo in April and became a national sensation during its nine days on the lam is set to greet visitors again as Daejeon O-World prepares to reopen Friday. The reopening comes nearly two months after the zoo and amusement park suspended operations following the animal’ s escape to reinforce safety measures. Among the improvements are reinforced fencing, electric barriers and newly installed concrete foundations beneath

- [Kia starts Sportage Hybrid production at new Georgia plant](#) (2026-06-03 05:23)

Kia has begun producing its flagship Sportage Hybrid SUV in the US, aiming to capture growing demand for hybrid vehicles in North America while navigating looming auto tariffs. Kia America held a ceremony Tuesday to mark the launch of mass production of the vehicle. The event was attended by key figures, including Heo Tae-yang, executive vice president and CEO of Hyundai Motor Group Metaplant America, Yoon Seung-kyu, president of Kia North America and CEO of Kia America, and Georgia Gov. Brian K

- [KB begins chair selection amid governance overhaul](#) (2026-06-03 05:16)

KB Financial Group has started the process of choosing who will lead the group after incumbent Chair Yang Jong-hee's term ends in November, with a final nominee expected in September. The company said Tuesday its chairman candidate recommendation committee approved detailed rules for the selection process and narrowed its longlist of 20 candidates to 12, evenly split between internal and external contenders. The process is starting about one month earlier than last time. KB said the longer time

- [South Korea votes for metropolitan, regional heads](#) (2026-06-03 05:12)

South Korean voters on Wednesday went to the polls to elect leaders of autonomous governments and councilors, as well as local education chiefs and 14 lawmakers at the National Assembly. This year's comprehensive local elections and the parliamentary by-elections are the first nationwide votes since the presidential election in 2025. Polling stations opened at 6 a.m. Wednesday, with 4,241 posts up for grabs. According to the National Election Commission, a total of 7,767 people registered as can

- [AI boom reshapes Korea's status ladder](#) (2026-06-03 05:11)

South Korea's AI chip boom is creating a new class of corporate elite. Jobs at Samsung Electronics and SK hynix, long prized for their salaries and stability, are increasingly being treated as status symbols in everything from college admissions and job searches to dating and marriage, as soaring AI-driven profits transform perceptions of the semiconductor industry. Online, the phenomenon has been dubbed "Samjeon-nix," a portmanteau of "Samjeon," Korean shorthand for Samsung Electronics and SK h

- [Jeweled floral pots of auspicious blossoms recreated](#) (2026-06-03 04:58)

Peonies symbolizing wealth and honor, pine trees expressing wishes for longevity, lotus blossoms representing prosperity, orchids and plum blossoms evoking nobility and the ideal spirit of the scholar — all auspicious meanings are brought together in a single ornamental floral pot. When King Gojong sought to strengthen ties with France in 1888, among the treasures he dispatched to French President Marie Francois Sadi Carnot was a pair of "banhwa," elaborate ornaments fashioned as flowering plant

- [Iran fires missiles and US strikes Iran facility after reports of faltering peace talks](#) (2026-06-03 04:56)

The US military said Tuesday that Iran fired missiles at Kuwait and Bahrain that failed or were shot down, and that the US launched strikes on an Iranian facility in response. Iran fired missiles toward Kuwait and Bahrain, but failed to hit their targets, the US said. The two fired at Kuwait fell apart en route, while US and Bahraini forces intercepted the missiles aimed at Bahrain. US Central Command said it responded with strikes on an Iranian military ground control station on Qeshm Island in

- [How Setlog became Korea' s unexpected new blind date tool](#) (2026-06-03 04:22)

Dating in South Korea once followed a familiar playbook: a friend or colleague arranged a blind date, profiles and photos were exchanged over KakaoTalk, a few polite messages followed and two strangers met over coffee or dinner to decide whether there was chemistry. Now, some young Koreans are trying a different route: watching short clips of each other' s daily lives before deciding whether to meet at all. The trend is known as "Setlog blind dating," a matchmaking format built around Setlog, a s

- [Korea to triple oil imports, secure more LNG from Canada amid energy shock](#) (2026-06-03 04:15)

South Korea and Canada have agreed to deepen their partnership in energy and critical minerals as war in Iran and disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz reshape global supply chains. Under the agreement, Seoul plans to more than triple Canadian crude oil imports while securing additional LNG supplies through expanded investment in Canadian LNG projects. The agreement was reached Tuesday at a Korea-Canada forum on energy, resources and supply-chain cooperation in Ottawa, jointly hosted by South Korea

- [UN urges world to ready for extreme heat risk from El Nino](#) (2026-06-03 04:08)

The United Nations weather agency forecast on Tuesday a moderate or possibly a strong El Nino that could drive up global temperatures and increase the risk of extreme weather over the coming months. El Nino is a periodic warming of sea surface temperatures in the central and eastern Pacific Ocean, which typically lasts between nine and 12 months, according to the World Meteorological Organization. The WMO said warm ocean waters were driving El Nino's development and predicted above-average temp

- ['Crazy': Trump-Netanyahu relationship under growing strain](#) (2026-06-03 04:07)

They went to war together against Iran, but Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu's relationship is under strain after the US president reportedly called the Israeli premier "crazy." Trump unleashed a profane tirade over the phone at Netanyahu over Israel's threats to bomb the Lebanese capital Beirut, fearing it would undermine talks with Tehran, the Axios news outlet and ABC News reported. It underscored the increasingly shaky ties between two right-wing allies with lots to lose politically from

- [Bangladesh's foreign minister defeats Cyprus' ambassador to be UN General Assembly president](#) (2026-06-03 04:06)

Bangladesh's Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman won a hotly contested race Tuesday to be the next president of the 193-member UN General Assembly. In a secret-ballot vote, Rahman defeated Cyprus' Ambassador Andreas Kakouris 99-91, with three countries not voting. He will succeed Germany's former Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock, whose one-year term ends in September. The presidency of the world body rotates by region and this year it was the Asia-Pacific region's turn. While the presidency of th

- [Foreign hotel bookings in Busan surge ahead of BTS concert](#) (2026-06-03 04:02)

The number of hotel reservations booked by foreign tourists in the southeastern port city of Busan rose sharply ahead of next week's concert by K-pop sensation BTS, industry sources said Wednesday. According to Hanwha Hotels & Resorts, foreigners accounted for 42 percent of the rooms booked at its Matie Osiria hotel in the port city from June 11 to 13, up sharply from 0.2 percent during the same period last year. BTS' performances in Busan will take place June 12-13. Hanwha Hotels added that the

- [Snapshots from the polls](#) (2026-06-03 03:20)

Voting in South Korea's local elections began at 6 a.m. Wednesday, kicking off a nationwide vote that will shape local leadership for the next four years. People of all ages turned out to cast their ballots, including a 110-year-old woman in Gwangju. Children accompanying their parents to polling stations were also a common sight. While polling stations are typically set up at schools and community centers, a range of everyday venues were transformed into voting sites — from badminton courts and

- [\[Treasures from National Museum of Korea\] Seogam-ri Gold Buckle of Pyongyang](#) (2026-06-03 02:41)

Period - Nangrang Commandery Materials - Gold Category - Buckle Dimensions - 9.4 cm in length Designation - National Treasure This pure gold belt buckle is a 1st-century National Treasure crafted during the Nangrang (Lelang) period, following the fall of Gojoseon. Hundreds of tiny gold granules have been meticulously attached to a thin gold plate, while the rim is embellished with twisted gold wire. A total of 53.6 grams of gold was used in its creation. At the center is a large dragon surrounde

- [Rui Bao and Hui Bao to return to China this winter](#) (2026-06-03 02:41)

South Korea may soon be preparing to say goodbye to its beloved panda twins, again. Rui Bao and Hui Bao, the giant panda sisters born at Everland in 2023, are expected to return to China this winter, according to their zookeeper Kang Cheol-won, setting the stage for another emotional farewell for fans. In a video uploaded to Everland's YouTube channel on Wednesday, Kang said experts from Korea and China are in discussions to determine when the panda twins should return to China. "Fu Bao had a di

- [Hotter summers may force more trail restrictions at national parks](#) (2026-06-03 02:31)

Extreme heat could replace cold waves as the main weather risk leading to trail restrictions at Korea's national parks as climate change accelerates, according to a new study. The Korea National Park Service and the Global Sustainable Tourism Council on Wednesday published a study projecting how climate change could affect the number of days when mountain-type national parks meet weather-related criteria for restricting trail access. The study analyzed 18 mountain national parks, including Jiris

- [Winners likely to emerge around midnight; tight races may extend to 3-4 a.m.](#) (2026-06-03 02:16)

The outcome of most races in Wednesday's local elections and parliamentary by-elections is expected to become clear by midnight, while tightly contested races could remain undecided until around 3 a.m. or 4 a.m. Thursday, according to the National Election Commission. Voting, which began nationwide at 6 a.m., will continue until 6 p.m., after which exit poll results will be announced. Ballot counting is expected to begin in earnest about 20 minutes after polls close.

Results from metropolitan an

- [Korea's beloved sci-fi story is hitting the screen. Is the animation up to it?](#) (2026-06-03 02:14)

"Pilgrims" is built on the two things Korean cinema just can't seem to pull off. On paper, that's a recipe for disaster; on screen, it gets about halfway to proving otherwise. Start with the sci-fi problem. Koreans have proven time and again they can do period epics, gangster pictures, zombie thrillers — you name it — but science and speculative fiction remains the white whale. Homegrown titles of the past few years, from the lavishly mounted "Space Sweepers" to the 28-billion-won belly-flop "Th

- [‘Koreans are the Italians of Asia’ : Italian ambassador](#) (2026-06-03 02:14)

South Korea and Italy are "similar and complementary" countries, Italian Ambassador to Korea Emilia Gatto said as the two nations celebrated Italy's Republic Day in Seoul on Tuesday. "Korea truly loves 'Made in Italy,' and Italy truly loves K-culture," Gatto said, highlighting the strong cultural affinity between the two countries. At the event, marking the 80th anniversary of the Italian Republic, Gatto noted that bilateral ties continue to deepen, adding that President Lee Jae Myung is expecte

- [From Goryeo celadon to Dior bag, what gifts have Korea and France exchanged?](#) (2026-06-03 02:14)

"Your Excellency, I have the honor to inform you that I received yesterday the three crates containing the vases produced at the National Sevres Manufactory and presented by the President of the French Republic to His Majesty the King of Korea." So wrote French envoy Victor Collin de Plancy in a letter to King Gojong on June 22, 1888. The correspondence documented the arrival of a historic diplomatic gift: three pieces of Sevres porcelain — one Salamina vase and two Clodion vases — sent by Presi

- [Lee urges public to vote, says Korea' s future hangs on choosing capable and loyal civil servants](#) (2026-06-03 02:12)

President Lee Jae Myung on Wednesday urged voters not to give up their ballots, arguing that South Korea' s future depends on choosing capable and loyal public servants. In a message posted on social media, Lee said that he will make it impossible to profit from actions that violate the law and harm others, and that giving opportunities to capable individuals in a transparent manner is the foundation of such change. "As South Korea transforms from a country of real estate speculation into a premi

- [Trump administration drops \\$1.8 billion 'weaponization' fund after Republican backlash](#) (2026-06-03 02:08)

The Trump administration is abandoning the president's \$1.8 billion "weaponization" fund, US Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche told lawmakers Tuesday, after a rare backlash from

Republican senators. "We are not moving forward with the fund," Blanche said. "Period." But Blanche also told lawmakers that an agreement with Trump to bar future audits of his or his family's past tax records will remain in place. The fund emerged from a legal settlement between the US president and the Justice Depa

- [Defense minister resigns as protests rock Bolivia](#) (2026-06-03 02:08)

Bolivia's defense minister resigned on Tuesday after more than a month of protests demanding President Rodrigo Paz's ouster, a government source told Agence France-Presse. The departure signals a deepening political crisis that has paralyzed major cities and threatens Paz's government. Workers, farmers, miners, transport workers, and teachers are demanding measures to address the country's worst economic crisis in four decades. Paz, who was backed by US President Donald Trump, has warned that Bo

- ['It really feels like a homecoming': Yepoda returns to its K-beauty roots in Seoul](#) (2026-06-03 01:52)

Most K-beauty brands are heading west nowadays. This one found its way back to its roots. Founded in Germany by Dutch Korean entrepreneur Sander Joonyoung van Bladel and his German wife Veronika Strotmann, Yepoda opened its first Asian flagship last Saturday in Seongsu, Seoul. "The opening of our first store in Seoul's Seongsu district represents not only a new leap forward for the brand, but also a symbolic return to the Korean culture and market that form Yepoda's roots," Sander said in an int

- [Africa needs tech transfer, not just aid, Egyptian FM says](#) (2026-06-03 01:46)

Egypt-Korea partnership for sustainable development needs technology transfer and joint defense production African countries need technology transfer, investment and industrial cooperation from South Korea rather than aid-based ties, Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty said Tuesday, calling for "a real partnership based on mutual respect and win-win cooperation" and concrete outcomes for the 2029 Korea-Africa Summit. Technology transfer was a central theme of the discussions, with Abdelatty

- [SK chief looks beyond chips to AI factories](#) (2026-06-03 01:45)

SK Group Chairman Chey Tae-won said Tuesday that the conglomerate aims to move beyond supplying AI memory chips and eventually build "AI factories," while doubling wafer production capacity within five years to meet surging demand from the artificial intelligence boom. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of Computex 2026 in Taipei, Chey said SK's ambitions extend beyond its current role as a key supplier of memory chips for AI systems. "Today we produce memory chips for AI, but I want to chal

- [Samsung leveraged ETFs outtrade underlying shares; Tesla's never have](#) (2026-06-03 01:23)

South Korea's newly launched single-stock leveraged exchange-traded funds tied to Samsung Electronics and SK hynix are trading at levels rarely seen in major global markets, with turnover

in some products already exceeding that of the underlying shares themselves. The development has raised concerns that trading in the products akin to derivatives could begin influencing the stocks they are designed to track — a dynamic that industry officials often describe as the "wag the dog" effect. According

- [Teen turns himself in after stabbing another teen on bus](#) (2026-06-03 01:23)

A 17-year-old was arrested on Wednesday after allegedly stabbing another teen aboard a bus in Daejeon. Local police said that the suspect stabbed a passenger, a 14-year-old boy, on a bus traveling through Songgang-dong in Yuseong-gu on Tuesday at 9:47 p.m. and later fled the scene. The victim was taken to a nearby hospital for treatment. Further details on his condition were not immediately available. After the incident, the suspect turned himself in to the police. Authorities believe the stabbi

- [Korea's milk dilemma: Less demand, more imports](#) (2026-06-03 01:17)

Korea's dairy industry is approaching a pivotal moment as domestic milk consumption falls and more tariff-free milk imports are set to enter the country. According to the Korea Dairy Committee, the country's yearly milk consumption per person decreased to 22.9 kilograms last year, down 9.5 percent from 2024 and the lowest in about four decades. Despite weakening consumption, Korea's milk prices are among the highest in the world. According to Global Product Prices a liter of reduced-fat milk ret

- [Local election turnout hits 48.9% as of 2 p.m., higher than previous elections](#) (2026-06-03 01:05)

Nearly half of eligible voters had cast their ballots in Wednesday's local elections in South Korea by 2 p.m., pushing turnout to 48.9 percent — well above the level seen in previous local elections. According to the National Election Commission, the 2 p.m. turnout was 8.2 percentage points higher than the 40.7 percent recorded at the same point in the 2022 elections. Unlike morning tallies, the figure includes early voting ballots cast on May 29 and 30. Of the country's 44.65 million eligible v

- [Veteran midfielder gearing up for final World Cup](#) (2026-06-03 00:51)

Midfielder Lee Jae-sung is preparing for his third FIFA World Cup, which kicks off next week in Mexico for South Korea. The 33-year-old believes it will also be his last one. Lee, 33, previously represented the country at the 2018 and 2022 World Cups. Captain Son Heung-min, another 33-year-old and a close friend of Lee's, hasn't ruled out the possibility of playing in another World Cup. But Lee was adamant Tuesday that he won't be around for another. "I think this will be my final World Cup as a

- [Police identify all 5 victims killed in Hanwha plant explosion](#) (2026-06-03 00:33)

Police said Wednesday they have identified all five victims killed in the Hanwha Aerospace factory explosion and plan to return their bodies to their families. The Daejeon Metropolitan

Police Agency said the identities of the five victims were confirmed through DNA analysis by the National Forensic Service. "We cross-referenced the victims' DNA with that of their family members to identify them," a police official said. "We plan to return the bodies to the families." A funeral is expected to be

- [\[Graphic News\] S. Korea TOEIC ranking rises to 5th in Asia](#) (2026-06-02 23:00)

South Korea's average TOEIC score rose to 682 last year, up four points from a year earlier and ranking 17th among 39 countries and fifth in Asia, according to the Korea TOEIC Committee under YBM. The Test of English for International Communication, better known as TOEIC, is a standardized English-language test widely used to assess workplace English proficiency among non-native speakers. Germany recorded the highest average score at 851, followed by Lebanon at 850, Belgium at 780, Italy at 776

- [When AI becomes doctor, therapist and confidant](#) (2026-06-02 22:00)

A post about a woman seeking repeated reassurance from an artificial intelligence chatbot over health concerns has sparked debate in South Korea over how deeply generative AI is infiltrating people's emotional lives and decision-making. The post, shared on the workplace community platform Remember, said the writer's girlfriend, who has health anxiety, spends up to three hours talking to Gemini and often worries that minor physical discomfort could be a sign of serious illness. "She asks Gemini t

- [S. Koreans head to polls in local elections](#) (2026-06-02 21:07)

South Koreans hit the polls Wednesday to elect mayors, governors, local council members and regional education chiefs in crucial local elections that could set the path for the Lee Jae Myung administration in its second year in office. Voting kicked off at 6:00 a.m. and will continue until 6:00 p.m. at 14,288 polling stations nationwide, according to the National Election Commission. More than 44.6 million people are eligible to vote, among whom 10.4 million already cast their ballots during the

- [Earth is likely to break another heat record](#) (2026-06-02 21:00)

The world has an 86 percent chance of experiencing its hottest year on record between 2026 and 2030, according to a new report released by the World Meteorological Organization. The report, known as the Global Annual to Decadal Climate Update 2026-2035, was led by the UK Met Office and incorporated 250 climate model projections from 13 institutions worldwide, including the Korea Meteorological Administration. The WMO projected that the global average near-surface temperature from 2026 to 2030 wi

- [\[Kim Seong-kon\]What are we actually voting for?](#) (2026-06-02 20:30)

In a democracy, people vote to make a difference. Indeed, voters can decide whether their government deserves to be reelected or replaced. Without an electoral system, incompetent or even tyrannical leaders could remain in power indefinitely. Therefore, voting is a prerequisite

for any democratic country. Naturally, politicians are uneasy about elections. As election day approaches, many politicians become anxious and restless because they may either be reelected or voted out of office, depending

- [\[Jim Nowlan\]Dark money in US elections](#) (2026-06-02 20:30)

American political party organizations have imploded in the post-World War II era, largely replaced by dark money from unknown donors. The party vacuum is ominous for a healthy democracy, because voters are left without stable cues about how to vote. There are options that could — it won't be easy — strengthen parties and diminish the impact of dark money. The traditional political party has four roles: establish and promote a platform; recruit candidates to seek election on that platform; condu

- [Nvidia chief, SK Group's Chey meet in Taipei to discuss AI memory chip cooperation](#) (2026-06-02 12:34)

Jensen Huang, chief executive officer of US chip giant Nvidia, met with SK Group Chairman Chey Tae-won in Taipei to discuss the future of cooperation in artificial intelligence memory, SK Group said Tuesday. The meeting took place in Taipei on Monday, according to a post on SK Group's Facebook account. Both executives were in the Taiwanese capital to attend Computex, one of Asia's largest technology trade shows. "With SK hynix reaching a market capitalization of US\$1 trillion, the executives of

- [National security adviser meets US under secretary of state for talks on security](#) (2026-06-02 11:55)

National Security Adviser Wi Sung-lac met with visiting US Under Secretary of State Allison Hooker on Tuesday, welcoming the launch of follow-up negotiations on an agreement reached by their countries' leaders last year. "We hope that two days of productive talks will help accelerate progress on the matter," Cheong Wa Dae said in a press release. "Both sides reaffirmed the ROK-US alliance as a central pillar of peace and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula and in the Indo-Pacific, and pledged to

- [Korea's bestselling soju lowers alcohol content](#) (2026-06-02 11:42)

South Korean liquor-maker HiteJinro announced Tuesday that it will lower the alcoholic content of its flagship soju brand, Chamisul Fresh, from 16 percent to 15.7 percent to better align with changing consumer preferences. Chamisul Fresh is the No. 1 soju brand by domestic sales. This update follows the brand's last reformulation two years and four months ago. The refreshed Chamisul Fresh will be available nationwide through distribution channels starting in mid-June. The company stated that thi

- [World No. 3 Kim Hyo-joo headlines South Korean contingent at LPGA major](#) (2026-06-02 11:12)

Kim Hyo-joo, world No. 3 in women's golf with two LPGA titles this season, will lead the South Korean contingent at the second major tournament of the year this week in California. Kim will be one of 23 South Korean players in the field of 156 at the 81st U.S. Women's Open at Riviera Country Club in Pacific Palisades, near Los Angeles, starting Thursday. Kim is one of four players to win multiple times this LPGA season. World No. 1 Nelly Korda has won three times, while Kim, second-ranked Jeeno

- [Psy referred to prosecutors over alleged proxy drug pickup](#) (2026-06-02 10:22)

Psy, the singer behind 2012 K-pop megahit "Gangnam Style," has been referred to prosecutors over allegations he had a manager collect psychotropic medication on his behalf. According to local media reports Tuesday, the Seoul Western District Prosecutors' Office received the case from police on Monday and is investigating Psy, his manager, a professor at a university hospital in Seoul and another individual on suspicion of violating the Medical Service Act. Psy is accused of receiving prescriptio

- [Meow looks beyond genres with Bach-inspired new EP](#) (2026-06-02 10:22)

Meow is betting that one of classical music's most recognizable melodies can help define the rookie girl group's future. The five-member act returned Monday with its second EP, "Bite Now," led by "Ddi Ro Ri," a main track built around a reinterpretation of Johann Sebastian Bach's "Tocatta and Fugue in D minor." Rather than treating the classical piece as a novelty, the group said it saw the song as an opportunity to showcase its evolving musical identity and willingness to experiment across gen

- [BTS to release special vinyl edition of 'Arirang' for 13th debut anniversary](#) (2026-06-02 08:51)

BTS will celebrate 13 years since its debut with a special limited-edition vinyl release of its fifth LP, "Arirang." According to Big Hit Music, the vinyl version of the album will be released on June 12, a day before the group's anniversary. The vinyl will feature all the tracks from "Arirang" that were released on March 20, along with two bonus tracks: "Voice Message: Love Song" and "Normal (Korean Ver.)," bringing the total number of tracks on the record to 16. "Voice Message: Love Song" expa

- [TripleS opens new chapter with brighter full-group comeback](#) (2026-06-02 08:51)

Girl group TripleS returned Monday with its first full-group comeback in roughly a year, unveiling "Love & Pop Pt. 1" as the opening chapter of a new trilogy that aims to deliver comfort, solidarity and encouragement to young people still reaching their potential. The 24-member act introduced the album during a showcase in central Seoul as a new chapter for the group that will unfold across three releases. "Love & Pop Pt. 1" marks the beginning of a new full-group trilogy," explained member Yeo

- [Swim, bike, run, chill by the Han River this weekend](#) (2026-06-02 08:43)

Seoul will hold a three-day noncompetitive triathlon event along the Han River this weekend, inviting residents and visitors to swim, cycle and run at their own pace. The third annual My Pace Hangang Triathlon Festival will take place from Friday to Sunday around Ttukseom and Jamsil Han River parks, the Seoul Metropolitan Government said Tuesday. The city expects a large turnout after last year's festival drew 650,000 visitors. The festival centers on three activities — swimming, cycling and run

- [Cabinet approves bill to support defense semiconductor industry](#) (2026-06-02 08:24)

South Korea's Cabinet on Tuesday approved a bill aimed at fostering the country's defense semiconductor industry, the Ministry of National Defense said. The bill on nurturing and supporting defense semiconductors is expected to be promulgated later this month and could take effect as early as the fourth quarter, after related enforcement decrees and regulations are prepared. Defense semiconductors are key components of advanced weapons systems, but the sector has lacked a dedicated legal framework

- [1967 Korea Herald edition to be acquired as Korean War artifact](#) (2026-06-02 08:18)

The Ministry of Unification is acquiring Korean War-related artifacts, including a 1967 edition of The Korea Herald, for research at the National Memorial for Abductees during the Korean War in Paju. The ministry unveiled a list of 125 historical items it plans to purchase for research and exhibition, ranging from historical documents and publications to everyday goods. The collection includes printed materials, such as a copy of the Korean War Armistice Agreement, estimated to date back to 1953

- [NIS to draw up rules on tackling transnational crime](#) (2026-06-02 08:11)

South Korea's spy agency plans to establish new rules to respond to growing transnational crimes, including drug trafficking, scams and cyber gambling. The National Intelligence Service said Tuesday it has issued an advance notice of a proposed decree on response procedures against international criminal organizations and will collect public opinions until July 13. The NIS said the measure aims to strengthen its response to crimes that increasingly threaten public safety and national security. T

- [Lee says he hopes to regularize Korea-Africa summits](#) (2026-06-02 08:10)

President Lee Jae Myung on Tuesday voiced hope for the Korea-Africa summit to be held on a regular basis, saying his government is paying special attention to Africa's potential for growth and development. Lee made the remarks at Cheong Wa Dae during a meeting with foreign ministers from 19 African countries and representatives of the African Union, the African Continental Free Trade Area and the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The meeting came a day after Seoul hosted the inau

- [Yes to grasshoppers, no to ants: How does Korea decide which bugs can be grub?](#) (2026-06-02 07:30)

Grasshoppers have made it onto South Korea's dinner tables, at least legally. Ants and cockroaches, however, remain off the menu. On Tuesday, South Korea approved *Parapodisma mikado*, a species of grasshopper, as a food ingredient, expanding the country's short list of edible insects. The decision has renewed attention on a question that may sound simple but is tightly regulated: Why are some insects approved as food while others are not? The answer lies in a regulatory system that requires years

- [Kospi rally is real, but Korea's rerating has only begun: Shinyoung strategist](#) (2026-06-02 07:28)

The Kospi's historic rally may have changed the way investors talk about the Korea Discount, but it has not erased the deeper valuation gap that still weighs on Korean equities, according to Kim Hak-kyun, head of research at Shinyoung Securities. "(The) Korea Discount has been fully resolved if you are talking about whether stock prices failed to rise," Kim said in an interview with The Korea Herald in Yeouido, Seoul, on Monday. "But if the term refers more precisely to how undervalued Korean co

- [Seoul shares again end at record high on Samsung's performance](#) (2026-06-02 07:11)

South Korean stocks closed at a fresh high of above the landmark 8,800-point level Tuesday as tech shares continued to advance on optimism over artificial intelligence, led by chip giant Samsung Electronics, offsetting a market-wide profit-taking mode. The local currency fell sharply against the US dollar. The benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index added 13.11 points, or 0.15 percent, to close at 8,801.49. The index opened higher and climbed to a record intraday high of 8,933.62 before reve

- [Who's who in key election battlegrounds?](#) (2026-06-02 07:01)

With 4,241 posts up for grabs in Wednesday's elections, including 16 key executive seats and 14 parliamentary seats being contended in by-elections, several races stand out as key battles. The outcomes could have significant ramifications for either of the two main parties, as well as the Lee Jae Myung administration itself. Chong Won-o, the Democratic Party of Korea's Seoul mayoral candidate, has consistently been ahead in opinion polls, but his lead over incumbent Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon has be

- [James Milner retires after 24-year career](#) (2026-06-02 06:58)

James Milner, one of English soccer's most durable and respected veterans, has officially retired after a professional career spanning 24 years. The 40-year-old announced his retirement Sunday on social media, bringing his playing days to an end after his contract with Brighton & Hove Albion expired. He spent the final three seasons of his career with the club. Born in 1986, Milner made his Premier League debut for Leeds United in November 2002 at just 16 years old. At the time, he was the secon

- [Park Min-ji Jumps in world rankings after 20th KPGA Tour Victory](#) (2026-06-02 06:58)

Park Min-ji, who recently became just the third player in KLPGA history to reach 20 career victories, made a significant leap in the women's world golf rankings. In the latest women's rankings released Sunday, Park climbed 57 spots from the previous week to No. 104. Park secured her milestone 20th KLPGA Tour title by winning the SH Suhyup Bank MBN Women's Open, which concluded on Sunday. The victory made her only the third player in KLPGA Tour history to reach the 20-win mark. Since earning her

- [Rival parties make final push for support on eve of local elections](#) (2026-06-02 06:53)

The ruling and opposition parties made last-ditch appeals for support Tuesday, the eve of nationwide local elections, a vote widely seen as a test of public sentiment toward President Lee Jae Myung's first year in office. Up for grabs in the June 3 elections are 16 mayoral and gubernatorial posts, along with 227 heads of local governments and some 4,000 members of local councils. This year's elections carry added significance as 14 National Assembly seats are also at stake in parliamentary by-el

- [TCK wins WealthBriefingAsia award for third straight year](#) (2026-06-02 06:48)

TCK Investments said Monday it had won a WealthBriefingAsia Award for the third consecutive year, earning recognition for its wealth management services for high-net-worth individuals in South Korea. The award, presented by UK-based company ClearView Financial Media, recognizes excellence and innovation in private banking, family office and wealth management services across Asia. TCK was named the winner in the Multi-Family Office, Private Bank or External Asset Manager (South Korea) category. T

- [Seoul shares again end at record high on Samsung's performance](#) (2026-06-02 06:48)

South Korean stocks closed at a fresh high of above the landmark 8,800-point level Tuesday as tech shares continued to advance on optimism over artificial intelligence, led by chip giant Samsung Electronics, offsetting a market-wide profit-taking mode. The local currency fell sharply against the US dollar. The benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index added 13.11 points, or 0.15 percent, to close at 8,801.49. The index opened higher and climbed to a record intraday high of 8,933.62 before reve

- [Genesis marks Marilyn Monroe centennial with New York exhibition](#) (2026-06-02 06:46)

Genesis, the luxury brand of Hyundai Motor Group, said Tuesday it is hosting a special exhibition on Marilyn Monroe at its New York cultural space, Genesis House, to mark the 100th anniversary of the Hollywood icon's birth. Titled "Manifesting Marilyn," the two-month exhibition, which opened June 1, explores Monroe's life beyond her public image through immersive storytelling and interactive experiences. The exhibition opens with "The Headline Room," featuring newspaper clippings and photographs

- [Hanwha Aerospace halts production after deadly Daejeon blast](#) (2026-06-02 06:31)

Hanwha Aerospace has halted part of its production operations at its Daejeon facility following a deadly explosion that killed five workers and injured two others, as authorities launch a joint investigation into the cause of the accident. The Hanwha Group defense affiliate said in a regulatory filing Tuesday that it suspended parts of production at its Daejeon site from Monday, after receiving a suspension order from the Daejeon Regional Employment and Labor Office. The company said the order w

- [A sleepless Korean won: Will 24-hour trading pay off?](#) (2026-06-02 06:23)

The Korean won is about to lose its bedtime as the country introduces round-the-clock trading of the currency against the US dollar next month. While trading of the won against the greenback, the world's dominant reserve currency, already operates for longer hours than exchanges involving other currencies, it will be extended to run 24 hours on weekdays starting July 6. The shift comes at a time when the local won is facing sustained depreciation pressure. On Tuesday, the currency was quoted at

- [Hyosung supports descendants of independence fighters in Uzbekistan](#) (2026-06-02 06:13)

Hyosung Group said Tuesday it has donated to the international children's rights organization Good Neighbors to support descendants of Korean independence activists living in Uzbekistan. The donation, made ahead of Korea's National Patriots and Veterans Month in June, is intended to honor independence fighters who devoted their lives to the nation's liberation and support their descendants. The program will assist 33 descendants and ethnic Koreans from 13 households in Uzbekistan. Hyosung and Go

- [Homeplus sounds out Alibaba, Temu in survival sale](#) (2026-06-02 05:55)

Homeplus has put its remaining operations up for sale after agreeing to dispose of its supermarket arm, industry sources said Tuesday, courting domestic and foreign buyers as the debt-laden retailer seeks funding ahead of a court-imposed restructuring deadline. According to the sources, Homeplus's sales adviser, PwC Korea, has sent teaser materials to more than 10 domestic and overseas strategic investors as part of a sale process for the retailer's hypermarket and online businesses. Potential b

- [Korea, Africa seek deeper economic ties at business forum in Seoul](#) (2026-06-02 05:54)

Business leaders and government officials from South Korea and across Africa gathered in Seoul on Tuesday to explore ways to expand trade, investment and industrial cooperation. The Korea-Africa Business Forum, held a day after the inaugural Korea-Africa Foreign Ministers' Meeting, brought together roughly 300 participants from South Korea and 50 African countries under the theme, "Korea-Africa Business Partnership: The Future of Shared Prosperity and Joint Growth." The event comes as Seoul seek

- [Nvidia's Vera Rubin uses 182% more capacitors, boosting Samsung Electro-Mechanics](#) (2026-06-02 05:46)

Nvidia's Vera Rubin rollout is creating a new winner in the artificial intelligence supply chain: multilayer ceramic capacitors. A Morgan Stanley analysis estimates the MLCC content of Nvidia's next-generation VR200 NVL72 server rack at about \$4,320, up 182 percent from roughly \$1,530 in the previous-generation GB300 system. The sharp increase is tightening supply in a market where demand is already outpacing production, allowing manufacturers such as Samsung Electro-Mechanics to raise prices an

- [Doosan Robotics extends rally on Huang's Korea robotics push](#) (2026-06-02 05:46)

Doosan Robotics shares jumped again Tuesday after Nvidia chief executive Jensen Huang singled out robotics as a focus for the chipmaker's possible investment in South Korea. The stock was trading at 157,900 won (\$104.12) per share by midday Tuesday on the Korea Exchange, up 14.09 percent from the previous session. The gain came on top of a 29.95 percent surge Monday, when the stock hit its daily price ceiling. Korean exchanges cap single-day moves at 30 percent. Speaking late Monday at a dinner

- [What to know about South Korea's June 3 local elections](#) (2026-06-02 05:40)

South Korea is set to hold nationwide local elections on Wednesday, with voters choosing governors, mayors, local council members and education superintendents across the country. The elections mark the ninth nationwide local elections since the restoration of local autonomy in 1995. Local elections are held every four years, midway between National Assembly elections, a schedule designed to prevent the two major electoral events from overlapping and to allow voters to assess local and national

- [Seoul to streamline regulations for imports of key semiconductor manufacturing equipment](#) (2026-06-02 05:31)

The government will streamline import procedures for extreme ultraviolet, key equipment used for semiconductor manufacturing, as part of a broader effort to help the booming chip industry maintain its manufacturing competitiveness, the industry ministry said Tuesday. Under the revised enforcement decree of the High-Pressure Gas Safety Control Act endorsed by the Cabinet, imports of EUV equipment are expected to take about nine days from now on, shortened from the current 34 days, according to th

- [Classical Bridge turns theme of connection into a family affair](#) (2026-06-02 05:30)

This year's Classical Bridge International Music Festival turns its founding idea —connection — into something the audience can watch unfold onstage. Cellist Mischa Maisky will perform alongside his son and daughter, and Geneva-born violist Lyda Chen will watch her teenage son make his Korean debut. "I'll have the privilege to listen to my own son perform for the first time in Korea. It's his debut," said Chen, the daughter of pianist Martha Argerich. The festival, she added, is "that bridge for

- [Seoul shares sharply down late Tue. morning on profit-taking](#) (2026-06-02 05:30)

South Korean stocks traded lower late Tuesday morning as investors rushed to cash out market heavyweights, bucking overnight gains on Wall Street. Opening a tad higher, the benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index was down 188.63 points, or 2.15 percent, to 8,599.75 as of 11:20 a.m. Overnight, US stocks finished higher, with major indexes reaching fresh record highs as a rally in tech shares lifted market sentiment. US chip giant Nvidia surged more than 6 percent after CEO Jensen Huang unveiled

- ['Supergirl' sets June 24 Korean release, with a Le Sserafim single onboard](#) (2026-06-02 05:30)

The wait for "Supergirl," the latest entry in DC Studios' rebooted superhero slate, now has a date attached — and for K-pop fans, a soundtrack to go with it. Warner Bros. Korea said Tuesday that "Supergirl" will open in local theaters June 24, two days ahead of its North American bow. Directed by Craig Gillespie, the film stars Milly Alcock as Kara Zor-El, Superman's cousin and the film's title hero, and Jason Momoa as the bounty hunter Lobo. For a sizable slice of viewers, though, the bigger dr

- [Who is Heo Nam-jun, the latest heartthrob from 'My Royal Nemesis'?](#) (2026-06-02 05:29)

For K-drama fans, "My Royal Nemesis" is the clear watercooler show of the season. The unlikely courtship between a woman from 300 years ago and a modern-day chaebol has pulled off a rare dual triumph, topping both domestic linear broadcast ratings and Netflix's viewership charts. But the drama's most notable success story may be the emergence of its leading man, Heo Nam-jun. A relative newcomer who has morphed into one of the market's hotly sought-after talents, Heo's rapid rise may suggest a bo

- [Alex Katz's studies reveal how fleeting moments are transformed into paintings](#) (2026-06-02 05:29)

Alex Katz' s pursuit of the fleeting present takes center stage at the exhibition "Studies" at Thaddaeus Ropac gallery in Seoul, unveiling how the American painter captures a passing moment before refining it into his signature large-format canvases. The exhibition offers a rare glimpse of the working process of the celebrated artist, now 97, whose career spans more than seven decades. Rather than focusing solely on the monumental portraits and landscapes that made him internationally renowned, t

- [Samsung reveals HBM5 mockup in bid to regain AI memory lead](#) (2026-06-02 05:28)

Samsung Electronics unveiled a mockup of its HBM5 memory and a new heat-management technology at Computex 2026, signaling its ambition to regain momentum in the artificial intelligence memory race as competition with SK hynix intensifies. At the annual technology exhibition in Taiwan on Tuesday, Samsung showcased the planned architecture of its seventh-generation high-bandwidth memory, or HBM5, featuring a new thermal solution called Heat Path Block designed to improve heat dissipation in increa

- [SK, Nvidia chiefs meet again as AI memory race intensifies](#) (2026-06-02 05:06)

SK Group Chairman Chey Tae-won met Nvidia Chief Executive Officer Jensen Huang in Taipei, Taiwan on Monday for talks on artificial intelligence memory cooperation, as high bandwidth memory becomes increasingly central to the global AI supply chain. SK hynix, the chipmaking arm of SK Group, posted photos of the meeting on its official social media account, showing Chey and Huang with senior executives from both companies, including SK hynix CEO Kwak Noh-jung. The meeting took place on the sidelines.

- [S. Korea, US begin nuclear talks on Seoul's submarine, fuel-cycle bids](#) (2026-06-02 04:50)

South Korea and the US have formally launched interagency talks on nuclear cooperation centered on Seoul's pursuit of nuclear-powered submarines and greater autonomy over the nuclear fuel cycle. First Vice Foreign Minister Park Yoon-joo and US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Allison Hooker convened the launch meeting Tuesday morning at the Foreign Ministry in Seoul, after a delay of several months. The talks, which will continue through Wednesday will focus on how to implement security

- [Unexpected polling stations awaiting voters on Election Day](#) (2026-06-02 04:37)

Across South Korea, a variety of spaces — from barbecue restaurants to wedding halls — are serving as polling stations for Wednesday's local elections and parliamentary by-elections. In Gwangmyeong, Gyeonggi Province, Sangsang Chowoel Dwaegi Galbi, a Korean barbecue restaurant known for its pork ribs, will again open to voters as a polling station, a role it has served for more than a decade. "We have enough room to separate the polling area from the restaurant, so business can continue as usual

- [In South Korea, even tteokbokki can carry political meaning](#) (2026-06-02 04:33)

Even the color of tteokbokki can take on political significance during election season in Korea. A viral post on X on Saturday showed a meal that included tteokbokki in its original red color alongside an edited version in which the dish had been turned blue. The post was captioned: "I voted and now I'm eating tteokbokki." Because red and blue are associated with South Korea's two main political camps, many interpreted the edited image as a lighthearted attempt to avoid appearing partisan. "Ah.

- [LA students turn K-pop class into pitches](#) (2026-06-02 04:19)

US students taking K-pop classes in Los Angeles visited Korean content industry sites in the city to pitch projects, the South Korean Consulate General in Los Angeles said Tuesday. During the visit on May 20, the students worked in teams to present global marketing plans, fandom strategies, music trend analyses and concepts for K-pop groups to industry experts, who provided feedback on their projects. The students came from four middle and high schools in Los Angeles that currently offer K-pop classes.

- [Zambia looking for concrete gains from Korea-Africa talks: deputy secretary](#) (2026-06-02 04:02)

Zambia is urging South Korea to move beyond pledges and deliver financing commitments, industrial investment and technology partnerships as Seoul expands its engagement with African countries, says Siazongo Siakalenge, Zambia's deputy secretary to the cabinet for finance and economic development. In an interview with The Korea Herald, Siakalenge said that Lusaka hopes the meeting will deliver practical partnerships in infrastructure, digital transformation, green growth and industrial development.

