



SOUTH KOREA SECURITY ANALYSIS REPORT

AI-Assisted Open Source Intelligence Assessment

Analysis Period: March 08, 2026 - March 15, 2026

This report was produced using automated 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.

Executive Summary

South Korea's security landscape during March 8-15, 2026, was primarily shaped by ongoing joint military exercises with the United States and the controversial redeployment of U.S. air defense systems from the peninsula to the Middle East. The annual Freedom Shield 2026 drills commenced, involving thousands of troops, amidst North Korean warnings and South Korean assurances regarding its deterrence capabilities. Concurrently, Seoul navigated complex diplomatic waters, seeking to mediate regional tensions and solidify economic ties with major powers, while facing a surge in sophisticated cybersecurity threats, particularly those leveraging artificial intelligence. These developments underscore South Korea's efforts to balance its alliance commitments with strategic autonomy in a volatile geopolitical environment.

Key Security Developments

- Military Activities and Exercises

The United States and South Korea commenced their annual Freedom Shield 2026 joint military exercise on March 9, 2026, scheduled to run through March 19. Approximately 18,000 South Korean troops are participating in the largely computer-simulated drills, which also include a field training program called Warrior Shield. These exercises are designed to test joint operational capabilities and incorporate evolving war scenarios, though the number of field exercises has decreased to 22 compared to 51 last year. North Korea typically views these drills as invasion rehearsals and may respond with military demonstrations.

- Defense Policy and Strategic Shifts

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung confirmed on March 10, 2026, that the U.S. is redeploying some air defense systems, including parts of a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system and Patriot batteries, from South Korea to the Middle East to support operations against Iran. Despite Seoul's opposition, President Lee stated that South Korea cannot prevent the move but assured that it "does not hinder deterrence strategy towards North Korea," citing South Korea's superior defense spending and conventional capabilities. This move highlights a broader U.S. strategic shift, positioning U.S. Forces Korea (USFK) as a flexible regional asset beyond peninsula-focused deterrence.

- Diplomatic Relations

South Korea is actively seeking to play a "constructive role necessary for peace and development" in Northeast Asia, particularly by mediating tensions between China and Japan. Foreign Minister Cho Hyun emphasized prioritizing dialogue over confrontation and engagement over isolation. A public perception survey released on March 10, 2026, indicated a softening of negative perceptions towards Korea-China relations, with 52% viewing the relationship as "neither good nor bad" and 44% expecting improvement over the next year. South Korea continues to balance its strong alliance with the U.S. with a constructive relationship with China.

- Security Incidents and Threats

North Korea is anticipated to issue an "irritated response" to the ongoing Freedom Shield military exercises, which it consistently labels as invasion rehearsals. While not a primary news event for the period, a related news item on March 14, 2026, mentioned North Korea firing approximately 10 ballistic missiles towards the Sea of Japan. This underscores the persistent threat posed by Pyongyang's military activities.

- Defense Acquisitions and Arms Deals

South Korea announced on March 14, 2026, the completion of the development of its L-SAM long-range anti-aircraft missile system. This system, developed in cooperation with Russia's Almaz-Antey, is designed to intercept ballistic missiles at altitudes of 20 to 100 km and ranges of 150 to 300 km, and will be integrated into the Korean missile defense system. Preparations for serial production are underway, with combat duty expected by 2030.

- Cybersecurity

South Korea is grappling with a significant increase in cybersecurity breaches, with a 26% jump reported in 2025, reaching 2,383 incidents. The Ministry of Science and ICT warned of emerging threats in 2026, including AI-powered automation of attacks, coordinated multi-vector campaigns, adaptive malware, and the exploitation of deepfake technology for "trust-based communication methods". In response, the government has formed an interagency body to strengthen cybersecurity and plans to implement AI-based prevention and response programs.

- Maritime and Border Security

A South Korean lawmaker reported on March 3, 2026, that approximately 30 South Korean merchant vessels are navigating near the Strait of Hormuz, highlighting rising trade security concerns in the region. This comes amidst the escalating conflict in the Middle East, which has prompted the National Intelligence Service (NIS) to provide real-time terror and combat intelligence to Korean companies operating in seven Middle Eastern countries with elevated travel warnings.

- Counter-terrorism

The South Korean government formally designated the January 2024 knife attack on then-opposition leader and current President Lee Jae Myung as the nation's first officially recognized terrorist act on January 20, 2026. This designation, made by the National Counterterrorism Committee, will lead to additional investigations and enhanced protection for political figures. The National Intelligence Service (NIS) has also established a "Middle East Situation Response Task Force" to provide real-time counter-terrorism and safety operations for Korean companies in overseas danger zones.

- Intelligence Activities

The National Intelligence Service (NIS) established a "Middle East Situation Response Task Force" on February 28, 2026, in response to the Iran crisis. Since March 9, 2026, the NIS has been providing real-time intelligence on local terror threats and combat-related information to Korean companies operating in seven Middle Eastern countries where travel advisories have been elevated to Level 3 (evacuation advisory).

- Defense Industry developments

South Korea's defense industry continues to expand its global footprint. The Korea Army International Defense Industry Exhibition (KADEX 2026) and DX Korea 2026 are scheduled to showcase the nation's defense capabilities, with DX Korea 2026 securing full military sponsorship and expanding its focus to cover all domains (land, sea, air, space, cyber, and security). The completion of the L-SAM long-range air defense system development further highlights South Korea's advancements in indigenous defense technology.

Geopolitical Impact and Regional Dynamics

The period from March 8-15, 2026, saw South Korea navigating a complex geopolitical landscape, primarily influenced by its alliance with the United States and its evolving relationship with China. The commencement of the Freedom Shield 2026 joint military exercises with the U.S. reinforces the robust alliance, but simultaneously risks escalating tensions with North Korea, which views such drills as provocative. The controversial redeployment of U.S. air defense systems from South Korea to the Middle East, driven by the escalating conflict with Iran, introduces a new dynamic. While President Lee Jae Myung downplayed the impact on deterrence against North Korea, the move underscores the U.S.'s global strategic flexibility and potentially stretches its capabilities, raising concerns about regional defense gaps in Asia.

South Korea's diplomatic efforts to mediate tensions between China and Japan demonstrate its ambition to play a more active and constructive role in Northeast Asian stability. This aligns with Seoul's strategy of maintaining a strong alliance with

Washington while fostering constructive relations with Beijing, its largest trading partner. The recent softening of negative public perceptions towards China in South Korea, as indicated by a March 10 survey, could provide more diplomatic maneuvering room for Seoul. However, the U.S.'s continued push for South Korea to integrate more deeply into its Indo-Pacific strategy, particularly in defense production, presents a delicate balancing act for Seoul to avoid undermining its diplomatic autonomy with China.

Economically, South Korean lawmakers passed a law to manage a \$350 billion investment pledge in U.S. industries, a move aimed at avoiding higher tariffs imposed by the Trump administration. This highlights the economic pressures and trade-offs South Korea faces in its alliance with the U.S. The ongoing conflict in the Middle East also poses risks to South Korea's export-dependent economy and its reliance on imported fuel, as evidenced by the presence of South Korean merchant vessels near the Strait of Hormuz. Overall, South Korea is actively seeking to enhance its strategic autonomy and regional influence amidst shifting power dynamics and persistent security challenges.

Military and Defense Analysis

South Korea's military posture during this period is characterized by a continued focus on strengthening its combined defense capabilities with the United States, alongside significant advancements in indigenous defense technology. The Freedom Shield 2026 exercises, involving 18,000 South Korean troops, are crucial for enhancing joint operational readiness and incorporating modern war scenarios, including responses to evolving threats. Despite the U.S. redeployment of THAAD and Patriot missile defense systems to the Middle East, President Lee Jae Myung asserted that South Korea's deterrence against North Korea would not be hindered, emphasizing the nation's substantial defense spending and conventional capabilities. This suggests a growing confidence in South Korea's self-defense capacity.

In terms of modernization programs, the completion of the L-SAM long-range anti-aircraft missile system development marks a significant milestone. This system, capable of intercepting ballistic missiles at high altitudes, will be a critical component of South Korea's multi-layered missile defense system, which also includes Cheongung II and Patriot PAC-2 systems. The planned serial production and integration of L-SAM by 2030 will substantially bolster South Korea's ability to counter North Korean missile threats. Furthermore, South Korea is also strengthening its naval air defense with the planned acquisition of American SM-3 missile missiles for its KDX-3 project destroyers.

Defense spending trends indicate a sustained commitment to military enhancement. In 2024, South Korea's military spending was 2.6% of GDP (US\$47.6 billion), with the Lee administration pledging an 8.2% increase in 2026. This investment supports not only domestic defense but also fuels South Korea's ambition to become a major global arms exporter, as evidenced by its growing defense industry and participation in international exhibitions like KADDEX 2026 and DX Korea 2026. The focus on high-tech weapons and industrial cooperation, including the local manufacturing of components for military transport aircraft like the C-390 Millennium, demonstrates a strategic approach to capability development and defense self-reliance.

Outlook and Forecast

Short-term trends (1-3 months): In the immediate future, South Korea will likely continue to navigate the complexities of the U.S.-China rivalry while maintaining its robust alliance with the United States. The ongoing Freedom Shield 2026 exercises will conclude on March 19, and North Korea's reaction to these drills will be a critical indicator of inter-Korean tensions. We can anticipate further rhetoric from Pyongyang, and potentially additional missile tests, as a customary response to joint exercises. Diplomatically, South Korea will persist in its efforts to mediate between China and Japan, aiming to foster regional stability. The implementation of the \$350 billion investment pledge in the U.S. will also be closely watched, as it directly impacts trade relations and economic stability.

Critical flashpoints and risk areas: The primary flashpoint remains the Korean Peninsula, with North Korea's continued development of its nuclear arsenal and its unpredictable responses to joint military exercises posing a constant threat. The redeployment of U.S. air defense systems to the Middle East, while deemed manageable by Seoul, could create perceived vulnerabilities that North Korea might attempt to exploit. Furthermore, the escalating conflict in the Middle East itself presents a significant risk, potentially disrupting global supply chains, impacting South Korea's energy security, and necessitating continued intelligence support for Korean firms in the region. Cybersecurity threats, particularly those involving AI-powered attacks and deepfakes, are also a growing concern, with the potential for significant disruption to critical infrastructure and data integrity.

Indicators to monitor: Key indicators to monitor include the frequency and nature of North Korean military provocations following Freedom Shield, any further statements or actions regarding the U.S. military asset redeployment, and the progress of South Korea's diplomatic initiatives in Northeast Asia. Domestically, the effectiveness of the new interagency body and AI-based programs in mitigating cybersecurity threats will be crucial. Economically, the impact of global trade policies and the Middle East conflict on South Korea's export-driven economy and energy imports should be closely

observed.

Strategic recommendations: South Korea should continue to strengthen its indigenous defense capabilities, particularly in missile defense and advanced weaponry, to enhance its strategic autonomy and reduce reliance on external assets. Maintaining open lines of communication with North Korea, even amidst provocations, is essential to de-escalate tensions. Diplomatically, Seoul should actively pursue its mediating role in regional disputes, leveraging its economic and strategic importance to foster stability. Furthermore, a proactive and adaptive cybersecurity strategy, incorporating advanced AI-driven defenses and international cooperation, is paramount to counter the evolving threat landscape. Finally, diversifying energy sources and strengthening economic resilience against global shocks will be crucial for long-term security.

ANNEX: COLLECTED ARTICLES BY SOURCE

Source: Daily NK

- [Hyesan smugglers rush Chinese apparel and shoes ahead of April school term](#) (2026-03-13 13:28)

North Korean smugglers along the Chinese border are importing spring clothing, footwear and school supplies through Chinese customs ahead of the April 1 semester start, driven by a seasonal surge in student demand, a source in Ryanggang province told Daily NK on Thursday. Demand for student clothing and footwear rises sharply each mid-March as the [...]

- [China blocks North Korean factory workers en masse](#) (2026-03-13 08:20)

A Chinese garment factory in Liaoning province attempted to bring roughly 100 North Korean female workers into China in January, but local authorities rejected the visa application, citing U.N. sanctions that prohibit North Korea from sending workers abroad, Daily NK has learned. A source in China told Daily NK on Thursday that the factory had [...]

- [Kim Jong Un' s 'two hostile states' declaration: legal implications for the Korean Peninsula](#) (2026-03-13 04:39)

North Korea rewrote the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) charter at the ninth WPK Congress, held Feb. 19-25, 2026, formally enshrining the "two hostile states" framework in the party' s foundational document — a move analysts say institutionalizes a fundamental break from more than 70 years of North Korean inter-Korean policy. Kim Jong Un declared that [...]

- [Satellite imagery reveals what remains of North Korea-Syria cooperation sites](#) (2026-03-13 02:05)

Nearly two decades after an Israeli airstrike obliterated a suspected North Korean-built reactor in the Syrian desert, new satellite imagery of the Al-Kibar site and a Damascus war museum bearing the hallmarks of North Korean monumental art offers a rare visual accounting of what remains of one of the most heavily scrutinized proliferation partnerships of [...]

- [N. Korean students face more ideology sessions as regime tightens grip on youth](#) (2026-03-12 21:39)

North Korean schools have sharply increased mandatory political study sessions for students at all levels following the Ninth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea, with some schools in North Pyongan province now prioritizing ideology drills over regular classes, a source told Daily NK on Wednesday. A source in North Pyongan province, who requested anonymity [...]

- [North Korea scrambles for raw materials to revive light industry](#) (2026-03-12 13:55)

Two North Korean trade bureaus are scrambling to source raw materials as part of a state-driven push to revitalize the country's light industry sector. A source in South Pyongan province told Daily NK on Wednesday that the Rakwon Trade Guidance Bureau and the Ponghwa Trade Bureau received urgent cabinet orders on March 1 to secure [...]

- [Man beaten for stealing kimchi as North Korea food crisis deepens](#) (2026-03-12 13:27)

As North Korea's food crisis deepens, theft of kimchi — a dietary staple that families rely on through the winter months — has become increasingly common, with one case in Ryanggang province turning violent. A man in his 40s was caught stealing kimchi in the Yonbong neighborhood of Hyesan on the night of March 6 [...]

- [Even the enforcers are visiting fortune tellers in North Korea, and prices are soaring](#) (2026-03-12 08:28)

Fortune teller fees across North Korea have surged two to four times their previous levels as a flood of new customers — including officials and enforcement agents who are supposed to be cracking down on the practice — drives prices sharply higher and renders state prohibition largely ineffective, multiple Daily NK sources inside the country [...]

- [International Women's Day brings an unusual scene to North Korea: husbands buying lattes](#) (2026-03-11 19:41)

Coffee shops in North Korea's Sinuiju were packed with couples on International Women's Day this year as husbands marked the holiday by taking their wives out for drinks in a scene locals described as entirely new, a source in North Pyongan province told Daily NK on Wednesday. “On March 8, couples spending time together over [...]

- [North Korea orders officer unity training after party congress](#) (2026-03-11 14:30)

North Korea's VIII Corps held three-day training sessions for junior officers across its units in early March, ordering them to cultivate closer bonds with enlisted soldiers and address grievances through positive reinforcement rather than punishment, following directives issued at the Ninth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea. A source inside the North Korean military [...]

- [North Korea's inns become havens for drug deals as crackdowns intensify](#) (2026-03-11 13:36)

Inns across North Korea are being converted into hubs for drug dealing and use as intensifying state crackdowns push narcotics activity further underground, a source in South Hamgyong province told Daily NK on Wednesday. “The number of people using inns in Hamhung has noticeably increased recently, and people are saying this is directly linked to [...]

- [Beijing-Pyongyang passenger train service set to resume after nearly six years](#) (2026-03-11 07:37)

North Korea and China are set to resume direct passenger rail service between Beijing and Pyongyang on March 12, ending a suspension of nearly six years that began when Pyongyang sealed its borders in January 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. According to a Daily NK source with knowledge of cross-border transport arrangements, the [...]

- [North Korea drafts women's union members to plug labor gaps at raw material bases](#) (2026-03-10 21:14)

Raw material supply bases supporting North Korea's local factory construction drive are struggling with chronic labor shortages, forcing the regime to mobilize members of the Korean Socialist Women's Union to fill the gap. A Daily NK source in North Hamgyong province reported Tuesday that the district party committee in Sunam district, Chongjin, issued a directive [...]

- [Pyongsong crackdown leaves shelves bare as North Korea pushes state commerce drive](#) (2026-03-10 14:42)

North Korea's crackdown on private markets is intensifying as the regime designates March a "month of commercial revolution," triggering sharp price spikes and supply shortages across the country. A Daily NK source in South Pyongan province reported Tuesday that the provincial people's committee has declared the state commercial network must "completely overwhelm" the jangmadang, the [...]

- [Post-congress crackdown: North Korea conducts wired broadcast inspections to enforce ideological compliance](#) (2026-03-10 02:21)

North Korean authorities are conducting household inspections of wired broadcast equipment across multiple provinces following the conclusion of the ninth Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) congress, in what analysts see as a coordinated push to reinforce ideological control, a Daily NK source said Monday. A source in South Hamgyong province told Daily NK that neighborhood [...]

- [Kim Jong Un's 9th party congress sets a new course for North Korean agriculture](#) (2026-03-10 00:48)

The Rodong Sinmun, the official newspaper of North Korea's Workers' Party of Korea (WPK), reported on Feb. 28 that participants of the Ninth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea had carried out various political and cultural activities. 1. Overview of the Ninth Party Congress The Ninth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea was [...]

- [North Korean youth are skipping political events, and the regime is worried](#) (2026-03-09 20:46)

Attendance at political events and propaganda gatherings inside North Korea has been falling, and the regime appears to be taking notice. A source in South Pyongan province told Daily NK

recently that the provincial party committee’ s propaganda and agitation department held internal discussions on how to push participation in rallies tied to the decisions of [...]

- [North Korea intensifies jangmadang crackdown, seizing household goods for state stores](#) (2026-03-09 18:41)

North Korean authorities have sharply escalated inspections of jangmadang markets in Hamhung city, seizing domestically produced household goods from vendors and routing them into the state-run commercial network, a source inside the country told Daily NK on Monday.

“Since the beginning of this month, there has been a noticeably stronger push in Hamhung to investigate [...]

- [North Korea orders teachers to take malnourished orphans home as state welfare collapses](#) (2026-03-09 13:33)

The Nampo party committee has ordered teachers at orphan care facilities to personally take malnourished and sick children into their own homes to nurse them back to health, framing the directive as a socialist patriotic campaign under the slogan “Love the Future,” a source told Daily NK on Monday. “After the Ninth Party Congress, the [...]

- [Kim Jong Un’ s ideology supplants founding doctrine after ninth party congress](#) (2026-03-09 13:26)

North Korea’ s state media has stopped referencing “Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism,” the ideological framework underpinning the Kim dynasty for decades, following the ninth congress of the Workers’ Party of Korea (WPK). In its place, a new formulation has emerged: “Kim Jong Un’ s ideology.” The shift, subtle in phrasing but sweeping in implication, points to the consolidation of a [...]

- [Kim rewards parade soldiers with special leave](#) (2026-03-09 07:41)

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un rewarded soldiers who marched in the military parade at the Ninth Congress of the Workers’ Party of Korea with 12-14 days of special leave, according to a source inside the country, after Kim verbally ordered the gesture on Feb. 27 to honor the troops’ efforts during the annual winter [...]

- [North Korean youth outmaneuver state labor drives by volunteering for construction brigades first](#) (2026-03-09 02:43)

Young people in Sinuiju are volunteering for construction brigades before the state can assign them elsewhere, choosing what they see as the least harmful option in a sweeping labor mobilization drive launched after the Workers’ Party of Korea’ s Ninth Congress, Daily NK has learned. The move reflects growing fear of permanent placement at collective farms [...]

- [After Iran: Why a strike on North Korea’ s nuclear sites is a last resort](#) (2026-03-09 00:29)

On June 21, 2025, the United States carried out Operation Midnight Hammer, deploying B-2 stealth bombers armed with GBU-57 massive bunker busters and cruise missiles to strike Fordow, Natanz and Isfahan — the three key facilities in Iran’ s nuclear program, which has reportedly benefited from North Korean technical support — in what marked the first [...]

- [North Korean factory workers ordered to hand over farming tools ahead of planting season](#) (2026-03-08 21:40)

A North Korean factory in Hyesan has ordered each of its workers to submit one farming tool by mid-March under the banner of “rural support,” reviving annual complaints about a state collection drive that many workers say yields no visible improvement in food production, Daily NK has learned. A Daily NK source in Ryanggang province [...]

Source: Hankyoreh

- [\[Column\] What do norms mean in times of war?](#) (2026-03-15 06:01)
- [Lee Se-dol’ s advice for young job seekers worried about AI](#) (2026-03-13 12:01)
- [Iran sets terms for ending war, but US unlikely to acquiesce](#) (2026-03-13 12:01)
- [Iran’ s new supreme leader vows to keep Strait of Hormuz closed in first public address](#) (2026-03-13 12:01)
- [\[Column\] The megalomaniac dictator with tariffs in one hand, missiles in the other](#) (2026-03-13 12:01)
- [Korean legislature passes US investment bill, but loophole for waiving safeguards sparks backlash](#) (2026-03-13 12:01)
- [\[Editorial\] Korea can’ t let US trade probes strong-arm it into concessions](#) (2026-03-13 12:01)
- [Korea named as target of new Section 301 probe by US](#) (2026-03-12 12:01)
- [How much is the US willing to risk for the Strait of Hormuz?](#) (2026-03-12 12:01)
- [US Democrats say Trump’ s investment pressure has ‘deeply unsettled’ alliance with Seoul](#) (2026-03-12 12:01)

- [\[Editorial\] No greater sign that South Korea must prioritize building its own defense abilities](#) (2026-03-12 12:01)
- [Blue House reviewing plan to revive abolished open-eligibility bar exam](#) (2026-03-12 12:01)
- [US may seek exit from Iran war by moving the goalposts of victory](#) (2026-03-12 12:01)
- [\[Column\] Misconceptions about America’ s war with Iran](#) (2026-03-12 12:01)
- [‘Made in USA’ : Scraps of missile that killed Iranian children point to US responsibility](#) (2026-03-12 12:01)
- [Strait of Hormuz bottleneck could become ‘death valley’ for US military](#) (2026-03-11 12:01)
- [\[Exclusive\] Scholars behind Nobel nomination call Korea’ s ‘Revolution of Light’ a beacon of democratic resilience](#) (2026-03-11 12:01)
- [Top Iranian security official threatens Trump with ‘elimination’](#) (2026-03-11 12:01)
- [South Korea’ s Lee acknowledges US is shifting military assets to Middle East](#) (2026-03-11 12:01)
- [\[News analysis\] Air defense pullout signals new era of US strategic flexibility in Korea](#) (2026-03-11 12:01)
- [South Korea logs per capita GNI of \\$36,855 for 2025, dampened by weak won](#) (2026-03-11 12:01)
- [Extended crisis in Mideast may send shockwaves through Korea’ s economy, key sectors](#) (2026-03-11 12:01)
- [Korea’ s Democrats expect a landslide in June elections — that overconfidence could hurt them](#) (2026-03-10 12:01)
- [\[Interview\] Abandoning reunification is survival strategy for North Korea, expert says](#) (2026-03-10 12:01)
- [Party that gave rise to Yoon Suk-yeol distances itself from disgraced former president](#) (2026-03-10 12:01)

- [PPP' s Jang formally agrees to cut ties with Yoon amid dismal poll numbers, looming election \(2026-03-10 12:01\)](#)
- [65% of Korean men say gender equality has gone 'far enough' ; only 42% of women agree \(2026-03-10 12:01\)](#)
- [Coupang investors insinuate that US is planning Section 301 probe into Korea \(2026-03-10 12:01\)](#)
- ['Everything they have is gone' : Trump says war with Iran will be over 'very soon' \(2026-03-10 12:01\)](#)
- [Mojtaba Khamenei named new supreme leader of Iran after father' s assassination \(2026-03-09 12:01\)](#)
- [Korea braces for energy shock as Middle East crude production falls \(2026-03-09 12:01\)](#)
- [Iran war fuels demand for Russian oil, raising possibility of eased sanctions \(2026-03-09 12:01\)](#)
- [\[Editorial\] Trump' s baseless claim that Iran bombed girls' school crosses line \(2026-03-09 12:01\)](#)
- [\[Interview\] Is war in Iran the beginning of the end for nuclear nonproliferation? \(2026-03-09 12:01\)](#)
- [Seoul mayor issues ultimatum to party: Drop Yoon or lose me \(2026-03-09 12:01\)](#)
- [Wave of US transport planes depart from Osan for Mediterranean amid speculation of Patriot shipments \(2026-03-09 12:01\)](#)
- [It' s UNC' s militarized DMZ police, not peaceful civilian entry, that' s 'at odds with' armistice \(2026-03-08 06:00\)](#)

Source: Korea Times

- [Lee vows expanded compensation for activists of 1960 democracy movement \(2026-03-15 05:57\)](#)

President Lee Jae Myung said Sunday the government will step up efforts to identify more activists who took part in the democracy movement of 1960 and ensure they receive proper compensation and recognition. Lee made the pledge during a ceremony marking the 66th anniversary of the March 15 Democracy Movement in the southeastern city of Changwon. He is the first sitting president to attend the ceremony since it was designated a national memorial day in 2010. "As president of the Republic of Korea, I offer my heartfelt apology and comforting words to the bereaved families of the victims of the March 15 Democracy Movement who suffered great pain due to state violence. I will not forget your noble sacrifice," Lee said in his address. The democracy movement began March 15, 1960, in Masan, now part of Changwon, as protests against widespread election fraud during the presidential election under then President Rhee Syng-man. The demonstrations later spread nationwide, sparking the April 19 Revolution the following month, a watershed event that led to Rhee's ouster. Lee vowed the government would

- [BTS concert security concerns block rooftop access at 31 buildings](#) (2026-03-15 05:57)

Authorities will restrict access to 31 buildings near Gwanghwamun Square before a full-group comeback concert by BTS on March 21, seeking to prevent unauthorized rooftop viewing and possible safety hazards. With crowds of up to 260,000 expected on the day of the concert, the restrictions reflect police plans for strict security amid safety concerns over the massive gathering and heightened global security concerns, including the possibility of a terror attack linked to intensifying tensions in the Middle East. According to Korean media reports Sunday, the Seoul Metropolitan Government and police designated 31 buildings near Gwanghwamun Square as priority monitoring sites and are coordinating safety measures with building managers. Last week, police reportedly asked managers of six buildings directly adjacent to the square to close front entrances the day of the concert and allow access only through rear entrances to prevent spectators from bypassing the area's 31 official access points and reaching the concert site without authorization. The Seoul Metropolitan Government has also called

- [PPP official in charge of nomination for local elections rescinds resignation offer](#) (2026-03-15 05:57)

Lee Jung-hyun, head of the nomination committee at the main opposition People Power Party (PPP) for the upcoming local elections, returned to work Sunday, two days after offering to step down from his post. "I will resume my work as head of the party's nomination committee," Lee said in a statement. "I will also bear full responsibility for the election results." Lee said he had been approached by PPP leader Jang Dong-hyeok the previous night about seeing the reform of the nomination process to the end and that Jang had also offered him "full authority" on all matters related to nominations for the June 3 elections. "At this critical juncture, I think the party and the people want someone to step up to take responsibility and make decisions," Lee said. "If I have to make decisions during the nomination process going forward, I will not shy away from them. I will make sure this process will be an opportunity for the PPP to be born

again." Lee had informed the party leadership Friday he would resign from his post, less than a month after being appointed amid an apparent internal rift over

- [Military aircraft bringing back 211 S. Koreans, foreigners from Saudi Arabia amid Mideast conflict](#) (2026-03-14 23:57)

South Korean military transport aircraft is bringing home 204 nationals from Saudi Arabia, officials said Sunday, in the first airlift evacuation using a military plane since the conflict began in the Middle East late last month. A KC-330 Cygnus multirole aerial tanker carrying 204 South Koreans and seven others of foreign nationalities departed from Riyadh on Saturday (local time) and is expected to land at Seoul Air Base in Seongnam, south of the capital, on Sunday afternoon (Seoul time). The operation, named "Desert Shine," came as thousands of South Korean nationals remain stranded in the Middle East due to flight disruptions as the conflict between U.S.-Israeli forces and Iran has escalated into a wider regional war. Those aboard the Cygnus tanker had been staying in Iraq, Kuwait, Bahrain, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia before traveling to Riyadh to board the military aircraft. More than 140 of them were in Saudi Arabia, while 24 had come from Bahrain, 14 from Kuwait and 28 from Lebanon. Among those on board were two Japanese nationals, along with one American, one Australian, one New Zealand

- [Pres. Lee congratulates para cross-country skier for winning 4 medals](#) (2026-03-14 11:57)

President Lee Jae Myung congratulated para cross-country skier Kim Yun-ji, Saturday, for her groundbreaking feat of clinching four medals in the ongoing Winter Paralympics in northern Italy. "I congratulate Kim on her fourth medal. It is an amazing accomplishment that makes it hard to believe it is her first Olympics participation," Lee wrote on Facebook, saying she "made history." Lee said he hopes the athlete will perform her best in the remaining cross-country skiing 20 kilometer interval start race, set for Sunday (local time). Kim became the first Korean woman to capture a Winter Paralympic gold medal after winning the women's individual sitting title in para biathlon and has earned three more silver medals. Lee, meanwhile, also applauded the Korean wheelchair curling team for finishing fourth after a competitive race.

- [Man flees after stabbing woman to death in Namyangju](#) (2026-03-14 05:57)

A man has fled after fatally stabbing a woman on a street in Namyangju, near Seoul, on Saturday, prompting the police to track him down, officials said. The police received a report at around 9 a.m. that the suspect killed a woman in her 30s in Namyangju, about 20 kilometers east of Seoul, according to the officials. The suspect is known to be an ex-convict who was mandated to wear an electronic ankle monitoring device.

- [Hyundai workers, residents in Ulsan fear impact of robots' arrival at US factories](#) (2026-03-13 17:57)

"We weren't even shaken during COVID. It somehow just passed us by," said Joo Jung-hee, an 80-year-old restaurant owner. "That's because of the factory workers." Running a small restaurant in Ulsan, a city whose economy revolves around six major Hyundai Motor factories,

Joo has rarely worried about sales. Even with pain-relief patches on hands darkened by age spots, she still smiles at the sight of customers streaming in each day, sometimes swallowing a handful of painkillers before returning to work. Inside the modest 82-square-meter restaurant, ten steel tables fill quickly at lunchtime. Factory workers tired of cafeteria food come for Joo's pollock stew or tofu, and the place turns into something like a neighborhood living room. Over the years serving out food, she now knows when the next seasonal promotion is. Restaurants nearby have changed owners several times in the past year alone. But Joo has held on to her spot, which sits directly across from the factory gates for three decades. For her, Ulsan was the city that made it possible to raise three sons. She arrived

- [Korea to invest \\$5.8 bil. in semiconductor, AI, battery technologies](#) (2026-03-13 11:57)

The government will invest about 8.6 trillion won (\$5.77 billion) this year to accelerate development across various fields, including semiconductors, artificial intelligence (AI), shipbuilding, energy and batteries, as it moves to strengthen Korea's technological sovereignty and respond to intensifying global competition. The Ministry of Science and ICT announced Friday that the joint public-private Special Committee on the National Strategic Technology approved the 2026 implementation plan, mobilizing 23 ministries to coordinate research funding, policy tools and financial support. The plan is part of the government's five-year national strategy for strategic technologies from 2024 through 2028, aimed at securing critical capabilities that are considered essential to national security and industrial growth. As part of the plan, the government has ramped up national strategic technology research and development (R&D) spending by 30 percent from last year to 8.6 trillion won in 2026. The fund will support coordinated government programs covering 513 designated technologies, which th

- [PPP turmoil deepens ahead of local elections as nomination chief quits](#) (2026-03-13 11:57)

Internal turmoil within the main opposition People Power Party (PPP) is intensifying ahead of the June 3 local elections, as the chief of its nomination committee suddenly quit and the confrontation between party leader Jang Dong-hyeok and Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon is escalating. While the party is still dealing with internal disputes surrounding its ties with ousted former President Yoon Suk Yeol, fresh turbulence is threatening to disrupt preparations for the key elections. Lee Jung-hyun, who had been overseeing the party's nomination process for the upcoming elections, announced his resignation Friday, saying he could no longer carry out the vision he sought to pursue during the selection process. "In the course of this nomination process, I strongly felt the need for change and reform, and I have tried to do my best in the role entrusted to me," Lee said in a statement. "However, as I respected various opinions, I concluded that it had become difficult to push forward the direction I had envisioned. Taking full responsibility, I will step down from my position as chairman of th

- [Ex-station chief's testimony at Itaewon disaster hearing sparks fury from bereaved families](#) (2026-03-13 11:57)

The former Itaewon Station chief said during an investigative hearing Friday that she would still not have ordered trains to skip Itaewon Station on the night of the 2022 Halloween crowd crush, drawing fury from bereaved families who accused her of abetting the disaster that killed 159 people. On the second day of fact-finding hearings by the National Commission for the Investigation of the Oct. 29 Itaewon Disaster in Seoul, questioning centered on Song Eun-young's decision not to request trains skip Itaewon Station that night as well as Yongsan District Office's failure to address illegal structures near the narrow alley where the crowd crush happened. Asked whether she would make the same choice again under identical circumstances, Song replied, "Yes, that's right," prompting strong reactions from families in the audience. Some yelled, "If you stay in the post, people will die again," and "What have you done for three years?" as the hearing briefly grew chaotic. Song, who now holds a different post with Seoul Metro, defended her decision by arguing station staff had

- [Lawmaker targets English cram lessons for toddlers after level test ban](#) (2026-03-13 11:57)

A lawmaker who led this week's ban on English level tests for preschoolers is now vowing to push a far more sweeping proposal that would sharply curb academic lessons for children at so-called "English kindergartens" and other private institutes in Korea. On Thursday, the National Assembly approved an amendment to the Private Teaching Institutes and Extracurricular Lessons Act in order to ban level tests used by private institutes to screen or rank preschool students for their programs. This law will come into force six months after passage. Only low pressure diagnostic checks will be allowed after a child is enrolled, and only with prior parental consent, using observation style activities intended to support learning rather than rank children. Detailed standards for these diagnostics will be set later by enforcement ordinances. A senior aide in the office of Rep. Kang Kyung-sook of the minor liberal Rebuilding Korea Party, who led the legislation effort, welcomed the passage but stressed that it represents only "half" of the lawmaker's early-childhood agenda. "The oth

- [Police to deploy maximum security for BTS comeback show amid terror concerns](#) (2026-03-13 11:57)

Police said Friday that they will deploy maximum security measures for K-pop group BTS' concert at Gwanghwamun Square on March 21, citing the possibility of a terror attack amid intensifying tensions in the Middle East and worsening global security conditions. In a press release, the Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency said it will mobilize all resources to counter terrorism risks in and around the venue near City Hall in central Seoul, with over 200,000 fans expected to crowd the area for the concert. It also pledged a tough response to hoax threats.

"If a bomb threat is reported on the day of the event, it could cause major disruptions," the police said. "Anyone who causes delays or wastes police resources by making bomb threats will be subject to arrest and a full investigation until they are apprehended." Police buses and water-filled barricades will be placed on surrounding roads to block access to the venue as part of the safety measures. Metal detectors will also be set up at 30 entrance points. Police asked visitors to pack light, saying that screening procedures could cau

- [Women head chefs now helm 1 in 10 Michelin-starred restaurants in Korea](#) (2026-03-13 05:57)

Women head chefs now lead 1 in 10 Michelin-starred restaurants in Korea, marking a symbolic crack in the industry's long-standing glass ceiling even as stark gender gaps persist worldwide. The newly released Michelin Guide Seoul and Busan 2026 lists a record 46 starred restaurants, of which five are helmed by women, or about 10.9 percent, up from three out of 40 last year. That makes 2026 the first year, based on available data, that women have crossed the 10 percent threshold among Korea's Michelin-starred chefs. At the global level, women remain badly outnumbered: A 2022 analysis of 2,286 Michelin-starred restaurants in 16 countries found only about 6 percent were led by women, with the figure still hovering between 5 and 10 percent in 2025. Michelin's own leadership has publicly acknowledged the imbalance.

“Where are the women? Too few women are leading kitchens, despite the fact that more and more of them are working in kitchens,” international director Gwendal Poullennec said at the 2024 French edition of the ceremony, calling it “a reality we deplore.” For every woman

- [Lee's approval rating hits highest level since inauguration: poll](#) (2026-03-13 05:57)

President Lee Jae Myung's approval rating climbed to 66 percent, marking its highest level since he took office last June, a survey showed Friday. The survey by Gallup Korea, conducted Tuesday through Thursday on 1,002 respondents aged 18 and over, showed that the positive assessment of Lee's overall performance gained 1 percentage point from the previous week. The negative assessment fell 1 percentage point to 24 percent. Lee's economic policies were cited most frequently as the reason for the positive evaluation at 20 percent, followed by diplomacy at 10 percent. Following U.S.-Israeli strikes on Iran, the government rolled out a series of measures to stabilize the economy and help ease livelihood burdens stemming from the impact of the Middle East conflict, including a fuel price cap. Among the negative responses, concerns over the economy, including people's livelihoods and the high dollar-won exchange rate, stood at 16 percent, followed by his diplomacy and unilateral decision-making at 8 percent. The approval rating for the ruling Democratic Party of Korea rose 1 percentage point to

- [KDCA safety net serves tuberculosis patients turned away by hospitals](#) (2026-03-13 05:57)

One tuberculosis patient had his infection discovered during emergency surgery after a suicide attempt, with no guardian and a canceled resident registration. Another tuberculosis patient could not afford 31,630 won (\$21) for a hospital visit. A homeless tuberculosis patient was refused help by his younger sister. These real cases are turned away by many hospitals. The Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency's (KDCA) Tuberculosis Relief Belt Project (TRBP), however, has stepped in. Launched in 2014, TRBP provides comprehensive support throughout the course of tuberculosis treatment, covering medical care, caregivers, hospital transfers and nutritional assistance. Operating through a network of 20 medical institutions, the program serves as a safety net for socially and economically vulnerable tuberculosis patients. “The project, now in its 13th year, is a valuable initiative for the agency because it reflects voices from the field,” KDCA Commissioner Lim Seung-kwan said at a briefing for reporters

Wednesday. “Work that requires sustained long-term effort and does not immedia

- [Medical school admission quota rises to 3,548 for 2027 academic year](#) (2026-03-13 05:57)

The nation's medical school admission quota for the 2027 academic year has been confirmed to be 3,548, an increase of 490 from the 2024 academic year, the education ministry said Friday. The decision follows significant conflict between the government and the medical community between 2024 and 2025 after the former Yoon Suk Yeol government had sharply raised the quota by 2,000 for the 2025 academic year to 5,058. The quota was adjusted later to 4,567 for that year before being reverted to 3,058 for the 2026 academic year. The government last month unveiled a plan to gradually increase the quota by an annual average of 668 through 2031. The education ministry said the universities with the largest increase in medical school enrollment next year will be Kangwon National University in the northeastern city of Chuncheon and Chungbuk National University in the central city of Cheongju, with an increase of 39 students each. The school with the smallest increase will be CHA University in Pocheon, northeast of Seoul, with only a net increase of 2 people, it noted, adding all 40 medical schools n

- [Korea files objection to mediation over Japan-funded compensation for wartime slavery victims](#) (2026-03-13 05:57)

The government has recently filed an objection to a court mediation for a now-defunct foundation established with Japanese funds to pay damages to a late victim of Japan's wartime sexual slavery, officials said Friday. Officials representing the Reconciliation and Healing Foundation submitted the objection last week against the mediation to pay 100 million won (\$67,000) to the late victim's bereaved family member, surnamed Kim, according to the gender ministry and legal sources. Kim's side had earlier won a Korean court case to receive the amount in compensation from the Japanese government. They took further legal action for compensation to be made using the foundation's assets, which the Seoul Central District Court accepted. The gender ministry, which oversees the foundation, believes it does not need to pay damages on Japan's behalf. "The foundation has no need to preserve the plaintiff's claim on behalf of Japan," a ministry official said when asked about the objection. The Japan-funded foundation was established in 2016 to support victims of sexual slavery during World War II under

- [Lee calls for close monitoring of gas stations as fuel price cap takes effect](#) (2026-03-13 05:57)

President Lee Jae Myung on Friday called for close monitoring of local gas stations to ensure compliance with a fuel price cap, as the government implemented the price ceiling to help ease burdens for consumers. "(The government) decided to set a ceiling on supply prices to curb fluctuating fuel costs stemming from uncertainty in the international situation," Lee wrote on X. Lee urged public participation to prevent potential profiteering by actively reporting cases of violations. "Public monitoring and participation are needed to prevent some companies from profiteering during this period of instability or taking unfair profits," he said. "If you find gas

stations violating the (oil price cap) system, please report the cases to me without delay." It marks the first time since 1997 that Korea has enforced a price ceiling system under a provision in the Petroleum Business Act, which allows the industry minister to set a maximum sales price when oil prices fluctuate sharply and threaten economic stability.

- [Police raid land ministry over Jeju Air crash](#) (2026-03-13 05:57)

Police raided the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport on Friday to secure material for its investigation into the 2024 Jeju Air plane crash that killed 179 people. A special team handling the probe said it sent investigators to the ministry headquarters in the central administrative city of Sejong at 8:40 a.m. to seize supplementary material. Investigators are looking for leads on the cause of the crash at Muan International Airport on Dec. 29, 2024, and whether the responsible agencies handled it properly, it said. Four people were listed as suspects on the search warrant, all of whom worked for the ministry's air navigation and airport divisions at the time of the crash. Police have so far booked 64 people in connection with the tragedy on suspicion of occupational negligence resulting in death or injury and other charges. The investigation has been looking as far back as the start of the airport's construction in 1999 to determine whether there were any factors that contributed to the disaster. Some of the victims' remains were recently discovered at the site, prompting Presi

- [Lee vows supports for industrial sectors in AI adoption](#) (2026-03-13 05:57)

President Lee Jae Myung said Friday the government will step up coordinated efforts to advance artificial intelligence (AI) transformation across industrial sectors in partnership with the private sector. Lee made the pledge in a post on social media platform X, sharing a news report that the ministries of science and ICT, industry, and SMEs will jointly launch bids for major AI projects aimed at developing AI solutions and applying them in factories. "(The government) will bring together all our capabilities to swiftly push forward industrial AI transformation," Lee wrote. Lee said the initiative is possible because his administration has lowered barriers across ministries to promote interagency cooperation. The envisioned project is worth 432 billion won (\$289.7 million) and includes programs to support smart factories, AI applications in manufacturing and their integration, with the government set to announce the bid next week. Under the initiative, the Ministry of Science and ICT will develop AI agents capable of managing or operating industrial processes, while also advancing AI inte

- [Seoul mayor again delays PPP candidate registration for local elections](#) (2026-03-12 11:57)

Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon said Thursday he did not register for the main opposition People Power Party (PPP)'s candidacy for the June local elections within the extended deadline, expressing dissatisfaction with the party leadership's lack of effort to clearly sever ties with ousted President Yoon Suk Yeol. The fourth-term mayor did not submit his registration for the Seoul mayoral race by the deadline set by the PPP — which had been extended from the original cutoff on Sunday — citing concerns over PPP leader Jang Dong-hyeok's vague stance on calls from within the party to distance itself from Yoon. The former president is currently jailed

on insurrection charges related to his failed martial law bid in December 2024. "I regret to say that I was unable to apply for the party primary or candidacy registration ahead of the local elections today," Oh told reporters after an event held in central Seoul. His decision comes as the conservative party continues to struggle to regain public support amid a prolonged internal rift triggered by Yoon's short-lived martial law declaration. In an appa

- [5 Koreans flee from Iran amid Middle East conflict](#) (2026-03-12 11:57)

Five Korean nationals have fled from Iran amid the widening conflict in the Middle East, the foreign ministry said Thursday, as Seoul continues to evacuate its citizens from Tehran and other regions under attack. Four Koreans crossed into Turkmenistan via a land route a day after leaving Tehran, the ministry said. Another Korean national is still at the border area with two family members and they are expected to arrive in Turkmenistan on Saturday. More than 6,000 Koreans have been evacuated from 14 countries in the Middle East since March 3, with the number of those remaining in the region standing at around 14,700, according to ministry data provided Monday. Roughly half of some 4,100 short-term travelers have left the region in the same period. The resumption of limited flights by the United Arab Emirates and Qatar has paved the way for broader evacuation efforts, following diplomatic talks with Seoul. A Qatari flight from Doha carrying 108 people, including 66 Koreans, landed in Incheon, west of Seoul, on Thursday.

- [Lee orders thorough probe into belated discovery of remains of Jeju Air crash victims](#) (2026-03-12 11:57)

President Lee Jae Myung on Thursday ordered a thorough investigation into the recent discovery of additional remains of victims of the Jeju Air plane crash in late 2024, voicing regret over their belated recovery. Last month, authorities discovered nine pieces of remains presumed to belong to the victims in a reexamination of the wreckage site, prompting the victims' families to protest outside the presidential office this week to condemn the disaster recovery process. Lee instructed a "thorough" probe to determine why the remains were not found in the early stages of the recovery process and why they were left at the site for more than a year, according to Lee Kyu-yeon, the presidential secretary for public relations. He also called for "severely reprimanding" those responsible and to swiftly carry out the ongoing investigation into the crash, the presidential aide said in a briefing. "Looking back, there were clear shortcomings. (We) will identify those responsible and make sure that this does not happen ever again," the aide said. The Jeju Air crash on Dec. 29, 2024, killed 179 passengers

- [Incumbent Gov. Kim, six-term lawmaker Choo declare bids for Gyeonggi governor](#) (2026-03-12 11:57)

Incumbent Gyeonggi Gov. Kim Dong-yeon and six-term lawmaker Choo Mi-ae of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) on Thursday declared their bids for the June 3 Gyeonggi gubernatorial election. Kim, who is seeking reelection, vowed to work "on the ground" and in line with President Lee Jae Myung's vision during a press conference in Anyang Station,

Gyeonggi Province. "My utmost priority is making the Lee Jae Myung administration a successful one," he said, pledging to construct around 800,000 housing units and attract 200 trillion won in investment during his term. Earlier in the day, Choo also announced her bid, vowing to make Gyeonggi Province a province where its residents can take pride in, while promoting AI-driven governance and youth job creation. The Gyeonggi Province governor race is shaping up as a five-way contest with the entries of Kim and Choo, who are widely seen as front-runners in the upcoming election. The DPK plans to hold a preliminary primary from March 21-22 to narrow the field to three candidates before holding the final primary from April 5-7.

- [Complaint filed against top court chief justice for 'legal distortion'](#) (2026-03-12 11:57)

A complaint was filed against Supreme Court Chief Justice Cho Hee-dae Thursday alleging distortion of legal principles in President Lee Jae Myung's election law violation case on the first day the legislation criminalizing such conduct went into effect. Lee Byung-chul, a lawyer, submitted the complaint against Cho and Supreme Court justice Park Young-jae, alleging intentional distortion of the criminal procedure law when the top court overturned Lee's acquittal by a lower court last May. The new law, which took effect earlier in the day, establishes a new criminal offense of "legal distortion" and punishes judges or prosecutors with up to 10 years in prison if they knowingly misapply legal principles. Police confirmed the complaint, adding that an investigation would take place in accordance with relevant procedures. The lawyer claimed in the complaint that Cho intentionally did not apply the principle of written proceedings in the case with the intent to harm others' rights. The Supreme Court at the time sent the case back to the Seoul High Court for review. The verdict, which came just

- [National Assembly passes bill on \\$350 bil. investment in US](#) (2026-03-12 11:57)

The National Assembly passed a special bill on Korea's investments in the United States Thursday, establishing a legal framework to manage \$350 billion worth of investment projects agreed upon by the two countries. Lawmakers passed the legislation after reaching a bipartisan agreement during a plenary session. Of the 242 lawmakers participating in the session, 226 voted for it and eight opposed, with another eight abstaining. The bill was passed around three months after the two countries signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on the investment and tariff issues, and about six weeks after U.S. President Donald Trump threatened to raise tariffs on Korean goods from 15 percent to 25 percent, citing "delays" in the legislation process. President Lee Jae Myung welcomed the passage of the bill. "The bill's passage is a meaningful example showing that there are no partisan divides when it comes to national priorities," he wrote in a post on X. "It establishes the legal and institutional foundation needed to implement the Korea-U.S. tariff agreement." Lee added that the government

- [\[EXPLAINER\] New law lets president pick 22 of 26 Supreme Court justices by 2030](#) (2026-03-12 11:57)

Korea's judiciary has experienced its biggest upheaval in nearly four decades as a trio of judicial reform laws took effect Thursday, expanding the Supreme Court, creating a new constitutional appeals channel and criminalizing “distortion” of the law by judges and prosecutors. One of the key components of the reform is a revision of the Court Organization Act, which will boost the number of Supreme Court justices from the current 14 to 26 by 2030. This change would give President Lee Jae Myung sweeping influence over its future composition: By the end of his term in June 2030, he is expected to appoint 22 of the 26 justices. Beginning in March 2028, the court will add four new justices a year for three consecutive years, gradually building up to 26 seats while Lee fills each new vacancy as it opens. The government and the ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) say the expansion is necessary to cope with a growing caseload, given that each justice currently handles an average of 3,478 cases a year. With more justices available, they argue, the Supreme Court can share the workload.

- [\[Roundtable\] Gauging impact of US-Israel war on Iran](#) (2026-03-12 11:57)

As the world attempts to make sense of the U.S.-Israel war against Iran, Korean experts are gauging when the conflict will end, as well as grappling with its economic and political ramifications, including the closing of the Strait of Hormuz and soaring energy prices. U.S. President Donald Trump on Wednesday (local time) said that Iran is facing imminent defeat and that the U.S. is willing to escalate its attacks. However, there is no sign that Iran is considering surrender or that the war will come to a swift conclusion. To better understand the issues, a panel of experts was invited to share their opinions at The Korea Times roundtable, "U.S.-Israel war on Iran and its impact on the Korean Peninsula," held Wednesday in Seoul. The Korea Times' chief editorial writer Shim Jae-yun moderated the event, which featured Kim Won-soo, former United Nations under-secretary-general and high representative for disarmament affairs and retired Lt. Gen. Chun In-bum, former commander of the Republic of Korea Army Special Warfare Command, along with Song Kyung-jin, senior fellow at the Asiatic Research

- [Soonchunhyang University launches college dedicated to int'l students](#) (2026-03-12 11:57)

Soonchunhyang University announced Thursday that it will establish a new college dedicated exclusively to international students as part of a broader overhaul of its education system to cultivate global talent. The new college will operate as an independent academic unit exclusively for international students, with its own curriculum and administrative system rather than placing foreign students across existing departments. The college will offer several specialized majors for international students, including undeclared major programs, global health, global industrial engineering and global sports management. The program will adopt a phased curriculum that integrates Korean-language instruction with major coursework across each academic year. The initiative will also align with the university's strategic focus on AI-driven medical convergence. Leveraging its biomedical research infrastructure, affiliated hospitals and industry partnerships, the university plans to expand global programs in fields such as health care, medicine and industrial engineering. It aims to collaborate with local

- [Itaewon tragedy hearing turns emotional as survivor recounts horror, police trade blame](#) (2026-03-12 11:57)

The long-awaited public inquiry in the 2022 Itaewon crowd crush opened Thursday with tearful testimony from survivors and heated exchanges between police officials accused of mishandling emergency calls on the night of the disaster. The hearing came more than three years after the 2022 tragedy, following prolonged political gridlock, disputes over accountability and repeated delays in forming an independent investigative body. The National Commission for the Investigation of the Oct. 29 Itaewon Disaster, the special fact-finding group investigating the tragedy, began the first of two days of hearings in central Seoul. The session drew bereaved families and witnesses whose testimonies shed new light on a chain of failures preceding the crowd surge, resulting in the deaths of 159 people during Halloween celebrations. Tears filled the hall as Min Seung-ho, a survivor of the events, recounted the moments before the crowd crush in a narrow alley in Itaewon turned fatal. “From 10 to 11 p.m., there were at least three big pushes,” Min recalled. “No one was intentionally shoving, but peopl

- [Sejong University to host startup, career forum for international students](#) (2026-03-12 11:57)

Sejong University will host a career fair and startup forum aimed at supporting foreign students pursuing education and career opportunities in Korea. The university said it will hold the 7th International Student Career Fair & Startup Forum (ISF) at its Seoul campus, Mar. 25. The event will be jointly organized with international student platform Stuvisor and foreign student career platform Careertus. A university official said it is now imperative to include their workforce into the job market since Korea seeks long-term solutions to a worsening population decline and labor shortage. “Korea has been facing a severe demographic decline. The country’s total fertility rate fell to a record low of 0.72 in 2023 and remained around 0.80 in 2025, among the lowest in the world,” the official said. “The shrinking population has increasingly led to labor shortages across industries, prompting policymakers and institutions to consider attracting and retaining highly skilled foreign talent as a strategic alternative.” The school highlighted the government’s “Study Korea 300K” initia

- [Supreme Court finalizes loss of seat for ruling party lawmaker over fraud](#) (2026-03-12 11:57)

The Supreme Court on Thursday finalized a ruling stripping Rep. Yang Moon-seok of his parliamentary seat after convicting him of fraud. Yang of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea had been sentenced by a lower court to 18 months in prison, suspended for three years, for taking out a fraudulent loan in 2021. The top court upheld the ruling. By law, members of the National Assembly are stripped of their seats if a criminal punishment of at least a prison term, including suspended ones, is finalized. The Supreme Court's decision came on the same day a revised law took effect, allowing petitions to be filed with the Constitutional Court to review finalized rulings. Yang wrote on Facebook after the ruling that if it appears to have "overlooked the basic rights" of his family, he will consult his lawyers and "receive the judgment of the

Constitutional Court." Yang and his wife, surnamed Seo, were indicted in 2024 on charges of fraud for allegedly taking out a 1.1 billion-won (\$744,000) loan from a credit union under the false pretext of business operation funds for their college student child

- [Ruling party, gov't agree to provide energy vouchers to vulnerable households amid Middle East crisis](#) (2026-03-12 05:57)

The ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) and government officials on Thursday agreed to provide energy vouchers to help vulnerable groups cope with rising prices amid an intensifying war in the Middle East. During a meeting of DPK lawmakers and energy ministry officials at the National Assembly, the ruling party urged the government to ensure that energy costs do not place additional strain on low-income households, Rep. Kim Ju-young told reporters. "The DPK asked that the government maintain a thorough emergency response posture to prevent public inconvenience caused by disruptions in the supply of electricity, while also calling for support in public welfare so that the rising energy costs do not further burden vulnerable households," he said. The government said it would launch an emergency response team, and work with state-run energy companies and private power generators to maintain a stable supply.

- [Record number of new PhD holders face low-wage trap in Korea](#) (2026-03-12 05:57)

The number of new doctorate holders in Korea hit a record high of nearly 20,000 last year, but an increasing percentage of these highly educated professionals are taking low-wage jobs in a labor market structurally incapable of absorbing them. According to data released Tuesday by the Korea Education Statistics Service under the Korean Educational Development Institute, 19,831 individuals earned a Ph.D. from domestic graduate schools in 2025. This marks a 51.6-percent surge compared to 2015, the highest since the institute began tracking data in 1999. When records began in 1999, the country produced just 5,586 new doctorates annually. That number steadily increased, surpassing the 10,000-mark in 2010 before nearly doubling again over the following 15 years. Women largely drove the surge, accounting for a record-high 43.5 percent of all new Ph.D. recipients last year with 8,629 graduates. In 1999, only 1,144 women earned a doctorate, representing 20.5 percent of the total. The latest figure reflects a 7.5-fold increase over the past 26 years. Despite holding advanced degrees, a growing sha

- [Musical actor Nam Kyung-joo referred to prosecutors over sex crime allegations](#) (2026-03-12 05:57)

Veteran musical theater actor Nam Kyung-joo is facing charges of sexual assault after police referred his case to prosecutors. The Seoul Bangbae Police Station announced Wednesday that it referred Nam to the Seoul Central District Prosecutors' Office last month while he remains free pending trial. He is accused of sexually assaulting a woman late last year in Seocho-gu, southern Seoul. The victim directly reported the incident to the police via the 112 emergency hotline. Nam has denied the charges. Following the allegations, Nam deleted his social media accounts and severed ties with his agency. Nam debuted as a musical actor in the 1980s and has remained a highly influential presence in the Korean musical theater industry. He has

starred in major productions including "Guys and Dolls" and "Chicago" and was routinely cast in lead roles until October last year. Nam has also been known as a major advocate for the arts in Korea. Last October, Nam made a high-profile appearance at a parliamentary audit before the Culture, Sports and Tourism Committee. During the session, he urged institutions

- [PM set to visit US for talks on UN hub, possible meeting with Vance](#) (2026-03-12 05:57)

Prime Minister Kim Min-seok is set to depart for the United States on Thursday to promote Korea's bid to host a U.N. hub and meet with senior U.S. officials, possibly including Vice President JD Vance. Kim's weeklong trip, which will also take him to Geneva, Switzerland, comes as the government is bidding to host the tentatively named "U.N. AI hub," an initiative aimed at bringing together U.N. bodies, and Korea's private and public sectors to produce AI-based solutions to global issues. A meeting with Vance is being arranged for his stop in Washington, sources said, which he could use to discuss tariffs and other bilateral issues, including a bill supporting Korea's \$350 billion investment commitment to the U.S. The bill is set to be passed by the National Assembly later Thursday. Kim and Vance previously met in January, also in Washington. From the U.S. capital, the prime minister will travel to New York, where he plans to visit the U.N., UNICEF and the United Nations Development Program to meet with heads of organizations, including U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, to discuss t

- [Nearly 4,000 vehicles shipped from Korea to Russia over 3 yrs despite sanctions: customs agency](#) (2026-03-12 05:57)

Nearly 4,000 vehicles worth a combined 179.6 billion won (\$121.2 million), mostly luxury models, were illegally exported to Russia from Korea over the past three years despite automotive sanctions, authorities here said Wednesday. A total of 3,705 cars were mostly falsely declared as being destined for countries neighboring Russia, including Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, but were ultimately transported to Russia between 2023 and 2025, in violation of export controls imposed after the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the Korea Customs Service (KCS) said. Korea has banned exports of vehicles with engine displacements of 2,000cc or more, as well as luxury cars valued above \$50,000, to Russia and Belarus, in line with similar sanctions imposed by major economies, such as the European Union and the United States. "As a responsible member of the international community, we plan to thoroughly investigate illegal exports that violate export controls and eradicate such practices to enhance national credibility and export competitiveness," said Lee Myeong-gu, a KCS chief, in a press release. The agency a

- [Judicial reform laws take effect allowing constitutional appeals of court rulings, punishment for 'legal distortion'](#) (2026-03-12 05:57)

A set of judicial reform laws were officially proclaimed Thursday, allowing constitutional appeals of Supreme Court rulings, punishment for judges who intentionally distort legal principles and an expansion of the top court. The reforms marked the first major overhaul of the current judiciary system since a constitutional amendment in 1987. The National Assembly, controlled by the ruling Democratic Party, passed the bills last month in a push for judiciary reform

despite strong objections from the main opposition People Power Party and the judiciary, which argued they could undermine its independence. The laws on constitutional appeals and punishment for the offense of "legal distortion" will take effect immediately, while the increase to the number of Supreme Court justices will gradually take place starting 2028. Under the amended Constitutional Court Act, individuals can now file constitutional complaints against finalized rulings if they are deemed to be against Constitutional Court decisions, have not followed due process or infringed fundamental rights with clear constitutional vio

- [National Assembly set to vote on bill on U.S. investment pledges](#) (2026-03-11 23:57)

The National Assembly is set to hold a plenary session Thursday to vote on a special bill on South Korea's \$350 billion investment pledge to the United States under a trade deal between the two nations after rival parties reached a bipartisan agreement earlier this week. On Wednesday, the ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) and the main opposition People Power Party (PPP) approved the bill during a meeting of the parliamentary legislation and judiciary committee. Under the bill, a new state-run corporation specialized in implementing the investment package will be set up with a paid-in capital of 2 trillion won (\$1.36 billion), fully financed by the South Korean government. The corporation will consist of a total workforce of 50 employees, and three members on the board of directors will be required to have at least 10 years of experience in the financial sector or strategic industries to prevent crony appointments. The bill was introduced by the DPK in November to carry out Seoul's investment pledges to the U.S. as part of a trade deal reached by the two countries last year. The legis

- [Chonnam Nat'l University microfluidics study features on cover of leading journal](#) (2026-03-11 23:57)

A research team at Chonnam National University has drawn international attention after its microfluidics study was featured as the cover paper of the 25th anniversary issue of a leading scientific journal. According to the university Wednesday, the team led by Park Jin-soo, a professor in the university's School of Mechanical Engineering, conducted the international joint research with scientists from Germany's Technische Universitat Ilmenau. The study appeared on the cover of *Lab on a Chip*, an international journal published by the U.K.-based Royal Society of Chemistry. Building on years of research in microfluidics, which examines how fluids behave at microscopic scales, Park's team investigated how biological particles such as cells, bacteria and microalgae move and interact in fluid environments. Many earlier studies treated biological particles as perfectly spherical when conducting theoretical or computational analyses. Yet such assumptions often failed to align with results observed in experiments and clinical settings. To address this gap, the researchers focused on the fact

- [S. Korea to release 22.46 mil. barrels from oil reserves under IEA plan](#) (2026-03-11 17:57)

South Korea plans to release 22.46 million barrels of oil from its strategic reserves in line with an agreement among International Energy Agency (IEA) members to make 400 million barrels of oil from their reserves available to the market, Seoul's industry ministry has said. The

ministry announced the plan for the release on Wednesday, shortly after the 32-member IEA unanimously agreed to carry out the agency's largest-ever oil stock release in a collective action to help address disruptions in oil markets that stem from the ongoing war between the United States, Israel and Iran. The contribution of each country in the collective endeavor was calculated in proportion to its share of the member countries' total oil consumption. South Korea's planned release accounts for 5.6 percent of the total 400 million barrels to be released. "(South Korea) assesses that close cooperation with the IEA this time will contribute greatly to stabilizing the international oil market," an industry ministry official said. "Going forward, we plan to minimize the impact on the people's economy and prices by cl

- [Cheong Wa Dae denies report on reviving open-to-all bar exam](#) (2026-03-11 17:57)

The presidential office denied a news report Wednesday that the government is reviewing a plan to partially revive the open-to-all state-run bar exam, abolished in 2017, to license lawyers outside the law school system. Kang Yu-jung, a presidential spokesperson, made the remarks in a press notice after a local newspaper reported that the government is reviewing a plan to reinstate the bar exam to select 50 to 150 lawyers each year outside the law school system. The report said the plan will be reported to President Lee Jae Myung after a final assessment. Currently, the bar exam is limited to those who have studied law for three years at law schools. The previous one, which allowed non-law majors to take the exam, was abolished in 2017 with the introduction of law schools. The new system was intended to nurture judicial professionals from various backgrounds, but it has faced criticism that only those from wealthy families can afford law school. President Lee said in a town hall meeting in June that he "agrees to some extent" with the criticism that the law school system is favorable to t

- [Gov't reviews crowd safety measures for BTS concert](#) (2026-03-11 11:57)

The government has mapped out crowd safety measures for K-pop supergroup BTS' upcoming Seoul concert, the interior ministry said Wednesday, as a huge crowd is expected to gather at Gwanghwamun Square, the concert venue. The ministry said Minister Yun Ho-jung presided over a meeting of safety-related public institutions to review the duties of each organization in implementing crowd safety measures for the BTS concert slated for March 21. The concert is expected to attract a large crowd, including 22,000 domestic and international ticket holders. The government plans to preemptively issue a "caution" level warning for crowd disaster to prevent accidents caused by overcrowding, the ministry noted, adding the warning will be in effect for the central Seoul wards of Jongno and Jung during the concert day. The interior ministry and the police will form a situation management team, and the Seoul city government will operate a rapid response team to prepare for emergency situations. The culture ministry will provide advice on concert safety, and inspect stage facilities and seats, while the heal

- [\[PHOTO\] Checking farm machinery on Soil Day](#) (2026-03-11 11:57)

Officials inspect agricultural machinery, including cultivators that had been idle during the winter, at the Gyeonggi-do Agricultural Research and Extension Services in Hwaseong, Gyeonggi

Province, Wednesday, marking Soil Day. Yonhap

- [Is Middle East crisis casting shadow over annual S. Korea-US military drills?](#) (2026-03-11 11:57)

A notable absence by the top U.S. military official in Korea at a command bunker during the start of this week's Freedom Shield joint exercises has fueled speculation about shifting priorities within the alliance. While U.S. Forces Korea (USFK) says the exercises remain on track, some experts suggest the move may reflect a broader shift in America's defense strategy toward what Washington calls "strategic flexibility." Analysts note that the United States is increasingly adjusting its force posture to manage multiple crises simultaneously in the Middle East while preparing for the long-term challenge posed by China's growing regional influence. A local media report citing an unidentified military official said Gen. Xavier Brunson, commander of United States Forces Korea (USFK) and the Combined Forces Command (CFC), did not enter the Command Post (CP) Tango bunker near Seoul until Tuesday evening — about 45 hours after the exercise began. Typically, the CFC commander and deputy receive operational briefings from the bunker at the start of the drill. But the report said only the

- [Foreign residents should be included in state cash handouts, human rights watchdog says](#) (2026-03-11 11:57)

The state human rights watchdog said Wednesday that the government should consider expanding eligibility for state relief funds to be more inclusive of foreign residents, citing concerns about discrimination. The National Human Rights Commission of Korea (NHRCK) said it had conveyed its opinion to the Ministry of the Interior and Safety and other relevant agencies, urging them to gradually broaden the scope of foreign nationals eligible for government support programs aimed at aiding households coping with economic hardship. The issue was raised in a complaint filed July last year by migrant worker groups, which argued that the government's voucher-based cash assistance program treated foreign residents unequally depending on their visa status and household composition. Last year's cash handouts were part of the government's emergency response to sluggish domestic spending. Under the scheme, all citizens and some foreign residents were eligible to receive 150,000 won (\$100), with additional benefits for low-income households. Non-Korean citizens were in principle excluded from the initial

- [80,000 subcontracted workers seek bargaining rights on 1st day of 'yellow envelope law'](#) (2026-03-11 11:57)

The first day after Korea's revised Trade Union Act — the so-called "yellow envelope law" — took effect saw more than 80,000 subcontracted workers at 221 parent companies and public institutions seek bargaining with what they consider their primary employers. Officials at the Ministry of Employment and Labor told reporters Wednesday that, as of 8 p.m. the previous day, a total of 407 subcontractor unions and branches, representing about 81,600 workers, had filed bargaining requests with 143 private firms and 78 public entities. Among the companies

facing new union requests for talks are major employers such as Hyundai Motor Group, Hyundai Mobis, Hyundai Glovis, HD Hyundai Heavy Industries, Hanwha Ocean, GM Korea, Yonsei University, CJ Logistics, POSCO, Coupang CLS, Korea Railroad Corp. and Incheon International Airport Corp. Only five of them — Hanwha Ocean, POSCO, Coupang CLS, Hwaseong city government and Busan Transportation Corp. — have posted notices acknowledging the bargaining demands and begun the legal process to handle them, including deciding whether to unify bar

- [THAAD redeployment sparks fears of high-altitude defense gap in South Korea](#) (2026-03-11 11:57)

The reported redeployment of parts of the United States' Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system from South Korea to the Middle East has raised questions about whether the move could affect missile defense readiness on the Korean Peninsula. Although experts say the move is unlikely to create a significant gap in South Korea's defenses, it reflects the growing flexibility in how U.S. military assets stationed here are used. The Washington Post reported Tuesday that the Pentagon was moving parts of a THAAD system from South Korea to the Middle East, citing two U.S. officials. The report said that the U.S. military is also drawing on its supply of Patriot interceptors, which are deployed in the Indo-Pacific and other regions, to strengthen defenses against Iranian drone and ballistic missile attacks. Military sources said six THAAD launcher vehicles that were recently moved from a base in Seongju, North Gyeongsang Province, to Osan Air Base in Pyeongtaek, Gyeonggi Province, have since returned to Seongju after unloading their interceptor missiles. The missiles are believed to

- [Middle East crisis prompts honeymooners, church groups to rethink trips](#) (2026-03-11 11:57)

Koreans planning honeymoons, pilgrimages and long-awaited overseas trips are scrambling to revise their itineraries as the conflict in the Middle East shuts down key transit hubs and throws global aviation into turmoil. For many engaged Korean couples, the crisis has hit hard. Over the past few years, Dubai has transformed from a mere layover into a standalone honeymoon hot spot for Koreans, marketed as “affordable luxury” and bundled with resort destinations like the Maldives and Mauritius. Its appeal has grown with K-drama shoots, social media buzz over Dubai chocolate and visa-free entry for Korean travelers, helping push Korean arrivals up 225 percent in 2023 and another 51 percent in the first half of 2024, according to Dubai's Department of Economy and Tourism. That booming demand is now colliding with anxiety over war. Since the U.S. and Israeli strikes on Iran in late February, Iran's retaliatory attacks have raised fears that major Middle Eastern cities could become targets, particularly after reports that United Arab Emirates air defenses intercepted missiles and drone

- [Ex-JCS chief banned from leaving country over alleged martial law role](#) (2026-03-11 11:57)

A retired admiral who served as the country's highest-ranking military officer has been banned from leaving the country over his alleged role in former President Yoon Suk Yeol's failed martial

law bid, a special counsel team said Wednesday. Retired Adm. Kim Myung-soo, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS), and other former JCS officials have been booked and slapped with exit bans over their involvement in the short-lived imposition of martial law in December 2024, according to the team. "(We) have booked JCS officials at the time on charges of playing key roles in an insurrection and have imposed exit bans," assistant special counsel Kim Ji-mi said in a briefing. "There are plans to conduct witness questioning in connection to the officials soon." The other booked officials include Jeong Jin-pal, former JCS vice chairman, and Kang Dong-gil, who headed the JCS' directorate of military support at the time. They are accused of participating in an insurrection by forming the martial law command as they watched troops enter the National Assembly compound on the night of Yoon's de

- [Korea's truth commission to open new bureau for overseas adoption cases](#) (2026-03-11 11:57)

Korea's truth-seeking commission plans to establish a dedicated bureau to investigate alleged human rights abuses linked to the country's overseas adoption program and residential facilities, its chair said Wednesday, as complaints from adoptees continue to mount. Song Sang-kyo, chairperson of the newly launched third Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), said the body will also step up efforts to help people living abroad submit complaints through Korean diplomatic missions. Complaints related to overseas adoption have flooded the commission. A total of 311 applications alleging misconduct in intercountry adoptions were filed on Feb. 26, the commission's launch day, and officials expect the number to rise as more adoptees living overseas learn about the process. "There have been continued calls, both within and outside the commission, to establish Investigation Bureau 3 dedicated to cases involving human rights abuses at institutional care facilities and in overseas adoptions," Song said at a press conference, his first since taking office on March 4. Legislation passed in Fe

- [Multinational augmentees from UNC member states participate in Freedom Shield exercise](#) (2026-03-11 11:57)

Multinational forces from member states of the U.N. Command (UNC) have participated in an annual springtime military exercise between Seoul and Washington as augmentees, according to the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command on Wednesday. To bolster the UNC Headquarters, augmentees from UNC member states have arrived on the Korean Peninsula, as the allies have been staging the Freedom Shield (FS) exercise from Monday for an 11-day run, according to a release uploaded on the command's website. "Their arrival underscores the international community's enduring commitment to maintaining the armistice and ensuring the security and stability of the region," the release showed. The multinational augmentees visited the Joint Security Area within the Demilitarized Zone and the War Memorial of Korea in central Seoul, as part of efforts to enhance their understanding of their mission. In a separate release, the Seventh Air Force said it has taken part in this year's FS exercise alongside its Korean counterparts to integrate airpower into combined joint all-domain operations. The drills incorporate a range of tr

- [Lee congratulates Kim Yun-ji on winning second medal at Winter Paralympics](#) (2026-03-11 11:57)

President Lee Jae Myung on Wednesday congratulated para-athlete Kim Yun-ji on winning her second medal at the 2026 Milan-Cortina Winter Paralympics in Italy, calling her a "multiplayer on the snowfield." Lee wrote the message on his Facebook account after Kim clinched a silver medal in the women's cross-country skiing event at the Winter Paralympics on Tuesday (local time) after she won the women's individual sitting title in the 12.5-kilometer biathlon Sunday. "Following the precision she displayed in the biathlon, Kim also excelled in cross-country skiing, powering across the snow with explosive strength and emerging as a true 'multi-player on the snowfield,'" Lee wrote. Lee said her silver medal is particularly meaningful as it marks the first medal won by a Korean female cross-country skier in the history of both the Olympics and the Paralympics, adding that the result has helped the country surpass its previous best performance at the 2018 PyeongChang Winter Paralympics. "She is expanding the horizons of the Republic of Korea's winter sports with her outstanding talent," he added. Ki

- [Gov't to provide free sanitary pads in public facilities](#) (2026-03-11 05:57)

The Ministry of Gender Equality and Family will launch a pilot project to place sanitary pads in public facilities so all women can access menstrual products, marking the first such initiative by any Korean government. The ministry proposed the plan at a Cabinet meeting held at Cheong Wa Dae Tuesday. While existing support programs provide monthly vouchers worth 14,000 won (\$10) to some low-income people aged between 9 and 24, the new plan would also install sanitary pad dispensers in public facilities for anyone to use. "The ministry will select 10 regions for the pilot program, taking into account factors such as population size and existing project conditions," said Gender Equality and Family Minister Won Min-kyung. Sanitary pads will be placed in public facilities such as community service centers, public health centers and family centers. In rural, farming and fishing areas, they will also be supplied to locations such as village halls to improve accessibility for residents. The ministry plans to conduct the program with a budget of about 3 billion won funded by the central gove

- [Aging baseball stadium in Jamsil to be replaced with 30,000-seat dome by 2032](#) (2026-03-11 05:57)

The Seoul city government said Wednesday it plans to replace its decades-old baseball stadium in the southeastern district of Jamsil with a 30,000-seat dome arena by 2032 in a major redevelopment plan. The 25,000-seat Jamsil Baseball Stadium, home to the Doosan Bears and LG Twins of the Korea Baseball Organization, will close for the construction of the new stadium, which is planned to be the largest of its kind in the country, according to the city government. The construction will take place as part of a 3.3 trillion-won (\$2.25 billion) project to redevelop the Seoul Sports Complex site — built for the 1986 Asian Games and 1988 Summer Olympics, and home to the baseball stadium. The city said it recently wrapped up negotiations over the project with its preferred bidder, a consortium led by Hanwha Corporation E&C Division, after 160 rounds of talks over four years. The project, which will be entirely funded by the private

sector, includes plans to build an exhibition center, a five-star hotel and other commercial facilities at the 350,000-square-meter site. As construction takes place

- [Deterrence posture against N. Korea won't be hindered regardless of potential shift of USFK's assets](#) (2026-03-11 05:57)

The deterrence posture against North Korea will not be hindered regardless of a potential shift of military assets owned by the U.S. military stationed in South Korea, a senior official at Cheong Wa Dae said Wednesday, amid media reports that the U.S. Forces Korea (USFK) has shipped out some of its air defense assets from the Korean Peninsula. "Given our level of military capability, defense spending, defense industry capacity and the high morale of our troops, there is no problem with deterrence against North Korea regardless of whether some USFK assets are relocated overseas," the official said. The official, however, declined to comment on media reports that parts of a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system and other air defense units owned by the USFK were moved from South Korea amid a raging war in the Middle East. "It is not appropriate for our government to comment on military operations between Korea and the U.S.," the official said. The official said South Korea and the U.S. have remained in close coordination to maintain a robust combined defense posture. "Korea and

- [Appeal trial begins for ex-PM Han over insurrection charges](#) (2026-03-11 05:57)

An appellate trial for former Prime Minister Han Duck-soo began Wednesday on charges that he played a key role in an insurrection by abetting former President Yoon Suk Yeol's 2024 imposition of martial law. The first hearing opened at the Seoul High Court after both Han and special counsel Cho Eun-suk's team appealed a 23-year prison sentence handed down by a district court in January. Han was found guilty of taking part in an insurrection by proposing that Yoon convene a Cabinet meeting before declaring martial law on Dec. 3, 2024. He was also convicted of signing a revised proclamation after the decree was lifted six hours later, in a bid to give it a veneer of legitimacy, and separately lying under oath at the Constitutional Court. With the ruling, the former prime minister was placed in custody at the same detention center in Uiwang, south of Seoul, where Yoon has been held since last July. The morning portion of Wednesday's hearing will be broadcast using court equipment at the request of the special counsel team, the court said, adding it will review whether to allow broadcasting of

- [Investigators again raid Shincheonji sect over alleged collusion with politics](#) (2026-03-11 05:57)

A joint prosecution-police team investigating suspected collusion between politics and religion again raided the Shincheonji Church of Jesus, a nonmainstream religious sect, on Wednesday as part of a probe into its alleged ties to the main opposition People Power Party (PPP). Prosecutors and investigators from the team searched Shincheonji's headquarters in Gwacheon, just south of Seoul, in the morning to seize additional data related to suspicions of church members' collective affiliation with the PPP years ago. They already searched the Gwacheon headquarters and the residence of the church's founder, Lee Man-hee, in January.

Lee and others are suspected of forcing church followers to join the PPP with the aim of influencing the results of the party's presidential primary in 2021 and the party's candidate nominations for the 2024 general elections.

- [Police refer lawmaker, ex-councilor at center of bribery scandal to prosecution](#) (2026-03-11 05:57)

Police on Wednesday referred an independent lawmaker and a former Seoul city councilor to the prosecution following their arrest last week over bribery allegations linked to the 2022 local elections. Rep. Kang Sun-woo, formerly of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK), and Kim Kyung were sent to the prosecution on charges of violating political funds and anti-graft laws and others, according to the public crimes division of the Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency. Kim is accused of giving Kang a shopping bag containing 100 million won (\$67,800) in cash in January 2022 ahead of the elections in June that year, allegedly in exchange for a DPK nomination for a councilor seat in the capital. The lawmaker served on the party's candidate nomination committee for the capital at the time. Kim ultimately received the nomination and won the election. Kang has claimed that she did not know the shopping bag contained cash, adding that she returned the money after later discovering it. Police believe Kang had met Kim with advance knowledge of the cash and spent it on a rental deposit. A court issued

- [Calls grow to stop zoos from letting visitors touch animals in defiance of ban](#) (2026-03-11 05:57)

Calls are growing to end direct contact animal experiences at zoos across Korea, as new findings show many facilities continue to defy a legal ban on riding, touching and feeding animals more than two years after it took effect. Animal welfare advocates and lawmakers said the gap between the law and practice is exposing animals to chronic stress and sending the wrong message to children about wildlife. At a National Assembly forum Monday, Animal Welfare Research Institute AWARE and the Animal Welfare Parliamentary Forum presented findings from an eight-month survey of 21 registered or licensed zoos and nine unlicensed facilities across the country. The study reviewed compliance with the revised Act on the Management of Zoos and Aquariums, which since late 2023 has prohibited zoos from allowing visitors to climb on, touch or feed animals for entertainment purposes. Despite the legal shift, 20 out of 21 surveyed zoos were still selling feed for animal encounters, and 15 imposed no limits on purchase frequency or feeding volume. In 18 facilities, visitors could touch animals at any time

- [All-Korean band to perform Irish music for St. Patrick's Day Festival](#) (2026-03-10 23:57)

One of the music acts set to perform at the St. Patrick's Day Festival this Saturday is the somewhat mysteriously named Gan Ainm. Gaelic for "without name," the band features four talented Korean musicians. This includes banjo player Darren Choi, fiddler Koh Hae-young, concertinist Koh Seulki and vocalist and guitarist Zee. This will be Gan Ainm's first appearance at the annual festival, organized by the Irish Association of Korea. When Choi, a Korean national

whose real name is Jong-wook, joined the band in 2013, it wasn't all Koreans. He entered the picture when he attended a traditional music session and met Patricia Jones, the band's button accordion player. After the departure of some of the original members, it was down to him, Jones and Hae-young on fiddle. They went busking almost every weekend, and occasionally played other shows, including for charities. It was around this time when the band settled on Gan Ainm as the name, as they didn't want to spend too much more time thinking it over. "After much deliberation, Patricia, feeling a bit lazy about the whole process, simply sugg

- [Top general visits key Marine, Navy units to inspect Korea-US drills](#) (2026-03-10 11:57)

Korea's top general on Tuesday visited key Marine Corps and Navy units to inspect their participation in an ongoing major exercise with U.S. troops, his office said. Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) Chairman Gen. Jin Yong-sung visited the Combined Marine Component Command and the Northwest Islands Defense Command and urged troops to verify wartime plans during the Freedom Shield exercise as Korea seeks to take back wartime operational control (OPCON) from the United States, according to the JCS. Jin also visited the Navy's 2nd Fleet headquartered in Pyeongtaek, about 60 kilometers south of Seoul, where he said the joint exercise serves as an opportunity for the allies to prove their capabilities, the JCS said. The allies' annual springtime exercise began its 11-day run on Monday, with this year's edition focusing on assessing conditions to achieve the transfer of wartime operational control from Washington to Seoul. Korea has been seeking a "conditions-based" transfer of wartime OPCON from the U.S. within President Lee Jae Myung's five-year term that ends in 2030.

- [Over half of skilled visa holders earn more than \\$2,000 per month](#) (2026-03-10 11:57)

More than half of foreign workers on so-called "professional" visas in Korea — holders of E-1 to E-7 work permits — now earn over 3 million won (\$2,000) a month, according to new data released Tuesday. A survey published by the Ministry of Data and Statistics shows that among professional workers — including professors (E 1), foreign language teachers (E 2), researchers (E 3), tech experts (E-4), licensed professionals (E 5), artists and performers (E 6) and specific activity workers (E 7) — more than half reported a monthly income of at least 3 million won. Across all skilled foreign employees in the country, 50.2 percent earned between 2 million and 3 million won a month, while 36.9 percent took home more than 3 million won. However, among "non-professional" workers such as E-9 visa holders, 68.9 percent were concentrated in the 2 million to under 3 million won range. The survey also examined working hours. Among foreign workers overall, 58.1 percent said they worked between 40 and 50 hours per week. Another 17.8 percent worked between 50 and 60 hours, and

- [\[PHOTO\] Dismantling THAAD launcher](#) (2026-03-10 11:57)

This combination photo shows a launcher from a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) battery in a ready position, left, and dismantling work underway on another launcher, right, at a U.S. THAAD base in Seongju, North Gyeongsang Province, last Thursday. The U.S. Department of Defense is moving part of the THAAD system deployed in Korea to the Middle East, according to

media reports Tuesday. Yonhap

- [Korea's online sex abuse kingpin loses blog after prison award backlash](#) (2026-03-10 11:57)

Convicted online sexual predator Cho Ju-bin faced intense public backlash after using an outside proxy to boast about receiving a prison award online, prompting the hosting platform to permanently suspend his account. The 31-year-old is currently serving a 47-year, four-month sentence for masterminding the notorious "Baksabang" Telegram sex blackmail ring. Cho had a post titled "About award acceptance" uploaded by proxy on his Tistory blog on Feb. 20. He attached a photo of an "Intensive Character Education Excellence Award" issued by the Gyeongbuk Correctional Institution where he is held. Displaying a lack of remorse, Cho wrote that he had told his family to "stick it on the house refrigerator for a bit." He justified the post by calling the certificate a "legitimate award" that included a prize of cup noodles. "An award is the fruit of my labor," Cho wrote. He further compared his situation to that of a struggling creative. "A solitary artist can use an award from a competition as a lantern to keep moving toward their dream," Cho wrote. "It is a treasure map. It is also a treasure that

- [Unions threaten strikes as 'yellow envelope law' comes into force](#) (2026-03-10 11:57)

Subcontracted workers represented by unions across various industries are stepping up demands for direct talks with parent companies after Korea's so-called "yellow envelope law" came into force Tuesday, with labor leaders preparing strikes against firms that refuse to negotiate. Amendments to Articles 2 and 3 of the Trade Union and Labor Relations Adjustment Act took effect, expanding the legal definition of an employer to include firms that exercise significant control over working conditions, even without a direct employment contract with subcontracted workers. The Korean Confederation of Trade Unions (KCTU), a powerful umbrella labor organization with more than 1 million members, expects a major wave of bargaining demands from these workers in the coming weeks. The KCTU and its partner unions have begun sending bargaining notices to companies that oversee subcontracted work on behalf of nearly 140,000 subcontracted workers, with plans to present the overall scale of the campaign at a press briefing later this month. "In line with the purpose of the law, the real employer mus

- [Last remaining Dokdo resident dies at 88](#) (2026-03-10 11:57)

The last remaining resident of South Korea's easternmost islets of Dokdo has died, leaving the outcroppings without a registered dweller, officials said Tuesday. Kim Shin-yeol, who along with her husband, Kim Sung-do, had lived on Dokdo since the late 1960s, died March 2 at age 88, according to the Ulleung county government. Her husband died earlier in October 2018 at the age of 79. The couple made a living from fishing and became symbols of South Korea's control of the islets, which Japan has consistently laid claim to. During elections, they voted by absentee ballot. Kim Shin-yeol had largely been away from Dokdo since a typhoon damaged her house in 2020. As her health deteriorated, she mostly stayed with her daughter until her death. Officers of the Dokdo Security Police and county employees have been stationed on the islets but none are registered residents. A county official said the local government will not take immediate

steps to fill the vacuum out of respect for the bereaved family but will consult with the NorthGyeongsang provincial government in the future regarding the next

- [Lee says big business-SME cooperation is key to survival](#) (2026-03-10 11:57)

President Lee Jae Myung on Tuesday urged large corporations and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to work more closely together to sustain the Korean economy and deliver broader growth, describing such collaboration as a “smart survival strategy” for businesses. Lee made the remarks while presiding over a meeting with business leaders at Cheong Wa Dae, the presidential office. The gathering brought together representatives from 10 major corporations — including Hanwha Ocean, Samsung Electronics, SK SUPEX Council and Hyundai Motor — along with 10 SMEs that partner with them. The event aimed to promote mutually beneficial cooperation between large companies and smaller firms. “Cooperation between large corporations and SMEs is not charity but an investment. Put more bluntly, it could even be a survival strategy,” Lee said at the meeting. Lee underscored that cooperation should extend beyond corporate partners, saying that regional youth, small-business owners and investors can also become long-term sources of corporate competitiveness. He noted that companies increasingly fa

- [Gov't to set up committee to honor civic resistance to martial law](#) (2026-03-10 11:57)

The government will establish the presidential "Committee of Light" to honor the dedication and spirit of people who contributed to protecting the Constitution and democracy during the Dec. 3, 2024, martial law, the interior ministry said Tuesday. The Cabinet meeting approved a bill earlier in the day on the establishment and operation of the Committee of Light, the ministry said. It will consist of no more than 35 members, including experts in the fields of the Constitution and democracy. The panel will establish basic directions for the spread of Korean-style citizen participation democracy, and issue and award the "certificate of light" to people who contributed to the protection of democracy during the martial law imposition. The government plans to establish the criteria on the issuance of the certificate after deliberation by the committee. The committee will also pursue projects to inherit the spirit of democracy, such as collecting opinions on whether to designate a national commemorative day related to the "revolution of light," which refers to the citizen-led pro-democracy move

- [Concrete mound at Muan airport built to save construction costs: audit](#) (2026-03-10 11:57)

A concrete mound blamed for the deadly 2024 plane crash at Muan International Airport was found to have been built in order to save construction costs, the state auditor said Tuesday. The mound was raised near the end of the runway at the airport some 290 kilometers south of Seoul to support a localizer, which sends signals to help aircraft find the middle of the runway. On Dec. 29, 2024, a Jeju Air jet from Bangkok crashed into the structure after making a belly landing, killing 179 passengers and crew members on board. According to the Board of Audit and Inspection (BAI), which inspected aviation safety measures and related maintenance, personnel and control, the terrain on which the runway and the adjacent Runway End Safety

Area were built was sloping. In order to save construction costs from reshaping the terrain, a concrete mound was built to raise the localizer above the runway, the BAI said. The auditor also found that the Korea Airports (KAC) demanded a review of the mound's construction in 2007 after it was approved by the land ministry in 2003 without a vulnerability assessment.

- [US moving parts of THAAD anti-missile system from S. Korea to Middle East: report](#) (2026-03-10 11:57)

The United States has been moving parts of its Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) anti-missile system from South Korea to the Middle East, the Washington Post reported, citing two officials. The reported movement of parts of a THAAD missile defense system comes amid media reports that the U.S. military stationed in South Korea has shipped out some of its military assets amid an intensifying war in the Middle East. "The Pentagon is moving parts of a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system from South Korea to the Middle East," the report said. The THAAD batteries, which smash enemy missiles during their final phase of flight, have been deployed in South Korea to better cope with North Korea's missile threats. Earlier in the day, President Lee Jae Myung told a Cabinet meeting that a potential relocation of military assets owned by U.S. Forces Korea will not affect the deterrence posture against North Korea.

- [PPP's break with Yoon sparks conservative rift ahead of local elections](#) (2026-03-10 11:57)

The main opposition People Power Party's (PPP) decision to formally distance itself from former President Yoon Suk Yeol is exposing deep divisions within Korea's conservative bloc as the country approaches the June 3 local elections. The party adopted a resolution Monday rejecting calls for Yoon's political comeback, marking its clearest attempt yet to separate itself from the so-called "Yoon Again" movement that has gained traction among some conservative supporters following the former president's conviction over his Dec. 3, 2024, martial law declaration. Political observers say the move reflects growing concerns within the party about its electoral prospects, particularly in the Seoul metropolitan area, where public sentiment toward conservatives has deteriorated sharply. At an emergency meeting of lawmakers, the PPP apologized for the turmoil caused by Yoon's martial law declaration and said that it opposes "all claims calling for the former president's political return." The resolution was issued in the name of all PPP lawmakers. Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon welcomed th

- [Busan launches infectious disease testing service for foreign residents](#) (2026-03-10 11:57)

Busan is rolling out an infectious disease testing program for foreign residents through a pilot program set to launch this month, bringing preventive on-site testing to centers serving foreign residents across the city. The Sunday infectious disease testing services reflect a broader push by the southeastern port city to expand health care access for foreign residents who face language barriers and struggle to find time on weekdays, as the city's foreign population rises. Busan Metropolitan City said Tuesday the program will offer foreign residents testing for diseases including Hansen's disease, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted infections, parasitic infections and hepatitis B and C. It aims to detect infections early and provide

follow-up care for those who test positive. “While the city’s Korean population declines, thenumber of foreign residents in Busan continues to rise,” an official at Busan’s infectiousdisease control division told The Korea Times, emphasizing the rising importance of earlydetection of major infectious diseases among foreign residents

- [S. Korea regrets transfer of USFK air defense assets to Middle East, Lee says](#) (2026-03-10 11:57)

The Korean government has expressed its opposition to the transfer of some U.S. Forces Korea (USFK) air defense weapons to the Middle East, President Lee Jae Myung said Tuesday, but stressed that the move will not weaken the country’s deterrence against North Korea. Speaking at the beginning of a Cabinet meeting in Cheong Wa Dae, Lee addressed the growing debate over reports that some U.S. air defense batteries stationed in Korea have been transferred abroad. “We have expressed opposition to USFK transferring some air defense weapons according to its own military needs, but it is also the reality that we cannot fully enforce our position,” the president said. Lee emphasized that the transfer will not significantly affect Korea’s ability to deter any potential aggression from North Korea. “If you ask whether this creates serious obstacles for our deterrence strategy against North Korea, I can say with certainty that it does not,” he said. He noted that South Korea’s defense spending ranks among the highest in the world, adding that some estimates place the country’s annual

- [Korea University vows to address climate change issues](#) (2026-03-10 05:57)

Korea University pledged to expand the university’s role in addressing the climate crisis and restoring ecosystems during a “Nature Positive” declaration ceremony at its Sejong campus last Thursday. A Korea University official said the event aimed to extend the university’s social responsibility beyond carbon reduction to broader environmental restoration initiatives. Korea University Kim Dong-one said during his welcome address that universities must go beyond their traditional role as institutions of knowledge and act as a community, taking practical steps to address the climate crisis. “Universities must now lead efforts to solve the climate crisis that threatens the survival of humanity,” Kim said. “Korea University will pioneer a ‘Nature Positive’ path that contributes not only to carbon neutrality but also to the recovery and enhancement of nature, leaving a healthy planet and a sustainable campus for future generations.” Former United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon also delivered congratulatory remarks via video, expressing strong support for the initiati

- ['Lee' or 'Yi?' Korean court rejects passport surname spelling change](#) (2026-03-10 05:57)

A Korean court ruled that passport holders cannot change the Romanized spelling of their surname solely based on personal preferences if there is no practical inconvenience in daily life. According to legal sources on Monday, the Seoul Administrative Court ruled against the 36-year-old plaintiff surnamed Lee in a lawsuit filed against the foreign minister to overturn the government’s refusal to change the spelling of his passport surname from “Lee” to “Yi.”

Lee filed a suit after his request to change the Romanized spelling of his surname on his passport was rejected. He argued that he had long used the spelling “Yi” since childhood, including in financial transactions, English ability tests and company ID cards, and that his passport spelling should reflect the same spelling. The plaintiff also claimed that when he applied for the passport, he spelled his surname “Yi,” but a government official changed it to “Lee” before issuing the document. He said he requested his name to be spelled “Yi” when he applied for the passport a second time, but was told the change

- [DPK, gov't mull buying over 6 mln barrels of crude oil from foreign refiners in S. Korea](#) (2026-03-10 05:57)

The ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) and the government are considering exercising priority purchase rights to secure over 6 million barrels of crude oil from foreign refiners stored in South Korea, officials said Tuesday, amid the widening conflict in the Middle East. DPK lawmakers and government officials reviewed the plan during an inaugural meeting of a task force launched earlier in the day to assess the economic impact from heightened tensions in the region and discuss response measures. "South Korea can exercise priority purchase rights over crude oil jointly stockpiled by foreign companies in the country at market prices," Rep. Oh Gi-hyoung said during a briefing. The plan will allow Seoul to secure 6.86 million barrels of crude oil owned by foreign refiners that are stored at domestic facilities. The officials also discussed ways to diversify imports of crude oil and liquefied natural gas to regions beyond the Middle East, while exploring ways to supply crude oil via alternative routes without passing through the Strait of Hormuz, which has effectively been shut down due to

- [Ex-President Yoon refuses to attend hearing on 2022 Itaewon disaster](#) (2026-03-10 05:57)

Former President Yoon Suk Yeol on Tuesday refused to meet with representatives of a special investigation committee on the 2022 crowd crush who visited the Seoul Detention Center to persuade him to attend a hearing. The National Commission for the Investigation of the October 29 Itaewon Disaster is scheduled to hold the hearing Thursday and Friday to uncover the truth behind the crowd accident that killed 159 people in the central Seoul district in October 2022, when Yoon was serving as president. Wee Eun-jin, standing commissioner of the commission, told reporters that she was unable to meet with Yoon because of his refusal, and he said through his lawyers that it would be difficult to attend the hearing due to trial preparations. Wee said she instead met with the head of the detention center and requested his cooperation in having Yoon attend the hearing Friday morning. Yoon has been in custody while standing trial over his failed bid to impose martial law in December 2024 and other charges. Wee said she still believes Yoon's detailed explanation of what happened the day of the disaster

- [S. Korea providing supplies to its stranded vessel in Strait of Hormuz: official](#) (2026-03-10 05:57)

South Korea is in the process of providing supplies to one of its ships stranded in the Strait of Hormuz amid the conflict in the Middle East, a foreign ministry official said Tuesday. The vessel

is among some 20 ships stranded in the key waterway where roughly 20 percent of global oil and gas pass through. The shipping channel has effectively been shut down as the war between U.S.-Israeli forces and Iran intensified. About 180 South Korean seafarers are currently aboard the 20 vessels, according to the ministry. While most of the ships have enough supplies to last several weeks, one ship needs additional supplies, mainly food and other necessities, a ministry official said. "A situation has arisen requiring the vessel to enter port and receive supplies, and we are working with the host country to ensure it can dock without difficulties," he said. The official said consultations with relevant countries in the region, excluding Iran, are under way regarding the provisions, but declined to give further details citing safety concerns and diplomatic reasons. The Strait of Hormuz is located betw

- [Assembly speaker urges rival parties to form special committee on constitutional revision](#)
(2026-03-10 05:57)

National Assembly Speaker Woo Won-shik on Tuesday called on rival parties to form a special committee to ensure that a national referendum to revise the Constitution is held along with the upcoming local elections. Woo made the call during a press conference at the National Assembly, stressing that a bill to revise the Constitution must be proposed by April 7 for a national referendum to be held on the day of the June 3 elections. "If we miss this timing, it is uncertain when the next opportunity will come," Woo said, urging the ruling and opposition parties to create the committee before next Tuesday. Woo added that the revision is aimed at establishing institutional safeguards to prevent illegal declarations of martial law, referring to former President Yoon Suk Yeol's short-lived martial law declaration in December 2024. Under the Constitution, a constitutional amendment bill should be put on public notice for at least 20 days and put to a vote during a parliamentary plenary session within 60 days of the public notification. The bill can be passed with the approval from at least two th

- [Chungnam National University sets sights on AI-powered campus transformation](#)
(2026-03-10 05:57)

As artificial intelligence (AI) reshapes how universities teach and learn, Chungnam National University is setting its sights on becoming a leader in AI-driven education in Korea. University President Kim Jeong-kyoum said the central question for higher education institutions is how they understand and approach artificial intelligence, urging them to embrace the sweeping changes the technology is expected to bring. "AI will undoubtedly bring significant changes across industries and in our daily lives," Kim told The Korea Times in a recent interview.

"Universities need to approach this shift with an open mindset and be ready to accept it. I want Chungnam National University to become a university that uses AI better than anyone else." While acknowledging that the term "AI-leading university" has become something of a cliché, Kim said the university's real focus is on integrating AI meaningfully into education.