- [Scott Pelley of '60 Minutes' accuses CBS News head Bari Weiss of 'murdering' the show, report says](#) (2026-06-02 02:49)

NEW YORK (AP) -- In a remarkable sign of the turmoil at CBS's top-rated "60 Minutes," correspondent Scott Pelley said CBS News head Bari Weiss was "murdering the show" and accused its new producer of having "slender qualifications" for the job, according to reports. Pelley made his accusations in an introductory meeting Monday between the newsmagazine's staff and Nick Bilton, the new executive producer named by Weiss last week, according to a detailed report on the Status website, which said it

- [Families name slain loved ones to keep cases from fading](#) (2026-06-02 02:46)

The parents of Lee Chae-won, a 17-year-old high school student killed in a stabbing attack on Children's Day, have shared their daughter's story with local media this week. Lee was described as a kindhearted teenager who dreamed of becoming a paramedic. The coverage gave a face and a life to a girl who had previously been known to the public only as a victim of a violent crime in Gwangju on May 5. Her parents are among a growing number of bereaved families who have voluntarily revealed the identity

- [And2ble's debut album scores record 1st-week sales](#) (2026-06-02 02:41)

The first EP from And2ble sold more than 730,000 copies in its first week, the group's agency YH Entertainment said Tuesday, citing a local tally. "Sequence 01: Curiosity" exceeded half a million in sales in three days before becoming the fourth most sold album for a K-pop group debut. The mini album was released on May 26 and ranked among the top 10 on the iTunes Top Albums Chart in 23 regions, hitting No. 2 on the Worldwide iTunes Albums Chart. The main track "Curious" topped the iTunes Top Songs

- [Forget elite universities. Semiconductor high schools are the new hot ticket](#) (2026-06-02 02:40)

Admission to a prestigious university is no longer seen as the only path to success for some students in South Korea, as semiconductor-focused high schools gain popularity on the expectation that they can lead directly to jobs at major chipmakers. Korea Semiconductor Meister High School in Gyeongju, North Gyeongsang Province, decided to hold a second admissions information session on June 20 after turnout at the initial session held May 30

exceeded the 120 seats prepared by the school. “More stu

- [S. Korea's content industry exports hit record \\$14.9b in 2025](#) (2026-06-02 02:36)

South Korea's content industry exports hit a record high last year, buoyed by government policies to nurture the "K-content" industry into a key growth sector, the culture ministry said Tuesday. Content exports tentatively reached \$14.9 billion in 2025, compared with \$14.1 billion the previous year, according to the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism. The number of overseas tourists who visited South Korea also rose to a new high of 18.9 million last year, up from 16.3 million a year earlie

- [Meet the marten: Forest hunter named June's endangered species of the month](#) (2026-06-02 02:35)

A forest predator known for hunting in packs and navigating rugged mountain terrain has been named South Korea's endangered wildlife species of the month for June, the Ministry of Energy, Climate and Environment said Tuesday. Known in Korea as "dambi," the marten is a Class II endangered mammal recognizable by its dark brown coat and distinctive yellow neck fur. The species is found in forested areas across much of the Korean Peninsula, though it is absent from Jeju Island and some outlying isla

- [SK Bioscience wins first UNICEF flu vaccine contract](#) (2026-06-02 02:35)

SK Bioscience said Tuesday it had been selected as a supplier of influenza vaccines to UNICEF, securing its first procurement contract with the United Nations agency and expanding its presence in the global public vaccine market. The agreement covers vaccine supplies for both the Southern and Northern Hemispheres. The company has already begun shipments to Southern Hemisphere countries and plans to start deliveries for Northern Hemisphere vaccination programs in September. SK Bioscience expects

- [Egypt unveils a striking trove of ancient artifacts as the country tries to boost tourism industry](#) (2026-06-02 02:33)

CAIRO (AP) -- Archaeologists unearthed a set of ancient artifacts in Egypt including Pharaonic funerary furniture, remains of a Roman basilica and a marble head of Aphrodite, the ancient Greek goddess of love and beauty. The discoveries, announced Sunday, are part of the Egyptian government's efforts to boost the country's tourism industry and bring cash to the troubled economy. At the center of these efforts was the November inauguration of the long-delayed Grand Egyptian Museum, a megaproject

- [Police launch joint inspection of Hanwha Aerospace plant after deadly explosion](#) (2026-06-02 02:31)

Police launched a joint inspection Tuesday of a Hanwha Aerospace factory as part of a probe into a deadly explosion at the facility the previous day. The blast at the defense company's facility in Daejeon, some 140 kilometers south of Seoul, killed five people and injured two

others. The joint inspection involved officials from the Daejeon Metropolitan Police Agency, the fire service, the National Forensic Service, the labor ministry and the Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency. The polic

- [Sentry to take over as title sponsor of PGA Torrey Pines](#) (2026-06-02 02:23)

Wisconsin-based Sentry Insurance is the new title sponsor at Torrey Pines, taking over another tournament with expansive views of the Pacific Ocean after eight years at Kapalua. The Sentry will be played Jan. 27-30 next year on the North and South courses at Torrey Pines, the municipal course in San Diego that has been part of the PGA Tour schedule since 1968. The tournament will end on Saturday to avoid a conflict with the NFL 's conference championship games. Still to be determined is where The

- [The latest K-food export star: Sesame oil](#) (2026-06-02 02:21)

South Korea's sesame oil exports hit a record high in the first four months of 2026, driven by growing demand for healthy foods and the global popularity of Korean cuisine. According to the Korea Customs Service on Tuesday, sesame oil exports rose 37 percent on-year to \$6.14 million between January and April, while export volume jumped 47.6 percent to 657 metric tons. The United States remained the largest market for Korean sesame oil for the 14th consecutive year, accounting for 41.7 percent of

- [TWS to drop 2nd single in Japan in August](#) (2026-06-02 02:16)

TWS will release its second physical single in Japan, "Soda Soda," on Aug. 4, according to its agency Pledis Entertainment on Monday. The album will consist of three tracks and comes about a year after the group of six debuted in the country with the single "Nice to See You Again." The previous single made a chart-topping debut on Oricon' s Weekly and Weekly Combined Single Rankings and reached over 250,000 shipments, certifying platinum from the Recording Industry Association of Japan. The upcom

- [S. Korea, US begin inaugural talks on security initiatives from summit agreements](#) (2026-06-02 02:08)

South Korea and the United States launched their first round of talks Tuesday to implement a set of security agreements reached by their leaders last year, including Seoul's push to acquire nuclear-powered submarines, officials said. The inaugural two-day talks began at around 10 a.m. at the foreign ministry building in Seoul, focusing on security-related provisions in a bilateral joint fact sheet issued following a summit between President Lee Jae Myung and US President Donald Trump in October.

- [Woman fined for assaulting man who secretly filmed her in bathroom](#) (2026-06-02 01:55)

A South Korean court said Monday it has fined a woman 300,000 won (\$200) for hitting a man more than a dozen times after he secretly filmed her in a public bathroom. The woman, in her 40s, was found guilty of assault by the Changwon District Court over an incident that occurred

around 5:40 a.m. on Dec. 8, 2024. She was using a public bathroom in Changwon, South Gyeongsang Province, when she discovered that a man in his 20s was filming her. She was accused of punching him 15 to 17 times in retaliation.

- [T.O.P to host fan meetup in Japan next month](#) (2026-06-02 01:45)

T.O.P will meet and greet fans in Japan at a fan meeting slated to be held in Yokohama on July 9, his agency TopSpot Pictures announced Tuesday. The singer and actor invited members of his Japanese fandom community to the event that will accommodate approximately 10,000 with free admission, out of gratitude for supporting him through thick and thin. The singer and actor is expected to perform songs from his first solo studio album and first musical endeavor in 13 years, "Another Dimension," which

- [\[Contribution\] Why next phase of equity rally matters](#) (2026-06-02 01:34)

By Sundeep Gantori Global equity markets have delivered a dramatic start to 2026. A sharp correction in the first quarter was swiftly followed by a V-shaped recovery, underscoring both the fragility and resilience of investor sentiment. Yet, beneath the volatility lies a more constructive story of robust corporate fundamentals. According to LSEG I/B/E/S, 83 percent of S&P500 companies beat earnings expectations in the first quarter of 2026 as of 1 May — a striking testament to underlying earnings

- [Nvidia's Jensen Huang to make Korean TV debut during Seoul visit](#) (2026-06-02 01:33)

Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang will appear on the popular Korean television talk show "You Quiz on the Block," adding another high-profile event to a week that includes meetings with some of South Korea's most influential business leaders. TvN said Tuesday that Huang had confirmed his appearance on the program hosted by Yoo Jae-suk. The episode is scheduled to air in June. The announcement comes as Huang prepares to visit Korea later this week following Nvidia's GTC Taipei conference. He is expected to

- [Lebanon says Hezbollah accepted US proposal to stop attacks](#) (2026-06-02 01:30)

BEIRUT (AFP) -- Lebanon said Monday Hezbollah had accepted a US proposal to stop attacking Israel in exchange for Israel halting attacks on south Beirut, after US President Donald Trump reported having a "very good call" with the Iran-backed group. Under the arrangement, which Hezbollah has accepted, according to a statement from the Lebanese embassy in Washington shared by the Lebanese presidency, "Israeli strikes on Dahiyeh" -- Beirut's southern suburbs -- "would cease in exchange for Hezbollah

- [Moderna and other groups get \\$60 million to develop Ebola vaccine](#) (2026-06-02 01:29)

Global health organization CEPI will give roughly \$60 million to Moderna and two other groups to accelerate the development of shots against Ebola Bundibugyo, the deadly virus that has swept through eastern Congo. The Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations was one of the early investors that helped to develop a vaccine at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Richard Hatchett, head of CEPI, told Reuters on Monday it was possible to get Ebola Bundibugyo(BDBV) vaccines ready for trials

- [Senegal president names government, excluding rival's party](#) (2026-06-02 01:28)

Senegal's President Bassirou Diomaye Faye on Monday announced a new government, excluding the party led by his former ally Ousmane Sonko, whom he sacked as prime minister over political disputes. Faye's announcement came in a live television broadcast less than two weeks after he fired Sonko, his former mentor, and dismissed the cabinet following disagreements including over the troubled economy. A popular figure, Sonko was promptly elected speaker of parliament by allies in a vote boycotted by

- [Serena Williams is coming back to tennis at 44, returning to the sport she dominated for decades](#) (2026-06-02 01:25)

PARIS (AP) -- Serena Williams is coming back to professional tennis at the age of 44, returning to the sport she dominated for two decades before famously "evolving" away from the daily grind of competition. First up for the 23-time Grand Slam singles champion is the doubles tournament at Queen's Club. But Wimbledon and the US Open could be next. "It seems like she's trying to work her way up maybe to the US Open, and those fans would be so ready to see her back on a singles court there," former

- [Cortis announces 1st tour](#) (2026-06-02 01:20)

Cortis is set to launch its first international tour this summer, label Big Hit Music announced Tuesday. The group kicks off its "Put Your Phone Down" tour with two shows in Incheon on July 18-19. In the following month, Cortis will visit six cities across Canada and the US, including Toronto, New York and Los Angeles. The group is scheduled to perform in Seoul on Aug. 22-23, which will also mark its debut anniversary, before wrapping up the tour with three shows in Yokohama, Japan. Before the N

- [National security adviser to meet US under secretary of state](#) (2026-06-02 01:17)

National Security Adviser Wi Sung-lac was set to meet with visiting US Under Secretary of State Allison Hooker on Tuesday, informed sources said, with the two likely to discuss Seoul's push to build nuclear-powered submarines. Wi and Hooker, under secretary of state for political affairs, will meet at Cheong Wa Dae at 2 p.m. to discuss a range of pending issues, likely including Seoul's push to secure greater authority to enrich uranium and reprocess spent nuclear fuel for its envisioned nuclear

- [EU paves way to allow migrant deportations to centers outside bloc](#) (2026-06-02 01:07)

BRUSSELS (Reuters) -- European Union lawmakers and governments agreed Monday on new rules allowing countries to send migrants ordered to leave the bloc to centers in third countries, a move that has drawn sharp criticism from rights groups that warn it could enable abuses. The deal is part of a broader tightening of EU migration policy amid pressure from right-wing

parties, even as irregular arrivals fell 26 percent last year to their lowest level since 2021. The legislation, which still requires

- [Inflation expected to stay above 3% amid prolonged Middle East tensions: BOK](#) (2026-06-02 00:58)

Inflation is projected to remain above the 3 percent level for the time being as the impact of high oil prices spills over into other sectors of the economy amid prolonged Middle East tensions, the central bank said Tuesday. "The inflation rate for June is expected to remain at a level similar to that of May, as the pace of petroleum product prices remains elevated," said Lee Ji-ho, director of the research department at the Bank of Korea, during a meeting to review inflation trends. "The rise in

- [Sesame oil exports hit new record high through April on Korean food popularity](#) (2026-06-02 00:54)

Exports of sesame oil soared 37 percent in the first four months of 2026 from a year earlier to set a new record amid the growing popularity of Korean food around the world, data showed Tuesday. Outbound shipments of sesame oil reached \$6.14 million in the January-April period, with the shipment volume jumping 47.6 percent to 657 tons over the period, according to data compiled by the Korea Customs Service. "Following higher demand for vegetable oil products driven by the global popularity of Korean

- [N. Korea's Kim visits key political school for party cadres on its 80th founding anniversary](#) (2026-06-02 00:47)

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has visited a key political school of the ruling Workers' Party of Korea to mark its 80th founding anniversary, calling it a "strategic fortress" ensuring the party's existence, state media reported Tuesday. Kim paid a "congratulatory" visit to the Central Cadres Training School of the WPK the previous day, accompanied by senior party officials, according to the Korean Central News Agency. The Central Cadres Training School is North Korea's top political education

- [S. Korea, Canada discuss stronger space, defense cooperation amid submarine bidding race](#) (2026-06-02 00:45)

South Korea and Canada have discussed deeper partnership in advanced industries, including space and defense, Seoul's industry ministry said Tuesday, as the country is making last-minute efforts to win Canada's submarine project. The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Resources and the Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency jointly hosted a business roundtable in Toronto on Monday to promote cooperation between Korean and Canadian companies. The event was attended by presidential chief of staff Ka

- [Alcohol spending falls for 10th straight quarter](#) (2026-06-02 00:41)

The average household in South Korea spent 13,000 won (\$8.60) per month on alcoholic beverages in the first quarter of this year, as alcohol consumption continued to lose momentum, government data showed Tuesday. According to Statistics Korea, the figure was down 9 percent from a year earlier, marking the 10th consecutive quarterly decline and the steepest annual drop since the agency resumed compiling the data on a quarterly basis in 2019. The sustained decline reflects changing drinking habits

- [Nvidia chief, SK Group Chey meet in Taipei to discuss AI memory chip cooperation](#) (2026-06-02 00:15)

Jensen Huang, chief executive officer of US chip giant Nvidia Corp., met with SK Group Chairman Chey Tae-won in Taipei to discuss the future of cooperation in artificial intelligence memory, SK Group said Tuesday. The meeting took place in Taipei on Monday, according to a post on SK Group's Facebook account. Both executives were in the Taiwanese capital to attend Computex, one of Asia's largest technology trade shows. "With SK hynix reaching a market capitalization of \$1 trillion, the executives

- [S. Korea seeking momentum-building win vs. El Salvador in final World Cup tuneup](#) (2026-06-02 00:10)

Fresh off a comfortable win over Trinidad and Tobago, South Korea will try to keep building momentum ahead of the FIFA World Cup in their final tuneup against El Salvador. World No. 25 South Korea will take on 100th-ranked El Salvador at BYU South Field in Provo, Utah, at 7 p.m. Wednesday, or 10 a.m. Thursday (South Korean time). South Korea cruised to a 5-0 win over Trinidad and Tobago on Saturday at the same venue on the campus of Brigham Young University. Captain Son Heung-min netted twice in

- [Seoul shares open at record high above 8,800 as tech rally continues](#) (2026-06-02 00:09)

South Korean stocks opened at a fresh record high Tuesday, tracking overnight gains on Wall Street as investor optimism surrounding artificial intelligence-related stocks continued. The benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index added 94.81 points, or 1.08 percent, to a record high of 8,893.19 at the opening bell. The KOSPI closed at an all-time high of 8,788.38 on Monday. Overnight, US stocks finished higher, with major indexes reaching fresh record highs as a rally in tech shares lifted marke

- [Consumer prices up 3.1% in May on soaring fuel prices](#) (2026-06-01 23:44)

South Korea's consumer prices rose more than 3 percent in May from a year earlier amid global energy price volatility following the Middle East war, data showed Tuesday. Consumer prices, a key gauge of inflation, increased 3.1 percent last month from a year earlier, according to data from the Ministry of Data and Statistics. It marked the fastest growth in 26 months after rising at the same pace in March 2024. Prices of industrial products rose 4.2 percent, driven largely by higher fuel prices.

- [\[Graphic News\] 3 in 4 young Koreans have no religion](#) (2026-06-01 23:00)

About 3 out of 4 South Koreans in their 20s have no religious affiliation, underscoring rising disinterest among younger generations and a broader trend of religious aging, according to survey data. A Gallup Korea survey found that 40 percent of Korean adults currently identify as religious -- 18 percent Protestant, 16 percent Buddhist and 6 percent Catholic. The share of religious adults rose from 44 percent in 1983 to a peak of 54 percent in 2004, before declining to 37 percent in 2022 and reb

- [\[Man-Ki Kim\] OPCON transfer needs economic test](#) (2026-06-01 20:30)

Markets do not wait for war before pricing risk. They move when uncertainty increases. That is why South Korea's debate over wartime operational control, or OPCON, should not be treated only as a military or political issue. It is also a question of how global investors, credit-rating agencies, insurers, banks and multinational companies will read Korea's future economic security environment. President Lee Jae Myung's renewed push for the OPCON transfer has reignited a sensitive debate. The usua

- [\[Grace Kao\]BTS Army sojourners bring freebies to Las Vegas](#) (2026-06-01 20:30)

What a week. I just returned from days 3 and 4 of BTS's concerts in Las Vegas. BTS performed in Allegiant Stadium to sold-out crowds of approximately 65,000 for four nights (May 23, 24, 27 and 28). The concerts were amazing and, notably, BTS danced more than they did when I saw them in Goyang, Gyeonggi Province. Unlike the Korean shows, it was an indoor concert, so there were no fireworks. While one can watch concert fancams on YouTube, I'll share what the experience was like in person. These sh

- [S. Korea, Africa agree to bolster strategic cooperation amid global challenges](#) (2026-06-01 13:03)

South Korea and African nations agreed Monday to strengthen economic and strategic cooperation, including in supply chains and critical minerals, amid mounting global challenges, Seoul's foreign ministry said. Foreign ministers and representatives from South Korea and 50 African countries made the pledge in a joint statement after holding the Korea-Africa Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Seoul. The meeting discussed geopolitical instability and its impact on the global economy amid the conflict in

- [Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang expected to visit Korea this week for talks with industry leaders](#) (2026-06-01 12:05)

Nvidia Chief Executive Jensen Huang is expected to visit Korea this week to meet with the heads of major South Korean companies, including SK Group, LG Group, Naver and Hyundai Motor Group, for talks on cooperation in AI chips, robotics and physical artificial intelligence. According to reports from Yonhap News Agency, Huang is to arrive in Seoul on Thursday after attending Nvidia's annual AI conference, GTC Taipei, in Taiwan. He is expected to begin meeting Korean industry leaders from Friday.

- [Pro-Trump candidate takes lead in Colombia's presidential race with promise of crime crackdown](#) (2026-06-01 12:01)

Bombastic pro-Trump lawyer Aberaldo de la Espriella pulled ahead as a leader in Colombia's race for the presidency in the first round of elections over the weekend, capitalizing on a growing appetite for heavy-handed crackdowns on criminal groups across Latin America. But the second-place finisher, progressive senator Ivan Cepeda, and his ally President Gustavo Petro questioned the results of the election Sunday night without providing evidence. De la Espriella rapidly gained traction in the lead

- [Israel's Netanyahu orders attacks in Beirut's southern suburbs](#) (2026-06-01 12:01)

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ordered attacks on the Hezbollah-controlled southern suburbs of Beirut on Monday, signalling further escalation of a war that has complicated mediation towards resolving the US-Iran conflict. Iran's foreign ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said that Israeli attacks in Lebanon were among factors causing a delay to the diplomatic process to end the US-Iran war, reiterating that a Lebanon ceasefire was an integral part of any deal. People began fleeing

- [Construction firm chief booked over Seosomun overpass collapse](#) (2026-06-01 11:36)

The Ministry of Employment and Labor has booked the head of the engineering company involved in last week's Seosomun Overpass collapse on charges of violating the Serious Accidents Punishment Act, local news broadcaster YTN reported Monday. Under South Korean law, labor inspectors have the authority of special judicial police officers and can directly book suspects over alleged violations of labor and industrial safety laws. An official told YTN that the ministry had also booked the construction

- [Colombia opens first Korean classes for schoolchildren](#) (2026-06-01 09:32)

Colombia will offer its first Korean-language classes for middle and high school students starting in August, Korea's Education Ministry said Monday. The classes will be available at three schools in Bogota: Instituto Pedagogico Arturo Ramirez Montufar, Colegio Nueva Granada and Fundacion Hogar Nueva Granada. They will be open to students from the seventh to ninth or 10th grades, depending on the school. Current Korean classes in Colombia are offered by the King Sejong Institute, local Korean-la

- [Bedding maker's best performer? Samsung and SK hynix](#) (2026-06-01 09:26)

For Allerman, a South Korean maker of bedding, its most profitable product last year was not a duvet or mattress cover. It was semiconductor stocks. The company's investments in Samsung Electronics and SK hynix generated unrealized gains of about 37.6 billion won (\$27.7 million), exceeding the operating profit it earned from its core bedding business. According to Allerman's latest audit report, the company purchased 30,000 Samsung Electronics shares and 17,132 SK hynix shares last year for a co

- [Desire exposed at National Gallery Singapore show](#) (2026-06-01 09:24)

SINGAPORE — The entrance to the exhibition tucked away on Level 4 of the sprawling National Gallery Singapore is closed, its doors covered in what appears to be red tape printed with the exhibition title: “Passion is Volcanic: Desire in Southeast Asian Art.” It is an effective marketing ploy; when something is prohibited, people often desire it more. As you open the door to the museum’s first-ever age-restricted exhibition (rated 18), a guide gives you a cursory look to check if you are eligible

- [GM Korea's May sales fall 5.9% on weak demand](#) (2026-06-01 09:23)

GM Korea, the South Korean unit of General Motors, said Monday its sales backtracked in May from a year earlier due to weak demand at home and abroad. The company sold 47,081 vehicles last month, down 5.9 percent from a year earlier, GM Korea said in a press release. Exports contracted 4.8 percent on-year to 46,273 units in May, while domestic sales plunged 42.6 percent to 808 units. The Chevrolet Trax Crossover SUV led the overseas sales with 28,988 units sold, followed by the Trailblazer compa

- [Hyundai Mobis' India plant damaged by fire, raising supply concerns](#) (2026-06-01 09:18)

Hyundai Mobis, Hyundai Motor's auto parts affiliate, said Monday a fire broke out at its parts plant in India, raising concerns about potential disruptions to supplies for Hyundai Motor and Kia manufacturing facilities in the country. The fire occurred Sunday afternoon at its Chennai plant, in southeastern India, destroying one of the facility's buildings that produces automotive electronics components, such as audio systems and chassis safety parts. No casualties were reported. In a regulatory

- [Fun, inclusivity stand out at Singapore arts fest](#) (2026-06-01 09:07)

SINGAPORE — Art and fun ruled at this year’s Singapore International Festival of Arts, which ended its 16-day run at the Festival Village and various venues across the city on Saturday. Titled “Legacy” with a tagline “Let’s Play,” this year’s edition of the annual festival organized by Arts House Group saw productions from home and abroad entertaining audiences with everything from comedy and lightworks to dance and drama. Commissioned by SIFA, “Makan Culture,” by playwright Jo Tan and director

- [Agricultural, fisheries firms to hire more skilled foreign workers](#) (2026-06-01 08:50)

Businesses in the agriculture and fisheries sectors will be able to hire more foreign workers under the E-7-4 visa, after the Justice Ministry said Monday it would raise the employment cap for skilled foreign workers in the two sectors to 50 percent of each firm’s Korean workforce, up from the current 30 percent. The ministry said it decided to introduce the special quota increase starting in June, citing chronic labor shortages in the agriculture and fisheries sectors. Small businesses with few

- [A YouTube horror series took over US theaters. Now it's quietly winning over Korea.](#)

(2026-06-01 08:43)

A sheet of mono-yellow wallpaper, an empty office hallway, the hum of fluorescent lights: In a certain corner of the internet, that mundane image has been shorthand for dread for years. The concept comes from the "Backrooms," a creepypasta that originated on the message board 4chan in 2019 and became a wildly viral YouTube series by American creator Kane Parsons, who began posting the episodes as a teenager. The 20-year-old has now carried the concept to the big screen. His feature debut, from i

- [Korea steps up support for war veterans as monthly allowance reaches W490,000](#)

(2026-06-01 08:40)

South Korea's Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs said Monday it is expanding support for Korean War and Vietnam War veterans, as the country marks Patriots and Veterans Month in June. According to the ministry, veterans of the Korean and Vietnam wars receive a monthly honorary allowance of 490,000 won (\$324) this year. The allowance, first introduced in 2002 at 50,000 won, has steadily increased. Local governments also provide separate monthly allowances for war veterans, averaging 263,00

- [Lee says 'republic of unearned real estate income' will come to an end](#) (2026-06-01 08:30)

President Lee Jae Myung on Monday warned against tax evasion in real estate transactions, reiterating his administration's drive to keep the market in check. "Illegal real estate speculation and tax evasion can no longer be tolerated. We must break free from this ruinous republic of unearned real estate income," he wrote on his X account, sharing a link to a news article about real estate tax evasion. The Lee administration has stressed the need to contain the country's real estate market from t

- [Will Lee Kang-in leave PSG?](#) (2026-06-01 08:22)

Two seasons after first arriving at the UEFA Champions League final stage, Lee Kang-in's future at Paris Saint-Germain appears more uncertain than ever, with speculation growing that a summer transfer could be on the horizon. PSG defeated Arsenal in the 2025–26 UEFA Champions League final on Saturday at Puskas Arena in Budapest, Hungary. After a grueling 120-minute battle ended 1–1, PSG prevailed 4–3 in the penalty shootout. Although Nuno Mendes missed one of PSG's penalties, Arsenal's Eberechi

- [Hanwha brings Pompidou to Seoul with 63 Building makeover](#) (2026-06-01 08:22)

Hanwha Life Insurance said Monday that it would open Pompidou Center Hanwha at Seoul's iconic 63 Building on Thursday, kicking off a broader project to turn the landmark skyscraper into a cultural hub. The project is part of Hanwha's strategy to reposition the building beyond its traditional role as a financial office tower and establish it as a mixed-use destination for art, dining, retail and leisure. Pompidou Center Hanwha was established through a partnership

between the Hanwha Foundation and

- [Eric Thames happy to be back in 'second home'](#) (2026-06-01 08:22)

You can take Eric Thames out of South Korea, but you cannot take South Korea out of the former slugger. Thames, the 2015 MVP for the NC Dinos in the Korea Baseball Organization, is back in a country he calls "my second home" this week. On Monday, he helped launch MLB Breakfast Club, a new big league initiative targeting MLB fans in South Korea watching big league action in the morning, thanks to the time difference. Thames was one of three former players with dual MLB and KBO ties, joined by Sou

- [Joo Soo-bin blows lead in bid for maiden LPGA win](#) (2026-06-01 08:21)

Joo Soo-bin has blown a big final-round lead in the pursuit of her maiden LPGA title, settling for her first top-five finish instead. Joo ended in a four-way tie for fourth place at the ShopRite LPGA at Seaview Hotel & Golf Club's Bay Course in Galloway, New Jersey, on Sunday after carding a two-over 73 for a three-round total of six-under 207. Joo finished three shots back of the champion, Celine Boutier of France, who shot a five-under 66 to win this tournament for the second time. Joo, who jo

- [Man arrested for threatening to demolish ex-girlfriend's home](#) (2026-06-01 08:16)

Jeju police said Monday they had arrested a man in his 60s for allegedly threatening his former girlfriend and assaulting her son. The man first visited the home of his ex-girlfriend — a woman in her 60s — around 6:10 p.m. in Jeju City, Jeju Island. He had reportedly sought to resume their relationship, but was turned away by police, who arrived at the victim's request. The man allegedly returned to the victim's home around 9:40 p.m. while drunk and driving an excavator. He threatened to demolis

- [Lee Young-ji re-dyes hair, apologizes after red hair reveal sparks election controversy](#) (2026-06-01 07:46)

A casual hair-color reveal quickly turned into a political controversy for South Korean rapper Lee Young-ji, prompting her to hastily dye her hair black again and issue a public apology. On Saturday, the 23-year-old posted pictures of her newly dyed red hair on Instagram, captioning them "Isn't my hair color pretty?" She paired the post with the song "Redred" by boy group Cortis and later shared more pictures of herself in a red top. Red is typically the color for the conservative bloc, while bl

- [Feed pigeons, face a fine](#) (2026-06-01 07:39)

Signs warning against feeding pigeons have appeared across major squares and parks in Seoul as the city launches a monthlong crackdown on the practice. The Seoul Metropolitan Government said Monday it will carry out intensive enforcement throughout June in designated no-feeding zones before shifting to periodic inspections. People caught feeding pigeons in the restricted areas can face fines of up to 1 million won (\$665). Originally native to mountainous

and natural habitats, feral pigeons have

- [Korea's newest property premium: The chipmaker shuttle stop](#) (2026-06-01 07:25)

"Most of the couples who came to see homes today were Samsung Electronics or SK hynix employees. Buyer inquiries have clearly increased, and chip-sector bonuses seem like a major driver in this area," a real estate agent in Yongin's Suji-gu, a Gyeonggi Province area served by chipmakers' commuter buses, said Saturday. Several young buyers had lined up that day to view well-maintained homes in large apartment complexes in the area, the agent said. Homeowners are also sensing the shift, becoming l

- [Rescene rides YouTube buzz to chart resurgence](#) (2026-06-01 07:22)

Rescene is enjoying an unlikely chart resurgence as "Love Attack," the lead track from the group's first EP "Scenedrome," released in August 2024, continues to climb major Korean music charts nearly two years after its release. The renewed interest follows the viral success of member Woni's personal YouTube channel, "Hello I am Woni Nice To Meet You." Videos featuring fellow members Minami and Zena taking on gyaru, Japanese fashion subculture, and regional dialect concepts, respectively, have re

- [No sleep for some candidates on campaign trail](#) (2026-06-01 07:15)

As the local and parliamentary by-elections draw near, candidates are going all out to appeal to voters, with a handful choosing so-called "sleepless" campaign appearances. Some candidates have announced that they will hit the campaign trail without sleep for multiple days, while others have said they will not go home until election day. The latest to do so was Lee Kwang-jae, the ruling Democratic Party of Korea's candidate for the parliamentary by-election in Hanam-A constituency in Gyeonggi Pr

- [Seoul shares close at new high on tech rally amid AI optimism](#) (2026-06-01 07:07)

South Korean stocks extended a rally to a fresh all-time high Monday, driven by strong gains in stocks related to artificial intelligence. The local currency rose against the US dollar. The benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index added 311.85 points, or 3.68 percent, to close at 8,788.38, after hitting a new intraday high of 8,874.16. The index opened at a record high and extended its gains, prompting the Korea Exchange to activate a buy-side sidecar, which suspended program trading of Kospi

- [Hanwha Aerospace CEO apologizes after deadly explosion at Daejeon plant](#) (2026-06-01 06:19)

Hanwha Aerospace CEO Son Jae-il apologized Monday after a deadly explosion at the company's Daejeon facility killed five workers, pledging full cooperation with authorities and a thorough investigation into the cause of the accident. "I bow my head in apology to those who lost their perilous lives in the accident that occurred at the Daejeon facility and to their bereaved families," Son said at a media briefing held at the site Monday afternoon. "As CEO. I

feel a heavy sense of responsibility fo

- [Kospi rally drains momentum from Korea's crypto market](#) (2026-06-01 06:17)

Amid the benchmark Kospi's record-breaking rally, South Korea's cryptocurrency market has slowed, with trading volumes falling sharply as investors rotate into equities. Retail investors have been shifting funds from cryptocurrencies into equities as the Kospi extends its rally, hitting an intraday record high of 8,874.16 before closing at an all-time high of 8,788.38 on Monday. Investor appetite for virtual assets, on the other hand, has been dampened by bitcoin's decline from last year's peak

- [Huang confirms Vera Rubin in full production with Korean memory](#) (2026-06-01 06:16)

Nvidia Chief Executive Jensen Huang said Monday that the company's next AI accelerator, Vera Rubin, was in full production, confirming at his GTC Taipei keynote that high-bandwidth memory from Samsung Electronics, SK hynix and Micron will go into the platform. The three suppliers were already expected. What the keynote, held alongside the Computex trade show in Taipei, settled is that the accelerator has moved to volume production, which fixes the order each maker has actually won. That order le

- [BYD overtakes Japanese rivals in Korea sales](#) (2026-06-01 06:09)

Chinese automakers are making strong inroads into South Korea, ranking third place in the country's imported vehicle market in April, overtaking Japan for the first time. According to data from the Korea Automobile Importers & Distributors Association, new vehicle registrations by region came to 16,385 units from Europe, 13,611 from the US, 2,023 from China and 1,974 from Japan in April. This is the first time Chinese-made vehicles have outsold Japanese brands in South Korea's imported car marke

- [Why Korea's new leveraged ETFs are under scrutiny](#) (2026-06-01 06:07)

South Korea's financial regulator has launched a fact-finding review of newly listed single-stock leveraged exchange-traded funds tied to Samsung Electronics and SK hynix after signs of unusually heavy trading raised questions about how the products generated more than 10 trillion won (\$6.65 billion) in turnover on their first day. According to industry sources Monday, the Financial Supervisory Service recently contacted several brokerages acting as liquidity providers, or LPs, and asset manager

- [Samsung Electronics becomes Korea's first W2,000tr company](#) (2026-06-01 06:06)

Samsung Electronics' market capitalization exceeded 2,000 trillion won (\$1.32 trillion) for the first time Monday, marking a new milestone to cement its position as Korea's most valuable listed company and widening its gap with crosstown rival SK hynix. Samsung opened trading at 318,000 won, up 0.31 percent from the previous session, before extending gains shortly to touch 354,500 won after the market opened. The stock closed up 10 percent 349,000 won, giving the company a market value of about

- [Lee becomes ballot question in local elections' final stretch](#) (2026-06-01 05:55)

Wednesday's local elections have become an assessment of President Lee Jae Myung's administration, as rival parties recast the vote as a choice between strengthening the Lee administration and checking its power. The ruling Democratic Party of Korea and the main opposition People Power Party have increasingly turned the June 3 local elections — the first nationwide vote since Lee took office — into a broader political battle over his administration. The Lee-centered campaign has overshadowed reg

- [LG stocks soar on Nvidia partnership hopes](#) (2026-06-01 05:53)

LG Group stocks extended their sharp rally Monday, led by another surge in LG Electronics, as investors piled into shares seen as potential beneficiaries of Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang's expected visit to Korea and a possible first meeting with LG Group Chairman Koo Kwang-mo. LG Electronics jumped 29.86 percent to 380,500 won (\$251), hitting the daily upper limit shortly after the market opened and setting a fresh 52-week high. The stock also closed at the daily ceiling Friday, extending a steep run

- [Seoul, Washington defense chiefs strike different notes on OPCON transfer at Shangri-La](#) (2026-06-01 05:45)

Seoul and Washington appear to be moving with different priorities in their approach to the transfer of wartime operational control in South Korea. One side eyes speed while the other stresses balance and caution. During the Shangri-La Dialogue over the weekend, Defense Minister Ahn Gyu-back stressed Seoul's push for a South Korea-led defense posture, underscoring the Lee Jae Myung administration's drive to accelerate the transfer of wartime operational control from the United States. Speaking a

- [Giving false reason for dismissal makes firing unlawful: court](#) (2026-06-01 05:39)

A South Korean court sided with a doctor who charged their former boss with wrongful dismissal, saying the employer had not disclosed the true reason for terminating the employment contract. According to court officials on Monday, the Seoul Administrative Court ruled against a hospital administrator who requested that the National Labor Relations Commission reject the doctor's lawsuit for unlawful firing. The commission had in 2025 concluded that the dismissal was illegal, but the plaintiff chal

- [Global hotel booking apps under fire over hidden costs](#) (2026-06-01 05:39)

More than half of consumers who used global accommodation booking platforms reported financial losses, according to a Seoul city government survey released Monday. The survey found that 55 percent of 1,000 respondents who had used overseas lodging platforms within the past three years suffered financial losses when booking accommodations through services including Agoda, Airbnb, Expedia, Booking.com, Trip.com and Hotels.com. The findings come as Seoul seeks stronger oversight of overseas booking

- [SK hynix workers to seek Samsung-level housing loans](#) (2026-06-01 05:37)

SK hynix is expected to open its 2026 wage negotiations this month with employees pressing the company to match the housing loans that rival Samsung Electronics granted its own staff last month, worth up to 500 million won (\$330,000) per worker. Samsung's home loan, which its union ratified last Wednesday after a five-month standoff, set a new benchmark for the chip industry. The company will lend nonhomeowner employees up to 500 million won to buy a home at a fixed interest rate of 1.5 percent,

- [S. Korea, African foreign ministers launch first ministerial meeting amid global uncertainty](#) (2026-06-01 05:34)

South Korea on Monday hosted its first ministerial meeting with 50 African nations, bringing representatives from the countries together as Seoul seeks to strengthen ties with a continent of growing strategic importance amid global supply chain disruptions and geopolitical uncertainty. Held under the theme "Partnership for Joint Responses to Global Challenges," the gathering drew delegates from 50 out of 54 African countries as well as four regional organizations, including the African Union and

- [Men and women in the same hospital room? Many Koreans say no](#) (2026-06-01 05:31)

The Ministry of Health and Welfare on Monday withdrew a proposed amendment that would have lifted the long-standing requirement for hospital rooms to be separated by sex, following backlash over privacy and safety concerns. Since 2012, hospital rooms in Korea have been required to be segregated by sex under Article 35 of the Enforcement Rule of the Medical Service Act. Violations can result in administrative penalties, including a corrective order and a 15-day suspension of operations. The lates

- [Naver launches defense AI task force in Palantir-style push](#) (2026-06-01 05:31)

Naver Cloud, the cloud computing arm of Korea's IT giant Naver, is creating a dedicated task force for defense artificial intelligence, as the company moves to expand its presence in the sovereign AI market. According to industry sources on Monday, Naver Cloud will launch a defense AI transformation task force the same day. The move marks Naver's first separate organization dedicated solely to defense AI. The task force will be led directly by Naver Cloud CEO Kim Yu-won. It will seek AI and clou

- [Woman blames stress at work after admitting to starting apartment fires](#) (2026-06-01 05:30)

A woman in her 20s has been arrested on suspicion of starting several fires inside her apartment building after complaining of trash left in common areas and workplace stress, police said Monday. According to Eumseong Police Station in North Chungcheong Province, the woman allegedly set fire to paper and cardboard boxes in five locations inside an 18-story apartment building in Eumseong on Friday. Residents quickly extinguished the fires, preventing major damage. Three people were treated at hos

- [BTS wraps up first leg of ‘Arirang’ tour in North America, drawing 840,000](#) (2026-06-01 05:30)

BTS has concluded the first leg of its “Arirang” North American tour, drawing some 840,000 concertgoers across five cities, demonstrating its cultural and economic impact in the continent. The group launched the “Arirang” tour in North America on April 25 in Tampa, Florida, going on to perform 15 sold-out shows across Tampa, El Paso in Texas, Mexico City, the San Francisco Bay Area and Las Vegas. Additional dates were added in Tampa, California and Las Vegas due to overwhelming demand, with all

- [Woori Bank bets on SME succession as new growth pillar](#) (2026-06-01 05:28)

Woori Bank is pushing into corporate succession for small and medium-sized companies as a new banking frontier, casting it as an economic issue tied to jobs, technology and supply chain stability as Korea's first-generation founders age without clear successors. At a press conference Monday in Seoul, CEO Jung Jin-wan said the bank would support what it calls "productive corporate succession" to prevent viable companies from closing or downsizing. "Corporate succession is not just a priority for

- [Will K-dramas get more seasons?](#) (2026-06-01 05:27)

The multiseason model has historically struggled to gain traction in the K-drama industry outside of global streaming anomalies like "Squid Game." Typically, skyrocketing talent fees for returning stars and unpredictable, live-shoot schedules derail potential sequels, forcing producers to recast or abandon projects altogether. Yet, despite these financial and logistical hurdles, domestic broadcasters are increasingly chasing the lucrative long-tail revenue and premium ad rates of franchise-style

- [Hanmi inks \\$1.26b licensing deal with Eli Lilly](#) (2026-06-01 05:25)

Hanmi Pharmaceutical said Monday it has clinched an outlicensing contract with Eli Lilly for sonefpeglutide, its long-acting glucagon-like peptide 2, or GLP-2, drug candidate, in a deal potentially worth up to \$1.26 billion. According to the Korean drugmaker, it will receive an upfront payment of \$75 million and could earn up to \$1.19 billion in additional milestone payments depending on clinical development, regulatory approvals and commercialization. Hanmi Pharmaceutical will also be eligible

- [Olive Young draws long lines at first US store](#) (2026-06-01 05:12)

CJ Olive Young said Monday that its first US offline store drew strong crowds on opening day, underscoring growing demand for K-beauty products in the world's largest cosmetics market. The store, located in Pasadena, California, opened on May 29. Customers began lining up a day earlier, with the queue stretching about 400 meters across four blocks along Colorado Boulevard. "We sincerely welcome Olive Young to Pasadena," Pasadena Mayor Victor Gordo said. "Olive Young will not only enhance the cit

- [Bill aims to expand honors for families of UN Korean War veterans](#) (2026-06-01 05:01)

A bill has been proposed to codify scholarship programs for the grandchildren of Korean War veterans from UN participating nations and designate separate commemorative dates for each country's role in the war. The bill, proposed by Rep. Jung Hee-yong of the main opposition People Power Party, is a revision to the Act on the Elevation of Honor of UN Korean War Veterans. It would designate 20 dates to commemorate the participation of 22 UN nations. The dates would mark the day on which troops from

- [Xi-Putin summit signals stronger backing for North Korea, puts focus on Tumen River: expert](#) (2026-06-01 04:41)

Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin's criticism of international sanctions and pressure on North Korea is effectively a message that Beijing and Moscow are prepared to provide greater political backing to Pyongyang, an expert here recently said. The assessment, by Korea Institute for National Unification research fellow Lee Jae-young, also suggested that a potential summit between Xi and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un in the near future could reinforce the emerging

- [Will military logistics pact become next step in South Korea-Japan defense ties?](#) (2026-06-01 04:38)

South Korea and Japan have discussed the possibility of a military logistics-sharing agreement, according to Seoul's defense minister, hinting at growing momentum for deeper defense cooperation despite lingering public unease over unresolved historical issues with Japan. South Korean Defense Minister Ahn Gyu-back revealed the discussion during a press briefing on Sunday in Singapore, where he was in attendance at the Shangri-La Dialogue security forum. The issue was raised during Ahn's meeting w

- [Lee's chief of staff visits Canada as submarine bid nears decision](#) (2026-06-01 04:33)

Seoul is intensifying joint public-private efforts behind its bid for Canada's next-generation submarine project, with presidential chief of staff Kang Hoon-sik traveling to Canada as a special envoy. Kang said Sunday he was leaving for Canada as President Lee Jae Myung's special envoy for strategic economic cooperation. The delegation includes officials from the Ministry of Trade, Energy and Resource and Foreign Ministry, along with companies and industry groups in energy, resources, supply cha

- [Over 130,000 Koreans appeal exclusion from fuel price aid](#) (2026-06-01 04:21)

The government has received 134,000 complaints from Koreans appealing their exclusion from a nationwide subsidy program rolled out last month to help households cope with higher fuel costs caused by the Middle East conflict. The Ministry of the Interior and Safety said it had processed 106,000 appeals filed between May 18 and 27, approving 90,300 requests for the subsidy as of Sunday. About 34.6 percent of the complaints were filed by people whose status as financially vulnerable had not yet bee

- [Air travel takes hit from record-high fuel surcharges](#) (2026-06-01 04:21)

Korea's air transport output fell in April by the sharpest margin since the COVID-19 pandemic, as higher fuel surcharges driven by the Middle East conflict weighed on demand for air travel, government data showed Monday. According to the Ministry of Data and Statistics' industrial activity data, the production index for the air transport industry stood at 468.5 in April, down 13.5 percent from a month earlier. It marked the steepest monthly decline since December 2021, when the index fell 14.2 p

- ['Remember her as Lee Chae-won': Family reveals name, portrait of Gwangju stabbing victim](#) (2026-06-01 04:17)

The family of the high school girl killed in May's stabbing attack in Gwangju disclosed her name and portrait to local media, saying they hoped she would be remembered as Lee Chae-won, a 17-year-old who dreamed of becoming an emergency responder, rather than as an unnamed victim. According to multiple local media reports, Lee's father chose to reveal his daughter's identity in the hope that her death would help prevent similar tragedies in the future. Lee was fatally stabbed at 12:10 a.m. on May

- [Dream wedding at Korean palace? More couples will get the chance](#) (2026-06-01 04:10)

Dreaming of a wedding at a royal palace? More couples will be able to tie the knot at Korea's royal palaces as the Korea Heritage Service expands its outdoor wedding program from Gyeongbokgung to include Deoksugung next year. The agency launched the initiative in April to help reduce wedding costs for young couples while bringing historic palace spaces closer to everyday life. A total of 293 couples from 15 countries applied for 16 spots. Following strong interest in the program, the agency incr

- [Ukraine hits Russian energy targets and denies striking Kremlin-occupied nuclear plant](#) (2026-06-01 04:03)

Kyiv on Sunday launched new strikes overnight on Russian energy sites. It has also denied Moscow's claims that a Ukrainian drone struck the Russian-controlled Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant. Ukraine's General Staff said Ukrainian drones struck the Saratov oil refinery in southwestern Russia, causing a large-scale fire. It claimed the refinery has been supplying Moscow's war effort. The refinery belongs to Russia's state oil enterprise, Rosneft. Local Russian Gov. Roman Busargin said Ukrainian drones

- [Palestinian man is shot and killed at a West Bank barrier near Jerusalem](#) (2026-06-01 04:00)

A Palestinian man was shot and killed by Israeli forces on Sunday at a concrete barrier separating the occupied West Bank from Jerusalem, the Palestinian Health Ministry said. The ministry identified him as 26-year-old Imad Haroun Ishtayeh from the village of Salem, east of Nablus. It said Israeli forces shot him in a thigh in al-Ram town, and he was pronounced dead at

the Palestinian Medical Complex in Ramallah. Footage circulating online showed people carrying his body and climbing down a ladder.