"We want to teach students how to use AI effectively in practice," he said, adding that the university is considering incorporating AI-related elements into more

- [Lee says relocation of USFK assets does not impact Korea's defense posture](#) (2026-03-10 05:57)

The Korean government has expressed its opposition to the transfer of some U.S. Forces Korea air defense weapons to the Middle East, President Lee Jae Myung said Tuesday, but stressed that the move will not weaken the country's deterrence against North Korea. Speaking at the beginning of a Cabinet meeting at the presidential office, Lee addressed the growing debate over reports that some U.S. air defense batteries stationed in Korea have been transferred abroad. "We have expressed opposition to U.S. Forces Korea transferring some air defense weapons according to its own military needs, but it is also the reality that we cannot fully enforce our position," the president said. Lee emphasized that the transfer will not significantly affect Korea's ability to deter potential aggression from North Korea. "If you ask whether this would seriously create obstacles for our deterrence strategy against North Korea, I can say with certainty that it does not," he said. He noted that Korea's defense spending ranks among the highest in the world, adding that some estimates place the countr

- [Number of foreign residents in Korea nears 1.7 mil. in 2025](#) (2026-03-10 05:57)

The number of foreign nationals residing in Korea approached 1.7 million as of May last year, government data showed Tuesday. The total number came to 1.69 million, up 8.4 percent from a year earlier, according to data released by the Ministry of Data and Statistics. The figure refers to foreigners aged 15 and older who have resided in the country for more than 91 days. By category, Koreans with foreign nationalities accounted for the largest share at 24.2 percent, followed by non-professional employment visa holders at 19 percent, the data showed. International students accounted for 14 percent and permanent residents at 9.6 percent. Among foreign nationals, ethnic Koreans with Chinese nationality accounted for 29.9 percent of the total, followed by those from Vietnam with 16 percent, the data showed. The data also showed that 65.5 percent of foreign nationals had jobs. Among those employed, 10.8 percent of foreign workers said they were seeking new jobs, with most citing low income as the main reason. About 32 percent of foreign nationals reported earning a monthly income between 2 milli

- [Indians in Korea celebrate spring's colorful Holi Hungama festival in Seoul](#) (2026-03-09 23:57)

Spring arrives this year in an explosion of colors with Holi Hungama, a major Hindu festival celebrated mainly in India and Nepal and by diaspora communities worldwide. Participants throw colored water and powder at each other in a celebration symbolizing the victory of good over evil, the arrival of spring and the celebration of love, unity and renewal. For anyone in Korea interested in taking part in this high-energy festival, the Indian community here is organizing its own Holi Hungama event. Organizers highlighted that Holi celebrations in Korea began informally within the Indian community in the early 2000s. Over time, through the structured efforts of Indians in Korea (IIK), a registered nonprofit organization and community chamber established in 2002, the festival has evolved into a well-organized multicultural event

in Seoul and other cities. IIK President Nagendra Kumar Kaushik, a professor at Kwangwoon University, told The Korea Times about the festival's origins. "Holi has deep roots in Indian mythology," he explained. "One of its most significant origins is linked to th

- [Japan's Melt-Banana returns to Korea after 17 years](#) (2026-03-09 23:57)

The legendary Japanese noise rock band Melt-Banana is finally coming back to Korea for the third time, 17 years after their last show. The band had its first show here in January 2005, and returned for a second show in August 2009. "This time will be our third visit," said Yako, the duo's lead vocalist. "I clearly remember how cold it was the first time we went, and I remember that everything we ate tasted incredibly good." "The second time, we also visited a recording studio in Korea, and we had a bit more time to relax," said Agata, the other half of the duo. "We went to a building that had a lot of musical instrument shops, and I ended up making a bit of an impulse purchase. Both stays were really enjoyable." Finally, after years of scheduling conflicts and the pandemic, Melt-Banana is ready to return to Seoul. Melt-Banana's origins date back to 1991, when Yako started it with the name Mizu. Soon she recruited Agata, and in 1992 the band name changed to Melt-Banana. "There isn't really a deep meaning behind it," Yako said. "Maybe at the time I just liked the combination of the word 'm

- [Infanticide conviction exposes vacuum in Korea's abortion law](#) (2026-03-09 17:57)

A murder conviction in a case involving an infant who died immediately after birth during what is called a late-term abortion procedure has cast fresh light on the legal void surrounding abortion in Korea. This comes nearly seven years after the Constitutional Court of Korea struck down the country's ban, as the issue remains unresolved amid a prolonged political stalemate. Last week, the Seoul Central District Court sentenced the director of an obstetrics clinic in Incheon, identified by the surname Yoon, to six years in prison for murder in a case widely referred to as the "36-week abortion case," along with a fine of 1.5 million won (\$1,000). Judges also ordered the forfeiture of 1.15 billion won in proceeds that prosecutors said the director had earned over the years by performing illegal abortions on hundreds of patients. The operating surgeon, identified only by his surname Shim, was sentenced to four years in prison, while the mother, surnamed Kwon, received a three-year sentence suspended for five years after the court found her guilty as an accomplice to murder. The jud

- [PPP adopts resolution opposing ex-President Yoon's political comeback](#) (2026-03-09 11:57)

The main opposition People Power Party on Monday apologized for the 2024 martial law declaration by then President Yoon Suk Yeol and pledged to sever ties with him amid an ongoing internal feud ahead of the June 3 local elections. The announcement came in a resolution issued in the name of all party lawmakers, as the party grapples with falling public support after Yoon's martial law attempt and internal divisions over its political direction and ties with the former president. Some party members have called for a clear break from Yoon, while others back the so-called Yoon Again movement. "We once again sincerely apologize to the public for the great confusion and disappointment caused by the wrongful declaration of

the Dec. 3 martial law," the resolution read. "We clearly oppose any calls for Yoon's political comeback." The resolution was read by floor leader Rep. Song Eon-seog, while all lawmakers attending the meeting, including party leader Jang Dong-hyeok, stood in support.

- [Top presidential aide voices hope 'yellow envelope act' to promote labor-management dialogue](#) (2026-03-09 11:57)

President Lee Jae Myung's chief of staff said Monday the revised labor law aimed at broadening workers' bargaining rights should serve as a starting point for promoting dialogue and co-prosperity between labor and management. Kang Hoon-sik made the remark during a meeting with senior presidential aides on the eve of the implementation of the so-called yellow envelope act, which is designed to guarantee bargaining rights for indirectly employed and subcontracted workers and prohibit companies from filing damage claims against unionized workers. "The act should become a new starting point for co-prosperity between workers and management," Kang said. The pro-labor bill will take effect after passing on a third attempt, following two vetoes by former President Yoon Suk Yeol, who argued it would make it difficult for companies to hold unions accountable for illegal strikes and could hamper business activities. "It will serve as an important turning point that removes the shackles of retaliatory damage claims threatening workers' right to live and opens the door to dialogue," Kang said. He call

- [8th Army participates in Freedom Shield exercise to enhance readiness posture](#) (2026-03-09 11:57)

The U.S. Army based in South Korea began taking part in an annual springtime military exercise with the ally's forces Monday with a focus on enhancing readiness and modernizing the South Korea-U.S. alliance, the Eighth Army said. The U.S. Eighth Army has joined the Freedom Shield (FS) exercise, which kicked off earlier in the day and will run until March 19, as the ground component for U.S. Forces Korea (USFK) and the Combined Forces Command, according to U.S. military officials. During the joint drills, the allies will train under complex scenarios, including a combined live-fire air assault exercise, a combined wet gap crossing and a joint medical evacuation exercise, the Eighth Army said in a statement. All of the Eighth Army's major subordinate commands, including the 2nd Infantry Division, the 19th Expeditionary Sustainment Command and the 65th Medical Brigade, will participate in the FS exercise. The U.S. 11th Airborne Division deployed from Alaska will be engaged in a combined airborne operation in which paratroopers will perform a strategic airborne insertion into the Korean thea

- [Industry ministry to form team to manage envisioned US investment projects under trade deal](#) (2026-03-09 11:57)

The industry ministry said Monday it will create a team dedicated to managing South Korea's investment projects in the United States as part of a trade deal between the two countries, vowing to develop projects that benefit Korean companies. The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Resources unveiled the plan in a policy briefing to the National Assembly as the rival parties

have agreed to pass a special bill to support Seoul's investment in U.S. through the parliament this week. The bill was designed to support the implementation of Seoul's \$350 billion investment pledge to the U.S. made under its trade deal with Washington finalized late last year in return for tariff cuts. The envisioned investment will comprise \$150 billion for shipbuilding cooperation and \$200 billion for projects in strategic sectors. The ministry said the team will be in charge of identifying potential investment projects with "commercial rationality," where the participation of Korean companies and investment recovery is assured. For example, for shipbuilding cooperation, the team plans to pursue low-risk projects, inc

- [Police crack down on software-enabled scalping ahead of BTS concert](#) (2026-03-09 11:57)

Police have opened an investigation into the alleged use of automated “macro” programs and ticket scams ahead of BTS’ s comeback concert at Gwanghwamun Square on March 21. The city-sponsored performance, which is expected to attract more than 200,000 fans from across Korea and overseas, requires advance reservations to secure seats, resulting in a surge in black market trading and fraud cases. Speaking to reporters Monday, Park Jeong-bo, chief of the Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency, said officers are currently investigating three criminal cases tied to ticket sales for the event, after ticketing operator NOL Universe filed a complaint over suspected “macro driven” bulk purchases. Macros are automated scripts that refresh pages and enter login and payment details at high speed, allowing users to snap up tickets far faster than ordinary buyers. Using macros or other tools to hoard tickets for resale at higher prices is illegal in Korea. Park urged fans not to trust brokers who claim they can secure tickets using macros or offer “proxy ticketing” services. He warned that tho

- [Mount Gwanak becomes Seoul's new viral spring hiking spot](#) (2026-03-09 11:57)

Mount Gwanak, a granite peak that forms the southern ridgeline of Seoul, has quietly watched over the city for centuries. This spring, it is transforming into something else entirely: a viral “energy hotspot” where hikers line up for over an hour at the summit marker, hoping to soak up good fortune along with the skyline views. On recent weekends, the narrow path to Yeonjuda, the clifftop hermitage near the 632-meter summit, has turned into a human queue that can stretch more than 100 meters. Many in their 20s and 30s say they are not just there for the workout. Posing for “proof shots,” visitors post captions that read like whispered prayers: “Let this year go well,” “Please let me get a job,” “Let me come back here with good news.” Among them are Lee and Park, Seoul residents who climbed Mount Gwanak with their friends recently. “In the past I would have gone to a fortune teller, but now I’ d rather hike, clear my head and ask the mountain for help,” said Lee, a 31-year-old job seeker who wrote her employment wish in the caption of a summit selfie she posted o

- [Families of Jeju Air crash victims protest discovery of additional remains](#) (2026-03-09 11:57)

The bereaved families of the victims of the Jeju Air plane crash in late 2024 on Monday protested the recent discovery of additional remains and belongings of the victims in the wreckage. They held a news conference in front of Cheong Wa Dae, the presidential office and

residential compound in central Seoul, to condemn the "sloppy" disaster recovery process and demand an investigation into the truth and punishment for those responsible. A Jeju Air jet from Bangkok erupted into flames on Dec. 29, 2024, after crashing into the localizer's concrete mound when it made an emergency belly landing at Muan International Airport, about 290 kilometers south of Seoul, claiming the lives of 179 passengers and crew members. Government officials and police investigators discovered nine pieces of remains presumed to belong to the crash victims during their reexamination of the wreckage on Feb. 26. Among them, one 25-centimeter-long bone has been confirmed to be the remains of a victim. "The discovery of additional remains of the victims more than one year after the disaster demonstrates the absence of

- [Prosecutors release identity of suspect accused of murdering two with laced drinks](#) (2026-03-09 11:57)

Prosecutors on Monday released the identity and mug shots of a 20-year-old woman arrested for allegedly murdering two men with laced drinks. The mug shots of Kim So-young were made public by the Seoul Northern District Prosecutors Office after undergoing a review by a dedicated committee on such disclosures. Kim is accused of handing the drinks containing benzodiazepine, a depressant, to three men on separate occasions between last December and last month, resulting in the two deaths. One of the three men recovered after treatment. Kim has admitted to giving the drinks to the men but has said that she did not know it would lead to their deaths. Police, however, referred the case to the prosecution on murder charges after determining that Kim had intent to commit murder. Police took Kim into custody last month after one of the victims was found dead. Kim has been diagnosed as a psychopath after she met the criteria for antisocial personality disorder in a Hare Psychopathy Checklist-Revised test administered by police.

- [PPP faces candidate shortage for local elections as heavyweights skip primaries](#) (2026-03-09 11:57)

The main opposition People Power Party (PPP) is facing growing strain ahead of the June 3 local elections after several political heavyweights opted out of the party's primary races, potentially weakening its chances against the ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK). According to the party's primary registration list that was finalized Sunday night, candidate sign-ups were weak across key regions, including the Seoul metropolitan area and South Chungcheong Province. Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon, considered one of the party's most prominent figures, opted out of the PPP's Seoul mayoral primary. His announcement, made just hours before the registration deadline, came as a surprise to many as he previously hinted he would seek a fifth term. His decision comes amid a widening rift with the PPP leadership. Oh has publicly urged PPP chairman Rep. Jang Dong-hyeok to clarify the party's political direction and distance its leadership from supporters of former President Yoon Suk Yeol and his martial law debacle, saying it would improve the party's chances in local elections. Rep. Na Kyung-won, a

- [PM to attend Boao Forum in China this month](#) (2026-03-09 11:57)

Prime Minister Kim Min-seok plans to attend the Boao Forum for Asia in China later this month, his office said Monday. Kim is scheduled to deliver a keynote speech at the annual conference slated to be held in Boao, Hainan Province, from March 24-27, the office said in a press release. This will be the prime minister's second trip overseas since he took office, following his visit to Washington in January, where he met with U.S. Vice President JD Vance. Kim is likely to use his trip to China to meet with senior Chinese officials as the two countries seek to strengthen ties following President Lee Jae Myung's state visit to Beijing in January. Also a factor in the decision to attend the forum was that former U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon currently serves as chairman of the organization, sources said.

- [K-water showcases AI-powered hydro management tech at MWC 2026](#) (2026-03-09 11:57)

Korea Water Resources Corporation (K-water) showcased its artificial intelligence (AI)-based water management technology at MWC 2026 in Barcelona last week, highlighting its competitiveness in the sector. The initiative reflects the corporation's strategy under K-water CEO Yun Seog-dae to strengthen water management policies aimed at addressing the climate crisis while expanding overseas, as the state-run utility this year launched a global push for AI-driven water management. K-water aims to expand into the high-value AI and digital markets with three core technologies: water management digital twins that replicate dam operations in a virtual environment, supporting decision-making; AI-powered water treatment plants enabling autonomous operations through algorithm analysis; and Smart Water Network Management (SWNM), which uses Internet of Things technology to reduce leaks and stabilize pipelines. K-water's SWNM was selected as a winner at this year's Global Mobile Awards, held during MWC, marking the first time a Korean public institution has received the honor and underscoring i

- [Gov't to implement price cap system for petroleum products this week](#) (2026-03-09 11:57)

The Korean government plans to introduce a temporary price cap on petroleum products as early as this week to curb surging fuel costs triggered by escalating tensions in the Middle East, the presidential policy chief said Monday. The system will allow the government to set an upper limit on retail fuel prices for a fixed period to prevent sharp spikes. Presidential chief of staff for policy Kim Yong-beom said at a briefing that the government will work fast to complete administrative steps, including issuing a ministerial notice, so the cap could take effect within days. He said officials had discussed detailed measures to prevent abnormal pricing of petroleum products and improve price predictability in the market, adding that the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Resources will move quickly to finalize procedures needed to introduce the system. Earlier Monday, President Lee Jae Myung convened an emergency economic meeting and ordered the immediate introduction of the price cap, along with a crackdown on price manipulation, to shield the public from economic fallout linked to the Middle

- [Hyundai Rotem, gov't agency set 2035 target for hypersonic missile development](#) (2026-03-09 05:57)

Hyundai Rotem, the defense and rail subsidiary of Hyundai Motor Group, aims to mass-produce hypersonic missiles by 2035 in cooperation with the state-run Agency for Defense Development (ADD) — weapons widely regarded as a key element of modern warfare. The plan reflects South Korea's broader push to secure advanced strike capabilities as neighboring countries develop or already operate hypersonic weapons that are difficult for existing missile defense systems to intercept. With speeds faster than Mach 5, or about 6,120 kilometers per hour, hypersonic missiles are capable of striking targets worldwide within hours. Their extreme speed and maneuverability make them difficult for existing missile defense systems to intercept. The United States, Russia and China currently operate hypersonic missiles, while several other countries, including North Korea, India and France, are developing their own capabilities. According to defense industry sources, Sunday, Hyundai Rotem and ADD recently acquired a key early-stage technology for stable propulsion in hypersonic vehicles. The system allows

- [Gov't to refer Nonghyup chief to police over alleged embezzlement, bribery](#) (2026-03-09 05:57)

The government said Monday it plans to refer the chairman of NongHyup, the country's agricultural cooperative and banking group, to the police for investigation over allegations of embezzlement and bribery. The plan was announced by an interagency team, comprised of the Office for Government Policy Coordination, the agriculture ministry, the Financial Services Commission and the Financial Supervisory Service, following a special audit of NongHyup (the National Agricultural Cooperative Federation), its affiliates and member cooperatives that began Jan. 26. The team said it found various irregularities, such as possible embezzlement of public funds, preferential loan agreements and accounting fraud. Of them, the team plans to refer 14 major cases to the police for investigation, while ordering NongHyup to devise remedies or improvements for a tentative 96 additional cases. According to the findings, NongHyup Chairman Kang Ho-dong embezzled the funds of an affiliated foundation in 2024 and 2025 with the help of one of its senior officials to procure 490 million won (\$327,000) worth of gifts

- [Lee orders price caps, seeks alternative supply routes as Middle East crisis deepens](#) (2026-03-09 05:57)

President Lee Jae Myung convened an emergency economic meeting Monday, ordering the immediate implementation of a maximum price system for petroleum products, along with a crackdown on price manipulation, to shield the public from turmoil in the Middle East. Warning that the regional crisis had created “extraordinary” uncertainties for the energy-dependent country, Lee also directed officials to secure alternative supply routes that bypass the Strait of Hormuz, while vowing to strictly punish any hoarding or collusion in the market. “As the situation surrounding energy supply and household economic anxiety is serious, extraordinary countermeasures commensurate with the circumstances are needed,” Lee said during the meeting. “In cooperation with our strategic partner countries, we should swiftly identify alternative supply routes that do not pass through the Strait of Hormuz.” He also called for strict enforcement against illegal practices in the domestic oil market, including collusion

among refiners and gas stations, hoarding and speculative stockpiling. “Illegal activities su

- [Korea, US kick off major spring drills amid speculation over Patriot redeployment](#) (2026-03-09 05:57)

Korea and the United States kicked off their major spring joint Freedom Shield exercise Monday amid speculation that U.S. Forces Korea's (USFK) Patriot missiles have been deployed to the Middle East as regional tensions rise. The 11-day exercise, which runs through March 19, involves about 18,000 personnel and incorporates lessons drawn from recent wars to reflect evolving and realistic threats in its operational scenarios, according to Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff. With Seoul and Washington accelerating efforts to transfer wartime operational control to Korea, this year's drills are also expected to focus on assessing and verifying whether conditions for the transition have been met. The exercise comes amid rising indications that Patriot missile systems operated by USFK have been redeployed to the Middle East, as demand for interceptor missiles and air defense systems grows following the Feb. 28 U.S.-Israeli strikes on Iran. Several U.S. military transport aircraft have been seen arriving at and departing from a U.S. air base in Pyeongtaek, just south of Seoul, in recent days, fueling

- [Gov't to crack down on illegal foreign delivery riders](#) (2026-03-09 05:57)

The government will initiate an intensive crackdown on foreigners who work illegally as delivery riders, the Ministry of Justice said Monday. The crackdown will be implemented for two months until April 30, and foreigners caught will face fines and forced deportation, the ministry said. Cases of illegal work in the delivery industry by foreigners residing in Korea are increasing, and illegal acts such as driving motorcycles without a license are emerging as social problems, it noted. Recent reports say that some foreign students borrow Korean names to sign up on delivery platforms. The ministry said those who lend their delivery platform accounts to foreigners will also be reported to the police and other relevant authorities. A ministry official said the government will do its best to protect the jobs of Koreans and establish the order for foreigners staying here by cracking down on those working illegally in the delivery industry.

- [203 Koreans return from Abu Dhabi aboard chartered flight](#) (2026-03-09 05:57)

YEONGJONGDO — More than 200 Korean nationals who had been stranded in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) due to the escalating U.S.-Iran conflict returned home Monday aboard a chartered flight. The Etihad Airways plane, carrying 203 Koreans and three family members of other nationalities, arrived at Incheon International Airport, west of Seoul, in the early morning, about 8 hours after departing from Abu Dhabi. It marked the first chartered flight organized by Seoul to bring back Korean nationals from the UAE amid the widening conflict that has disrupted air traffic in the region. The foreign ministry estimates about 1,400 Koreans remain in the UAE as short-term travelers. It expects them to gradually return home as commercial flights resume. Families embraced each other as they were reunited at the airport, with a 4-year-old shouting, "Daddy," as he ran to his father, who had been waiting for his arrival. The boy's mother, Kim Bora, who arrived back home with her son, said she was able to book the

chartered flight after getting in touch with the foreign ministry the previous day. "While eva

- [Lee urges caution over reform measures to minimize side effects](#) (2026-03-09 05:57)

President Lee Jae Myung on Monday urged caution in pushing ahead with reform measures to minimize potential side effects, suggesting a "surgical correction" approach where necessary. Lee reaffirmed his commitment to carrying out reform initiatives to address problems across various sectors, but stressed the need to avoid discouraging or hurting many members who are not involved in causing those problems. "Reform often requires surgical correction," Lee wrote on social media platform X. "To resolve problems, it is essential to accurately identify their root causes and clearly distinguish what is right from what is wrong." "Whether it is prosecution reform, labor and economic reform, media reform or judicial reform, that is how I believe reform should be approached," he added. Even when pursuing necessary reforms, Lee said the government should avoid indiscriminately condemning everyone or treating all as targets of reform, warning against "burning down the whole house to catch a flea." "No matter how difficult reform may be, we must never give up on it, but we must proceed with great cauti

- [Seoul goes green for St. Patrick's Day Festival](#) (2026-03-08 23:57)

It's that time of year again — the ice melts, the sun sets later and the greens come out. It's time once again for St. Patrick's Day, including the big annual festival at D-Cube City Plaza in southwestern Seoul this Saturday. Under this year's theme of "Seoul's Going Green," the plaza will be transformed into a lively showcase of Irish heritage and contemporary culture, highlighting the deep and growing tie between Ireland and Korea. "St. Patrick's Day has been a staple in Seoul for many years now, and what makes it special is the feeling of Irish hospitality and community on display for all to see," said Alan Leavy, chairman of the Irish Association of Korea (IAK), the main organizer. "It's not just for Irish people. We really want it to be open to anyone who wants to come along, take part and enjoy themselves. St. Patrick's Day is among the most widely celebrated national days in the world, and here in Seoul it's a great day out for the whole family and a chance to experience a bit of Irish culture." Running from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., the free, family-friendly outdoo

- [Chartered plane departs from UAE to bring home 203 Koreans: ministry](#) (2026-03-08 11:57)

A chartered plane departed from the United Arab Emirates on Sunday to bring home hundreds of Koreans stranded in the Middle Eastern country amid the escalating conflict between Iran and the United States and Israel, the foreign ministry said. An Etihad Airways chartered flight carrying 203 Koreans and their three foreign spouses departed from Abu Dhabi at 5:35 p.m., according to the ministry. The plane was expected to arrive at Incheon International Airport at around 2 a.m. Monday. Korea has been seeking to bring home some 3,000 nationals stranded in the UAE due to flight disruptions amid escalating tensions in the Middle East after U.S.-Israeli strikes against Iran began in late February. Around 1,500 Koreans, including those aboard the chartered plane, have left the UAE since flights heading to and departing from the country resumed. The foreign ministry has dispatched a joint rapid response team to the UAE to assist

evacuation operations. The Korean Embassy in the UAE began receiving applications early Saturday from Korean nationals wishing to board the chartered plane.

- [Seoul mayor didn't apply for PPP's candidacy for June local elections](#) (2026-03-08 11:57)

Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon on Sunday did not register his candidacy for reelection with the main opposition People Power Party (PPP) by the deadline, according to his aides. Oh did not register as a PPP candidate for the Seoul mayoral race in the June 3 local elections by the deadline set for 6 p.m. Sunday, as he thinks the party should prioritize severing ties with former President Yoon Suk Yeol ahead of the polls, according to his aides. Oh has been calling for PPP leadership to shift the party line to distance itself from Yoon, who is now in jail over the December 2024 martial law crisis.

- [Korea marks Int' l Women' s Day with gender equality rally](#) (2026-03-08 11:57)

Korea marked this year' s International Women' s Day with rallies, awards and renewed political pledges over the weekend, underscoring both the gains women have made and the persistent gender gaps in the country. Korean Women' s Association United hosted the 41st Korean Women' s Rally in central Seoul on Saturday, turning the Gwanghwamun area into a purple-hued sea of celebration and protest ahead of International Women's Day on Sunday. This year' s Women' s Movement of the Year award symbolically went to all women who advocated for gender-equal democracy during the rallies calling for the impeachment of former President Yoon Suk Yeol, with organizers rolling out a red carpet for participants to pose with bouquets and mock trophies. Women of all ages attended in the event' s dress code of purple, long been used globally as a suffragette color symbolizing justice and dignity. It also became the trademark hue of Korea' s feminist movement in recent years, from annual women' s marches to #MeToo protests. Participants chanted, "Complete the revolution of light!" and "Gender eq

- [Seoul launches crackdown on lodging violations ahead of BTS concert](#) (2026-03-08 11:57)

City authorities in Seoul have started a crackdown on lodging facilities near Gwanghwamun ahead of K-pop group BTS' comeback concert on March 21, uncovering a string of violations including hotels operating without posting mandatory room rate information. During its special inspections carried out in central Seoul between Feb. 25 and March 4, 18 hotels and other lodging facilities had violated regulations by failing to display official room rates or business registration certificates, the Seoul Metropolitan Government said Sunday. Under the Public Health Control Act, hospitality business owners have to display their business registration certificate inside the premises and post a room rate table at the reception desk. The city' s special judicial police bureau, working in cooperation with the Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency, will formally book all 18 offending establishments and conduct investigations. Depending on the findings, the violators could face up to six months in prison or fines of up to 5 million won (\$3,400). City officials will also ask Jongno and Jung district offices t

- [Rising Sun flag at WBC Korea-Japan game sparks criticism](#) (2026-03-08 11:57)

The appearance of the Rising Sun flag during a World Baseball Classic (WBC) game between Korea and Japan has sparked criticism after Japanese spectators were seen displaying the controversial symbol at Tokyo Dome. The flag, widely associated with the Imperial Japanese Army and Navy, is viewed by many throughout Asia as a symbol of the country's militaristic colonial past, including its 35-year rule over Korea. The incident occurred during the 2026 WBC match played Saturday. Seo Kyoung-duk, a professor at Sungshin Women's University, said he sent a protest email to the tournament's organizers after reports showed several Japanese fans holding and waving the controversial flags before entering the stadium. "Some Japanese fans were openly displaying the Rising Sun flag and cheering before entering Tokyo Dome," Seo wrote on social media Saturday, citing footage reported by broadcaster JTBC. "The Rising Sun flag is a symbol of Japan's militarism and imperialism," he said. "Using it while cheering denies the history of Japan's past wars of aggression and reminds many Asians

- [Korea to allow Iranians to overstay visas until conflict eases](#) (2026-03-08 11:57)

Korea will allow Iranians to remain here beyond their visa limits on humanitarian grounds, as the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran intensifies in the Middle East. In response to inquiries from The Korea Times regarding Iranian nationals in Korea, the Ministry of Justice said those whose visas cannot be extended under ordinary rules will be permitted to stay until war-related risks are deemed to have subsided enough to allow safe travel. As of January, 2,133 Iranian nationals were residing legally in Korea. "The Ministry of Justice plans to allow Iranians who are currently staying in Korea legally, but can no longer extend their visas or change their status, to remain here on humanitarian grounds until the situation stabilizes," a ministry official said. This measure comes as some other countries are moving to ease immigration rules or grant temporary protections to Iranians who would face heightened danger if forced to return. At least two countries — Canada and Japan — have so far announced special measures allowing Iranians to extend their stay rather than forcing them to return to a w

- [Lee to preside over emergency economic meeting on Middle East tensions](#) (2026-03-08 11:57)

President Lee Jae Myung will preside over an emergency meeting with related ministries on Monday to review the economic impact from heightened tensions in the Middle East and discuss response measures, Cheong Wa Dae said Sunday. The meeting will bring together ministers and senior officials from the finance, industry, climate and energy, budget planning and agriculture ministries, as well as the Korea Customs Service and the Fair Trade Commission, according to presidential spokesperson Kang Yu-jung. Lee is expected to review global financial markets and oil prices and assess their effect on the domestic stock market, the foreign exchange market and inflation. Lee previously reviewed the latest developments in the Middle East during an extraordinary Cabinet meeting on Thursday, following U.S.-Israeli strikes on Iran and Tehran's retaliatory attacks in the region. Korea, which relies heavily on energy imports, is particularly vulnerable to external price shocks, which often drive inflation.

- [Experts see growing links between European, Asian security amid Ukraine war](#) (2026-03-08 11:57)

Security developments in Europe and East Asia are becoming increasingly intertwined in the wake of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, experts said at the Inaugural Strategic Dialogue in Seoul last week. Participants said the war had accelerated debate over whether to view crises in different regions as part of a broader strategic environment rather than isolated regional challenges. They also pointed to growing pressure from the United States for allies to assume greater responsibility for their own defense, as well as expanding opportunities for Europe-Asia cooperation in fields such as defense and advanced technologies. The discussion took place at the Korea Military Academy, where the International Policy Studies Institute (IPSI) and Hungary's Danube Institute jointly hosted the event, titled "Changing Dynamics of Geopolitics in Europe and East Asia: Assessing Constraints and Opportunities for Cooperation." Hong Kyu-dok, president of IPSI, said the forum was intended to promote deeper exchanges between experts from Europe and Asia as geopolitical risks continue to grow. "This fo

- [Airlift operations at USFK base signal possible shift of assets to Middle East](#) (2026-03-08 11:57)

Recent U.S. military airlift activity at a major air base in South Korea has drawn attention to the possibility that air defense assets assigned to United States Forces Korea (USFK) have been redeployed to the Middle East. According to the real-time flight tracking website Flightradar24 Sunday, U.S. Air Force C-5 and C-17 transport aircraft that landed at Osan Air Base in Pyeongtaek, Gyeonggi Province, in late February departed in a series of flights earlier this month. Particular attention has focused on the C-5 Galaxy, which is larger than the C-17. At least two C-5 aircraft arrived at the base in late February and were seen departing on Feb. 28 and last Monday. Their final destinations were not listed, but flight records indicate journeys lasting more than 14 hours, raising the possibility that they continued on to the U.S. mainland or the Middle East. While C-17 aircraft routinely stop at Osan to transport U.S. troops and equipment, the arrival of the much larger C-5 aircraft is considered unusual. Reports earlier indicated that USFK had relocated some Patriot air defense systems fro

- [Ruling party seeks stricter corporate penalties for customer data breaches](#) (2026-03-08 11:57)

The Korean government and the ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) are moving to advance a second revision of the country's Personal Information Protection Act that would strengthen corporate liability for large-scale data breaches. The proposed amendment is intended to enhance compensation and relief for victims of large-scale data breaches. However, industry insiders warn that the measures could impose excessive burdens on companies. Discussions at the National Assembly are focusing on amendment bills introduced by several DPK lawmakers, political sources said Sunday. The proposals share a central provision: eliminating the requirement to prove "intent or negligence" in compensation claims stemming from cases of compromised user data, a change that would broaden corporate liability. The push for stricter

liability follows a series of high-profile data breaches in Korea, including a recent case involving Coupang, the country's largest e-commerce platform. Authorities said the incident may have exposed personal information linked to a large number of user accounts, intensifying

- [Lee to meet executives of large firms, SMEs this week](#) (2026-03-08 11:57)

President Lee Jae Myung will meet with senior officials from major conglomerates and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) this week to discuss ways to promote a co-prosperity business model, Cheong Wa Dae said Monday. Lee plans to host the meeting with business and government officials on Tuesday to encourage mutually beneficial cooperation between large companies and SMEs and to share best practices, presidential spokesperson Kang Yu-jung said in a press notice. Senior executives from Samsung Electronics, Hyundai Motor, SK Group, Hanwha Ocean and Naver as well as representatives from SMEs and experts will participate, alongside Finance Minister Koo Yoon-cheol, SME Minister Han Sung-sook and senior presidential aides, Kang said. Participants will introduce examples of cooperation between large corporations and smaller firms and discuss ways to build a co-prosperity business ecosystem, Kang said.

- [Bureaucratic hurdles undermine Korea's ambitions to attract international students](#) (2026-03-08 11:57)

Korea's drive to attract and retain international students is hitting a roadblock at immigration offices, a place many students now view as a source of fear rather than support. Even as universities expand recruitment and the government pledges to ease visa rules, inconsistent administrative practices and constantly shifting guidelines at immigration offices are emerging as major hurdles to the country's study-to-settlement pathway for foreign students. All students interviewed by The Korea Times for this article requested that their names not be used. One Iraqi student said she nearly lost an internship due to a delayed decision on her part-time work permission. She received an internship offer from a tech company building apps for foreign communities in Korea and was scheduled to begin work on Jan. 5. She applied for part-time work authorization on Dec. 20 last year, and received a text message six days later stating the application had been "accepted by an appropriate department." There was no further notice for about a month, until the immigration office informed her on Jan. 2

- [Tablets replace heavy textbooks at universities as e-book sales quadruple](#) (2026-03-08 05:57)

University students in Korea are increasingly swapping heavy printed textbooks for tablets and laptops, as e-book sales of course materials have more than quadrupled in the past four years, data showed Sunday. Kyobo Book Centre said e-books accounted 29.9 percent of its online and offline university textbook sales by value last year, up from just 7.1 percent in 2021. The share has climbed steadily — 8 percent in 2022, 15.2 percent in 2023 and 23.1 percent in 2024 — even though print still generates more than three times the sales of digital textbooks. Considering that e-books remain under 10 percent of overall book sales, the shift in the higher

education textbook segment is particularly striking, the retailer noted. Behind the trend are the literal burdens of printed books. One top-selling e-textbook, “Electronic Engineering Experiment 1” from Kyungpook National University Press, runs 602 pages and weighs about 1.5 kilograms. Many students say it's no longer practical to carry several such “brick books” across sprawling campuses. Improved e-book platforms, which offer search

- [Lee pledges to promote gender equality on International Women's Day](#) (2026-03-08 05:57)

President Lee Jae Myung on Sunday pledged to advance gender equality and foster a more inclusive society, marking International Women's Day. “I will fulfill my given role and responsibility to ensure that the Republic of Korea is reborn as a gender-equal society,” Lee wrote on his Facebook page, referring to Korea's official name. Lee said gender equality policies were scaled back under the previous administration, which had pledged to abolish the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family but failed, noting that his administration will work to restore and strengthen those efforts. “(The government) is reversing that trend by restoring gender equality policies to their rightful place, filling the gaps left in the past and moving step by step toward a gender-equal society,” he said. Reflecting on the long journey of those who have worked to advance women's rights, Lee reviewed the remaining tasks needed to achieve gender equality and protect the rights of those who have been discriminated against or marginalized. “We will build a society where differences do not lead to discrimination and divide

- [US transport aircraft spotted departing Osan Air Base amid Patriot relocation speculation](#) (2026-03-08 05:57)

U.S. military transport aircraft have been spotted arriving at and departing from a U.S. air base in Korea over the past week, raising speculation that the U.S. Forces Korea (USFK) may be deploying some of its assets to the Middle East amid the escalating conflict involving Iran. According to the real-time flight tracking website Flightradar24, C-5 and C-17 U.S. transport aircraft have landed at Osan Air Base in Pyeongtaek, south of Seoul, since late last month and departed between Wednesday and Saturday. At least two C-5 aircraft arrived at the air base in late February and were spotted departing last Saturday and Monday, while C-17 aircraft departed between Tuesday and Saturday, with six confirmed to be heading to Anchorage, Alaska. The C-17 aircraft regularly stopped at the key U.S. base to transport U.S. assets and personnel, but the arrival of the C-5 appears to be rare. The latest move has fueled speculation that the USFK may be preparing to move Patriot missile defense systems, as it is known to have recently relocated some Patriot batteries to Osan Air Base from other U.S. bases.

- [No. of drug addicts rises 49% from 2020 to 2024](#) (2026-03-08 05:57)

The number of drug addicts receiving treatment in Korea surged 48.7 percent from 2020 to 2024, driven by a sharp increase among people in their 20s and 30s, data showed Sunday. The number of patients who received treatment stood at 828 in 2024, up from 557 in 2020, according to the data compiled by the state-run Health Insurance Review and Assessment Service (HIRA). By age group, patients aged 20-29 jumped 139.1 percent over the period to 275

in 2024, while those aged 30-39 rose 89 percent to 223, HIRA said. Male patients accounted for 606 cases in 2024, compared with 266 female patients, though the rate of increase over the period was faster among women. Meanwhile, the total cost of treatment doubled to about 1 billion won (\$67,340) during the cited period, it noted.

Source: The Korea Herald

- [Schools strain to support rising foreign-background students](#) (2026-03-15 05:54)

Education support systems for students with international backgrounds are failing to keep pace with their rapidly growing numbers, raising concerns about whether Korean schools are equipped to help them adapt to the national curriculum. According to Education Ministry data released Sunday, the number of schools where students with international backgrounds account for more than 30 percent of total enrollment reached 123 nationwide last year, up from 47 in 2020. The data was obtained by the office

- [Forget Orwell's Big Brother: New play 'Big Mother' explores algorithmic control wrapped in comfort](#) (2026-03-15 05:53)

In “1984,” George Orwell imagined Big Brother as the face of totalitarian surveillance: an omnipresent eye watching people from every corner. But what if the power watching us today looks less like a tyrant and more like a caretaker? Welcome to the age of “Big Mother.” Soft and ever attentive, this new form of big-data authority does not bark orders. Instead, it gathers data, manages algorithms, anticipates desires and gently nudges people toward certain ways of thinking — like an all-seeing mot

- [Mom' s Touch put up for sale amid profit growth](#) (2026-03-15 05:29)

South Korean burger chain Mom' s Touch is once again up for sale, industry officials said Sunday, roughly four years after its private equity owner shelved an earlier attempt to sell the company. KL & Partners, which controls the franchise through a special-purpose vehicle, plans to appoint a financial adviser as early as April and aims to complete the sale by the end of the year, according to the sources. The firm is seeking a valuation above 1 trillion won (about \$665 million). KL & Partners ac

- [S. Korea in early talks with Anthropic on AI cooperation](#) (2026-03-15 05:19)

South Korea has held early talks with Anthropic, developer of the Claude AI model, as Seoul looks to broaden its engagement with major global artificial intelligence companies beyond OpenAI, according to the Ministry of Science and ICT. A ministry official told The Korea Herald that Deputy Prime Minister and Science Minister Bae Kyung-hoon met Anthropic Chief Executive Officer Dario Amodei at an AI summit in India in February, where the two discussed AI technology, industry trends and the possib

- [Samsung tops global soundbar market for 12th straight year](#) (2026-03-15 05:11)

Samsung Electronics said Sunday it has retained its position as the world's top soundbar brand for the 12th consecutive year. According to market research firm Futuresource Consulting, Samsung accounted for 21.5 percent of global soundbar revenue and 19.7 percent of shipments in 2025. The company has held the No. 1 position in the global soundbar market since 2014. Samsung's soundbars are designed to work seamlessly with its TVs through the company's Q-Symphony feature, which synchronizes TV spe

- [Seoul becomes citywide stage for BTS comeback](#) (2026-03-15 05:09)

As K-pop supergroup BTS prepares for its long-awaited comeback, Seoul is transforming into a sprawling stage for the group's return. Across the capital, businesses are rolling out themed experiences tied to "BTS The City Arirang Seoul," a citywide initiative developed with entertainment company Hybe that invites fans to experience the comeback beyond the concert venue. Public institutions and city landmarks are also joining the celebration, turning large parts of Seoul into a temporary cultural

- [Lee offers government's first official apology to victims of March 15 Democracy Movement](#) (2026-03-15 05:01)

President Lee Jae Myung on Sunday apologized to the bereaved families of victims of the March 15 Democracy Movement and pledged greater efforts to identify and honor those who participated in South Korea's pro-democracy struggle. Lee attended the government-hosted ceremony commemorating the March 15, becoming the first sitting South Korean president to do so since it was designated a national memorial day in 2010. The event also marked the first official government apology for the handling of Ma

- [SK hynix boosts R&D; spending to record level on AI demand](#) (2026-03-15 04:56)

SK hynix posted its highest-ever research and development spending last year, approaching the 7 trillion won (\$4.66 billion) mark as the company accelerates investment in next-generation artificial intelligence memory technologies. According to an audit report disclosed through the Financial Supervisory Service's electronic disclosure system on Sunday, SK hynix spent a total of 6.73 trillion won on R&D in 2025. The figure marks a sharp increase of 35.9 percent from the 4.95 trillion won spent a

- [Bloodline preference tops barriers to Korea ending overseas adoption](#) (2026-03-15 04:52)

While the South Korean government aims to end overseas adoption by 2029, a survey by a state research institute suggests the goal may remain difficult unless the country moves beyond its strong attachment to bloodline-based family concepts. The cultural emphasis on blood ties emerged as the leading reason behind Koreans' reluctance to adopt, according to a survey conducted by the Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs at the request of the Ministry of Health and Welfare. The findings were

- [Buildings near Gwanghwamun Square under tight control ahead of BTS comeback show](#) (2026-03-15 04:09)

With less than a week left before BTS' comeback performance at Seoul's Gwanghwamun Square, authorities plan to tighten security around 31 buildings surrounding the plaza, according to news reports Sunday. Police and the Seoul Metropolitan Government recently held talks with the operators of the buildings and reached an agreement for six of the buildings to close their front entrances and allow access only through rear entrances, while urging the remaining 25 buildings to restrict access to rooftops.

- [Stress peaks among those in 40s as work, money pressures build](#) (2026-03-15 03:56)

Koreans in their 40s report that the highest levels of daily stress among adults, reflecting pressures from work and finances that intensify in midlife, government health data showed. About 25.9 percent of adults aged 19 or older said they frequently experience high levels of stress, according to 2024 national health statistics released by the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency. The figure means roughly one in four adults say they face significant stress in everyday life. The survey means

- [US offers reward for information on Iran's supreme leader, officials](#) (2026-03-15 03:55)

The United States is offering a reward of up to \$10 million for information about senior Iranian military and intelligence officials, including its new Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei. The reward targets 10 officials associated with Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, according to the State Department website. The military force, created after Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution, is loyal to the supreme leader and tasked with protecting the Shi'ite clerical establishment. Mojtaba Kha

- [Protesters burn photos of Trump, Meloni](#) (2026-03-15 03:24)

ROME (AFP) -- Protesters burned images of US President Donald Trump and Italy's premier Giorgia Meloni in Rome Saturday during a demonstration against the government's judicial reform and the Middle East war. A few thousand people joined a march in the Italian capital, initially organized against far-right Meloni's planned reforms of the judiciary, which will be put to a referendum next weekend. It also drew critics of the US-Israel war with Iran, with protesters decrying Meloni's closeness with

- [US faces elevated terrorism threats against backdrop of Iran war and cuts at FBI, Justice Department](#) (2026-03-15 02:59)

WASHINGTON (AP) -- In New York City, two men who federal authorities say were inspired by the Islamic State brought powerful homemade bombs to a far-right protest outside the mayoral mansion. In Michigan, a naturalized citizen from Lebanon rammed his vehicle into a synagogue before being shot by security. In Virginia, a man previously imprisoned on a terrorism conviction was heard yelling "Allahu akbar" before opening fire in a university classroom in an attack that officials said ended when the

- [Hana Financial partners with Standard Chartered on global business, digital assets](#) (2026-03-15 02:47)

Hana Financial Group said Sunday it had signed a memorandum of understanding with British financial group Standard Chartered to expand cooperation in global business and digital assets. The partnership aims to strengthen the two financial groups' global competitiveness by combining their overseas networks and financial capabilities amid rapidly changing global financial markets. The signing ceremony was held Friday at Hana Bank's headquarters in central Seoul, attended by Hana Financial Chairman

- [Hyundai-backed Motional launches Ioniq 5 robotaxi service with Uber](#) (2026-03-15 02:46)

Motional, Hyundai Motor Group's autonomous driving joint venture with Uber, launched a robotaxi pilot service using the Hyundai Ioniq 5 in Las Vegas on Sunday. The pilot program will operate in designated areas along Las Vegas Boulevard, including pickup zones around Resorts World Las Vegas, downtown Las Vegas and the Town Square shopping district. The company said it planned to gradually expand the area of service. Customers requesting a ride through the Uber app whose routes fall within the se

- [Hyundai E&C, Hyundai Steel team up on floating wind platform](#) (2026-03-15 02:44)

Hyundai Engineering & Construction is joining forces with Hyundai Steel to develop a proprietary floating offshore wind technology, combining their strengths in a bid to secure an early foothold in a fast-emerging energy market. According to Hyundai E&C on Sunday, the partners signed a joint research agreement Friday at Hyundai Steel's steelworks in Dangjin, South Chungcheong Province, committing to co-develop an offshore wind floater and seek international certification. Unlike fixed turbines,

- [New Nvidia AI chip design raises questions over HBM demand](#) (2026-03-15 02:44)

US chip giant Nvidia may unveil a new artificial intelligence inference chip architecture built around on-chip static random access memory, or SRAM, at the Nvidia GTC 2026 conference in San Jose, California, on Monday, raising questions about whether the design could reshape the structure of the AI memory market. According to industry sources on Sunday, the proposed SRAM-based architecture is expected to take a different approach from the GPU designs currently used in AI data centers. Today's GP

- [S. Korea evacuates 204 nationals from Middle East on military aircraft](#) (2026-03-15 02:36)

South Korea is evacuating more than 200 of its nationals from parts of the Middle East amid escalating regional tensions, with a military transport aircraft carrying the group currently en route to Korea, the Foreign Ministry said Sunday. A total of 204 South Korean citizens, along with five foreign family members and two Japanese citizens, departed Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on Saturday aboard a KC-330 military transport aircraft dispatched by the government. The aircraft is currently flying toward

- [American flag raised at US Embassy in Venezuela for the 1st time since 2019](#) (2026-03-15 02:36)

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) -- The American flag was raised Saturday over the US Embassy in Venezuela for the first time since 2019, a move that highlighted the recent shift in relations between the two countries since then President Nicolás Maduro was captured by American troops in January. Though the flag is now waving, the building is undergoing renovations and it remains unclear when it will fully reopen. The move comes after several statements from US President Donald Trump in support of Maduro

- [SNU, KAIST drop in Nature Index rankings as China leads global research](#) (2026-03-15 02:24)

South Korea's top universities slipped in the Nature Index, a global ranking that tracks research published in leading science journals, as Chinese institutions tightened their grip on the list. The latest index, compiled by academic publisher Springer Nature, placed Seoul National University 59th worldwide and Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology 84th among research institutions. In the previous tables released in June last year, the two schools ranked 52nd and 82nd, respectively.