- [Guinea holds parliament election](#) (2026-06-01 02:52)

Guineans voted Sunday in legislative and municipal elections marking a new step toward a return to democratic rule after a 2021 coup, despite severe restrictions on civil liberties and an opposition boycott. The authorities pushed back the close of polling stations 90 minutes to 7:30 p.m. before counting started. The day was marked by a low turnout at polling stations visited by Agence France-Presse journalists in the capital, Conakry, and the central city of Labe, and according to election monitors.

- [Emergency response delays Han River bus routes](#) (2026-06-01 02:50)

Han River ferry services were temporarily delayed after a man in his 70s jumped into the river from a bridge on Sunday, according to Yongsan Fire Station. Rescue workers recovered the man from the water and transported him to Apgujeong pier, where CPR was administered. He was later pronounced dead. The deceased reportedly jumped from Hannam Bridge at around 1:45 p.m. The rescue operation disrupted services on the Hangang Bus, Seoul's ferry-based public transit system launched last year, with both.

- [Indigenous leader Brooklyn Rivera dies in Nicaragua after nearly 3 years of detention](#) (2026-06-01 02:50)

Brooklyn Rivera, a renowned Indigenous leader from Nicaragua who spent years fighting for the rights of his community and was imprisoned by the government in September 2023, has died. The Nicaraguan government issued a statement Sunday saying that Rivera died from a bacterial infection after his health had declined following a case of COVID-19, which led to his physical and neurological deterioration. Human rights activists and groups worldwide denounced his death and an earlier statement by the government.

- [Police investigate online threat targeting Faker's grandmother](#) (2026-06-01 02:50)

A threatening online post targeting the family of Korean esports star Lee "Faker" Sang-hyeok has prompted a police investigation, authorities said Monday. Faker is a professional League of Legends player for T1 and a multiple-time world champion and MVP. He is widely recognized as one of the most prominent figures in esports. According to Seoul's Dobong Police Station, a post was uploaded to an online community around 11 p.m. on Saturday, threatening harm to the player's grandmother. Minutes later.

- [Justice Ministry launches team to protect migrant workers' rights](#) (2026-06-01 02:47)

South Korea has launched a new unit to protect migrant workers from abuses such as unpaid wages, verbal and physical abuse, illegal brokerage, and poor housing conditions, the Justice Ministry said Monday. The Migrant Human Rights and Interests Team, which began operations June 1 under the Korea Immigration Service, will be the central body monitoring and

responding to rights violations involving foreign workers. “Migrant workers are a valuable part of our society,” Justice Minister Jeong Seong-

- [Samsung overtakes Micron in chips for cars](#) (2026-06-01 02:46)

Samsung Electronics has overtaken Micron Technology to become the world’s top automotive memory chip supplier, marking a shift in a market where Korean firms had long trailed their US rival despite their strength in the memory sector. Samsung’s share of the global automotive memory market rose to 40 percent last year from 35 percent in 2024, according to S&P Global Mobility. Micron, the longtime leader in the segment, fell to 36 percent from 40 percent over the same period. The gain gives Samsun

- [Eligible foreign voters can take time off to cast ballots](#) (2026-06-01 02:45)

Foreign nationals eligible to vote in South Korea’s June 3 local elections are entitled to request time off work to cast their ballots if they are scheduled to work on Election Day, the Seoul Foreign Resident Center said in a recent notice. The notice comes as the number of foreign voters eligible to participate in local elections has reached a record high of 151,532. Some foreign residents have reportedly expressed concern that they may not be granted time to vote, even though Election Day is d

- [NYC Mayor Zohran Mamdani skips annual parade celebrating Israel](#) (2026-06-01 02:44)

New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani did not attend an annual parade honoring Israel Sunday, breaking with a decades-long political custom because of his support of Palestinian rights. Though it has gone by different names over the years, the Israel Day parade has always been a must-attend event for mayors, governors and other political leaders eager to win over the throngs of flag-waving revelers who congregate on Fifth Avenue to celebrate the birth of the Jewish state in 1948. Not so for Mamdani

- [Trump fan through to Colombia runoff](#) (2026-06-01 02:42)

Tough-on-crime lawyer Abelardo de la Espriella and peace-builder Ivan Cepeda were leading the vote count in the first round of Colombia’s presidential election Sunday, and are to face off in a runoff in the South American nation later in June. De la Espriella — a newcomer known as “El Tigre, or “The Tiger” — has sought to portray himself as a supporter of US President Donald Trump, vowing to crack down on criminal groups. He leads the race with nearly 44 percent of the votes, Colombia’s electora

- [5 killed in explosion at Hanwha Aerospace facility in Daejeon](#) (2026-06-01 02:37)

Five people were killed and two other suffered injuries after an explosion at a Hanwha Aerospace facility in Daejeon, fire authorities said Monday. Daejeon fire authorities said they received about 30 reports at around 10:59 a.m. from callers who said they heard a loud blast and saw smoke coming from the site. Fire authorities sent 44 pieces of equipment and about 100 firefighters to the facility, bringing the main fire under control at 11:49 a.m. President Lee

Jae Myung was briefed on the accid

- [Stray Kids hit milestones with ‘Miroh,’ ‘Easy’ music videos](#) (2026-06-01 02:31)

Stray Kids reached 200 million views on YouTube with its “Miroh” music video as of May 29, said label JYP Entertainment on Sunday. It is the group’s ninth video to exceed the milestone. The group’s music video for “Easy” reached 100 million the following day, becoming the 21st music video from Stray Kids to achieve the feat. “Miroh” is the main track from the group’s fourth EP, “Cle 1: Miroh,” which was released in 2019. “Easy” is a B-side track from its first full-length album, “Go Live,” relea

- [Otoki enters Japan to expand global footprint](#) (2026-06-01 02:30)

Otoki is entering the Japanese market as part of efforts to diversify its overseas business and secure new growth opportunities, the leading South Korean food company said Monday. The company established a local sales subsidiary in Tokyo on May 15 and plans to begin full-scale operations after September. The Japanese unit will become Otoki’s fourth overseas base, following operations in New Zealand, the US and Vietnam. Otoki said Japan will play a strategic role in its global expansion plans, as

- [Daewoo E&C; launches AI translator for foreign workers](#) (2026-06-01 02:30)

Daewoo Engineering & Construction said Monday it has developed a real-time AI translation system for construction sites, aiming to improve communication and safety for foreign national workers as it expands the use of digital technologies across its operations. The platform supports up to 180 languages and features a construction-specific glossary containing industry terminology and technical expressions commonly used at worksites, helping improve translation accuracy. The system also allows use

- [StayC readies for June comeback](#) (2026-06-01 02:16)

StayC is bringing out its sixth physical single, “2:Love,” on June 16, its agency HighUp Entertainment said Sunday. The group of six will demonstrate the maturity it achieved over the last 11 months, since the release of its special single “I Want It,” and portray the range of love with its signature upbeat vibe, the company added. During the relatively long pause between album releases, there were questions about whether the group would disband. Yun, however, denied the rumor recently, saying s

- [Mirae Asset’s global ETF assets top W400tr](#) (2026-06-01 02:15)

Mirae Asset Global Investments said Monday that assets under management across its global exchange-traded fund platform surpassed 400 trillion won (\$264 billion), underscoring the rapid growth of its ETF business in Korea and overseas markets. As of the end of May, the asset manager oversaw about 421 trillion won in ETF assets across 13 markets, including Australia, Canada, Korea and the US. According to industry tracker ETFIGI, the figure ranks Mirae Asset as the world’s 12th-largest ETF manager

- [BTS brings back 'Run BTS,' will officially release 'Come Over' for Festa](#) (2026-06-01 02:13)

BTS will bring back its popular variety series "Run BTS" and officially release "Come Over" as part of its annual Festa celebration marking the group's June 13 debut anniversary, according to a schedule unveiled Monday. Festa is BTS' annual festival commemorating its debut, featuring a mix of online and offline events. This year's celebration will coincide with the group's "BTS World Tour 'Arirang' in Busan" concerts at Busan Asiad Main Stadium on June 12 and 13. The festivities will begin on Th

- [S. Korea, Africa can turn challenges into opportunities through closer cooperation: FM](#) (2026-06-01 02:10)

Foreign Minister Cho Hyun on Monday called for South Korea and Africa to boost cooperation in a bid to better address global challenges and turn them into new opportunities for growth. Cho made the remarks in an opening speech at the Korea-Africa Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Seoul as the two sides are exploring ways to strengthen partnership amid growing global uncertainty. "The world is facing multifaceted challenges across various sectors, including supply chains, energy and food security. Th

- ['Colony' stays atop box office, nears 4m admissions](#) (2026-06-01 02:10)

Yeon Sang-ho's "Colony" held the top spot at the Korean box office over the weekend, extending a run that has gone unchallenged since the film's May 21 opening. The latest zombie thriller from the "Train to Busan" director drew 971,034 admissions from Friday through Sunday, according to the box-office tally compiled by the state-run Korean Film Council. As of Monday morning, its cumulative total stood at 3,474,933. "Colony" played in the Midnight Screenings section of this year's Cannes Film Fes

- [Le Sserafim' s 2nd LP hits Billboard 200 at No. 10](#) (2026-06-01 01:47)

Le Sserafim' s second LP debuted on Billboard 200 at No. 10, according to the chart preview published on Sunday in the US. "Pureflow pt. 1" is the group' s fifth consecutive album to make it among the top 10 on the main albums chart, a first for a fourth-generation K-pop girl group. The streak began with the LP "Unforgiven" (No. 6) and was carried on through the third to fifth EPs: "Easy" (No. 8), "Crazy" (No. 7) and "Hot" (No. 9). The group is promoting the new set without Kim Chaewon, who has su

- [What Seoul superintendent hopefuls promise migrant-background students](#) (2026-06-01 01:39)

Eight candidates are vying to lead the Seoul Metropolitan Office of Education in the June 3 elections. Among the challenges the winner will have to grapple with is how schools should respond to globalization and serve a growing diverse student body. More than 38,000 foreign residents are eligible to vote in Seoul, and candidates have outlined policies to strengthen language skills, expand international programs and support migrant and multicultural students.

The Korea Herald asked all eight cand

- [Seventeen ranks No. 7 on Billboard' s top tour list](#) (2026-06-01 01:36)

Seventeen claimed the No. 7 spot on the biannual top tours ranking published by Billboard on Wednesday, banking the highest rank for a K-pop artist, according to agency Pledis Entertainment on Monday. The group' s “New_” world tour raked in \$88 million with 25 shows between October and March, drawing over 574,000 in attendance, placing the 13-member act at No. 9 on the Top Ticket Sales Chart. The tour ran from September until April and attracted more than 900,000 fans on- and offline. Separately,

- [French capital hosts Paris Saint-Germain parade after clashes marred Champions League win](#) (2026-06-01 00:53)

PARIS (AP) -- A huge crowd of supporters gathered peacefully near the Eiffel Tower on Sunday to celebrate Paris Saint-Germain's second Champions League title victory, which was marred by violent clashes overnight across France and led police to detain hundreds of people. Interior Minister Laurent Nunez said 780 people were detained in Paris and other cities and 57 officers were wounded, with most suffering minor injuries, as football fans set off fires and vandalized shops overnight. Nunez said

- [\[Lee Kyong-hee\] Tumen delta development for geopolitical impetus](#) (2026-06-01 00:52)

Chinese President Xi Jinping may visit Pyongyang in the near future. Media reports about his prospective state visit to North Korea, following his high-profile summit meetings in Beijing in May with US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin just four days apart, have fueled speculation about the timing and purpose of the trip. While Beijing remains tight-lipped about the possibility, multiple sources have reported that Chinese security and protocol officials have recently be

- [Unionized members at Kakao to stage partial walkout next week](#) (2026-06-01 00:43)

Kakao Corp.'s labor union said Monday it will initiate a partial walkout next week, after a second round of wage talks mediated by the government fell through last month. Unionized members made the announcement in an official statement, saying the collective action is to secure employment stability and improve the company's compensation structure, which it claimed allows Kakao's executives to "monopolize excessive rewards." The union added it plans to increase the scale of the strike, depending

- [Lee's approval rating inches down to 59.1%: poll](#) (2026-06-01 00:41)

President Lee Jae Myung's approval rating fell slightly from a week earlier partly due to negative sentiment over the deadly collapse of an overpass in central Seoul last week, a survey showed Monday. In the poll commissioned by EKN newspaper and conducted by Realmeter, the positive assessment of Lee's job performance slipped 0.2 percentage point from a week before to 59.1 percent. The weekly survey was conducted on 2,008 people aged 18 and older from Tuesday

through Friday. The negative assessm

- [S. Korea's monthly exports up 53% to record high of \\$87.8b in May](#) (2026-06-01 00:05)

South Korea's exports jumped more than 50 percent from a year earlier to a new monthly high of \$87.8 billion in May, driven by the semiconductor supercycle, government data showed Monday. It marked the third consecutive month the country's monthly outbound shipments surpassed the \$80 billion mark, according to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Resources. Imports rose 20.8 percent on-year to \$60.8 billion, resulting in a trade surplus of \$26.95 billion. (Yonhap)

- [Defender Cho Yu-min ruled out of World Cup with foot injury](#) (2026-06-01 00:03)

Defender Cho Yu-min was ruled out of the FIFA World Cup on Sunday due to a foot injury suffered during a friendly match the previous day. The Korea Football Association announced Cho will miss the tournament due to a partial tear of the plantar fascia in his right foot. "He will be out for eight weeks, and we decided he won't be able to play in the World Cup," a national team official told reporters Sunday in Salt Lake City, Utah, where the Taegeuk Warriors have been training since mid-May ahead

- [Why ambiguity matters to German painter Andi Fischer](#) (2026-05-31 23:15)

For German painter Andi Fischer, some of the most important moments in painting happen when things do not go according to plan. "Failure is not the opposite of success, but part of the same process," Fischer said in a recent written interview with The Korea Herald. The artist's latest exhibition in Seoul, "Feil Good" at Gallery Baton in the spring, reflected a philosophy that embraces uncertainty, mistakes and unexpected outcomes. Rather than treating failure as something negative, Fischer sees

- [\[Graphic News\] South Korea finalizes 26-man World Cup squad](#) (2026-05-31 23:00)

South Korea coach Hong Myung-bo unveiled his final 26-man squad for the 2026 FIFA World Cup, pledging that the Taegeuk Warriors would enter the tournament with the mentality of "challengers." Son Heung-min, Asia's top striker and a South Korean soccer icon, was named to the squad alongside key Europe-based players including Lee Kang-in of Paris Saint-Germain, Kim Min-jae of Bayern Munich and Lee Jae-sung of Mainz. Son is set to appear in his fourth consecutive World Cup following the 2014 Brazil

- [Cut from a musical, kept by the ballet: how Korea's two stage worlds reacted to one actor's photo at Starbucks](#) (2026-05-31 21:29)

Musical theater actor and ballet dancer Jung Min-chan lost a role in a musical and won a public defense from his ballet company all within six days -- after a social media post about a recent visit to Starbucks Korea triggered an angry reaction from fans. The 38-year-old uploaded the post to his Instagram on May 20, during the controversy over Starbucks Korea's "Tank Day" marketing campaign. Two days later the musical's producer, Showplay, announced his exit from "

Diaghilev," where he played Vas

- [Over 150 people evacuate after Busan department store ceiling collapse](#) (2026-05-31 12:46)

Over 150 people have reportedly been evacuated from a department store in Busan after a section of its ceiling as large as 25 square meters collapsed. No casualties were reported in the accident at Lotte Department Store Centum City in Haeundae-gu, Busan. At around 3 p.m., a fragmented part of the ceiling of the first basement floor fell and water from the ceiling poured onto the floor, affecting food halls there and forcing the department store to close at around 4:15 p.m. A coolant leak in the

- [Love for golf grows deeper for Niemann after LIV victory in S. Korea](#) (2026-05-31 12:05)

Joaquin Niemann is a golfer deeply in love with the sport and all the challenges that it brings. The humbling game has made grown men cry in frustration and devastation, but on this warm Sunday in the southeastern part of South Korea, the Chilean golfer was all smiles after winning LIV Golf Korea. Niemann defeated Talor Gooch of the United States with a birdie on the first playoff hole at the par-70 Asiad Country Club in Busan. The two shared the 54-hole lead at nine-under and finished regulatio

- ['Give him a kiss' on campaign trail stirs backlash](#) (2026-05-31 11:56)

A man shouting "Give him a kiss" while the ruling Democratic Party of Korea's Seoul mayoral candidate Chong Won-o was holding a baby on the campaign trail has sparked backlash from the liberal party's political opponents. A viral video shows the man telling the baby in Chong's arms to give the mayoral hopeful a kiss multiple times, as he is held back by campaign staff. Chong was visiting Yangcheon-gu of western Seoul. The shouted order was coming from Woo Hyung-chan, a Seoul city council member

- [Presidential chief of staff departs for Canada ahead of submarine deal](#) (2026-05-31 11:51)

Kang Hoon-sik, chief of staff for President Lee Jae Myung, flew to Canada on Sunday as a special envoy of the president. Kang said via Facebook just before his departure from Seoul that his trip to Canada is intended to expand strategic cooperation between the two countries in the field of energy, resources, supply chain and advanced technologies. He added that he was leading a delegation of the Lee administration, comprising officials from the Industry Ministry and Foreign Ministry, as well as

- [Lee vows zero tolerance for those who defame disaster victims](#) (2026-05-31 11:15)

President Lee Jae Myung said Sunday he will not tolerate those who insult victims and bereaved families of social disasters. "I will order authorities to thoroughly investigate and sternly punish" anyone who does so, he said, citing a recent case in which a man in his 50s was arrested for allegedly posting more than 3,000 defamatory messages targeting victims and their families of the 2014 Sewol ferry sinking, the 2022 Itaewon crowd crush and the 2024 Jeju Air crash. "Why

on earth would someone

- [Little to cheer in big win: S. Korean soccer fans question World Cup warmup](#) (2026-05-31 09:41)

The South Korean national team beat Trinidad and Tobago 5-0 on Saturday in the first of two US-based friendlies ahead of the 2026 FIFA World Cup, but the lopsided victory did little to silence criticism from fans who questioned whether the match offered meaningful preparation ahead of the tournament. “They bring a team ranked 102nd in the FIFA rankings and call it a World Cup warmup match,” one user wrote on X. “Other teams don’t play warmups against sides ranked lower than 100th. The Korea Foot

- [Korea to offer 24-hour won-dollar trading from July](#) (2026-05-31 08:55)

South Korea's foreign exchange market will move to round-the-clock won-dollar trading from July, marking a major step in efforts to improve market accessibility. Seoul authorities approved revisions to the code of conduct for the onshore forex market at a meeting held Friday, the Finance Ministry announced through a statement released Sunday. The change will take effect from July 6. Under the revised code, won-dollar trading hours, currently set from 9 a.m. to 2 a.m. the following day, will be e

- [Can Korean milk survive the era of tariff-free imports?](#) (2026-05-31 08:51)

As tariff-free milk products from the United States and Europe begin to arrive, South Korea's dairy industry is raising concerns that domestic products may not survive competition due to high pricing and excessive local production compared to demand. Koreans consumed 22.9 kilograms of fresh milk per person last year, down 9.5 percent from the previous year and the lowest level recorded in more than four decades, according to data from the Korea Dairy Committee. This trend is thought to reflect b

- [Justice Ministry expands 'top-tier visa' program to attract foreign science and tech talents](#) (2026-05-31 08:04)

More science and technology talent will become eligible for South Korea’s “top-tier visa” starting in June, as part of a government policy aimed at attracting more than 2,000 foreign researchers and professionals by 2030. The Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Science and ICT announced Sunday that they would expand eligibility for the visa to include professors and researchers in science and technology. The visa had previously been available only to those hired in advanced technology sector

- [Opposition slams president for showing stamped ballot paper to public](#) (2026-05-31 06:42)

The main opposition People Power Party is keeping the pressure on President Lee Jae Myung and the ruling bloc, slamming the president for showing his marked ballot paper in public. The main opposition party claimed that Lee had intentionally “waved” the marked ballot in front of the media when he appeared at a polling station Friday during the early voting period to cast

his vote with his wife, Kim Hea Kyung. People Power Party chair Jang Dong-hyeok said at a pressconference that Lee was engagi

- [Campaigns offer differing views on record early voting](#) (2026-05-31 06:42)

South Korea's rival parties are offering different interpretations of record-high early voter turnout for the June 3 local elections, with both parties spinning the high turnout in their favor. Rep. Kang Jun-hyeon, senior spokesperson of the Democratic Party of Korea, thanked more than 10 million voters in a press briefing Sunday for going to the polls during the previous two days of early voting. "I deeply thank the citizens for taking part in early voting," Kang said, urging those who had not

- [Local election campaigns push cash-based pledges](#) (2026-05-31 06:20)

South Korea is seeing a surge in cash-based campaign pledges ahead of the June 3 local elections, as candidates seek to attract voters with promises of direct financial benefits, despite growing concerns over the sustainability of the plans. The trend has emerged across party lines, with candidates from both the ruling Democratic Party of Korea and the main opposition People Power Party proposing a variety of direct payment programs aimed at easing living costs and stimulating local economies. O

- [Russia, China mark 30 years of partnership](#) (2026-05-31 06:16)

Russia and China on Friday underscored their strategic partnership and commitment to what they described as “win-win cooperation” rather than a “zero-sum game,” at a joint reception in Seoul. The Chinese and Russian embassies in South Korea held the event to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the China-Russia Strategic Partnership of Coordination and the 25th anniversary of the Treaty of Good-Neighborliness and Friendly Cooperation. The event highlighted the development of bilateral ties since

- [Korea weighs how to use Samsung, SK hynix-driven tax windfall](#) (2026-05-31 06:15)

South Korea is facing a growing debate over how to use an unprecedented windfall from the semiconductor boom, as surging chip profits feed into tax revenue, employee bonuses and broader calls for redistribution. The immediate focus is on how the government should handle the expected tax increase — whether to use it for fiscal spending, save it as a buffer or invest it for future generations. Finance Minister Koo Yun-cheol said the government plans to channel a significant portion of future exces

- [Foreign investors unload record \\$30b from Kospi in May](#) (2026-05-31 06:10)

Foreign investors offloaded a record 45 trillion won (\$30 billion) worth of Kospi shares in May, marking the largest monthly sell-off on record, as they locked in gains from a sharp rally in the country's top chipmakers, Samsung Electronics and SK hynix. Overseas investors net sold stocks amounting to 44.71 trillion won on the benchmark Kospi in May, according to data from the Korea Exchange. The figure marks the largest monthly sell-off, surpassing the previous record of

35.75 trillion won set

- [Foreign tourist arrivals in Seoul top 1.5 million in April](#) (2026-05-31 06:04)

Foreign tourists spent more than 1.15 trillion won (\$762 million) in Seoul in April, as the number of overseas visitors to the capital surpassed 1.5 million and continued to outpace pre-pandemic recovery levels, according to data released by the Seoul Metropolitan Government on Sunday. The number of foreign visitors surged by 18.8 percent from 1.3 million in the same month in 2025. During the first four months of the year, cumulative arrivals reached 5.2 million, a 21.4 percent increase from 4.2

- [S. Korea, Singapore defense chiefs discuss stronger defense, arms industry cooperation](#) (2026-05-31 06:04)

South Korean Defense Minister Ahn Gyu-back met with his Singaporean counterpart Chan Chun Sing on Sunday in Singapore to discuss ways to strengthen bilateral defense and arms industry cooperation, Seoul's Defense Ministry said. The talks took place on the sidelines of the 23rd Shangri-La Dialogue, a major annual security forum held in Singapore. During the meeting, the two ministers agreed to further deepen cooperation in the defense and defense industry sectors, in line with the two countries'

- [Will votes align with party support?](#) (2026-05-31 06:03)

As South Korea heads into its June 3 local elections, rival parties are entering the race with sharply different expectations. The ruling Democratic Party of Korea believes it is leading in most races and remains competitive in nearly all of the rest. The main opposition People Power Party, meanwhile, is focused on holding its traditional strongholds while remaining within striking distance in several key battlegrounds. The contrasting outlooks reflect different readings of recent political hist

- [US says capable of resuming war with Iran as deal remains elusive](#) (2026-05-31 05:46)

The US warned Saturday it was "more than capable" of resuming its war with Iran after US President Donald Trump said any peace deal must adhere to his red lines, including Tehran never being able to develop nuclear weapons. The White House had signaled Trump was close to a decision on a potential deal, though Tehran denied there was a final agreement on ending the conflict. US sources had told Agence France-Presse the deal was waiting on Trump's sign-off, but he made no decision after a White Ho

- [Japan defense chief takes swipe at China](#) (2026-05-31 05:41)

Japan's defense minister took a veiled swipe at China Sunday, pledging to keep strengthening the military despite Beijing's criticism of Tokyo's increasingly muscular security stance. Under Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, Japan has quickened its pivot toward a more proactive defence policy, further shaking off -- with US encouragement -- its pacifist outlook in place since the end of World War II. The change has drawn frequent rebukes from Beijing, which has accused Tokyo

of following a reckless

- [Hanwha Aerospace in arms export talks with Germany, UK](#) (2026-05-31 05:30)

Hanwha Aerospace is reportedly in discussions with Germany, the UK and other European countries on potential arms deal, accelerating its defense push amid rising military spending in the region. According to Bloomberg on Saturday, Alex Wong, global chief strategy officer at Hanwha Group, said Hanwha Aerospace is holding talks with potential European customers beyond existing partners such as Poland and Romania. The discussions cover not only defense procurement but also opportunities to establish

- [CJ chair eyes bigger play at Olive Young's US debut](#) (2026-05-31 05:22)

CJ Group Chairman Lee Jae-hyun visited Olive Young's first US store in Pasadena, California, to take stock of the beauty retailer's overseas operations and the conglomerate's larger play to build a Korean lifestyle presence in North America. According to the company on Sunday, Lee visited the location ahead of its Friday opening and discussed the group's regional growth plans with executives, including CJ Corp. CEO Kim Hong-ki and Lee Sun-ho, head of future planning at CJ Corp. "The opening of O

- [Labor minister's calls for redistribution of chip profits stirs backlash](#) (2026-05-31 05:20)

Labor Minister Kim Young-hoon's call for discussions on the potential redistribution of major conglomerates' "excess" profits has sparked controversy, after he described semiconductors as a "public good" when speaking about recent debate concerning the distribution of the profits of Samsung Electronics, South Korea's largest company. Kim on Wednesday told reporters that there should be talks over a "Korean social solidarity wage" involving the distribution of the company's remaining profits after

- [Art group's ex-chief jailed for sexual harassment of members](#) (2026-05-31 04:57)

The former chief of a Gangwon Province art group has been convicted by the Supreme Court of sexually harassing three group members. The court upheld an earlier ruling that found the defendant guilty of performing an indecent act by compulsion and sentenced him to one year in prison. The defendant had denied the charges and appealed the lower court's ruling, but the top court said the verdict was justified. The defendant was found to have committed seven acts of sexual harassment against the three

- [Dog rescued from garbage-filled home in Jeju](#) (2026-05-31 04:28)

A dog was rescued from a trash-filled apartment unit on Jeju Island after being left alone for an extended period, news reports said Sunday. A local animal welfare group, Hangbok, and police officers discovered the dog amid piles of garbage inside a fifth-floor residence in a low-rise apartment building, locally known as a villa, in Seogwipo on Tuesday. The dog was alone in the unit when rescuers arrived. Covered in filth and weighed down by severely matted fur, the animal was unable to walk properly

- [Architect Lee Jang-hwan named curator of Korean Pavilion at 2027 Venice Biennale](#) (2026-05-31 04:22)

The Arts Council Korea (Arko) has appointed Architect Lee Jang-hwan as the artistic director of the Korean Pavilion at the 2027 Venice Biennale. Centered on the theme of hyper-shrinkage, the planned exhibition combines research on contemporary regional cities with proposals for future architectural and urban models. According to Arko, commissioner of the Korean Pavilion at the Venice Biennale, Lee focuses on abandoned spaces and aging residential structures left in the wake of rapid population d

- [NC AI, Posco DX join hands in robot AI model development](#) (2026-05-31 04:19)

NC AI said Sunday it signed a strategic business agreement with Posco DX on the joint development of a robot foundation model and for broader technical cooperation. The signing ceremony was attended by Kim Min-jae, chief technology officer at NC AI, and Yoon Suk-june, head of the robot automation center of Posco DX, along with senior officials from both companies. The two sides discussed long-term cooperation plans to enhance competitiveness in robot intelligence technologies and industrial AI.

- [South Korea routs Trinidad and Tobago 5-0 in pre-World Cup friendly](#) (2026-05-31 03:43)

South Korea handled Trinidad and Tobago 5-0 in the first of its two pre-World Cup friendly matches in US training camp Saturday, with captain Son Heung-min and striker Cho Gue-sung each netting twice. After Son's brace in the first half, world No. 25 South Korea got two from Cho and another from Hwang Hee-chan in the second half against 102nd-ranked Trinidad and Tobago at BYU South Field in Provo, Utah, on the campus of Brigham Young University. South Korea will next play 100th-ranked El Salvado

- [Car in last week's deadly crash was going 161kph: police](#) (2026-05-31 03:22)

The car involved in Wednesday's deadly accident was speeding at 161 kilometers per hour just before the crash, according to officials of the Changwon Jungbu Police Station on Sunday. Investigators analyzed the vehicle's event data recorder and found the car's speed 3.5 seconds before the fatal accident in Changwon, South Gyeongsang Province. The speed limit for the road was 60 kph. Evidence suggested that the driver had attempted to brake and turn the steering wheel just before the accident. The

- [Korea' s suicide fix starts with answering calls](#) (2026-05-31 03:00)

"If you' re thinking about self-harm or suicide, contact the Ministry of Health and Welfare' s helpline at 109, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Please request a translator for English-language services." In Korea, news articles about suicide often end with this public service notice directing readers in crisis to call 109, the government' s 24-hour suicide prevention hotline. But the hotline answered fewer than half of its daily calls in the first quarter of 2026, even as the country conti

- [Korea should join frontier AI race dominated by US, China: Science minister](#) (2026-05-31 03:00)

South Korea should now try to build frontier artificial intelligence models on par with those of the US and China, Deputy Prime Minister and ICT Minister Bae Kyung-hoon said Friday, calling for a broader AI strategy that goes beyond industrial applications. “We have reached a point where Korea, too, should take on the challenge of building frontier AI models at a level comparable to those of the US and China,” Bae said at a press conference in Seoul marking the government’s first year in office.

- [Hanwha Ocean highlights potential \\$68b GDP impact in Canada submarine bid](#) (2026-05-31 02:51)

Hanwha Ocean is advancing its efforts to win a 60 trillion won (\$39.8 billion) submarine bid from Canada, proposing an ambitious plan to boost the Canadian economy at CANSEC 2026, the country’s largest defense and security trade show. During the event — held from Wednesday to Thursday — the company engaged with Canadian government officials and industry leaders, emphasizing that it could generate more than 22,500 jobs and contribute 94 billion Canadian dollars (\$68 billion) in GDP impact if it i

- [HD Hyundai chair pays respects at national cemetery ahead of National Veterans’ Month](#) (2026-05-31 02:50)

To mark the upcoming National Veterans’ Month, HD Hyundai Chair Chung Ki-sun and HD Construction Equipment CEO Moon Jae-young joined 200 employees to pay tribute to national heroes at the Seoul National Cemetery, the Yeongcheon National Cemetery, and the Geosan National Cemetery on Friday. Chung laid flowers and burned incense at the memorial tower at the Seoul National Cemetery. He then moved on to Section 25 — a burial area designated for a HD Hyundai volunteer program — where he cleaned the t

- [A hot night, a cool morning swim](#) (2026-05-31 02:45)

A midsummer-like heat lingered Saturday night in Gangneung, Gangwon Province, as the city recorded its first tropical night of the year. A tropical night refers to a weather phenomenon in which the temperature does not fall below 25 degrees Celsius between 6 p.m. and 9 a.m. the following day. Early Sunday morning, members of a sea swimming club enjoyed a morning swim at Gyeongpo Beach in Gangneung. As the blazing sun rose over the horizon after a night of lingering heat, they dived into the sea

- [Hana Financial holds group-wide wealth management seminar](#) (2026-05-31 02:43)

Hana Financial Group hosted the Hana Financial Money Show on Thursday, a group-wide wealth management seminar showcasing integrated asset management solutions from across its banking, securities and insurance affiliates. The event marked the first time the group's affiliates had come together to host a joint seminar on asset management. While such events had previously been organized separately by each affiliate, this year's seminar brought experts from

the group together under one roof. The gro

- [Fate of Chinese dissident at crossroads, between expulsion and refugee status](#) (2026-05-31 02:36)

Dong Guangping, the Chinese dissident who arrived in South Korea on a rubber boat, is drawing attention nationwide, as some legal experts say he is unlikely to be immediately repatriated to China and speculate he may apply for refugee status. Dong was found on a rubber boat off the coast of Taean, South Chungcheong Province, on Tuesday, according to the Coast Guard. The 68-year-old former police officer and human rights activist has spent decades trying to flee China over his political activism,

- [Korean cellist Kim Tae-yeon claims second prize at Queen Elisabeth Competition](#) (2026-05-31 02:34)

Korean cellist Kim Tae-yeon won second prize in the cello division of the 2026 Queen Elisabeth Competition, which concluded Saturday in Brussels, according to the Kumho Cultural Foundation on Sunday. Kim will receive a cash prize of 20,000 euros (\$23,300). First prize was awarded to Ettore Pagano of Italy, while Leland Ko of the US and Canada took third place. The 2026 competition, dedicated to the cello, was open to cellists ages 18 to 30. Out of 185 applicants worldwide, 64 advanced from video

- [Credit loans at local banks sharply rise in May amid stock rally](#) (2026-05-31 02:29)

Credit loans at major South Korean banks surged in May at the fastest pace in more than five years, data showed Sunday, as investors increasingly took out loans to buy stocks amid a record-breaking market rally. Outstanding credit loans at five major lenders -- KB Kookmin, Shinhan, Hana, Woori and NH Nonghyup -- stood at 107 trillion won (\$70.9 billion) as of Friday, according to data compiled by the banks. The total increased by 2.65 trillion won from the end of April, or 2.55 percent on a mont

- [N. Korean FM says Pyongyang shares common position with Russia on all strategic issues: report](#) (2026-05-31 02:25)

North Korea's Foreign Minister Choe Son-hui said her country shares "a common position" with Russia on all strategic issues at an event commemorating a late Russian ambassador, a Russian report has said. Choe made the remarks the previous day at a ceremony unveiling a memorial plaque at the Russian Embassy dedicated to former Ambassador Alexander Matsegora, the Tass news agency said. Matsegora, who had served as Russia's ambassador to North Korea for more than 10 years, died suddenly at the age

- [366 absentee parents had their info posted by gov't in past 3 years](#) (2026-05-31 02:22)

The government said Sunday that it revealed the identities of 366 individuals over the past three years as punishment for the parents' failure to pay child support. The individuals withheld due payments in the accumulated amount of 17.3 billion won (\$11.48 million), averaging 47.3

million won per person, according to the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family. By age, nearly half of them (168) were in their 40s, 94 were in their 50s, 92 in their 30s, eight in their 20s, and four were in their 60

- [Rival parties focus on battleground regions in last-minute campaigns for June 3 elections](#) (2026-05-31 02:21)

Rival parties were to stage last-minute campaigns Sunday, the last weekend before this week's nationwide elections, focusing on battleground regions, including Seoul. Up for grabs in the June 3 elections are 16 mayoral and gubernatorial posts, along with 227 heads of local governments and some 4,000 members of local councils. On Sunday, Rep. Jung Chung-rae, leader of the ruling Democratic Party (DP), may visit Seoul, North Jeolla Province and the southeastern city of Ulsan to rally support for D

- [CJ chairman visits 1st Olive Young store in US](#) (2026-05-31 02:16)

CJ Group Chairman Lee Jae-hyun visited CJ Olive Young Corp.'s first US store in California and called for efforts to promote healthy and stylish lifestyles among American consumers, the company said Sunday. During the visit, Lee described the launch of the health and beauty retailer's first US outlet as a "first step" toward expanding in the United States, the world's largest consumer market, according to the retail and entertainment conglomerate. The 803-square-meter store is located in a major

- [Obi nomination sets up Nigeria's three-way election rematch](#) (2026-05-31 02:08)

LAGOS, Nigeria (AFP) -- Nigerian opposition leader Peter Obi will stand as a candidate in the country's next presidential election, setting up a rematch of the three-way contest that defined the last poll. The former two-term governor of southeastern Anambra state was named as the candidate by an upstart political party Nigeria Democratic Congress Saturday. The party officially registered in February. "No nation can thrive when citizens can no longer sleep with their eyes closed," Obi said after

- [Rights groups sue US detention center](#) (2026-05-31 02:04)

Civil rights groups have filed a lawsuit over alleged human rights abuses at the US' largest immigration detention center in El Paso, Texas, where three people have died in the nine months since it opened. The American Civil Liberties Union, and other groups, brought the complaint on behalf of four people currently held at Camp East Montana, a sprawling tent encampment set up under US President Donald Trump's mass-deportation strategy. The action, filed in US District Court Western District of

- [Baemin to open Apple Pay to foreign-issued cards](#) (2026-05-31 01:56)

South Korean food delivery platform Baemin, operated by Woowa Brothers, is set to accept overseas Apple Pay cards, becoming the first such platform in the country to do so as foreign demand for its services surges. According to the company on Sunday, the move will open Apple

Pay, previously limited to Korean-issued cards, to those on global networks including Visa, Mastercard, JCB and American Express, starting June 2. "The addition of overseas Apple Pay card support, combined with our multiling

- [Lebanon denounces Israeli campaign in south](#) (2026-05-31 01:55)

Lebanon's prime minister accused Israel Saturday of pursuing a "scorched-earth policy" in his country's south, urging a halt to the fighting as Israel carried out fresh airstrikes and issued evacuation warnings for more than a dozen locations. A day after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said his forces had advanced deeper into Lebanon, his counterpart Nawaf Salam warned the country was facing a "dangerous" escalation, and called for "a swift and real ceasefire." In a televised address,

- [WHO chief visits Congo in Ebola outbreak](#) (2026-05-31 01:41)

BUNIA, Congo (AP) — The head of the World Health Organization on Saturday visited eastern Congo's Bunia, a city at the heart of an outbreak of a rare type of Ebola, where the virus is spreading faster than the response despite better-organized health facilities and new aid arrivals. WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus stressed the importance of building community trust, ensuring safe burials to prevent the spread of the outbreak and urged countries to reconsider travel bans and borde

- [Samsung Electronics tops automotive memory chip market in 2025: report](#) (2026-05-31 01:12)

Samsung Electronics Co. became the world's leading supplier of automotive memory chips last year, surpassing US chipmaker Micron, an industry report showed Sunday. Samsung's share of the global automotive memory chip market rose to 40 percent last year from 35 percent in 2024, according to a report by S&P Global Mobility. Over the same period, Micron's market share fell to 36 percent from 40 percent, placing it at No. 2. Samsung's gains were driven in part by its expanding presence in China, one

- [Foreign net selling of Kospi stocks hit record high in May](#) (2026-05-31 01:08)

Foreign selling of South Korean stocks listed on the benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index reached a record high in May, while foreign investors poured a record amount into the tech-heavy Kosdaq market, data showed Sunday. Offshore investors sold a net 44.71 trillion won (\$29.66 billion) worth of local stocks in May, surpassing the previous record of 35.74 trillion won in net selling set in March, according to data from the Korea Exchange. Foreign investors remained net sellers for 16 cons

- [PSG wins back-to-back Champions League titles after shootout victory against Arsenal](#) (2026-05-31 00:57)

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) -- Winning the Champions League was so nice, Paris Saint-Germain had to do it twice. PSG became back-to-back European champion by beating Arsenal 4-3 on

penalties in a dramatic final in Budapest that ended 1-1 after extra time on Saturday. "It's incredible," captain Marquinhos said. "From the very first day of this season, the coach said it's hard to win, and winning twice is even more difficult. So we all had to get back to work. That was the mentality." Arsenal defender

- [From niche hobby to public courts — pickleball gains ground in Korea](#) (2026-05-31 00:40)

The sharp “pop” of plastic balls bouncing off paddles echoed across a Seoul park, where courts once mostly used for jokgu, Korean foot volleyball, are increasingly being taken over by players of the fast-growing racket sport pickleball. Once seen largely as a niche sport favored by older players, pickleball is now attracting younger office workers, foreign residents and former tennis players, pushing the sport further into Korea’s mainstream recreational culture. The trend has grown visible enou

- [Hegseth calls for 'balanced' OPCON transfer where US military roles are 'honored'](#) (2026-05-30 09:32)

US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth on Saturday called for finding a "balance" in the transfer of wartime operational control (OPCON) to South Korea in a way that respects the roles the US military has played for decades. Hegseth made the remarks at a defense forum in Singapore amid growing concerns over what appears to be differing views between Seoul and Washington over when and how the transition should proceed. "I think we have to find the balance of where our military plans and the responsibi

- [Minister highlights S. Korea's push for 'self-reliant' defense alongside stronger US alliance](#) (2026-05-30 09:28)

South Korean Defense Minister Ahn Gyu-back on Saturday highlighted Seoul's drive to strengthen its own defense capabilities while deepening its alliance with the United States, amid evolving North Korean threats and uncertainties from Middle East tensions. Speaking at a defense forum in Singapore, Ahn said the North's closer alignment with Russia and its growing combat experience from the war in Ukraine pose a new threat to security not only on the Korean Peninsula but also in the Indo-Pacific.

- [Korea's growth fund sells out in 4 days. Here's why markets care](#) (2026-05-30 09:24)

South Korea's National Growth Fund is drawing attention from two corners of the market: retail investors rushing into a new state-backed product and equity investors tracking where the government's bigger policy money is going. The retail-facing product almost sold out in four selling days, with 99.9 percent of its 600 billion won (\$400 million) allocation taken up as of Thursday, according to the Financial Services Commission. But the retail frenzy is only the most visible piece of a much large

- [KTX, commuter rail services to fully resume Sunday after Seosomun overpass collapse](#) (2026-05-30 07:24)

Four days after the collapse of Seoul's Seosomun overpass disrupted rail travel across the capital region, rail operations began returning to normal Saturday, with all services expected to be fully restored Sunday. Korail said Saturday that services on the Gyeongui Line between Seoul and Munsan resumed with the first train of the day, restoring operations on the previously suspended section between Seoul Station and Sinchon. KTX services between Haengsin and Seoul also returned to normal operati

- [What was royal poison in 'My Royal Nemesis' really made of?](#) (2026-05-30 07:01)

In the ongoing fantasy rom-com series "My Royal Nemesis," Kang Dan-shim (Lim Ji-yeon), a royal concubine in the Joseon era, is forced to drink a bowl of poison. Blood spills from her mouth as she collapses to the floor — a scene familiar to viewers of Korean historical dramas. But in this story, death becomes a portal. Triggered by a shaman's spell, her soul awakens in present-day Seoul inside the body of Shin Seo-ri, a struggling actress who makes a living playing minor roles in period dramas.

- [Hanbok gets dressier for modern celebrations](#) (2026-05-30 07:00)

The term hanbok, literally meaning "Korean clothing," emerged to distinguish it from clothing that entered Korea in the 19th century: "yangbok," meaning "western clothing." Korea's traditional attire has been around for centuries, but is no longer considered everyday clothing. Instead, hanbok tends to be reserved for special occasions and ceremonies such as weddings, first birthdays, and lunar new year and Chuseok celebrations. "Today's common perception of traditional hanbok is largely based on

- [For these young Korean conscripts, military service is no longer lost time](#) (2026-05-30 07:00)

Many Korean men used to describe mandatory military service as a suffocating period spent confined to barracks, bound by rigid routines and largely disconnected from the outside world. Conscription was widely seen as an involuntary pause in youth, rather than a continuation of the lives they had been building. But for Woo Tae-hyun, his 18 months in the military were the exact opposite. It was a strategically planned step toward his future goals. Discharged last December, the 22-year-old, current

- [Dog treks, steak dinners and pet suites: Pets are now hospitality VIPs in Korea](#) (2026-05-30 07:00)

HONGCHEON, Gangwon Province — In the lobby of Sono Pet Club & Resort at Vivaldi Park, families wait at check-in with their dogs. A standard poodle stands quietly at the counter next to her human. "This is already our second visit here," said the guest, traveling with the poodle and a young child. "The off-leash field is great. There's a place right here to wash her, we can eat together, and the rooms are clean and modern. I especially booked this trip because we're participating in the Dangdang

- [One Canadian's 625-kilometer tribute to Korean War veterans](#) (2026-05-30 07:00)

By the time Guy Black reached Busan in May, exhaustion had long settled into his knees and feet. Every kilometer seemed slower than the last. Days of walking 25 to 30 kilometers at a time had reshaped not only his body, but also his state of mind. Still, the 61-year-old Canadian kept moving, letting his legs carry him forward. Because for Black, this was never simply a long walk, but a tribute to the victims of the 1950-53 Korean War. On May 22, Black completed a 625-kilometer journey across Sou

- [Seoul conveys position to Washington on USFK chief's 'dagger' remarks](#) (2026-05-30 06:45)

South Korea has delivered its position to the United States over the U.S. Forces Korea (USFK) commander's recent controversial remarks that likened South Korea to a "dagger" in Asia, according to presidential officials Saturday. In a recent podcast interview hosted by the U.S. Army War College, Brunson described South Korea as "the dagger in the heart of Asia," prompting criticism from the Chinese Embassy in Seoul, which said the remarks "crossed the line." National Security Adviser Wi Sung-lac,

- [Giants' Lee Jung-hoo returns from injury; Dodgers' Kim Hye-seong sent to minors](#) (2026-05-30 06:25)

One South Korean player in Major League Baseball (MLB) has returned from a recent injury, while another has been sent to the minors. The San Francisco Giants reinstated outfielder Lee Jung-hoo from the 10-day injured list (IL) and started him in right field against the Colorado Rockies at Coors Field in Denver on Friday (local time). The third-year MLB player had been out with a mid-back strain. He was batting .268 with three home runs and 17 RBIs in 48 games when he landed on the IL. He batted

- [Scenes from Day 2 of early voting](#) (2026-05-30 05:57)

As temperatures continue to climb and turnout remains brisk, voters head to polling stations nationwide to cast their ballots ahead of the local elections next Wednesday. Early voting turnout reached 18.61 percent as of 2 p.m., surpassing the figure recorded at the same point in the 2022 local elections. Early voting, which runs until 6 p.m. Saturday, allows voters to cast ballots at any of the country's 3,571 polling stations regardless of their registered place of residence. On Election Day, h

- [S. Korea attends G7 digital ministers meeting in Paris](#) (2026-05-30 02:33)

Second Vice Minister of Science Ryu Je-myung attended the meeting of digital ministers from the group of seven (G7) countries held in Paris and introduced South Korea's artificial intelligence (AI)-related policies, the science ministry said Saturday. South Korea was invited for a second consecutive year to the event, which took place in Paris on Friday (local time), according to the Ministry of Science and ICT. The second vice minister shared South Korea's policy directions on AI, including the

- [Early voting turnout hits 14.29% by 10 a.m.](#) (2026-05-30 02:18)

Early voting turnout for South Korea's ninth nationwide local elections reached 14.29 percent as of 10 a.m. Saturday, continuing to outpace participation levels recorded during the previous local elections four years ago. The figure was 1.62 percentage points higher than the 12.67 percent recorded at the same point during the 2022 local elections. The first day of early voting also set a new record for local elections, with turnout reaching 11.6 percent, surpassing the previous record of 10.18 p

- [Samyang Group to acquire Japanese chemical firm for 390 bln won](#) (2026-05-29 13:16)

Samyang Group said Friday that it has decided to fully take over a Japanese manufacturer of flavors, fragrances and fine chemicals for 390 billion won (US\$259 million). Samyang whose business portfolio ranges from food and chemicals to bio and packaging, said its purchase of Soda Co. will help expand its business lineup. Founded in 1915, Soda Aromatic has production facilities in five countries, including China and Taiwan, and supplies its products to some 1,000 companies.

- [Parent, teacher get reduced sentences in high-profile exam theft case](#) (2026-05-29 12:05)

A South Korean appeals court on Friday reduced the prison sentences of a parent and a contract teacher convicted of repeatedly stealing high school exam papers in a scheme that allowed the child to maintain the top academic ranking at her school. The Daegu District Court sentenced the parent, identified only by the surname A, to three years and four months in prison, down from four years and six months handed down in the first trial. The teacher, identified as B, received four years and four mon

- [Arrest warrant issued for suspect in stabbing of 2 men](#) (2026-05-29 11:22)

A Seoul court on Friday granted an arrest warrant for a man charged with stabbing two other men at an office in western Seoul earlier this week. Following an arrest warrant hearing held earlier in the day, the Seoul Southern District Court approved the warrant for the suspect, an employee of a partner company, citing risk of flight. The suspect, in his 60s, stabbed two LG Electronics employees – one in his 50s and the other in his 40s – on the second floor of the company's business center in Gan

- [S. Korea kicks off 2-day early voting for June 3 local elections](#) (2026-05-29 11:15)

Many South Koreans headed to the polls Friday in early voting for next week's local elections and parliamentary by-elections, widely seen as a referendum on President Lee Jae Myung's first year in office. Eligible voters can cast ballots at 3,571 polling stations nationwide from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. until Saturday, according to the National Election Commission (NEC). More than 5.18 million, or 11.6 percent, out of 44,649,908 registered voters cast their ballots as of 6 p.m., according to the NEC. Th

- [Veterans minister says Starbucks Korea should face public criticism, sanctions over controversial campaign](#) (2026-05-29 10:58)

Veterans Minister Kwon Oh-eul said Friday he believes Starbucks Korea should face sanctions over the recent controversial marketing campaign associated with the May 18 Gwangju democratization movement, saying it was not the result of an "individual deviation," but a company-level marketing scheme. Kwon made the remarks as the South Korean operator of Starbucks has come under intense public scrutiny after it launched an online "Tank Day" promotion last week, which many believe referenced the bloo

- [Iran's Bank Mellat wins W10b damages suit against Korea's central bank](#) (2026-05-29 10:45)

A Seoul court ruled in favor of Iran's major commercial bank in a damages suit filed against the Bank of Korea, ordering the Korean central bank to pay 10 billion won (\$7.3 million) plus delayed interest. Bank Mellat filed the suit in December 2024 after the Bank of Korea refused to accept its funds into the central bank's standing deposit facility from June 13, 2019. The facility allows financial institutions, including banks, to deposit excess reserves overnight at an interest rate below the B

- [Kazakhstan pledges support for Seoul's bid to diversify energy supplies: Cheong Wa Dae](#) (2026-05-29 10:40)

Kazakhstan pledged to support South Korea's efforts to diversify its energy supplies, including moves to facilitate Seoul's imports of Kazakh crude oil, amid supply chain disruptions caused by the Iran war, Cheong Wa Dae said Friday. The two sides also agreed during high-level talks in Kazakhstan to use the first Korea-Central Asia summit, which South Korea is set to host in September, as a key opportunity to deepen bilateral and regional ties. National Security Adviser Wi Sung-lac met Roman Skl

- [Aespa returns with broader sound, global collaborations on second LP 'Lemonade'](#) (2026-05-29 09:44)

Aespa returned Thursday with its second full-length album, "Lemonade," an 11-track release that broadens the group's musical palette while launching a new chapter in its fictional universe. The album has two lead tracks — "Lemonade" and prerelease single "WDA (Whole Different Animal)" — and features collaborations with G-Dragon, Ty Dolla \$ign and Becky G. "These two tracks mark the beginning of a new storyline for us," Karina said during a showcase in Seoul on Thursday. "People often describe Ae

- [Korea Investment, OKX acquire 20% stakes in Coinone](#) (2026-05-29 08:36)

Korea Investment & Securities is set to become a major shareholder of cryptocurrency exchange Coinone after agreeing to acquire a 20 percent stake, underscoring traditional finance's growing push into the nation's digital asset market. Coinone said Friday that Korea Investment & Securities and OKX Ventures would each acquire a 20 percent stake through a

combination of newly issued shares and existing shares sold by Coinone CEO Cha Myung-hoon and Com2uS Holdings. Following the transaction, Cha wi

- [Hot weekend ahead as Sunday highs near 34 degrees](#) (2026-05-29 08:36)

South Korea is expected to see sunny skies and higher temperatures over the weekend and into early next week, with Sunday's daytime highs forecast to reach as high as 34 degrees Celsius in some regions. The Korea Meteorological Administration said Friday that a warm high-pressure system settling over the peninsula will keep skies mostly clear while pushing temperatures higher. Daytime highs are forecast to reach 32 degrees on Saturday, with temperatures expected to rise to 30 degrees in Seoul, 3

- [Samsung Electro-Mechanics, LG Innotek rally as AI parts shortage starts to lift prices](#) (2026-05-29 08:33)

Samsung Electro-Mechanics and LG Innotek have become the latest focus of Korea's AI hardware rally as a long-running bet on AI server components turns into a more urgent call on orders, supply shortages and possible price increases. The two stocks were already up sharply before this week, but the rally gained new force Friday. Samsung Electro-Mechanics closed at 2.127 million won, up 15.04 percent from the previous session, while LG Innotek ended at 1.458 million won, up 28.57 percent. That push

- [Keum Suk Gendry-Kim receives France's Order of Arts and Letters](#) (2026-05-29 08:04)

The Jeju 4.3 Massacre in "Jiseul," wartime sexual slavery under the Japanese military in "Grass," families separated by the Korean War in "Waiting," and North Korea in "My Friend Kim Jong Un" — graphic novelist Keum Suk Gendry-Kim has spent years bringing the wounds, pain and resilience of Korea's turbulent modern history to light through deeply human stories. On Thursday, Gendry-Kim became the first Korean comics or graphic novel artist to receive France's Order of Arts and Letters at the rank

- [Why did TikTok launch soccer talk show in Korea?](#) (2026-05-29 07:45)

TikTok has launched its first original long-form entertainment program in Korea, marking a notable strategic shift as the company looks to move beyond the limitations of a short-form-only model in an increasingly saturated media landscape. The program, an hour-long sports talk show titled "Tikitiki Takataka Talktalkshow," premiered Monday and centers on soccer fandom, match predictions and broader sports culture. Former Korean football star Ahn Jung-hwan hosts the show alongside television perso

- [Togo's foreign minister urges balanced view of Africa, cites Korea as development model](#) (2026-05-29 07:41)

Togolese Foreign Minister Robert Dussey called for a more balanced understanding of Africa and highlighted South Korea's development experience as a model for the continent during a special lecture at a university here on Friday. The morning lecture, hosted by the Korea-Africa

Foundation and Hankuk University of Foreign Studies' Department of African Studies, was held at the university's Global Campus in Yongin, Gyeonggi Province, on the sidelines of the 2026 Korea-Africa Foreign Ministers' Meet

- [US anchor faces backlash over 'Death to America' joke about BTS Oreo cookies](#) (2026-05-29 07:38)

A US television news anchor has come under fire after joking during a live broadcast that a limited-edition Oreo cookie collaboration with BTS contained the message "Death to America." James Eppler, an anchor at KCBD Fox34 in Lubbock, Texas, made the remark Tuesday while introducing the BTS-themed Oreo collaboration. "The cookie's wafer is BTS' signature color, purple. The wafers are also engraved with one of 13 designs, which spell out a message to fans when put together. And that is: 'Death to

- [Seoul shares close at new high on tech rally, Mideast optimism](#) (2026-05-29 07:13)

South Korean stocks rebounded to a fresh all-time high Friday, driven by strong gains in stocks related to artificial intelligence and renewed optimism about a potential ceasefire in the Middle East. The local currency fell against the US dollar. The benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index added 290.86 points, or 3.55 percent, to close at 8,476.15, after hitting a new intraday high of 8,615.09. Trade volume was heavy at 701.5 million shares worth 73.7 trillion won (\$48.9 billion), with loser

- [Seoul opens honorary citizenship nominations for foreign residents](#) (2026-05-29 07:03)

Seoul is accepting nominations for its 2026 honorary citizenship program, which recognizes foreign residents who have contributed to the city in fields such as culture, the economy, welfare, science and AI. Foreign residents who have lived in Seoul for at least three consecutive years, or for a combined total of five years, may be nominated if they have helped raise Seoul's profile or contributed to the city's development. Nominations require a recommendation from the chair of the Seoul Metropol

- [Foreign-owned homes top 108,000; Chinese nationals hold more than half](#) (2026-05-29 06:23)

Foreigners owned more than 108,000 homes in South Korea at the end of 2025, with Chinese nationals accounting for more than half of all foreign-owned properties, government data showed Friday. According to statistics released by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, foreign nationals owned 108,231 homes in Korea as of Dec. 31, 2025, up 8 percent from 100,216 last year. Foreign-owned homes accounted for 0.55 percent of the country's 19.65 million housing units. Chinese nationals own

- [Readers complete his novel, says actor-writer Cha In-pyo](#) (2026-05-29 06:19)

It may be the writer who begins a book, but it is the reader who finishes it. That, actor-novelist Cha In-pyo said, was the sentiment he hoped to weave into his latest novel, "Our Neighborhood

Library." Speaking at a press event in Seoul on Wednesday, Cha reflected on a literary career that began with his 2009 debut novel "Once We Look at the Same Star." This is his fifth novel. The story follows a writer who sets out to write about Beongak, a painter in the Goguryeo Kingdom commissioned to paint

- [Georgia marks Independence Day in Seoul](#) (2026-05-29 06:15)

Georgia celebrated its Independence Day in Seoul this week, highlighting deepening relations with South Korea and growing cooperation in trade, investment, infrastructure and cultural exchange. Speaking at a commemorative reception, Mikheil Tigishvili, chargé d'affaires at the Georgian Embassy in Seoul, said the two countries share common historical experiences and democratic values. "Both nations have preserved their identity, culture and independence in challenging geopolitical environments,"

- [Scenes from Day 1 of early voting](#) (2026-05-29 06:14)

Early voting for next week's local elections and parliamentary by-elections began Friday at 3,571 polling stations nationwide. From soldiers arriving in groups to senior citizens and young parents accompanied by children, polling stations across the country reflected a broad cross-section of the electorate. Polling booths will remain open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. during the two-day early voting period, which runs through Saturday. Unlike on election day on June 3, eligible voters may cast their ballot

- [Netmarble's Seven Deadly Sins reenters top revenue ranks in Japan](#) (2026-05-29 06:08)

Netmarble said Friday that its flagship mobile RPG The Seven Deadly Sins: Grand Cross has surged back up the charts following its seventh-anniversary update, underscoring the game's enduring appeal. According to Mobile Index, the title climbed to No. 4 on Japan's Apple App Store revenue rankings after the update. Daily active users across all regions jumped 72 percent from the previous week, building on momentum from recent collaboration events and a pre-anniversary campaign. Players responded

- [Lee casts early ballot in first electoral test since taking office](#) (2026-05-29 06:00)

President Lee Jae Myung cast his ballot Friday as two-day early voting opened for South Korea's first nationwide elections since his inauguration, a vote that will determine the country's local executive, legislative and education leadership. Accompanied by first lady Kim Hea Kyung, Lee voted in the June 3 local elections at a polling station set up inside the Samcheong-dong community center in Jongno-gu, Seoul, near Cheong Wa Dae, the presidential office. Lee and Kim cast ballots for their regi

- [6,000-member porn site busted over sex videos filmed by users](#) (2026-05-29 05:59)

Korean police arrested 15 people linked to an online pornography site with more than 6,000 members, accusing its operators and users of distributing hundreds of sexually explicit photos and videos, police said Friday. The Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency's cyber investigation unit

said it booked eight operators of the site, called Honors Club, on charges of distributing obscene materials in violation of the Information and Communications Network Act. Seven site members were also arrested on the

- [Celltrion pushes beyond GLP-1 with next-generation obesity drug](#) (2026-05-29 05:50)

Celltrion said Friday it has begun primate toxicology studies for its next-generation obesity drug candidate CT-G32, accelerating its development of a first-in-class therapy with advanced effects. According to Celltrion, the toxicology studies, which will evaluate the safety and toxicity profile of CT-G32 in 252 rats and 48 monkeys, are expected to provide critical data to support dose selection and safety evaluation for future clinical trials. The Korean biopharmaceutical firm plans to submit a

- [Hyundai E&C; targets rising Ulsan market with Hillstate launch](#) (2026-05-29 05:49)

Hyundai Engineering & Construction said Friday it has begun sales for Hillstate Seonam Lake Park, a large-scale residential complex in Yaeum-dong, Nam-gu, Ulsan. The project comprises 753 units, including 631 apartments and 122 officetels, in towers rising to 44 stories. To ease buyers' upfront costs, Hyundai E&C is offering a reduced contract deposit of 5 percent, with the initial payment set at 5 million won (\$3,330). The complex is located next to Seonam Lake Park and within walking distance

- [Paris Baguette wins halal certification in Indonesia](#) (2026-05-29 05:49)

Paris Baguette said Friday it obtained official halal certification in Indonesia from the Halal Product Assurance Organizing Agency, accelerating its expansion in the Southeast Asian market. Halal certification is an internationally recognized quality assurance system that verifies products comply with Islamic dietary laws and meet standards for ingredients, hygiene, production and distribution. In the food sector, certification requires compliance throughout the entire process from manufacturin

- [Samsung, SK hynix invest in Anthropic as AI chip demand surges](#) (2026-05-29 05:37)

Samsung Electronics and SK hynix have taken strategic stakes in Anthropic, the developer of the Claude artificial intelligence models, joining a funding round that valued the US startup at \$965 billion, making it the world's most valuable AI company ahead of OpenAI. The deal is also fueling expectations that Samsung could win future AI chip manufacturing orders from Anthropic, boosting its foundry business. The two Korean chipmakers signed on as strategic infrastructure partners alongside US mem

- [Chemical leak at university lab leaves 17 hospitalized](#) (2026-05-29 05:36)

Seventeen people were hospitalized Thursday after toxic bromine gas leaked from a university laboratory in Cheongju, North Chungcheong Province, prompting an emergency evacuation and a local disaster alert. The leak occurred at around 7:13 p.m. on the sixth floor of Chungbuk National University's Advanced Bio Research Center, after a 500-milliliter reagent bottle

containing bromine was dropped and broken, according to police and fire authorities. Authorities believe the accident happened while s

- [SK Bioscience wins W300b policy funding for pneumococcal vaccine](#) (2026-05-29 05:32)

SK Bioscience plans to expedite the late-stage clinical trial of its pneumococcus vaccine by leveraging a 300 billion won (\$200 million) government fund. The vaccine arm of SK Group said Friday that its board of directors approved an ultra-low interest loan from the Korean government-backed National Growth Fund. The decision comes after the Fund Operations Committee nominated SK Bioscience as a recipient of the fund on Thursday. The National Growth Fund refers to a public-private combined financ

- [CJ ENM, Korean Cultural Centre UK host special screening of 'The Legend of Kitchen Soldier' in London](#) (2026-05-29 05:24)

CJ ENM said Friday that it hosted a special screening of the TV series "The Legend of Kitchen Solider" in London with the Korean Cultural Centre UK. The event held on Thursday marked the first collaboration between CJ ENM and the KCCUK. Organizers expanded the number of available seats after applications exceeded the expected capacity by more than four times. The screening was followed by a Q&A session led by Diane Min, head of Europe sales at CJ ENM. The audience asked questions about the drama

- [Woori Bank opens Asia headquarters in Singapore](#) (2026-05-29 05:17)

Woori Bank has opened an Asia headquarters in Singapore as the South Korean lender strengthens its corporate finance and investment banking business across the region. The commercial banking unit of Woori Financial Group said Friday it held an opening ceremony Tuesday in Singapore, officially launching a regional hub in one of Asia's main financial centers. The headquarters, first set up in January, will oversee seven Asian operations, including branches in Singapore, Hong Kong, Tokyo and Sydney

- [South Korea-US talks to move forward on security initiatives](#) (2026-05-29 05:17)

South Korea and the United States will begin formal talks next week on security initiatives stemming from last year's summit agreements, Seoul's Foreign Ministry said Friday, and likely address Seoul's push for nuclear-powered submarines and expanded nuclear fuel-cycle capabilities. The two allies will convene a two-day inaugural meeting in Seoul Tuesday and Wednesday to launch formal follow-up consultations on the security commitments outlined in the Joint Fact Sheet adopted after the October 2

- [Samsung Epis sets up 1st overseas bio R&D; center in Beijing](#) (2026-05-29 05:15)

Samsung Epis Holdings, the holding company of biosimilar drug developer Samsung Bioepis, said Friday it has established a research and development center in China as part of efforts to strengthen its new drug development capabilities. According to the biotech company, it recently set up a wholly owned subsidiary, Samsung Bioepis China, in Beijing's Changping district as its

first overseas R&D foothold. Samsung Epis Holdings, which was launched in November, noted that the establishment of the new

- [Emro rides agentic AI boom into US, Europe markets](#) (2026-05-29 05:07)

Korean supply chain management software provider Emro is stepping up its expansion in North America and Europe as growing geopolitical uncertainty, reshoring trends and supply chain disruptions drive demand for AI-powered procurement solutions. The company said Friday its AI-based supplier relationship management platform, Caidentia, drew strong interest at Gartner Supply Chain Symposium/Xpo 2026, one of the world's largest supply chain conferences, held in Orlando and Barcelona in May. Developpe

- [Puppy pawlitics: Dog class elections gain traction at Korea's pet kindergartens](#) (2026-05-29 04:51)

Move over politicians. Dogs are running for office now, too, and competition is "ruff." At some pet kindergartens across South Korea, canine campaigns for class president promise extra playtime, better snack choices and happier school days. These campaigns gained wider attention after the MBC reality show "I Live Alone" featured webtoon artist Kian84's dog being elected class president at a dog kindergarten on May 22. Kian84 later joked that he no longer understood how the world worked after lea

- [Police search Seoul city offices, builders over deadly overpass collapse](#) (2026-05-29 04:46)

Police raided Seoul city offices and construction companies Friday as authorities widened their investigation into the overpass collapse that killed three workers earlier this week. The Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency began searches at 9 a.m. at seven locations, including the Seoul Metropolitan Government's Urban Infrastructure Headquarters, which commissioned the demolition; the project's main contractor Heunghwa Construction; the supervising firm, Suseong Engineering; and subcontractors and f

- [Debate on Korea's holdback policy begins, aims for August conclusion](#) (2026-05-29 04:40)

A public-private consultative body formed to discuss Korea's long-debated holdback policy officially launched on Friday. The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism and the Korean Film Council held the group's first meeting in Seoul, aiming to improve the country's film distribution system. The group plans to sign a voluntary holdback agreement in August. A holdback policy sets a mandatory waiting period before films released in theaters can move to streaming platforms or television. Supporters

- [I-dle among "30 Under 30 Asia" chosen by Forbes](#) (2026-05-29 02:55)

Girl group I-dle made the "30 Under 30 Asia" list this year in Forbes magazine, published Wednesday in the US. In the Entertainment and Sports category, the group was chosen as one of the most influential young forces in the Asia-Pacific region. Since its debut in 2018, the quintet "went on to release multiple chart-topping albums, and have about 7 million monthly

listeners on Spotify,” the US magazine wrote, also mentioning that after renaming itself —from (G)I-dle — last year, it “released it

- [Riize floats another teaser for 2nd EP](#) (2026-05-29 02:48)

Riize gave fans another glimpse at its upcoming second EP with a teaser video released Friday through label SM Entertainment. The latest trailer for the mini album “II” is dubbed “Deep Dive.” It follows Sungchan sharing personal moments: relaxing in water, reading a book and writing in a journal. The group has been releasing visuals highlighting each member, starting with Wonbin, who filled his with guitar sounds. Eunseok chose to spend a day calmly exploring a new place while Shotaro showcased

- [Choi Min-sik returns to TV with Netflix's 'Notes from the Last Row'](#) (2026-05-29 02:43)

Choi Min-sik, one of Korean cinema’s most formidable screen presences, is set to return in a Netflix adaptation of the acclaimed Spanish stage play "The Boy in the Last Row." Psychological drama "Notes from the Last Row" stars Choi as Heo Moon-oh, a failed novelist and Korean literature professor who becomes consumed by the talent of Lee Kang (Choi Hyun-wook), a quiet student who always sits in the back row of his classroom. As the professor grows increasingly fascinated by the young man’s writi

- [Alpha Drive One hits Japan charts](#) (2026-05-29 02:38)

Alpha Drive One’s latest single “No School Tomorrow” and main track “OMG!” hit music charts in Japan high, according to its agency WakeOne Entertainment on Friday. The two-track single album claimed the No. 1 spot on a string of daily album rankings in the country while the lead track landed atop the iTunes Top Songs chart in Japan. The song also ranked No. 2 on Oricon’s Digital Singles Daily Ranking. The music video for the hip-hop R&B tune neared 20 million views on YouTube in two days, becomi

- [S&P; lifts Hanwha Life, Hanwha General Insurance ratings on overseas growth](#) (2026-05-29 02:30)

Global credit rating agency S&P Global Ratings has upgraded the financial strength ratings of Hanwha Life Insurance and Hanwha General Insurance to A+ from A, citing stronger financial fundamentals, stable profitability and growing contributions from overseas businesses. The ratings agency assigned a stable outlook to both insurers, according to Hanwha General Insurance on Friday. S&P said the upgrade reflects the strengthened capital position and earnings stability of Hanwha Group's insurance o

- ['Kkanbu summit' revives as Huang's Seoul agenda shifts to physical AI](#) (2026-05-29 02:25)

Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang is set to land in Seoul next Friday for a round of meetings with the heads of Korea's largest conglomerates, his first return since the October "kkanbu summit" that captivated the country. This time, the agenda has moved up the value chain: from the memory chips that feed Nvidia's processors to the machines those processors will power. According to

industry sources on Friday, SK Group Chairman Chey Tae-won, LG Group Chairman Koo Kwang-mo and Naver founder Lee Hae-jin have

- [Unwavering self-belief pays off for ex-World Cup hero](#) (2026-05-29 02:18)

About this time a year ago, there were whispers that Cho Gue-sung, who rose to stardom at the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar, wouldn't be able to play football anymore. He had undergone knee surgery, but complications from the procedure kept him on the sidelines for over a year. Making the South Korean national team for the 2026 World Cup seemed like a pipe dream. But Cho, 28, never stopped believing. That self-belief has paid off, as Cho, who rejoined his Danish club FC Midtjylland last fall, ear

- [Tax revenue up 13% in April amid stock market boom](#) (2026-05-29 02:13)

South Korea's tax revenue increased nearly 13 percent in April from a year earlier on the back of the recent bullish run in the stock market, data showed Friday. The government collected 55.2 trillion won (\$36.8 billion) in taxes last month, compared with 48.9 trillion won posted a year earlier, according to the Ministry of Finance and Economy. The finance ministry attributed the sharp increase to securities transaction levies, which came to 1.3 trillion won in April, soaring from just 200 billi

- [Local election early voting opens, turnout takes center stage](#) (2026-05-29 02:07)

South Koreans began two days of early voting Friday for nationwide local elections, as tightening races pushed rival parties into a final scramble to mobilize supporters and turn turnout into the defining fight of the campaign. Early voting turnout stood at 5.9 percent as of 1 p.m., slightly above the pace recorded in the 2022 local elections, according to the National Election Commission. The commission said 2,633,446 of the country's around 44.64 million eligible voters had cast ballots after

- [P1Harmony to host fan meetup in July](#) (2026-05-29 01:42)

P1Harmony will meet and greet fans in Ilsan, Gyeonggi Province, on July 11 and 12, agency FNC Entertainment announced Friday. The event is titled "P1usspace H: Horror Haven" in line with the group's superhero theme of fighting to protect the final sanctuary amid chaos. The fan meeting will be the group's second hosted in Korea and takes place about two years after the first. P1Harmony hosted a fan meeting in Yokohama, Japan, in April, during which it performed songs from its ninth EP, "Unique."

- [Demands from labor union 'huge burden' on company, says Kakao's management](#) (2026-05-29 01:41)

Kakao Corp. said Friday a compensation package demanded by its union could place a huge burden on the company's operations, after workers said they would proceed with a strike next month. The official statement came after Kakao's management and its labor union failed to reach an agreement in the second round of negotiations mediated by the government.

Unionized workers at Kakao's five units, including its headquarters, Kakao Pay Corp. and Kakao Enterprise, had previously voted in favor of a walk

- [Samsung begins supplying world's first 12-layer HBM4E samples](#) (2026-05-29 01:15)

Samsung Electronics said Friday it has begun supplying samples of the world's first 12-layer HBM4E chip to major customers, marking its latest push to gain ground in the AI memory market. The launch comes just three months after Samsung began mass shipments of HBM4, as memory makers accelerate development of next-generation chips to serve growing demand from AI models and hyperscale data centers. Samsung said the 12-layer HBM4E supports per-pin speeds of 14 to 16 gigabits per second, more than 2

- [S. Korea launches public-private committee to shape film 'holdback' rules](#) (2026-05-29 01:02)

South Korea launched a public-private consultative body Friday to discuss a proposed "holdback" system, which would impose a mandatory waiting period before films released in theaters can be shown on streaming platforms, with authorities aiming to reach a deal by August. The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism and the Korean Film Council said they will hold the first meeting of the body later in the day in Seoul, bringing together 22 representatives from across the film industry. Participant

- [S. Korea, US to launch talks on security initiatives from summit agreements next week](#) (2026-05-29 00:37)

South Korea and the United States will launch formal negotiations next week to implement security agreements reached between their leaders, Seoul's foreign ministry said Friday. A kickoff meeting will take place in Seoul on Tuesday and Wednesday to launch follow-up consultations on the security-related parts of the joint fact sheet published in November following the summit between President Lee Jae Myung and US President Donald Trump, according to the ministry. The agenda is expected to include

- [Seoul shares open strong on eased Middle East tensions](#) (2026-05-29 00:33)

South Korean stocks opened sharply higher Friday following reports that the United States and Iran have reached an agreement to extend the current ceasefire. The benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index added 217 points, or 2.65 percent, to 8,402.29 in the first 15 minutes of trading. The index fell 0.53 percent Thursday after closing over the 8,200-point level two days prior. Investors were boosted by overnight reports that Washington and Tehran had agreed to a memorandum of understanding to

- [April's industrial output, retails sales, investment fall in triple whammy](#) (2026-05-29 00:30)

South Korea's industrial output lost ground in April from a month earlier, data showed Friday, with retail sales and facility investment sliding amid economic uncertainties stemming from tensions in the Middle East. Industrial production fell 0.6 percent last month from March,

according to data from the Ministry of Data and Statistics. Output in the mining and manufacturing sector, a key pillar of the economy, shed 0.7 percent from the previous month due to the sluggish performance of the automoto

- [Police raid Seoul city govt., engineering company over overpass collapse](#) (2026-05-29 00:28)

Police on Friday raided the offices of the Seoul city government, an engineering company and others involved in the demolition of an overpass in western Seoul that partially collapsed earlier this week. The raids took place three days after a section of the Seosomun Overpass undergoing demolition collapsed, killing three people and injuring three others. The Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency said it was carrying out searches and seizures at seven locations, including the city government's infrast

- [Seoul Subway Line 2 resumes normal operations after safety inspection over overpass demolition](#) (2026-05-29 00:24)

Seoul Subway Line 2 resumed normal operations early Friday following an overnight safety inspection due to the resumption of demolition work of a partially collapsed overpass, the city subway operator said. The underground inspection began Thursday night after the labor ministry approved the city government's plan to resume demolishing the Seosomun Overpass in western Seoul, which partially collapsed Tuesday, killing three people and injuring three others. Seoul Metro cut operations between Hong

- [Defense minister to depart for Singapore to attend security forum](#) (2026-05-29 00:22)

Defense Minister Ahn Gyu-back was set to depart for Singapore on Friday to attend an annual security forum, where he is expected to highlight South Korea's defense policy and hold a series of bilateral meetings with counterparts of key partner nations. Ahn plans to deliver a speech to the plenary session of the Asia Security Summit, also known as the Shangri-La Dialogue, on Saturday, presenting South Korea's defense policy directions amid regional and global challenges, officials said. The forum

- [Bessent stresses Trump's 'redlines' in Iran negotiations amid report of tentative deal](#) (2026-05-29 00:20)

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent on Thursday reiterated President Donald Trump's "redline" demands in negotiations with Iran, including Tehran's commitment not to seek nuclear weapons, amid reports that Washington and Tehran have reached a tentative peace deal awaiting Trump's final approval. Speaking at a White House press briefing, Bessent stressed that Trump will not make a bad deal from the peace talks with the Islamic Republic, pointing out that the United States does not have "unlimited

- [S. Korea kicks off 2-day early voting for June 3 local elections](#) (2026-05-29 00:16)

Many South Koreans headed to the polls Friday in early voting for next week's local elections and parliamentary by-elections, widely seen as a referendum on President Lee Jae Myung's first year in office. Eligible voters can cast ballots at 3,571 polling stations nationwide from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. until Saturday, according to the National Election Commission. As of 11 a.m., turnout for the local elections came to 3.81 percent, according to the NEC. The rate was higher than the 3.59 percent recorded

- [Festivals, sights across Korea](#) (2026-05-29 00:00)

The Wonju Yongsugol Poppy Festival runs through June 7 in Wonju, Gangwon Province, marking its 19th edition. It began in 2005 when a farmer planted poppies on a 990-square-meter plot. Crowds grew, and from 2007, the village corporation and residents took over operations. The 43,000-square-meter grounds feature poppies alongside 43 flower varieties with overlapping bloom times. Activities include poppy T-shirt making, a train ride and nature crafts. The Poppy Garden Market sells commemorative han

- [Packages and promotions](#) (2026-05-29 00:00)

Paradise City packages stay with Mercier-Lozakovich recital Paradise City launched an art concert package tied to the June 14 pianist Helene Mercier and violinist Daniel Lozakovich duo recital at Art Center Incheon. The package pairs the concert with a stay at the boutique hotel Art Paradiso. Guests receive a room upgrade, 1 p.m. early check-in, welcome drink, breakfast at modern Korean restaurant Serase and an Art Center Incheon gift. Also included are access to the Cimer water park, Paradise H

- [\[Graphic News\] Foreign residents drive domestic travel](#) (2026-05-28 23:00)

Foreign residents in South Korea are becoming an important part of the country's domestic tourism market, according to a report released by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism and the Korea Tourism Organization. A survey of 1,000 foreign residents found that 69.1 percent took same-day trips and 58.8 percent traveled overnight between November 2024 and October 2025. Respondents averaged 3.7 day trips and two overnight trips per year. Nature and scenic destinations were the most popular tr

- [\[Anne O. Krueger\] Gangster logic of Trump's tariff wars](#) (2026-05-28 20:30)

In his second term, President Donald Trump has turned extortion and coercion into central features of American statecraft, deploying tariffs, sanctions and other forms of economic pressure against adversaries and allies alike. With each passing day, the damage caused by this gangster-like approach — for both the US and global economies — becomes increasingly evident. Shortly after returning to the White House, Trump made clear that he viewed tariffs as weapons rather than instruments of trade po

- [Defending champion DeChambeau grabs share of opening-round lead at LIV Golf Korea](#) (2026-05-28 13:06)

Riding an early birdie barrage, defending champion Bryson DeChambeau took a share of the opening-round lead at LIV Golf Korea on Thursday in the southeastern city of Busan. DeChambeau made seven birdies, including five on the front nine, for a round of five-under 65 at the par-70 Asiad Country Club. DeChambeau picked up a couple more birdies on the back nine but they were negated by two bogeys. He is tied atop the leaderboard with two other players, Charles Howell III and Scott Vincent. "If you'

- [Unification minister to be probed over alleged leak of N. Korean nuclear info](#) (2026-05-28 13:01)

Unification Minister Chung Dong-young will face a prosecution investigation over allegations that he leaked classified information related to North Korea's nuclear facilities. The Seoul Southern District Prosecutors Office said Thursday that it received the case from the Seoul Central District Prosecutors Office on May 21 and assigned it. Chung is accused of violating laws governing the disclosure of official secrets. During a parliamentary committee session on March 6, Chung said North Korea is

- [&Team; enters Billboard 200 for first time with 'We on Fire'](#) (2026-05-28 12:50)

Boy band &Team entered the Billboard 200 for the first time in its career, as the group's third Japanese EP "We on Fire" debuted at No. 52 on the latest chart dated May 30, its agency YX Labels said, Thursday. The Billboard 200 ranks the most popular albums in the US based on a combination of physical album sales, digital downloads and streaming activity. The group also performed strongly on Billboard's subcharts. "We on Fire" debuted at No. 2 on both the Top Album Sales and World Albums charts,

- [Seventeen's The 8, Vernon form new unit V8](#) (2026-05-28 12:01)

Seventeen members The 8 and Vernon will debut a new unit V8 and release their first album on June 29, according to Pledis Entertainment, Thursday. The unit name combines Vernon's "V" and The 8's "8." The name symbolizes the duo's driving force and originality, comparing the unit to an eight-cylinder engine generating powerful acceleration. Following the album release, V8 will hold standalone concerts "2026 Vernon The 8 [V8] Live." The performances are scheduled for July 11-12 at Kintex Exhibitio