- [US eases some Russian oil sanctions but crude prices stay high](#) (2026-03-15 02:10)

The US is temporarily easing some sanctions on Russian oil shipments, reflecting global concerns over sharply higher crude prices due to supply shortages stemming from the Iran war. The move, intended to soothe jittery markets over the disruption of Middle Eastern oil and gas supplies, underlines how the war has boosted Moscow's ability to profit from its energy exports, a pillar of the Kremlin's budget as it presses its invasion of Ukraine. US sanctions will not apply for 30 days on deliveries

- [Meta planning sweeping layoffs](#) (2026-03-15 02:04)

NEW YORK (Reuters) -- Meta is planning sweeping layoffs that could affect 20 percent or more of the company, three sources familiar with the matter told Reuters, as Meta seeks to offset costly artificial intelligence infrastructure bets and prepare for greater efficiency brought about by AI-assisted workers. No date has been set for the cuts and the magnitude has not been finalized, the people said. Top executives have recently signaled the plans to other senior leaders at Meta and told them t

- [Seoul capsule hotel fire puts authorities on alert ahead of BTS show](#) (2026-03-15 02:01)

A Japanese tourist remained unconscious Sunday after a Saturday evening fire at a capsule hotel in central Seoul injured several foreign nationals. According to fire authorities, 10 foreign nationals were injured in the blaze Saturday at a capsule hotel in Sogong-dong, near the popular tourist district of Myeong-dong. Three people suffered serious injuries, including a Japanese woman in her 50s who has yet to regain consciousness, officials said. The other seven sustained minor injuries and were

- [Kharg Island: Vital Iran oil hub in Trump's crosshairs](#) (2026-03-15 01:13)

PARIS, France (AFP) -- Kharg Island, targeted in US air strikes on Saturday, is a scrubby stretch of land in the Gulf that handles almost all of Iran's crude exports. Announcing the strikes, US President Donald Trump described Kharg as a "crown jewel" for Iran and maintained that every military target on the island had been "totally obliterated". The island, located around 30 kilometers off the Iranian mainland, is a hub for roughly 90 percent of Iran's crude exports, according to a JPMorgan not

- [N. Korea says conducted firepower strike drill with 600 mm ultra-precision multiple rocket launchers](#) (2026-03-15 00:18)

North Korea conducted a firepower strike drill involving 600-millimeter ultra-precision multiple rocket launchers, attended by leader Kim Jong-un, state media reported Sunday. "A long-range artillery sub-unit of the Korean People's Army in the western area conducted a firepower strike drill" the previous day, involving 12 "600 mm-calibre ultra-precision multiple rocket launchers and two artillery companies," the Korean Central News Agency said. The previous day, South Korea's military detected a

- [Military aircraft bringing back 211 S. Koreans, foreigners from Saudi Arabia amid Mideast conflict](#) (2026-03-15 00:14)

A South Korean military transport aircraft is bringing home 204 nationals from Saudi Arabia, officials said Sunday, in the first airlift evacuation using a military plane since the conflict began in the Middle East late last month. A KC-330 Cygnus multirole aerial tanker carrying 204 South Koreans and seven others of foreign nationalities departed from Riyadh on Saturday and is expected to land at Seoul Air Base in Seongnam, south of the capital, on Sunday afternoon. The operation, named "Desert

- [Trump calls on S, Korea, China, Japan, others to send ships to keep Hormuz Strait open](#) (2026-03-15 00:10)

US President Donald Trump said Saturday that "hopefully" South Korea and other countries affected by Iran's attempt to close the Strait of Hormuz will send ships to keep the crucial oil shipping route "open and safe" amid growing concerns over disruptions to shipping along the waterway. Trump made the remarks in a social media post as his administration has been ramping up pressure on the Islamic Republic to stop the move to block the strait, which is responsible for about a fifth of the world's

- [On this day in Korea - March 15: AI triumphs in Go: AlphaGo defeat Lee Se-dol](#) (2026-03-14 16:00)

Google's artificial intelligence program AlphaGo defeated South Korean Go master Lee Se-dol 4-1 in a five-game match in Seoul in 2016, marking a historic milestone in AI development. Developed by Google DeepMind, AlphaGo used deep neural networks and reinforcement

learning, improving through self-play rather than relying solely on brute-force calculation. GivenGo's complexity and its demand for human intuition, experts had predicted such breakthrough was still years away. The result stunned b

- [Search under way for 2 crewmembers missing in ship fire off Jeju](#) (2026-03-14 14:52)

Coast Guard personnel were searching for two crewmembers Saturday after a fishing boat carrying them caught fire off the southern island of Jeju and sank, leaving them missing. A fire was reported on the 29-ton vessel about 90 kilometers southwest of Jeju's Chagwi Island at 9:58 a.m., with 10 crewmembers aboard, according to the Coast Guard. Eight of them were rescued by fishermen aboard nearby ships -- two South Koreans and six Indonesians -- but the two others -- both South Koreans -- remained

- [10 injured in building fire in central Seoul](#) (2026-03-14 14:48)

Three people sustained serious injuries in a fire that broke out at a seven-story building in central Seoul on Saturday, while seven others suffered minor injuries, mostly foreigners. The fire broke out at what was reported to be a capsule hotel on the third floor of the building in Seoul's central Jung district at 6:10 p.m., according to firefighting authorities. Three people were taken to hospitals with serious injuries, while seven others were treated at the scene for minor injuries, authorit

- [Guest house fire in Seoul injures 10, mostly foreign tourists](#) (2026-03-14 12:13)

A fire at a guest house popular with foreign travelers in central Seoul on Saturday evening injured 10 people, Seoul fire officials said. The blaze broke out at about 6:10 p.m. on the third floor of a seven-story building in Sogong-dong, Jung-gu, according to the Seoul Jungbu Fire Station. Firefighters raised their response to Level 1 -- an elevated status that activates an incident command and mobilizes additional fire engines, ambulances, rescue teams and interagency coordination -- and mounte

- [S. Korea, US hold river-crossing drills amid North 's missile firing](#) (2026-03-14 11:59)

The South Korean and US militaries staged joint river-crossing drills in the border county of Yeoncheon on Saturday as part of their annual key springtime exercise aimed at enhancing interoperability between the allies. The field training coincided with North Korea firing around 10 ballistic missiles toward the East Sea earlier in the day. The North's missile launch came in an apparent muscle-flexing against the Seoul-Washington joint military exercise. The training took place on the Imjin River

- [S. Korea's WBC run ends in quarterfinals](#) (2026-03-14 11:55)

With its pitchers getting knocked around left and right, South Korea's run at the World Baseball Classic ended with a big loss in the quarterfinals Friday night in Miami. South Korea endured a 10-0 loss to the mighty Dominican Republic at loanDepot park, a game that was called after seven innings when Austin Wells' three-run shot provided the final margin of victory. Under

WBC regulations, a game can be called early if a team is up by 15 runs after five innings or 10 runs after seven innings. Th

- [S. Korea wins int'l arbitration case against elevator maker Schindler](#) (2026-03-14 11:41)

South Korea has won an international arbitration case brought by Swiss elevator manufacturer Schindler Holding AG, avoiding a potential payout of 320 billion won (\$211.4 million) in damages, the justice ministry said Saturday. Speaking during a press briefing at the government complex in Seoul, Justice Minister Jung Sung-ho said the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) in The Hague dismissed all of the Swiss company's claims in a ruling issued early Saturday, including the 320 billion-won damage

- [Lee congratulates para cross-country skier for winning 4 medals](#) (2026-03-14 07:02)

President Lee Jae Myung on Saturday congratulated para cross-country skier Kim Yun-ji for her groundbreaking feat of clinching four medals in the ongoing Winter Paralympics in northern Italy. "I congratulate Kim on her fourth medal. It is an amazing accomplishment that makes it hard to believe it is her first Olympics participation," Lee wrote on Facebook, saying she "made history." Lee said he hopes the athlete will perform her best in the remaining cross-country skiing 20 kilometer interval st

- [Director didn't like ending of 'King Lear.' Here's how he changed it](#) (2026-03-14 07:00)

Unlike the original play by William Shakespeare, the protagonists in director Ko Sun-woong's reinterpretation, "King Lear: An Apocrypha," do not meet a tragic end. The aging king still dies in the end, but only after defeating the villains. Cordelia, Lear's youngest daughter and the only one who remains loyal to him, survives and looks toward a new love with Edgar, the son of Gloucester, who is unjustly cast out by his father. "King Lear" has inspired countless reinterpretations, but few have go

- [When spring calls in Jeju](#) (2026-03-14 07:00)

JEJU ISLAND — On South Korea's southernmost island, spring tends to arrive a little earlier than on the mainland. By March, travelers arriving in Jeju often hope to catch one of the island's most iconic seasonal sights: fields of bright yellow canola flowers swaying in the wind. Along Jeju Olle Trail Course 19, overlooking Hamdeok Beach on the island's north coast, a well-known canola field spreads across a gentle hill. Bright yellow flowers stand against a backdrop of green fields and deep blue

- [The quiet wisdom of plants: What they teach us about living peacefully](#) (2026-03-14 07:00)

Plants bloom and fade in their season. Petals and leaves fall at their appointed time, and the remarkable mystery is that plants prepare the place where a petal will eventually let go, writes the Korean botanist and award-winning botanical illustrator Shin Hye-woo in her book "A Botanist's Forest Diary." They produce a substance called lignin along that line, forming a kind of natural seam. When the moment comes, the petal slips away cleanly from the plant,

parting at precisely the spot where it

- [In K-beauty, hair gets the skin care treatment — and the world is catching on](#) (2026-03-14 07:00)

In January, Vogue declared in a headline what Seoul already knew: "Korean hair care products bring a skin-care-first approach to repairing and hydrating." Korean beauty has quietly been ahead in both what it makes and how it thinks about the body — scalp included — being deserving of the same obsessive care as the face. And in recent years, the rest of the world seems to be catching up. According to data from the Korea Customs Service, exports of hair care products hit a record \$478 million in 2

- [From TV phenomenon to culinary boom: Korea's Michelin scene expands](#) (2026-03-14 07:00)

BUSAN — The landscape of South Korean gastronomy has undergone a dynamic shift, evolving from a culture rooted in value-for-money pragmatism to a fine dining powerhouse. Fine dining has been relegated to the margins for several reasons in the past, including inaccessible pricing and reservations. Many Korean customers also prefer high-volume, immediate-gratification dining over exclusive and methodical, multi-hour tasting menus. However, the debut of the Netflix phenomenon "Culinary Class Wars"

- [Kimchi mislabeled as Chinese ‘pao cai’ in Taiwan stores, professor says](#) (2026-03-14 07:00)

Korean kimchi is being sold as a Chinese delicacy in several markets and stores in Taiwan, according to a professor and promoter of Korean culture. Seo Kyoung-duk, a professor at Sungshin Women's University, said Thursday that several people who recently visited Taiwan sent him photos showing kimchi displayed with inaccurate origins and names. He shared a photo of kimchi served at a hotel restaurant in Taipei, where the dish was labeled "Chinese side dishes" in English and "Chinese-style pao cai

- [S. Korea, Japan to hold regular policy dialogue on trade, supply chain issues](#) (2026-03-14 06:52)

South Korea and Japan agreed Saturday to establish a regular communication channel between their industry ministries to better manage various trade, economic security and supply chain issues, Seoul's industry ministry said. The agreement was made at a meeting between South Korean Industry Minister Kim Jung-kwan and his Japanese counterpart, Ryosei Akazawa, held on the sidelines of the inaugural Indo-Pacific energy security ministerial meeting in Tokyo, according to the Ministry of Trade, Industr

- [S. Korea wins int'l arbitration case against elevator maker Schindler](#) (2026-03-14 06:35)

South Korea has won an international arbitration case brought by Swiss elevator manufacturer Schindler Holding AG, avoiding a potential payout of 320 billion won (\$211.4 million) in

damages, the justice ministry said Saturday. Speaking during a press briefing at the government complex in Seoul, Justice Minister Jung Sung-ho said the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) in The Hague dismissed all of the Swiss company's claims in a ruling issued early Saturday, including the 320 billion-won damage

- [N. Korea fires projectile as S. Korea, US conduct joint drills](#) (2026-03-14 05:33)

North Korea fired at least one unidentified projectile in an eastward direction Saturday, the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said, as South Korea and the United States were conducting their key springtime military exercise. The JCS said it detected the launch, without providing further details. The latest launch came as South Korea and the United States kicked off their annual Freedom Shield exercise Monday for an 11-day run. The North has long denounced the allies' combined military drills as a re

- [Ryu Hyun-jin announces retirement from int'l play after loss to Dominican Republic](#) (2026-03-14 04:44)

It's not the way he wanted to end it, but following a loss to the Dominican Republic in the quarterfinals of the World Baseball Classic (WBC) on Friday, South Korean pitcher Ryu Hyun-jin announced his retirement from international play. Ryu was the losing pitcher in a 10-0 Dominican victory over South Korea at loanDepot park in Miami, where the left-handed starter allowed three runs in 1 2/3 innings. "I think this is it for me," said Ryu, who turns 39 on March 25. "The ending is disappointing, b

- [N. Korea fires unidentified projectile eastward: JCS](#) (2026-03-14 04:41)

North Korea fired at least one unidentified projectile in an eastward direction Saturday, South Korea's military said. The Joint Chiefs of Staff said it detected the launch, without providing further details. The North last fired multiple short-range ballistic missiles toward the East Sea on Jan. 27. The latest launch came as South Korea and the United States are conducting their annual springtime Freedom Shield military exercise. (Yonhap)

- [Man nabbed after stabbing woman to death in Namyangju](#) (2026-03-14 03:14)

A man who had fled after fatally stabbing a woman he had dated on a street in Namyangju, near Seoul, on Saturday has been apprehended, police said. The police received a report at around 9 a.m. that the suspect, in his 40s, stabbed the woman in her 30s in Namyangju, about 20 kilometers east of Seoul, according to the officials. The victim was found in a state of cardiac arrest and was sent to a hospital but died. She had been under police protection. The suspect is known to be an ex-convict who

- [Trump says U.S. will hit Iran 'very hard' over next week, war will end when he feels it 'in my bones'](#) (2026-03-14 01:53)

US President Donald Trump has said that the United States will hit Iran "very hard" over the next week, as the US military operation against the Islamic Republic enters its 14th day, aiming

to destroy Tehran's missile capabilities, its Navy, and end its pathway to nuclear arms. During a Fox News radio interview released Friday, he also said that the ongoing war between the United States, Israel and Iran will end when he feels it "in my bones," as he pointed to progress that the US military has m

- [Man flees after stabbing woman to death in Namyangju](#) (2026-03-14 01:51)

A man has fled after fatally stabbing a woman on a street in Namyangju, near Seoul, on Saturday, prompting the police to track him down, officials said. The police received a report at around 9 a.m. that the suspect killed a woman in her 30s in Namyangju, about 20 kilometers east of Seoul, according to the officials. The suspect is known to be an ex-convict who was mandated to wear an electronic ankle monitoring device. (Yonhap)

- [Starter gets early hook, relievers struggle in big loss in quarterfinals](#) (2026-03-14 01:48)

The veteran pitcher that the team trusted the most couldn't deliver the goods, and the relievers that followed him failed to put out the fire, as South Korea took a beating from the Dominican Republic in the quarterfinals of the World Baseball Classic (WBC) on Friday. The Dominicans shut down South Korea 10-0 at loanDepot park in Miami to advance to the semifinals. The game ended on a mercy rule with two outs in the seventh when Austin Wells' three-run home run gave the Dominicans a 10-run lead.

- [N. Korea promotes new street for families of soldiers killed in Russia-Ukraine war](#) (2026-03-14 01:43)

Families of North Korean soldiers killed during the Russia-Ukraine war have begun to move into homes on a newly built street in Pyongyang, state media said Saturday, saying it is the country's duty to help take care of such bereaved families. The families began to move into the homes located on Saeppyol Street, welcomed by Premier Pak Thae-song, as well as other party and government officials, the North's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said. The officials were quoted as saying it is their dut

- [PM Kim says Trump positive about dialogue with N. Korea's Kim but leaves open its timing](#) (2026-03-14 01:42)

South Korean Prime Minister Kim Min-seok said Friday that US President Donald Trump remained positive about the resumption of dialogue with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un but left open the question of when they will meet again. Kim made the remarks during a press briefing on the 20-minute talks with Trump at the White House, underlining Trump's show of interest in diplomacy with Pyongyang amid speculation that he could seek a meeting with the North Korean leader during his upcoming trip to Chin

- [S. Korea humbled by Dominican Republic in quarterfinals](#) (2026-03-14 01:38)

South Korea absorbed a 10-0 loss to the Dominican Republic in the quarterfinals of the World Baseball Classic (WBC) on Friday, as its first trip to the knockout stage lasted just one game. The

Dominican Republic scored three times in the second and four more times in the third atloanDepot park in Miami, while South Korea managed just two hits. The game was called withtwo outs in the bottom of the seventh when Austin Wells launched a three-run homer off SoHyeong-jun to put the Dominicans up by

- [Ghanaian companies ready to partner Korean firms: President Mahama](#) (2026-03-13 14:00)

Ghanaian companies are ready to expand partnerships with Korean firms and position themselves as a gateway for South Korea's investment into the broader African market. Ghanaian President John Dramani Mahama made the remarks while delivering a keynote speech at Ghana Day 2026, commemorating the 69th anniversary of Ghana's independence on Friday. "I am particularly pleased that major Korean automobile companies such as Hyundai Motor Company and Kia Corporation have partnered with local Ghanaian f

- [Paik Kun-woo returns to Schubert in album marking 80th birthday and 70 years on stage](#) (2026-03-13 12:33)

South Korean pianist Paik Kun-woo will release a new album devoted to Franz Schubert, marking both his 80th birthday and the 70th anniversary of his debut. The album, titled "Schubert," will be released worldwide on March 26, 2026, through Universal Music. The first single -- the first movement of Schubert's Piano Sonata No. 13 in A major, D.664 -- was released on March 5. The two-disc recording brings together four of Schubert's piano sonatas — Nos. 13, 14, 18 and 20 — works that Paik says refl

- [Air China to resume Beijing-Pyongyang flights after 6-year suspension](#) (2026-03-13 11:26)

China's national carrier Air China will resume passenger flights between Beijing and Pyongyang for the first time in six years, according to reports Friday. The airline plans to restart flights from Beijing to the North Korean capital starting Aug. 25, the reports said. The route had been suspended since 2020 as cross-border travel was halted following the outbreak of COVID-19. The move comes as China and North Korea gradually restore cross-border exchanges that had been largely frozen during th

- [Lee suggests wider regional integration for Daejeon, Chungcheong provinces](#) (2026-03-13 09:44)

President Lee Jae Myung on Friday floated the idea of integrating the central city of Daejeon with South and North Chungcheong provinces as part of broader regional integration efforts. Lee made the remarks during a town hall meeting with residents in North Chungcheong Province, as the ruling Democratic Party's move to enact a special law to merge Daejeon and South Chungcheong Province has faced hurdles ahead of the June local elections. "I thought merging Daejeon and South Chungcheong Province

- [S. Korea warns of stern response to Japan PM's renewed Dokdo claim](#) (2026-03-13 09:43)

South Korea's foreign ministry said Friday it will take stern action against Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's renewed territorial claim over the easternmost South Korean islets of Dokdo. "We will respond firmly and sternly to any unjust claims by Japan regarding Dokdo," the foreign ministry said in a statement. "Dokdo is clearly our territory historically, geographically and under international law." On Thursday, Takaichi said Japan would clearly inform the international community that D

- [Army expands VR-based training for reservists](#) (2026-03-13 08:15)

The Korean Army is expanding its use of virtual reality and digital monitoring technologies in reserve force training, as part of efforts to make drills more realistic and improve training effectiveness. The Army said Friday it had unveiled a range of technology-integrated reserve training programs at the Seocho Reserve Training Center in southern Seoul, operated by the 52nd Infantry Division. A centerpiece of the new system is a virtual reality shooting simulator that uses a three-sided multisc

- [Korea Zinc chair eyes buyback of Bain Capital stake amid control battle](#) (2026-03-13 08:02)

Korea Zinc Chairman Choi Yun-beom is reportedly exploring ways to buy back the stake in the smelter held by private equity firm Bain Capital, a move that could strengthen his position in the ongoing control battle with Young Poong and MBK Partners. According to industry sources Friday, Choi's camp has recently been seeking financing options to acquire Bain Capital's 2.01 percent stake in Korea Zinc. Possible approaches include a direct buyback or bringing in new financial partners to take over t

- [Legal battle looms over use of 2015 'comfort women' fund for compensation](#) (2026-03-13 07:32)

A legal dispute has emerged over whether the remaining funds from the 2015 bilateral agreement on Japan's wartime sexual slavery can be used to compensate a victim's family, after the South Korean government filed an objection to a court decision ordering payment. According to the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family and legal officials on Friday, the Reconciliation and Healing Foundation submitted an objection on March 3 to a compulsory mediation decision by the Seoul Central District Court.

- [Is a new K-pop power map emerging in 2026?](#) (2026-03-13 07:32)

South Korea's K-pop industry may be entering a new phase of competition in 2026, as several prominent producers and entertainment companies prepare to launch new boy bands in the first half of the year. The renewed attention comes as veteran producer Lee Soo-man reached the end of a three-year noncompete agreement in late February, following his departure from SM Entertainment in 2023. With Lee expected to return to the Korean market with a new boy band, industry observers say the coming months

- [Gwangju Biennale 2026 will explore the transformative potential of art](#) (2026-03-13 07:22)

The Gwangju Biennale 2026 will explore transformation through art under the theme “You Must Change Your Life,” led by Singaporean artist Ho Tzu Nyen as artistic director. The title is inspired by the closing line of Austrian poet Rainer Maria Rilke’s poem “Archaic Torso of Apollo.” In the 1908 poem, the fragment of an ancient sculpture confronts the viewer with an intense emotional force, ultimately calling for a transformation of one’s life. Drawing from this idea, the upcoming edition will ref

- [Major roads in central Seoul to be closed Sunday for 2026 Seoul Marathon](#) (2026-03-13 07:09)

Major roads across central Seoul will be closed on Sunday for the 2026 Seoul Marathon, with authorities warning of significant traffic congestion throughout the morning and early afternoon. According to the police, the marathon is expected to draw around 20,000 participants each in the full course (42.195 kilometers) and the 10-kilometer race. The full marathon will start at Gwanghwamun Square, passing through Sejong-daero, Eulji-ro, Jong-ro, Cheonho-daero, Gwangnaru-ro, Wangsimni-ro, Ttukseom-r

- [Father of newborn saves five lives through organ donation](#) (2026-03-13 07:09)

Park Seong-bae, a 41-year-old father of a 60-day-old daughter, had his organs donated to five patients after his brain death on Jan. 30, the Korea Organ Donation Agency said Friday. Born the eldest son in Busan, Park worked at a shipyard after graduating from college. He had a soft personality and enjoyed playing soccer on weekends, according to his peers. He suffered a severe headache on Jan. 19 and was rushed to a hospital, but never regained consciousness and was later declared brain-dead. Af

- [Dying man calls 119, but emergency workers fail to find him in locked building](#) (2026-03-13 06:44)

A government worker called the 119 emergency service hours before he was found dead Friday, but the officers who were dispatched to the scene failed to pinpoint his location to provide medical care. The victim's body was found at around 6:45 a.m. on Friday inside the Suseong-gu District Office building in Daegu where he worked. Police did not find evidence suggesting foul play or suicide and found remains of food he is thought to have eaten. According to the Daegu Fire & Safety Department, the v

- [Off-duty firefighter saves elderly lady while visiting childhood home](#) (2026-03-13 06:44)

A 44-year-old firefighter provided emergency care for an elderly woman he encountered during the Lunar New Year holidays, Seoul Metropolitan Fire & Disaster Headquarters said Friday. Capt. Lee Hyeong-eun of the Eunpyeong Fire Station was visiting his childhood home in Incheon on Feb. 18, when he saw the victim fall backwards and hit her head on the floor. He called emergency services and provided emergency medical assistance by supporting her spine to prevent additional damage. Officials said Le

- [Hybe' s Latin boy band Santos Bravos releases first EP 'Dual'](#) (2026-03-13 06:28)

Latin boy band Santos Bravos released its first EP, “Dual,” on Friday, marking the group’ s first new music in about two months, according to Hybe Latin America on the same day. According to the label, the six-track album highlights the group’ s contrasting musical styles, blending genres such as reggaeton, Brazilian funk and club-inspired sounds. The lead track, “Mhm,” is a Latin pop song built on soft synths and percussion, paired with the group's warm vocals. The song captures the excitement of

- [Korea's Araon brings emissions-cutting tech to India in CSR push](#) (2026-03-13 06:26)

Araon, a South Korean startup specializing in vehicle emissions reduction technology, said Friday it is promoting a project in India that combines Korean environmental technology with corporate social responsibility initiatives by Korean firms operating in the country. The project aims to reduce vehicle emissions and improve fuel efficiency in major Indian cities by installing Araon’ s emissions-control devices on corporate and public vehicles. This project is being carried out in cooperation with

- [AmCham, Korea's privacy chief discuss cross-border data rules for AI era](#) (2026-03-13 06:23)

The American Chamber of Commerce in Korea hosted a policy dialogue Friday with Personal Information Protection Commission Chairperson Song Kyung-hee to discuss Korea’ s data protection policies and the evolving role of trusted data use in the artificial intelligence era. The session, held at the Grand Hyatt Seoul, brought together about 80 representatives from AmCham member companies and the broader business community. During the event, Song outlined the government’ s policy direction for Korea’ s

- [Toss unveils 'Money 3.0' blueprint for borderless finance](#) (2026-03-13 06:20)

Viva Republica, operator of the fintech platform Toss, said Thursday it is moving toward a new “Money 3.0” era centered on blockchain and stablecoins, outlining its vision at the 2026 Seoul Blockchain Meetup Conference in Seoul. Speaking at the event held at the Seoul Textile Center, Seo Chang-whoon, corporate development director at Toss, introduced the company’ s future financial model under the theme “Trust as infrastructure: a digital economy driven by blockchain and stablecoins.” The present

- [Celltrion to accelerate biosimilar pipeline on eased US regulations](#) (2026-03-13 06:20)

Celltrion said Friday it will immediately apply newly eased US biosimilar development rules to its pipeline, a move expected to cut development costs and shorten timelines. The decision follows the recent release of the fourth revision of the biosimilar development Q&A guidelines by the US Food and Drug Administration, which simplifies pharmacokinetic testing requirements for biosimilars. A key change in the revision relaxes the criteria for reference drugs used in clinical comparisons. Previous

- [Hyundai Motor Group to unveil robotics, autonomy roadmap at Kia Investor Day on April 9](#) (2026-03-13 06:19)

Hyundai Motor Group plans to unveil key strategies for autonomous driving and humanoid robotics at an upcoming investor event hosted by Kia next month, highlighting the group's push to commercialize physical AI-based technologies. According to local media reports Friday, senior technology leaders across the group will present commercialization roadmaps at Kia's Investor Day on April 9. Speakers are expected to include Park Min-woo, president of Hyundai Motor Group's Advanced Vehicle Platform div

- [Posco Future M, Sila partner on next-generation battery materials](#) (2026-03-13 06:19)

Posco Future M said Friday it has signed a memorandum of understanding with US battery materials firm Sila to jointly develop next-generation battery materials aimed at extending battery lifespan. The agreement was signed Wednesday in Seoul, with Hong Young-jun, head of Posco Future M's R&D center, and Gleb Yushin, founder and chief technology officer of Sila, attending the ceremony. Under the partnership, Posco Future M will combine its expertise in cathode, anode and carbon materials with Sila

- [Orion's Ojingeo Peanut turns 50 with fresh new packaging](#) (2026-03-13 06:12)

Orion Corp. on Friday unveiled a redesigned package for its iconic snack Ojingeo Peanut to celebrate the product's 50th anniversary, marking half a century of one of Korea's most beloved treats. The new design highlights the phrase "50 Years of the Original," proudly emphasizing the snack's heritage and long-standing popularity across generations of Korean consumers. First introduced in 1976, Ojingeo Peanut has remained a staple snack thanks to its distinctive texture and flavor. The product is

- [President Lee Jae Myung to hold summit with France's Macron during state visit](#) (2026-03-13 06:11)

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung will hold a summit with French President Emmanuel Macron on April 3 during Macron's state visit to South Korea, Cheong Wa Dae said Thursday. According to Cheong Wa Dae, Macron's state visit will take place from April 2 to 3 at Lee's invitation. Macron will be the first European leader to make a state visit since the launch of Lee's administration. The trip will also mark the first visit to South Korea by a French president in 11 years and Macron's first visit

- [Education Ministry notifies universities of expanded medical school quotas for 2027-2031](#) (2026-03-13 05:58)

South Korea on Friday confirmed the medical school admission quota for the 2027 academic year will increase to 3,538, as part of a five-year plan to boost the number of newly qualified doctors by 2031. The Ministry of Education said it has notified universities of the increased medical school admission quotas allocated to select institutions. There will be 490 additional seats in 2027 and 613 more seats annually from 2028 to 2031, compared to the base figure of

3,058 in 2024. The government emph

- [Korea' s first dating show for the disabled challenges genre with tender, humanistic lens](#) (2026-03-13 05:58)

South Korean broadcasting has long been a powerhouse for the dating show genre, but SBS' latest three-part series, "Mongle Mongle Mongle," is breaking new ground by centering on a demographic often left out of romantic narratives -- people with disabilities. The program follows the journey of three young adults -- Ji-hyun, who has a level 3 intellectual disability; Ji-hoon, who is on the autism spectrum; and Ji-won, who has Down syndrome -- as they embark on blind dates with other young adults w

- [Police raid Transport Ministry over Jeju Air plane crash disaster](#) (2026-03-13 05:45)

The special police unit investigating the deadly 2024 Jeju Air plane crash conducted a search-and-seizure operation at the related government ministry to look into the causes of the accident, officials said Friday. The police said they sent officials to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport to investigate officials who worked in the Air Navigation Satellite Policy Division and the Airport Operation Division at the time of the accident. The Jeju Air aircraft collided with a concrete

- [Diplomat highlights growing Korean investments in India](#) (2026-03-13 05:41)

The India-Korea Strategic Business Forum 2026, co-hosted by the Indian Chamber of Commerce in Korea, Deloitte and ICICI Bank, highlighted the expansion of Korean investments in India on Wednesday. Speaking at the event, Nishi Kant Singh, deputy ambassador at the Indian Embassy in Korea, cited Korean companies' expansion in India as a "second wave" of investment, signaling deeper economic integration. Singh referred to the decadelong India-Korea strategic partnership, which is marking its 11th an

- [Coupang CEO joins early-morning delivery shift](#) (2026-03-13 05:34)

Coupang CEO Harold Rogers conducted an overnight visit to a logistics site and joined early-morning deliveries, according to industry sources on Friday. Rogers visited a delivery camp near Seongnam in Gyeonggi Province late Thursday night and helped deliver early-morning orders alongside logistics workers in the area. The visit became known after photos believed to show Rogers at the site were posted on an online community by a person identified as a warehouse worker. Coupang confirmed that Roge

- [President Lee asks public to tell him of fuel price cap violators](#) (2026-03-13 05:32)

President Lee Jae Myung on Friday asked the public to tell him directly of any gas stations that violate the fuel price cap that took effect Friday. "The public' s monitoring and participation are needed to ensure that some sellers don' t gain unfair profits," Lee wrote on his X account. "If you find any gas stations and such that break the regulation, report to me without hesitation." The price cap limits the price of fuel supplied by refiners to gas stations to 1,724

won (\$1.16) per liter of gas

- [South Korea to require approval for hiring foreign, dual-national staff at defense firms](#) (2026-03-13 05:05)

Defense companies in South Korea will be required to obtain government approval when appointing foreign nationals or dual nationals to executive posts or positions handling defense technologies, according to sources Friday. The requirement is part of revisions to the Defense Acquisition Program Act and the Defense Industry Technology Protection Act, which were recently approved at a Cabinet meeting, sources familiar with the matter said. The move comes amid growing concerns that appointing forei

- [Indonesian novel ‘Cigarette Girl,’ adapted for Netflix, introduced to Korean readers](#) (2026-03-13 04:57)

An Indonesian historical novel exploring love, family and social change across generations has been introduced to Korean readers, marking another step in literary exchange between Southeast Asia and Korea. “Cigarette Girl,” written by Indonesian author Ratih Kumala, was recently published in Korean through the Hansae Yes24 Foundation’s Southeast Asian Literature Series, a program dedicated to introducing major works from the region to Korean audiences. Kumala said the Korean publication of her b

- [Korean Air to buy back catering unit from Hahn & Co. for W750b](#) (2026-03-13 04:56)

Hahn & Co. is selling back Korean Air’s in-flight catering and duty-free retail business to the airline for 750 billion won (\$503 million), more than five years after acquiring the unit during the COVID-19 pandemic. The private equity firm said Thursday it has signed definitive agreements to sell its 80 percent stake in Korean Air Catering & Duty Free Service (Korean Air C&D) to the flag carrier. The deal covers 5.01 million shares and is expected to close for about 750 billion won. Once complet

- [From space to seabed: Kim Dong-kwan’s global gambit for Hanwha](#) (2026-03-13 04:37)

Ever since Kim Dong-kwan formally debuted at Hanwha Group in 2010, his every move has been under watchful eyes. Industry analysts have long questioned whether the young heir is merely another silver-spoon scion or a leader capable of steering the 70-year-old defense-to-energy giant into its next chapter. Kim, the eldest son of Hanwha Group Chair Kim Seung-young, spent the past 16 years beating back industry-wide cynicism through performance. Since stepping into a managerial role at Hanwha at age

- [BTS releases animation inspired by ‘Arirang’ ahead of new album](#) (2026-03-13 03:56)

BTS has released an animated video inspired by the Korean folk song “Arirang” ahead of the group’s upcoming album of the same name. The video begins with a scene set in 1896, showing seven young men gathered around a phonograph. As the device is wound up, the melody of “Arirang,” widely regarded as Korea’s most representative folk song, begins to

play. The story then follows the characters as they cross the Pacific Ocean by ship and record the song in a foreign country, sharing it with local aud

- [Canada plant powers LG Energy Solution growth amid EV slowdown](#) (2026-03-13 03:37)

LG Energy Solution's Canadian battery plant is emerging as a bright spot for the company as the global electric vehicle market slows, offsetting weaker performance at some of its European and US facilities. According to the company's audit report released Thursday, NextStar Energy, LG Energy Solution's battery plant in Windsor, Ontario, posted revenue of 362.4 billion won (\$268 million) last year, up 22.4 percent from a year earlier. Operating profit reached 53 billion won, surging nearly fivefold

- [KG Mobility ramps up Southeast Asia push with Vietnam KD plant](#) (2026-03-13 03:37)

KG Mobility said Friday it is accelerating its push into Southeast Asia by strengthening cooperation with its Vietnamese knock-down (KD) production partner. The Korean automaker said Chairman Kwak Jae-sun visited Vietnam this week to review production preparations and discuss expanding collaboration with local partner FUTA Group ahead of the company's market entry. During the visit, Kwak met with FUTA Group Chairman Nguyen Huu Luan at the group's headquarters in Da Nang to discuss ways to deepen

- [Youngone Holdings lifts dividend 23% on strong earnings](#) (2026-03-13 03:37)

Youngone Holdings said Friday it has significantly increased dividends for shareholders, supported by solid earnings growth despite uncertainties in the global fashion industry. The holding company of outdoor apparel manufacturer Youngone Corp. approved a year-end dividend of 4,176 won (\$3.09) per share at a recent board meeting. Including interim payouts, the total dividend for 2025 reached 6,576 won per share, up 23 percent from 5,350 won a year earlier. The total dividend payout amounts to 76

- [Starbucks takes spending crown, Mega Coffee leads visits in Korea](#) (2026-03-13 03:32)

Starbucks ranked as the food and beverage retail brand with the highest total spending by Korean consumers, while budget coffee chain Mega Coffee recorded the most transactions, according to data released Friday by market analytics firm Wiseapp Retail. Based on a sample analysis of Korean credit and debit card payments, Starbucks topped the list of food and beverage retail brands by total payment value over the six months from September 2025 to February 2026. When Starbucks' spending was indexed

- [LS Group rides power supercycle to record earnings](#) (2026-03-13 03:32)

LS Group said Wednesday it posted record revenue and operating profit in 2025, driven by strong demand for power infrastructure during the global "electricity supercycle." The Korean industrial group reported consolidated revenue of 45.7 trillion won (\$31.4 billion) and operating profit of 1.49 trillion won last year, marking the highest figures since its establishment in 2003. Revenue and operating profit rose 9.1 percent and 23.1 percent year-on-year,

respectively. LS attributed the strong per

- [Standard Chartered leadership gathers in Seoul for strategy talks](#) (2026-03-13 03:32)

Standard Chartered Korea said Friday that senior executives from its parent organization, Standard Chartered, visited Seoul this week to hold a Group Management Team meeting and engage with employees and clients in Korea. The meeting took place from Monday to Wednesday at Standard Chartered Korea's headquarters in Jongno, central Seoul. The visit included Standard Chartered Group CEO Bill Winters and other senior executives. Standard Chartered said its global leadership regularly holds management

- [Chief judges warn of 'external pressure' on courts after judicial reform laws take effect](#) (2026-03-13 03:26)

Forty-four chief judges from courts nationwide gathered Thursday in Jecheon, North Chungcheong Province, to discuss follow-up measures after three judicial reform laws took effect the same day. "There are concerns that the fundamental structure of Korea's judicial system may change following the passage of the three judicial reform laws," said Ki Woo-jong, acting minister of the National Court Administration, during the meeting. The three laws include provisions allowing constitutional complaint

- [BTS gives fans taste of new album 'Arirang'](#) (2026-03-13 03:01)

A snippet of BTS' soon-to-be-released album, "Arirang," was unveiled Friday. A sliver of animated film set in the 19th century shows seven young men gathered in front of a gramophone, which winds up to play the Korean traditional song "Arirang." They then cross the Pacific Ocean, recording and singing songs before the backdrop switches to BTS on stage, awashed in its signature color, purple. The final scene has the seven members standing tall in front of Gwanghwamun, where they are set to hail t

- [BTS to hold off-site rehearsal ahead of Gwanghwamun comeback concert](#) (2026-03-13 02:52)

BTS is expected to conduct rehearsals at a separate location ahead of their upcoming comeback performance at Gwanghwamun Square, according to local media reports Friday. The rehearsal will be held off-site in consideration of safety and security ahead of the group's highly anticipated concert scheduled for March 21, at 8 p.m. As rehearsals are typically held at the performance venue, some fans had hoped to catch a glimpse of the group before the show. While rehearsals. The decision to rehearse e

- [Kep1er announces Japan fan meetups](#) (2026-03-13 02:50)

Kep1er will host its second fan meeting in Japan in May, agency Klap Entertainment announced Friday. Under the title "Kep1arcade," the group will take the stage six times across three cities — Osaka, Tokyo and Nagoya. The members will meet fans about three years after their first fanmeet held in Tokyo, and over six months after their "Kep1asia" brought them to three

cities in the country. On March 31, the group will release its eighth EP, “Crack Code,” marking its first album since it reorganized.

- [Father injures son, wife while lecturing son for 'not studying'](#) (2026-03-13 02:48)

A man in his 40s was arrested for inflicting injuries with a knife on his wife and son, South Korean police said Friday. The father had allegedly been reprimanding the son for not studying. The incident occurred at around 11:32 p.m., Thursday, at an apartment in Gwangju, according to the Gwangju Gwangsan Police Station. The son supposedly showed defiance, which enraged the suspect and led to him bringing a knife from the kitchen, apparently to scare him. His son and his wife tried to restrain him.

- [Korean embassies urge citizens to avoid US and Israel-linked facilities](#) (2026-03-13 02:46)

South Korean embassies and consulates abroad have urged citizens to avoid US and Israel-linked facilities amid the Middle East war. They urged Korean nationals to stay vigilant in crowded public spaces, check emergency exits and follow the FBI’s “Run, Hide, Fight” guidance for active shooter situations. “Run, Hide, Fight” is a civilian safety protocol for active shooter situations, prioritizing escape, then hiding if escape isn’t safe, and confronting the attacker only as a last resort. South Korea

- [Nol Universe partners with Woori Bank on prepaid card for foreign tourists](#) (2026-03-13 02:35)

Nol Universe, a South Korean travel and entertainment platform operator, said Friday it has signed a memorandum of understanding with Woori Bank and Kona I to launch a prepaid card service tailored for foreign visitors to Korea. The agreement aims to improve financial accessibility and payment convenience for international tourists. The three companies plan to develop the necessary infrastructure ahead of the card’s official launch in April. The prepaid card will be offered through Nol World, NOL

- [Samsung Heavy launches US research hub in San Diego with SDSU](#) (2026-03-13 02:28)

Samsung Heavy Industries said Friday it has opened its first research hub in the United States in partnership with San Diego State University, aiming to strengthen technological cooperation and support the revival of the US shipbuilding industry. The new facility, named the SHI-SDSU Advanced Maritime Center (SSAM Center), was established in San Diego. The opening ceremony was attended by about 60 officials, including Samsung Heavy Industries Chief Operating Officer Lee Wang-keun, SDSU Vice President

- [She went to help her neighbor, but his parked truck rolled free and killed her](#) (2026-03-13 02:16)

A woman in her 60s was crushed to death while out helping her neighbor Thursday, when his parked truck rolled down a hill. The incident occurred at around 1:13 p.m. at a home in Jindo-gun, South Jeolla Province, according to the Jindo Police Station. The victim was helping

out a neighbor, a man in his 60s, dry his seaweed when the man's truck rolled down the hill. The car was parked in front of the home, about 7 or 8 meters uphill from the front yard where the fatal accident occurred. The car ow

- [AI demand pushes LG Innotek chip substrate lines near full capacity](#) (2026-03-13 02:13)

LG Innotek's semiconductor substrate business is emerging as a key growth engine, with factories running at 80 percent of capacity as demand rises alongside the expansion of artificial intelligence infrastructure. According to the company's 2025 business report released Thursday, the average use rate of its semiconductor substrate lines reached 80.8 percent last year, up sharply from 63.2 percent in 2023 and 75.6 percent in 2024. The rebound has driven strong growth in LG Innotek's Package Solut

- [Mirae Asset US defense ETF tops W100b amid geopolitical tensions](#) (2026-03-13 02:13)

Mirae Asset Global Investments said Friday that the net assets of its Tiger US Defense Top10 ETF have surpassed 100 billion won (\$75 million), as rising geopolitical tensions and expectations of higher US defense spending draw investor interest to American defense stocks. According to the Korea Exchange, the ETF's net assets reached 110.8 billion won as of Thursday, expanding roughly fourfold since the beginning of the year. The fund has gained 21 percent year-to-date, significantly outperformin

- [Samsung severance pay lawsuits expand across affiliates](#) (2026-03-13 02:12)

South Korea's top court ruling that a key performance bonus at Samsung Electronics should be included in severance pay calculations is triggering a wave of lawsuits not only against the tech giant but also across other Samsung affiliates. According to law firm APro on Friday, 38 additional former Samsung Electronics employees filed a lawsuit Thursday seeking recalculation of severance pay and unpaid compensation. The case was submitted to the Seoul Central District Court. The new filing adds to

- [Immigrants swoop rural county out of population collapse](#) (2026-03-13 02:12)

Goesan-gun, a small county in the rural parts of North Chungcheong Province, has recently averted a severe population decline thanks to a substantial inflow of immigrants. The immigrant population of Geosan was 1,850 in 2024, according to the Korean Statistical Information Service, marking an all-time high and more than doubling from 904 in 2015. It increased by 167 compared to the previous year, continuing an upward trend. The county's population decreased to 36,252 in 2024 compared to 38,787 i

- [Krafton, Hanwha Aerospace team up on physical AI venture](#) (2026-03-13 02:09)

Krafton and Hanwha Aerospace said Friday they have signed a memorandum of understanding to jointly develop physical artificial intelligence technology and establish a joint venture aimed at commercializing the technology. Krafton, the South Korean game developer best known for the global hit video game PUBG: Battlegrounds, is expanding its focus beyond gaming into AI

and robotics. Hanwha Aerospace, the defense and aerospace arm of Hanwha Group, develops military systems including aircraft engine

- [North Korea warns Japan over missile deployment](#) (2026-03-13 02:08)

North Korea warned Friday that Japan's plan to deploy upgraded long-range missiles could sharply worsen regional security and would bring about the "sinking of the Japanese archipelago." In a commentary carried by the Korean Central News Agency, Pyongyang criticized Tokyo's reported plan to deploy an extended-range Type 12 surface-to-ship missile at an army base in Kumamoto prefecture, with additional deployments being considered in Shizuoka and Miyazaki. North Korea said the missile, whose range

- [SF9 to mark 10 years with special album](#) (2026-03-13 02:04)

SF9 is bringing out the special album "About Love" on March 25 to celebrate its tenth anniversary, agency FNC Entertainment said Friday. It will be the group's first group effort in about a year, after its 15th EP "Love Race." Inseong hinted at the new album last week. Wrapping up promotions for his first solo album, EP "Crossfade," he thanked fans for the support and asked them to keep their expectations high. The teaser clip for the new album only shows six members of the octet, however. Yoo

- [NK may possess up to 50 nuclear weapons: report](#) (2026-03-13 02:03)

North Korea may currently possess as many as 50 nuclear weapons as the country continues expanding its nuclear capabilities, according to news reports citing a former International Atomic Energy Agency official. In an interview with Voice of America, Olli Heinonen, former deputy director-general of the IAEA, said that North Korea's nuclear program is growing faster and more extensively than previously understood. The warning comes after the IAEA confirmed that North Korea has restarted light-water

- [Foreign stock outflows hit record in February as investors take profits](#) (2026-03-13 01:57)

Foreign investors pulled a record amount of funds from South Korea's stock market last month as they locked in profits following a rally, central bank data showed Thursday. According to a report on international finance and foreign exchange markets released by the Bank of Korea, foreign investors sold \$7.76 billion more Korean securities than they bought in February. The February figure marked the second-largest net outflow on record and ended a five-month streak of net inflows that had continued

- [AI-generated image used for fraud, as woman falsely claims manicure injury](#) (2026-03-13 01:56)

A woman recently tried to extort money from a local nail salon by using an image generated by artificial intelligence that made it appear as if her treatment caused minor injuries to her fingers. South Korean police on Thursday said they had transferred the case to the prosecution for fraud and obstruction of business. The suspect also fabricated medical records in the

process, but the police did not press charges of counterfeiting private documents. The suspect allegedly made a fake image of he

- [PM Kim Min-seok meets Vance in Washington to discuss trade, investment plan](#) (2026-03-13 01:49)

South Korean Prime Minister Kim Min-seok met US Vice President JD Vance in Washington on Thursday, where the two discussed bilateral trade issues, including the implementation of a Korea-US investment framework agreed upon by President Lee Jae Myung and US President Donald Trump last year. Vance welcomed the South Korean National Assembly passing the US investment bill, and called for continued close cooperation between the two countries, South Korean the Prime Minister's Office said Friday. "I

- [Aespa to return in May: report](#) (2026-03-13 01:42)

Aespa will return in May with a new album, according to a local media report on Friday. The group's last album was the sixth EP "Rich Man," which sold over 1 million copies. It joined Aespa's five EPs and first LP, "Armageddon," which have also reached 1-million seller status. Five of them achieved the feat in a week, starting from the second EP "Girls," a first-ever for a K-pop girl group. Focus track of the same title from the sixth mini album earned the group first place on domestic televisi

- [Mercedes-Benz Korea partners with chef Son Jong-won in brand campaign](#) (2026-03-13 01:15)

Mercedes-Benz Korea has launched a brand partnership program called "Mercedes-Benz Mate," collaborating with renowned individuals across fields to communicate the brand's values to the public in a more approachable way. As the first partner in the program, the company has teamed up with Son Jong-won, a prominent figure in Korea's fine-dining scene. Son currently operates a French fine-dining restaurant and a Korean restaurant, both of which hold one Michelin star. Under the partnership, Son will

- [STGEN Bio bets W110b on biologics capacity expansion](#) (2026-03-13 01:15)

STGEN Bio, a South Korean biopharmaceutical contract development and manufacturing organization, said Friday it will invest about 110 billion won (\$82 million) to expand its biopharmaceutical manufacturing facilities, aiming to strengthen its global position amid rising demand for biologics. The investment will be used to expand the company's drug substance and drug product production facilities, along with upgrades to related infrastructure. Construction is scheduled to begin in the first quart

- [Pop icon Kim Wan-sun opens first New York solo show as painter](#) (2026-03-13 01:14)

Kim Wan-sun, a South Korean pop singer of the mid-1980s and early 1990s, has opened her first solo exhibition in New York as a painter. The exhibition marks the 40th anniversary of the singer's debut, running from Friday to March 31 at the Tenri Cultural Institute in Manhattan,

New York. Its title “Icon On Demand” refers to Kim’s past as a pop star driven by public demand, while hinting at her move to take control of her own image as an artist, according to the artist's agency, KWSunflower. The

- [Netflix greenlights 'KPop Demon Hunters' sequel](#) (2026-03-13 00:49)

"KPop Demon Hunters" is officially getting a sequel, Netflix confirmed Friday. The film will again be directed by the original creative team, Maggie Kang and Chris Appelhans. According to Netflix, the sequel will mark the first project to emerge from the streamer’s exclusive multiyear writing and directing partnership with Kang and Appelhans across animation. Specific details, including the release date and plot, have not yet been disclosed. However, speaking at a press conference in Seoul in Au

- [The next big K-culture export](#) (2026-03-13 00:49)

The 2026 K-Culture Starter Pack is remarkably predictable: K-Pop, K-Drama, and the inevitable, “K-Han.” Mention Korea in any international setting and it is only a matter of time before someone drops the H-word with a knowing nod. It has become the ultimate shibboleth for those to prove they have done the requisite cultural homework. Korea, they will helpfully explain, is powered by this ancient and "untranslatable" melancholy, an endless reservoir of longing that supposedly animates everything

- [Korean won falls against dollar amid oil price surge over supply concerns](#) (2026-03-13 00:31)

The South Korean currency fell against the US dollar Friday as global oil prices surged amid heightened tensions in the Middle East. The won opened at 1,490.6 per dollar, down 9.4 won from the previous session. The weakness came as global oil prices spiked again overnight, hovering around \$100 per barrel, after Iran's new leader, Mojtaba Khamenei, warned that the Strait of Hormuz would remain closed, raising concerns about supply disruptions and escalating tensions in the Middle East. The foreig

- [Iran's new supreme leader vows to keep Hormuz shut in defiant first remarks](#) (2026-03-13 00:26)

Iran will fight on and keep the Strait of Hormuz shut as leverage against the United States and Israel, new Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei said on Thursday in the first comments attributed to him since he succeeded his slain father. Khamenei did not appear in person and the remarks were read out by a state television presenter. No images have been released of him since an Israeli strike at the start of the war that killed much of his family, including his father and wife. Thursday's statement

- [Movies in theaters this week](#) (2026-03-13 00:00)

"Arco" (France) Opened March 11 Animation/Drama Directed by Ugo Bienvenu A 10-year-old boy from the future crash-lands in a climate-ravaged 2075 and goes on an adventure with a girl

who takes him in. "Hoppers" (US) Opened March 4 Animation/Comedy Directed by Daniel Chong An animal lover (Piper Curda) transfers her consciousness into a robotic beaver to save a wildlife glade from demolition, only to stumble into a fully functioning animal civilization. "The Bride!" (US) Opened March 4 Romance/Fan

- [A weekend without rules: Make your own ice cream, experience art by touch](#) (2026-03-13 00:00)

Weekends in Seoul are often shaped by familiar rituals — a cafe visit, a gallery stroll or a quiet afternoon in the city. But sometimes a different kind of outing can make the day more memorable. This weekend offers two such options. At one spot, visitors can go beyond simply ordering a scoop and instead craft their own pint of ice cream, turning dessert into a playful act of creation. At another, an exhibition invites viewers to experience art not only with their eyes, but also with their hands

- [Packages and promotions](#) (2026-03-13 00:00)

Lahan Hotels has launched the “Spring Camp with Kovea” package, offering guests a chance to experience camping gear in a comfortable hotel setting before heading outdoors. Prices start at 214,000 won for a one-night stay and include a specially designed Lahan x Kovea camp cup set in moss green or sand. The double-vacuum insulated cup features a plastic lid and a wire handle for easy portability. The package is available through May 31 at properties nationwide. Depending on the property, benefits

- [Festivals, sights across Korea](#) (2026-03-13 00:00)

The 25th Gwangyang Maehwa Festival will run through March 22 at Gwanyang Maehwa Village in South Jeolla Province. The annual event celebrates the blooming of plum blossoms that blanket the hills along the Seomjin River, creating one of Korea’s most iconic early-spring landscapes. Visitors can enjoy folk painting, media art exhibitions, a stamp tour and live busking performances. Hands-on activities include traditional archery and a plum-themed healing therapy session, each costing 6,000 won. Oth

- [\[Lee Byung-jong\] BTS and K-pop concerts](#) (2026-03-12 20:30)

While artificial intelligence and other digital technologies are eliminating jobs and disrupting businesses, one industry remains firmly intact and is even thriving. Pop concerts and other live performance markets are booming and are expected to grow further, as they provide audiences with real-life experiences of excitement and ecstasy through physical presence — something computer-mediated virtual realities can never fully offer. Just next week, an army of fans from around the world will desce

- [Gov't designates 23 necessities for special price monitoring amid Middle East crisis](#) (2026-03-12 12:15)

The government has designated 23 key items, such as petroleum products, rice and telecommunications fees, for special price monitoring amid resource supply concerns in the wake of the Middle East crisis, the finance ministry said Thursday. The items include 13 key food products closely tied to household living costs, five service charges, such as telecommunications fees, fuel products and five manufactured goods, including school uniforms, the ministry said. The decision was made during a minist

- [Seoul mayor again delays PPP candidate registration for local elections](#) (2026-03-12 11:44)

Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon said Thursday he did not register for the main opposition People Power Party (PPP)'s candidacy for the June local elections within the extended deadline, expressing dissatisfaction with the party leadership's lack of effort to clearly sever ties with ousted President Yoon Suk Yeol. The fourth-term mayor did not submit his registration for the Seoul mayoral race by the deadline set by the PPP -- which had been extended from the original cutoff on Sunday -- citing concerns o

- [5 S. Koreans flee from Iran amid Middle East conflict](#) (2026-03-12 10:45)

Five South Korean nationals have fled from Iran amid the widening conflict in the Middle East, the foreign ministry said Thursday, as Seoul continues to evacuate its citizens from Tehran and other regions under attack. Four South Koreans crossed into Turkmenistan via a land route a day after leaving Tehran, the ministry said. Another South Korean national is still at the border area with two family members and they are expected to arrive in Turkmenistan on Saturday. More than 6,000 South Koreans

- [S. Korea, US agree on need to implement summit agreements in 'balanced' manner: Seoul official](#) (2026-03-12 10:43)

South Korea and the United States agreed Thursday on the need to work together to ensure that their joint summit agreements on trade and security are implemented in a "balanced" manner, rather than prioritizing certain areas, a Seoul official said. A senior foreign ministry official made the remarks following the meeting between Deputy Foreign Minister Chung Eui-hae and Michael DeSombre, US assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs. DeSombre, who took office as the top dipl

- [Judicial reform laws take effect allowing constitutional appeals of court rulings, punishment for 'legal distortion'](#) (2026-03-12 10:39)

A set of judicial reform laws were officially proclaimed Thursday, allowing constitutional appeals of Supreme Court rulings, punishment for judges who intentionally distort legal principles and an expansion of the top court. The reforms marked the first major overhaul of the current judiciary system since a constitutional amendment in 1987. The National Assembly, controlled by the ruling Democratic Party, passed the bills last month in a push for judiciary reform despite strong objections from t

- [Gov't to implement fuel price cap system this week to help ease cost burdens](#) (2026-03-12 10:37)

The government said Thursday it will implement a temporary fuel price cap system this week to help ease cost burdens amid supply concerns over the ongoing Middle East crisis, officials said Thursday. The government announced the plan at a task force meeting of ministers in charge of managing market prices, as domestic fuel prices have fluctuated since the United States and Israel launched airstrikes against Iran late last month. It marks the first time since 1997 that South Korea is enforcing th

- [Lee orders thorough probe into belated discovery of remains of Jeju Air crash victims](#) (2026-03-12 10:33)

President Lee Jae Myung on Thursday ordered a thorough investigation into the recent discovery of additional remains of victims of the Jeju Air plane crash in late 2024, voicing regret over their belated recovery. Last month, authorities discovered nine pieces of remains presumed to belong to the victims in a reexamination of the wreckage site, prompting the victims' families to protest outside the presidential office this week to condemn the disaster recovery process. Lee instructed a "thorough

- [Would Michelangelo have welcomed KAIST' s solution to dripping paint?](#) (2026-03-12 08:52)

A research team at the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology has developed a method to prevent liquid from dripping when applied to surfaces facing downward, a problem famously associated with the struggles of Michelangelo while painting the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in Rome more than 500 years ago. The institution said Thursday that the team led by mechanical engineering professor Kim Hyoung-soo reexamined how gravity interacts with liquids using interfacial fluid dynamics and

- [Right-wing Busan mayor hopeful requests probe into rival's alleged Political Funds Act violation](#) (2026-03-12 08:41)

Rep. Joo Jin-woo of the People Power Party, a Busan mayoral hopeful, on Thursday requested an investigation into a potential Democratic Party of Korea candidate, accusing him of violating the Political Funds Act in a recent gathering of supporters. His request was filed with the election authority in Busan, according to Joo's office. Joo claimed that cash was exchanged during a "book launch" event of Democratic Party lawmaker Rep. Chun Jae-soo held in early March. In South Korea, politicians typ

- [Global popularity encourages K-pop idols to go solo](#) (2026-03-12 08:32)

Heeseung from K-pop boy group Enhypen recently surprised fans after he abruptly left the successful group and signed a new solo deal with the same agency, Belift Lab. In a statement announcing his departure, the company said, while discussing the group' s future, Heeseung had a clear musical vision he wished to pursue, and the agency chose to respect his choice.