- [The Black Label completes Series B funding round to accelerate global expansion](#) (2026-05-28 11:56)

The Black Label, led by producer Teddy Park, announced Tuesday that it had completed its Series B funding round on May 20. Key investors in the latest round included Tencent Music Entertainment, the China-based operator of music platforms such as QQ Music and Kugou Music, and Krafton, the South Korean game publisher behind PUBG: Battlegrounds. The Series B investment totaled 120 billion won (79.8 million), giving The Black Label a post-investment valuation of 1 trillion won. Existing shareholder

- [Taihan Cable accused of obtaining trade secrets from competitor LS Cable](#) (2026-05-28 09:14)

Police have concluded that Taihan Cable & Solution improperly obtained trade secrets tied to submarine cable plant technology from rival LS Cable & System, escalating a major legal battle between South Korea's top two cable makers. The Gyeonggi Nambu Provincial Police Agency said Thursday it referred 13 individuals and three corporations to prosecutors on charges of violating the Unfair Competition Prevention and Trade Secret Protection Act. Those referred include four Taihan Cable executives and

- [All 6 Chinese convicted in killing of Korean student in Cambodia get life](#) (2026-05-28 08:48)

Six Chinese nationals have been sentenced to life in prison by a Cambodian court over the torture and killing of a South Korean university student allegedly drawn into an online scam operation, according to local reports on Thursday. Kampot Provincial Court handed the six men, who are aged between 30 and 54, life imprisonment after finding them guilty of murder involving torture and extreme cruelty, as well as aggravated fraud, The Associated Press and The Phnom Penh Post reported. Cambodia does

- ['Filing for Love' cast teases final chapter ahead of two-episode finale](#) (2026-05-28 08:47)

"Filing for Love," which follows the audit team of a major conglomerate as they uncover the hidden secrets lurking behind powerful corporate figures, had entered a fiercely competitive race against heavyweight dramas such as "Perfect Crown" and "My Royal Nemesis" when it premiered in April. Despite the tough competition, the series has continued to draw strong responses both domestically and internationally. According to global streamer platform Rakuten Viki, the drama has maintained the No. 1 spot

- [Hospital seeks medical interpreters for migrant women](#) (2026-05-28 08:30)

Hallym University Kangnam Sacred Heart Hospital is recruiting 10 volunteer mentors to assist migrant women with medical interpretation. The hospital is seeking bilingual speakers of any language who are fluent in Korean to help foreign residents communicate with medical staff and provide emotional support during treatment. Applicants who have completed a medical coordinator course or have experience in medical interpretation will be preferred. Applications will be accepted through May 29. Interview

- [Teachers to be shielded from liability over field trip accidents](#) (2026-05-28 08:27)

Teachers will not face civil or criminal liability for accidents during school field trips unless they intentionally or through gross negligence violate safety rules, under measures announced by the Education Ministry on Thursday. The ministry unveiled a set of measures to support school field trips, as more schools have canceled or scaled back off-campus activities amid concerns that teachers could be held legally responsible for unforeseeable accidents. Under the plan, teachers would receive e

- [Antarctic researcher made 47-centimeter blade before threats: prosecutors](#) (2026-05-28 08:10)

A former member of South Korea's Antarctic research team, who was brought back to the country earlier this month after threatening fellow crew members with a weapon, allegedly crafted a 47-centimeter blade from a steel sheet, prosecutors said Thursday. According to prosecutors, the man in his 50s, part of the overwintering crew at South Korea's Jang Bogo Station in Antarctica, was indicted Thursday on attempted murder-related charges. He allegedly manufactured the blade in the station's workshop

- [Kim Soo-hyun suit could seek damages of up to ₩30b from YouTuber](#) (2026-05-28 08:10)

Actor Kim Soo-hyun's legal team said Thursday it is considering seeking up to 30 billion won (\$19.9 million) in damages from Kim Se-ui, head of controversial YouTube channel HoverLab, who was recently arrested on charges including spreading false information and fabricating evidence. Speaking on a radio program, Kim Soo-hyun's legal representative, attorney Ko Sang-rok, said the actor had initially filed a 12 billion won suit shortly after the allegations against him surfaced, but the estimated

- [Foreign parents in Seoul can get help with daycare costs](#) (2026-05-28 08:05)

For many foreign parents in Seoul, childcare can become one of the biggest financial pressures of raising children in Korea, especially for families still adjusting to visa procedures, housing costs and life in a new country. To ease some of that burden, the Seoul Metropolitan Government is continuing its daycare fee support program for foreign children enrolled in daycare centers. The program provides partial support for childcare fees for foreign children aged 0 to 5 attending daycare facilities

- [Australian man booked over bag theft at Jeju beach](#) (2026-05-28 08:00)

An Australian national has been booked by police for allegedly taking a bag from a beach on Jeju Island, authorities said Wednesday. According to the Jeju Seobu Police Station, the man in his 30s was caught after riding away on a bicycle with a Korean tourist's bag at Gwakji Beach on April 15 and hiding the victim's belongings. Although the case was reported about an hour after the incident, police located the suspect within 20 minutes about 3 kilometers from the beach, based on his description

- [Superstar wolf Neukgu healthy as zoo nears reopening](#) (2026-05-28 07:52)

Nearly two months after a wolf escaped from Daejeon O-World and triggered a nationwide search, the zoo and amusement park could open next week if it passes a safety inspection slated for Thursday. The zoo's biggest attraction is expected to be Neukgu, the wolf that escaped from the park on April 8 and was recaptured nine days later amid nationwide attention. According to Daejeon Urban Corp., the municipal operator of O-World, the animal is healthy and "more active than before." "Rather than appe

- [Korea sets sights on W400tr K-culture market, \\$110b exports by 2030](#) (2026-05-28 07:15)

South Korea's Culture Ministry on Thursday raised its 2030 K-culture targets to a 400 trillion won (\$265 billion) market and \$110 billion in exports, up from previous goals of 300 trillion won and \$35 billion, respectively. The ambitious figures reflect both Korean culture's continued global rise but also the ministry's expanding definition of what counts as K-culture. The ministry expanded the K-culture category this year to include inbound tourism spending and exports of Korean food, beauty an

- [Korea races toward top-five exporter club: Industry Minister](#) (2026-05-28 07:12)

South Korea is on track to become one of the world's top five exporters this year, Industry Minister Kim Jung-kwan said Thursday, as the government touted record exports, a Korea-US tariff deal, and an AI-driven manufacturing push among the administration's key first-year achievements. Speaking at a press briefing Wednesday, Kim also addressed major industrial issues such as Korea's bid for Canada's multibillion dollar submarine project and Samsung Electronics' recent settlement of a long-runnin

- [Kospi snaps 4-day winning streak on AI rally pause, renewed Iran tensions](#) (2026-05-28 06:54)

South Korean stocks snapped their four-day winning streak Thursday as artificial intelligence-related shares took a breather following their recent rally and on renewed tensions between the United States and Iran. The benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index fell 43.41 points, or 0.53 percent, to close at 8,185.29, after dipping as low as 7,841.01. The index closed at a record high of 8,288.7 on Wednesday, extending its winning streak to the fourth consecutive session on the back of a strong

- [Seoul volunteer program pairs foreign residents with seniors](#) (2026-05-28 06:52)

A volunteer program near Dongnimmun Station is inviting foreign residents to spend an afternoon helping Korean senior citizens practice conversational English. Rather than formal tutoring, the session focuses on relaxed, everyday conversations designed to help seniors build confidence speaking English while meeting people from different countries and backgrounds. Organizers emphasize that native-level English is not required, making the program accessible to foreigners who speak English as a sec

- [New BOK chief signals coming rate hikes as inflation pressure builds](#) (2026-05-28 06:35)

South Korea's central bank on Thursday kept its benchmark interest rate unchanged, raising its growth forecast for 2026 to 2.6 percent and signaling a pivot toward tighter monetary policy as early as July. The Monetary Policy Board held the key rate steady at 2.5 percent, extending the rate freeze that had been in place since May 2025. However, hawkish signals became more pronounced, with two of the seven board members calling for a 25-basis-point rate hike. " Whether looking at inflation, growth

- [Hyundai' s China hydrogen venture wins Guangzhou backing](#) (2026-05-28 06:27)

Hyundai Motor Group said Thursday that its HTWO Guangzhou plant, the group' s first overseas hydrogen fuel cell system production base, had been selected as a leading company in Guangzhou' s initiative to build China' s hydrogen industry ecosystem. The Guangzhou Municipal Bureau of Industry and Information Technology designated HTWO Guangzhou as a “leading enterprise in the hydrogen energy industrial chain” under the city' s broader strategy to foster new energy and energy storage industries. Guangz

- [Korean investors chase US stocks despite Kospi rally](#) (2026-05-28 06:22)

South Korea' s efforts to draw retail investors back to domestic markets through reshoring investment accounts, incentives and a surging Kospi are failing to slow the retail rush into US stocks. According to the Korea Securities Depository on Thursday, Korean investors' custody holdings of US equities climbed to \$200.4 billion as of May 26, already exceeding last year' s full-year record within just five months. The figure marks a 22 percent increase from the end of 2025. The surge was driven larg

- [Hana Financial unveils W3tr inclusive finance package](#) (2026-05-28 06:22)

Hana Financial Group unveiled a new inclusive finance roadmap Thursday for small-business owners and low-credit customers, with measures including 3 trillion won (\$2 billion) in loans and debt relief for long-term delinquent borrowers. The roadmap centers on three goals: narrowing financial disparities, helping vulnerable borrowers regain financial independence and expanding infrastructure for inclusive finance. Under the plan, Hana Bank will launch a loan product in June for low- and mid-credit

- [On Blind, US workers fear layoffs while Koreans debate bonuses](#) (2026-05-28 06:13)

In Silicon Valley, Blind has become a virtual space where tech workers ask who might be laid off next. The anonymous workplace platform, where employees verify their employer via company email before posting under company tags, has drawn attention in the US for its Tech Layoff Tracker, which lists confirmed and rumored job cuts. The New York Times recently highlighted Blind as a window into the souring mood across Big Tech. In South Korea, where Blind first took off before expanding to the US, t

- [2-day early voting period to open for local elections](#) (2026-05-28 06:10)

Over 3,500 polling stations nationwide open Friday as the two-day early voting period for the June 3 election begins. Any of the 44.64 million eligible voters, 151,000 of whom are foreign nationals, can cast their ballots in the local election from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. from Friday to Saturday, as long as they bring a valid ID to a polling station. During the early voting period, eligible voters may visit any of the 3,571 polling stations, regardless of their registered address. On election day, whic

- [Lee orders full investigation into fatal overpass collapse](#) (2026-05-28 06:03)

President Lee Jae Myung on Thursday ordered a sweeping investigation into a deadly collapse at an aging Seoul overpass demolition site and a separate construction scandal involving missing reinforcing bars at a high-speed commuter rail project. Lee instructed authorities to examine whether the two incidents stemmed from “bad practices that persist in parts of society, putting money and efficiency ahead of safety.” “Whether the fatal accident at the Seosomun overpass demolition site the other day

- [LG Energy Solution rides AI power surge with \\$1.6b US battery deal](#) (2026-05-28 05:59)

LG Energy Solution has secured its second large-scale US energy storage system battery supply deal, as part of its push to capture fast-growing power demand from artificial intelligence data centers and grid infrastructure while navigating a prolonged slowdown in the electric vehicle sector. According to LG Energy Solution on Thursday, it signed a \$1.6 billion contract with Michigan-based utility giant DTE Energy to supply 6 gigawatt-hours of ESS batteries for two years. The battery cells will p

- [S. Korea to simplify passport reissuance process from June](#) (2026-05-28 05:53)

South Korea’s Foreign Ministry will simplify the passport reissuance process starting next month, allowing applicants to request a new passport in person without bringing their existing passport, even if it is still valid. The ministry said Thursday that from June 1, South Koreans applying for passport reissuance before their current passport expires will no longer be required to present their existing passport. Until now, applicants seeking to reissue a passport with remaining validity had to b

- [Foreign voters hit record high, but low turnout limits influence](#) (2026-05-28 05:53)

The number of foreign nationals eligible to vote in South Korea’s local elections has grown large enough to form a noticeable voting bloc in some major cities. Their overall electoral influence, however, remains limited by persistently low voter turnout. According to data from the National Election Commission, foreign residents account for 1.8 percent of all eligible voters in Ansan and Siheung, industrial cities in Gyeonggi Province with populations of around 600,000 each, ahead of the June 3 l

- [Busan Biennale 2026 explores coexistence through 'Dissident Chorus'](#) (2026-05-28 05:48)

The 2026 Busan Biennale will transform the city into a multisensory stage of sound, performance and collective experience under the title "Dissident Chorus," emphasizing coexistence through tension, difference and resonance. Running from Aug. 29 to Nov. 1 across the Busan Museum of Contemporary Art, former Busan Nam High School and Space OneZ, the biennale will feature 44 artists and teams from 23 countries, with additional participants to be announced later. Led by co-artistic directors Evelyn

- ['Life is full of gratitude': Yoo Yeol on the six months that 'rebooted' his life](#) (2026-05-28 05:48)

Yoo Yeol, a Korean singer who in 2024 received a lung transplant, said Wednesday at the Global Business Forum, organized by The Korea Herald and Herald Business, he is living life anew since his battle with a rare cancer. The 65-year-old singer was diagnosed nine years ago with pleuroparenchymal fibroelastosis, a rare progressive lung disease with no known cause or cure. By May 2024, his weight had dropped from 65 to 41 kilograms, and a bout of influenza pushed him into respiratory failure. The

- [Cha Jun-hwan to star in 'Solo Leveling on Ice'](#) (2026-05-28 05:44)

South Korean figure skating star Cha Jun-hwan is set to take the lead in "Solo Leveling on Ice," a skating adaptation of the hit fantasy franchise "Solo Leveling." Producer Live Arena said Cha will play Sung Jin-woo, the series' protagonist, who transforms from the world's weakest hunter into its strongest after an awakening. The show, based on the globally successful web novel and webtoon, "Solo Leveling on Ice," premiered last year. The original webtoon series has drawn 14.3 billion views worl

- [Naver bets W1tr on creator content in AI push](#) (2026-05-28 05:30)

Naver said Thursday it will invest 1 trillion won (\$663 million) over the next five years to strengthen its creator ecosystem, betting that user-generated content will become a key asset in the next phase of artificial intelligence services. "The center of competition among AI platforms is moving toward data quality and service competitiveness," Chief Data and Contents Officer Kim Kwang-hyun said at the company's media roundtable in Seoul. "Naver's independent content ecosystem, built over more

- [Cho asks Singapore to help foster conditions for dialogue with North Korea](#) (2026-05-28 05:30)

Foreign Minister Cho Hyun on Thursday called for Singapore's support in fostering an environment favorable for renewed dialogue with North Korea during talks with his Singaporean counterpart Vivian Balakrishnan, following the latter's recent visit to Pyongyang. According to Seoul's Foreign Ministry, Cho and Balakrishnan met at the ministry building in Seoul and exchanged views on bilateral issues as well as regional and international affairs. Balakrishnan has been on a tour of China, North Korea

- [Jun Ji-hyun on fame, aging and her Cannes debut](#) (2026-05-28 05:29)

This year's Cannes Film Festival appears to have injected vital momentum into a post-pandemic Korean film industry. While auteur Na Hong-jin's sci-fi thriller "Hope" left the podium empty-handed, it quickly emerged as the market's buzziest breakout title. Its sales across more than 200 territories are reportedly on track to shatter the overseas presale record previously set by Park Chan-wook's "No Other Choice." Another undeniable epicenter of conversation on the Croisette was "Colony," a Midnig

- [Korea to pair UNESCO Heritage session with cultural festival](#) (2026-05-28 05:28)

A special exhibition space showcasing Korean cultural heritage and contemporary content will be set up in Busan during the UNESCO World Heritage Committee session, which South Korea will host for the first time this July. At a press briefing held on Wednesday at Bexco in Busan, the Korea Heritage Service announced that it would operate the K-Heritage House, a national pavilion showcasing traditional culture and contemporary Korean content, from July 20 to 29 at the convention center. The pavilio

- [Women’ s restroom queue sparks debate over men’ s room use](#) (2026-05-28 05:26)

A group of women who lined up to use a men’ s restroom at a highway rest area after the women’ s facilities became overcrowded has sparked debate online, with some criticizing the move as an invasion of privacy and others pointing to chronic shortages of women’ s restrooms at busy public facilities. The debate began after a post titled “Middle-aged women at Hwado Rest Area” was uploaded to the online community Bobaedream on Saturday. The writer said several women began waiting outside the men’ s res

- [K-beauty from Berlin comes home](#) (2026-05-28 05:25)

K-beauty brand Yepoda, headquartered in Germany, said Thursday it will open its first Asian store in Seongsu-dong, Seoul, on Saturday, marking its push into experiential retail. The two-story space takes customers through a step-by-step skincare journey, with exhibition-style installations that bring the brand's philosophy and product efficacy to life. The second floor houses product testing, shopping areas and a photo booth inspired by the foam texture of its signature cleanser. Yepoda said the

- [Alibaba.com launches AI-powered Accio Work in Korea](#) (2026-05-28 05:19)

Alibaba.com on Thursday launched Accio Work, an AI-powered autonomous business service, in Korea to support small and medium-sized enterprises. According to Alibaba.com, Accio Work offers a cross-functional squad of artificial intelligence agents that can handle all steps of running a business, including market analysis, product planning, sourcing, price negotiation, product registration, marketing and store operation. “Accio Work was developed to help SMEs and entrepreneurs enter the global mar

- [HD Hyundai strengthens Canadian shipyard ties ahead of submarine decision](#) (2026-05-28 05:16)

HD Hyundai Heavy Industries is stepping up efforts to win Canada’ s next-generation submarine program, bolstering ties with major Canadian shipbuilders and expanding industrial cooperation ahead of a final bidder selection. The South Korean shipbuilder said Thursday its senior executives met with Canada’ s Davie Shipbuilding in Ottawa on Tuesday to discuss ways to cooperate across shipbuilding and naval programs. During the meeting attended by Park Yong-yeol, head of HD HHI’ s naval ship business u

- [Far-right forum brings Korea’ s free speech dilemma to fore](#) (2026-05-28 05:11)

President Lee Jae Myung's suggestion that his government could move to abolish Ilbe, one of South Korea's most notorious online communities, has reopened debate over how far the state can or should go in regulating online hate speech and extremist content. Lee said he would instruct his Cabinet to review "punitive actions" against Ilbe, ranging from compensation orders and fines to blocking access to — or even shutting down — the site. His comment followed reports that some Ilbe users had mocked

- [ScreenX gains momentum with genre movie audiences](#) (2026-05-28 05:11)

ScreenX, a panoramic exhibition format, is gaining traction as audiences increasingly seek experience-driven cinema. According to CGV, "Colony," which premiered on May 21, delivered an opening-week ScreenX occupancy rate exceeding 30 percent, the highest among new ScreenX feature film releases this year. The film also crossed 2 million admissions within just five days of release, marking the fastest pace to reach that milestone so far this year. ScreenX theaters extend the image beyond the tradi

- [Outgoing Speaker calls for stronger parliamentary diplomacy](#) (2026-05-28 05:09)

Rep. Woo Won-shik, speaker of the National Assembly whose two-year term is set to end Friday, called for consolidating lawmakers' fragmented diplomatic activities to strengthen the parliament's diplomatic capabilities. Stressing the South Korean parliament's role in the country's soft diplomacy, the five-term lawmaker said at a press conference Thursday that there was greater room for the National Assembly to help augment state diplomacy. "If (the parliament) manages to build trust with key fig

- [Seoul's Defense Minister to attend Shangri-La Dialogue, meet Japanese counterpart](#) (2026-05-28 05:09)

South Korean Defense Minister Ahn Gyu-back will attend the 23rd Asia Security Summit in Singapore from Friday to Sunday, and hold talks with defense chiefs from several countries, the Defense Ministry said Thursday. During this year's meeting, Ahn is scheduled to hold a bilateral meeting with Japanese Defense Minister Shinjiro Koizumi. It will be Ahn's first meeting with Koizumi since January when the two sides held defense ministerial talks Japan. At the upcoming talks, the two sides are expect

- [3 university students dead after car skids into bus](#) (2026-05-28 05:05)

Three university students died after a car crashed into a parked bus in Changwon, South Gyeongsang Province, early Wednesday morning, police said. A sedan driven by a man in his 20s collided with the bus at around 5:02 a.m., according to the Changwon Jungbu Police Station. The driver was pronounced dead at the scene. Two passengers in the car, who were friends of the driver, went into cardiac arrest and later died at a hospital. The three victims were students at a local university. Police said

- [N. Korea rejects Quad call for denuclearization, says nuclear program will never end](#) (2026-05-28 04:52)

North Korea on Thursday condemned the Quad grouping as a tool for US-led “unipolar domination,” rejecting calls for its denuclearization and insisting it would “never” abandon its nuclear weapons program. The remarks came after the foreign ministers of the Quad — comprising the United States, Japan, Australia and India — reiterated their commitment to the “complete denuclearization of North Korea” during talks held Tuesday in New Delhi. Pyongyang responded sharply, accusing the Quad of pursuing

- [\[Legal Updates in Korea\] Mandatory sign language interpretation for major government announcements](#) (2026-05-28 04:52)

- Updated Law: Korean Sign Language Act What it does: Requires sign language interpretation for major government announcements Took effect: May 12 South Korea has expanded sign language services to improve access to public information for Deaf people who use Korean Sign Language as their primary language. Previously, sign language interpretation was mainly provided for disaster- and safety-related announcements. But major government announcements — including presidential speeches — often did not

- [Off-duty officer prevents stabbing at Daegu restaurant](#) (2026-05-28 04:46)

An off-duty police officer apprehended a man armed with a broken soju bottle at a restaurant in Daegu, preventing possible injuries to other customers, police said. According to surveillance camera footage released by the Korean National Police Agency on Wednesday, Officer Park Ji-hoon of the Daegu Bukbu Police Station subdued a man in his 60s who suddenly rushed toward a companion while wielding the broken bottle. The incident occurred on April 10 while Park was off duty and dining with a friend

- [Lee’ s top security aide heads to Kazakhstan to discuss energy ties](#) (2026-05-28 04:26)

President Lee Jae Myung’ s top security aide is set to meet Kazakh officials to discuss energy and supply chain cooperation and preparations for the first Korea-Central Asia summit, according to Cheong Wa Dae. Cheong Wa Dae confirmed National Security Adviser Wi Sung-lac’ s trip to Kazakhstan Thursday as South Korea seeks to diversify energy procurement channels and reduce its heavy dependence on Middle Eastern imports amid disruptions caused by the US-Israeli war on Iran. Wi’ s visit to Kazakhstan

- [Growing number of Koreans in late 20s giving up on work](#) (2026-05-28 04:21)

South Korea saw the sharpest April increase since 2020 in the number of people in their late 20s who were neither working nor looking for work, even as the country’ s population in that age group continued to shrink, government data showed Thursday. The economically inactive population aged 25 to 29 reached 784,000 in April, up 37,000 from the same month in 2025, according to the Korean Statistical Information Service. The last time Korea saw such a steep rise in economically inactive people in t

- [Samsung units acquire 4% stake in Dunamu](#) (2026-05-28 04:19)

Samsung Securities, Samsung SDS and Samsung Card said Thursday they will jointly acquire a 4 percent stake in Dunamu, operator of South Korea's largest cryptocurrency exchange, to expand their digital asset businesses. The three Samsung affiliates will acquire 1.39 million shares from Kakao affiliates in an all-cash deal worth 612.8 billion won (\$446 million). Samsung Securities will take a 2 percent stake, while Samsung SDS and Samsung Card will each acquire 1 percent. The transaction is scheduled

- [LX Hausys supplies facade material for UK rail station](#) (2026-05-28 04:16)

LX Hausys said Thursday it supplied its acrylic solid surface material, HIMACS, for the exterior wall installation at Reading railway station in Berkshire, England, as part of its expansion into landmark architecture projects. The company said HIMACS has been increasingly adopted in high-profile buildings and public facilities worldwide, strengthening its position as a premium architectural material brand. Previous projects using the product include Shanghai Disneyland, Porsche exhibition halls

- [NC AI wins defense AI project with Hyundai Rotem](#) (2026-05-28 04:16)

NC AI said Thursday it had been selected as the final contractor for a government-led defense R&D project ordered by South Korea's Agency for Defense Development in a consortium with Hyundai Rotem. The project aims to develop a physical AI-based integrated simulator and modular robotic system designed to improve the operational efficiency of future manned-unmanned combat systems. Under the project, NC AI will lead development of a "world model," a core technology regarded as essential for next-g

- [Korean Air joins RMHC, Inha Hospital for pediatric family care facility](#) (2026-05-28 04:15)

Korean Air said Thursday it had signed a memorandum of understanding with Ronald McDonald House Charities Korea and Inha University Hospital to establish and operate a Ronald McDonald House adjacent to the hospital, located in Incheon. The agreement was signed during Inha University Hospital's 30th anniversary ceremony held at the Grand Hyatt Incheon. Under the agreement, Korean Air will provide the site for the facility, while RMHC Korea will oversee construction and operations. Inha University

- [Doosan Enerbility joins Rolls-Royce SMR projects as strategic partner](#) (2026-05-28 04:15)

Doosan Enerbility said Thursday it was selected as a strategic partner for a small modular reactor project led by Rolls-Royce SMR. Following the selection, the company will undergo feasibility tests for key equipment such as nuclear reactors used in Rolls-Royce SMR projects in the UK and the Czech Republic. Rolls-Royce SMR is a small modular reactor development firm with British aerospace and defense company Rolls-Royce Holdings PLC as its largest shareholder. It is currently developing a 470-me

- [Ex-President Yoon acquitted of perjury in martial law testimony](#) (2026-05-28 03:36)

Former President Yoon Suk Yeol was acquitted Thursday of perjury charges stemming from his testimony at the insurrection trial of former Prime Minister Han Duck-soo. The Seoul Central District Court found Yoon not guilty of giving false testimony during Han's trial, rejecting the special counsel's claim that the former president had lied under oath about the circumstances surrounding the Cabinet meeting held before his short-lived martial law declaration. "It appears highly likely that Yoon had

- [Day6's Dowoon reassures fans after wedding rumor](#) (2026-05-28 03:22)

Dowoon of Day6 took to social media on Thursday ostensibly to address rumors circulating online that he has been dating an influencer. "Our team will not disband no matter what. I am not going anywhere," he told fans, asking them to ignore posts related to him for the time being. He also apologized for causing pain and asked for patience, but neither confirmed nor denied whether he is in a relationship. JYP Entertainment only said "no comment" on Tuesday when pressed for a statement, as rumors s

- [Chinese dissident detained on S. Korea's west coast identified as rights activist](#) (2026-05-28 03:13)

A Chinese dissident detained after entering South Korean waters aboard a rubber boat has been identified as a veteran human rights activist, raising questions over whether Seoul will deport him or allow him to seek protection. A fishing vessel on Tuesday spotted a rubber boat carrying a Chinese national off the coast of Taean, South Chungcheong Province, and notified authorities, according to the Coast Guard. Patrol vessels were dispatched and the man was detained, with authorities investigating

- [Celebrating Korean ceramics with Chinese-made souvenirs? Yeosu festival faces backlash](#) (2026-05-28 02:53)

Yeosu, one of Korea's best known pottery hubs, has come under fire after Chinese-made jars were handed out as giveaways at this year's ceramic festival. According to online communities Thursday, organizers of the Yeosu Ceramic Festival, held May 1-10 at the Silleuksa Tourist Complex, gave away mini moon jars to visitors who promoted the event on social media by uploading photos or videos of festival scenes, such as ceramics exhibitions, pottery wheel experiences or traditional pottery-making per

- [Hyundai Engineering breaks ground on Texas solar project](#) (2026-05-28 02:46)

Hyundai Engineering said Thursday it had broken ground on the Hillsboro Solar Power Plant in Texas, marking its first overseas renewable energy development project managed from start to finish. The groundbreaking ceremony was held Wednesday in Hill County, Texas, with executives from Hyundai Engineering, Hyundai Motor Group affiliates and local EPC contractors in attendance. Participants included Lee Seung-won, head of Hyundai Engineering's energy plant business division; Peter Branham, chief op

- [\[Contribution\] Forestry as a pathway to peace on the Korean Peninsula](#) (2026-05-28 02:42)

By Park Eun-sik Minister of Korea Forest Service Today, we live in an era of unprecedented global volatility, marked by protracted conflicts such as the Russia-Ukraine war and instability in the Middle East. As history has shown, war leaves deep and indelible scars on all involved, regardless of who claims victory. Peace is not merely the absence of conflict; it is the fundamental prerequisite for a secure daily life and a vital engine for economic development. Yet the Korean Peninsula remains d

- [GOT7' s Jay B announces Seoul show plan](#) (2026-05-28 02:41)

Jay B of GOT7 will host two shows in Seoul on June 20-21, agency 528Hz announced Thursday. "Tape: Roots" will be his first solo gig in about seven months, and the first since he joined the management company. "I' m putting a lot into preparing. Feeling excited," he told fans in a video uploaded on the agency' s social media, adding, "I feel as if I can already hear you cheering." The set list will include songs from his third solo EP, "Tr.ee," which releases June 10, 1 1/2 years after his first so

- [Bolivia at 'breaking point,' president warns](#) (2026-05-28 02:08)

Bolivian President Rodrigo Paz warned Wednesday that the country was at a "breaking point" after nearly a month of protests that have caused shortages of food, fuel and life-saving medicine. The US-backed Paz, who took office six months ago in the middle of the worst economic crisis in four decades, is battling a groundswell of fury over his center-right policies. The political capital La Paz has been besieged by low-income workers and members of the country's Indigenous majority calling for his

- [Zelenskyy asks Trump for more US air defense](#) (2026-05-28 02:06)

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has written to US President Donald Trump and Congress asking for more American-made air defense ammunition to counter intensifying Russian ballistic missile attacks, Kyiv said Wednesday. Meanwhile, Russian lawmakers have backed a draft bill to have bank employees join the fight against Ukraine' s long-range drones that strike deep inside Russia — with trained bank staff shooting down the unmanned aircraft. The steps came after a recent escalation in aerial

- [Israel tells Lebanese to leave in fight](#) (2026-05-28 01:59)

BEIRUT (AP) — The Israeli military on Wednesday told residents across southern Lebanon to leave as it expands its operations there, saying in a statement that the military will "work with extreme force" against Lebanon' s militant Hezbollah group. The warning — which fell on the Islamic holiday of Eid al-Adha — came a day after Israeli troops clashed with the Iran-backed Hezbollah along a strategic river in southern Lebanon, with Israeli forces pushing farther north, days ahead of talks in Washin

- [Illit spends 3 weeks on Billboard' s global rankings with 'It's Me'](#) (2026-05-28 01:56)

Illit is enjoying a three-week run on the Billboard Global excl. US and Global 200 charts with its single “It’s Me,” agency Belift Lab said Thursday, citing the latest chart. The single ranked No. 47 on the former and No. 95 on the latter, peaking at No. 32 and No. 67, respectively.

“It’s Me” is the focus track from the group’s fourth EP “Mamihlapinatapai.” Released in April, it sold over 410,000 copies in the first week, a career-best for the quintet. The mini album debuted atop Oricon’s Daily

- [Emerging S. Korean forward brimming with confidence ahead of World Cup debut](#) (2026-05-28 01:52)

Full of conviction in his skills as a goal-hunting striker for South Korea, Oh Hyeon-gyu can't wait to jump into his first FIFA World Cup action next month in Mexico and see what the hype is all about. South Korea will play all three of their Group A matches in Mexico, one of three co-host countries of this year's tournament, along with Canada and the United States. South Korea's second match will be against Mexico on June 18 in Guadalajara, where a partisan crowd is expected to be out in full f

- [Warmer world creates bigger and more damaging hailstones, study says](#) (2026-05-28 01:39)

WASHINGTON (AP) — A warmer world will likely make bigger and more damaging hail, a new study said. Because climate change from the burning of fossil fuels should make more high-energy unstable air, which is conducive to hail forming, global storms pelting roofs, cars and the ground with hail bigger than a large marble will increase between 38 percent and 47 percent by the end of the century, depending on how much heat-trapping gas the world spews, a study in Wednesday's journal Nature said. And

- [BTS extends record run atop Billboard Global chart](#) (2026-05-28 01:29)

BTS added another week at No. 1 on Billboard’s Global Excl. US chart with “Swim,” renewing its own record to a seventh frame atop the ranking, according to the latest chart, published Tuesday in the US. The septet also has occupied the most No. 1 slots on the chart this year, having surpassed Taylor Swift the previous week. “Swim” is the main track from fifth studio album “Arirang.” It ranked No. 55 on the Hot 100. The single track just remained among the top 10 on the Global 200, as the LP also

- [BOK lifts S. Korea's growth forecast to 2.6% for this year amid robust chip-driven exports](#) (2026-05-28 01:05)

The central bank on Thursday raised its economic growth forecast for South Korea to 2.6 percent for 2025 amid solid exports driven by a semiconductor supercycle. The revision by the Bank of Korea represents a 0.6 percentage-point increase from its previous forecast of 2 percent issued in February. For 2027, the central bank estimated its growth outlook at 2.1 percent. The South Korean economy grew 1.7 percent in the first quarter, marking the sharpest quarterly growth in 5 1/2 years. (Yonhap)

- [BOK holds key rate steady for 8th straight meeting amid Middle East uncertainty](#) (2026-05-28 01:03)

South Korea's central bank kept its benchmark rate unchanged Thursday, as lingering uncertainty in the Middle East prompted a cautious stance amid intensifying risks of inflation and currency weakness. In a widely anticipated decision, the Monetary Policy Board of the Bank of Korea held the key rate steady at 2.5 percent in its rate-setting meeting in Seoul. It is the first monetary policy meeting chaired by BOK Gov. Shin Hyun-song, who took office last month. It marked the eighth consecutive on

- [New BOK chief extends rate freeze amid inflation pressures](#) (2026-05-28 00:58)

South Korea's central bank kept its benchmark interest rate unchanged on Thursday, signaling that a shift toward a tighter monetary policy stance could come soon. The Bank of Korea decided to hold the benchmark rate steady at 2.5 percent, extending its rate freeze that has been in place since May 2025. Prior to the pause, the central bank had been on an easing cycle. Thursday's rate-setting meeting marked the first under new BOK Gov. Shin Hyun-song, who took office in late April. Inflationary pr

- [Kospi opens lower amid AI rally pause, mixed US-Iran signals](#) (2026-05-28 00:26)

South Korean stocks opened lower Thursday as a rally led by artificial intelligence took a breather as tensions increased again on news that US launched fresh strikes against Iran. The benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index fell 113.09 points, or 1.37 percent, to 8,115.61 in the first 15 minutes of trading. The index closed at a record high of 8,288.7 on Wednesday, extending its winning streak to the fourth consecutive session on the back of a strong rally led by major semiconductor shares,

- [Court to rule on ex-President Yoon's perjury charge](#) (2026-05-28 00:08)

A court was set to offer its ruling Thursday in former President Yoon Suk Yeol's trial on charges of giving false testimony during former Prime Minister Han Duck-soo's insurrection trial. The jailed former president is accused of giving a false impression during Han's trial last year that the Cabinet meeting he convened before declaring martial law on Dec. 3, 2024, was planned even before Han suggested it. The Seoul Central District Court was scheduled to hand down its verdict at 10 a.m. Special

- ['Trump' buffalo spared sacrifice](#) (2026-05-27 23:52)

DHAKA (AFP) -- A buffalo in Bangladesh nicknamed "Donald Trump" for its flowing blond hair has been spared from sacrifice after shooting to fame, and will instead be cared for at the national zoo. Muslim-majority Bangladesh, a South Asian nation of 170 million people, celebrates Eid al-Adha, the "feast of the sacrifice" this week. The 700-kilogram bull, a rare albino buffalo with a flowing helmet of light hair resembling the signature look of the US president, was due to be slaughtered to mark t

- [USFK says S. Korea-US alliance remains committed to 'conditions-based' OPCON transfer](#) (2026-05-27 23:40)

The South Korea-US alliance remains committed to a "conditions-based" transfer of wartime operational control to Seoul from Washington, a US Forces Korea official said Wednesday, amid a report that the US military has expressed concerns over a potentially rushed OPCON transition. The official's remarks came after the Chosun Ilbo, a Korean daily, reported that USFK told the South Korean side a hurried OPCON transition would make it difficult for American troops to come under South Korean operatio

- [Trump says Iran, Oman will not control Strait of Hormuz, deal remains elusive](#) (2026-05-27 23:07)

President Donald Trump on Wednesday dismissed a report that Iran and Oman would manage shipping through the Strait of Hormuz as part of a deal to end the war, in a sign that any agreement remained elusive. Trump's comments came after Iranian state TV reported that it had obtained an unofficial draft of an agreement that would restore commercial shipping through the strategic waterway to prewar levels within a month, with Iran and Oman jointly managing traffic. That framework also would have th

- [\[Graphic News\] Mideast conflict raises living costs, service prices](#) (2026-05-27 23:00)

The war in the Middle East has driven oil product prices up by more than 20 percent, with the impact spreading to service costs such as car repairs, laundry fees and airfares. According to the Ministry of Data and Statistics, the cost-of-living index rose 2.9 percent on-year in April, while personal service prices gained 3.2 percent. The cost-of-living index, based on 144 commonly purchased items, had remained relatively stable until earlier this year, but has recently accelerated toward the 3 p

- [Korea' s unfinished fight for menstrual rights](#) (2026-05-27 23:00)

Long treated in South Korea as a private discomfort to be managed quietly, menstruation is increasingly being reframed as a matter of public health, dignity and basic rights. The shift has gathered pace in recent years, as reports of menstrual poverty, concerns over product safety and demands for broader public support have pushed the issue beyond personal shame and into the realm of social policy. As the world marks Menstrual Hygiene Day on Thursday, that changing perception is gaining new poli

- [\[Wang Son-taek\] The futility of the 'principal enemy' debate](#) (2026-05-27 20:30)

The debate over the "principal enemy" has resurfaced in Korean politics. The controversy arose amid the ongoing local election campaign. It began when some of the conservative candidates across the country demanded that candidates from the progressive camp identify who South Korea' s principal enemy is. Progressive candidates responded that the question itself was a maliciously simplistic, binary trap and countered by asking why such an inappropriate question was being raised in the first place.