Heeseung is not alone. An increasing number of K-pop idols have been turning their attention to solo projects. Wonpil of the popular roc

- [Rep. Yang Moon-seok loses Assembly seat in top court ruling, mulls appeal](#) (2026-03-12 08:25)

Rep. Yang Moon-seok of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea was stripped of his assembly seat with the Supreme Court on Thursday, upholding his fraud conviction. Yang, who represented the Ansan A electoral district in southern Gyeonggi Province, said he would consider appealing the top court's decision to hand down a suspended 1 1/2 years of sentence. He was convicted of defrauding the Korean Federation of Community Credit Cooperatives to take out 1.1 billion won (\$743,100) of corporate loan and

- [9 caught drugging players, rigging screen golf machines in betting scam](#) (2026-03-12 08:20)

Nine people have been caught in a screen golf betting scam after secretly drugging victims' drinks and manipulating game machines, earning about 74 million won (\$50,000), authorities said Thursday. The Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency said the suspects were referred to prosecutors in February, with two detained on charges of fraud and violations of the Narcotics Control Act. Police said the group used insomnia medication to impair victims during golf betting games at indoor screen golf venues. T

- [YouTuber' s 3-year prison term upheld over Tzuyang blackmail](#) (2026-03-12 08:20)

South Korea' s Supreme Court upheld a three-year prison sentence for a YouTuber accused of blackmailing fellow creator Tzuyang, confirming a lower court ruling that found him guilty of extorting tens of millions of won by threatening to expose alleged personal scandals. The highest court on Thursday dismissed an appeal by Lee Jun-hee, better known online as Gujeok, finalizing the prison term handed down by lower courts. Lee was indicted in August 2024 on charges of extortion after prosecutors sai

- [Guilt trap: Opposition faces call for 'more sincerity' after martial law apology](#) (2026-03-12 08:19)

South Korea's political arena is once again facing an "apology trap," where rival parties and factions take issue with the sincerity of an apology for political events. On Monday, the conservative opposition People Power Party adopted a resolution apologizing for former President Yoon Suk Yeol's declaration of martial law, after months of internal discord and indecision. The party's on-the-fence position on Yoon and his supporters was most notable in the actions of party chair Rep. Jang Dong-hye

- [Video of Japanese woman pushing Korean child sparks outrage](#) (2026-03-12 08:05)

A video showing a Korean child being pushed by a passerby at a convenience store in Japan has sparked anger online after it spread widely on social media. The footage, posted on Instagram by the child' s mother, shows a woman forcefully shoving the girl with a bag as she walks past

inside the store. The child, who had been browsing snacks with her father, appears startled and immediately runs toward her mother. “While I was filming in a convenience store after finishing our schedule, the woman fi

- [President to meet investors, companies in capital market stabilization meeting](#) (2026-03-12 08:00)

President Lee Jae Myung will chair a policy meeting on March 18 aimed at strengthening the resilience and restoring stability of South Korea’s capital markets, the presidential office said Thursday. The meeting will focus on assessing responses to financial market volatility triggered by recent developments in the Middle East, while also discussing longer-term reforms to improve the structural health of the country’s capital markets. Officials said the government intends to use the gathering to

- [The return of ‘Death Note’ icons](#) (2026-03-12 08:00)

The final cast of the musical “Death Note,” which has been running since October last year and continues through May, took the stage this week as the production enters the final stretch of its run. Ko Eun-sung and Kim Junsu lead the final lineup, appearing as Light Yagami and the enigmatic detective L. Both actors have a long history with the work. Kim Junsu, widely known for his musical theater career, first took on the role of detective L during the original Korean premiere in 2015, where his

- [Lee orders probe, accountability over delayed recovery of Jeju Air crash victims’ remains](#) (2026-03-12 07:59)

President Lee Jae Myung on Thursday ordered a renewed investigation into the Dec. 29, 2024 Jeju Air disaster after additional human remains were discovered during inspection of the crash debris more than a year after the accident. Lee Kyu-yeon, presidential secretary for communication and public relations, told reporters that the president received a report earlier in the day on the latest inspection of debris from the crash site. “Investigate thoroughly how the remains were left unattended and

- [Ruling party lawmaker loses seat after fraud conviction; mulls constitutional complaint](#) (2026-03-12 07:56)

The Supreme Court on Thursday confirmed a suspended prison sentence for Rep. Yang Moon-seok of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea, effectively stripping him of his seat in the National Assembly. South Korea’s highest court upheld an earlier ruling sentencing Yang to 18 months in prison, suspended for three years, saying the lower courts made no error in applying the relevant laws. Yang was found guilty of fraud after he and his wife fabricated documents to obtain an unlawful loan in their daug

- [Seoul shares close lower on extended Middle East tension; won sharply down](#) (2026-03-12 07:48)

South Korean stocks closed lower Thursday amid escalating tensions in the Strait of Hormuz, which triggered extreme volatility in global oil prices. The local currency fell sharply against the greenback. The Korea Composite Stock Price Index moved down 26.7 points, or 0.48 percent, to close at 5,583.25. Trade volume was heavy at 794.1 billion shares worth 23.6 trillion won (\$15.9 billion), with gainers outpacing losers 569 to 321. Foreigners sold a net 2.36 trillion won while individuals bought

- [Russian agency launches North Korea tour using Moscow-Pyongyang train](#) (2026-03-12 07:37)

A Russian travel agency has launched a North Korea tour package using the direct train between Moscow and Pyongyang, marking the first group tourism product to include the route since service resumed last year. According to a North Korea-specialized agency based in Russia's Primorsky region, the eight-day itinerary departs Moscow's Yaroslavsky Station on May 26 and travels by train to Pyongyang. Tourists will spend four nights and five days in the North Korean capital before returning home on Ju

- [Seoul to hold morning strolls from Hapjeong to Yeouido park](#) (2026-03-12 07:25)

The Seoul Metropolitan Government will launch a program that temporarily turns busy city roads into pedestrian spaces on weekend mornings. On Saturday, the city will open part of a central street in Yeouido and sections of Mapo Bridge, creating a 2.5-kilometer walking route. The event, called My Pace Morning, will run from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m., with about 7,000 participants expected to join through online reservations and on-site registration. The city emphasized that the program is not a competitiv

- [Korea to focus 2027 R&D; on AI, biotech, quantum](#) (2026-03-12 07:00)

South Korea's Ministry of Science and ICT on Thursday unveiled its direction for 2027 national research and development investment, prioritizing artificial intelligence, advanced biotechnology and quantum technologies. Speaking at a press briefing in Seoul, Park In-kyu, vice minister for science, technology and innovation, said next year's R&D spending will focus on applying AI to drive innovation and deliver tangible benefits to the public. "Next year's R&D investments will center on harnessing

- [J.Y. Park's next move?](#) (2026-03-12 06:51)

J.Y. Park, founder of JYP Entertainment, has stepped down from his position as an internal board director at the company, a role he had held for nearly 15 years, the agency said Tuesday. While Park will retain his title as chief creative officer, the move appears aimed at easing his corporate responsibilities so he can focus more on his role as co-chair of the Presidential Committee on Popular Culture Exchange. In a statement, JYP Entertainment said, "He plans to focus on his creative work as an

- [Kim Jong-un tests new pistol with daughter Kim Ju-ae, stresses arms production](#)

(2026-03-12 06:48)

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un inspected a key military production facility and tested a newly developed pistol this week, state media reported Thursday, once again appearing in public with his young daughter Kim Ju-ae. According to Rodong Sinmun, Kim visited a munitions factory and stressed the importance of the factory's role in producing portable light weapons, including pistols, saying such arms are essential for strengthening combat capabilities. During the visit, Kim tested the new pistol

- [New media art finds home in southwestern Seoul](#) (2026-03-12 06:41)

The once culturally peripheral southwestern Seoul now houses the capital's first public museum dedicated to new media art in Geumcheon-gu. Seo-Seoul Museum of Art, the region's sole public art museum, comes after more than a decade of preparation. It completes the city's museum network as the eighth branch of Seoul Museum of Art, following the opening of the Seoul Museum of Photography in Dobong-gu last year. "In preparing for the museum's opening, we have been exploring the boundaries of new me

- [The calculus behind Pyongyang's support for Tehran](#) (2026-03-12 06:39)

North Korea's swift backing of Iran after joint US-Israeli strikes appears to serve purposes far beyond routine diplomatic solidarity. By rallying behind Tehran, Pyongyang is signaling its intention to draw closer to Russia, Iran's key partner, through carefully calibrated messaging that keeps it at arm's length from the conflict. From the standpoint of regime security, the Kim Jong Un regime's denunciation of the strikes as a violation of sovereignty functions as preemptive political signaling

- [Seoul urges US not to let Section 301 probe affect summit commitments](#) (2026-03-12 06:38)

South Korea has called for ensuring that the US investigation into 16 economies to uncover "unfair" trade practices does not negatively affect the implementation of commitments outlined in the ROK-US Joint Fact Sheet, a Foreign Ministry official said Thursday. The remarks addressed the Office of the US Trade Representative's latest move to launch a Section 301 investigation under the 1974 Trade Act into South Korea, China, Japan and 13 other economies to examine alleged unfair trade practices li

- [The people's king: How "The King's Warden" became Korea's biggest film in years](#)

(2026-03-12 06:28)

In 1984, a Korean television drama called "Apricot in the Snow" aired what can only be described as a creative betrayal of the historical record. Its subject was the Gyeyujeongnan — the 15th-century coup in which Grand Prince Suyang (later King Sejo) deposed his 12-year-old nephew Danjong, banished him to a remote mountain village and eventually had him killed. In the TV drama's telling, Suyang was something close to a reluctant hero. His victims, the loyalists

who died defending the boy king, w

- [US trade probe puts pressure on South Korea over surplus](#) (2026-03-12 06:24)

The US has launched a sweeping trade investigation into 16 key trading partners, including South Korea, China and Japan, in a move that could set the stage for new tariffs as the Trump administration seeks to restore duties recently struck down by the US Supreme Court. The US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer said Wednesday his office would begin a probe under Section 301 of the 1974 Trade Act. The legal tool allows Washington to investigate foreign trade practices deemed unfair, and depending

- [National Assembly passes Korea-US strategic investment bill](#) (2026-03-12 06:23)

The National Assembly on Thursday passed a special bill to facilitate Seoul's \$350 billion investment in the United States, as part of a bilateral strategic investment framework struck with Washington last year. The bill was approved with 226 in favor, eight against and eight abstentions, with 242 of the 296 lawmakers present. The legislation stems from a bilateral understanding between Seoul and Washington to expand Korean investment in the US across key sectors such as manufacturing, energy an

- [LG Display to boost capex as OLED sales top 60%](#) (2026-03-12 06:23)

LG Display plans to raise capital expenditure this year to the mid- to upper-2 trillion won range, more than 1 trillion won above the 1.4 trillion won (\$947.1 million) it spent in 2025, as the South Korean panel-maker steps up OLED-focused investment. In its 2025 annual report filed Wednesday, LG Display said it spent 1.4 trillion won on facilities to expand production capacity for differentiated products, including organic light-emitting diode, or OLED, panels. For 2026, it said spending will i

- [Line Plus enters AI agent race with ActEngine AI](#) (2026-03-12 06:19)

Line Plus, the Korean subsidiary of Line Corporation, on Thursday unveiled ActEngine AI, an artificial intelligence platform designed to automate customer support and sales operations, marking its push into the fast-growing enterprise AI market across Asia. Unlike conventional query-based chatbots, ActEngine AI uses execution-based AI agents capable of performing tasks such as customer service, complaint handling and sales proposals. The platform allows companies to manage and deploy AI agents t

- [Lee urges swift extra budget to cushion Middle East fallout](#) (2026-03-12 06:15)

President Lee Jae Myung on Thursday urged officials to accelerate work on a supplementary budget, as the government moves to limit economic fallout from the ongoing Middle East conflict. "In times of crisis, swift fiscal spending is essential to ensure that efforts to stabilize people's livelihoods and support the economic recovery do not lose momentum," Lee said during a meeting of senior secretaries and aides at Cheong Wa Dae in Seoul. "In the end, there is no way around compiling a supplement

- [NCSOFT targets ₩5tr in revenue by 2030](#) (2026-03-12 06:14)

NCSOFT said Thursday it aims to achieve 5 trillion won (\$3.4 billion) in annual revenue by 2030, outlining the goal during its 2026 Management Strategy Briefing held at the company's R&D Center in Pangyo, Seongnam. The game developer presented three core growth strategies: expanding its legacy intellectual property, developing new IPs and growing its mobile casual gaming business, while continuing to strengthen major franchises including Lineage, Aion, Guild Wars 2 and Blade & Soul. To secure ne

- [Why Korean investors are piling into China robotics ETFs](#) (2026-03-12 06:11)

As Korean companies try to reduce exposure to China amid rising geopolitical tensions, Korean retail investors are doing the opposite — increasing their bets on China's humanoid robotics industry. The contrast highlights a widening gap between corporate strategy and investor sentiment, as many investors see China's dominance in manufacturing and supply chains as a key advantage in the emerging robotics economy. Humanoid robotics has quickly become one of the most closely watched technology battl

- [Korea selects 3 regional festivals to promote globally](#) (2026-03-12 06:11)

South Korea has designated three regional events — the Boryeong Mud Festival, Andong International Mask Dance Festival and Jinju Namgang Lantern Festival — as new “global festivals,” as part of a government initiative to accelerate its goal of attracting 30 million foreign tourists. The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism announced Thursday that the festivals will receive 800 million won (\$540,000) annually for three years under the program, which aims to strengthen cultural festivals as key

- [School bullying brokers emerge as college admission rules toughen](#) (2026-03-12 06:07)

South Korea's decision to make school bullying records a mandatory factor in college admissions starting in 2026 is fueling a new shadow market of consultants promising to erase or neutralize disciplinary records. As fears grow among parents and students facing potential penalties, so-called “school bullying brokers” are charging hefty fees to delay or weaken cases before admissions decisions are made. According to data from the Education Ministry and the admissions industry, schools handled 7,4

- [95 sex offenders found to have worked in child-related facilities](#) (2026-03-12 06:07)

Government data released Thursday showed that 95 registered sex offenders were working at or operating institutions serving children and teenagers last year, including day care centers and elementary schools. The Ministry of Gender Equality and Family released the results of its 2025 inspection of employment restrictions for registered sex offenders. The current employment restriction system bars convicted sex offenders from working for a designated period at institutions related to children and

- [Estee Lauder's Lab Series exits Korea department stores after 35 years](#) (2026-03-12 06:04)

US cosmetics giant Estee Lauder Companies is pulling its men's skin care brand Lab Series from South Korea's traditional retail channels after more than three decades, shifting its focus to online and multibrand outlets, industry sources said Thursday. The brand is set to exit all domestic department stores this year — including Lotte Department Store Myeongdong by August — ending a run that began with its debut at the same retailer in 1991. The move marks a retreat for a label that once defined

- [Why Korean memory giants aren't rushing to expand DRAM supply](#) (2026-03-12 05:55)

The world suddenly cannot get enough memory chips. Artificial intelligence data centers are consuming unprecedented volumes of DRAM, pushing prices higher and squeezing supply for everything from smartphones to laptops. The two companies at the center of that boom, Samsung Electronics and SK hynix, earned more than 72.1 trillion won (\$48.7 billion) in operating profit last year. And yet the shortage continues. The question seems obvious. If demand is booming and profits are soaring, why not simp

- [Leaving a teaching job in Korea? Here's what foreign instructors need to know](#) (2026-03-12 05:40)

When a private English academy in South Korea abruptly terminated a 30-year-old American instructor's contract, her first thoughts were about her visa and her pay. "I remember going blank, thinking about what was going to happen to my visa, and whether I would be able to receive my severance pay," said the instructor, who asked to remain anonymous. Her concerns are shared by many foreign national teachers working in South Korea. As of 2024, 13,443 instructors were residing in the country under t

- [Short-form platforms push K-pop songs to get shorter](#) (2026-03-12 05:25)

Short-form video platforms are increasingly reshaping the structure of K-pop songs, with brief moments designed as viral hooks often determining a track's success. In the past, the overall flow and musical development of a three- or four-minute track were key factors in determining a song's success. Today, however, a roughly 15-second viral hook — the segment most likely to spread through short-form videos and dance challenges — can make or break a song's popularity. As a result, the average run

- [Samsung Biologics showcases CDMO capabilities in Singapore](#) (2026-03-12 05:19)

Samsung Biologics has highlighted its contract development and manufacturing organization, or CDMO, capabilities at Biologics Manufacturing Asia 2026 in Singapore, receiving a bioprocessing excellence award during the two-day event. According to Samsung Biologics on Thursday, the Korean CDMO leader presented its top-notch CDO technologies and services at the conference on Wednesday. Lim Heon-chang, director of formulation development at Samsung Biologics' CDO division, introduced case studies of

- [Autonomous A2Z completes W40.5b funding, gears up for IPO this year](#) (2026-03-12 05:15)

Autonomous A2Z said Thursday it has completed a 40.5 billion won (\$27.4 million) pre-IPO funding round, bringing its total funding to 122.5 billion won — the largest amount raised by a self-driving startup in Korea. The funding comes ahead of the company's planned initial public offering later this year at the nation's tech-heavy Kosdaq. It will support expansion of autonomous mobility projects at home and abroad, as well as investment in infrastructure and talent to advance end-to-end AI-based

- [Hyosung Heavy secures first ESS project in Australia](#) (2026-03-12 05:15)

Hyosung Heavy Industries said Thursday it has signed a 142.5 billion won (\$96.3 million) contract in Australia to build energy storage system infrastructure, marking the company's first ESS supply project in the country. The Korean power equipment manufacturer signed the agreement with Tangkam BESS, an Australian project company, to construct a 100-megawatt, 200-megawatt-hour battery energy storage system in Tangkam, Queensland, near Brisbane on Australia's eastern coast. The system will be capa

- [GEAN names winners of 2026 e-mobility awards](#) (2026-03-12 05:13)

The Global E-Mobility Alliance Network, or GEAN, based on Jeju Island, said Wednesday it had selected six award recipients for their contributions to advancing the global electric mobility industry. The 2026 GEAN Awards and Special Awards will be presented on March 25, during the opening ceremony of the 13th International e-Mobility Expo, which will take place at Jeju Shinhwa World. Recipients of the 2026 GEAN Awards include South Korean energy solutions provider LS Electric, China's Nansha Dist

- [Quiet comeback of Lee Na-young, the A-list mystique](#) (2026-03-12 05:10)

In the Korean entertainment scene, few married couples command as much fascination, or maintain as much distance, as Lee Na-young and Won Bin. Despite their status as perennial A-listers, the two are famously selective about their work, often letting years pass between projects. While Won Bin has remained on a cinematic hiatus since his 2010 blockbuster "The Man from Nowhere," Lee recently ended her own seven-year television drought with the ENA legal drama "Honor." The series proved to be a rat

- [KMI partners with Guardant Health on liquid biopsy cancer screening](#) (2026-03-12 05:09)

The Korea Medical Institute said Tuesday it has signed a memorandum of understanding with US-based Guardant Health to collaborate on liquid biopsy-based precision cancer screening. The agreement was signed March 5 at the KMI Foundation headquarters in Seoul, with KMI Chairman Lee Kwang-bae, KMI Strategic Planning Office Head Lee Kwang-yup, Guardant Health AMEA Vice President Divya Mehta, and Guardant Health Korea Country Manager Michael Jung in attendance. Under the partnership, the two organiza

- [Seoul ramps up support for international background students](#) (2026-03-12 05:00)

Seoul's education authority is expanding support for students from multicultural families and migrant backgrounds as their numbers rise in schools across the city. The Seoul Metropolitan Office of Education on Thursday unveiled a comprehensive support plan that includes establishing a second multicultural education support center and improving school environments to help such students and their parents better adapt to the Korean education system. The second Seoul Multicultural Education Support

- [Young Koreans turning to AI lawyers](#) (2026-03-12 04:46)

As artificial intelligence advances, a growing number of young South Koreans are turning to generative AI for legal advice in relatively minor criminal cases. The Maeil Business Newspaper reported Wednesday that a 23-year-old college student used generative AI to develop a legal strategy before being questioned by police over sexually insulting remarks made while playing an online video game. "I explained the facts and trained the AI on relevant legal provisions and precedents. It helped me get

- [Lives could have been saved if rescue teams had arrived minutes earlier: Itaewon survivor](#) (2026-03-12 04:45)

"If rescue teams had arrived about 10 minutes earlier, more than 100 lives could have been saved." The remark by survivor Min Sung-ho set a somber tone Thursday as a special investigation panel held its first public hearing into the 2022 Itaewon crowd crush. Speaking at the hearing in central Seoul, Min recalled the moment the crowd surge turned fatal in a narrow alley in the Itaewon nightlife district during Halloween celebrations on Oct. 29, 2022. A total of 159 people were killed. "My chest w

- [YouTuber offers \\$2.7m home as giveaway in \\$0.67 membership push](#) (2026-03-12 04:44)

A South Korean YouTuber with more than 17 million subscribers is offering an apartment, purportedly worth 3.57 billion won (\$2.4 million), as a giveaway to promote his paid membership, which costs 990 won per month. The 38-year-old YouTuber Bokyem revealed the plan in a recent video on his channel Bokyem TV, saying the roughly 165-square-meter unit to be awarded to one subscriber is fully renovated and furnished. It comes equipped with a 100-inch television, a high-end gaming computer setup, air

- [Seoul eyes using commercial satellite imagery for defense](#) (2026-03-12 04:20)

South Korea is considering the use of commercial satellite imagery for defense, a move aimed at reducing the cost of developing military satellites while expanding access to such data. The Defense Acquisition Program Administration said Thursday it has commissioned a study on ways to utilize commercial satellite imagery for military use. The agency said the study will serve as the basis for future projects to acquire and use commercial satellite imagery for defense operations. The 64.2 million w

- [US may have struck Iranian girls' school after using outdated targeting data, sources say](#) (2026-03-12 04:00)

WASHINGTON (Reuters) -- A strike on an Iranian girls' school that killed scores of children may be the result of US use of outdated targeting data, two sources familiar with the matter told Reuters Wednesday, providing new details about what would rank among the worst cases of civilian casualties in decades of US conflicts. Reuters first reported Thursday that an ongoing, internal US military investigation showed US forces were likely responsible for the strike on the girls' school in Minab. V

- [Epstein's longtime accountant testifies on his wealth and business ties](#) (2026-03-12 03:59)

WASHINGTON (AP) — House lawmakers were digging into Jeffrey Epstein's sprawling financial portfolio on Wednesday as a committee deposed his former accountant and tried to understand his connections to some of the world's wealthiest men. Richard Kahn, who worked closely with Epstein for years and now serves as an executor of his estate, appeared for the closed-door deposition on Capitol Hill. He told lawmakers that he had not personally seen evidence of Epstein's sexual abuse, but provided a full

- [Taihan Cable breaks ground on Vietnam UHV cable plant](#) (2026-03-12 03:57)

Taihan Cable & Solution said Thursday its Vietnamese subsidiary, Taihan Cable Vina, has begun construction of an ultrahigh voltage cable plant in southern Vietnam, marking the company's first overseas facility dedicated to 400-kilovolt-class cables. The project is part of the Korean cable maker's strategy to expand its global manufacturing network and meet rising demand for power grid infrastructure worldwide. The new facility will be built on a 56,200-square-meter site within the Long Thanh Ind

- [Huons wins IND approval for Phase 2 dry eye drug trial](#) (2026-03-12 03:57)

Huons, a South Korean pharmaceutical company specializing in ophthalmic and injectable medicines, said Thursday it has received Investigational New Drug approval from the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety to begin a Phase 2 clinical trial of its dry eye treatment candidate. HUC1-394 is a peptide-based ophthalmic solution licensed from Novacell Technology. The drug selectively binds to Formyl Peptide Receptor 2 (FPR2) — a receptor involved in the body's natural resolution of inflammation — activat

- [Wealthy nations release record oil reserves](#) (2026-03-12 03:57)

PARIS (AP) — A group representing many of the world's wealthiest countries agreed Wednesday to release the largest volume of emergency oil reserves in its history, in a bid to counter the effects of the Iran war on energy markets and the halt of cargo shipping through the Strait of Hormuz. The International Energy Agency said it will make 400 million barrels of oil available from its members' emergency reserves, which is more than double the 182.7 million barrels that the IEA's 32 member countri

- [Starbucks taps Seoul flavors](#) (2026-03-12 03:57)

Starbucks Korea said Thursday it will introduce Seoul-themed beverages — Seoul Makgeolli Cold Brew and Seoul Sunset Omija Fizzio — at 100 stores across Seoul starting Monday. The drinks reinterpret traditional Korean elements, including the aroma of makgeolli, a traditional Korean rice wine, and the sunset over palace ponds. The rollout will begin at stores in major tourist districts such as Myeong-dong, Gwanghwamun and Gangnam, as the number of foreign visitors to Korea reached a record 18.7 mi

- [Arctic sea ice among lowest on record: AFP review of US data](#) (2026-03-12 03:55)

Arctic sea ice is headed for one of its smallest winter peaks on record, an Agence France-Presse review of US data showed Wednesday, as climate change shrinks the region's frozen cover and heightens geopolitical tensions. Formed when ocean water freezes, Arctic sea ice melts naturally in summer and reforms in winter, but the amount that returns has been declining due to human-induced planetary warming. The maximum sea ice extent in the Arctic reached nearly 14.22 million square kilometers on Mar

- [War likely to worsen repression in Iran: UN probe](#) (2026-03-12 03:53)

GENEVA (AFP) -- The war in the Middle East is likely to result in worsening institutionalised repression of Iranian citizens, UN-mandated investigators probing rights abuses in Iran said Wednesday. The UN's Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Iran said civilians in the country were caught between ongoing armed hostilities and repression that has reached unprecedented levels, which may amount to crimes against humanity. Iran's deepening human rights crisis "is likely to worsen in th

- [Child abuse killed 96 children in Korea in 5 years, many by parents](#) (2026-03-12 03:53)

Nearly 100 children in South Korea died from abuse over the past five years, most at the hands of their own parents, according to police data covering tens of thousands of reported cases nationwide. A total of 63,575 child abuse cases were recorded during the five-year period, resulting in 96 deaths, according to data from the National Police Agency released Thursday by Rep. Chung Choon-saeng of the minor Rebuilding Korea Party. In 2025 alone, 14,211 cases were recorded, up from 11,572 in 2021,

- [Sea drones target oil tankers in the Middle East as conflict risks widen](#) (2026-03-12 03:47)

LONDON (Reuters) -- Naval drones have been used in at least two attacks on oil tankers in the Gulf region since war erupted between the US, Israel and Iran, according to maritime authorities and analysts, demonstrating a dangerous new threat in the key shipping lane. The emergence of the use of explosive-laden unmanned surface vessels, which Ukraine has used with great effect in its war with Russia, comes as Iran threatens to block oil shipments from transiting the key Strait of Hormuz, the ch

- [UNESCO fears for fate of historical sites during Iran war](#) (2026-03-12 03:46)

PARIS (Reuters) -- UNESCO said it is deeply concerned about the fate of world heritage sites in Iran and across the region, after Tehran's Golestan palace, often compared to Versailles, and a historic mosque and palace in Isfahan were damaged in the war. The UN's cultural agency on Wednesday urged all parties to protect the region's outstanding cultural sites, saying four of Iran's 29 world heritage sites had been damaged since the start of the US and Israeli war with Iran. "UNESCO is deeply

- [Seventeen's Vernon and The 8 to form new unit, album expected in June](#) (2026-03-12 03:03)

Vernon and The 8 of K-pop boy band Seventeen are preparing to debut a new subunit this summer, according to Pledis Entertainment on Thursday. Pledis said the two artists are working on a unit album with a target release of June and are participating in the album's production. Vernon, one of the group's rappers, has consistently taken part in songwriting and composing since Seventeen's debut in 2015. In 2024, he became a member of the Korea Music Copyright Association in recognition of his contin

- [NexZ to tour Japan from May](#) (2026-03-12 02:56)

Boy group NexZ will take to the stage in Japanese arenas in May and June, label JYP Entertainment announced Thursday. It will be the group's second tour and its first time visiting such venues in Japan, where six of the members are originally from. The 2-year-old group will have two shows each in Tokyo and Osaka, on May 30-31 and on June 12-13, respectively. Its previous trip was held last summer, spanning 15 cities in Japan for 18 shows, through which it made its concert debut at Budokan in Tok

- [Stray Kids win big at Japan Gold Disc Awards](#) (2026-03-12 02:46)

Stray Kids took home four awards at the 40th Japan Gold Disc Awards, according to the organizer on Thursday. The group won album of the year, best artist, music video of the year and was among the best 3 albums in Asia, scoring the most this year for an international artist. Stray Kids' third EP in Japan, "Hollow," the group's first to be entirely made up of Japanese-language songs, was chosen as the album of the year and one of the best 3 Albums. Live Blu-ray documenting the group's fan meetup

- [LG CNS teams up with Palantir on enterprise AI](#) (2026-03-12 02:43)

LG CNS said Wednesday it has signed a strategic partnership with US artificial intelligence software company Palantir to accelerate enterprise AI transformation initiatives. The agreement was announced ahead of Palantir's AIPCon event, attended by LG CNS CEO Hyun Shin-gyoon and Palantir CEO Alex Karp alongside executives from both companies. Palantir provides enterprise data and AI platforms, including Foundry, which integrates and analyzes large volumes of corporate data, and the Artificial Int

- [Iran 'welcome to compete' in World Cup, says Trump](#) (2026-03-12 02:34)

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AFP) -- US President Donald Trump would "welcome" Iran's participation at the upcoming World Cup in North America, despite the ongoing Middle East war, the White House said on Wednesday. The war, triggered by US-Israeli strikes on Feb. 28, has thrown into doubt Iran's participation at this summer's men's soccer World Cup, jointly hosted by Canada, Mexico and the United States. The US administration was confirming an Instagram post by FIFA chief Gianni Infantino earlier in

- [Alpha Drive One to host 1st showcase in Japan](#) (2026-03-12 02:26)

Rookie boy group Alpha Drive One is set to hold its first showcase in Tokyo on March 13, agency WakeOne Entertainment said Thursday. The event will welcome approximately 1,000 fans to relive the success of its first EP, "Euphoria," which was released in January. Although the group has yet to officially promote in Japan, its Korean debut album ranked No. 3 on Oricon's Weekly and Weekly Combined Album Rankings. The mini album sold more than 1.44 million copies in its first week, the second most fo

- [\[Photo News\] Jinro pop-up pocha in Melbourne](#) (2026-03-12 02:17)

HiteJinro said Thursday it opened Jinro Pocha Melbourne, to promote accessibility to the soju brand, on Feb. 27. The space is decorated in the style of a Korean pocha, featuring Jinro's signature toad figurines and limited-edition merchandise. The menu includes Jinro soju, Terra beer, as well as specialty highballs and cocktails (HiteJinro)

- [Musical actor Nam Kyung-ju referred to prosecutors over alleged sex crime](#) (2026-03-12 02:11)

Musical actor Nam Kyung-ju has been referred to prosecutors on allegations of sexual assault, while Hongik University, where he serves as an associate professor, said it has begun personnel procedures in accordance with its regulations. According to police, the Seoul Bangbae Police Station referred the 63-year-old to the Seoul Central District Prosecutors' Office on Wednesday for sexual intercourse by abuse of occupational authority. As outlined in Article 303, Nam could face up to seven years i

- [Jill Biden opens up in memoir about Joe Biden's decision to end his 2024 reelection bid](#) (2026-03-12 02:10)

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Jill Biden is breaking her silence about Joe Biden's decision to abruptly end his 2024 presidential reelection bid under pressure from Democrats concerned about his age, health and viability against Republican Donald Trump in a rematch of their 2020 campaign. A political spouse for nearly 50 years, Jill Biden said she has never publicly discussed her feelings about the three-week stretch when her husband ended his political career, instead saving her thoughts for the pages of

- [Seventeen to launch another subunit: report](#) (2026-03-12 01:46)

Seventeen's Vernon and The8 will form a duo subunit and drop an album in June, according to a local media report on Thursday. Vernon, one of the 13-member act's rappers, has helped write songs for the group since its debut. Last year, he became a member of The Recording Academy along with Woozi, which earned them votes for the 2026 Grammy Awards. The8, one of Seventeen's performers, released his first solo EP "Stardust" in native China in 2024. Vernon co-wrote the lyrics and melodies for the lea

- [\[Graphic News\] South Korea takes pride in its people: survey](#) (2026-03-12 01:00)

South Korea takes pride in its people: survey 설문조사: 한국, 자국민에 대해 자부심 느껴 A global survey of 30,000 people across 25 countries by the Pew Research Center found that sources of national pride vary widely, reflecting cultural values and political systems. 25개국 30,000명을 대상으로 한 퓨리서치센터의 국제 설문조사에 따르면, 애국심의 원천은 문화적 가치와 정치적 체계를 반영하며 다양하게 나타난다. In South Korea, respondents most often cited "diligent and sincere people with strong national character" as their greatest source of pride, highlighting national ch

- [Veteran pitcher Ryu Hyun-jin hoping for deep run in knockout round](#) (2026-03-12 00:41)

Veteran South Korean pitcher Ryu Hyun-jin hasn't pitched in the United States since he left the majors following the 2023 season, and now he will get to reacquaint himself with American surroundings this week, as the national team prepares for the knockout round of the World Baseball Classic. The journey begins in the quarterfinals scheduled for Friday evening in Miami, and Ryu wants to make sure it lasts longer than just that one game. "We want to play a couple more games here," Ryu said after

- [National Assembly set to vote on bill on US investment pledges](#) (2026-03-12 00:27)

The National Assembly is set to hold a plenary session Thursday to vote on a special bill on South Korea's \$350 billion investment pledge to the United States under a trade deal between the two nations after rival parties reached a bipartisan agreement earlier this week. On Wednesday, the ruling Democratic Party and the main opposition People Power Party approved the bill during a meeting of the parliamentary legislation and judiciary committee. Under the bill, a new state-run corporation specia

- [N. Korea's Kim, daughter test pistols together at munitions factory](#) (2026-03-12 00:24)

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un inspected a factory for light, portable munitions, where he and his teenage daughter tested pistols together, according to state media Thursday. Kim oversaw arms production at a "major munitions factory" under the second economy commission the previous day, where production began based on a new pistol design approved at a meeting of the party's central military commission last month, the Korean Central News Agency said. The second economy committee oversees the pr

- [Trump says 'we've won' in war with Iran](#) (2026-03-12 00:14)

US President Donald Trump claimed Wednesday that "we've won" in the war against Iran after he said in a media interview that the ongoing conflict will end "soon" as there is "practically nothing left to target." Trump made the remarks during a public event in Hebron, Kentucky, as the US military operation, codenamed "Operation Epic Fury," entered its 12th day, seeking to destroy Iran's missile capabilities and its Navy, and sever any pathway to nuclear arms. "Let me say we've won. ... You never

- [Trump says war with Iran will end 'soon' as 'practically nothing left to target': Axios](#) (2026-03-12 00:11)

US President Donald Trump said Wednesday that the war with Iran will end "soon" as there is "practically nothing left to target," according to a news report, as concerns continue over the impact of the conflict on oil prices and the global economy. Trump made the remarks in a five-minute phone interview with Axios, as the US military operation, codenamed "Operation Epic Fury," entered its 12th day, seeking to destroy Iran's missile capabilities and its Navy, and sever any pathway to nuclear arms

- [Seoul shares open lower amid extended woes over oil prices](#) (2026-03-12 00:10)

South Korean stocks started slightly lower Thursday amid escalating oil price fluctuations sparked by the lingering US-Iran conflict and shipping disruptions at the key waterway in the Middle East. The benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index (KOSPI) fell 42.3 points, or 0.75 percent, to 5,567.65 at the opening bell. The index edged up 1.4 percent Wednesday. Overnight, investors sat on the sidelines on Wall Street despite major countries' decisions to release reserve oil amid concerns tension

- [US launches Section 301 trade investigation into S. Korea, China, Japan, 13 other economies: USTR](#) (2026-03-12 00:06)

US President Donald Trump's administration opened a trade inquiry into South Korea, China, Japan and 13 other economies to uncover "unfair" trade practices related to "structural" excess capacity and production, a move that might result in tariffs, the US Trade Representative said Wednesday. In a press call, USTR Jamieson Greer said that the Trump administration published a Federal Register notice initiating an investigation under Section 301 of the 1974 Trade Act -- a legal provision that allow

- [\[Graphic News\] South Korea takes pride in its people: survey](#) (2026-03-11 23:00)

A global survey of 30,000 people across 25 countries by the Pew Research Center found that sources of national pride vary widely, reflecting cultural values and political systems. In South Korea, respondents most often cited "diligent and sincere people with strong national character" as their greatest source of pride, highlighting national character and social cohesion. Similar sentiments were expressed in Japan, the United Kingdom and Spain, where "the people" ranked highest. In contrast, Amer

- [\[Sara Albrecht\] Refund tariffs the right way](#) (2026-03-11 20:30)

When the US Supreme Court ruled that the administration's tariffs were unlawful, it resolved a constitutional question. What it did not resolve is how to unwind the economic damage. Gov. JB Pritzker has called for roughly \$1,700 per Illinois household — about \$8.7 billion total — arguing that families effectively paid an illegal tax through higher prices and deserve direct reimbursement. It may be appealing math. But it is not how tariffs work — and it is not how refunds should work. Tariffs are

- [\[Wang Son-taek\] The hidden cost of war: Public diplomacy](#) (2026-03-11 20:30)

Military power often produces a moment of triumph. Precision strikes dominate headlines, targets are destroyed and political leaders present the operation as evidence of resolve and strength. In the short term, such actions can create the appearance of decisive leadership. Yet the longer-term perspective often tells a very different story. History repeatedly shows that military success does not necessarily translate into strategic success. When a war is launched without plausible cause or clear

- [\[Moon Yewon\] Delays at Incheon Airport immigration](#) (2026-03-11 20:30)

If you visited Incheon Airport after Jan. 14, you may have noticed that the airport feels noticeably more crowded than before. While the steady growth of international travel naturally fills terminals, the most visible congestion now appears at immigration checkpoints. In the past, it typically took less than 30 minutes to process about 100 arriving passengers. Recently, however, the same number of passengers can take close to an hour to clear immigration — sometimes even longer during peak peri

- [Para cross-country skier wins record 3rd medal for S. Korea](#) (2026-03-11 11:53)

Para cross-country skier Kim Yun-ji captured her third medal of the ongoing Winter Paralympics in northern Italy on Wednesday. By taking the silver medal in the women's 10-kilometer interval start sitting event at Tesero Cross-Country Skiing Stadium in Tesero, Kim also set the record for the most medals by a South Korean athlete at a single Winter Paralympics. Shin Eui-hyun had the previous mark with two medals, a gold and a bronze, in para cross-country skiing at the 2018 PyeongChang Winter Par

- [AMD's Lisa Su to visit S. Korea next week, may meet with Samsung chief](#) (2026-03-11 11:50)

Lisa Su, the head of Advanced Micro Devices Inc., is expected to visit South Korea next week and meet with local conglomerate executives, industry sources said Wednesday. The chief executive officer of the US chip giant may arrive in South Korea next Wednesday, in what would be her first trip to the country since taking the position in 2014, the sources said. During her visit, Su is expected to meet with Choi Soo-yeon, the CEO of the country's largest local portal operator, Naver. A meeting with

- [Iranian Embassy in Seoul displays banner with image of Khamenei](#) (2026-03-11 11:46)

The Iranian Embassy in Seoul has put up a banner bearing the image of the late former leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and accusing "war criminals," sources said Wednesday. The embassy in Seoul's central Yongsan district has recently installed the banner on the building's outer wall bearing an image of Khamenei and the English phrase, "When will the world hold war criminals accountable?" diplomatic sources said. It also said "the massacre of women and children is neither forgivable nor forgettable,

- [Defense minister inspects S. Korea-US military exercise sites](#) (2026-03-11 10:27)

Defense Minister Ahn Gyu-back on Wednesday inspected sites of an ongoing South Korea-US military exercise, calling for thorough preparations for the planned recovery of wartime operational command from the United States. The minister visited the defense command headquarters, the command center for the Freedom Shield exercise, where he received a briefing on the progress of the drills, his ministry said. The allies launched the annual springtime military exercise on Monday for an 11-day run, with

- [S. Korea, Ghana leaders seek tangible cooperation on security, critical minerals](#) (2026-03-11 09:22)

The leaders of South Korea and Ghana agreed to work closely together to deliver tangible results across a range of sectors, including the economy, maritime security and critical minerals, according to Cheong Wa Dae. The agreement was reached at President Lee Jae Myung's summit with Ghanaian President John Dramani Mahama, who is on a working visit to South Korea, on Wednesday afternoon at the presidential office in Seoul. Mahama's visit marks the first by an African head of state since Lee took o

- [Taemin signs with G-dragon's agency, Galaxy Corporation](#) (2026-03-11 09:20)

Taemin of SHINee has signed an exclusive contract with Galaxy Corp., an AI entertainment technology company home to G-Dragon, the agency announced Tuesday. "Galaxy Corp. has signed an exclusive contract with artist Taemin," the company said in a statement, Wednesday. "We will provide full support so that Taemin's unique artistic capabilities can create synergy with our advanced technology." Galaxy Corp. describes itself as Korea's first AI entertainment technology company, combining artificial i

- [Samsung SDI warns patent infringement, tech leakage on prismatic batteries](#) (2026-03-11 09:13)

Samsung SDI has issued a clear warning against patent infringement and technology leakage in its prismatic battery technology, an area where it holds longstanding competitive edge over rivals. During The Battery Conference, a side event of InterBattery 2026 held at Coex in Seoul on Wednesday, Joo Yong-lak, head of the R&D center at Samsung SDI, emphasized that Samsung SDI would not tolerate unauthorized use of its prismatic battery technology. When asked about its competitors' recent foray into

- [LG Energy Solution, Samsung SDI flex patent muscle](#) (2026-03-11 08:49)

South Korea's two leading battery makers — LG Energy Solution and Samsung SDI — highlighted their patent strength at InterBattery 2026, signaling an intensifying race to secure next-generation battery technologies for emerging sectors such as energy storage systems and robotics. Speaking at The Battery Conference, a side event of the industry exhibition held at Coex in Seoul on Wednesday, Joo Yong-lak, head of Samsung SDI's R&D center, warned that the company would take action against patent inf

- [South Korea investigates BTS ticket scalping after nearly 1,900 illegal listings detected](#) (2026-03-11 08:47)

South Korea's Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism said it had identified 1,868 suspected scalping listings tied to upcoming BTS concerts in Goyang and Seoul's Gwanghwamun area after monitoring major online resale platforms. Authorities said four cases involving 105 tickets appeared to reflect organized attempts to resell seats at steep premiums, and those cases have been referred to the National Police Agency for investigation. According to data released by the ministry, the majority of susp

- [Yena returns with brighter, bolder take on love in 5th EP 'Love Catcher'](#) (2026-03-11 08:47)

Solo artist Yena returned Wednesday with a brighter, more self-assured take on love, unveiling her fifth EP, "Love Catcher," a five-track release that blends playful energy with a more mature emotional perspective. At a press conference in southern Seoul, Yena introduced the album as a project that captures different shades of love through a mix of sounds and collaborations, from the punchy main track "Catch Catch" to softer, more reflective B-sides featuring renowned artists such as Dindin, Mrc

- [Lawmaker in talks with Coupang CEO to get taste of night delivery](#) (2026-03-11 08:45)

Democratic Party of Korea Rep. Yeom Tae-young is in talks with Coupang CEO Harold Rogers to visit overnight delivery workers' workplace to experience a night shift together. According to Yeom's office, arrangements are being made to visit a Coupang Logistics Service facility to get a sense of what it is like to do delivery jobs overnight with Rogers, with March 19 being one of the options, though the schedule has yet to be fixed. Other liberal party lawmakers may accompany Yeom and Rogers. The v

- [Gender equality stalls as structural barriers persist, experts warn](#) (2026-03-11 08:38)

Experts urged coordinated efforts to tackle structural discrimination that continues to shape women's lives across society during an event hosted by the UN Women Knowledge and Partnerships Center in the Republic of Korea. They stressed that true equality requires dismantling entrenched barriers, not merely helping women navigate around them. The center, supported by the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family, held a commemoration marking the 2026 International Women's Day in Seoul on Wednesday u