- [Iranian ambassador arrives at foreign ministry](#) (2026-05-27 10:13)

Anti-ship missiles developed and used by Iran are believed to have been used in an attack against a South Korean vessel in the Strait of Hormuz earlier this month, the foreign ministry said Wednesday. The ministry, however, reserved a decision on which actor in Iran launched the attack or whether it was intentional. "Technical analysis concluded that the unidentified airborne objects were likely Noor-series anti-ship missiles developed by Iran," First Vice Foreign Minister Park Yoon-joo said at

- [Indonesian group tourists to get visa-free entry to Korea starting Thursday](#) (2026-05-27 09:18)

The Ministry of Justice said Wednesday it will allow Indonesian tour groups to enter Korea without a visa from Thursday until the end of December, as part of efforts to boost inbound tourism. Under the new program, groups of three or more Indonesian tourists organized by designated travel agencies will be allowed to stay in Korea visa-free for up to 15 days. The ministry said the measure was discussed at the National Tourism Strategy Meeting in February and finalized after consultations with the

- [RM, President Lee call out Busan lodging price hikes](#) (2026-05-27 09:13)

President Lee Jae Myung has called for stronger action against accommodation price gouging in Busan ahead of BTS' June concerts, as soaring room rates and alleged reservation cancellations continue to draw criticism from fans and the public. The issue drew fresh attention after BTS members addressed the controversy during a livestream Tuesday evening. RM, the group's leader, asked businesses in Busan dialect not to "overdo it," referring to reports of sharp hotel price hikes, and expressed disap

- [Seoul says HMM vessel probably hit by Iranian-made anti-ship missile](#) (2026-05-27 09:11)

Seoul said Wednesday that at least one of the projectiles that struck the South Korean-operated vessel HMM Namu in the Strait of Hormuz earlier this month was highly likely to have been an Iranian-developed anti-ship missile, while stopping short of formally assigning direct responsibility to Tehran. Speaking at a press briefing at the Government Complex Seoul, First Vice Foreign Minister Park Yoon-joo said the joint investigation team recovered one unexploded warhead from one of the two project

- [‘Double the gains’ : Leveraged Samsung, SK products ignite retail frenzy](#) (2026-05-27 08:51)

South Korea's first single-stock leveraged products tied to Samsung Electronics and SK hynix surged by double digits in their trading debut Wednesday morning as the Kospi held firmly above the 8,000 level. Samsung Asset Management dominated trading activity, while Hana Asset Management posted the highest returns. According to the Korea Exchange, Samsung Electronics rose 2.68 percent, or 8,000 won, to close at 307,000 won (\$204.35), while SK hynix climbed 9.31

percent to close at around 2.243 mil

- [Employer sentenced for forklift abuse of Sri Lankan worker](#) (2026-05-27 08:45)

The Gwangju District Court has handed a suspended prison sentence to an employer who abused a Sri Lankan worker at a brick factory in Naju, South Jeolla Province, according to legal circles Wednesday. The employer, a 54-year-old man surnamed Jeong, was sentenced to one year in prison, suspended for two years. The court also ordered him to complete 80 hours of community service. The company that operated the brick factory was fined 5 million won (\$3,300). Jeong was accused of tying the 31-year-old

- [Busan mayoral debate takes unusual turn as candidate proposes lie detector test](#) (2026-05-27 08:45)

Tuesday's televised debate among Busan mayoral candidates took an unusual turn when a minor opposition candidate proposed that his rival take a lie detector test. Much of the debate followed the usual course, with the two main-party candidates — Democratic Party of Korea's Chun Jae-soo and People Power Party's Park Heong-joon — exchanging barbs and accusations over alleged irregularities in each other's past endeavors as government minister and Busan mayor. Chun formerly served as oceans and fisheries

- [Busan launches low-cost lodging campaign ahead of BTS concerts](#) (2026-05-27 08:39)

A growing number of religious groups, universities and public institutions in Busan are joining a "fair lodging" campaign ahead of BTS' upcoming concerts in the city, offering free or low-cost accommodation to fans amid soaring hotel prices. According to the Busan Metropolitan Government, local temples, churches, universities and public organizations began participating in the campaign following reports of accommodation prices sharply increasing around the concert period. Among the participating

- [On this day in Korea - May 28, 2022: Song Kang-ho wins in Cannes with "Broker"](#) (2026-05-27 08:35)

Actor Song Kang-ho won best actor at the Cannes Film Festival for his performance in the drama "Broker," becoming the first South Korean male actor to win an acting prize at the prestigious fest. Song played a man involved in an underground adoption network. The film, directed by Japanese filmmaker Hirokazu Kore-eda, blended human drama, morality and family into its theme. Experts said Song stood out with his ability to balance warmth, guilt and humor. At the same festival, Park Chan-wook was al

- [Swedish defense officials visit Hanwha as Nordic demand for K9 howitzer grows](#) (2026-05-27 08:31)

Sweden's senior defense officials visited Hanwha Aerospace's production facilities in South Korea on Wednesday, amid growing defense cooperation between Nordic countries and the Korean defense giant as Europe accelerates rearmament efforts. Hanwha Aerospace said Peter

Sandwall, Sweden's state secretary to the minister for defense, visited the company's plant in Changwon, South Gyeongsang Province, during a broader visit to South Korea for bilateral defense consultations. Sandwall and other senior

- [Korea's mountain parks expand free safety gear rentals](#) (2026-05-27 08:31)

The Korea National Park Service is expanding its free safety gear rental service to all 20 mountainous national parks this month, with foreign visitors also eligible to use the program. Foreign visitor-friendly guidelines will be introduced this year after 158 rentals by foreign visitors were recorded last year. The KNPS plans to provide English brochures and promotional materials at rental stations and expand overseas promotion through social media. With the addition of eight new parks this year

- [Worker killed in soil collapse accident at Gangnam sewer maintenance site](#) (2026-05-27 08:29)

A construction worker in his 60s died Wednesday after being buried in a soil collapse at a sewer pipe maintenance site in an apartment complex near Suseo Station in Gangnam-gu, southern Seoul, police said. According to the Seoul Suseo Police Station, a 3.5-meter-high pile of soil around the site collapsed at around 12:20 p.m. while the worker was installing formwork. He was taken to a nearby hospital in cardiac arrest but was later pronounced dead. Two other workers at the site escaped before then

- [Lee Jung-hoo eyes weekend return from injured list](#) (2026-05-27 07:48)

San Francisco Giants outfielder Lee Jung-hoo could return as early as this weekend after being placed on the 10-day injured list with lower back tightness. According to The San Francisco Chronicle, Lee resumed workouts on Tuesday and is expected to rejoin the Giants during their road series against the Colorado Rockies beginning Friday. Giants manager Tony Vitello said before Tuesday's home game against the Arizona Diamondbacks at Oracle Park that the club hoped Lee would be ready to return by then

- [Race tightens in key battlegrounds as blackout period begins Thursday](#) (2026-05-27 07:12)

Opinion polls are suggesting that several races may be closer than originally expected in the June 3 local elections, as Korea heads into a polling blackout. The latest polls indicate that about half of the races for 16 major mayoral and gubernatorial posts are tightening. Earlier expectations were for a landslide victory for the ruling Democratic Party of Korea, following strong wins in the 2024 National Assembly election and the 2025 presidential election. Opinion polls suggested that many

- [Seoul shares scale to new peak on extended chip rally](#) (2026-05-27 07:10)

South Korean stocks rose for the fourth consecutive session to a new peak of over the 8,200-point mark Wednesday, driven by a strong rally by Samsung Electronics and SK hynix. The local currency gained against the US dollar. The benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index

gained 181.19 points, or 2.25 percent, to close at a record 8,288.7, after rising as high as 8,457.09. The index opened 2.42 percent higher and extended gains to surpass the 8,450-point level early in early trading, with a buy-

- [Bank of America sharply lifts Korea outlook on AI chip boom](#) (2026-05-27 06:34)

Bank of America has sharply raised its 2026 growth forecast for South Korea, citing an artificial intelligence-driven semiconductor boom that it said is strong enough to lift exports, investment, consumption and government revenue. The bank upgraded its 2026 GDP growth forecast for Korea to 3.1 percent from its previous estimate of 1.9 percent, calling the revision "a clear shift to above-trend expansion," according to its report released Tuesday. It also raised its current account surplus projection

- [Samsung seals strike-averting wage deal amid bonus backlash](#) (2026-05-27 06:27)

Samsung Electronics and its labor unions signed their 2026 wage agreement Wednesday, formally ending weeks of negotiations after union members approved a last-minute bonus deal that narrowly averted a planned strike. But the agreement is expected to fuel backlash over wide bonus gaps between chip and nonchip employees, and shareholder opposition over profit-linked payouts. The signing ceremony was held at Samsung's employee training center in Giheung, after the deal was approved by a union vote

- [Musinsa posts record Q1 as stores, exports fuel growth](#) (2026-05-27 06:25)

Musinsa said Wednesday it posted record first-quarter sales as strong growth in its online platform business and expanding offline operations offset the fashion industry's seasonal slowdown. The company reported consolidated sales of 363.6 billion won (\$242 million) for the January-March period, up 24.1 percent from a year earlier. Operating profit rose 8.2 percent to 19 billion won. On a stand-alone basis, sales climbed about 25 percent to 335 billion won, while operating profit jumped 45.5 percent

- [How did K-pop collect 11 titles at AMAs?](#) (2026-05-27 06:10)

K-pop artists and related acts claimed a combined 11 trophies at the American Music Awards in Las Vegas on Monday, one of its strongest showings yet at a major US awards ceremony. The night was led by BTS, which won all three categories in which it was nominated, including the top honor artist of the year, best male K-pop artist and song of the summer with "Swim," from the group's fifth studio album Arirang. Katseye, the global girl group formed by Hybe and Geffen Records, also won all three categories

- [New Pizza Hut Korea operator names first CEO](#) (2026-05-27 06:02)

PH Korea said Wednesday it appointed former Pizza Hut Korea Chief Operating Officer Kim Jung-eun as its first chief executive ahead of the revamped pizza chain's official launch next month. PH Korea, established by Winter Gold and Kclavis Investment to operate the Pizza Hut brand in Korea, is set to begin operations as the country's Pizza Hut franchise headquarters

on June 1. Kim has more than two decades of experience in the food service industry. She previously served as delivery director at O

- [Are foreigners really ditching Kospi — or doubling down?](#) (2026-05-27 06:00)

Foreign investors may be selling South Korea hard, but they are sitting on a bigger slice of the market than before. While the benchmark Kospi has been on a dizzying rally in recent sessions, hitting a fresh intraday high of 8,457.09 Wednesday as of press time, overseas investors appear to be pulling back from local equities. Offshore investors have dumped shares worth more than 96 trillion won (\$63.8 billion) on the Kospi this year, sparking concerns over a sustained foreign exodus from Korean

- [1st generation K-pop star revisits struggles of trainee years on stage](#) (2026-05-27 06:00)

People spend their lives chasing success, hoping to reach something brighter. On that journey, there are moments when we wonder whether the light we are chasing will truly make us brighter, or whether it is too distant, merely a dream we can never reach. Singer and actor Danny Ahn described his latest stage role in the play "At the Boundary of Light and Darkness" as a reflection on this idea. The production, which wrapped on Monday at the Sejong Center in Seoul, follows two parallel figures of d

- [Lee to lay out second-year's agenda in anniversary news conference](#) (2026-05-27 06:00)

President Lee Jae Myung will hold a news conference next month to mark the first anniversary of his inauguration and lay out his vision for the second year of his presidency, Cheong Wa Dae said Wednesday. The news conference will be held at 10 a.m. on June 8 at Yeongbingwan, a guesthouse within the Cheong Wa Dae presidential compound, Lee Kyu-youn, senior presidential secretary for public relations and communication, said during a briefing. "This news conference will serve as an opportunity to l

- [GC Biopharma sells US vaccine unit to Eli Lilly in \\$1.5b deal](#) (2026-05-27 06:00)

GC Biopharma said Wednesday that it would transfer its US affiliate Curevo Vaccine to Eli Lilly and Company in a deal worth up to \$1.5 billion. Under the agreement, Lilly will acquire all shares of Curevo and secure rights to amezosvatein, the affiliate's herpes zoster vaccine candidate currently under development. The deal includes an upfront payment upon closing as well as milestone payments tied to future development and commercialization achievements, GC Biopharma said. The company said the

- [\[Reporter's Notebook\] When education policy outruns coordination](#) (2026-05-27 05:59)

When the Education Ministry announced in April that it would crack down on unapproved international schools, the schools themselves were not the only concern. Many of these institutions operate like schools while being registered as private academies. Some also hire foreign teachers on E-2 visas, which are issued for foreign language instruction. In practice, however, many such teachers are believed to teach other subjects. When asked what would

happen to E-2 visa holders found teaching nonlangu

- [Decoding Shinsegae chair' s two apologies](#) (2026-05-27 05:58)

Shinsegae Group Chair Chung Yong-jin on Tuesday stood in front of dozens of cameras, bowing in apology to take full responsibility of Starbucks Korea' s recent “Tank Day” marketing controversy. A week earlier, he released a written apology on May 19, the day after Starbucks Korea had come under fire for slogans that critics linked to the country' s pro-democracy movements in the 1980s. The overlapping parts in both apologies acknowledged that the incident left a deep scar on the souls and bereaved

- [Wegovy, Mounjaro face tighter controls in Korea](#) (2026-05-27 05:52)

The South Korean government is moving to tighten access to injectable obesity medications, closing prescription loopholes and cracking down on overseas purchases amid misuse concerns. According to the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety on Wednesday, the ministry is working to designate glucagon-like peptide-1 obesity treatments as drugs of concern for abuse. Wegovy and Mounjaro, which have been selling rapidly in Korea, are included in the planned designation. These medications mimic the GLP-1 hor

- [Korea readies first UNESCO Heritage summit as showcase of cultural clout](#) (2026-05-27 05:52)

President Lee Jae Myung called for thorough preparations for South Korea' s first hosting of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, saying the summit should serve as a showcase of the country' s cultural clout and global leadership. Lee made the remarks while chairing a preparatory meeting on Wednesday in Busan for the 48th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, which will run July 19-29. The meeting, the largest international conference in the field of world heritage, marks the first time

- [Korea Zinc weighs Australia expansion amid critical minerals push](#) (2026-05-27 05:52)

Korea Zinc, the world' s biggest refined zinc smelter, is weighing a potential expansion of its Australian refining operation amid growing calls for a three-way critical minerals supply chain linking South Korea, the US and Australia. Political and business leaders in Townsville, North Queensland, are pushing for Korea Zinc' s Australian subsidiary Sun Metals Corporation to expand into an integrated processing facility covering copper, lead and other critical minerals, according to Australia local

- [New Danish chamber sees shared industrial future with Korea](#) (2026-05-27 05:38)

Until recently, Denmark was one of the few European countries without its own chamber of commerce in Seoul. That changed Tuesday with the launch of the Danish Chamber of Commerce in Korea, a move inaugural chairman Jan Benggaard sees as reflecting deepening economic ties and growing business opportunities between the two countries. The chamber launches with 34 member companies, including Maersk, Novo Nordisk, CS Wind and Lego, as

Korean industrial capabilities gain importance in Danish companies

- [OpenAI brings GPT-5.5-Cyber to Korea in security push](#) (2026-05-27 05:36)

OpenAI said Wednesday it is launching a cyber action plan for South Korea to help government agencies, public institutions and companies strengthen defenses against AI-driven cyber threats, with the country set to gain access to its security-focused model GPT-5.5-Cyber. “We want OpenAI to become a trusted partner to Korea,” OpenAI Chief Strategy Officer Jason Kwon said during a press briefing in Seoul. “Our goal is not to keep advanced cyber capabilities in the hands of a small number of organiz

- [Students join India's first Korean language quiz program](#) (2026-05-27 05:31)

Students from a dozen schools in India took part in the country’s first Korean language and culture quiz program for elementary and middle school students this week, the Education Ministry said Wednesday. K-Quiz India 2026 was held Tuesday by the Korean Education Center in India as part of an agreement reached during President Lee Jae Myung’s visit to New Delhi in April, according to the ministry. Fifty students from 12 schools took part in the program. Three schools — Arwachin Bharti Senior Sec

- [Alpha Drive One returns with breezy summer single 'OMG!'](#) (2026-05-27 05:30)

Rookie boy group Alpha Drive One returned Tuesday with the prologue single “No School Tomorrow.” The group dropped the two-track physical single, featuring the lead track “OMG!” and the side track “Good Life.” Set against the backdrop of an unexpected school closure, “No School Tomorrow” captures the sense of freedom and youthful excitement that comes with spontaneous rebellion. Lead track “OMG!” is a hip-hop R&B song that combines energetic hip-hop beats with trendy synthesizer sounds. The trac

- [BTS’ ‘Swim’ becomes first 2026 release to surpass 500 million Spotify streams](#) (2026-05-27 05:30)

BTS’ “Swim,” the main track from the group’s fifth LP “Arirang,” has surpassed 500 million streams on Spotify, becoming the first song released in 2026 to reach the milestone. According to Big Hit Music on Tuesday, the song exceeded 500 million cumulative streams on the global audio streaming platform as of May 26. Released in March as the main track of “Arirang,” “Swim” delivers a message about continuing to move forward at one’s own pace amid life’s rough waves. RM participated extensively in

- [Azerbaijan marks its 108th Independence Day in Seoul](#) (2026-05-27 05:29)

Azerbaijan celebrated its 108th Independence Day in Seoul on Tuesday, underscoring ties with South Korea and Baku’s growing role in regional and international affairs. The national day marks the founding of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic on May 28, 1918 — regarded as the first democratic republic in the Muslim world — ending nearly two centuries of Iranian and Russian rule. Addressing diplomats, government officials, members of civil society and the

Azerbaijani community in Seoul, Azerbaijan

- [Hyundai Glovis CEO tours Europe to revive growth](#) (2026-05-27 05:18)

Hyundai Glovis CEO Lee Kyoo-bok has begun a business tour across eight European countries as the logistics arm of Hyundai Motor Group looks to revive growth in its second-largest global market. According to industry sources Wednesday, Lee departed Sunday for visits to Austria, the Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, the Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia and Turkey through early next month. Sources said the decision to focus on Europe rather than the Americas — Hyundai Glovis' largest revenue-generating

- [In Busan, Lee invokes conservative icon' s legacy to push maritime vision](#) (2026-05-27 05:17)

President Lee Jae Myung cast Busan and the broader southeast as the launchpad for South Korea' s next leap as a maritime power, invoking late conservative President Kim Young-sam in the city that formed the bedrock of Kim' s political career. Lee delivered his remarks at the annual Ocean Day ceremony held Wednesday in Busan, which has emerged as a key battleground ahead of the June 3 elections, as the ruling Democratic Party of Korea seeks to make inroads into the traditional conservative strongho

- [Weverse Company appoints Yang Zoo-il as new president](#) (2026-05-27 05:13)

Weverse Company, operator of global fandom platform Weverse, announced Wednesday that it has appointed Yang Zoo-il as its new president. Yang will officially assume the role on June 1. The appointment comes as part of Weverse' s growth strategy aimed at further advancing its services and strengthening its operations as a leading fandom platform brand. Yang began his career as a developer at NHN, a South Korean IT and online gaming company, and later served as CEO of NHN Ticketlink, NHN Bugs and N

- [Anthropic names first Korea chief ahead of Seoul office launch](#) (2026-05-27 05:13)

Anthropic, the US developer of the Claude AI model and a chief rival to OpenAI, said Wednesday it has appointed Choi Ki-young, former head of Snowflake's Korea operations, as the first country head of its Korean unit ahead of the formal opening of a Seoul office. Senior executives will visit Seoul within weeks to establish the office and meet major corporate customers. Anthropic registered its Korean entity, Anthropic Korea, in July 2025. Choi brings more than 30 years of experience in the techn

- [North Korea, Singapore ministers hold talks amid renewed 'Singapore channel' speculation](#) (2026-05-27 05:06)

North Korean Foreign Minister Choe Son-hui met with Singaporean Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan in Pyongyang on Tuesday, state media reported Wednesday, amid growing attention to Pyongyang' s recent diplomatic outreach. The talks held at the Pyongyang Assembly Hall also marked the first visit by a Singaporean top diplomat to the North in eight

years. According to the Korean Central News Agency, the two sides discussed ways to strengthen bilateral relations and expand cooperation in “multiple

- [\[Treasures from National Museum of Korea\] Melon-shaped Celadon Bottle](#) (2026-05-27 05:05)

Melon-shaped Celadon Bottle Period - Goryeo Dynasty Materials - Celadon Category - flower vase Dimensions - H. 22.6 cm, (mouth) D. 8.4 cm, (bottom) D. 7.4 cm Designation - National Treasure Widely celebrated for its translucent jade-green glaze and refined inlay decoration, Goryeo celadon first emerged between the late ninth and early 10th centuries before reaching its peak in the 12th century. Celadon wares from this golden age are distinguished by their innovative use of inlay techniques, in w

- [Is Kim Soo-hyun returning to screen?](#) (2026-05-27 05:05)

The YouTuber who alleged actor Kim Soo-hyun had dated the late Kim Sae-ron when she was underage has been arrested, shifting industry attention to whether the actor will return through the Disney+ series “Knockoff.” The Seoul Central District Court on Tuesday issued an arrest warrant for Kim Se-ui, head of HoverLab, which operates the YouTube channel Garo Sero Institute, on charges of defamation and manipulating evidence using artificial intelligence. The arrest has many questioning whether Kim

- [Yoo Young-kuk rediscovered in landmark retrospective](#) (2026-05-27 05:05)

At the age of 48, Korea’s abstract art pioneer Yoo Young-kuk opened his first solo exhibition in 1964 after devoting himself fully to painting. That had meant giving up on juggling art with his other work as a fisherman and running his family’s brewery business in his hometown of Uljin, North Gyeongsang Province. He turned away from academic posts as well, believing that an artist should commit fully to developing their own artistic world. The year marked a turning point for Yoo, whose iconic mo

- [North Korea touts AI-guided tactical weapons in latest missile tests overseen by Kim](#) (2026-05-27 05:01)

North Korea said Wednesday that leader Kim Jong-un oversaw tests of a new lightweight multipurpose missile launcher and tactical cruise missile systems, highlighting what analysts described as growing efforts to modernize Pyongyang’s tactical strike capabilities with advanced technologies, including artificial intelligence-guided targeting. The Korean Central News Agency reported that the Missile Administration and the Academy of Defence Sciences conducted the tests Tuesday as part of North Kore

- [Woman fined for stalking ex-boyfriend from 30 years ago](#) (2026-05-27 04:53)

A woman in her 50s was fined 10 million won (\$6,650) for stalking a former boyfriend she had dated 30 years earlier by repeatedly calling him and sending him a gift, according to a local court. The Chuncheon District Court in Gangwon Province said Saturday that the defendant was

found guilty of violating the Act on the Punishment of Stalking. Prosecutors said the defendant first contacted the victim in June 2024, sending him a bottle of perfume as a gift. The victim had explicitly told the defen

- [Hong Su-hyeon wins gold at ISSF Munich World Cup shooting event](#) (2026-05-27 04:44)

South Korea's Hong Su-hyeon claimed gold in the men's 10-meter air pistol event at the 2026 International Shooting Sport Federation Munich World Cup. Hong scored 241.4 points in the final held in Munich, edging Switzerland's Yason Solari, who took silver with 239.3 points. Taiwan's Hsieh Hsiang-Chen secured bronze with 218.5 points. Despite late pressure from Solari, Hong maintained his composure to finish atop the podium. "I was nervous and felt a lot of pressure, but I tried to stay calm and f

- [2 stabbed at LG office in Seoul; suspect turns himself in](#) (2026-05-27 04:37)

South Korean police said Wednesday that the suspect in a stabbing attack that injured two people earlier in the day was arrested after turning himself in. Local police received reports at around 11:18 a.m. that two victims were stabbed on the second floor of an LG Electronics office in Gangseo-gu, western Seoul. The victims, both LG employees, sustained severe but non-fatal injuries and were taken to a nearby hospital for emergency treatment. The 60-year-old suspect is reportedly an employee of

- [Son Heung-min says World Cup still brings 'childlike excitement'](#) (2026-05-27 04:24)

Preparing for his fourth World Cup, Son Heung-min says the excitement feels no different from the first time. "When it comes to the World Cup, I feel like a child again," the South Korea captain told reporters before a training session for the FIFA World Cup at Zions Bank Training Center in Herriman, Utah, on Tuesday. Son arrived at the team hotel late Monday after playing for LAFC. He appeared energized as he met reporters ahead of his first national team training session. The 33-year-old said

- [Posco expands smart factory push for SMEs](#) (2026-05-27 04:16)

Posco has begun recruiting participants for its co-growth smart factory support program for small and medium-sized enterprises as it steps up efforts to strengthen the manufacturing competitiveness of Korean suppliers, the steelmaker announced Wednesday. The program, jointly operated with Korea's Ministry of SMEs and Startups, supports factory automation and digital transformation for small and mid-sized manufacturers. Since launching the initiative in 2019, Posco said it has invested a cumulati

- [Hanwha Aerospace names new Australia chief](#) (2026-05-27 04:16)

Hanwha Aerospace said Wednesday it appointed Kim Dong-hyun, head of its land systems business division, as the new chief of its Australian subsidiary as the company accelerates local defense production and supply chain expansion in the country. Kim will retain his current role while concurrently leading the Australian business. In Australia, he will oversee operations at

Hanwha Armoured Vehicle Centre of Excellence, or H-ACE, in Geelong, Victoria, which recently entered full-scale mass production

- [Early heat wave shatters Europe records](#) (2026-05-27 03:00)

The UK smashed a century-old temperature record for the second time in 24 hours Tuesday as a spring heat wave scorches parts of Western Europe, triggering government warnings about risks to life. Several drownings were reported in Britain and France as people tried to cool down. A temperature of 35.1 degrees Celsius was recorded at London's Kew Gardens, Britain's Met Office weather service said, breaking the 34.8 C record set a day earlier at Kew. The provisional readings smashed the long-standing

- [KFTC readies AI-era antitrust overhaul](#) (2026-05-27 03:00)

SEJONG — The Korea Fair Trade Commission will execute one of its biggest organizational expansions in years, signaling a tougher and more data-driven antitrust push under the Lee Jae Myung administration, KFTC Chair Ju Biung-ghi announced Tuesday. The KFTC plans to add 237 officials and establish new investigation and economic analysis units to better handle increasingly complex cases involving online platforms, consumer cartels and large conglomerates. The overhaul comes as the regulator faces

- [BTS hits 100m views with '2.0' music video](#) (2026-05-27 02:51)

BTS accumulated 100 million views on YouTube with the music video for "2.0" as of Tuesday, label Big Hit Music said Wednesday. The video was released last month, showcasing the choreographed performances of the septet and the kitsch sensibilities of the group, paying an homage to "Oldboy," a 2003 film by Park Chanwook. Blending hip-hop and trap, "2.0" debuted on Billboard's Hot 100 at No. 50 and charted four consecutive weeks on the main songs chart. It ranked No. 94 on the UK's Official Singles

- [Lee Jun-seok warns of legal action over fake Chinese-language election poster](#) (2026-05-27 02:49)

Rep. Lee Jun-seok, chair of the minor conservative Reform Party, has warned of legal action against people who circulated an election poster of his party's candidate translated into Chinese. Writing on his Facebook page Tuesday, Lee said that everyone involved in the circulation of the translated image would face legal consequences. "Those who posted and circulated false claims that the Reform Party's candidate (Kim) had been spreading his poster in Chinese language after using the official elec

- [Hana Financial offers tailored services for people with disabilities](#) (2026-05-27 02:43)

Hana Financial Group said Wednesday it is launching a comprehensive support program aimed at helping people with disabilities build sustainable and independent lives. The number of people with disabilities is growing in Korea, with the program centered on five areas: Rehabilitation, education, housing and welfare, employment and financial services. Hana

Financial officially launched the initiative with a donation ceremony Tuesday at its headquarters in Myeong-dong, central Seoul. The group said th

- [Prosecutors to investigate deadly Seoul overpass collapse](#) (2026-05-27 02:40)

A team of prosecutors will investigate Tuesday's overpass collapse in Seoul that killed three people and injured three others, the Seoul Western District Prosecutors' Office said Wednesday. Four prosecutors and six investigators will probe the deadly incident to determine the cause and identify those responsible, while providing swift support for the victims. "The special team will cooperate with the police from the warrant application stage to make sure the investigation runs as smoothly as possible"

- [Treasure unveils teaser for 4th EP](#) (2026-05-27 02:38)

Treasure uploaded a teaser for its music video for "If I," which fronts the fourth mini album set for release on June 1, label YG Entertainment said Wednesday. The black-and-white clip opens with a meteor shooting down from the sky before the ten members steal the attention with their performances to the increasingly thumping beats of the hip-hop tune. The upcoming EP "New Wav" consists of four hip-hop tracks and will mark the beginning of a new chapter for the group, said the label. After promo

- [Seventeen marks 11th anniversary with donation for kids' education in Laos](#) (2026-05-27 02:33)

K-pop group Seventeen celebrated its 11th anniversary on Monday by making a donation to the Korean National Commission for UNESCO. The commission said Tuesday that the 13-member act made the contribution in line with their debut date on May 26, and that the funds will be used for a scholarship program supporting lower secondary school enrollment in Laos. The amount was not disclosed. The scholarship program provides financial support for Lao students who have completed an accredited primary education

- [Chemical tank ruptures at US state mill](#) (2026-05-27 02:33)

A massive chemical tank holding nearly a million gallons of a corrosive liquid imploded and collapsed Tuesday at a Washington paper mill, killing at least one worker and leaving nine others unaccounted for, authorities said. Nine other people were injured in the spill, some severely. Emergency responders were still working on recovery efforts at Nippon Dynawave Packaging Co. in Longview, but hours after the implosion, some liquid remained in the collapsed tank, complicating efforts to reach victims

- [Pilgrims pray at Arafat as hajj peaks](#) (2026-05-27 02:32)

Huge numbers of Muslims prayed on Mount Arafat Tuesday at the climax of the hajj pilgrimage, defying searing temperatures under the desert sun as they fulfilled a lifelong dream. From daybreak, thousands of white-robed worshippers recited Quranic verses on the 70-meter rocky hill near Mecca, where the Prophet Mohammed is believed to have delivered his last sermon.

Volunteers handed out bottles of water, parasols and food packages to the tens of thousands of pilgrims as they made their way toward

- [Israel pounds Lebanon with strikes](#) (2026-05-27 02:32)

Israel pounded Lebanon with more than 120 airstrikes Tuesday in one of the heaviest days of bombing in weeks, Lebanese security sources said, as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said his military was deepening its operations in the country. The bombing raids further strained a ceasefire announced on April 16 that was meant to halt fighting between Israel and the Lebanese armed group Hezbollah, and came as Iran said the United States had violated a separate truce by striking southern I

- [Alpha Drive One tops iTunes Chart with new single](#) (2026-05-27 02:11)

Alpha Drive One topped the iTunes Top Songs chart in two regions and made the top five in six with its latest single, “OMG!,” agency WakeOne Entertainment announced Wednesday. The hip-hop/R&B tune filled with the energy of free-spirited youth also entered Line Music’s real-time charts at No. 2. The rookie boy group released the song Tuesday as part of its prologue single album, “No School Tomorrow.” The two-track release marks the group’s first return since its debut and precedes the team’s seco

- [Learn to cook bulgogi burritos, bibimbap in Suwon](#) (2026-05-27 02:02)

The Suwon Migrant Community Service Center will open applications for two Korean cooking classes open to foreign and Korean residents in Korea. According to the center’s Tuesday announcement, applications for the bulgogi burrito and miyeok naengjuk class opens Wednesday at 1 p.m. Miyeok naengjuk is a cold, tangy seaweed soup with cucumber. Applications for the gochujang and bibimbap class open Thursday at 1 p.m. Each session will be open to seven foreign nationals and three Korean nationals on a

- [Lee vows efforts to foster shipping, port industries as strategic sectors](#) (2026-05-27 01:45)

President Lee Jae Myung on Wednesday pledged to foster shipping and port industries as national strategic sectors in an effort to establish unhindered maritime supply routes. Lee unveiled the plan in a speech at a ceremony in Busan marking the country’s Day of Seas, which falls on Sunday, reaffirming the government’s plan to establish a global maritime hub in the city and surrounding areas. “Under the understanding that the shipping industry is not merely a logistics sector but a core industry b

- [Samsung’s strike-averting wage deal passes union vote](#) (2026-05-27 01:40)

Samsung Electronics’ tentative 2026 wage and bonus agreement passed a union vote Wednesday, a week after labor and management reached a last-minute deal that narrowly averted a planned strike. The agreement won support from 73.7 percent of the 62,616 union members who cast ballots, according to the unions. Turnout reached 95.5 percent of the 65,593 eligible voters. Samsung Electronics and its unions reached the tentative agreement on May 20,

just before a planned walkout was set to begin. Under

- [Kakao's labor, management to engage in 2nd mediation talks as strike looms](#) (2026-05-27 01:38)

A labor union at Kakao Corp., the operator of South Korea's popular messenger service, and the company's management will undergo a second round of mediation with the Gyeonggi Regional Labor Relations Commission later Wednesday, industry sources said. The mediation procedures, set to take place at 3:00 p.m., come after the two sides failed to narrow differences in the first round of wage talks held May 18, according to sources. If the regional labor office decides to suspend the mediation, unioni

- [Paige Morris to discuss climate in Korean literature](#) (2026-05-27 01:36)

Seorae Global Village Center will host a free English-language talk on how Korean literature explores climate and environmental issues, in collaboration with the Literature Translation Institute of Korea and Dulwich College Seoul. From Page to Planet: Korean Literature in the Age of Climate Change will feature award-winning translator Paige Aniyah Morris, whose translations include works by Han Kang, Hur Heui-jung, Kang Ji-young and Park Hyung-joo. The talk will explore how storytelling and tran

- [SK hynix joins Samsung, Micron in \\$1tr club](#) (2026-05-27 01:30)

AI-driven rally pushes all three global memory chipmakers above trillion-dollar mark SK hynix joined the \$1 trillion market capitalization club on Wednesday, meaning the world's three largest memory chipmakers are now all valued at more than \$1 trillion amid the artificial intelligence-driven semiconductor rally. As of early trading, SK hynix shares were up 9.94 percent, or 204,000 won (\$135.7), at 2.26 million won. The stock opened 11.06 percent higher at 2.279 million won, its intraday high du

- [NASA details moon base strategy](#) (2026-05-27 01:24)

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) — NASA is already ordering landers, rovers and drones for a sprawling moon base, less than two months after the Artemis II's record-breaking lunar fly around. The space agency outlined the first phase of its moon base plans Tuesday, awarding hundreds of millions of dollars in contracts to four US companies. Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin will provide a pair of landers to deliver moon buggies to the lunar surface, at a spot near the moon's South Pole. These so-called lunar t

- [Louvre jewelry heist to be turned into film](#) (2026-05-27 00:24)

PARIS, France (AFP) -- Last year's brazen robbery of the Louvre -- when thieves made off with jewelry worth some \$100 million -- is set to become a movie and a documentary series, a publisher said on Tuesday. French director Romain Gavras -- whose work includes 2025 Hollywood film "Sacrifice" starring Anya Taylor-Joy and music videos including most recently a hypnotic schoolboy choreography for GENER8ION -- will draw inspiration from the investigative

book "Main basse sur le Louvre" (literally "

Source: Yonhap

- [\(2nd LD\) S. Koreans vote in high-stakes local elections seen as key test for Lee](#) (2026-06-03 05:10)

SEOUL, June 3 (Yonhap) -- South Koreans voted Wednesday in high-stakes local ele...

- [\(2nd LD\) Voter turnout hits 46 pct as of 1 p.m., highest on record](#) (2026-06-03 05:05)

SEOUL, June 3 (Yonhap) -- Turnout in Wednesday's local elections reached 46 perc...

- [Today in Korean history](#) (2026-06-03 05:00)

June 4

- [\(LEAD\) Voter turnout at 15 pct as of 11 a.m.](#) (2026-06-03 04:21)

SEOUL, June 3 (Yonhap) -- Turnout in Wednesday's local elections stood at 15 per...

- [S. Korea, U.S. continue security talks for 2nd day with uranium enrichment rights in focus](#) (2026-06-03 04:20)

SEOUL, June 3 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and the United States continued talks on t...

- [KBO-leading Twins sign new pitcher Rios, cut Chirinos](#) (2026-06-03 02:24)

SEOUL, June 3 (Yonhap) -- The defending South Korean baseball champions LG Twins...

- [\(LEAD\) S. Koreans head to polls in local elections](#) (2026-06-03 01:42)

SEOUL, June 3 (Yonhap) -- South Koreans hit the polls Wednesday to elect mayors,...

- [Foreign hotel bookings in Busan surge ahead of BTS concert](#) (2026-06-03 01:33)

SEOUL, June 3 (Yonhap) -- The number of hotel reservations booked by foreign tou...

- [Voter turnout at 7.4 pct as of 9 a.m.](#) (2026-06-03 01:16)

SEOUL, June 3 (Yonhap) -- Turnout in Wednesday's local elections stood at 7.4 pe...

- [Sidecar activations on main bourse hit highest since 2008 financial crisis](#) (2026-06-03 01:13)

SEOUL, June 3 (Yonhap) -- The total number of buy- and sell-side sidecars trigge...

- [4 robot-related firms' stocks jump 155 pct this year amid physical AI boom](#) (2026-06-03 00:57)

SEOUL, June 3 (Yonhap) -- Four robot-related companies listed on South Korea's m...

- [N. Korea slams USFK commander's 'dagger' remark on S. Korea](#) (2026-06-03 00:50)
SEOUL, June 3 (Yonhap) -- North Korea on Wednesday criticized a recent remark by...
- [Police identify all 5 victims killed in Hanwha plant explosion](#) (2026-06-03 00:31)
DAEJEON, June 3 (Yonhap) -- Police said Wednesday they have identified all five ...
- [Veteran midfielder gearing up for final World Cup](#) (2026-06-03 00:25)
HERRIMAN, United States, June 2 (Yonhap) -- Midfielder Lee Jae-sung is preparing...
- [\(EDITORIAL from Korea JoongAng Daily on June 3\)](#) (2026-06-02 23:40)
Today is Election Day for Korea's June 3 local elections. Voters will choose gov...
- [\(EDITORIAL from The Korea Times on June 3\)](#) (2026-06-02 23:40)
Less than a week after three died when a section of the Seosomun Overpass collap...
- [\(EDITORIAL from The Korea Herald on June 3\)](#) (2026-06-02 23:40)
A record can flatter. The 23.51 percent early voting turnout ahead of South Kore...
- [Top headlines in major S. Korean newspapers](#) (2026-06-02 23:40)
SEOUL, June 3 (Yonhap) -- The following are the top headlines in major South Kor...
- [S. Koreans head to polls in local elections](#) (2026-06-02 21:00)
SEOUL, June 3 (Yonhap) -- South Koreans hit the polls Wednesday to elect mayors,...
- [Unification Minister Chung heads to Ulaanbaatar Dialogue for security talks](#) (2026-06-02 21:00)
SEOUL, June 3 (Yonhap) -- Unification Minister Chung Dong-young will travel to M...
- [USTR points to S. Korea's steel industry as he defends Trump's tariff policy](#) (2026-06-02 20:15)
WASHINGTON, June 2 (Yonhap) -- U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Jamieson Greer c...
- [USTR says U.S. will release results of Section 301 trade investigations over coming weeks](#) (2026-06-02 18:38)
WASHINGTON, June 2 (Yonhap) -- U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Jamieson Greer s...
- [\(4th LD\) Nvidia chief, SK Group's Chey meet in Taipei to discuss AI memory chip cooperation](#) (2026-06-02 12:21)
SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- Jensen Huang, chief executive officer of U.S. chip gia...

- [\(LEAD\) Nat'l security adviser meets U.S. under secretary of state for talks on security](#) (2026-06-02 11:12)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- National Security Adviser Wi Sung-lac met with visitin...

- [\(3rd LD\) Nvidia chief, SK Group Chey meet in Taipei to discuss AI memory chip cooperation](#) (2026-06-02 10:09)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- Jensen Huang, chief executive officer of U.S. chip gia...

- [World No. 3 Kim Hyo-joo headlines S. Korean contingent at LPGA major](#) (2026-06-02 08:49)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- Kim Hyo-joo, world No. 3 in women's golf with two LPGA...

- [Cabinet passes bill to strengthen self-reliance of semiconductors in defense systems](#) (2026-06-02 08:39)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- The Cabinet on Tuesday approved a bill aimed at suppor...

- [\(2nd LD\) S. Korea, U.S. wrap up 1st day of security talks on nuclear-powered submarine](#) (2026-06-02 08:38)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and the United States launched new high-pr...

- [JCS chief inspects readiness posture at coastal, riverine units](#) (2026-06-02 08:19)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) Chairman Gen. Jin Yong-sun...

- [\(2nd LD\) Nvidia chief, SK Group Chey meet in Taipei to discuss AI memory chip cooperation](#) (2026-06-02 08:07)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- Jensen Huang, chief executive officer of U.S. chip gia...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-06-02 08:06)

The following is the second summary of major stories moved by Yonhap News Agency...

- [\(LEAD\) S. Korea, Canada discuss stronger space, defense cooperation amid submarine bidding race](#) (2026-06-02 08:02)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and Canada have discussed deeper partnersh...

- [Lee meets African FMs, expresses hope for regular summit with African leaders](#) (2026-06-02 08:01)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Tuesday met with foreign mi...

- [SK Group to double wafer production cap over next 5 yrs, says chairman](#) (2026-06-02 07:50)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- SK Group Chairman Chey Tae-won said during his visit t...

- [\(2nd LD\) Seoul shares again end at record high on Samsung's performance](#) (2026-06-02 07:47)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks closed at a fresh high of above th...

- [U.S. scholar under probe for defaming Lee files suit against travel ban](#) (2026-06-02 07:33)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- Morse Tan, a Korean American professor accused of defa...

- [S. Korean, Turkish FM's to hold talks this week on bilateral ties, regional issues](#) (2026-06-02 07:18)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- Foreign Minister Cho Hyun is scheduled to meet with hi...

- [\(2nd LD\) Lee orders prompt action to stabilize prices, warns against market cornering](#) (2026-06-02 06:59)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Tuesday instructed official...

- [\(LEAD\) Seoul shares again end at record high on Samsung's performance](#) (2026-06-02 06:59)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks closed at a fresh high of above th...

- [\(LEAD\) S. Korea, U.S. begin talks on nuclear-powered submarine, other security initiatives from summit agreements](#) (2026-06-02 06:57)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and the United States launched their first...

- [Senior U.S. diplomat voices optimism over security cooperation talks with S. Korea](#) (2026-06-02 06:52)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- A senior U.S. diplomat visiting Seoul expressed optimi...

- [Seoul shares again end at record high on Samsung's performance](#) (2026-06-02 06:46)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks closed at a fresh high of above th...

- [Rival parties make final push for support on eve of local elections](#) (2026-06-02 06:41)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- The ruling and opposition parties made last-ditch appe...

- [\(URGENT\) Seoul shares again end at record high on Samsung](#) (2026-06-02 06:33)

(END)

- [Cabinet approves revised labor law allowing hourly use of paid annual leave](#) (2026-06-02 06:18)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- The Cabinet approved Tuesday a revised labor law allow...

- [\(LEAD\) Gov't extends public-private crude oil swap system until end-June](#) (2026-06-02 06:12)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- The government extended the operation of its crude oil...

- [Second vice finance minister heads to Paris for OECD meeting](#) (2026-06-02 06:00)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- Second Vice Finance Minister Huh Chang departed for Pa...

- [\(LEAD\) Nvidia chief, SK Group Chey meet in Taipei to discuss AI memory chip cooperation](#) (2026-06-02 05:44)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- Jensen Huang, chief executive officer of U.S. chip gia...

- [\(LEAD\) S. Korea asks Libya to support greater presence of Korean firms in African nation](#) (2026-06-02 05:43)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- South Korea has asked Libya to support the expansion o...

- [Gov't extends public-private crude oil swap system until end-June](#) (2026-06-02 05:36)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- The government extended the operation of its crude oil...

- [S. Korean FM holds talks with 11 African counterparts on cooperation, development issues](#) (2026-06-02 05:36)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- Foreign Minister Cho Hyun has held a series of one-on-...

- [BTS to release special vinyl to mark 13th anniversary](#) (2026-06-02 05:22)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- K-pop sensation BTS will release a limited-edition vin...

- [\(LEAD\) Singer Psy referred to prosecution over alleged medical law violation](#) (2026-06-02 05:14)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- Singer-rapper Psy has been referred to prosecutors on ...

- [Today in Korean history](#) (2026-06-02 05:00)

June 3

- [Samsung Heavy secures 4.3 trillion-won FLNG deal](#) (2026-06-02 04:46)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Heavy Industries Co., a major South Korean shi...

- [Gov't to streamline regulations for imports of key semiconductor manufacturing equipment](#) (2026-06-02 04:42)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- The government will streamline import procedures for e...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-06-02 04:30)

The following is the first summary of major stories moved by Yonhap News Agency ...

- [S. Korea selected as chair of 2027 Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting](#) (2026-06-02 02:59)
SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- South Korea will host the Antarctic Treaty Consultativ...
- [Hanwha Aerospace partially suspends Daejeon factory following deadly explosion](#) (2026-06-02 02:58)
SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- Hanwha Aerospace Co., a defense affiliate under Hanwha...
- [\(LEAD\) Lee orders prompt action to stabilize prices, warns against market cornering](#) (2026-06-02 02:54)
SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Tuesday instructed official...
- [Arrest warrant sought for factory owner over alleged assault of foreign workers](#) (2026-06-02 02:48)
SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- Police and labor authorities said Tuesday they have fi...
- [Singer Psy referred to prosecution over alleged medical law violation](#) (2026-06-02 02:45)
SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- Singer-rapper Psy has been referred to prosecutors on ...
- [Naver Cloud, Nvidia to join hands to build global AI factory: CEO](#) (2026-06-02 02:41)
SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- The cloud subsidiary of Naver Corp. will join hands wi...
- [Arms agency to provide technical support for probe into Hanwha factory blast](#) (2026-06-02 02:39)
SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- The arms procurement agency said Tuesday its affiliate...
- [\(LEAD\) N. Korea's Kim visits key political school for party cadres on its 80th founding anniv.](#) (2026-06-02 02:37)
SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has visited a key poli...
- [S. Korea asks Libya to support greater presence of Korean firms in African nation](#) (2026-06-02 02:36)
SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- South Korea has asked Libya to support the expansion o...
- [S. Korea, Africa hold biz forum to discuss economic cooperation](#) (2026-06-02 02:34)
SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- Hundreds of business leaders and government officials ...
- [Seoul shares sharply down late Tue. morning on profit-taking](#) (2026-06-02 02:28)
SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks traded lower late Tuesday morning ...

- [\(Yonhap Interview\) Egyptian FM proposes Korean industrial zone on Suez Canal](#) (2026-06-02 02:27)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- Egypt's top diplomat on Tuesday proposed South Korean ...

- [Police launch joint inspection of Hanwha Aerospace plant after deadly explosion](#) (2026-06-02 02:23)

DAEJEON/SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- Police launched a joint inspection Tuesday of ...

- [S. Korea's content industry exports hit record US\\$14.9 bln in 2025](#) (2026-06-02 02:12)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's content industry exports hit a record hi...

- [Lee orders prompt action to stabilize prices, warns against market cornering](#) (2026-06-02 02:11)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Tuesday instructed official...

- [S. Korea, U.S. begin inaugural talks on security initiatives from summit agreements](#) (2026-06-02 01:45)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and the United States launched their first...

- [Civil rights commission recommends gov't agencies share English test scores for hiring](#) (2026-06-02 01:22)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- The state civil rights commission has recommended that...

- [Nvidia's Jensen Huang to appear on 'You Quiz on the Block'](#) (2026-06-02 01:08)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- Jensen Huang, chief executive officer (CEO) of U.S. ch...

- [National security adviser to meet U.S. under secretary of state](#) (2026-06-02 01:06)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- National Security Adviser Wi Sung-lac was set to meet ...

- [\(3rd LD\) Consumer prices rise 3.1 pct in May on soaring fuel prices](#) (2026-06-02 01:00)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's consumer prices rose more than 3 percent...

- [Inflation expected to stay above 3 pct amid prolonged Middle East tensions: BOK](#) (2026-06-02 00:51)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- Inflation is projected to remain above the 3 percent l...

- [Lee urges stern punishment for intentional spreading of false information](#) (2026-06-02 00:35)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Tuesday called for stern pu...

- [N. Korea's Kim visits key political school for party cadres on its 80th founding anniv.](#) (2026-06-02 00:33)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has visited a key poli...

- [\(LEAD\) Seoul shares open slightly lower on profit-taking](#) (2026-06-02 00:31)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks opened a tad lower Tuesday, as inv...

- [Sesame oil exports hit new record high through April on Korean food popularity](#) (2026-06-02 00:29)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- Exports of sesame oil soared 37 percent in the first f...

- [S. Korea, Canada discuss stronger space, defense cooperation amid submarine bidding race](#) (2026-06-02 00:27)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and Canada have discussed deeper partnersh...

- [\(2nd LD\) Consumer prices rise 3.1 pct in May on soaring fuel prices](#) (2026-06-02 00:20)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's consumer prices rose more than 3 percent...

- [Seoul shares open at record high above 8,800 as tech rally continues](#) (2026-06-02 00:04)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks opened at a fresh record high Tues...

- [Nvidia chief, SK Group Chey meet in Taipei to discuss AI memory chip cooperation](#) (2026-06-02 00:03)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- Jensen Huang, chief executive officer of U.S. chip gia...

- [S. Korea seeking momentum-building win vs. El Salvador in final World Cup tuneup](#) (2026-06-02 00:02)

Herriman, United States, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Fresh off a comfortable win over Tri...

- [\(URGENT\) Seoul shares open at record high of above 8,800 as tech rally continues](#) (2026-06-02 00:01)

(END)

- [Alcohol spending posts sharpest decline in 7 yrs in Q1 amid changing drinking culture](#) (2026-06-01 23:51)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- Alcohol expenditures in South Korea fell at the fastes...

- [Unheralded defender goes from 2nd division to final World Cup squad](#) (2026-06-01 23:46)

HERRIMAN, United States, June 1 (Yonhap) -- This time a year ago, defender Cho W...

- [\(LEAD\) Consumer prices rise 3.1 pct in May on soaring fuel prices](#) (2026-06-01 23:33)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's consumer prices rose more than 3 percent...

- [Consumer prices rise 3.1 pct in May on soaring fuel prices](#) (2026-06-01 23:00)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's consumer prices rose more than 3 percent...

- [\(URGENT\) Consumer prices up 3.1 pct in May amid Middle East war, highest in more than 2 years](#) (2026-06-01 23:00)

(END)

- [\(EDITORIAL from Korea JoongAng Daily on June 2\)](#) (2026-06-01 22:07)

Union demands for profit-sharing bonuses are spreading rapidly following Samsung...

- [\(EDITORIAL from The Korea Times on June 2\)](#) (2026-06-01 22:07)

Defense Minister Ahn Gyu-back, right, shakes hands with U.S. Defense Secretary P...

- [\(EDITORIAL from The Korea Herald on June 2\)](#) (2026-06-01 22:07)

Minister of Employment and Labor Kim Young-hoon said at a press briefing on May ...

- [Top headlines in major S. Korean newspapers](#) (2026-06-01 22:07)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- The following are the top headlines in major South Kor...

- [Corporate direct financing spikes over 13 pct in April on increased debt sale](#) (2026-06-01 21:00)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- Corporate direct financing increased sharply in April ...

- [\(LEAD\) Trump says Iran talks continuing 'at rapid pace,' Israel, Hezbollah won't attack each other](#) (2026-06-01 18:15)

WASHINGTON, June 1 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump said Monday that peac...

- [Trump says Iran deal will be 'good' for U.S., berates critics for 'negatively chirping'](#) (2026-06-01 14:35)

WASHINGTON, June 1 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump said Monday peace tal...

- [\(2nd LD\) Nvidia's Jensen Huang cites robotics as potential area of investment in S. Korea](#) (2026-06-01 13:58)

TAIPEI/SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Jensen Huang, chief executive officer (CEO) of ...

- [Full text of joint statement of S. Korea-Africa Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Seoul](#) (2026-06-01 12:48)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- The following is the full text of a joint statement ad...

- [S. Korea, Africa agree to bolster strategic cooperation amid global challenges](#) (2026-06-01 12:47)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and African nations agreed Monday to stren...

- [\(5th LD\) 5 killed, 2 injured in Hanwha Aerospace explosion](#) (2026-06-01 10:18)

DAEJEON, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Five people were killed Monday while two others were...

- [\(4th LD\) 5 killed, 2 injured in Hanwha Aerospace explosion](#) (2026-06-01 09:25)

DAEJEON, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Five people were killed Monday while two others were...

- [\(Yonhap Interview\) Benin courts foreign investment with political stability, access to broader African market](#) (2026-06-01 08:44)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Benin seeks to position itself as a stable gateway to ...

- [GM Korea's May sales fall 5.9 pct on weak demand](#) (2026-06-01 08:20)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- GM Korea Co., the South Korean unit of General Motors ...

- [Hyundai Mobis' India plant damaged by fire, raising supply concerns](#) (2026-06-01 08:17)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Hyundai Mobis Co., Hyundai Motor's auto parts affiliat...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-06-01 08:00)

The following is the second summary of major stories moved by Yonhap News Agency...

- [Booker Prize winner Yang says hopes literature will serve as lasting force in changing society](#) (2026-06-01 07:50)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Yang Shuang-zi, the 2026 winner of the prestigious Int...

- [\(2nd LD\) Seoul shares close at new high on tech rally amid AI optimism](#) (2026-06-01 07:50)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks extended a rally to a fresh all-ti...

- [Renault Korea's May sales drop 40 pct on weak demand](#) (2026-06-01 07:48)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Renault Korea Motors Co., the South Korean unit of Fra...

- [Defense minister vows assistance in probe into Hanwha Aerospace plant explosion](#) (2026-06-01 07:39)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Defense Minister Ahn Gyu-back said Monday his ministry...

- [Global sales of Hyundai Motor down in May amid production decline](#) (2026-06-01 07:37)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Hyundai Motor Co. said Monday its global sales decline...

- [Ex-President Yoon made preparations for martial law since late 2023: special counsel](#) (2026-06-01 07:33)

GWACHEON, South Korea, June 1 (Yonhap) -- A special counsel team has determined ...

- [Kia's global sales rise in May on robust overseas demand](#) (2026-06-01 07:24)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Kia Corp. said Monday its global sales rose in May fro...

- [S. Korea, U.S. to begin inaugural talks on security initiatives from summit agreements on Tues.](#) (2026-06-01 07:20)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and the United States will launch formal n...

- [Police seek exit ban on U.S. scholar for allegedly defaming Lee](#) (2026-06-01 07:14)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Police are pushing to impose a travel ban on Morse Tan...

- [Over 23,000 drug offenders rounded up last year](#) (2026-06-01 07:06)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- The government rounded up a total of 23,403 drug offen...

- [\(LEAD\) Seoul shares close at new high on tech rally amid AI optimism](#) (2026-06-01 07:02)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks extended a rally to a fresh all-ti...

- [Industry minister discusses energy, logistics cooperation with Oman official](#) (2026-06-01 07:00)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Industry Minister Kim Jung-kwan on Monday discussed wa...

- [Seoul shares close at new high on AI-driven tech rally](#) (2026-06-01 06:35)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks extended their rally to close at a...

- [\(URGENT\) Seoul shares close at new high on AI-driven tech rally](#) (2026-06-01 06:35)

(END)

- [\(2nd LD\) Lee calls for all-out efforts for rescue operations after Hanhwa Aerospace factory explosion](#) (2026-06-01 06:31)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Monday instructed governmen...

- [Political parties scale back campaigning after deadly factory explosion](#) (2026-06-01 06:31)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- The leaders of the ruling and main opposition parties ...

- [4 suspects booked in police probe into Seoul overpass collapse](#) (2026-06-01 06:21)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Four engineering company officials have been booked as...

- [Ex-KBO MVP Eric Thames says happy to be back in 'my second home'](#) (2026-06-01 06:03)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- One can take Eric Thames out of South Korea. But they ...

- [Hanwha Aerospace vows full investigation into deadly explosion at Daejeon facility](#) (2026-06-01 05:55)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Hanwha Aerospace Co., a defense affiliate of Hanwha Gr...

- [Workers at Celltrion launch first union in company's history](#) (2026-06-01 05:47)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Workers at Celltrion Inc., a South Korean bio firm, la...

- [Samsung Electronics to move U.S. headquarters from New Jersey to Texas](#) (2026-06-01 05:39)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Electronics Co. plans to relocate the headquar...

- [\(3rd LD\) Death toll rises to 5 in Hanwha Aerospace explosion](#) (2026-06-01 05:22)

DAEJEON, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Five people were killed Monday while two others were...

- [Korea Exchange to roll out weekly options on single heavyweight stocks](#) (2026-06-01 05:17)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- The Korea Exchange, South Korea's main bourse operator...

- [\(LEAD\) Nvidia's Jensen Huang to meet S. Korean executives this week](#) (2026-06-01 05:16)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Jensen Huang, chief executive officer (CEO) of U.S. ch...

- [\(LEAD\) Lee calls for all-out efforts for rescue operations after Hanhwa Aerospace factory explosion](#) (2026-06-01 05:09)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Monday instructed governmen...

- [PM reportedly preparing to offer resignation after local elections](#) (2026-06-01 05:00)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Prime Minister Kim Min-seok is preparing to offer his ...

- [Today in Korean history](#) (2026-06-01 05:00)

June 2

- [HD KSOE wins 1.4 tln-won order to build 8 gas carriers](#) (2026-06-01 04:56)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- HD Korea Shipbuilding & Offshore Engineering Co. (...)

- [Institutions' foreign securities holdings fall in Q1: BOK](#) (2026-06-01 04:46)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- South Korean institutions' investment in foreign secur...

- [Ex-MLB players with S. Korea ties help launch new campaign for fans](#) (2026-06-01 04:37)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- A trio of former Major League Baseball (MLB) players w...

- [Samsung Electronics' market cap surpasses 2 quadrillion won](#) (2026-06-01 04:33)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- The market capitalization of top-cap Samsung Electroni...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-06-01 04:30)

The following is the first summary of major stories moved by Yonhap News Agency ...

- [BOK chief says strong growth gives more room to focus on inflation](#) (2026-06-01 04:19)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Bank of Korea (BOK) Gov. Shin Hyun-song said Monday th...

- [\(URGENT\) Death toll rises to 5 in Hanwha Aerospace explosion: authorities](#) (2026-06-01 04:10)

(END)

- [PM orders full mobilization of resources for rescue efforts in Hanhwa Aerospace factory explosion](#) (2026-06-01 03:47)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Prime Minister Kim Min-seok on Monday ordered the full...

- [\(2nd LD\) Death toll rises to 4 in Hanwha Aerospace explosion: police](#) (2026-06-01 03:28)

DAEJEON, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Four people were killed and two others injured Monda...

- [\(URGENT\) Death toll rises to 4 in Hanwha Aerospace explosion: police](#) (2026-06-01 03:18)

(END)

- [\(LEAD\) 2 dead, 2 injured in explosion at Hanwha Aerospace's facility in Daejeon](#) (2026-06-01 03:12)

DAEJEON, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Two people were killed and two others injured Monday...

- [Nvidia's Jensen Huang to visit Naver next week during trip to Seoul](#) (2026-06-01 03:11)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Jensen Huang, the head of U.S. chip giant Nvidia Corp....

- [\(URGENT\) 2 dead, 2 injured in explosion at Hanwha Aerospace Daejeon facility](#) (2026-06-01 03:01)

(END)

- [Online shopping sales up 10 pct to new record high in April on EV sales](#) (2026-06-01 03:00)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Online shopping sales in South Korea jumped 10 percent...

- [Watchdog slaps fines on Trip.com on e-commerce law violations](#) (2026-06-01 03:00)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- South Korea slapped a combined fine of 10 million won ...

- [Seventeen ranks 7th on Billboard's midyear top tours chart](#) (2026-06-01 02:44)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- K-pop boy band Seventeen ranked seventh among the worl...

- [KRX issues buy-side sidecar for KOSPI on steep rise](#) (2026-06-01 02:42)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- The Korea Exchange (KRX) on Monday activated a trading...

- [Explosion reported at Hanwha Aerospace's facility in Daejeon](#) (2026-06-01 02:35)

DAEJEON, June 1 (Yonhap) -- An explosion was reported at Hanwha Aerospace's faci...

- [\(2nd LD\) S. Korea's monthly exports up 53 pct to record high of US\\$87.8 bln in May](#) (2026-06-01 02:34)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's exports surged 53 percent from a year ea...

- [\(URGENT\) KRX issues buy-side sidecar on KOSPI's spike](#) (2026-06-01 02:33)

(END)

- [Seoul shares sharply up late Mon. morning on extended tech rally](#) (2026-06-01 02:30)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks traded sharply higher late Monday ...

- [\(LEAD\) S. Korean, African FMs hold meeting to discuss cooperation amid global challenges](#) (2026-06-01 02:21)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Foreign ministers from South Korea and dozens of Afric...

- [\(URGENT\) Explosion reported at Hanwha Aerospace's Daejeon facility](#) (2026-06-01 02:20)

(END)

- [Aegis destroyer Jeongjo the Great leaves for RIMPAC exercise](#) (2026-06-01 02:18)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- The Navy's Aegis destroyer Jeongjo the Great was set t...

- [Customs agency seizes 3,233 kg of drugs since June 2025](#) (2026-06-01 02:00)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- South Korea has seized 3,233 kilograms of drugs since ...

- [Ex-NIS chief grilled over suspected martial law role](#) (2026-06-01 01:58)

GWACHEON, South Korea, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Cho Tae-yong, a former head of the Nat...

- [S. Korea, Africa can turn challenges into opportunities through closer cooperation: FM](#) (2026-06-01 01:47)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Foreign Minister Cho Hyun on Monday called for South K...

- [Justice ministry launches new team to protect foreign workers' rights](#) (2026-06-01 01:32)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- The Ministry of Justice said Monday it has established...

- [\(LEAD\) Unionized members at Kakao to stage partial walkout next week](#) (2026-06-01 01:21)
SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Kakao Corp.'s labor union said Monday it will initiate...

- [DAPA successfully develops key part in laser-based anti-drone system](#) (2026-06-01 01:06)
SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- The state arms procurement agency said Monday it has s...

- [Otoki establishes Japan branch as part of global expansion](#) (2026-06-01 00:52)
SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Otoki Corp., a major South Korean food company, said M...

- [Landers looking to snap 12-game slide in KBO during 6-game home stand](#) (2026-06-01 00:49)
SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Having lost a franchise-worst 12 straight games, the S...

- [\(LEAD\) S. Korea's monthly exports up 53 pct to record high of US\\$87.8 bln in May](#) (2026-06-01 00:43)
SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's exports surged 53 percent from a year ea...

- [Unionized members at Kakao to stage partial walkout next week](#) (2026-06-01 00:38)
SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Kakao Corp.'s labor union said Monday it will initiate...

- [Lee's approval rating inches down to 59.1 pct: poll](#) (2026-06-01 00:26)
SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung's approval rating fell slightl...

- [\(LEAD\) Seoul shares open at record high on extended tech rally](#) (2026-06-01 00:24)
SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks opened at a fresh record high Mond...

- [N. Korea's Kim inspects Sinuiju greenhouse complex](#) (2026-06-01 00:10)
SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has visited a large-sc...

- [Seoul shares open at record high on extended tech rally](#) (2026-06-01 00:06)
SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks opened at a fresh record high Mond...

- [\(URGENT\) S. Korea's monthly chip exports soar to all-time high of US\\$37.2 bln in May](#) (2026-06-01 00:03)

(END)

- [S. Korea's monthly exports up 53 pct to record high of US\\$87.8 bln in May](#) (2026-06-01 00:02)
SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's exports jumped more than 50 percent from...

- [\(URGENT\) Seoul shares open at record high amid U.S.-Iran deal uncertainty](#) (2026-06-01 00:02)

(END)

- [\(URGENT\) S. Korea's monthly exports up 53 pct to record high of US\\$87.8 bln in May](#) (2026-06-01 00:00)

(END)

- [Aviation output falls at sharpest pace in 52 months in April due to higher fuel surcharges](#) (2026-05-31 23:51)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's aviation sector output fell at the sharp...

- ['Colony' tops weekend box office, breaking 3 mln admissions](#) (2026-05-31 23:43)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- The zombie thriller "Colony" topped the weekend box-of...

- [Giants' Lee Jung-hoo enjoys 1st 5-hit game in rout of Rockies](#) (2026-05-31 23:36)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Lee Jung-hoo of the San Francisco Giants has put toget...

- [Defender Cho Yu-min ruled out of World Cup with foot injury](#) (2026-05-31 23:03)

SALT LAKE CITY, United States, May 31 (Yonhap) -- Defender Cho Yu-min was ruled ...

- [S. Korean, African FM's set to hold meeting to discuss cooperation amid global challenges](#) (2026-05-31 22:58)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Foreign ministers from South Korea and dozens of Afric...

- [Joo Soo-bin blows 4-shot lead in bid for maiden LPGA win](#) (2026-05-31 22:47)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Joo Soo-bin has blown a big final-round lead in her pu...

- [\(EDITORIAL from Korea JoongAng Daily on June 1\)](#) (2026-05-31 22:01)

Early voting turnout for the June 3 local elections reached 23.51 percent, the h...

- [\(Yonhap Interview\) Tunisian FM urges S. Korean firms to expand into Africa amid supply chain disruptions](#) (2026-05-31 22:01)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Investments in Africa will offer new and evolving busi...

- [\(EDITORIAL from The Korea Times on June 1\)](#) (2026-05-31 22:01)

The high turnout rate for the June 3 elections is good news for Korean politics....

- [\(EDITORIAL from The Korea Herald on June 1\)](#) (2026-05-31 22:00)

In April, South Korea's economy delivered a neat symmetry and an uneasy message....

- [\(Yonhap Interview\) Vilacesti chief eyes smart tech hub in Ghana linking S. Korea, Africa](#) (2026-05-31 22:00)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's prowess in smart infrastructure and inno...

- [Top headlines in major S. Korean newspapers](#) (2026-05-31 22:00)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- The following are the top headlines in major South Kor...

- [Senior officials of S. Korea, 50 African nations gather in Seoul to explore joint responses to global challenges](#) (2026-05-31 13:24)

SEOUL, May 31 (Yonhap) -- Senior officials from South Korea and 50 African count...

- [Love for golf grows deeper for Niemann after LIV victory in S. Korea](#) (2026-05-31 11:37)

BUSAN, May 31 (Yonhap) -- Joaquin Niemann is a golfer deeply in love with the sp...

- [\(2nd LD\) Joaquin Niemann wins LIV Golf Korea in playoff](#) (2026-05-31 10:58)

BUSAN, May 31 (Yonhap) -- Joaquin Niemann captured LIV Golf Korea in a playoff f...

- [Presidential envoy visits Canada to expand ties, back submarine bid](#) (2026-05-31 10:55)

SEOUL, May 31 (Yonhap) -- Presidential chief of staff Kang Hoon-sik departed for...

- [\(LEAD\) Joaquin Niemann wins LIV Golf Korea in playoff](#) (2026-05-31 10:05)

BUSAN, May 31 (Yonhap) -- Joaquin Niemann captured LIV Golf Korea in a playoff f...

- [Song Young-han tops S. Korean players at LIV Golf tourney at home](#) (2026-05-31 09:52)

BUSAN, May 31 (Yonhap) -- Song Young-han finished as the top South Korean at the...

- [Lee vows zero tolerance for those who defame disaster victims](#) (2026-05-31 09:50)

SEOUL, May 31 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung said Sunday he will not tolera...

- [Joaquin Niemann wins LIV Golf Korea in playoff](#) (2026-05-31 09:39)

BUSAN, May 31 (Yonhap) -- Joaquin Niemann captured LIV Golf Korea in a playoff f...

- [\(News Focus\) S. Korea seeks to highlight efforts for 'self-reliant' defense at key security forum](#) (2026-05-31 09:17)

SINGAPORE, May 31 (Yonhap) -- At a key defense forum in Singapore, Defense Minis...

- [\(LEAD\) Rival parties focus on battleground regions in last-minute campaigns for June 3 elections](#) (2026-05-31 07:32)

SEOUL, May 31 (Yonhap) -- Rival parties staged last-minute campaigns Sunday, the...

- [\(2nd LD\) S. Korea discussed bilateral military logistics support pact with Japan: defense minister](#) (2026-05-31 07:14)

SINGAPORE, May 31 (Yonhap) -- South Korea has discussed a Japan-proposed bilater...

- [Defense minister seeks U.S. congressional support for S. Korea's nuclear-powered sub project](#) (2026-05-31 06:59)

SINGAPORE, May 31 (Yonhap) -- Defense Minister Ahn Gyu-back on Sunday sought bip...

- [\(LEAD\) S. Korea discussed bilateral military logistics support pact with Japan: defense minister](#) (2026-05-31 06:32)

SINGAPORE, May 31 (Yonhap) -- South Korea has discussed a Japan-proposed bilater...

- [Police accelerate probe into deadly overpass collapse in Seoul](#) (2026-05-31 06:21)

SEOUL, May 31 (Yonhap) -- Police on Sunday accelerated their probe into last wee...

- [S. Korea discussed bilateral military logistics support pact with Japan: defense minister](#) (2026-05-31 05:47)

SINGAPORE, May 31 (Yonhap) -- South Korea has discussed a Japan-proposed bilater...

- [\(URGENT\) S. Korea discussed bilateral military logistics support pact with Japan: defense minister](#) (2026-05-31 05:29)

(END)

- [Foreign tourists visiting Seoul jump 19 pct on-year in April](#) (2026-05-31 05:25)

SEOUL, May 31 (Yonhap) -- A total of 1.56 million foreign tourists visited Seoul...

- [\(LEAD\) S. Korean attack comes to life for win in pre-World Cup tuneup](#) (2026-05-31 05:06)

PROVO, United States, May 30 (Yonhap) -- It took South Korea more than half an h...

- [Today in Korean history](#) (2026-05-31 05:00)

June 1

- [S. Korea coach pleased with process, outcome in World Cup tuneup win](#) (2026-05-31 04:59)

PROVO, United States, May 30 (Yonhap) -- South Korea may not have been tested mu...

- [\(LEAD\) Sonny silences detractors with brace in pre-World Cup friendly](#) (2026-05-31 04:43)

PROVO, United States, May 30 (Yonhap) -- South Korean captain Son Heung-min arri...

- [S. Korean attack comes to life for win in pre-World Cup tuneup](#) (2026-05-31 04:35)

PROVO, United States, May 30 (Yonhap) -- It took South Korea more than half an h...

- [Sonny silences detractors with brace in pre-World Cup friendly](#) (2026-05-31 03:47)
PROVO, United States, May 30 (Yonhap) -- South Korean captain Son Heung-min arri...
- [\(LEAD\) S. Korea rout Trinidad and Tobago 5-0 in pre-World Cup friendly](#) (2026-05-31 03:19)
PROVO, United States, May 30 (Yonhap) -- South Korea handled Trinidad and Tobago...
- [S. Korea rout Trinidad and Tobago 5-0 in pre-World Cup friendly](#) (2026-05-31 03:05)
PROVO, United States, May 30 (Yonhap) -- South Korea handled Trinidad and Tobago...
- [N. Korea's spy chief meets chief Russian security official in Moscow](#) (2026-05-31 03:03)
SEOUL, May 31 (Yonhap) -- The chief of North Korea's spy agency has attended an ...
- [Science minister vows support to foster S. Korea as 'full-stack' AI provider](#) (2026-05-31 03:00)
SEOUL, May 31 (Yonhap) -- Science Minister Bae Kyung-hoon vowed to double down o...
- [6th S. Korean oil tanker successfully transits through Red Sea](#) (2026-05-31 02:38)
SEOUL, May 31 (Yonhap) -- A South Korean vessel has successfully transited the R...
- [CJ chairman visits 1st Olive Young store in U.S.](#) (2026-05-31 02:12)
SEOUL, May 31 (Yonhap) -- CJ Group Chairman Lee Jae-hyun visited CJ Olive Young ...
- [N. Korean FM says Pyongyang shares common position with Russia on all strategic issues: report](#) (2026-05-31 01:40)
SEOUL, May 31 (Yonhap) -- North Korea's Foreign Minister Choe Son-hui said her c...
- [Credit loans at local banks sharply rise in May amid stock rally](#) (2026-05-31 01:33)
SEOUL, May 31 (Yonhap) -- Credit loans at major South Korean banks surged in May...
- [Rival parties focus on battleground regions in last-minute campaigns for June 3 elections](#) (2026-05-31 01:09)
SEOUL, May 31 (Yonhap) -- Rival parties were to stage last-minute campaigns Sund...
- [Samsung Electronics tops automotive memory chip market in 2025: report](#) (2026-05-31 01:04)
SEOUL, May 31 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Electronics Co. became the world's leading sup...
- [Foreign net selling of KOSPI stocks hit record high in May](#) (2026-05-31 00:42)
SEOUL, May 31 (Yonhap) -- Foreign selling of South Korean stocks listed on the b...

- [\(Yonhap Interview\) Ex-MLB pitcher Park Chan-ho sees similarities between baseball and golf](#) (2026-05-31 00:40)

BUSAN, May 31 (Yonhap) -- In the days leading up to and during LIV Golf Korea, f...

- [PSG defend Champions League title with Lee Kang-in benched](#) (2026-05-30 23:44)

BUSAN, May 31 (Yonhap) -- The French champions Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) have wo...

- [\(News Focus\) Despite stock market rally, S. Korean president faces economic challenges amid Middle East uncertainties](#) (2026-05-30 21:00)

SEOUL, May 31 (Yonhap) -- With President Lee Jae Myung set to mark one year in o...

- [\(News Focus\) Lee's 'pragmatic' diplomacy coasts through bumps in 1st year; N. Korea ties remain stalled](#) (2026-05-30 21:00)

SEOUL, May 31 (Yonhap) -- The Lee Jae Myung government's "pragmatic" foreign pol...

- [\(News Focus\) 1 year in office, Lee shakes off shadow of martial law, but daunting tasks remain](#) (2026-05-30 21:00)

SEOUL, May 31 (Yonhap) -- One year into his presidency, President Lee Jae Myung ...

- [\(LEAD\) Defense minister discusses expanding cooperation with Philippines, Norway counterparts](#) (2026-05-30 12:17)

SINGAPORE, May 30 (Yonhap) -- Defense Minister Ahn Gyu-back met with his counter...

- [Defense minister discusses expanding cooperation with Philippines, Norway counterparts](#) (2026-05-30 12:11)

SINGAPORE, May 30 (Yonhap) -- Defense Minister Ahn Gyu-back met with his counter...

- [Main opposition files complaint against Lee over alleged election law violation](#) (2026-05-30 11:43)

SEOUL, May 30 (Yonhap) -- The main opposition People Power Party (PPP) filed a c...

- [\(LEAD\) S. Korea, Japan to resume joint maritime search drills early next month: Seoul defense chief](#) (2026-05-30 11:34)

SINGAPORE, May 30 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and Japan will resume their joint mari...

- [\(5th LD\) Early voting for June 3 local elections ends with record 23.51 pct turnout](#) (2026-05-30 11:01)

SEOUL, May 30 (Yonhap) -- Two-day early voting for next week's local elections, ...

- [Co-leaders at LIV Golf Korea adopting attack mindset for final round](#) (2026-05-30 10:44)

BUSAN, May 30 (Yonhap) -- Tied for the lead at LIV Golf Korea with one round to ...

- [Defense chiefs of S. Korea, U.S., Japan reaffirm security cooperation in brief encounter](#) (2026-05-30 10:41)

SINGAPORE, May 30 (Yonhap) -- The defense chiefs of South Korea, the United Stat...

- [S. Korea, Japan to resume joint maritime search drills early next month: Seoul defense chief](#) (2026-05-30 10:20)

SINGAPORE, May 30 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and Japan will resume their joint mari...

- [\(4th LD\) Early voting for June 3 local elections ends with record 23.51 pct turnout](#) (2026-05-30 10:17)

SEOUL, May 30 (Yonhap) -- Two-day early voting for next week's local elections, ...

- [\(3rd LD\) Early voting for June 3 local elections ends with record 23.51 pct turnout](#) (2026-05-30 10:01)

SEOUL, May 30 (Yonhap) -- Two-day early voting for next week's local elections, ...

- [\(LEAD\) 2 players tied for 54-hole lead at LIV Golf Korea](#) (2026-05-30 09:55)

BUSAN, May 30 (Yonhap) -- Two players are tied atop the leaderboard entering the...

- [\(URGENT\) Early voting turnout for June 3 local elections reaches 23.51 pct, highest for any local elections](#) (2026-05-30 09:51)

(END)

- [2 S. Koreans closing in on top-10 finish at LIV Golf tourney at home](#) (2026-05-30 09:27)

BUSAN, May 30 (Yonhap) -- With three rounds of LIV Golf Korea in the books throu...

- [2 players tied for 54-hole lead at LIV Golf Korea](#) (2026-05-30 09:13)

BUSAN, May 30 (Yonhap) -- Two players are tied atop the leaderboard entering the...

- [\(LEAD\) Defense minister highlights S. Korea's push for 'self-reliant' defense alongside stronger U.S. alliance](#) (2026-05-30 08:39)

SINGAPORE, May 30 (Yonhap) -- South Korean Defense Minister Ahn Gyu-back on Satu...

- [Defense minister highlights S. Korea's push for 'self-reliant' defense alongside stronger U.S. alliance](#) (2026-05-30 07:37)

SINGAPORE, May 30 (Yonhap) -- South Korean Defense Minister Ahn Gyu-back on Satu...

- [\(4th LD\) Hegseth calls for 'balanced' OPCON transfer where U.S. military roles are 'honored'](#) (2026-05-30 07:35)

SINGAPORE, May 30 (Yonhap) -- U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth on Saturday ca...

- [Rail services disrupted by Seoul overpass collapse to fully resume on Sun.](#) (2026-05-30 07:09)

SEOUL, May 30 (Yonhap) -- Nationwide rail operations disrupted by the collapse o...

- [\(2nd LD\) S. Koreans hit polls on last day of early voting for June 3 local elections](#) (2026-05-30 07:06)

SEOUL, May 30 (Yonhap) -- Voters across the country headed to the polls Saturday...

- [\(LEAD\) Giants' Lee Jung-hoo returns from injury; Dodgers' Kim Hye-seong sent to minors](#) (2026-05-30 05:53)

BUSAN, May 30 (Yonhap) -- One South Korean player in Major League Baseball (MLB)...

- [Seoul conveys position to Washington on USFK chief's 'dagger' remarks](#) (2026-05-30 05:53)

SEOUL, May 30 (Yonhap) -- South Korea has delivered its position to the United S...

- [Today in Korean history](#) (2026-05-30 05:00)

May 31

- [\(3rd LD\) Hegseth calls for 'balanced' OPCON transfer where U.S. military roles are 'honored'](#) (2026-05-30 04:52)

SINGAPORE, May 30 (Yonhap) -- U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth on Saturday ca...

- [BTS shows in N. America draw 840,000 concertgoers: agency](#) (2026-05-30 04:20)

SEOUL, May 30 (Yonhap) -- K-pop group BTS drew 840,000 fans across 15 performanc...

- [\(2nd LD\) Hegseth calls for 'balanced' OPCON transfer where U.S. military roles are 'honored'](#) (2026-05-30 03:35)

SINGAPORE, May 30 (Yonhap) -- U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth on Saturday ca...

- [\(Yonhap Interview\) Kenyan FM suggests cooperation with S. Korea in rare earth refinement, nuclear energy](#) (2026-05-30 03:20)

SEOUL, May 30 (Yonhap) -- Kenya's top diplomat has hinted at seeking South Korea...

- [\(LEAD\) S. Koreans hit polls on last day of early voting for June 3 local elections](#) (2026-05-30 03:04)

SEOUL, May 30 (Yonhap) -- Voters across the country headed to the polls Saturday...

- [\(LEAD\) Hegseth calls for 'balanced' OPCON transfer where U.S. military roles are 'honored'](#) (2026-05-30 02:43)

SINGAPORE, May 30 (Yonhap) -- U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth on Saturday ca...

- [Giants' Lee Jung-hoo returns from injury; Dodgers' Kim Hye-seong sent to minors](#) (2026-05-30 02:33)

BUSAN, May 30 (Yonhap) -- One South Korean player in Major League Baseball (MLB)...

- [Nat'l football head coach 'surprised' by KFA chief's resignation offer](#) (2026-05-30 02:27)

HERRIMAN, United States, May 29 (Yonhap) -- The head coach of the South Korean m...

- [Hegseth calls for 'balanced' OPCON transfer where U.S. military roles are 'honored'](#) (2026-05-30 01:54)

SINGAPORE, May 30 (Yonhap) -- U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth on Saturday ca...

- [\(URGENT\) Hegseth calls for 'balanced' OPCON transfer where U.S. military plans, roles are 'honored'](#) (2026-05-30 01:38)

(END)

- [\(Yonhap Interview\) Olympic table tennis medalist proud of son for representing country in LIV Golf](#) (2026-05-30 01:07)

BUSAN, May 30 (Yonhap) -- Nearly three decades after doing the host South Korea ...

- [S. Koreans hit polls on last day of early voting for June 3 local elections](#) (2026-05-30 00:49)

SEOUL, May 30 (Yonhap) -- South Koreans headed to the polls Saturday on the seco...

- [Top headlines in major S. Korean newspapers](#) (2026-05-30 00:15)

SEOUL, May 30 (Yonhap) -- The following are the top headlines in major South Kor...

- [\(3rd LD\) Trump will make only 'good' Iran deal that satisfies his 'redlines': White House official](#) (2026-05-29 22:22)

WASHINGTON, May 29 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump will only make a "goo...

- [\(URGENT\) Trump will make only 'good' Iran deal that satisfies his 'redlines': White House official](#) (2026-05-29 22:09)

(END)

- [\(2nd LD\) Trump makes no decision on Iran deal during Situation Room meeting: NYT](#) (2026-05-29 20:39)

WASHINGTON, May 29 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump did not make a decisi...

- [S. Korea, U.S., other countries call for designation of vessels over N.K. sanctions breaches](#) (2026-05-29 17:11)

WASHINGTON, May 29 (Yonhap) -- South Korea, the United States, the European Unio...

- [\(LEAD\) Trump says he will hold Situation Room meeting to make 'final determination' on Iran negotiations](#) (2026-05-29 16:24)

WASHINGTON, May 29 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump said Friday that he w...

- [Trump says he will hold Situation Room meeting to make 'final determination' on Iran negotiations](#) (2026-05-29 15:16)

WASHINGTON, May 29 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump said Friday that he w...

- [S. Korea attends G7 digital ministers meeting in Paris](#) (2026-05-29 15:01)

SEOUL, May 29 (Yonhap) -- Second Vice Minister of Science Ryu Je-myung attended ...

- [\(LEAD\) Demolition of collapsed Seoul overpass completed](#) (2026-05-29 14:12)

SEOUL, May 29 (Yonhap) -- An overpass in Seoul that partially collapsed earlier ...

- [Demolition of collapsed Seoul overpass completed](#) (2026-05-29 13:33)

SEOUL, May 29 (Yonhap) -- An overpass in Seoul that partially collapsed earlier ...

- [Arrest warrant issued for suspect in stabbing of 2 men](#) (2026-05-29 11:07)

SEOUL, May 29 (Yonhap) -- A Seoul court on Friday granted an arrest warrant for ...

- [Court rules in favor of Iran's Mellat Bank in compensation suit against BOK](#) (2026-05-29 10:50)

SEOUL, May 29 (Yonhap) -- A Seoul court has ruled in favor of Mellat Bank in a s...

- [In hunt for LIV Golf title in debut, Mun Do-yeob trying to stay present](#) (2026-05-29 10:17)

BUSAN, May 29 (Yonhap) -- With his first round in LIV Golf in the books, South K...

- [\(4th LD\) S. Korea kicks off 2-day early voting for June 3 local elections](#) (2026-05-29 10:02)

SEOUL, May 29 (Yonhap) -- Many South Koreans headed to the polls Friday in early...

- [\(LEAD\) Gooch grabs 36-hole lead at LIV Golf Korea as DeChambeau lurks](#) (2026-05-29 09:54)

BUSAN, May 29 (Yonhap) -- American Talor Gooch soared to the 36-hole lead at LIV...

- [Gooch grabs 36-hole lead at LIV Golf Korea as DeChambeau lurks](#) (2026-05-29 09:35)

BUSAN, May 29 (Yonhap) -- American Talor Gooch soared to the 36-hole lead at LIV...

- [Samyang Group to acquire Japanese chemical firm for 390 bln won](#) (2026-05-29 09:31)

SEOUL, May 29 (Yonhap) -- Samyang Group said Friday that it has decided to fully...

- [Lions hand Australian pitcher O'Loughlin 2nd extension](#) (2026-05-29 09:09)

BUSAN, May 29 (Yonhap) -- The Samsung Lions said Friday they have given a second...

- [\(3rd LD\) S. Korea kicks off 2-day early voting for June 3 local elections](#) (2026-05-29 08:18)

SEOUL, May 29 (Yonhap) -- Many South Koreans headed to the polls Friday in early...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-05-29 08:04)

The following is the second summary of major stories moved by Yonhap News Agency...

- [Bears sign Japanese pitcher Takada to fill Asian quota](#) (2026-05-29 07:44)

BUSAN, May 29 (Yonhap) -- The Doosan Bears announced Friday they have signed Jap...

- [\(2nd LD\) Seoul shares close at new high on tech rally, Mideast optimism](#) (2026-05-29 07:40)

SEOUL, May 29 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks rebounded to a fresh all-time high...

- [\(LEAD\) \(News Focus\) KOSPI volatility index rises simultaneously as stock market rallies to record high](#) (2026-05-29 07:35)

SEOUL, May 29 (Yonhap) -- Even as the benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Inde...

- [Summary of inter-Korean news this week](#) (2026-05-29 07:21)

SEOUL, May 29 (Yonhap) -- The following is a summary of inter-Korean news this w...

- [Summary of external news of North Korea this week](#) (2026-05-29 07:21)

SEOUL, May 29 (Yonhap) -- The following is a summary of external news on North K...

- [Summary of domestic news in North Korea this week](#) (2026-05-29 07:20)

SEOUL, May 29 (Yonhap) -- The following is a summary of domestic news in North K...

- [Key developments on North Korea this week](#) (2026-05-29 07:20)

SEOUL, May 29 (Yonhap) -- The following are key developments regarding North Kor...

- [\(Yonhap Interview\) S. Korea remains crucial market for LIV Golf: official](#) (2026-05-29 07:17)

BUSAN, May 29 (Yonhap) -- With LIV Golf hosting its second tournament in South K...

- [Veterans minister says Starbucks Korea should face public criticism, sanctions over controversial campaign](#) (2026-05-29 07:14)

SEOUL, May 29 (Yonhap) -- Veterans Minister Kwon Oh-eul said Friday he believes ...

- [\(LEAD\) S. Korea launches public-private committee to shape film 'holdback' rules](#) (2026-05-29 07:10)

SEOUL, May 29 (Yonhap) -- South Korea launched a public-private consultative bod...

- [\(LEAD\) Seoul shares close at new high on tech rally, Mideast optimism](#) (2026-05-29 07:03)

SEOUL, May 29 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks rebounded to a fresh all-time high...

- [Industry minister calls for active profit reinvestment in AI sector](#) (2026-05-29 06:38)

SEOUL, May 29 (Yonhap) -- Industry Minister Kim Jung-kwan on Friday called for a...

- [Seoul shares close at new high on tech rally, Mideast optimism](#) (2026-05-29 06:36)

SEOUL, May 29 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks rebounded to a fresh all-time high...

- [\(URGENT\) Seoul shares close at new high on tech rally, Middle East optimism](#) (2026-05-29 06:34)

(END)

- [\(2nd LD\) Lee, first lady cast ballots in early voting near Cheong Wa Dae for June 3 elections](#) (2026-05-29 06:32)

SEOUL, May 29 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung and first lady Kim Hea Kyung v...

- [\(News Focus\) KOSPI volatility index rises simultaneously as stock market rallies to record high](#) (2026-05-29 06:17)

SEOUL, May 29 (Yonhap) -- Even as the benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Inde...