- [Korean ring smuggled bulk cigarettes to Australia, making \\$6m in profit](#) (2026-03-11 08:30)

South Korean customs authorities have uncovered a smuggling ring that bought cigarettes in bulk from domestic convenience stores and illegally exported them to high-priced markets such as Australia and New Zealand, generating about 10 billion won (\$6.78 million) in profit. The Korea Customs Service's Incheon regional office said Wednesday that it had referred 11 suspects, including a ringleader in his 30s, to prosecutors without detention on charges of violating the Customs Act. The group allege

- [Jamsil mega convention center, dome stadium set for 2032 completion](#) (2026-03-11 08:26)

A 3.3 trillion-won (\$2.2 billion) sports and convention complex featuring South Korea's largest domed baseball stadium is planned for completion in Seoul by 2032 after the city finalized long-delayed negotiations for the Jamsil Sports and MICE Complex redevelopment. The Seoul Metropolitan Government said Wednesday it had concluded four years of negotiations with Seoul Smart MICE Park, a consortium led by Hanwha Construction Division selected as the preferred bidder for the privately funded proje

- [RBW acquires 257 Entertainment through WM, adds boy band Xlov](#) (2026-03-11 08:02)

Korean entertainment company RBW, the agency behind girl groups Mamamoo and Oh My Girl, said Tuesday that it acquired 257 Entertainment through its subsidiary WM Entertainment as part of efforts to strengthen its global expansion strategy. According to RBW, WM Entertainment recently signed a comprehensive business transfer agreement with 257 Entertainment and has begun post-merger integration procedures. Under the agreement, WM Entertainment will take over 257 Entertainment's intellectual proper

- [Senior US diplomat to discuss alliance issues in Seoul](#) (2026-03-11 07:59)

Michael DeSombre, the US assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, is scheduled to visit South Korea on Wednesday for talks on a range of alliance issues, officials said. According to South Korea's Foreign Ministry and diplomatic sources, DeSombre will stay in the country through March 15, with his official schedule beginning Thursday. During the visit, he is expected to meet with senior South Korean officials, including Jeong Yeon-doo, Seoul's chief representative for Nor

- [In Busan's Gijang, spring comes with anchovies](#) (2026-03-11 07:57)

Spring comes in many forms: cherry blossoms, pale pastel outfits appearing after months of winter drab, or the first green shoots on the dinner table. In a fishing town of Gijang, Busan, however, the season announces itself with a far more pungent sign: the salty, briny smell of fresh anchovies. Dae-byeon Village and its bustling namesake port account for about 60 percent of South Korea's anchovy catch, harvested using drift-net fishing. Anchovies, which live for only one year, are caught primar

- [Why did Heeseung leave Enhypen](#) (2026-03-11 07:56)

Heeseung of Enhypen announced his sudden departure from the boy group to pursue his own solo career through agency Belift Lab on Tuesday — raising questions across the industry about the rare circumstances surrounding the move. Departures from idol groups are not uncommon, but it is highly unusual for a member of a thriving group to leave the band specifically to pursue a solo career while remaining under the same agency. Speculation has quickly spread within the K-pop community, ranging from po

- [\[Key points\] NK leader oversees cruise missile test](#) (2026-03-11 07:27)

Missile launch: Kim Jong-un oversaw the launch of strategic cruise missiles from the Choe Hyon destroyer, with KCNA saying the test confirmed “the reliability of the national strategic weapons integrated command system.” Exercise response: The test is widely seen as a response to South Korea-US joint military exercises. Nuclear capability claim: Kim said the “state nuclear force has transitioned to a multifaceted operational stage.” Flight details: Missiles from the 5,000-ton Choe Hyon destroyer

- [Seoul shares up for 2nd day on bargain hunting amid Iran woes](#) (2026-03-11 07:08)

South Korean stocks finished higher for the second straight session Wednesday as investors hunted for bargains amid the market's recent volatility caused by the US-Iran war. The local currency rose against the greenback. The Korea Composite Stock Price Index moved up 77.36 points, or 1.4 percent, to close at 5,609.95 after rising as high as 5,746.36. Trade volume was heavy at 1 billion shares worth 26.3 trillion won (\$17.9 billion), with gainers far outpacing losers 701 to 198. Individual invest

- [US Senate Democrats warn Trump policies unsettling South Korea-US alliance](#) (2026-03-11 06:51)

Democratic members of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee warned the South Korea-US alliance is facing mounting strain under the Donald Trump administration, citing a series of recent developments ranging from the detention of Korean workers in Georgia to pressure on Seoul to approve massive investments in the US. In a 56-page minority report titled “The Price of Retreat 2.0: Undermining America’s Economic Edge and Alliance Advantage,” released Tuesday in the US, committee Democrats argued

- [Mirae Asset Securities launches first global pension desk](#) (2026-03-11 06:38)

Mirae Asset Securities said it would launch the industry’s first dedicated service center for global companies in Korea’s expanding retirement pension market. The new unit, called the Global Pension Desk or GPD, is designed to help multinational corporations navigate Korea’s complex pension regulations and align local operations with global standards. The desk will operate through a specialized network of certified tax accountants, actuaries, financial analysts and labor attorneys, providing int

- [S. Korea, Ghana leaders meet to broaden cooperation on maritime security, climate](#)

(2026-03-11 06:35)

The leaders of South Korea and Ghana met in Seoul to expand cooperation in the areas of the economy, maritime security and climate change, among others. South Korean President Lee Jae Myung and Ghanaian President John Dramani Mahama held a summit at Cheong Wa Dae on Wednesday afternoon during Mahama's working visit to South Korea. As the outcome of the summit, the two sides also signed a series of agreements aimed at broadening cooperation in maritime security, climate change and digital innovat

- [Patriots, THAAD may be shipped to Middle East. Is South Korea safe without them?](#)

(2026-03-11 06:27)

Speculation about the possible redeployment of US missile defense assets stationed in South Korea to the Middle East has been growing, along with concerns about the potential impact such a move could have on the country's defense posture. The speculation comes as Washington seeks to reinforce missile defense coverage for US bases and allies in the Middle East, amid a possibly prolonged confrontation with Iran. The Washington Post reported Monday, citing US officials, that the Pentagon is moving

- [Samsung Electro-Mechanics brings 200MP continuous zoom to Xiaomi flagship](#)

(2026-03-11 06:27)

Samsung Electro-Mechanics has begun mass production of a 200-megapixel continuous optical zoom camera module, with the technology debuting in Xiaomi's latest flagship smartphone, according to the company's 2025 business report released Tuesday. The Korean electronic components manufacturer said the module supports continuous optical zoom from 3.2x to 4.3x. The design allows a smartphone camera to maintain true optical image quality while zooming across a range rather than switching between fixed

- [Ruling party seeks parliamentary probe into 'politically motivated' indictments](#)

(2026-03-11 06:22)

The Democratic Party of Korea on Wednesday submitted a formal request for a parliamentary probe into what it claims to be politically motivated indictments through the manipulation of evidence in seven criminal cases against liberal figures. The request was submitted by Reps. Park Sung-joon, Yang Bu-nam, Lee Geon-tae and Lee Ju-hee with the National Assembly. The request will be reported to the plenary session of the National Assembly on Thursday. Among the figures affected by an allegedly wrong

- [Different electricity bills for different regions? Plan raises concerns](#) (2026-03-11 06:10)

South Korea's plan to introduce regionally differentiated electricity prices is raising concerns that inland provinces and public utilities in the greater Seoul area could face higher power costs, as the government pushes ahead with reforms to ease regional imbalances in energy supply. The proposal centers on offering cheaper electricity to areas near major power

generation facilities to encourage industries to relocate from the capital region to provincial areas. Many of these regions have beco

- [Starbucks Korea first globally to fund graduate degrees for staff](#) (2026-03-11 06:04)

Starbucks Korea said Wednesday it has expanded its employee scholarship program to cover master's and doctoral degrees, becoming the first Starbucks market globally to offer graduate-level tuition support. The initiative is part of the Starbucks College Achievement Plan, an education assistance program designed to help employees pursue higher education while working. While the program previously supported bachelor's degrees, Starbucks Korea expanded the benefit last year to include graduate prog

- [Hyundai Motor tops Volkswagen in profit for first time](#) (2026-03-11 06:03)

South Korea's Hyundai Motor Group recorded the world's second-largest operating profit among global automakers last year, surpassing Germany's Volkswagen Group for the first time, industry data showed Wednesday. The group — which includes Hyundai Motor, Kia and luxury brand Genesis — posted 20.5 trillion won (\$13.95 billion) in operating profit in 2025. That placed it behind only Toyota Motor Corporation, which topped the list with 4.3 trillion yen (\$27.15 billion) in operating profit. Market wa

- [\[Photo News\] BTS' RM backs Korean art catalog](#) (2026-03-11 05:52)

A new catalog highlighting Korean paintings preserved in major museums around the world has been published with support from RM of BTS. The Overseas Korean Cultural Heritage Foundation, affiliated with the Korea Heritage Service, announced the publication of "It's ___ Here: Korean Paintings Shining Abroad," a richly illustrated catalogue that documents significant Korean paintings currently held in overseas museum collections. The project was made possible through a donation by RM in 2022, refle

- [Once criticized, Korea now helps end dog slaughter abroad](#) (2026-03-11 05:51)

Two long-running dog slaughter and meat-selling businesses in Indonesia have been shut down, marking what activists say is the first overseas application of South Korea's dog meat industry transition model. Humane World for Animals, a South Korea-based nonprofit, said Wednesday it supported the closure of a dog meat restaurant and slaughterhouse, rescuing 10 dogs that were awaiting slaughter. The operation in Kupang, on Indonesia's East Nusa Tenggara island, was conducted in partnership with Jak

- [Who's running to become next Seoul mayor?](#) (2026-03-11 05:47)

The race for Seoul mayor, the most high-profile of local government posts, remains clouded less than three months before the election. From the ruling bloc, several big names as well as relative unknowns have declared their bids, while the incumbent Seoul mayor and other conservative heavyweights are still weighing their options. From the ruling Democratic Party, five have made their bids official and will now have to go through primaries to enter the local

election on June 3. One of the hopeful

- [Rights watchdog urges broader stimulus aid for foreign residents](#) (2026-03-11 05:45)

The National Human Rights Commission of Korea said Wednesday that it had advised the interior minister and other relevant officials to expand eligibility for government relief payments, including the so-called “consumption coupons for livelihood recovery,” to cover more foreign residents. The government distributed coupons worth up to 550,000 won (\$375) to Korean residents in 2025 as part of efforts to stimulate domestic consumption. The policy largely excluded foreigners, though it allowed limi

- [From idol to producer: Lee Hae-in’ s rise as a K-pop hitmaker](#) (2026-03-11 05:43)

For the past three years, the K-pop scene has been swept by girl groups backed by major agencies and veteran hitmakers such as Min Hee-jin, creative director behind NewJeans. But one of the most talked-about breakthroughs came from a far smaller company: Kiss of Life, a girl group launched by the little-known S2 Entertainment. The group’ s rapid rise — often described in the industry as a “miracle from a small agency” — has drawn attention to the creative force behind it: Lee Hae-in. The former i

- [Musinsa Standard global sales jump 162% on overseas demand](#) (2026-03-11 05:37)

Korean fashion platform Musinsa said Wednesday its casualwear brand Musinsa Standard is rapidly expanding its overseas customer base, driven by surging global sales. According to the company’ s analysis of online and offline transactions last year, sales on Musinsa’ s global platforms operating across 13 regions rose 162 percent in 2025 from a year earlier, highlighting strong international demand for the brand. Foreign customers also drove significant spending at the brand’ s offline stores in Kor

- [‘Minimalistic in very extreme way’ : Sharon Eyal brings ‘Jakie’ to Seoul](#) (2026-03-11 05:34)

For professional dancers, learning to pare themselves down can be challenging. As technique deepens, so does the instinct to add. And choreographer Sharon Eyal asks for the opposite.

“I’m asking the dancers to reduce and to be most minimalistic in a very extreme way. This is very challenging because the more professional you are, you add stuff. But I think this effort brings what I said before -- not choreography but ‘experience.’ ” Eyal is working with Korean dancers for the first time, collabor

- [Posco Future M to mass-produce LFP cathodes this year to challenge China](#) (2026-03-11 05:30)

Posco Future M President and CEO Eom Gi-chen said the company plans to begin mass production of cathode materials for lithium iron phosphate (LFP) batteries, aiming to challenge Chinese dominance in the low-cost battery segment. “The three major Korean battery companies — LG Energy Solution, Samsung SDI and SK On — are all planning to release LFP

products within this year,” Eom said during a press briefing at InterBattery 2026 in Seoul, which opened Wednesday. Eom was recently appointed chairman

- [Kim supervises destroyer cruise missile test amid Seoul-Washington drills](#) (2026-03-11 05:27)

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un oversaw the test-firing of strategic cruise missiles from the Choe Hyon destroyer, state media reported Wednesday, roughly a week after a similar launch from the same vessel. The latest test is widely seen as a show of force against the ongoing South Korea-US joint military exercises, with the North's state-run Korean Central News Agency saying it was intended to underscore Pyongyang's nuclear deterrence. Kim Jong-un communicated with the warship by telephone and

- [Blackpink sets new K-pop girl group record on Billboard Hot 100 with 'Go'](#) (2026-03-11 05:23)

Blackpink continues to expand its presence on global music charts, setting new records for K-pop girl groups on both the US Billboard and UK Official Charts. According to the latest chart update released by Billboard on Monday, the group's newly released song “Go,” the main track from its third EP “Deadline,” debuted at No. 63 on the Billboard Hot 100. The entry marks Blackpink's 11th appearance on the Hot 100, the most among K-pop female artists to date. Other tracks that made the chart include

- [Samsung Electronics to cancel W16tr in treasury shares](#) (2026-03-11 05:17)

Samsung Electronics will cancel about 87 million treasury shares worth roughly 16 trillion won (\$10.9 billion) in the first half of this year as part of its efforts to enhance shareholder value, according to its 2025 business report released Tuesday. The cancellation represents a large portion of the 105.43 million treasury shares the company held at the end of last year. Based on Tuesday's closing price of about 190,000 won per share, the shares slated for retirement are valued at roughly 16 tr

- [Samsung Electronics average pay surges to record level](#) (2026-03-11 05:17)

Samsung Electronics employees earned an average salary of 158 million won (\$107,300) last year, the highest level on record, according to the company's 2025 business report released Tuesday. The average compensation per employee in 2025 rose 21.5 percent from 130 million won a year earlier, the filing showed. The report also detailed Samsung's performance stock unit program, introduced in October to strengthen employees' accountability for long-term business performance. Under the plan, the comp

- [Samsung Electronics spends record W37.7tr on R&D;](#) (2026-03-11 05:16)

Samsung Electronics spent a record 37.7 trillion won (\$25.7 billion) on research and development last year despite heightened global economic uncertainty, according to its 2025 business report Tuesday. The figure is a 7.8 percent increase from 35 trillion won a year earlier,

equivalent to more than 100 billion won spent each day on technology development. Industry observers say a significant portion of the investment likely went toward next-generation memory technologies, particularly high-bandwidth

- [Medicube to sponsor Coachella in first for Korean beauty](#) (2026-03-11 05:16)

Korean beauty company APR said Tuesday its flagship brand Medicube will participate as an official sponsor of the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival, aiming to strengthen its global presence and promote K-beauty to international audiences. Medicube will operate a brand booth at the festival, which runs in California from April 10 to 19. APR will sponsor the skincare and beauty device category, marking the first time a Korean beauty company has joined the globally renowned music festival in

- [Innocean makes Ad Age A-List as first Korean agency in US top 10](#) (2026-03-11 05:14)

Innocean, the advertising arm of Hyundai Motor Group, said Wednesday it has been named on Ad Age's 2026 A-List, becoming the first Korean agency to be selected among the Top 10 Most Outstanding Marketing Firms in the US. Ad Age evaluates agencies in the US — the world's largest advertising market, accounting for 35.3 percent of global ad spending — based on criteria including creative excellence, business performance and industry influence. Innocean became the first Korean advertising firm to pr

- [CICI to host news carousel competition](#) (2026-03-11 05:11)

The Korea Image Communication Institute said Wednesday it will host a news carousel competition from March 10 to May 10 under themes including the future of Korean traditional and contemporary culture and the competitiveness of K-content in the AI era. The contest is open to residents in Korea aged 18 and older, regardless of nationality. Participants must submit three to 10 images in vertical carousel format. For more information, visit www.coreaimage.org

- [NCSoft to acquire German mobile game company JustPlay](#) (2026-03-11 05:10)

NCSoft said Wednesday it is investing \$202 million in JustPlay, a German-based mobile game platform company, to acquire a 70 percent stake, looking to speed up its plan to expand the global mobile casual game business. According to NCSoft, the board of directors approved the acquisition on the previous day. The Korean game company expects to complete the acquisition by the end of next month. JustPlay, an advertisement technology-based mobile casual game developer and reward platform company, was

- [Samsung Biologics, Eli Lilly to build biotech innovation hub in Korea](#) (2026-03-11 05:10)

Samsung Biologics has teamed up with Eli Lilly to set up an open innovation hub for emerging biotechnology companies in Korea, marking the first time for Eli Lilly to establish such a site outside the United States and China. According to Samsung Biologics on Tuesday, the two companies agreed to build a Lilly Gateway Labs site within the Korean contract development

and manufacturing organization, or CDMO, leader's second bio campus in Songdo, Incheon. The LGL facility will consist of five stories

- [Former lawmaker's sentence confirmed over Moon-Trump call in 2019](#) (2026-03-11 05:09)

South Korea's Supreme Court has finalized a suspended prison sentence for former lawmaker Kang Hyo-sang for leaking the contents of a confidential phone call between then-President Moon Jae-in and former US President Donald Trump. The Supreme Court in January upheld a lower court ruling sentencing Kang, a former member of the Liberty Korea Party — the predecessor of the People Power Party — to six months in prison, suspended for one year, on charges including leaking diplomatic secrets. A former

- [Lee's gifts to Ghana's president: chocolate, a phone and a painting](#) (2026-03-11 05:03)

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung presented Ghanaian President John Dramani Mahama with specially produced chocolate during their summit in Seoul, Cheong Wa Dae said Wednesday. Mahama arrived in South Korea a day earlier for talks with Lee. According to presidential spokesperson Kang Yu-jung, Ghana chocolate was chosen as a symbolic gift because in South Korea, Ghana is closely associated with the popular brand, which uses over 80 percent Ghanaian cacao beans in its product. The packaging was

- [South Korea's live performing arts market hit W1.73tr in 2025, up 18.8%](#) (2026-03-11 04:55)

South Korea's performing arts market surpassed 1.73 trillion won (\$1.3 billion) in ticket sales in 2025, marking strong growth across concerts, musicals and dance performances, according to government data released Wednesday. The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism published a report analyzing ticket reservation data from the Korea Performing Arts Box Office Information System, compiled with the Korea Arts Management Service. The report showed that total ticket sales in the domestic performi

- [Calligrapher Kang Byung-in highlights philosophy of Hangeul at Korea CQ forum](#) (2026-03-11 04:53)

Renowned Korean calligrapher Kang Byung-in, known for designing iconic Hangeul lettering for popular brands and cultural works, spoke about the philosophy and artistic structure of the Korean alphabet during a lecture Tuesday at the New Zealand ambassador's residence in Seoul. The lecture, titled "Hangeul Calligraphy and the Spirit of Hangeul," was hosted by the Korea Image Communication Institute as part of its Korea CQ Forum series. More than 10 opinion leaders attended the event, including di

- [Men tied to Myanmar fraud hub indicted over romance scam](#) (2026-03-11 04:44)

South Korean prosecutors have indicted several young men accused of working for a romance scam ring based in Myanmar, part of a growing network of overseas fraud operations targeting Korean victims. The Seoul Eastern District Prosecutors' Office said Wednesday that nine men

aged 23 to 34 who operated out of a crime compound known as KK Park near the Myanmar-Thailand border were charged with joining and participating in a criminal organization. Five suspects were indicted in detention, while three

- [BTS to accommodate 7,000 more for comeback show](#) (2026-03-11 04:30)

More seats will be added to the much-anticipated live show signaling BTS' return, according to Big Hit Music. The group is set to go live in central Seoul on March 21 under the title "BTS The Comeback Live: Arirang," a day after the rollout of its fifth studio album "Arirang." All 15,000 tickets sold out upon release — with a waitlist of over 100,000 people — and the label decided to expand the outdoor venue for safety reasons and allow 7,000 more fans to enter. Seoul has gone on full alert to a

- [Deterrence posture against N. Korea won't be hindered, Cheong Wa Dae says amid reports of THAAD move](#) (2026-03-11 04:16)

The deterrence posture against North Korea will not be hindered regardless of a potential shift of military assets owned by the US military stationed in South Korea, a senior official at Cheong Wa Dae said Wednesday, amid media reports that the US Forces Korea has shipped out some of its air defense assets from the Korean Peninsula. "Given our level of military capability, defense spending, defense industry capacity and the high morale of our troops, there is no problem with deterrence against N

- [Samsung's Lee Jae-yong is richest Korean on Forbes billionaires list. No. 2 may surprise you](#) (2026-03-11 03:17)

Samsung Electronics Chairman Lee Jae-yong is the sole Korean on Forbes' world's 100 richest people list this year, with an estimated net worth of \$27 billion, according to the US magazine. But the country's second-richest person may be unfamiliar to many Koreans. Chung Yong-ji, chief executive of biotech firm Caregen, ranked 268th on the global list with a net worth of \$11.7 billion. Chung founded Caregen, a South Korean biotechnology company known for peptide-based products, including antiwrink

- [Wildlife to replace humans on next series of UK banknotes](#) (2026-03-11 02:55)

Images of animals will feature on the next series of banknotes from the Bank of England, as the central bank shifts away from historical figures such as William Shakespeare, Winston Churchill and Jane Austen over the coming years. "Nature is a great choice from a banknote authentication perspective and means we can showcase the UK's rich and varied wildlife on the next series of banknotes," Victoria Cleland, the BoE's chief cashier, said. Bank of England banknotes have featured monarchs since Q

- [Caregiver shaved her unconscious mother. Daughter's fury ends in court](#) (2026-03-11 02:48)

A South Korean woman was issued a fine of 1.5 million won (\$1,010), suspended for one year, for assaulting a caregiver who shaved her unconscious mother's head. The caregiver had also earlier received a suspended fine from the court for the incident. According to legal sources Tuesday, the Busan District Court showed leniency toward the daughter despite her conviction for special assault, which is a more serious charge than simple assault. The act was upgraded because it involved scissors, with

- [\[Photo News\] Jung Ho-yeon, Lisa attend Louis Vuitton show at Paris Fashion Week](#) (2026-03-11 02:45)

South Korean actress Jung Ho-yeon and Thai K-pop star Lisa were among the celebrity guests at the Louis Vuitton Women's Ready-to-Wear fall-winter 2026-2027 show during Paris Fashion Week on Tuesday. Jung and Lisa posed for photographers ahead of the show, held in the main courtyard of the Louvre Museum in Paris. The "Super Nature" collection closed out the Paris fashion week schedule with a natural theme. Artistic director Nicolas Ghesquiere drew inspiration from the roots of Louis Vuitton, who

- [Nearly half of Korean high school students use AI weekly for studies: survey](#) (2026-03-11 02:33)

Nearly half of South Korean high school students regularly use artificial intelligence in their studies, a recent study found. According to research released Wednesday by the Jinhak Educational Assessment Research Institute, 47.7 percent of students said they use artificial intelligence tools, including ChatGPT and Gemini, for studying at least once a week. By frequency, 25.2 percent said they use AI tools one to two times a week, 14.4 percent reported using them three times or more weekly and 8

- [Paraguay lawmakers approve defense agreement that allows increased US military presence](#) (2026-03-11 02:32)

ASUNCION, Paraguay (AP) — Paraguay's Chamber of Deputies on Tuesday approved a defense agreement allowing the temporary presence of US military and civilian personnel inside its borders, widely seen as a victory for the Trump administration, which has sought to strengthen its presence in Latin America. The Status of Forces Agreement, or SOFA, was approved by a large majority of lawmakers and now awaits the signature of President Santiago Pena to take effect. Pena, one of Trump's closest allies i

- [Police say deadly Swiss bus fire could be deliberate](#) (2026-03-11 02:30)

KERZERS, Switzerland (AFP) -- A bus caught fire in western Switzerland Tuesday killing at least six people and injuring five others in what police said may have been a deliberate act. The fire broke out on the bus in the main street of the small town of Kerzers, around 20 kilometers west of the Swiss capital Bern, at about 6:25 p.m. Videos circulating on social media showed flames several meters high bursting out from the windows, and black smoke rising into the sky. The fire " left at least six

- [Italy buys Caravaggio painting for about \\$35 million, one of its largest payouts for a single work](#) (2026-03-11 02:28)

ROME (AP) -- Italy has bought a rare portrait by baroque painter Caravaggio for 30 million euros (about \$35 million), one of the largest state investments ever for a single artwork, the country's Culture Ministry said Tuesday. The portrait, painted around 1598 and attributed to Caravaggio in 1963, depicts Maffeo Barberini, a nobleman who later became Pope Urban VIII. The painting was acquired from a private collection by the Italian state after over a year of negotiations and will now enter Rome

- [Ateez charts 4 weeks on Billboard 200](#) (2026-03-11 02:27)

Ateez logged another week on the Billboard 200, ranking No. 108 with its 13th EP, agency KQ Entertainment said Wednesday. The EP “Golden Hour: Part 4” has spent four weeks on the main albums chart after entering it at No. 3. It is the group's sixth consecutive album to sit among the top three on the chart. The newest endeavor logged 200,000 units in streaming equivalent album sales in the US — a career-best for the octet. It also sold more than 1.5 million copies in the first week and became the

- [FBI finds explosive residue in storage unit](#) (2026-03-11 02:26)

NEW YORK (AP) — The FBI said Tuesday that it found explosive residue in a Pennsylvania storage unit as part of an investigation into two men charged with bringing homemade bombs to a protest outside the home of New York City’s mayor. Emir Balat, 18, and Ibrahim Kayumi, 19, told police after their arrests that they were inspired by the Islamic State group, according to law enforcement officials and a criminal complaint. The men live in the Philadelphia suburbs and drove together to New York City

- [Riize earns double platinum status in Japan](#) (2026-03-11 02:24)

Riize’s second Japanese physical single “All of You” has earned platinum certification from the Recording Industry Association of Japan, the organization announced Tuesday. Released Feb. 18, the single surpassed 250,000 cumulative shipments as of February, securing platinum status in the Gold Disc category and reaffirming the group’s strong popularity in Japan. It also topped the daily singles chart on Oricon three times. Following the release, Riize held three concerts at Tokyo Dome, performing

- [Illit surpasses 100m streams in Japan](#) (2026-03-11 02:21)

Illit surpassed 100 million streams in Japan with its first Japanese single, “Almond Chocolate,” according to Oricon on Wednesday. The track reached the milestone on Oricon’s Weekly Streaming Ranking, becoming the group’s second song to exceed 100 million plays on the chart following “Magnetic,” which has accumulated more than 300 million streams. Released in February last year, “Almond Chocolate” was produced as the theme song for the film “It Takes More Than a Pretty Face to Fall in Love.” The

- [Appeal trial begins for ex-PM Han over insurrection charges](#) (2026-03-11 02:09)

An appellate trial for former Prime Minister Han Duck-soo began Wednesday on charges that he played a key role in an insurrection by abetting former President Yoon Suk Yeol's 2024 imposition of martial law. The first hearing opened at the Seoul High Court after both Han and special counsel Cho Eun-suk's team appealed a 23-year prison sentence handed down by a district court in January. Han was found guilty of taking part in an insurrection by proposing that Yoon convene a Cabinet meeting before

- [Shinee's Onew tops iTunes Chart in 9 regions with solo EP](#) (2026-03-11 02:07)

The fifth solo set from Shinee's Onew debuted atop the iTunes Top Albums Chart in nine regions, his agency Griffin Entertainment said Wednesday. His five-track EP "Tough Love" rolled out on Monday. Onew co-wrote all five tracks on the album, including the title track — a first for the veteran idol — which landed atop the real-time songs chart on Bugs. A pop-up store is running in Seoul through March 15 to mark the album's release. Onew released his first solo album in 2018 and has since put out

- [Shooting at US consulate in Toronto prompts increased security](#) (2026-03-11 01:57)

Two men fired multiple shots at the US consulate in Toronto early Tuesday in what police described as a "national security incident," prompting beefed-up protection for US and Israeli diplomatic buildings in the Canadian city. The individuals approached the consulate in downtown Toronto at around 4:30 a.m., exited a white SUV and fired several rounds from a handgun at the consulate, Toronto police deputy chief Frank Barredo told reporters. There were people inside at the time, but "this building

- [Airlines raise fares as Middle East conflict lifts fuel costs](#) (2026-03-11 01:45)

Some airlines in Asia and Europe raised fares, added fuel surcharges or adjusted schedules Tuesday as the Middle East conflict drove jet fuel costs sharply higher and disrupted key air routes. Australia's Qantas Airways, Scandinavia's SAS and Air New Zealand were among the carriers that announced price increases, while others warned the crisis could threaten fuel supplies or force further schedule changes. Jet fuel prices, which were around \$85 to \$90 per barrel before US-Israeli strikes on Ira

- [BTOB to return as full group after almost 3 years: report](#) (2026-03-11 01:43)

BTOB will drop a digital single on March 21 featuring all six members, according to a local media report on Wednesday. It will be the first full group effort since their 12th EP, "Wind and Wish," released in May 2023, and will mark BTOB's 14th debut anniversary. After the mini album, the bandmates' exclusive contract with Cube Entertainment expired. Lee Changseob and Yook Sungjae each signed with new agencies, while the remaining four set up a company named after the group. BTOB's 13th EP "BToda

- [Exports up 55.6% during first 10 days of March on robust chip demand](#) (2026-03-11 01:02)

South Korea's exports jumped 55.6 percent from a year earlier in the first 10 days of March, driven by strong overseas demand for semiconductors, data showed Wednesday. Outbound shipments reached \$21.5 billion in the March 1-10 period, compared with \$13.8 billion tallied a year earlier, according to the data from the Korea Customs Service. It marked the country's largest exports recorded for the cited period. Imports went up 21.7 percent on-year to \$19.4 billion during the period, resulting in a

- [\[영어답게 표현하기\] 유용한 비즈니스 영어 표현들](#) (2026-03-11 01:00)

이번 회에는 저희 책 『나는 더 영어답게 말하고 싶다 일상회화 편』 과 『나는 더 영어답게 말하고 싶다 비즈니스 편』 에서 뽑은, 평이한 단어들로 이뤄졌지만 ‘있어 보이는’ 표현들을 소개합니다. 두 도서 모두 전자책으로 구매 가능합니다. 영어 스피킹 능력 향상에 많은 도움이 되시길 바랍니다.

1. 왜 I have some reservations.가 ‘좀 꺼려지는 면이 있습니다’ 라는 의미가 될까요? reserve는 ‘보류하다’ 입니다. 그 명사형 reservation를 활용해 I have some reservations.라고 하면, 확신이 없거나 생각이 다르다는 뜻이 됩니다. 말하자면 ‘판단을 보류하겠다’ 는 말이죠. 다른 생각이 있다는 뜻인 I have second thoughts.나 I have some reservations. 모두 ‘생각이 달라 선뜻 동의하지 못하겠다’ 라는 의미로 쓸 수 있는 정중한 표현입니다. 2. 장단점을 영어로 뭐라고 하면 좋을까요? 장단점을 merits and

- [Govt. to mobilize all policy tools in dealing with Middle East-related economic uncertainties](#) (2026-03-11 00:25)

South Korea will mobilize all available economic policy tools, including a possible supplementary budget, and activate an emergency economic response system to respond to economic uncertainties stemming from an ongoing Middle East crisis, Seoul's finance chief said Wednesday. Financial markets showed heightened volatility, with the Korean won falling sharply against the US dollar and domestic fuel prices spiking following US-Israeli strikes on Iran and Tehran's retaliatory attacks in the region.

- [Seoul shares open higher amid oil price swings](#) (2026-03-11 00:22)

South Korean stocks started higher Wednesday as investors continued to hunt for bargains despite volatility in global oil prices in the wake of the Middle East crisis. The benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index rose 154.83 points, or 2.8 percent, to 5,687.42 as of 9:15 a.m. The index rebounded 5.35 percent Tuesday. US President Donald Trump said in a social media post that Iran will face "military consequences" at a level "never seen before" if it has laid any mines in the Strait of Hormuz.

- [\[Graphic News\] Air traffic tops 1 million flights for first time](#) (2026-03-10 23:00)

South Korea's annual air traffic surpassed 1 million flights for the first time last year, government data showed. The total number of flights reached 1,013,930 in 2025, according to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport. The country averaged 2,778 flights per day, up 6.8 percent from a year earlier. The annual figure exceeded the previous high of 842,041 recorded in 2019 before the COVID-19 pandemic. The growth was driven by a rebound in

international travel. International flights

- [\[Kim Seong-kon\] Living in 'Jurassic World' in 2026](#) (2026-03-10 20:30)

Recently, Netflix added the Jurassic World collection to its film repository. We all remember the worldwide excitement when the epoch-making film “Jurassic Park” was released in 1993. Directed by legendary filmmaker Steven Spielberg and based on Michael Crichton’s bestselling novel, the movie led to two sequels: “The Lost World: Jurassic Park” and “Jurassic Park III.” In 2015, “Jurassic World,” directed by Colin Trevorrow, reignited nostalgic feelings of “Jurassic Park” fans. “Jurassic World” ha

- [\[Allison Schrager\] US human capital is eroding](#) (2026-03-10 20:30)

America is having a collective freakout about jobs — specifically, that soon AI will do everything and leave everyone unemployable. This concern is not necessarily misplaced, but it is better understood as part of a larger worry: that one of the country’s most critical resources, human capital, is eroding. A large, diverse and highly skilled labor force is what made the US an economic powerhouse. Now, both the stock and value of its human capital are degrading, and almost no one is doing anythin

- [Seoul hosts Ramadan iftar for OIC diplomats amid Middle East tensions](#) (2026-03-10 13:28)

South Korean Foreign Minister Cho Hyun hosted a Ramadan iftar dinner Tuesday evening for diplomats from member states of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation in Seoul, as South Korea seeks to strengthen ties with the Islamic world amid rising tensions in the Middle East. The event, held at the Four Seasons Hotel Seoul, is part of the Foreign Ministry’s annual outreach to OIC member states during Ramadan. The ministry has hosted the gathering since 2004 to promote friendship and cooperation wi

- [Wealthier overseas fans reshape power dynamics in K-pop](#) (2026-03-10 12:31)

With BTS’ full-group comeback less than two weeks away, Chinese fan communities have recently announced large-scale promotional campaigns that will dominate some of Seoul’s most visible digital billboards. Jungkook’s official Chinese fan club said it will broadcast a congratulatory video for the singer’s comeback on the 60-meter landmark megascreen at the Koreana Hotel in central Seoul from March 20 to 22. Chinese fan club Baidu V Bar has planned an even larger campaign for V, securing the massi

- [About 6,300 S. Koreans leave Middle East over past 7 days](#) (2026-03-10 12:24)

About 6,300 South Korean nationals have left countries across the Middle East over the past seven days amid the ongoing military conflict in the region, the foreign ministry said Tuesday. The number of South Koreans remaining in 14 countries in the region stood at about 14,700 as of Monday, down from some 21,000 last Tuesday, the ministry said, as many seek to return to their home country due to the widening conflict. The number of South Korean short-term travelers in those countries fell to rou

- [Train service between Beijing, Pyongyang to resume this week for first time in 6 years](#) (2026-03-10 12:18)

Train service linking Pyongyang and Beijing will resume this week for the first time since it was suspended six years ago due to the COVID-19 pandemic, sources said Tuesday. The Beijing-Pyongyang train route will resume operations Thursday, running four times a week, on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday, an official at China State Railway Group told Yonhap News Agency. The train will depart from Beijing at 5:26 p.m. and arrive in Pyongyang at 6 p.m. the following day, stopping once at the

- [Samsung Biologics, Eli Lilly to establish biotech incubator in Incheon](#) (2026-03-10 11:29)

Samsung Biologics, the biotech arm of Samsung Group, said Tuesday it has signed an agreement with US pharmaceutical giant Eli Lilly and Co. to set up a biotech incubator in the western city of Incheon. Under the partnership, the two companies will establish a new site for Eli Lilly's Lilly Gateway Labs in Songdo, an international business district in the port city, according to Samsung Biologics. The US company launched Lilly Gateway Labs in 2019 to support emerging biotech companies by offering

- [NCSoft to acquire 70% stake in German game developer JustPlay for W301.6b](#) (2026-03-10 10:57)

NCSoft, a major South Korean gamemaker, said Tuesday it will acquire a 70 percent stake in Germany-based game developer JustPlay GmbH for 301.6 billion won (\$204.8 million) as part of its push to expand its mobile casual game business. The deal is expected to close on April 30, after which NCSoft will hold the controlling stake in the German company, according to the company in a regulatory filing. Headquartered in Berlin, JustPlay operates a reward-based mobile gaming platform, along with its o

- [Prosecutors indict woman accused of fatally drugging 2 men](#) (2026-03-10 10:43)

Prosecutors on Tuesday indicted a 20-year-old woman accused of murdering two men by giving them drug-laced drinks. The Seoul Northern District Prosecutors Office said Kim So-young was indicted under physical detention on charges of murder, special bodily injury and violating the Narcotics Control Act. Kim is accused of handing the drinks containing benzodiazepine, a depressant, to three men on separate occasions between last December and last month, resulting in two deaths. One of the three men

- [Top general visits key Marine, Navy units to inspect S. Korea-US drills](#) (2026-03-10 10:37)

South Korea's top general on Tuesday visited key Marine Corps and Navy units to inspect their participation in an ongoing major exercise with U.S. troops, his office said. Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Jin Yong-sung visited the Combined Marine Component Command and the Northwest Islands Defense Command and urged troops to verify wartime plans during the Freedom Shield exercise as South Korea seeks to take back wartime operational control from

the United States, according to the JCS. Jin al

- [Samsung Electronics spends W37.7tr won in R&D; in 2025](#) (2026-03-10 10:23)

Samsung Electronics Co. said Tuesday it spent a record 37.7 trillion won (\$25.6 billion) on research and development in 2025 as part of its push to gain an early lead in the global race for next-generation artificial intelligence chips. The amount represented a 7.8 percent increase from the previous year's 35 trillion won, the company said in an annual business report. Samsung Electronics said the massive investment was part of the company's strategy to preemptively cope with booming demand for

- [K-drama icons return for 'Climax' as spring content wars heat up](#) (2026-03-10 09:33)

Korean heavyweights are returning to television with a major new project, as the political thriller "Climax" unites Netflix's "The Trauma Code: Heroes on Call" hero Ju Ji-hoon with a beloved K-drama heroine Ha Ji-won ("Secret Garden") -- who returns from a four-year hiatus with the new series. Set to air on cable network ENA, the outfit behind the global phenomenon "Extraordinary Attorney Woo," the show follows prosecutor Tae-sup (Ju) as he becomes part of a cartel in his pursuit of political po

- [S. Korea, Ghana leaders to discuss trade, defense cooperation: Cheong Wa Dae](#) (2026-03-10 09:20)

The leaders of South Korea and Ghana seek to deepen cooperation across a broad range of areas, including trade and investment as well as defense and the arms industry, Seoul announced Tuesday. South Korean President Lee Jae Myung is scheduled to hold a summit with Ghanaian President John Dramani Mahama on Wednesday afternoon at Cheong Wa Dae, presidential spokesperson Kang Yu-jung said in a press statement. Mahama is in South Korea from Tuesday through Saturday for a working visit. "The two lead

- [PM to visit US, Switzerland in bid to host 'UN AI hub'](#) (2026-03-10 09:00)

Prime Minister Kim Min-seok will travel to the United States and Switzerland later this week as South Korea launches its bid to host a platform for the United Nations bodies dedicated to artificial intelligence, which could collaborate with the South Korean government or private-sector companies. South Korea aims to secure a joint project with the UN and share necessary AI infrastructure through the launch of an "UN AI hub," Kim said in a meeting at the Government Complex Seoul on Tuesday. He ca

- [SK Inc. to retire record W4.8tr in treasury shares](#) (2026-03-10 08:59)

SK Inc., the holding company of SK Group, said Tuesday it will retire about 4.8 trillion won (\$3.27 billion) of treasury shares, marking the largest share retirement ever undertaken by a domestic holding firm. The board approved a plan to retire 14.69 million treasury shares out of the 17.98 million shares currently held by the company, excluding 3.29 million shares reserved for employee compensation. The retirement represents roughly 20 percent of SK Inc.' s

outstanding shares and, based on curr

- [Beyond skills, attitude defines success in the AI era, says veteran civil servant](#) (2026-03-10 08:52)

Global interest in Korea has surged in recent years, ranging from its culture to its industries. But beyond what the world sees in K-culture lies something less visible, according to veteran South Korean civil servant Lee In-jae, president of the Korea Social Capital Research Center. He says it's about a way of working, a way of making decisions, a way of enduring. Drawing on 35 years in public service, Lee is set to release "The K-Attitude Advantage: Beyond the Algorithm," a guide to leadership

- [Inside Korea' s migrant population: 10 key takeaways from latest survey](#) (2026-03-10 08:51)

The Ministry of Statistics and the Ministry of Justice on Tuesday released the results of their annual Survey on the Residence and Employment Status of Migrants, offering a snapshot of how foreign residents and naturalized citizens live and work in South Korea. The government has conducted the survey since 2017, examining demographic, visa and employment trends among migrants aged 15 and older who have stayed in the country for at least 91 consecutive days. Here are some key findings from the 20

- [Heeseung to leave Enhypen](#) (2026-03-10 08:23)

Heeseung will part with Enhypen to pursue a solo career, his agency Belift Lab announced Tuesday. The agency shared the news through the fan community platform Weverse, saying it had been discussing the group' s future direction and goals with the members. According to Belift Lab, the discussions included in-depth conversations about each member' s vision and the team' s path forward. During that process, Heeseung expressed a clear musical direction he wanted to pursue, and the agency decided to re

- [Last registered resident of Dokdo dies at 88](#) (2026-03-10 08:20)

The last registered resident of Dokdo, South Korea' s easternmost islets, has died, leaving the outpost without a legal resident for the first time since the 1960s. According to Ulleung-gun in North Gyeongsang Province on Tuesday, Kim Shin-yeol died last week at the age of 88. A former haenyeo, or female free-diver who harvests seafood, from Jeju Island, she had been registered as a resident of the islets since moving there in 1991 to join her husband, Kim Sung-do. Kim Sung-do had lived on the is

- [Seoul shares rebound more than 5% on eased Iran woes; won sharply up](#) (2026-03-10 07:39)

South Korean stocks rebounded more than 5 percent Tuesday after suffering a sharp decline the previous session, as investors hunted bargains amid eased concerns over the US-Iran conflict. The local currency gained sharply against the greenback. The Korea Composite Stock

Price Index moved up 280.72 points, or 5.35 percent, to close at 5,532.59. Trade volume was heavy at 913 million shares worth 28.4 trillion won (\$19 billion), with gainers far outpacing losers 753 to 146. Individual investors sold

- [Lee cautions against ‘burning down the house’ in prosecution overhaul](#) (2026-03-10 07:01)

President Lee Jae Myung on Monday warned that prosecution reform should be carried out with precision, cautioning against attempts that “burn down the house to get rid of bedbugs,” in remarks widely seen as directed at hard-line lawmakers within the ruling Democratic Party of Korea. “To solve a problem, one must accurately identify its cause and clearly distinguish what should and should not be addressed,” Lee wrote in a post on X. “In carrying out necessary reforms, caution is needed to avoid b

- [North Korean leader signals closer Pyongyang-Beijing cooperation in letter to Xi](#) (2026-03-10 06:28)

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un reaffirmed Pyongyang’s commitment to strengthening relations with Beijing in a reply to a congratulatory message from Chinese President Xi Jinping, the state-run Korean Central News Agency said Tuesday. The North Korean leader sent the letter to Xi on Monday in response to the Chinese leader’s message congratulating him on his reelection as general secretary of the ruling Workers’ Party of Korea during the party’s congress held last month. In the message, Kim Jong

- [How war in Iran is affecting Korea](#) (2026-03-10 06:27)

As the conflict involving the United States, Israel and Iran shows signs of prolonging, the ripple effects of soaring global oil prices are being felt acutely across South Korea, especially hitting workers in transport, agriculture, fisheries and island communities, whose livelihoods depend heavily on fuel. For many, the crisis triggered by the Middle East conflict is materializing in the form of rising operational costs that cannot be passed on to consumers. Truck drivers and delivery workers,

- [‘I need my heart to connect’: Olivier winner on taking Korea’s ‘The Last Man’ to London](#) (2026-03-10 06:22)

In a cramped studio in Sillim-dong — a neighborhood where young Koreans gather to study for exams that can shape the rest of their lives — a young man prepares for a test he may never take. Outside, the city has collapsed. Inside, he may be the last person alive. It is the premise of a one-man Korean musical that British playwright and dramaturg Jethro Compton is now bringing to the British stage. Compton is serving as dramaturg for the UK premiere of “The Last Man,” a Korean one-person rock mus

- [Lee calls large, small firms’ cooperation ‘survival strategy’](#) (2026-03-10 06:20)

President Lee Jae Myung said Tuesday that cooperation between large corporations and small businesses should be treated as an investment and even a national “survival strategy.” Speaking at a roundtable at Cheong Wa Dae with representatives from 10 large companies and their SME partners, Lee said some approaches that powered South Korea’s industrial rise had become outdated. Held under the slogan “seeds of shared cooperation, blossoming into growth for all,” the meeting aimed to encourage compan

- [Kim Jong-un’s sister issues stark warning over South Korea-US military drills](#) (2026-03-10 06:17)

Kim Yo-jong, the powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, warned Tuesday that joint military exercises between South Korea and the United States could lead to “unimaginably terrible consequences,” as the allies began their annual spring drills on the Korean Peninsula. Kim, a department director in the ruling Workers' Party of Korea, issued the warning in a statement carried by the state-run Korean Central News Agency a day after South Korea and the US launched their annual joint exerc

- [Yellow Envelope Act takes effect as labor-business tensions rise](#) (2026-03-10 06:13)

The government’s major revision to labor law took effect Tuesday, allowing subcontractors to negotiate directly with contractors and expanding the scope of permissible labor disputes. But mixed views persist over potential disruptions to business operations. The government promulgated the revision to the Trade Union and Labor Relations Adjustment Act, commonly called the “Yellow Envelope” bill, on Sept. 9, 2025. Since then, authorities have continued to clarify ambiguous provisions in the law, e

- [Speaker sets early April as deadline to draft constitutional amendment](#) (2026-03-10 06:13)

National Assembly Speaker Rep. Woo Won-shik said Tuesday that the rival parties should work to launch a special parliamentary committee for constitutional amendment by next week and propose the draft by April 7. Woo's proposal would be a prerequisite for South Korea to hold a referendum simultaneously with the June 3 local election. The last amendment came into being in South Korea in 1987, alongside South Korea's democratization. Woo stressed in the press conference that legal hurdles to hold a

- [Korea has five years to act on AI gap with China: KAIST professor](#) (2026-03-10 06:06)

As China accelerates its advance in foundation models, South Korea is not far behind in frontier model performance, according to Shin Jin-woo, ICT endowed chair professor at the Kim Jaechul Graduate School of AI at KAIST. But performance is not the real issue. “The technology gap is often exaggerated,” Shin said in a recent interview with The Korea Herald in Seoul. “Based on the time required to absorb and reproduce publicly released technologies, the difference is closer to half a year.” Becaus

- [After DeepSeek: China shifts from breakthrough to AI scale](#) (2026-03-10 06:06)

One year after DeepSeek unsettled the global AI landscape and signaled that China had narrowed the gap with the US in generative artificial intelligence, the question is no longer whether China can compete. It is whether China is beginning to define the architecture of the next AI order. “The difference between adopting AI and defining its architecture is huge,” said Ahn Jun-mo, a professor of public administration at Korea University. “Countries that set the standards have the power to shape ec

- [People Power Party moves to distance itself from Yoon, but doubts linger](#) (2026-03-10 06:04)

South Korea’s main opposition People Power Party has formally moved to distance itself from former President Yoon Suk Yeol, but doubts and criticism remain. The conservative party adopted a resolution Monday apologizing for Yoon’s Dec. 3, 2024, martial law declaration and formally rejecting the “Yoon Again” slogan used by some supporters advocating for the former president’s political comeback. The resolution was read by Floor Leader Rep. Song Eon-seok, who said the party must acknowledge public

- [Kospi rebounds as oil prices fall on hopes of early end to war](#) (2026-03-10 06:02)

South Korea’s benchmark Kospi surged over 5 percent Tuesday, rebounding from the previous day’s steep sell-off as hopes for an early end to the conflict in the Middle East lifted global markets. After US President Donald Trump said Monday that the war with Iran was “very complete,” oil prices fell below \$90 per barrel, helping drive a recovery in equities worldwide, including in Korea. The Kospi reclaimed the 5,500 mark, closing the session at 5,532.59, up 5.35 percent from the previous session.