- [\(2nd LD\) S. Korea kicks off 2-day early voting for June 3 local elections](#) (2026-05-29 06:17)

SEOUL, May 29 (Yonhap) -- Many South Koreans headed to the polls Friday in early...

- [S. Korea to hold literature events in Paris marking 140 years of ties with France](#) (2026-05-29 06:16)

SEOUL, May 29 (Yonhap) -- South Korea will showcase a wide range of its literatu...

- [\(LEAD\) Defense minister leaves for Singapore to attend regional security forum](#) (2026-05-29 05:37)

SEOUL, May 29 (Yonhap) -- Defense Minister Ahn Gyu-back left for Singapore on Fr...

- [Gov't to ease hurdles to speed up housing supply: finance minister](#) (2026-05-29 05:31)

SEOUL, May 29 (Yonhap) -- South Korea will prioritize policies to speed up housi...

- [\(LEAD\) S. Korean football chief Chung Mong-gyu to step down after 2026 World Cup](#) (2026-05-29 05:28)

SEOUL, May 29 (Yonhap) -- Chung Mong-gyu, president of the Korea Football Associ...

- [Samsung Electronics' minority union to continue challenging wage deal at court](#) (2026-05-29 05:06)

SEOUL, May 29 (Yonhap) -- A minority labor union at Samsung Electronics Co. repr...

- [S. Korean football chief Chung Mong-gyu to step down after 2026 World Cup](#) (2026-05-29 05:03)

SEOUL, May 29 (Yonhap) -- Chung Mong-gyu, president of the Korea Football Associ...

- [Today in Korean history](#) (2026-05-29 05:00)

May 30

- [Net purchases of Treasury bonds by foreigners reach 22.7 tln won since WGBI inclusion](#) (2026-05-29 05:00)

SEOUL, May 29 (Yonhap) -- Foreign investors net purchased 22.7 trillion won (US\$...

- [\(LEAD\) Lee, first lady cast ballots in early voting near Cheong Wa Dae for June 3 elections](#) (2026-05-29 04:33)

SEOUL, May 29 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung and first lady Kim Hea Kyung v...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-05-29 04:30)

The following is the first summary of major stories moved by Yonhap News Agency ...

- [Lee, first lady cast ballots in early voting near Cheong Wa Dae for June 3 elections](#) (2026-05-29 03:54)

SEOUL, May 29 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung and first lady Kim Hea Kyung v...

- [Banks' mortgage lending rates fall in April, ending six-month rise](#) (2026-05-29 03:00)

SEOUL, May 29 (Yonhap) -- Banks' household mortgage loan rates fell in April, en...

- [Foreign currency deposits rebound in April](#) (2026-05-29 03:00)

SEOUL, May 29 (Yonhap) -- Foreign currency deposits in South Korea rebounded in ...

- [S. Korea rolls out measures to counter cybersecurity threats](#) (2026-05-29 03:00)

SEOUL, May 29 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean government announced Friday a series ...

- [\(LEAD\) S. Korea kicks off 2-day early voting for June 3 local elections](#) (2026-05-29 02:35)

SEOUL, May 29 (Yonhap) -- Many South Koreans headed to the polls Friday in early...

- [Seoul shares up late Fri. morning following U.S.-Iran peace deal reports](#) (2026-05-29 02:30)

SEOUL, May 29 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks traded higher late Friday morning ...

- [4 Navy officers killed in plane crash awarded posthumous decorations](#) (2026-05-29 02:17)
SEOUL, May 29 (Yonhap) -- The government on Friday posthumously awarded the orde...
- [Unwavering self-belief pays off for ex-World Cup hero](#) (2026-05-29 02:15)
HERRIMAN, United States, May 28 (Yonhap) -- About this time a year ago, there we...
- [Tax revenue up 13 pct in April amid stock market boom](#) (2026-05-29 02:00)
SEOUL, May 29 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's tax revenue increased nearly 13 percent ...
- [Gov't vows active support for electrical equipment industry amid rising global demand](#) (2026-05-29 02:00)
SEOUL, May 29 (Yonhap) -- The government will extend active support for the elec...
- [S. Korea to gauge battle readiness in pre-World Cup friendly vs. Trinidad and Tobago](#) (2026-05-29 01:59)
HERRIMAN, United States, May 28 (Yonhap) -- South Korea will play the first of t...
- [\(2nd LD\) Police raid Seoul city gov't, engineering company over overpass collapse](#) (2026-05-29 01:56)
SEOUL, May 29 (Yonhap) -- Police on Friday raided the offices of the Seoul city ...
- [Demands from labor union 'huge burden' on company, says Kakao's management](#) (2026-05-29 01:29)
SEOUL, May 29 (Yonhap) -- Kakao Corp. said Friday a compensation package demande...
- [S. Korea launches public-private committee to shape film 'holdback' rules](#) (2026-05-29 00:50)
SEOUL, May 29 (Yonhap) -- South Korea launched a public-private consultative bod...
- [\(LEAD\) Police raid Seoul city gov't, engineering company over overpass collapse](#) (2026-05-29 00:36)
SEOUL, May 29 (Yonhap) -- Police on Friday raided the offices of the Seoul city ...
- [\(2nd LD\) April's industrial output, retails sales, investment fall in triple whammy](#) (2026-05-29 00:26)
SEOUL, May 29 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's industrial output lost ground in April f...
- [\(LEAD\) Seoul shares open strong on eased Middle East tensions](#) (2026-05-29 00:24)
SEOUL, May 29 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks opened sharply higher Friday follo...
- [Gov't to revise policies to facilitate reshoring of S. Korean firms](#) (2026-05-29 00:16)

SEOUL, May 29 (Yonhap) -- The government will amend existing policies to encoura...

- [Police raid Seoul city gov't, 6 others over overpass collapse](#) (2026-05-29 00:09)

SEOUL, May 29 (Yonhap) -- Police on Friday raided the offices of the Seoul city ...

- [Seoul shares open strong on eased Middle East tensions](#) (2026-05-29 00:05)

SEOUL, May 29 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks opened sharply higher Friday follo...

- [\(URGENT\) Seoul shares open up 2.43 pct higher on eased Middle East tensions](#) (2026-05-29 00:04)

(END)

- [\(URGENT\) Police raid Seoul city gov't, construction company over overpass collapse](#) (2026-05-29 00:00)

(END)

- [S. Korea's industrial output set to rebound in May: finance minister](#) (2026-05-28 23:58)

SEOUL, May 29 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's industrial output, which tumbled in Apri...

- [Samsung Electronics ships HBM4E chip samples to global customers](#) (2026-05-28 23:55)

SEOUL, May 29 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Electronics Co. said Friday it has begun shipp...

- [\(LEAD\) S. Korea, U.S. to launch talks on security initiatives from summit agreements next week](#) (2026-05-28 23:44)

SEOUL/WASHINGTON, May 29 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and the United States will laun...

- [\(LEAD\) April's industrial output, retails sales, investment fall in triple whammy](#) (2026-05-28 23:16)

SEOUL, May 29 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's industrial output lost ground in April f...

- [S. Korea, U.S. to launch talks on security initiatives from summit agreements next week](#) (2026-05-28 23:10)

SEOUL, May 29 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and the United States will launch formal n...

- [April's industrial output, retails sales, investment fall in triple whammy](#) (2026-05-28 23:00)

SEOUL, May 29 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's industrial output lost ground in April f...

- [\(URGENT\) Industrial output, retail sales, investment lose ground in April](#) (2026-05-28 23:00)

(END)

- [Seoul Subway Line 2 resumes normal operations after safety inspection over overpass demolition](#) (2026-05-28 22:51)

SEOUL, May 29 (Yonhap) -- Seoul Subway Line 2 resumed normal operations early Fr...

- [Defense minister to depart for Singapore to attend security forum](#) (2026-05-28 22:25)

SEOUL, May 29 (Yonhap) -- Defense Minister Ahn Gyu-back was set to depart for Si...

- [\(EDITORIAL from Korea JoongAng Daily on May 29\)](#) (2026-05-28 22:04)

Differences between South Korea and the United States over the transfer of warti...

- [\(EDITORIAL from The Korea Times on May 29\)](#) (2026-05-28 22:04)

What many believed to be true was right. Korea's foreign ministry confirmed Wedn...

- [\(EDITORIAL from The Korea Herald on May 29\)](#) (2026-05-28 22:04)

The benchmark Kospi crossing 8,000 points marked a new milestone for investors i...

- [Top headlines in major S. Korean newspapers](#) (2026-05-28 22:03)

SEOUL, May 29 (Yonhap) -- The following are the top headlines in major South Kor...

- [\(Yonhap Interview\) Nigeria seeks stronger democratic cooperation, deeper economic ties with S. Korea: FM](#) (2026-05-28 22:01)

SEOUL, May 29 (Yonhap) -- Nigeria is seeking stronger cooperation with South Kor...

- [\(Yonhap Interview\) S. Korea, Africa hold vast potential for mutually beneficial cooperation: FM](#) (2026-05-28 22:00)

SEOUL, May 29 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and Africa have significant potential to e...

- [Banks' bad-loan ratio up in Q1](#) (2026-05-28 21:00)

SEOUL, May 29 (Yonhap) -- South Korean banks' bad-loan ratio rose in the first q...

- [Foreigners extend sell-offs of Korean stocks to 4th month in April](#) (2026-05-28 21:00)

SEOUL, May 29 (Yonhap) -- Foreign investors continued their selling binge of Kor...

- [S. Korea kicks off 2-day early voting for June 3 local elections](#) (2026-05-28 21:00)

SEOUL, May 29 (Yonhap) -- Early voting opened Friday for next week's local elect...

- [S. Korea's non-IT exports to U.S. fall 12.8 pct after U.S. tariffs: BOK report](#) (2026-05-28 21:00)

SEOUL, May 29 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's exports of non-information technology (I...

- [\(Yonhap Interview\) S. Korea conveys willingness for dialogue with N. Korea, seeks peaceful coexistence: FM](#) (2026-05-28 21:00)

SEOUL, May 29 (Yonhap) -- South Korea has conveyed its willingness to engage in ...

- [\(LEAD\) Bessent stresses Trump's 'redlines' in Iran negotiations amid report of tentative deal](#) (2026-05-28 19:56)

WASHINGTON, May 28 (Yonhap) -- U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent on Thursday...

- [House draft of 2027 U.S. defense bill reinforces language on maintaining USFK troop levels](#) (2026-05-28 17:50)

WASHINGTON, May 28 (Yonhap) -- A House draft of a U.S. defense policy bill for f...

- [U.S., Iranian negotiators reach deal, await Trump's final approval: Axios](#) (2026-05-28 15:52)

WASHINGTON, May 28 (Yonhap) -- U.S. and Iranian negotiators have reached an agre...

- [\(2nd LD\) Lee calls for stern punishment for those responsible for fatal overpass collapse in Seoul](#) (2026-05-28 13:22)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Thursday called for a promp...

- [\(LEAD\) S. Korea stages live-fire drills involving advanced, homegrown assets](#) (2026-05-28 12:17)

POCHEON, South Korea, May 28 (Yonhap) -- South Korea staged an integrated milita...

- [\(LEAD\) Lee calls for stern punishment for those responsible for fatal overpass collapse in Seoul](#) (2026-05-28 11:35)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Thursday called for a promp...

- [LIV Golf star DeChambeau enjoying S. Korean culture -- including skincare](#) (2026-05-28 10:47)

BUSAN, May 28 (Yonhap) -- LIV Golf superstar Bryson DeChambeau arrived in Busan ...

- [\(LEAD\) Defending champion DeChambeau grabs share of opening-round lead at LIV Golf Korea](#) (2026-05-28 10:27)

BUSAN, May 28 (Yonhap) -- Riding an early birdie barrage, defending champion Bry...

- [Aespa returns with refreshing, summery 'Lemonade'](#) (2026-05-28 10:15)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- K-pop girl group aespa is back for the summer season w...

- [NPS to raise domestic equity allocation to 20.8 pct in 2026 amid KOSPI rally](#) (2026-05-28 10:03)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's state pension fund said Thursday it will...

- [S. Korean players submit solid rounds at LIV Golf event on home soil](#) (2026-05-28 09:55)

BUSAN, May 28 (Yonhap) -- Having been mired in seasonlong struggles, South Korea...

- [Defending champion DeChambeau grabs share of opening-round lead at LIV Golf Korea](#) (2026-05-28 09:29)

BUSAN, May 28 (Yonhap) -- Riding an early birdie barrage, defending champion Bry...

- [Unification minister to be probed over alleged leak of N. Korean nuclear info](#) (2026-05-28 09:20)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- Unification Minister Chung Dong-young will face a pros...

- [LIV Golf makes 2nd appearance in S. Korea in front of big crowd](#) (2026-05-28 08:47)

BUSAN, May 28 (Yonhap) -- Marking the start of the second edition of LIV Golf Ko...

- [S. Korea stages live-fire drills involving advanced, homegrown assets](#) (2026-05-28 08:08)

POCHEON, South Korea, May 28 (Yonhap) -- South Korea staged an integrated milita...

- [\(LEAD\) S. Korean activists claim sexual abuse by Israeli soldiers during detention](#) (2026-05-28 08:08)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- Three activists who were detained and then released du...

- [Gov't to foster cosmetics as new export growth engine: finance minister](#) (2026-05-28 08:00)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- Finance Minister Koo Yun-cheol on Thursday vowed to fo...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-05-28 08:00)

The following is the second summary of major stories moved by Yonhap News Agency...

- [Parties ramp up campaigns to sway voters in key battlegrounds ahead of early voting](#) (2026-05-28 07:55)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- Rival parties ramped up their campaigns to win over vo...

- [Unification minister proposes EU-led initiative to resume inter-Korean dialogue](#) (2026-05-28 07:54)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- Unification Minister Chung Dong-young on Thursday prop...

- [Trade minister conveys Seoul's concerns over EU's trade protectionist measures to European Parliament](#) (2026-05-28 07:53)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- Trade Minister Yeo Han-koo met with the delegation for...

- [\(2nd LD\) KOSPI snaps 4-day winning streak on AI rally pause, renewed Iran tensions](#) (2026-05-28 07:45)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks snapped their four-day winning str...

- [KEPCO completes construction of Guam plant](#) (2026-05-28 07:33)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's state-run electricity company said Thurs...

- [S. Korea's HMM finalizes plan to repair vessel stricken in Hormuz Strait](#) (2026-05-28 07:31)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- South Korean shipper HMM Co. has completed plans to re...

- [\(2nd LD\) Court denies arrest warrant for Chinese dissident who fled to S. Korea by sea](#) (2026-05-28 07:24)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- A court on Thursday rejected a request for a warrant t...

- [Chinese Embassy criticizes USFK chief's remarks describing S. Korea as 'dagger' in Asia](#) (2026-05-28 07:23)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- The Chinese Embassy in Seoul on Thursday criticized re...

- [National security adviser discusses security situation on Korean Peninsula with Singaporean FM](#) (2026-05-28 07:06)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- National Security Adviser Wi Sung-lac met with Singapo...

- [\(LEAD\) KOSPI snaps 4-day winning streak on AI rally pause, renewed Iran tensions](#) (2026-05-28 07:04)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks snapped their four-day winning str...

- [Gov't receives record dividends in 2026 from state-invested companies](#) (2026-05-28 07:00)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- The government has received a record amount of dividen...

- [\(LEAD\) Court denies arrest warrant for Chinese dissident who fled to S. Korea by sea](#) (2026-05-28 06:59)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- A court on Thursday rejected a request for a warrant t...

- [KOSPI snaps 4-day winning streak on AI rally pause, renewed Iran tensions](#) (2026-05-28 06:35)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks snapped their four-day winning str...

- [\(URGENT\) KOSPI snaps 4-day winning streak on AI rally pause, renewed Iran tensions](#) (2026-05-28 06:33)

(END)

- [Gov't establishes data-related ministerial meeting](#) (2026-05-28 06:30)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- The government has established a meeting of ministers ...

- [S. Korea to expand science, engineering, AI majors in ODA scholarship program](#) (2026-05-28 06:30)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- The government will expand the proportion of those maj...

- [Ex-presidential secretary sentenced to 1 1/2 yrs in prison for drafting false martial law document](#) (2026-05-28 06:29)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- A Seoul court on Thursday sentenced a former president...

- [Tigers sign new pitcher Shirakawa; Heroes extend deal with starter Rosenberg](#) (2026-05-28 06:23)

BUSAN, May 28 (Yonhap) -- The Kia Tigers filled their Asian quota with Japanese ...

- [\(LEAD\) Industry minister highlights S. Korea's competitive edge in Canadian submarine project race](#) (2026-05-28 06:22)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- Industry Minister Kim Jung-kwan has underscored South ...

- [Lee calls for stern punishment for those responsible for fatal overpass collapse in Seoul](#) (2026-05-28 06:17)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Thursday called for a promp...

- [S. Korean activists claim sexual abuse by Israeli soldiers during detention](#) (2026-05-28 06:16)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- Three activists who were detained and then released du...

- [Culture minister says seeks 400 tln-won 'K-culture' market by 2030](#) (2026-05-28 06:08)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- Culture Minister Chae Hwi-young said Thursday the gove...

- [\(LEAD\) S. Korea to ease private sector's oil stockpiling obligations to join IEA's collective action](#) (2026-05-28 06:03)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- South Korea will ease crude oil stockpiling requiremen...

- [Four out of 10 S. Koreans used generative AI in 2025: poll](#) (2026-05-28 05:49)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- Four out of 10 South Koreans said they used generative...

- [\(LEAD\) Kakao CEO apologizes for failing to ease concerns over wage talks](#) (2026-05-28 05:43)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- The head of South Korea's platform giant Kakao Corp. a...

- [KB, 4 other Korean banks join 'Project Agora' prototype testing](#) (2026-05-28 05:31)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- KB Bank and four other major banks here said Thursday ...

- [\(LEAD\) N. Korea slams Quad statement calling for Pyongyang's denuclearization](#) (2026-05-28 05:30)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- North Korea on Thursday denounced a recent joint state...

- [BTS' 'Arirang' stays in top 10 of Billboard 200 for 9th straight week](#) (2026-05-28 05:03)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- K-pop megastar BTS remained in the top ranks of the Bi...

- [Today in Korean history](#) (2026-05-28 05:00)

May 29

- [Regulator to ramp up efforts to detect, crack down on online phishing](#) (2026-05-28 05:00)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- The country's financial regulator said Thursday that r...

- [Gov't vows to tackle tourist overcharging ahead of BTS concert in Busan](#) (2026-05-28 05:00)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- The government plans to take stern measures against at...

- [\(3rd LD\) Court acquits ex-President Yoon of perjury over testimony at ex-PM's trial](#) (2026-05-28 04:59)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- A Seoul court on Thursday acquitted former President Y...

- [Listed firms' dividend payouts rise some 17 pct in 2025: data](#) (2026-05-28 04:58)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- Dividend payouts by listed firms in South Korea rose a...

- [\(2nd LD\) BOK lifts S. Korea's growth forecast to 2.6 pct for this year amid robust chip-driven exports](#) (2026-05-28 04:53)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- The central bank on Thursday raised its economic growt...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-05-28 04:30)

The following is the first summary of major stories moved by Yonhap News Agency ...

- [FM Cho seeks Singapore's support for dialogue with N. Korea, peace on Korean Peninsula](#) (2026-05-28 04:26)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- South Korean Foreign Minister Cho Hyun on Thursday ask...

- [Kakao CEO apologizes for failing to ease concerns over wage talks](#) (2026-05-28 03:27)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- The head of South Korea's platform giant Kakao Corp. a...

- [\(URGENT\) Kakao CEO apologizes for failing to ease concerns over wage talks](#) (2026-05-28 03:14)

(END)

- [\(3rd LD\) BOK holds key rate steady but signals possible rate hike amid inflation pressure](#) (2026-05-28 03:09)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's central bank kept its benchmark interest...

- [S. Korea to ease private sector's oil stockpiling obligations to join IEA's collective action](#) (2026-05-28 03:01)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- South Korea will ease crude oil stockpiling requiremen...

- [Household income up 2.4 pct in Q1 on wage hike, more pensioners](#) (2026-05-28 03:00)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's average household income rose 2.4 percen...

- [\(URGENT\) BOK to take decisive action against one-sided FX movements: BOK chief](#) (2026-05-28 02:56)

(END)

- [Court to decide on arrest of Chinese dissident who fled to S. Korea by sea](#) (2026-05-28 02:40)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- A court is expected to decide Thursday whether to form...

- [KOSPI down over 1 pct late Thurs. morning amid renewed Iran tensions](#) (2026-05-28 02:39)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks were trading more than 1 percent l...

- [\(2nd LD\) S. Korea says U.S. made no proposal to change combined command structure after OPCON transfer](#) (2026-05-28 02:33)

WASHINGTON/SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- South Korea has received no proposal from t...

- [National security adviser to visit Kazakhstan to discuss regional security, energy supply chains](#) (2026-05-28 02:30)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- National Security Adviser Wi Sung-lac was set to depar...

- [Naver to invest 1 tln won to incentivize quality content for AI](#) (2026-05-28 02:25)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- Naver Corp. plans to invest 1 trillion won over the ne...

- [\(LEAD\) Defense minister to attend annual security forum in Singapore this week](#) (2026-05-28 02:24)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- Defense Minister Ahn Gyu-back will travel to Singapore...

- [\(URGENT\) BOK chief says needs to raise key rate at appropriate time](#) (2026-05-28 02:22)

(END)

- [\(URGENT\) Exports to contribute 0.7 pct point to 2026 growth: BOK chief](#) (2026-05-28 02:21)

(END)

- [\(URGENT\) Middle East war to drag down GDP growth by 0.4 pct point: BOK chief](#) (2026-05-28 02:20)

(END)

- [\(2nd LD\) BOK holds key rate steady again amid Mideast uncertainty; raises 2026 forecast to 2.6 pct](#) (2026-05-28 02:09)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's central bank kept its benchmark rate unc...

- [Industry minister highlights S. Korea's competitive edge in Canadian submarine project race](#) (2026-05-28 02:05)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- Industry Minister Kim Jung-kwan has underscored South ...

- [Emerging S. Korean forward brimming with confidence ahead of World Cup debut](#) (2026-05-28 01:49)

HERRIMAN, United States, May 27 (Yonhap) -- Full of conviction in his skills as ...

- [\(URGENT\) 2 out of 7 board members support rate hike: BOK](#) (2026-05-28 01:40)

(END)

- [\(URGENT\) BOK to decide timing of rate hikes while assessing inflationary pressure](#) (2026-05-28 01:40)

(END)

- [Full text of BOK statement on monetary policy decision in May](#) (2026-05-28 01:38)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- The following is the full text of a statement by the B...

- [\(2nd LD\) Court acquits ex-President Yoon of perjury over testimony at ex-PM's trial](#) (2026-05-28 01:33)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- A Seoul court on Thursday acquitted former President Y...

- [Construction firms roll out support measures for subcontractors with FTC](#) (2026-05-28 01:30)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's leading construction firms unveiled a se...

- [\(LEAD\) Court acquits ex-President Yoon of perjury over testimony at ex-PM's trial](#) (2026-05-28 01:13)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- A Seoul court on Thursday acquitted former President Y...

- [\(LEAD\) BOK lifts S. Korea's growth forecast to 2.6 pct for this year amid robust chip-driven exports](#) (2026-05-28 01:10)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- The central bank on Thursday raised its economic growt...

- [\(LEAD\) BOK holds key rate steady for 8th straight meeting amid Middle East uncertainty](#) (2026-05-28 01:08)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's central bank kept its benchmark rate unc...

- [\(LEAD\) S. Korea denies report on possible dissolution of allies' combined command after OPCON transfer](#) (2026-05-28 01:07)

WASHINGTON/SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and the United States will main...

- [\(URGENT\) Court acquits ex-President Yoon of perjury over testimony at ex-PM's trial](#) (2026-05-28 01:07)

(END)

- [Customs agency seizes 1.1 kg of drugs under tighter int'l mail monitoring](#) (2026-05-28 01:00)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- South Korea has seized 1.1 kilograms of illegal drugs ...

- [\(URGENT\) BOK estimates S. Korea's 2027 growth outlook at 2.1 pct](#) (2026-05-28 00:57)

(END)

- [BOK lifts S. Korea's growth forecast to 2.6 pct for this year amid robust chip-driven exports](#) (2026-05-28 00:55)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- The central bank on Thursday raised its economic growt...

- [\(URGENT\) BOK revises up S. Korea's 2026 growth outlook to 2.6 pct](#) (2026-05-28 00:53)

(END)

- [BOK holds key rate steady for 8th straight meeting amid Middle East uncertainty](#) (2026-05-28 00:51)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's central bank kept its benchmark rate unc...

- [\(URGENT\) BOK holds key rate steady at 2.5 pct for 8th consecutive meeting](#) (2026-05-28 00:50)

(END)

- [LG Energy Solutions to supply \\$1.6 bln worth of ESS batteries to U.S. firm](#) (2026-05-28 00:50)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- LG Energy Solutions Ltd. said Thursday it has clinched...

- [\(LEAD\) KOSPI opens lower amid AI rally pause, mixed U.S.-Iran signals](#) (2026-05-28 00:35)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks opened lower Thursday as a rally l...

- [Defense minister to attend annual security forum in Singapore this week](#) (2026-05-28 00:05)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- Defense Minister Ahn Gyu-back will travel to Singapore...

- [KOSPI opens lower amid AI rally pause, mixed U.S.-Iran signals](#) (2026-05-28 00:03)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks opened lower Thursday as a rally l...

- [\(URGENT\) KOSPI opens 0.77 pct lower amid AI rally pause, mixed U.S.-Iran signals](#) (2026-05-28 00:02)

(END)

- [Court to rule on ex-President Yoon's perjury charge](#) (2026-05-27 23:54)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- A court was set to offer its ruling Thursday in former...

- [USFK says S. Korea-U.S. alliance remains committed to 'conditions-based' OPCON transfer](#) (2026-05-27 23:22)

WASHINGTON, May 27 (Yonhap) -- The South Korea-U.S. alliance remains committed t...

- [N. Korea slams Quad statement calling for Pyongyang's denuclearization](#) (2026-05-27 23:21)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- North Korea on Thursday denounced a recent joint state...

- [\(EDITORIAL from Korea JoongAng Daily on May 28\)](#) (2026-05-27 21:59)

President Lee Jae Myung attended the national "Sea Day" ceremony in Busan on Wed...

- [\(EDITORIAL from The Korea Times on May 28\)](#) (2026-05-27 21:58)

Shinsegae Group Chairman Chung Yong-jin publicly apologized for Starbucks Korea'...

- [\(EDITORIAL from The Korea Herald on May 28\)](#) (2026-05-27 21:58)

In South Korea, elections for superintendents of education are held at the same ...

- [Top headlines in major S. Korean newspapers](#) (2026-05-27 21:58)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- The following are the top headlines in major South Kor...

- [Banks' capital adequacy ratio down in Q1](#) (2026-05-27 21:00)

SEOUL, May 28 (Yonhap) -- South Korean banks saw their capital adequacy ratio fa...

- [\(3rd LD\) Trump says U.S. 'not satisfied' yet in Iran negotiations, Strait of Hormuz will be 'open to everybody'](#) (2026-05-27 20:31)

WASHINGTON, May 27 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump said Wednesday that h...

- [\(2nd LD\) Trump says U.S. 'not satisfied' yet in Iran negotiations, Strait of Hormuz will be 'open to everybody'](#) (2026-05-27 18:36)

WASHINGTON, May 27 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump said Wednesday that h...

- [\(LEAD\) Trump says U.S. 'not satisfied' yet in Iran negotiations, Strait of Hormuz will be 'open to everybody'](#) (2026-05-27 18:03)

WASHINGTON, May 27 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump said Wednesday that h...

- [Trump says U.S. 'not satisfied' while Iran is 'very much intent' on making a deal](#) (2026-05-27 16:33)

WASHINGTON, May 27 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump said Wednesday that h...

- [\(2nd LD\) Kakao's labor, management fail to reach agreement in 2nd mediation talks](#) (2026-05-27 14:22)

SEOUL, May 27 (Yonhap) -- A labor union at Kakao Corp., the operator of South Ko...

- [\(3rd LD\) 2 men stabbed at LG Electronics office in Seoul; suspect in custody](#) (2026-05-27 14:05)

SEOUL, May 27 (Yonhap) -- Two men were stabbed Wednesday at an LG Electronics of...

- [\(LEAD\) Twins rally past Giants for 4th straight win](#) (2026-05-27 13:54)

BUSAN, May 27 (Yonhap) -- The LG Twins rallied from a five-run deficit to defeat...

- [Little-used player for Twins trying to make most of limited chances](#) (2026-05-27 13:39)

BUSAN, May 27 (Yonhap) -- Since getting drafted in the eighth round by the LG Tw...

- [BOK to actively join digital currency trial with BIS, other central banks](#) (2026-05-27 13:34)

SEOUL, May 27 (Yonhap) -- The Bank of Korea (BOK) said Wednesday that it will ac...

- [Twins rally past Giants for 4th straight win](#) (2026-05-27 13:14)

BUSAN, May 27 (Yonhap) -- The LG Twins rallied from a five-run deficit to defeat...

- [\(5th LD\) Iran-linked missiles behind attack on S. Korean vessel in Hormuz: foreign ministry](#) (2026-05-27 11:40)

SEOUL, May 27 (Yonhap) -- Anti-ship missiles developed and used by Iran are beli...

- [\(LEAD\) Kakao's labor, management engage in 2nd mediation talks as strike looms](#) (2026-05-27 11:13)

SEOUL, May 27 (Yonhap) -- A labor union at Kakao Corp., the operator of South Ko...

- [Indonesian group tourists to be offered temporary visa-free entry to S. Korea starting Thurs.](#) (2026-05-27 10:53)

SEOUL, May 27 (Yonhap) -- A temporary visa waiver program for Indonesian group t...

- [\(4th LD\) Iran-linked missiles behind attack on S. Korean vessel in Hormuz: foreign ministry](#) (2026-05-27 09:51)

SEOUL, May 27 (Yonhap) -- Anti-ship missiles developed and used by Iran are beli...

- [\(URGENT\) Iranian ambassador arrives at foreign ministry after being summoned over Hormuz vessel attack](#) (2026-05-27 09:27)

(END)

- [\(3rd LD\) Iran-linked missiles behind attack on S. Korean vessel in Hormuz: foreign ministry](#) (2026-05-27 09:07)

SEOUL, May 27 (Yonhap) -- Anti-ship missiles developed and used by Iran are beli...

- [Twins manager appreciates catcher's value despite hitting slump](#) (2026-05-27 08:48)

BUSAN, May 27 (Yonhap) -- LG Twins catcher Park Dong-won is on pace for his leas...

- [\(2nd LD\) Iran-linked missiles behind attack on S. Korean vessel in Hormuz: foreign ministry](#) (2026-05-27 08:31)

SEOUL, May 27 (Yonhap) -- Anti-ship missiles developed and used by Iran are beli...

- [\(URGENT\) Gov't says missiles used in Hormuz vessel attack used by Iranian navy, IRGC, pro-Iran groups](#) (2026-05-27 08:13)

(END)

- [\(URGENT\) S. Korea to lodge "strong protest" over attack on Korean vessel, demand preventive measures by Iran](#) (2026-05-27 08:10)

(END)

- [\(URGENT\) Foreign ministry to summon Iranian ambassador to S. Korea over Hormuz vessel attack](#) (2026-05-27 08:05)

(END)

- [\(URGENT\) Iran-developed missiles believed used in attack on S. Korean vessel in Hormuz: foreign ministry](#) (2026-05-27 08:05)

(END)

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-05-27 08:00)

The following is the second summary of major stories moved by Yonhap News Agency...

- [Giants manager putting rookie outfielder through trial by fire](#) (2026-05-27 07:56)

BUSAN, May 27 (Yonhap) -- Kim Dong-hyun, rookie outfielder for the Lotte Giants ...

- [Lee warns against price gouging by accommodations in Busan ahead of BTS concerts](#) (2026-05-27 07:37)

SEOUL, May 27 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Wednesday warned against so...

- [\(2nd LD\) Seoul shares scale to new peak on extended chip rally](#) (2026-05-27 07:33)

SEOUL, May 27 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks rose for the fourth consecutive se...

- [Foreign voters eligible for local elections top 150,000 to hit record high](#) (2026-05-27 07:19)

SEOUL, May 27 (Yonhap) -- The number of foreigners eligible to vote in the June ...

- [\(2nd LD\) Prosecution launches team to probe deadly Seoul overpass collapse](#) (2026-05-27 07:04)

SEOUL, May 27 (Yonhap) -- The prosecution said Wednesday it will launch a team t...

- [\(LEAD\) Seoul shares scale to new peak on extended chip rally](#) (2026-05-27 06:52)

SEOUL, May 27 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks rose for the fourth consecutive se...

- [\(LEAD\) Seoul to disclose probe results on attack against S. Korean vessel in Hormuz](#) (2026-05-27 06:35)

SEOUL, May 27 (Yonhap) -- The Seoul government was set to announce the outcome o...

- [\(2nd LD\) Unionized workers of Samsung Electronics vote to accept wage deal](#) (2026-05-27 06:33)

SEOUL, May 27 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Electronics Co.'s unionized workers voted to a...

- [Seoul shares scale to new peak on extended chip rally](#) (2026-05-27 06:32)

SEOUL, May 27 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks rose for the fourth consecutive se...

- [\(URGENT\) Seoul shares rise 2.25 pct to end at new peak on extended chip rally](#) (2026-05-27 06:31)

(END)

- [S. Korea well positioned to lead next phase of AI adoption: OpenAI](#) (2026-05-27 06:23)
SEOUL, May 27 (Yonhap) -- South Korea is well positioned to lead the next phase ...
- [S. Korean, Canadian naval bands stage joint performance in Victoria](#) (2026-05-27 06:08)
SEOUL, May 27 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean and Canadian naval bands conducted a ...
- [Lee calls for thorough preparations for Busan's hosting of UNESCO committee meeting in July](#) (2026-05-27 06:01)
SEOUL, May 27 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Wednesday called for thorou...
- [Gov't set to disclose probe results on attack against S. Korean vessel in Hormuz](#) (2026-05-27 05:32)
SEOUL, May 27 (Yonhap) -- The foreign ministry on Wednesday was set to announce ...
- [\(Movie Review\) 'Wild Sing': a tribute to K-pop's early days, with hilarious moments along the way](#) (2026-05-27 05:30)
SEOUL, May 27 (Yonhap) -- At a time when retro is back in style, a movie filled ...
- [Budget ministry vows proactive support for AI industry](#) (2026-05-27 05:22)
SEOUL, May 27 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's budget ministry said Wednesday the gover...
- [Starbucks Korea payments drop 26 pct after controversial promotion sparks backlash](#) (2026-05-27 05:18)
SEOUL, May 27 (Yonhap) -- Payments at Starbucks Korea plunged more than 26 perce...
- [Today in Korean history](#) (2026-05-27 05:00)
May 28
- [KOTRA hosts biz conference to promote cooperation between S. Korea, Japanese firms](#) (2026-05-27 05:00)
SEOUL, May 27 (Yonhap) -- The Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA) sa...
- [\(LEAD\) Lee to hold press conference early next month marking 1st anniversary of inauguration](#) (2026-05-27 04:59)
SEOUL, May 27 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung will hold a press conference e...

- [\(2nd LD\) 2 men stabbed at LG Electronics office in Seoul; suspect in custody](#) (2026-05-27 04:37)

SEOUL, May 27 (Yonhap) -- Two men were stabbed Wednesday at an LG Electronics of...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-05-27 04:37)

The following is the first summary of major stories moved by Yonhap News Agency ...

- [Lee to hold press conference on June 8 marking 1st anniversary of inauguration](#) (2026-05-27 04:36)

SEOUL, May 27 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung will hold a press conference e...

- [\(LEAD\) Unionized workers of Samsung Electronics vote to accept wage deal](#) (2026-05-27 04:31)

SEOUL, May 27 (Yonhap) -- Unionized workers at Samsung Electronics voted to appr...

- [\(URGENT\) Lee to hold press conference on June 8, marking 1st anniversary of inauguration](#) (2026-05-27 04:21)

(END)

- [\(LEAD\) 2 men stabbed at LG Electronics office in Seoul; suspect at large](#) (2026-05-27 04:12)

SEOUL, May 27 (Yonhap) -- Two men were stabbed at an LG Electronics office in we...

- [Samsung Heavy bags 1 trillion-won deal for 5 ships](#) (2026-05-27 04:06)

SEOUL, May 27 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Heavy Industries Co., a major South Korean shi...

- [2 men stabbed at LG Electronics office in Seoul](#) (2026-05-27 03:51)

SEOUL, May 27 (Yonhap) -- Two men were stabbed at an LG Electronics office in we...

- [Insurers' Q1 net up 9.5 pct on investment gains](#) (2026-05-27 03:00)

SEOUL, May 27 (Yonhap) -- Insurance companies in South Korea saw their combined ...

- [FTC chief says no probe planned for Starbucks amid marketing controversy](#) (2026-05-27 03:00)

SEJONG, May 27 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's antitrust watchdog has no grounds to in...

- [S. Korea's overseas financial assets rise to record high in Q1: BOK](#) (2026-05-27 03:00)

SEOUL, May 27 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's overseas financial assets rose to a fres...

- [Population mobility up 6 pct in April on property market boom](#) (2026-05-27 03:00)

SEOUL, May 27 (Yonhap) -- The number of South Koreans relocating to new regions ...

- [Childbirths soar to 7 yr-high in March amid growing number of new marriages](#) (2026-05-27 03:00)

SEJONG, May 27 (Yonhap) -- The number of babies born in South Korea shot up near...

- [Seoul shares sharply up late Wed. morning on AI-driven tech rally](#) (2026-05-27 02:33)

SEOUL, May 27 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks traded sharply higher over the 8,4...

- [Over 36,000 overseas Koreans acquire integrated F-4 visas](#) (2026-05-27 02:32)

SEOUL, May 27 (Yonhap) -- More than 36,000 people have acquired the integrated o...

- [\(LEAD\) Rail services likely to operate at 80 pct of normal capacity after Seoul overpass collapse](#) (2026-05-27 02:28)

SEOUL, May 27 (Yonhap) -- Rail services nationwide are expected to operate at ab...

- [\(LEAD\) Lee vows efforts to foster shipping, port industries as strategic sectors](#) (2026-05-27 02:28)

SEOUL, May 27 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Wednesday pledged to foster...

- [Gov't launches 2045 Strategy Committee to draw up future blueprint](#) (2026-05-27 02:25)

SEOUL, May 27 (Yonhap) -- The government held an inaugural meeting Wednesday of ...

- [N. Korea's Naegohyang women football team welcomed home after AFC win](#) (2026-05-27 02:21)

SEOUL, May 27 (YOnhap) -- North Korea's women's football team Naegohyang receive...

- [Retail sales rise 7.2 in April](#) (2026-05-27 02:00)

SEOUL, May 27 (Yonhap) -- Revenue of major retail companies here increased 7.2 p...

- [S. Korea, U.S. begin joint analysis of Korean War remains](#) (2026-05-27 01:52)

SEOUL, May 27 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and the United States on Wednesday began t...

- [Unionized workers of Samsung Electronics vote to accept wage deal](#) (2026-05-27 01:45)

SEOUL, May 27 (Yonhap) -- Unionized workers at Samsung Electronics voted to appr...

- [\(URGENT\) Unionized workers of Samsung Electronics vote to accept wage deal](#) (2026-05-27 01:37)

(END)

- [Kakao's labor, management to engage in 2nd mediation talks as strike looms](#) (2026-05-27 01:36)

SEOUL, May 27 (Yonhap) -- A labor union at Kakao Corp., the operator of South Ko...

- [Lee vows efforts to foster shipping, port industries as strategic sectors](#) (2026-05-27 01:33)
SEOUL, May 27 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Wednesday pledged to foster...

- [\(URGENT\) Lee vows efforts to foster shipping, port industries as strategic sectors](#) (2026-05-27 01:32)
(END)

- [Investigators quiz ex-JCS chairman over alleged role in martial law](#) (2026-05-27 01:24)
SEOUL, May 27 (Yonhap) -- Kim Myung-soo, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of ...

- [Industry minister vows support for small shipbuilders, equipment manufacturers](#) (2026-05-27 01:11)
SEOUL, May 27 (Yonhap) -- Industry Minister Kim Jung-kwan on Wednesday vowed act...

- [Kim Soo-hyun's agency says 'truth proven' through arrest of YouTuber charged with defamation](#) (2026-05-27 00:57)
SEOUL, May 27 (Yonhap) -- Actor Kim Soo-hyun's agency said Wednesday that "truth...

- [BTS' 'Swim' hits 500 mln Spotify streams milestone](#) (2026-05-27 00:53)
SEOUL, May 27 (Yonhap) -- "Swim," the latest hit from K-pop supergroup BTS, has ...

- [\(LEAD\) Prosecution launches team to probe deadly Seoul overpass collapse](#) (2026-05-27 00:37)
SEOUL, May 27 (Yonhap) -- The prosecution said Wednesday it will launch a team t...

- [\(2nd LD\) N. Korea tests new lightweight missile launcher, tactical cruise missiles under Kim's watch](#) (2026-05-27 00:29)
SEOUL, May 27 (Yonhap) -- North Korea has tested a newly developed lightweight m...

- [\(LEAD\) Seoul shares open at fresh high on tech rally amid renewed tension in Middle East](#) (2026-05-27 00:23)
SEOUL, May 27 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks opened at a new record high Wednes...

- [With demons behind him, LIV Golf's Anthony Kim hopes to keep inspiring people](#) (2026-05-27 00:19)
BUSAN, May 27 (Yonhap) -- Considered the next big thing in men's golf in the mid...

- [KRX issues buy-side sidecar for KOSPI on steep rise](#) (2026-05-27 00:14)
SEOUL, May 27 (Yonhap) -- The Korea Exchange (KRX) on Wednesday activated a trad...

- [\(URGENT\) KRX issues buy-side sidecar on KOSPI's spike](#) (2026-05-27 00:07)

(END)

- [Seoul shares open at fresh high on tech rally amid renewed tension in Middle East](#) (2026-05-27 00:02)

SEOUL, May 27 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks opened at a new record high Wednes...

- [\(URGENT\) Seoul shares open up 2.42 pct at fresh high on tech rally amid renewed Middle East tension](#) (2026-05-27 00:01)

(END)