- [ISS backs Korea Zinc board nominees ahead of key vote](#) (2026-03-10 06:02)

Global proxy adviser Institutional Shareholder Services threw its support behind the proposal by Korea Zinc’s incumbent board to nominate five directors ahead of a general shareholders’ meeting, as the company’s standoff with major shareholder Young Poong and MBK Partners continues to escalate. The ISS recommendation arrives roughly two weeks ahead of the March 24 annual shareholders’ meeting, at which investors in the world’s largest zinc smelter will vote on competing board nominations put for

- [BTS to launch ‘Arirang’ pop-up store in Seoul ahead of album release](#) (2026-03-10 05:58)

BTS will open a special pop-up store in Seoul to mark the release of its upcoming album, “Arirang,” the group’s agency said Tuesday. According to Big Hit Music, the pop-up event will run from 1 p.m. on the day of the album’s release (March 20) through 8:30 p.m. on April 12 at two locations: Shinsegae Department Store’s The Heritage building in Jung-gu, central Seoul, and the Hybe headquarters in Yongsan. Merchandise for sale at the pop-up was created in collaboration with the National Museum Fou

- [Police probe ticket scams ahead of BTS Gwanghwamun comeback show](#) (2026-03-10 05:58)

Police have launched an investigation into suspected ticket scams and misuse of automated programs related to BTS' upcoming comeback show at Gwanghwamun Square. Park Jeong-bo, chief of the Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency, said Monday that police are currently investigating three suspected criminal cases tied to ticket sales for the concert, after ticket platform Nol Universe requested a probe into signs of automated programs buying tickets for the event on March 21. Police said the main types o

- [Government to push phased retirement age increase](#) (2026-03-10 05:53)

The National Human Rights Commission of Korea said Tuesday that the Ministry of Employment and Labor had informed it the government would begin working to meet its recommendation to gradually raise the statutory retirement age. "We plan to draft new legislation to gradually raise the retirement age as part of the government's national agenda," the ministry said, according to the commission. "The government will actively support discussions so that labor and management can find common ground in a

- [Seoul calls for port access support for Korean ships stranded near Strait of Hormuz](#) (2026-03-10 05:51)

Seoul has asked countries near the Strait of Hormuz to assist South Korean vessels operating in the area by allowing them to enter nearby ports and receive supplies, a Foreign Ministry official said Tuesday. According to the official, requesting anonymity, more than 20 South Korean-flagged vessels with about 180 crew members are currently in or near the Strait of Hormuz, a strategic waterway linking the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman between Iran and Oman. Concerns are growing that the vessel

- [US investors drop Section 301 petition over Coupang probe](#) (2026-03-10 05:44)

Two US investors in Coupang — Greenoaks and Altimeter — have withdrawn their petition urging the United States Trade Representative to investigate the South Korean government's handling of the e-commerce platform following a massive data breach in November last year. The investors filed the petition in January under Section 301 of the US Trade Act of 1974, a law used to address unfair trade practices by foreign governments. "Over the last several weeks, we have had constructive discussions with

- [Korean AI chip startups ramp up hiring as new processors near launch](#) (2026-03-10 05:44)

South Korea's leading AI chip startups are sharply expanding their workforces as the sector enters a critical phase: commercializing next-generation processors designed to run artificial intelligence services. Industry sources and data from Korean startup investment database TheVC show that four prominent Korean AI fabless firms — Rebellions, DeepX, Mobilint and FuriosaAI — have significantly increased headcount over the past year as their latest chips move toward initial mass production or cust

- [‘Mad Concrete Dreams’ starring Ha Jung-woo takes aim at South Korea’s property obsession](#) (2026-03-10 05:37)

Ha Jung-woo, known for hits such as “Along with the Gods” and “1987,” returns to television for the first time in 19 years with “Mad Concrete Dreams,” a satire that taps into one of modern South Korea’s most enduring aspirations: property ownership. “(Shooting this series), I came to think that becoming part of the FIRE movement (Financial Independence, Retire Early) shouldn’t be something that comes easily,” Ha said during a press conference in Seoul on Monday. “It’s great if you manage to buy

- [Are butter rice cakes the new ‘Dubai chewy cookie’ ?](#) (2026-03-10 05:34)

After the frenzy surrounding the “Dubai chewy cookie,” a new dessert trend is quickly gaining traction in Korea: butter rice cakes, a treat defined by its “crispy outside, chewy inside” texture. Across social media and video platforms, recipe clips and cafe reviews featuring butter rice cakes are spreading rapidly, drawing attention to the dessert’s unusual texture and flavor combination. Made with glutinous rice dough enriched with butter, the pastry develops a crisp golden crust during baking

- [Ne-Yo launches Asia-focused label Pacific Music Group with top regional stars](#) (2026-03-10 05:28)

Grammy-winning singer-songwriter Ne-Yo has teamed up with Indian music star Sonu Nigam, Chinese American rapper MC Jin and veteran music executive Jonathan Serbin to launch a new entertainment company aimed at the Asian market, according to the firm on Tuesday. The newly established label, Pacific Music Group, will be headquartered in Hong Kong and focus on discovering and developing Asian artists for global audiences. PMG plans to operate multiple genre-specific labels — spanning pop, R&B, hip-

- [Trump says Iran war could be over soon, but oil disruption would trigger harsher US strikes](#) (2026-03-10 05:27)

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — US President Donald Trump said Monday that the war against Iran could be short-lived, but he left open the possibility of an escalation in fighting if global oil supplies are disrupted by the Islamic Republic, which chose a new hard-line supreme leader. Oil prices briefly shot to their highest level since 2022 a day after Iran selected Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei to succeed his late father as Iran’s supreme leader. Investors saw it as a signal that Iran was digg

- [SK hynix unveils world’s first 1c-based LPDDR6 chip](#) (2026-03-10 05:15)

SK hynix said Tuesday it has developed a next-generation 16-gigabit LPDDR6 DRAM built on its 10-nanometer-class sixth-generation 1c process, designed to support on-device artificial intelligence in mobile devices. LPDDR, or low-power double data rate memory, is widely used in smartphones and tablets because it operates at a lower voltage to reduce power consumption. The company recently completed what it said was the world’s first certification for a 1c-based

LPDDR6 product after unveiling the c

- [Riize wraps ‘Riizing Loud’ world tour with electrifying finale in Seoul](#) (2026-03-10 05:09)

Boy group Riize closed its first world tour in Seoul over the weekend, delivering a high-energy finale concert that highlighted the group's rapid growth and deepening connection with fans. Held from Friday to Sunday at Kspo Dome in Songpa, southern Seoul, the finale of the group's "Riizing Loud" tour drew a combined audience of 32,000 over three sold-out shows. Sunday's concert marked the culmination of an eight-month global journey that took Riize across 21 cities in Asia and North America, dra

- [Stablecoins can cut costs of cross-border payments: Woori Financial digital chief](#) (2026-03-10 05:04)

Woori Financial Group is exploring global partnerships to expand stablecoin-based cross-border payments as the government moves toward regulating digital assets. "Companies with overseas subsidiaries constantly need to send money abroad," Ok Il-jin, executive vice president of digital innovation at Woori Financial, said in an interview with Herald Business in Seoul. "Stablecoins can significantly shorten settlement times and reduce transaction costs." The group is reviewing ways to integrate sta

- [France to deploy dozen warships: Macron](#) (2026-03-10 04:56)

PAPHOS, Cyprus (Reuters) -- France was deploying about a dozen naval vessels, including its aircraft carrier strike group, to the Mediterranean, Red Sea and potentially the Strait of Hormuz as part of defensive support to allies threatened by the conflict in the Middle East. Speaking in Cyprus before visiting the Charles de Gaulle aircraft carrier, which arrived over the weekend in the eastern Mediterranean, President Emmanuel Macron sought to reassure his Cypriot counterpart after drones were

- [China exports surge into 2026 after record year](#) (2026-03-10 04:51)

BEIJING (Reuters) -- China roared into 2026 with exports far outstripping forecasts, fueled by red-hot electronics demand, putting the economy on track to top last year's record \$1.2 trillion trade surplus and blunting the blow from the war in Iran. Outbound shipments from the world's second-largest economy grew 21.8 percent in US dollar terms in the January-February period, sharply up from the 6.6 percent increase recorded in December and blowing past the median forecast in a Reuters poll of

- [Korea Zinc to showcase strategic minerals at InterBattery](#) (2026-03-10 04:43)

Korea Zinc said Tuesday it will highlight its role in strengthening Korea's resource security by producing strategic minerals essential for advanced industries — including batteries, semiconductors and defense — at InterBattery 2026. Having participated in the exhibition for five consecutive years since 2022, the company plans to showcase its 52 years of technological expertise as one of the world's leading non-ferrous metals smelters, presenting a broad

portfolio spanning battery materials and

- [LG CNS takes stake in Silicon Valley robot startup Dexmate](#) (2026-03-10 04:37)

LG CNS has taken a stake in Silicon Valley robotics startup Dexmate as the Korean technology services company moves to deploy humanoid robots in industrial workplaces such as warehouses and factories. The investment, announced Tuesday, was made through LG Technology Ventures, the venture capital arm of LG Group. Financial terms were not disclosed. Dexmate, based in Santa Clara, California, develops mobile humanoid robots designed for logistics and manufacturing environments. According to LG CNS,

- [Hyundai Mobis expands Mercedes-Benz partnership with Hungary facility](#) (2026-03-10 04:37)

Hyundai Mobis said Tuesday its newly operational plant in Hungary will supply chassis modules to Mercedes-Benz, expanding their partnership beyond North America. Located in Kecskemet in central Hungary, the facility is Hyundai Mobis' first European production base dedicated to global customers outside Hyundai Motor Group. It is the company' s fourth manufacturing site in the region after plants in the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Turkey. The Hungary plant will mass-produce chassis modules for ele

- [More regions pay grandparents for child care](#) (2026-03-10 04:34)

Jeju will begin offering stipends to grandparents caring for their grandchildren starting in March, following strong public approval of a similar program in Seoul. A survey conducted by the Seoul Metropolitan Government in February found that 99.2 percent of guardians were satisfied with the program, while 99.5 percent said they would recommend it to other caregivers. "I want to give my parents money for taking care of my children, but I' m glad the city is supporting them on my behalf," said a p

- [Foreigners through eyes of media: Does coverage lead to prejudice?](#) (2026-03-10 04:32)

Crimes committed by foreigners account for only a small share of offenses in South Korea. But news coverage and public debate often make them appear far more common than the numbers suggest. As of 2024, the number of "foreign residents" — defined by the Interior Ministry as foreign nationals staying in Korea for more than 90 days, naturalized citizens and their children — surpassed 2.58 million, the highest figure on record. They now make up roughly 5 percent of the population. Despite this demo

- [Why Chinese students flock to Korea' s MBA programs?](#) (2026-03-10 04:26)

The number of Chinese students enrolled in graduate programs at South Korean universities has surged over the past decade, and now account for more than half of all foreign master's and doctoral students in the country. Chinese graduate students totaled 30,081 as of April 1 last year, according to data submitted by the Education Ministry to Rep. Kim Min-jeon of the National Assembly' s Education Committee. The figure represents a 167 percent increase from

11,250 in 2016, marking a roughly 2.6-fold

- [Swiss bar fire probe widens to five more local officials](#) (2026-03-10 04:26)

GENEVA (AFP) -- Swiss prosecutors on Monday said five more current and former local officials were under criminal investigation over the New Year bar fire in the ski resort of Crans-Montana that killed 41 people. The prosecutor's office in southwestern Switzerland's Wallis canton, where the upmarket ski resort is located, declined to provide further details. However, a source close to the case confirmed to Agence France-Presse that the mayor of the Crans-Montana municipality, Nicolas Feraud, is

- [Enhyphen's Jungwon to feature on Japanese film soundtrack](#) (2026-03-10 04:25)

Jungwon of Enhyphen is set to lend his voice to a Japanese film soundtrack, teaming up with singer and actor Tomohisa Yamashita for a collaborative track. According to Enhyphen's agency Belift Lab on Tuesday, Jungwon participated in the track for the upcoming Japanese film "Honest Real Estate." The song, titled "Koe," was partially unveiled in the film's newly released trailer. Jungwon described the project as a meaningful experience, marking his first time singing for a movie soundtrack. "I perso

- [Much of Iran's uranium likely to be in Isfahan: Grossi](#) (2026-03-10 04:22)

PARIS (Reuters) -- Almost half of Iran's uranium enriched to up to 60 percent purity, a short step from weapons-grade, was stored in a tunnel complex at Isfahan and is probably still there, UN nuclear watchdog chief Rafael Grossi said Monday. The tunnel complex is the only target that appears not to have been badly damaged in attacks last June by Israel and the US on Iran's nuclear facilities. Diplomats have long said Isfahan has been used to store 60 percent uranium, which the International A

- [Trump's Gaza plan on hold as Iran war pauses disarmament talks, sources say](#) (2026-03-10 04:20)

Talks to advance US President Donald Trump's plan to end the Gaza war have been on hold since last week when the US and Israel jointly attacked Iran, sparking a broader Middle East war, three sources with direct knowledge of the negotiations said. The pause threatens to stall implementation of Trump's flagship Middle East peace initiative, which he has cast as a major foreign policy objective. It comes less than a month after he secured billions of dollars in pledges for Gaza from Gulf Arab sta

- [Colombia's President Petro wins in congressional election, but lacks majority to advance reforms](#) (2026-03-10 04:19)

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — The party of Colombian President Gustavo Petro secured a victory in congressional elections, but will have to build coalitions with other parties to carry out announced reforms, including a controversial push to rewrite the nation's constitution. Petro's Historical Pact party won almost a quarter of all seats in the Senate Sunday, more than any

other party. But its staunchest opponents also made gains, with the Democratic Center party — the conservative party led by forme

- [K-pop concerts drive record traffic to Nol World](#) (2026-03-10 04:01)

Nol Universe said Tuesday that its global travel and entertainment booking platform Nol World recorded a record 2.64 million monthly active users in January, driven by an influx of Chinese tourists during the Lunar New Year holiday and K-pop concert ticketing. The figure represents roughly a 33-fold increase from the same period last year and marks the highest monthly user count since the platform's launch. Membership also grew rapidly, with about 300,000 new users joining in January to bring th

- [Ex-President Yoon refuses to attend hearing on 2022 Itaewon disaster](#) (2026-03-10 03:48)

Former President Yoon Suk Yeol on Tuesday refused to meet with representatives of a special investigation committee on the 2022 crowd crush who visited the Seoul Detention Center to persuade him to attend a hearing. The National Commission for the Investigation of the October 29 Itaewon Disaster is scheduled to hold the hearing Thursday and Friday to uncover the truth behind the crowd accident that killed 159 people in the central Seoul district in October 2022, when Yoon was serving as presiden

- [S. Korea providing supplies to its stranded vessel in Strait of Hormuz: official](#) (2026-03-10 03:44)

South Korea is in the process of providing supplies to one of its ships stranded in the Strait of Hormuz amid the conflict in the Middle East, a foreign ministry official said Tuesday. The vessel is among some 20 ships stranded in the key waterway where roughly 20 percent of global oil and gas pass through. The shipping channel has effectively been shut down as the war between US-Israeli forces and Iran intensified. About 180 South Korean seafarers are currently aboard the 20 vessels, according

- [Seoul's aging poor driven toward bankruptcy by living costs](#) (2026-03-10 03:17)

A growing number of residents in Seoul are falling into irrecoverable debt, with new city data showing that people in their 60s and older now make up the majority of personal bankruptcy applicants. Six out of every 10 individuals who sought personal bankruptcy assistance through the Seoul Financial Welfare Counseling Center last year were aged 60 or above, according to a report released Tuesday. The center analyzed 1,192 valid bankruptcy applications filed in 2025 as part of its annual review of

- [Kard's BM joins 2nd season of 'Beef'](#) (2026-03-10 03:04)

BM of Kard appears in the trailer for the second season of Netflix drama series "Beef," confirming his upcoming Hollywood debut. BM plays a tennis coach from the country club that serves as the backdrop of the new season, set to premiere April 16. In the trailer, BM can be spotted touching faces with the club owner and Korean billionaire (Youn Yuh-jung) as well as

having a chat with one half of the couple managing the club, played by Carey Mulligan. The television series' first season won critic

- [VeriVery' s Kangmin to drop 1st solo set](#) (2026-03-10 02:53)

Kangmin of VeriVery will begin his solo career later this month with the physical single “Free Falling,” his agency Jellyfish Entertainment said Tuesday. He is set to release the album on March 26, about seven years after his debut with VeriVery. Along with four bandmates, he picked up a trophy from a television music chart show for the first time in three years, with “Red (Beggin’),” the main track from the group’ s fourth physical single, “Lost and Found.” Kangmin embarked on a solo fan meet to

- [Lee says S. Korea’ s deterrence intact regardless of developments regarding USFK air defense assets](#) (2026-03-10 02:49)

President Lee Jae Myung said South Korea’ s deterrence against North Korea is not affected by the movement of US Forces Korea air defense assets, while underscoring the importance of self-reliant national defense. Presiding over a weekly Cabinet meeting, Lee noted that “it appears that recently controversy has arisen over the US Forces Korea taking certain assets — such as (missile) batteries or air defense systems — out of the country.” “From our government’ s standpoint, we expect the role of US

- [S. Korea seeks to tap crude oil stored by foreign refiners: lawmaker](#) (2026-03-10 02:49)

South Korea is moving to exercise its rights to tap crude oil reserves stored in the country's oil terminals by foreign oil firms to cope with the volatility caused by the situation in the Middle East. According to Rep. Ahn Do-geol of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea on Tuesday, the government has initiated coordination with undisclosed foreign refiners over the rights to purchase oil stored in South Korea. According to Ahn, up to 6.86 million barrels of oil could be secured based on South K

- [LS Eco Energy secures first cable supply contract in Japan](#) (2026-03-10 02:39)

LS Eco Energy said Tuesday its Vietnamese subsidiary LS-VINA has signed an annual supply contract for 6.6-kilovolt CVT distribution cables with Kitanihon Electric Wire, marking the company’ s first entry into Japan’ s power infrastructure market. Kitanihon Electric Wire is a subsidiary of Tohoku Electric Power and supplies distribution cables to major electric utilities in Japan. Japan’ s power infrastructure market is widely considered difficult to enter due to its unique technical standards and s

- [KickFlip readies for 4th EP](#) (2026-03-10 02:30)

Boy group Kickflip unveiled the timetable for the release of its fourth EP, “My First Kick,” through its label JYP Entertainment on Tuesday. Following teaser content, the six-member act will drop the mini album and host a comeback showcase on April 6. On Monday, the prerelease “Twenty” came out, and the bandmates celebrated with a fan event where they watched the

single's music video and chatted. Donghyun, the youngest member, participated in writing the melody for the rock-based tune. The group

- [Lee says possible shift of USFK's military assets won't affect deterrence against N. Korea](#) (2026-03-10 02:23)

President Lee Jae Myung said Tuesday that a potential relocation of military assets owned by the US military stationed in South Korea will not affect the deterrence posture against North Korea. Citing media reports that the US Forces Korea might have recently shipped out some weapons, including an anti-missile defense system, Lee told a Cabinet meeting, "If you ask if our deterrence strategy against North Korea is severely affected (because of a possible shift of such assets), I can say absolute

- [Additional Cheongung-II interceptors shipped to UAE: reports](#) (2026-03-10 02:14)

The United Arab Emirates appears to have received dozens of Cheongung-II interceptor missiles from South Korea, according to multiple reports Tuesday. Local wire service News1 reported that a UAE Air Force C-17 strategic transport aircraft was spotted departing from Daegu Airport, near South Korea's K2 Air Base, on Monday afternoon. According to reports, the UAE's C-17 transport aircraft arrived at Daegu Airport late Monday night, and the Cheongung-II interceptor missiles — developed by South Ko

- [Blog of jailed Telegram sex ring leader shut down after post bragging about prison award](#) (2026-03-10 02:13)

A blog associated with Cho Ju-bin, the imprisoned leader of a Telegram-based sex exploitation ring, has been shut down as of Tuesday after a post boasting about an award he received in prison. When accessed, the blog currently displays only a notice stating that the page has been restricted for violating the platform's policies. The closure follows public backlash over a blog post from Monday titled "Award acceptance speech," which shared the news of Cho receiving recognition in a prison educati

- [Paris Hilton launches recovery fund for women business owners after disasters](#) (2026-03-10 02:07)

The pop culture star, advocate and entrepreneur Paris Hilton launched an initiative Monday to support female small-business owners impacted by disasters, a nationwide expansion of her philanthropic support for women entrepreneurs after the 2025 Los Angeles fires. Hilton is donating \$350,000 to kick-start the Back in Business Recovery Fund, with a goal to raise at least \$1 million by the end of March. "Women-owned businesses are really the heart of so many of these communities," Hilton told The A

- [Cosmax Indonesia partners with BRIN on skin microbiome research](#) (2026-03-10 02:04)

Cosmax's Indonesian unit said Tuesday it has signed a research agreement with the National Research and Innovation Agency to build the "Nusantara Skin Microbiome Map," expanding

microbiome research tailored to local skin characteristics. BRIN, a research institution directly overseen by the Indonesian president, is responsible for managing the country's national research and development strategy and related research budgets. The agency also conducts research in bio and health sciences and works

- [Attacks reported near South Korean overseas units amid Middle East conflict](#) (2026-03-10 02:04)

Attacks have occurred near South Korean overseas military units following the outbreak of war in the Middle East, with the units maintaining heightened protection measures to ensure the safety of personnel, according to government data released Tuesday. Data submitted by the Defense Ministry to Rep. Hwang Hee of the Democratic Party of Korea showed that a strike occurred about 31 kilometers northeast of the Dongmyeong Unit in Lebanon on Feb. 28, when the United States and Israel carried out air

- [Innometry to unveil next-generation inspection solutions at InterBattery](#) (2026-03-10 02:03)

Innometry said Tuesday it will participate in InterBattery 2026, set to be held at Coex in Seoul this week, where it will showcase next-generation nondestructive inspection technologies for secondary batteries and other advanced industries. At the exhibition, the company will operate a booth highlighting its core technologies based on X-ray and 3D CT solutions. Innometry will divide its showcase into two sectors — secondary batteries and advanced industries — presenting inspection technologies t

- [Five Iranian women's soccer players granted humanitarian visas in Australia](#) (2026-03-10 01:56)

SYDNEY (Reuters) -- Australia on Tuesday granted humanitarian visas to five Iranian women's soccer team players after they sought asylum fearing persecution in their home nation. The announcement came after US President Donald Trump said he had spoken to Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese about the Iran women's soccer team in Australia following reports that the players had requested asylum. The remaining players are in a hotel on the Gold Coast. Albanese said help is available to the ot

- [CJ Olive Young takes K-beauty festival global](#) (2026-03-10 01:56)

CJ Olive Young said Tuesday it would expand its signature beauty event, Olive Young Festa, to global markets this year, holding events sequentially in Japan and the United States. Launched as Korea's first large-scale beauty festival, Olive Young Festa has served as an experiential platform where participating brands introduce their products directly to consumers, leveraging Olive Young's product curation and beauty trend insights. This year's Olive Young Festa 2026 will retain the event's origi

- [Day6's Wonpil returns with 'Unfiltered' after 4 years](#) (2026-03-10 01:55)

Wonpil of Day6 is set to release his first solo EP “Unfiltered” on March 30, JYP Entertainment announced Monday. The release was announced via a post on Day6's official social media channels Monday. The teaser captures Wonpil gazing through a fogged window as droplets slowly slide down from a section wiped clean, visually conveying the album’s dreamy, melancholic mood. In the clip, Wonpil’s plaintive vocals deliver the line, “I’m just breathing empty air, I’m not alright, oh God, save me,” hinting

- [Lee thanks UAE and Qatar, calls for sustained evacuation efforts](#) (2026-03-10 01:49)

President Lee Jae Myung on Tuesday called on government agencies to continue efforts to evacuate Korean nationals from the Middle East and thanked foreign governments for their support. Speaking at Tuesday’s Cabinet meeting, Lee said hundreds of South Koreans had safely returned home in recent evacuation operations facilitated by the United Arab Emirates and Qatar amid escalating conflict in the region. “Early yesterday morning, 203 of our nationals who had been staying in the UAE returned home

- [Kia unveils upgraded Niro hybrid, discontinues EV version](#) (2026-03-09 23:31)

Kia unveiled an upgraded version of its eco-friendly crossover Niro, offering the model exclusively as a hybrid while discontinuing the Niro EV as part of its shift toward dedicated electric vehicles. The South Korean carmaker said it will begin taking orders for the mildly face-lifted Niro model on Tuesday in South Korea. The refreshed model comes four years after the second-generation Niro was launched in January 2022. The upgraded Niro is offered in a hybrid version that delivers a combined f

- [\[Graphic News\] S. Korea shuts 153 schools over five years](#) (2026-03-09 23:00)

A total of 153 schools were consolidated or closed across South Korea between 2021 and 2025 as the nation’s school-age population continues to shrink, according to data from the Ministry of Education obtained by Rep. Park Sung-hoon of the People Power Party. Of the schools closed, 120 were elementary schools, 24 were middle schools and nine were high schools. The closures come as the number of students nationwide fell from 5,323,075 in 2021 to 5,015,310 last year, a drop of nearly 310,000. By re

- [\[Mariana Mazzucato\] Reimagining the economics of culture](#) (2026-03-09 20:30)

Brazil’s Carnival, the greatest party on earth, ended last month. For those who have never been, no description does it justice. The blocos playing in the streets, the samba schools parading through Rio de Janeiro’s Sambadrome, the drumlines, the costumes, and the collective joy of millions of people constitute a spectacle unto itself. In dark and divided times, Carnival reminds us that participation, creativity and shared celebration are not peripheral to economic life. They are part of what ec

- [\[Lim Woong\] Becoming ‘New Lee Jae Myung’](#) (2026-03-09 20:30)

Modern Korean presidential history often reads like a long-running case study in leadership types. Over the decades, the office has been occupied by a variety of figures in style and ambition, yet many shared an implicit premise: The president stands apart from the public, legitimized not so much by higher statesmanship as by extreme ideology, elite credentials, regional identity and ties to wealth and status. President Lee Jae Myung appears, at least so far, to break with that pattern. He proje

- [Going to Miami: S. Korea beats Australia to reach quarterfinals](#) (2026-03-09 13:42)

South Korea defeated Australia 7-2 on Monday to advance to the quarterfinals of the World Baseball Classic, getting out of the opening round for the first time in 17 years after beating steep odds to win the tiebreaker. Designated hitter Moon Bo-gyeong hammered a two-run home run as part of his four-RBI night at Tokyo Dome in the teams' final Pool C game, helping South Korea grab the final ticket to Miami. In order to move on to the quarterfinals, South Korea had to beat Australia by at least fi

- [Top diplomats of S. Korea, Qatar discuss evacuations, energy supply amid Middle East crisis](#) (2026-03-09 12:22)

Foreign Minister Cho Hyun held a phone call with his Qatari counterpart Monday and asked for support for the safe return of South Korean nationals and stable energy supplies amid the ongoing conflict surrounding Iran, Seoul's foreign ministry said. During the call with Qatar's Foreign Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani, Cho mentioned Qatar's recent announcement to suspend production of liquefied natural gas and asked for the country's cooperation to ensure stable energy suppli

- [N. Korea cancels int'l marathon due to some reasons: tour agency](#) (2026-03-09 11:02)

North Korea has decided to cancel the 2026 Pyongyang International Marathon, originally set for April 5 in the country's capital, due to some reasons, a Beijing-based tour agency said Monday. Koryo Tours, which specializes in travel to North Korea, broke the news on its website, saying, "This decision was communicated to us by the DPR Korea Athletics Association and has been confirmed as final." DPRK stands for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the official name of North Korea. The agen

- [Conservative party formally severs ties with ex-President Yoon](#) (2026-03-09 11:00)

South Korea's main opposition People Power Party formally broke with disgraced former President Yoon Suk Yeol on Monday, adopting a resolution explicitly opposing his return to politics as the party moves to unify ahead of crucial local elections. The declaration, issued collectively in the name of all sitting People Power Party lawmakers, came 296 days after Yoon left the party in May 2025, following his removal from office by the Constitutional Court in April 2025 over his short-lived declarat

- [Conservative party open to accepting Seoul mayor's reelection bid after deadline](#)

(2026-03-09 09:47)

The main opposition People Power Party remained open to accepting incumbent Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon's candidate registration to run again for the mayoral post, even after the deadline passed Sunday. Lee Jung-hyun, who oversees the conservative party's candidate nomination process for the upcoming local elections in June, told reporters Monday that Oh's unexpected decision not to apply for the candidacy would not necessarily mean his chances of reelection have completely disappeared. "Our door to

- [3-term lawmaker vows free access to public transit in Seoul mayor bid](#) (2026-03-09 09:23)

Rep. Park Ju-min, a three-term lawmaker of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea, pledged Monday to grant all citizens free access to the Seoul public transit services within 10 years, reiterating his road map from February. It was part of his local election campaign pledges in the field of transportation services unveiled Monday as he launched his Seoul mayor bid, alongside pledges to increase passenger capacity for Line No. 9 trains and backtrack Seoul's introduction of the controversial Han Ri

- [Seoul plans first fuel price caps in 29 years as oil shock hits](#) (2026-03-09 09:18)

South Korea plans to impose fuel price caps this week for effectively the first time since 1997, after a sharp run-up in prices that authorities say has occurred even before any Middle East supply disruption has hit the country. President Lee Jae Myung ordered the measure's swift implementation in opening remarks at a 90-minute emergency economic response meeting held Monday at Cheong Wa Dae, as the government moved to contain the fallout from the war triggered by joint US and Israeli strikes on

- [Telegram sex ring leader bragging about award from prison sparks criticism](#) (2026-03-09 09:17)

A blog linked to Cho Ju-bin, the imprisoned mastermind behind a notorious online sex blackmail ring, is stirring controversy after a post revealed he received an award while incarcerated, according to online communities Monday. The post titled "Award acceptance speech," uploaded late last month on the blog he has operated through a legal representative since January 2024, reads: "I received an award. It was given in recognition of my diligent participation in education programs over the past thr

- [Lee Se-dol returns to build with AI, not battle it](#) (2026-03-09 09:02)

Ten years after his historic game against Google DeepMind's AlphaGo transformed global perceptions of artificial intelligence, Go legend Lee Se-dol returned to the same venue. This time, the encounter was not a contest between human and machine but a demonstration of how the two might work together. The event held at the Four Seasons Hotel Seoul in central Seoul was organized by Korean AI startup Enhans, which showcased a system designed to coordinate multiple AI "agents" to carry out complex ta

- [Is it hard to befriend Koreans?](#) (2026-03-09 07:48)

Most friends of Lena Smit, a 25-year-old psychology major from the Netherlands studying at Ewha Womans University, are Koreans she met at school. She doubts those relationships would have formed as naturally off campus. “Being part of the same school, department or company seems to naturally create opportunities to connect in Korea. Making friends here feels less random and more structured,” said Smit, who has been living in Korea for two years. “I would be very hesitant to approach a Korean in

- [Pablo Air aims higher with AI drone swarms](#) (2026-03-09 07:01)

For Kim Young-joon, the 36-year-old founder and chair of Pablo Air, volunteering for South Korea’s Army special forces was an easy decision. “I don’t really like doing what others usually do,” Kim said in an interview with The Korea Herald at the company’s office in Incheon last week. While Korean men typically complete their mandatory military service through conscription, Kim chose the more demanding route of volunteering as an officer in the special forces. “I like adventures, so I was lookin

- [Seoul shares sink nearly 6 pct amid Iran crisis, crude price hike; won sharply down](#) (2026-03-09 06:45)

South Korean stocks fell nearly 6 percent Monday, with the main bourse operator temporarily suspending trading during the morning amid extreme market volatility caused by US-Israeli airstrikes on Iran. The local currency fell sharply against the greenback. The Korea Composite Stock Price Index surrendered 333 points, or 5.96 percent, to close at 5,251.87. In the morning, the Korea Exchange activated a circuit breaker, suspending all trading on the main bourse for 20 minutes after the main index

- [How Boston Dynamics IPO could unlock Hyundai Motor Group’s ownership overhaul](#) (2026-03-09 06:20)

Hyundai Motor Group’s decadeslong effort to streamline its complex ownership structure could finally gain momentum. The catalyst is not a new SUV, but the company behind the back-flipping humanoid robot Atlas. Boston Dynamics, the auto-to-steel conglomerate’s US robotics unit, will work toward a long-anticipated initial public offering on the Nasdaq this year, according to sources. With a potential listing as early as 2027, the company is expected to select underwriters and file for a preliminar

- [KCCI launches recruitment platform for USFK veterans](#) (2026-03-09 06:20)

The Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry said Monday it has launched a recruitment platform designed to connect former US military personnel who served in South Korea with Korean companies operating in the United States. The KCCI said it signed a memorandum of understanding with the Korea-US Alliance Foundation and participating companies to operate the job-matching platform, targeting American service members completing their assignments

with US Forces Korea. The platform, accessible at www.U

- [Discovery of remains rekindles scrutiny of Jeju Air crash recovery](#) (2026-03-09 06:18)

The South Korean government faces renewed criticism from families of victims of the Jeju Air crash that killed 179 people on Dec. 29, 2024, after human bone fragments and eight other suspected remains were discovered in rubble removed from the crash site in recent weeks. The accident occurred at Muan International Airport in South Jeolla Province, when a Boeing 737-800 skidded off the runway during an emergency landing following a reported bird strike, struck a concrete structure near the runway

- [Seoul to expand medical tourism interpreters tenfold](#) (2026-03-09 06:13)

The Seoul Metropolitan Government said Monday it will expand its pool of medical tourism interpreter-coordinators to about 1,000 this year — nearly ten times the current level — to better serve the rapidly growing number of foreign patients visiting the city. To support the initiative, the city signed a memorandum of understanding with the K-Medical Tourism Association last week. Under the agreement, interpreter-coordinators affiliated with the association will be deployed to major medical insti

- [Why cheaper flour, sugar may not mean cheaper ramyeon](#) (2026-03-09 06:06)

South Korean makers of instant noodle are facing mounting pressure to cut retail prices, as government antitrust investigations into key ingredients such as sugar and flour trigger markdowns across the supply chain. Seven Korean flour millers — CJ CheilJedang, Daehan Flour Mills, Sajo Dongaone, Daesun Flour Mills, Samyang Corp., SamHwa Flour Mills and Hantop — face antitrust proceedings over allegations they colluded to fix flour prices between 2019 and 2025. Potential penalties could reach as h

- [Kospi plunges, won weakens as oil shock rattles markets](#) (2026-03-09 06:05)

A surge in global oil prices triggered by the war in the Middle East rattled investors Monday, raising concerns about renewed global inflation pressures and weighing heavily on both South Korea's stock market and the local currency. Higher oil prices are stoking inflation concerns for Korea, a country heavily dependent on energy imports. Rising import costs reduce production efficiency and could deal a major blow across the industrial supply chain, putting additional pressure on the bourse. Pric

- [SPC Samlip names safety, global strategy experts as co-CEOs](#) (2026-03-09 06:01)

SPC Samlip said Monday it has appointed Sangmidang Holdings CEO Do Se-ho and Kellanova's Korea chief Jeong In-ho as co-chief executive officers. The appointments were approved at a board meeting held earlier in the day and will be finalized at a shareholders' meeting scheduled for March 26. The move is part of SPC Samlip's broader effort to reform management, strengthen workplace safety and accelerate overseas expansion. Do is known for his experience in safety management and labor relations. Th

- [Film about tragic Joseon king sends crowds to historic exile site in Yeongwol](#) (2026-03-09 05:58)

A recent hit at the box office is reshaping travel patterns in Gangwon Province, drawing thousands of visitors to Yeongwol to trace the final days of one of Korea's most tragic monarchs. "The King's Warden" has sparked a surge of interest in sites connected to King Danjong, the sixth ruler of the Joseon era (1392-1910), who was dethroned and exiled as a teenager. According to Yeongwol County, the historic sites of Cheongnyeongpo Meandering Stream and Jangneung Royal Tomb welcomed more than 10,00

- [JungKwanJang showcases Korean red ginseng at Expo West](#) (2026-03-09 05:55)

Korea Ginseng Corp. said Monday that its flagship brand JungKwanJang showcased the value of Korean red ginseng to global visitors at Natural Products Expo West, held March 4-6 in Anaheim, California. The event, one of the world's largest natural food exhibitions, brought together about 3,000 food and beverage companies from 130 countries and more than 60,000 industry professionals. It serves as a key global platform for identifying emerging trends in the food and wellness industries. JungKwanJan

- [S. Korea launches new project to recover Korean War remains](#) (2026-03-09 05:51)

South Korea's Defense Ministry said Monday it has launched this year's recovery mission searching for the remains of soldiers who died during the 1950-53 Korean War. According to the ministry, the project will be conducted in two phases, from March 9 to July 3 and from Sept. 1 to Nov. 27, with a preparation period in between. A total of 31 military units, including 30 Army units and the Marine Corps' 1st Division, will participate in the project, with more than 100,000 troops participating cumul

- [\\$350b US investment bill set for passage Thursday](#) (2026-03-09 05:47)

The National Assembly's special committee on US investment bills reached a bipartisan consensus Monday, the deadline to conclude its one-month operation. The bill, drafted in accordance with the joint fact sheet on trade and security between Seoul and Washington in November, was granted approval at the 16-member special committee and is eyeing passage in the National Assembly plenary session Thursday. The bill maps out plans to establish a public institution with 2 trillion won (\$1.34 billion) o

- [President Lee thanks Turkmenistan, Singapore for evacuating Koreans from Iran](#) (2026-03-09 05:45)

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung on Monday sent letters of appreciation to the leaders of Turkmenistan and Singapore, thanking them for their countries' support in helping South Koreans evacuate from the Middle East, Cheong Wa Dae said Monday. According to the presidential office, Lee thanked President Serdar Berdimuhamedov of Turkmenistan for assistance in the evacuation from Iran. In the operation, 25 South Korean citizens, along with

four Iranian family members of the Korean nationals, we

- [Lotte Biologics seeks global partnerships at DCAT Week](#) (2026-03-09 05:37)

Lotte Biologics said Monday it will participate in DCAT Week 2026, a major pharmaceutical and biotechnology industry gathering to be held in New York from March 23 to 26, as it looks to expand partnerships and strengthen its global presence in the contract development and manufacturing organization market. During the event, the company will host meetings at the Lotte New York Palace, the main venue of DCAT Week, to engage with potential partners and explore new business opportunities, particular

- [Kim Jong-un projects 'socialist family' ideals in Women's Day attendance with 'beloved daughter'](#) (2026-03-09 05:33)

The North Korean regime could be projecting the idea that the country is "one big socialist family" through Kim Jong-un and his daughter's attendance of a Women's Day event, seeking to coagulate society and further consolidate the "beloved daughter." Pyongyang's state media said Monday that Kim attended a concert marking International Women's Day Sunday at Pyongyang Indoor Stadium, accompanied by his wife Ri Sol-ju and daughter known as Ju-ae. The North Korean people welcomed their leader as he

- ['The King's Warden' boosts Korea's film revival push](#) (2026-03-09 05:31)

The culture minister delivered cake and flowers to the director in person. The head of the national heritage agency posted guides on social media to the film's real-life locations. The president put up his own congratulations on X. "The King's Warden" had already broken records before any of that happened, but the wave of official recognition that followed the film's run has been remarkable in its own right. The film crossed 10 million admissions on Friday, 31 days after its Feb. 4 opening. In K

- [Dominique Perrault to headline 2026 Korea Herald Architecture Talk](#) (2026-03-09 05:30)

The 2026 Korea Herald Architecture Talk will bring together Korean and French perspectives on public architecture, with renowned French architect and urbanist Dominique Perrault as the keynote speaker. The forum will be held at 3 p.m. on April 7 at the Ewha Campus Complex at Ewha Womans University in Seoul. Marking the 140th anniversary of diplomatic ties between South Korea and France, the fourth edition of the annual architecture forum will take place under the theme "Architecture Beyond Borde

- [Celltrion biosimilars gain strong market share across Asia](#) (2026-03-09 05:30)

Celltrion said Monday it continues to see solid prescription growth across Asian markets, with several of its key biosimilar products capturing leading market shares. Its flagship autoimmune disease treatment Remsima has established a dominant presence in multiple markets. According to clinical research provider IQVIA, as of the third quarter of 2025 Remsima held market shares of 93 percent in Singapore, 77 percent in Hong Kong, 73 percent in Thailand and

65 percent in Malaysia. Another autoimmune

- [Samsung SDI to debut batteries for AI humanoid robots, data centers](#) (2026-03-09 05:22)

Samsung SDI said Monday it will showcase next-generation batteries designed for humanoid robots and AI data centers at InterBattery 2026 this week in Seoul. Under the theme “AI Thinks, Battery Enables,” the company will debut a pouch-type all-solid-state battery sample developed for physical AI applications such as humanoid robots. The battery is designed to deliver high energy density, strong power output and enhanced safety in a compact form factor. It addresses the tight installation space ty

- [Lee Jae Myung to send special envoy to Chile for presidential inauguration](#) (2026-03-09 05:21)

Rep. Chung Il-young of the ruling Democratic Party will attend the inauguration of Chile's new president Jose Antonio Kast as President Lee Jae Myung's special envoy, Cheong Wa Dae said Monday. According to Cheong Wa Dae, Chung will travel to Chile from March 10 to March 12 as Lee's special envoy for the presidential inauguration. Chung, who serves as a board member of the Korea-Chile Parliamentary Friendship Association, is expected to meet Kast and deliver a personal letter from Lee. During th

- [Justice Ministry to crack down on illegal foreign delivery riders](#) (2026-03-09 05:17)

The Ministry of Justice said Monday it will launch a two-month crackdown on foreigners working illegally as food delivery drivers, citing a rise in unlicensed riding and unauthorized employment. The ministry designated March and April as intensive enforcement months, saying some international students have recently begun working as delivery drivers using borrowed or falsified Korean identities, raising concerns that local job opportunities are being affected. Major delivery platforms such as Bae

- [Justice Ministry launches task force to protect migrant rights](#) (2026-03-09 05:17)

The Ministry of Justice said Monday it has set up an Immigrants Rights Protection Task Force under the Korea Immigration Service to prevent human rights violations and strengthen remedies for foreign residents in South Korea. The ministry said responsibility for protecting foreign residents' rights had previously been dispersed across multiple departments. The new task force is intended to provide a more systematic and coordinated response. According to the ministry, the team will conduct on-sit

- [Students showcase research at National History Day Korea](#) (2026-03-09 05:09)

Hallways at Seoul International School in Seongnam, Gyeonggi Province, were packed as more than 800 students from 37 schools across South Korea gathered for National History Day Korea -- an international competition promoting historical research among middle and high school students. Under this year's theme, “Revolution, Reaction and Reform,” students presented projects ranging from short documentaries and research papers to websites and theatrical

performances during the event Saturday. Topics

- [Kospi tumbles over 8%, triggers circuit breaker](#) (2026-03-09 05:09)

South Korea's benchmark Kospi tumbled over 8 percent in trading Monday, prompting the activation of a circuit breaker, a 20-minute suspension on trading to curb excessive volatility. The Korea Exchange activated a circuit breaker on the Kospi at around 10:31 a.m., after the index fell more than 8 percent in the course of just over a minute. It was the second activation of a circuit breaker on the main bourse this year. At the time of the activation, the Kospi stood at 5,132.07 points, shedding 8

- [Envoy, Herald CEO pledge to boost Thai-Korea economic links](#) (2026-03-09 05:03)

Thai Ambassador to Korea Tanee Sangrat and Herald Media Group CEO Choi Jin-young pledged to boost Thailand-Korea economic cooperation in a meeting Friday. Highlighting upcoming trade agreements and business initiatives, Sangrat said negotiations on the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement between Thailand and South Korea are nearing completion. A CEPA is a type of free trade agreement that goes beyond market access by promoting broader economic cooperation between partner countries. The

- [Lee calls for 'extraordinary measures,' fuel price cap amid energy shock](#) (2026-03-09 05:03)

President Lee Jae Myung ordered "extraordinary measures" to shore up energy supplies and rein in surging oil prices, including the swift imposition of a petroleum price cap for the first time in nearly 30 years. Lee convened an emergency economic response meeting at Cheong Wa Dae at 11 a.m. to assess the economic and inflationary fallout from the widening war in the Middle East, sparked by US-Israeli strikes on Iran that began Feb. 28. "As the crisis in the Middle East deepens, uncertainty at ho

- [BTS returns — and so does Army](#) (2026-03-09 05:01)

BTS' return this month will be the most closely watched K-pop comeback in recent memory. But the spotlight surrounding the comeback is not focused only on the artists. It is also turning to Army, the worldwide fandom that has played a central role in BTS' rise and stands as one of the largest and most organized communities in pop music today. By the numbers alone, Army is formidable. More than 44.7 million users follow the group on X, while 33.5 million users are registered on Weverse, the globa

- [Allies kick off Freedom Shield drills with fewer field exercises](#) (2026-03-09 04:36)

The annual South Korea-US military exercise, Freedom Shield, kicked off Monday, with a reduced number of outdoor field training drills. The command post-based exercise will run through March 19. This year's drills are based on a scenario reflecting lessons from recent global conflicts, including changes in North Korea's tactics following its troop deployment to Russia and the evolving threat posed by Pyongyang's nuclear weapons program. The exercise also carries added significance as the allies

- [China consumer inflation sees quickest jump in three years](#) (2026-03-09 04:18)

BEIJING (Reuters) -- China's consumer inflation accelerated to the highest in more than three years due to the effects of the Lunar New Year holiday, while producer deflation persisted as weak demand remained a drag on an economy facing stiff external challenges. Policymakers have been trying to boost consumption over the past two years, but analysts say more needs to be done to address the supply-demand imbalance. The consumer price index rose 1.3 percent year-on-year for the fifth month of g

- [Israel strikes Beirut hotel as toll rises](#) (2026-03-09 04:04)

BEIRUT (AFP) -- Israel struck a hotel in central Beirut Sunday, the first attack on the city centre since the start of the new war with Hezbollah, as Lebanon said nearly 400 people were killed over the past week. Lebanon was drawn into the Middle East war Monday, when Iran-backed militant group Hezbollah attacked Israel in response to the killing of Iranian supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei during US-Israeli strikes. Israel, which has kept up strikes targeting Hezbollah despite a 2024 ceasef

- [Police in Norway investigate an explosion outside the US Embassy in Oslo](#) (2026-03-09 04:03)

Police in Norway were investigating an explosion early Sunday outside the US Embassy in Oslo, the capital of the Scandinavian country, officials said. No injuries were reported. Police received reports of a “loud bang” or explosion around 1 a.m., Oslo police said in a news release. The explosion was caused by some sort of incendiary device, according to Frode Larsen, leader of the Oslo police joint unit for investigation and intelligence. Investigators believe the embassy was the target and are

- [Israeli settler attack in West Bank kills three Palestinians](#) (2026-03-09 04:01)

Palestinian authorities and the Israeli military said Sunday that three Palestinians were killed during an Israeli settler attack in the occupied West Bank, taking to 4 the number reported dead in such incidents over two days. Agence France-Presse journalists witnessed the funerals of the four men where relatives wept as mourners carried the bodies and chanted slogans. The spate of killings is the latest bloodshed as a result of violence that has soared in the West Bank since the start of the Ga

- [German state election deals blow to Merz: exit polls](#) (2026-03-09 03:59)

The German Greens on Sunday beat Friedrich Merz's conservative CDU in a state poll, exit polls showed, marking a blow for the chancellor ahead of elections this year as polls show the far right surging. Almost 32 percent of voters opted for the Greens led by Cem Ozdemir, according to exit polls by broadcasters ARD and ZDF, edging out the CDU with around 30 percent. Updated exit polls for both broadcasters showed the far-right Alternative for Germany almost doubling its result compared with 2021

- [Red Velvet's Irene outlines solo comeback](#) (2026-03-09 03:01)

Irene of Red Velvet is poised to drop her first solo full-length album on March 30, SM Entertainment announced Monday. The album will be titled “Biggest Fan” and consist of 10 tracks, including the title track. As the name of the album and lead single suggest, she portrays how she has matured into her own biggest fan through the support of her fans. The LP rolls out more than a year after her first solo endeavor, EP “Like A Flower.” the eight-track set sold over 250,000 copies in one day and top

- [Global arms exports soar on European demand: study](#) (2026-03-09 02:38)

STOCKHOLM (AFP) -- Global weapons flows grew by almost 10 percent in the past five years, with Europe more than tripling imports, a report showed Monday. The surge in European countries can be explained, in part at least, by the fact they are buying in weapons to supply to Ukraine and because they are seeking to boost their own military capabilities against a perceived threat from Russia, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute said. The volume of worldwide arms flows grew by 9.2 pe

- [Kep1er to return without Seo Youngeun](#) (2026-03-09 02:37)

Kep1er will put out a new album on March 31, but Seo Youngeun will be nowhere to be found, Klep Entertainment said Monday. The group is set to release “Crack Code,” returning about seven months since seventh EP “Bubble Gum.” The upcoming set will feature the six remaining bandmates after Seo decided to leave the team. She had been on a break since July 2025 due to health reasons. Last week she made her departure official. “The time I spent with Kep1er and Kep1ian was like a treasure, which I wou

- [Chong Won-o vows AI-driven governance in Seoul mayor bid](#) (2026-03-09 02:36)

Chong Won-o, who is competing for the Democratic Party of Korea candidacy in the June mayoral election in Seoul, vowed to adopt artificial intelligence in his governance as he launched his Seoul mayor bid. In a prerecorded speech unveiled on his YouTube channel Monday, Chong pledged to introduce AI technology to streamline the process of granting municipal approvals, and to improve citizens' welfare. He described his pledge as a way to improve citizens' sovereignty and turn Seoul into a "key eng

- [US marks 61st anniversary of Bloody Sunday](#) (2026-03-09 02:08)

SELMA, Alabama (AP) -- Sixty-one years after state troopers attacked Civil Rights marchers on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, thousands gathered in the Alabama city amid new concerns about the future of the Voting Rights Act. The March 7, 1965, violence that became known as Bloody Sunday shocked the nation and helped spur passage of the landmark legislation that dismantled barriers to voting for Black Americans in the Jim Crow South. The anniversary was celebrated in this southern city, that

- [Stray Kids garner 400m views with 'Back Door' music video](#) (2026-03-09 02:02)

Stray Kids exceeded 400 million mark on YouTube with the music video for “Back Door,” label JYP Entertainment announced Monday. This is the third time the group has reached the milestone, following “God’s Menu” and “Thunderous.” “Back Door” was released in 2020 as the lead track from “In Life,” a repack of the group's first album “Go Life.” With the single, the group came in first place on television music chart shows twice and made Time magazine's “The Best K-pop Songs of 2020” list. The repack

- [Thousands march for women's rights and against Mideast war](#) (2026-03-09 01:56)

PARIS, France (AFP) -- Tens of thousands of demonstrators took to the streets in cities across the world Sunday to mark International Women's Day and denounce the war in the Middle East. From Rio in Brazil, Caracas in Venezuela and cities across France, Spain, Turkey and other European countries, demonstrators marched to demand women's rights across a range of issues. Thousands marched in cities across Spain to protest gender-based violence and call for an end to the war in the Middle East. Rape

- [Blackpink enters Billboard 200 at No. 8 with 3rd EP](#) (2026-03-09 01:38)

Blackpink’s third EP “Deadline” debuted on Billboard 200 at No. 8, according to the chart preview released Sunday in the US. The mini album is the group's first new release in almost 3 1/2 years, after its second album “Born Pink,” a chart-topper on the main albums chart. Blackpink claimed spots for all of its albums on the chart: first EP “Square Up” at No. 40; second EP “Kill This Love” at No. 24; and first LP “The Album” at No. 2. “Deadline” landed atop the iTunes Top Albums chart in 38 regio

- [Korean won sharply depreciates against greenback over Middle East crisis](#) (2026-03-09 01:33)

The South Korean won depreciated sharply against the US dollar Monday, hitting its lowest point since the 2008 global financial crisis, as oil prices spiked amid the expanding conflict in the Middle East. The won traded at 1,494.55 won per dollar as of 9:45 a.m., down 19.05 won from the previous session. It marked the lowest intraday won-dollar rate since March 12, 2009, when the rate hit 1,500 won. Investor sentiment was dampened by instability in global energy prices. The US benchmark West Tex

- [S. Korea, U.S. kick off annual key springtime military exercise](#) (2026-03-09 01:33)

South Korea and the United States kicked off a key annual joint springtime military exercise Monday, with the number of planned field training drills cut in half compared with last year. The allies launched the Freedom Shield exercise, which will run through March 19, aimed at strengthening their combined defense posture. This year's FS exercise will be focused on assessing conditions to achieve the transfer of wartime operational control from Washington to Seoul. South Korea has been seeking to

- [Crude oil prices surpass \\$100 a barrel as Iran war impedes production](#) (2026-03-09 01:20)

CHICAGO (AP) — Oil prices eclipsed \$100 per barrel for the first time in more than three and a half years Sunday as the Iran war hinders production and shipping in the Middle East. The price for a barrel of Brent Crude, the international standard, was at \$107.97 after trading resumed on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, up 16.5 percent from its Friday closing price of \$92.69. West Texas Intermediate, the light, sweet crude oil produced in the United States, was selling for about \$106.22 a barrel.

- [Lee thanks Turkmenistan, Singapore for helping evacuate S. Koreans from Middle East](#) (2026-03-09 01:08)

President Lee Jae Myung has sent letters of appreciation to the leaders of Turkmenistan and Singapore for their assistance in evacuating South Korean nationals from the Middle East amid rising regional tensions, Cheong Wa Dae said Monday. In a letter to Turkmen President Serdar Berdimuhamedow, Lee expressed gratitude for Turkmenistan's cooperation in helping 25 South Korean nationals staying in Iran, as well as four Iranian nationals who are family members of Korean nationals, safely evacuate to

- [\[Graphic News\] Korean films with over 10m admissions](#) (2026-03-09 01:00)

Korean films with over 10m admissions 천만 관객 돌파한 한국 영화들 “The King’ s Warden” crossed the 10 million admissions mark Sunday, recording a cumulative audience of 11.17 million, a notable achievement as movie theaters continue to struggle to attract audiences amid fierce competition from streaming platforms. 영화 "왕과 사는 남자"가 일요일 천만 관객을 넘기며 누적 관객 수 1,117만 명을 기록했다. 이는 스트리밍 플랫폼과의 치열한 경쟁 속에서 관객 유치에 어려움을 겪고 있는 영화관들에게 주목할 만한 성과이다. The Korean historical film achieved the milestone in just over a month after it

- [Kospi sinks over 6% as oil surge triggers sell-side sidecar](#) (2026-03-09 00:54)

South Korea’ s benchmark Kospi plunged in early trading Monday as surging oil prices triggered by the US-Israel war with Iran rattled global markets, prompting the activation of a sell-side sidecar designed to curb excessive volatility. The Korean won also weakened sharply against the dollar. The Kospi opened at 5,265.37, down 5.72 percent from the previous session, and extended losses to as low as 5,171.53 in early trading. As of 9:35 a.m., the index was trading at 5,234.82, down 6.27 percent. A

- [Gov't urges oil refiners to refrain from excessive price hikes amid Middle East crisis](#) (2026-03-09 00:24)

Industry Minister Kim Jung-kwan on Monday called on major oil refiners to refrain from excessively raising prices amid a recent surge in international crude oil prices due to the ongoing Middle East situation, his office said. "We ask that transparent and fair petroleum pricing be implemented to ensure that the burden of rising international oil prices due to the recent situation in the Middle East is not unilaterally or excessively passed on to consumers," Kim said in a meeting with oil refiner

- [Lee urges caution over reform measures to minimize side effects](#) (2026-03-09 00:21)

President Lee Jae Myung on Monday urged caution in pushing ahead with reform measures to minimize potential side effects, suggesting a "surgical correction" approach where necessary. Lee reaffirmed his commitment to carrying out reform initiatives to address problems across various sectors, but stressed the need to avoid discouraging or hurting many members who are not involved in causing those problems. "Reform often requires surgical correction," Lee wrote on social media platform X. "To resol

- [203 S. Koreans return from Abu Dhabi aboard chartered flight](#) (2026-03-09 00:20)

More than 200 South Korean nationals who had been stranded in the United Arab Emirates due to the escalating US-Iran conflict returned home Monday aboard a chartered flight. The Etihad Airways plane, carrying 203 South Koreans and three family members of other nationalities, arrived at Incheon International Airport, west of Seoul, in the early morning, about 8 hours after departing from Abu Dhabi. It marked the first chartered flight organized by Seoul to bring back South Korean nationals from t

- [Seoul shares plunge nearly 6 pct; KRX issues sidecar; won sharply down](#) (2026-03-09 00:15)

South Korean stocks opened nearly 6 percent lower Monday over the escalating geopolitics in the Middle East and rising international oil prices, prompting the main bourse operator to issue a sell-side sidecar. The benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index lost 334.55 points, or 5.99 percent, to 5,250.32 as of 9:15 a.m. Program trading of the benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index was suspended for five minutes at 9:06 a.m., according to the Korea Exchange. A sidecar is triggered when the

- [E-cigarette, dual users linked to higher metabolic, lung risks: KMI study](#) (2026-03-09 00:02)

E-cigarette users and dual users — those who use both conventional cigarettes and e-cigarettes — are associated with a higher prevalence of metabolic syndrome and declining lung function, according to a recent study by the Korea Medical Institute. The findings are part of KMI's "Health Big Data Series," based on medical check-up data from approximately 3.05 million individuals who underwent examinations at eight KMI health screening centers nationwide. The study compared the prevalence of metabo

- [\[Graphic News\] Korean films with over 10m admissions](#) (2026-03-08 23:00)

"The King's Warden" crossed the 10 million admissions mark Sunday, recording a cumulative audience of 11.17 million, a notable achievement as movie theaters continue to struggle to attract audiences amid fierce competition from streaming platforms. The Korean historical film achieved the milestone in just over a month after its Feb. 4 premiere, making it the first film - domestic or foreign - in two years to surpass that threshold. The last films to do so were Jang Jae-hyun's supernatural thrill

- [\[팟캐스트\] \(773\) 첫 손님 여자 받으면 재수 없다? 제주 식당 성차별 논란](#) (2026-03-08 21:00)

진행자: 박준희, Chelsea Proctor 'Woman as 1st customer is bad luck': Jeju restaurant sparks sexism complaints 기사 요약: 제주도의 한 식당이 “첫 손님이 여성이면 재수 없다” 는 이유로 여성 고객에게 차별적으로 응대했다는 주장이 제기돼 공분을 사고 있다. [1] A controversy has been brewing over an alleged sexual discrimination of a popular beef soup joint on Jeju Island, where the owner was accused of making disparaging comments about female customers. controversy: 논란 brew: (차·맥주 등을) 끓이다, 우려내다. (논란 등이) 점점 커지다. discrimination: 차별 disparage: 폄하하다, 깔보다, 헐뜯다 [2] Those

- [\[Lee Kyong-hee\] ‘Arirang’ to celebrate Korea’s global moment](#) (2026-03-08 20:30)

“On March 21, the world’s biggest band is back!” Netflix’s teaser announces BTS’ upcoming live event at Gwanghwamun Square. The concert will follow the release of the group’s first studio album in more than three years, which drops a day earlier. The 14-track album — as well as the comeback show — is titled “Arirang.” The concert is expected to be viewed worldwide through Netflix’s exclusive live streaming to more than 190 countries. Hundreds of thousands of Armys, as BTS fans are known, from ar

- [\[Javier Blas\] Iran war's strategic commodity](#) (2026-03-08 20:25)

The CIA calls it the “strategic commodity” of the Middle East. But it’s not referring to oil or natural gas. What the American spy agency has in mind is far more prosaic: drinking water. Don’t underestimate it, though, because if military hostilities continue to escalate, water could become the geopolitical commodity that decides the war between the US and Iran. The Persian Gulf is gifted with a fabulous hydrocarbon endowment, worth trillions of dollars. What its desertic countries don’t have is

- [US not likely to hike tariffs if special investment bill passed in parliament: industry minister](#) (2026-03-08 11:09)

Industry Minister Kim Jung-kwan said Sunday he has been told the United States is not likely to hike tariffs on South Korea if the National Assembly passes a special bill on Seoul's \$350 billion investment pledge to the US Kim made the remarks at Incheon International Airport, west of Seoul, after visiting the US to meet with Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick and others to discuss tariff issues and other bilateral trade matters between Seoul and Washington. "At a meeting with Lutnick, I explaine

- [Oh Se-hoon drops Seoul mayor re-election bid for June 3 local elections](#) (2026-03-08 10:30)

Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon of the main opposition People Power Party dropped his bid for the party’s nomination for the June 3 local elections, effectively stepping back from the Seoul mayoral race. The four-term mayor did not submit his application by the 6 p.m. deadline Sunday for metropolitan mayoral nominations set by the People Power Party. Oh has urged the party to “normalize the party’s line” to improve its chances in the local elections and reverse the party’s free-fall approval ratings. “Re

- [Kim Yun-ji wins Korea's first women's gold at Winter Paralympics](#) (2026-03-08 10:23)

South Korea's para biathlete Kim Yun-ji won a gold medal Sunday in the women's sitting biathlon sprint at the 2026 Milan-Cortina Winter Paralympics, becoming the first Korean female athlete to claim gold at the Winter Paralympics. Kim, 19, finished the women's sitting 12.5 kilometer sprint in 38 minutes and 0.1 seconds at the Tesero Cross-Country Stadium in Italy, beating Anja Wicker of Germany to take the top spot on the podium. The victory marks the first individual gold medal by a South Korea

- [Chartered plane departs from UAE to bring home 203 S. Koreans: ministry](#) (2026-03-08 10:15)

A chartered plane departed from the United Arab Emirates on Sunday to bring home hundreds of South Koreans stranded in the Middle Eastern country amid the escalating conflict between Iran and the United States, the foreign ministry said. An Etihad Airways chartered flight carrying 203 South Koreans and their three foreign spouses departed from Abu Dhabi at 5:35 p.m. (Korean time), according to the ministry. The plane is expected to arrive at Incheon International Airport, west of Seoul, at around

- [Lee Mi-hyang captures 3rd career LPGA title in China](#) (2026-03-08 09:10)

Lee Mi-hyang has claimed her third career LPGA title in China, ending a long winless drought in the process. Lee won the Blue Bay LPGA at Jian Lake Blue Bay Golf Course in Hainan Island, China, on Sunday by shooting an 11-under 277. The 32-year-old South Korean held off Zhang Weiwei of China by one stroke and earned \$390,000 in prize money. Lee struggled to a final round of one-over 73. She had two double bogeys, two bogeys and two birdies on the chaotic front nine, but recovered with three bird

- [Gender pay gap hovers near 30% in Korea: report](#) (2026-03-08 08:34)

The gender pay gap at South Korea's major conglomerates still hovers near 30 percent while women make up roughly one-quarter of the workforce, a report showed Sunday. According to an analysis of the 2024 business report by the Korea CXO Institute, women accounted for 25 percent of employees at 150 major conglomerates across key industries. The figure marks a 0.3 percentage point increase from 24.7 percent in 2023. From a year earlier, the number of female employees increased by 2,876 while their

- [Shin Yoo-yeol steps into spotlight as Lotte's biotech bet tests heir](#) (2026-03-08 08:03)

The message from Chairman Shin Dong-bin at the start of this year was blunt and poignant: Lotte Group cannot preserve its empire without shedding old habits. That mandate for renewed innovation and tighter capital discipline now seems to fall squarely on his eldest son, Shin Yoo-yeol, at the helm of the group's future-growth agenda. Just three months after the 39-year-old took charge of Lotte Biologics, the conglomerate's contract development and manufacturing arm, expectations are gathering aro

- [Koreans flee Middle East conflict, government pledges further support](#) (2026-03-08 07:50)

South Koreans escaping the conflict in the Middle East have begun arriving back in Korea, with the government pledging to direct all necessary resources to ensure the safety of Korean nationals in the region. A direct flight carrying South Korean nationals departed Dubai International Airport at 3:50 a.m. local time Sunday, scheduled to arrive at Incheon Airport at around 5 p.m. Korea time. Another commercial flight that had been urgently arranged earlier left Abu Dhabi and landed in South Korea

- [KCA issues consumer safety warning over Dubai Chewy Cookie](#) (2026-03-08 07:43)

The Korea Consumer Agency on Sunday issued a consumer safety alert over the Dubai Chewy Cookie after confirming cases of allergic reactions and tooth damage linked to the product. The agency said 23 cases were reported to its Consumer Injury Surveillance System between January and February. Of those, 11 involved allergy symptoms after consumption, while five reported digestive disorders. Four cases involved tooth damage caused by hard foreign substances, two reported finding foreign matter in th

- [Seoul plan to create forest near Cheong Wa Dae scrapped: report](#) (2026-03-08 07:33)

A Seoul city government plan to create forest areas and restore waterways near Cheong Wa Dae has effectively been scrapped, local media reported Sunday. According to Korea Herald sister paper, the Herald Business, authorities decided not to pursue projects to redevelop areas around Cheong Wa Dae, including Hyoja-ro, Cheongwadae-ro, Samcheong-ro and Jahamun-ro. The government also halted plans to restore historic waterways such as Baegundong Stream and Samcheongdong Stream. The original plan call

- [Speculation grows over possible USFK redeployment to Middle East](#) (2026-03-08 06:30)

Recent military movements in South Korea are raising questions over whether some United States Forces Korea assets could be redeployed to the Middle East as tensions between Washington and Tehran intensify. The speculation comes as the conflict in the Middle East appears increasingly likely to drag on, potentially increasing demand for US military assets and prompting the Pentagon to draw on forces stationed overseas. Such a scenario carries particular weight in Seoul. The “strategic flexibility

- [Pulmuone showcases K-food, plant-based products at US expo](#) (2026-03-08 06:29)

Korean food company Pulmuone showcased traditional Korean cuisine alongside its latest plant-based innovations at Natural Products Expo West 2026, held March 4-6 in Anaheim, California. The leading tofu maker has participated in the exhibition since 2003, introducing plant-based convenience foods such as tofu, plant-based meat, dumplings and fried rice to local consumers. At this year’ s booth, the company highlighted tofu and kimchi, underscoring both its leadership in the tofu market and its ro

- [Ruling party chair calls for probe of prosecution](#) (2026-03-08 06:28)

South Korea's ruling party is increasing pressure on the prosecutors' office, accusing it of fabricating evidence against President Lee Jae Myung and calling for a parliamentary probe into the issue. Democratic Party of Korea chair Rep. Jung Chung-rae told a press conference Sunday that the ruling bloc would spare no efforts to achieve prosecutorial reform, calling it "a symbolic representation of the Lee administration and the Democratic Party." The party passed legislation last year to split u

- [Media artist Cha Jae-min wins 21th Hermes Foundation Missulsang](#) (2026-03-08 06:21)

Korean media artist Cha Jae-min has won the 21st Hermes Foundation Missulsang for her distinctive approach to media art — listening to marginalized voices and building relationships through “essay films.” While her earlier work raised critical voices about structural conditions and power dynamics in society, her recent practice seeks to bring forth the voices of those who remain unheard. “After extensive and passionate discussions regarding the many outstanding candidates the jury of the 21st He

- [Time to buy Korean won: FX strategist](#) (2026-03-08 06:09)

The Korean won is poised for a rebound, making the deeply undervalued currency an appealing bet for investors, particularly when paired against the overvalued Thai baht, according to a seasoned foreign exchange strategist. Before the US-Israeli strikes on Iran that rattled global markets earlier this month, the Korean equity market had been booming; the benchmark Kospi briefly topped the 6,300 level for the first time, roughly doubling from a year earlier. Despite the rally in stocks, the local

- [Korea moves to curb 'excessive' celebrity security disrupting airport passenger flow](#) (2026-03-08 06:05)

South Korea has long grappled with airport congestion caused by the large entourages and security details accompanying celebrities traveling overseas. The issue has persisted for years, with fans and security personnel frequently crowding airport passageways and delaying travelers trying to catch flights on schedule. That situation may soon change. Earlier this week, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport commissioned a research project titled "A Study on Crowd Safety Management Meas

- [Iran war puts Korean drugmakers on edge](#) (2026-03-08 05:52)

Unease centered around the Iran war is keeping Korean drugmakers and health device companies on their toes amid growing concerns over supply chains and exports. The Korea Pharmaceutical and Bio-Pharma Manufacturers Association has warned that product supply schedules could be disrupted if the conflict in the Middle East leads to reduced flights, altered flight routes or closed airways. Delayed payments could also pose risks for companies, the business lobby said. “Disposable culture bags, filter

- [Samsung SDI to unveil AI solution for ESS battery safety](#) (2026-03-08 05:41)

Samsung SDI will unveil an AI-based battery safety solution for energy storage systems at InterBattery 2026, the company announced Sunday. Samsung Battery Intelligence uses artificial intelligence to diagnose the overall health of batteries, including their condition and potential anomalies, allowing operators to detect and predict safety risks in advance. Drawing on operational data from more than 1,400 ESS deployment sites worldwide, the system learns from large datasets accumulated over time.

- [Renault Filante crossover blends hybrid power with sedan comfort](#) (2026-03-08 05:40)

Renault Korea has launched the Filante crossover — the second model in its Aurora Project lineup — aiming to build this year’s sales momentum much like the Grand Koleos SUV did last year. Developed entirely at Renault Korea’s R&D center in Yongin, Gyeonggi Province, the new hybrid flagship builds on its smaller sibling Grand Koleos’ dynamic performance while adding sedan-like comfort, offering a fresh interpretation of Renault Group’s crossover DNA. Compared with the Grand Koleos, Filante takes

- [Gas price surge takes toll on truck drivers](#) (2026-03-08 05:39)

The recent surge in gas prices has slowed, but prices still hover near six-year highs, placing a heavy burden on truck drivers amid tensions in the Middle East. As of Sunday morning, South Korea’s average diesel price rose 4.8 won from the previous day to 1,915.4 won (\$1.29) per liter, while average gasoline prices increased 3.9 won to 1,893.3 won, according to industry data. The pace of increases has slowed significantly compared with recent days, when prices had been rising by several dozen wo

- [Local elections revive international school pledges, but will it work?](#) (2026-03-08 05:30)

The establishment of international schools is re-emerging as a major education pledge ahead of the local elections across Korea scheduled for June 3. Supporters of the plan cite the example of Jeju Island, which hosts four international schools and has used them to help revitalize rural areas, presenting international schools as a way to transform local communities. They say the schools could provide an environment attractive to global talent and draw Korean demand for overseas education back to

- [Lee Jae Myung’s war on housing speculation](#) (2026-03-08 05:19)

President Lee Jae Myung has declared war on housing speculation, using X as both a megaphone and a pressure tool. “For the sake of a sensible and prosperous nation, I will rein in, by any means, real estate speculation that can ruin the country,” Lee wrote in an X post on Feb. 3. In just over a month, he has posted more than two dozen times on real estate, framing it not as a narrow property issue but as a broader distortion of the national economy. “Housing speculation robs young people of hope

- [Korea moves to ban deepfake use in education superintendent elections](#) (2026-03-08 05:02)

South Korea is moving to ban the use of deepfake content in the upcoming regional education superintendent elections slated for June 3, 2026. According to the National Assembly's legislation information system, a bill to amend the Act on Local Education Autonomy passed the Education Committee's bill review subcommittee on Feb. 26. The bill seeks to apply deepfake regulations under the Public Official Election Act to local superintendent elections, and was first introduced by Rep. Kim Moon-soo of

- [Seoul cracks down on hotels near BTS comeback concert](#) (2026-03-08 04:34)

The Seoul Metropolitan Government said Sunday that it has uncovered multiple violations of lodging regulations near the venue of an upcoming concert by BTS, as authorities step up inspections ahead of the group's comeback event scheduled for March 21 in Gwanghwamun Square. According to the city, 18 out of 83 accommodation facilities inspected in the Jongno-gu and Jung-gu districts were found to violate lodging regulations, mainly for failing to display required price lists or business registrati

- [Flash floods in Nairobi kill 23](#) (2026-03-08 04:03)

NAIROBI, Kenya (AFP) -- At least 23 people have been killed in flash flooding in Nairobi, police said Saturday, as search and rescue operations continued amid widespread devastation. Torrential rains lashed the Kenyan capital late Friday, turning major streets into rivers and flooding thousands of homes and businesses. Rescue teams were still pulling out bodies and rescuing trapped residents on Saturday, while Agence France-Presse reporters saw heavily damaged roads and infrastructure from the c

- [Iranian clerics seek swift naming of new supreme leader](#) (2026-03-08 04:01)

Hard-line clerics have called for the swift selection of a new supreme leader to help guide Iran, Iranian media reported on Saturday, as the Islamic Republic reels under a new wave of US and Israeli strikes. The calls suggest some in the clerical establishment may be uncomfortable leaving power in the hands of the three-man council put in charge temporarily after the killing of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who had the final say in all matters of state. US President Donald Trump has

- [Protesters come out amid war in Iran](#) (2026-03-08 03:59)

PARIS, France (AFP) -- Lion-embazoned flags of pre-revolution Iran fluttered in cities across the world on Saturday as demonstrators took to the streets a week after the start of the war in the Middle East. Some protesters came out in support of Reza Pahlavi, the US-based son of the country's late shah, while others denounced the option. Others demonstrated against the war and some in support of Iran's late supreme leader Ali Khamenei, who was killed in the first US-Israeli strikes of the confl

- [At least 10 killed in Ukraine's Kharkiv](#) (2026-03-08 03:58)

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Two children were among at least 10 people killed on Saturday in a Russian missile that hit a five-story residential building in Ukraine's second-largest city, Kharkiv, officials said. Sixteen others were wounded. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy condemned the attack and called for an international response. He said that Russia struck Ukraine overnight with 29 missiles and 480 drones, targeting energy facilities in Kyiv and other central regions and with damage reported in at l

- [Tehran residents keep up semblance of normality](#) (2026-03-08 03:57)

TEHRAN, Iran (AFP) -- For a moment Tehran resembled a city at peace, with birdsong, joggers and tranquil views of the snow-capped Alborz mountains in the distance. Then the sound of another explosion ripped through the air. A week ago, opening strikes by the US and Israel killed Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, upended residents' lives and transformed the city streets into a battleground. In Tehran's west, a block that belonged to the security forces had been blasted apart, and the

- [HD Hyundai Electric breaks ground on 2nd US transformer plant](#) (2026-03-08 02:35)

HD Hyundai Electric said Sunday that it held a groundbreaking ceremony on Friday for a second plant at its North American production base in Montgomery, Alabama, HD Hyundai Power Transformers USA. Construction is scheduled for completion in April next year. The new facility will span about 29,000 square meters within the existing site and is expected to generate roughly 200 billion won (\$134 million) in annual revenue. The company plans to invest about \$200 million to boost production of extra-h

- [Top 3 universities see highest freshmen vacancies in 6 years](#) (2026-03-08 02:28)

The number of unfilled freshman seats at South Korea's top three universities has tripled over the past six years, apparently driven by continued preference for medical schools and last year's expansion of medical school admission quotas, data showed Saturday. According to an analysis by Jongro Academy based on the state-run Higher Education in Korea university information disclosure system, freshman vacancies at Seoul National University, Yonsei University and Korea University rose from 21 in b

- [Iran's president apologizes for strikes on neighbors](#) (2026-03-08 02:12)

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Iran's president apologized Saturday for attacks on “neighboring countries,” even as its missiles and drones flew toward Gulf Arab states and hard-liners asserted that Tehran's war strategy wouldn't budge. A rift between more pragmatic politicians looking to deescalate the weekold war and others committed to battling the US and Israel could complicate efforts to end the fighting. Conflicting statements involved two of the three members of the leadership council

- [Lee pledges to promote gender equality on International Women's Day](#) (2026-03-08 02:11)

President Lee Jae Myung on Sunday pledged to advance gender equality and foster a more inclusive society, marking International Women's Day. "I will fulfill my given role and responsibility to ensure that the Republic of Korea is reborn as a gender-equal society," Lee wrote on his Facebook page, referring to South Korea's official name. Lee said gender equality policies were scaled back under the previous administration, which had pledged to abolish the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family but

- [S. Korea mulls adopting oil price cap system for 1st time in 30 yrs: sources](#) (2026-03-08 02:09)

The government is considering adopting a price cap system for oil for the first time in nearly 30 years, sources said Sunday, amid concerns over rising energy prices following the escalating conflict in the Middle East. Officials began reviewing the possibility after surging global crude prices were reflected almost immediately in domestic fuel prices, rather than after the typical two-week lag, following US-Israeli strikes on Iran and Tehran's retaliatory attacks in the region. South Korea, whi

- [Canadian PM supports removing Andrew from royal line of succession](#) (2026-03-08 02:03)

TOKYO (AFP) -- Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney said on Saturday that former prince Andrew should be removed from the line of royal succession over his "deplorable" behavior. Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor is being investigated for alleged misconduct in public office following revelations about his dealings with the late US sex offender Jeffrey Epstein. He was arrested and released in February on suspicion of having passed confidential information to Epstein during his 2001-2011 role as a UK trad

- [US transport aircraft spotted departing Osan Air Base amid Patriot relocation speculation](#) (2026-03-08 01:58)

US military transport aircraft have been spotted arriving at and departing from a US air base in South Korea over the past week, raising speculation that the US Forces Korea may be deploying some of its assets to the Middle East amid the escalating conflict involving Iran. According to the real-time flight tracking website Flightradar24, C-5 and C-17 US transport aircraft have landed at Osan Air Base in Pyeongtaek, south of Seoul, since late last month and departed between Wednesday and Saturday

- [FX volatility reaches highest since COVID-19 pandemic amid Middle East tensions](#) (2026-03-08 01:57)

The daily volatility of the Korean won against the dollar has risen to its highest level since the COVID-19 pandemic amid heightened tensions in the Middle East, data showed Sunday. The won has fluctuated sharply following the US-Israeli joint attacks on Iran on Feb. 28, with the average daily fluctuation of the won against the greenback reaching 13.2 won as of Friday, according to the economic statistics system of the Bank of Korea. The level of volatility marks the highest since March 2020, wh

- [Former US presidents attend Jesse Jackson memorial in Chicago](#) (2026-03-08 01:46)

CHICAGO (Reuters) -- Former US Presidents Joe Biden, Barack Obama and Bill Clinton joined thousands of mourners at a public memorial service for Jesse Jackson in Chicago to honor the longtime civil-rights activist and Democratic political leader. Jackson, who died last month at the age of 84, was a leading advocate for voting rights and desegregation. The memorial on Friday at the House of Hope, a 10,000-seat venue on Chicago's South Side, was celebratory, with a choir performing rousing gospel

- [Chartered plane to bring home S. Koreans from UAE on Sunday: ministry](#) (2026-03-08 00:57)

A chartered plane to evacuate South Koreans from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) will take off this weekend amid escalating tensions in the Middle East, the foreign ministry said Saturday. The ministry said it is arranging a 290-seat Etihad Airways chartered flight, set to depart from Abu Dhabi at noon on Sunday (local time). Starting early Saturday, the South Korean Embassy in the UAE will receive applications from South Korean nationals wishing to board the plane, with priority given to critica

- [S. Korean bats start off hot, cool off later vs. Japan](#) (2026-03-08 00:55)

The South Korean bats started off hot before cooling off considerably in a deflating 8-6 loss to Japan at the World Baseball Classic on Saturday. The first three South Korean batters of the game each hit a single off starter Yusei Kikuchi, with Lee Jung-hoo capping that run with an RBI knock to left. Three batters later, Moon Bo-gyeong, an offensive hero with a grand slam in the team's 11-4 win over Czechia on Thursday, delivered a two-run double to center to give South Korea a 3-0 lead. South K

Source: Yonhap

- [Today in Korean history](#) (2026-03-15 05:00)

March 16

- [\(LEAD\) Lee vows expanded compensation for activists of 1960 democracy movement](#) (2026-03-15 04:20)

SEOUL, March 15 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung said Sunday the government w...

- [Lee vows expanded compensation for activists of 1960 democracy movement](#) (2026-03-15 03:02)

SEOUL, March 15 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung said Sunday the government w...

- [Shops, hotels in central Seoul preparing safety measures ahead of BTS show](#) (2026-03-15 02:33)

SEOUL, March 15 (Yonhap) -- Shops and hotels in central Seoul are bracing for a ...

- [Tech giants facing higher cost burdens amid supply chain disruptions](#) (2026-03-15 01:42)

SEOUL, March 15 (Yonhap) -- South Korean tech giants faced higher production cos...

- [PPP official in charge of nomination for local elections rescinds resignation offer](#) (2026-03-15 01:27)

SEOUL, March 15 (Yonhap) -- Lee Jung-hyun, head of the nomination committee at t...

- [Samsung leads global soundbar market for 12th straight year](#) (2026-03-15 01:20)

SEOUL, March 15 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Electronics Co. maintained its stronghold on...

- [SK hynix spends 6.7 tln won on R&D; last year amid HBM boom: data](#) (2026-03-15 01:08)

SEOUL, March 15 (Yonhap) -- SK hynix Inc. poured 6.7 trillion won (US\$4.4 billio...

- [\(2nd LD\) Trump calls on S, Korea, China, Japan, others to send ships to keep Hormuz Strait open](#) (2026-03-15 00:53)

WASHINGTON, March 14 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump said Saturday that ...

- [S. Korea seeks partnership with Anthropic amid AI push](#) (2026-03-15 00:45)

SEOUL, March 15 (Yonhap) -- South Korea is seeking to forge a partnership with A...

- [Olympic short track medalists win world titles in Montreal](#) (2026-03-15 00:38)

SEOUL, March 15 (Yonhap) -- Kim Gil-li, a recent Olympic double gold medalist in...

- [\(LEAD\) Military aircraft bringing back 211 S. Koreans, foreigners from Saudi Arabia amid Mideast conflict](#) (2026-03-14 23:13)

SEOUL, March 15 (Yonhap) -- A South Korean military transport aircraft is bringi...

- [Military aircraft bringing back 211 S. Koreans, foreigners from Saudi Arabia amid Mideast conflict](#) (2026-03-14 22:43)

SEOUL, March 15 (Yonhap) -- A South Korean military transport aircraft is bringi...

- [\(URGENT\) Military aircraft bringing back 211 S. Koreans, foreigners from Saudi Arabia in Middle East evacuation: Seoul](#) (2026-03-14 22:36)

(END)

- [\(LEAD\) N. Korea says conducted firepower strike drill with 600 mm ultra-precision multiple rocket launchers](#) (2026-03-14 22:13)

SEOUL, March 15 (Yonhap) -- North Korea conducted a firepower strike drill invol...

- [N. Korea says conducted firepower strike drill with 600 mm ultra-precision multiple rocket launchers](#) (2026-03-14 21:34)

SEOUL, March 15 (Yonhap) -- North Korea conducted a firepower strike drill invol...

- [\(URGENT\) N. Korea says conducted firepower strike drill with 600 mm ultra-precision multiple rocket launchers: KCNA](#) (2026-03-14 21:15)

(END)

- [U.S. says it is consulting with allies over N.K. launches, reaffirms defense commitment to allies](#) (2026-03-14 17:12)

WASHINGTON, March 14 (Yonhap) -- A U.S. military command said Saturday it is con...

- [\(LEAD\) Trump calls on S, Korea, China, Japan, others to send ships to keep Hormuz Strait open](#) (2026-03-14 15:36)

WASHINGTON, March 14 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump said Saturday that ...

- [Trump says 'hopefully,' S, Korea, other countries affected by attempted Hormuz Strait closure will send ships](#) (2026-03-14 14:58)

WASHINGTON, March 14 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump said Saturday that ...

- [\(LEAD\) 10 injured in building fire in central Seoul](#) (2026-03-14 14:03)

SEOUL, March 14 (Yonhap) -- Three people sustained serious injuries in a fire th...

- [Search under way for 2 crewmembers missing in ship fire off Jeju](#) (2026-03-14 14:00)

JEJU, South Korea, March 14 (Yonhap) -- Coast Guard personnel were searching for...

- [S. Korea reach semifinals at Women's Asian Cup, qualify for 2027 Women's World Cup](#) (2026-03-14 12:45)

SEOUL, March 14 (Yonhap) -- South Korea advanced to the semifinals of the top As...

- [2 seriously injured in building fire in central Seoul](#) (2026-03-14 12:04)

SEOUL, March 14 (Yonhap) -- Two people sustained serious injuries in a fire that...

- [Seoul evacuates more nationals from war-hit Iran](#) (2026-03-14 12:01)

SEOUL, March 14 (Yonhap) -- Several more South Koreans have evacuated from war-h...

- [\(2nd LD\) S. Korea wins int'l arbitration case against elevator maker Schindler](#) (2026-03-14 10:45)

SEOUL, March 14 (Yonhap) -- South Korea has won an international arbitration cas...

- [Finance minister says verbal intervention possible over sharp won decline](#) (2026-03-14 10:36)

TOKYO, March 14 (Yonhap) -- Finance Minister Koo Yun-cheol said Saturday the gov...

- [\(LEAD\) Cheong Wa Dae calls N. Korea's missile launch violation of UNSC resolution, calls for halt](#) (2026-03-14 08:53)

SEOUL, March 14 (Yonhap) -- The presidential Office of National Security denounc...

- [S. Korea, U.S. hold joint river-crossing drills amid N. Korea's missile firing](#) (2026-03-14 08:41)

YEONCHEON, South Korea, March 14 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean and U.S. militarie...

- [Cheong Wa Dae calls N. Korea's missile launch violation of UNSC resolution, calls for halt](#) (2026-03-14 08:35)

SEOUL, March 14 (Yonhap) -- The presidential Office of National Security denounc...

- [\(URGENT\) Cheong Wa Dae denounces N. Korea's missile launch as violating UNSC resolution, calls for halt](#) (2026-03-14 08:20)

(END)

- [Today in Korean history](#) (2026-03-14 07:44)

March 15

- [\(3rd LD\) N. Korea fires ballistic missiles as S. Korea, U.S. conduct joint drills](#) (2026-03-14 07:16)

SEOUL, March 14 (Yonhap) -- North Korea fired about 10 ballistic missiles toward...

- [\(URGENT\) N. Korea's ballistic missiles flew some 350 km: JCS](#) (2026-03-14 06:58)

(END)

- [Lee congratulates para cross-country skier for winning 4 medals](#) (2026-03-14 06:58)

SEOUL, March 14 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Saturday congratulated pa...

- [S. Korea, Japan to hold regular policy dialogue on trade, supply chain issues](#) (2026-03-14 06:41)

SEOUL, March 14 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and Japan agreed Saturday to establish a...

- [\(LEAD\) S. Korea wins int'l arbitration case against elevator maker Schindler](#) (2026-03-14 06:32)

SEOUL, March 14 (Yonhap) -- South Korea has won an international arbitration cas...

- [\(2nd LD\) N. Korea fires ballistic missiles as S. Korea, U.S. conduct joint drills](#) (2026-03-14 05:48)

SEOUL, March 14 (Yonhap) -- North Korea fired about 10 ballistic missiles toward...

- [S. Korea wins int'l arbitration case against elevator maker Schindler](#) (2026-03-14 05:47)

SEOUL, March 14 (Yonhap) -- South Korea has won an international arbitration cas...

- [\(LEAD\) N. Korea fires projectile as S. Korea, U.S. conduct joint drills](#) (2026-03-14 05:10)

SEOUL, March 14 (Yonhap) -- North Korea fired at least one unidentified projecti...

- [\(WBC\) Held back by subpar pitching, S. Korea's run ends in quarterfinals](#) (2026-03-14 04:55)

MIAMI, March 14 (Yonhap) -- With its pitchers getting knocked around left and ri...

- [N. Korea fires projectile eastward: JCS](#) (2026-03-14 04:41)

SEOUL, March 14 (Yonhap) -- North Korea fired at least one unidentified projecti...

- [\(URGENT\) N. Korea fires unidentified projectile eastward: JCS](#) (2026-03-14 04:31)

(END)

- [\(WBC\) Ryu Hyun-jin announces retirement from int'l play after loss to Dominican Republic](#) (2026-03-14 04:22)

MIAMI, March 14 (Yonhap) -- It's not the way he wanted to end it, but following ...

- [\(LEAD\) Man nabbed after stabbing woman to death in Namyangju](#) (2026-03-14 02:45)

NAMYANGJU, South Korea, March 14 (Yonhap) -- A man who had fled after fatally st...

- [\(LEAD\) \(WBC\) S. Korean bats stymied by Dominican pitching](#) (2026-03-14 02:36)

MIAMI, March 13 (Yonhap) -- As their pitchers kept getting punched around, South...

- [\(LEAD\) \(WBC\) Starter gets early hook, relievers struggle in big loss in quarterfinals](#) (2026-03-14 02:31)

MIAMI, March 13 (Yonhap) -- The veteran pitcher that the team trusted the most c...

- [\(WBC\) S. Korea manager thanks veteran pitcher for service after crushing defeat](#) (2026-03-14 02:20)

MIAMI, March 13 (Yonhap) -- As he tried to pick up the pieces following a crushi...

- [\(WBC\) S. Korean bats stymied by Dominican pitching](#) (2026-03-14 01:50)

MIAMI, March 13 (Yonhap) -- As their pitchers kept getting punched around, South...

- [Man flees after stabbing woman to death in Namyangju](#) (2026-03-14 01:43)

NAMYANGJU, South Korea, March 14 (Yonhap) -- A man has fled after fatally stabbi...

- [\(WBC\) Starter gets early hook, relievers struggle in big loss in quarterfinals](#) (2026-03-14 01:41)

MIAMI, March 13 (Yonhap) -- The veteran pitcher that the team trusted the most c...

- [\(LEAD\) \(WBC\) S. Korea humbled by Dominican Republic in quarterfinals](#) (2026-03-14 01:31)

MIAMI, March 13 (Yonhap) -- South Korea absorbed a 10-0 loss to the Dominican Re...

- [\(3rd LD\) PM Kim says Trump positive about dialogue with N. Korea's Kim but leaves open its timing](#) (2026-03-14 01:28)

WASHINGTON, March 13 (Yonhap) -- South Korean Prime Minister Kim Min-seok said F...

- [N. Korea promotes new street for families of soldiers killed in Russia-Ukraine war](#) (2026-03-14 01:08)

SEOUL, March 14 (Yonhap) -- Families of North Korean soldiers killed during the ...

- [\(WBC\) S. Korea humbled by Dominican Republic in quarterfinals](#) (2026-03-14 01:04)

MIAMI, March 13 (Yonhap) -- South Korea absorbed a 10-0 loss to the Dominican Re...

- [Top headlines in major S. Korean newspapers](#) (2026-03-14 00:28)

SEOUL, March 14 (Yonhap) -- The following are the top headlines in major South K...

- [\(URGENT\) Trump says meeting with N. Korea's Kim could happen during his China trip or afterward: S. Korean PM](#) (2026-03-13 23:54)

(END)

- [\(Yonhap Interview\) Rich in key minerals, Ghana seeks collaboration with S. Korea in critical minerals exploration: president](#) (2026-03-13 23:01)

SEOUL, March 14 (Yonhap) -- Ghanaian President John Dramani Mahama has expressed...

- [\(2nd LD\) S. Korean PM says Trump asked him whether N.K. leader Kim wants dialogue with U.S.](#) (2026-03-13 22:59)

WASHINGTON, March 13 (Yonhap) -- South Korean Prime Minister Kim Min-seok said F...

- [\(URGENT\) S. Korean PM says Trump directed aides to consider steps related to U.S.-N.K. relations](#) (2026-03-13 22:30)

(END)

- (URGENT) S. Korean PM says Trump asked him whether N.K. leader Kim wants dialogue with U.S. (2026-03-13 22:28)

(END)

- (LEAD) Trump says U.S. will hit Iran 'very hard' over next week, war will end when he feels it 'in my bones' (2026-03-13 21:00)

WASHINGTON, March 13 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump has said that the U...

- (LEAD) S. Korean PM meets Trump after parliament passes U.S. investment bill (2026-03-13 19:09)

WASHINGTON, March 13 (Yonhap) -- South Korean Prime Minister Kim Min-seok met wi...

- S. Korean PM meets Trump after parliament passes U.S. investment bill (2026-03-13 18:40)

WASHINGTON, March 13 (Yonhap) -- South Korean Prime Minister Kim Min-seok met wi...

- (URGENT) S. Korean PM meets Trump in Washington (2026-03-13 18:34)

(END)

- Trump says U.S. will hit Iran 'very hard' over next week, war will end when he feels it 'in my bones' (2026-03-13 17:58)

WASHINGTON, March 13 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump has said that the U...

- (LEAD) Hegseth says new Iranian supreme leader 'likely disfigured' (2026-03-13 14:59)

WASHINGTON, March 13 (Yonhap) -- U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said Friday...

- Hegseth says new Iranian supreme leader 'likely disfigured' (2026-03-13 14:08)

WASHINGTON, March 13 (Yonhap) -- U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said Friday...

- S. Korea seeks Saudi's cooperation for steady oil supply in foreign ministers' call (2026-03-13 14:07)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's foreign minister on Friday asked for S...

- (LEAD) Air China to resume Beijing-Pyongyang route for 1st time in 6 yrs (2026-03-13 13:26)

BEIJING, March 13 (Yonhap) -- China's national carrier, Air China, will resume f...

- Air China to resume Beijing-Pyongyang route (2026-03-13 11:32)

BEIJING, March 13 (Yonhap) -- China's national carrier, Air China, will resume f...

- U.S. welcomes S. Korea's passage of investment bill as 'positive' step: U.S. official (2026-03-13 09:32)

WASHINGTON, March 13 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump's administration we...

- [S. Korea warns of stern response to Japan PM's renewed Dokdo claim](#) (2026-03-13 08:55)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's foreign ministry said Friday it will t...

- [Lee suggests wider regional integration for Daejeon, Chungcheong provinces](#) (2026-03-13 08:10)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Friday floated the idea o...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-03-13 08:00)

The following is the second summary of major stories moved by Yonhap News Agency...

- [\(LEAD\) Gov't revises electricity rates for industrial use to ease burden on companies](#) (2026-03-13 07:59)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- The government on Friday revised the electricity rat...

- [Gov't revises electricity rates for industrial use to ease burden on companies](#) (2026-03-13 07:44)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- The government on Friday revised the electricity rat...

- [\(2nd LD\) Seoul shares down for 2nd day on prolonged Hormuz shutdown; won declines](#) (2026-03-13 07:35)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks closed lower Friday as investors...

- [Main opposition party falls further into disarray with local elections just 3 months away](#) (2026-03-13 07:16)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- The main opposition People Power Party (PPP) is drif...

- [Duty free sales down by nearly 50 pct last year compared to 2019: data](#) (2026-03-13 07:04)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- Total sales at local duty free stores last year almo...

- [Gov't vows enhanced interagency collaboration in securing strategic tech under NEXT initiative](#) (2026-03-13 07:00)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- The science ministry pledged Friday to enhance inter...

- [S. Korea eyes closer science ties with Finland in quantum, 6G sectors](#) (2026-03-13 07:00)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- South Korea will seek to expand cooperation with Fin...

- [Watchdog urges brokerages to enhance monitoring of illegal short selling](#) (2026-03-13 07:00)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- The country's financial watchdog said Friday that se...

- [Key developments on North Korea this week](#) (2026-03-13 07:00)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- The following are key developments regarding North K...

- [Summary of inter-Korean news this week](#) (2026-03-13 07:00)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- The following is a summary of inter-Korean news this...

- [Summary of domestic news in North Korea this week](#) (2026-03-13 07:00)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- The following is a summary of domestic news in North...

- [Summary of external news of North Korea this week](#) (2026-03-13 07:00)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- The following is a summary of external news on North...

- [\(LEAD\) Seoul shares down for 2nd day on prolonged Hormuz shutdown; won declines](#) (2026-03-13 06:49)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks closed lower Friday as investors...

- [\(LEAD\) Korean won falls further against dollar amid oil price surge, supply woes](#) (2026-03-13 06:48)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean currency fell markedly for the seco...

- [Hanwha Aerospace expands Australian plant, begins Redback IFV production](#) (2026-03-13 06:47)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- Hanwha Aerospace Co., South Korea's leading defense ...

- [Seoul shares down for 2nd day on prolonged Hormuz shutdown; won declines](#) (2026-03-13 06:33)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks closed lower Friday as investors...

- [Itaewon disaster committee to file complaint against ex-President Yoon](#) (2026-03-13 06:22)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- A special investigation committee on the Itaewon cro...

- [16th Gwangju Biennale: You must change your life](#) (2026-03-13 06:19)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- This year's Gwangju Biennale draws its inspiration f...

- [Seoul to communicate with Washington over USTR probe on forced labor-linked imports](#) (2026-03-13 06:01)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- The government said Friday it will continue close co...

- [Samsung chief returns from Europe after likely talks on EV battery cooperation](#) (2026-03-13 05:32)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Electronics Co. Chairman Lee Jae-yong return...

- [\(LEAD\) Industry minister says fuel price cap system already showing price stabilization effect](#) (2026-03-13 05:31)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- Industry Minister Kim Jung-kwan said Friday the gove...

- [PM seeks U.S. senator's cooperation for passage of bill on visas](#) (2026-03-13 05:28)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- Prime Minister Kim Min-seok has requested the cooper...

- [Police vow zero tolerance for terror threats against BTS comeback concert](#) (2026-03-13 05:26)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- Police vowed Friday to detain any suspects behind po...

- [KRX takes part in global bell-ringing ceremony for gender equality](#) (2026-03-13 05:01)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- The Korea Exchange (KRX) said Friday it hosted a bel...

- [Today in Korean history](#) (2026-03-13 05:00)

March 14

- [Antitrust regulator probes alleged price-fixing by gas stations in southern regions](#) (2026-03-13 04:58)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- The antitrust regulator is looking into suspected pr...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-03-13 04:30)

The following is the first summary of major stories moved by Yonhap News Agency ...

- [Money supply rises for 3rd month in Jan. on rising corporate deposits: BOK](#) (2026-03-13 03:00)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's money supply rose for the third consec...

- [USTR launches investigations into S. Korea, 59 other economies over failure to ban forced labor-linked imports](#) (2026-03-13 02:35)

WASHINGTON, March 12 (Yonhap) -- The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (US...

- [Seoul shares down late Fri. morning as oil swings on prolonged Hormuz blockade](#) (2026-03-13 02:27)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks trimmed losses late Friday morni...

- [Samsung Heavy opens U.S. research center to support MASGA initiative](#) (2026-03-13 02:27)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Heavy Industries Co. said Friday it has esta...

- [Gov't to ease customs rules for U.S. naval MRO to accommodate demand](#) (2026-03-13 02:23)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- The customs agency said Friday it plans to ease cust...

- [\(LEAD\) Passenger train linking N. Korea, China arrives in Beijing for 1st time in 6 years](#) (2026-03-13 02:22)

SEOUL/BEIJING, March 13 (Yonhap) -- A passenger train linking the capitals of No...

- [Lee's approval rating hits highest level since inauguration: poll](#) (2026-03-13 02:11)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung's approval rating climbed to...

- [Indonesia's Prabowo to pay state visit to S. Korea for summit with Lee](#) (2026-03-13 01:54)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto will make a st...

- [Industry minister urges cooperation from oil sectors in implementing fuel price cap system](#) (2026-03-13 01:54)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- Industry Minister Kim Jung-kwan on Friday urged oil ...

- [\(LEAD\) Police raid land ministry over Jeju Air crash](#) (2026-03-13 01:49)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- Police raided the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure a...

- [Lee to host France's Macron for state visit in early April](#) (2026-03-13 01:47)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung will host French President E...

- [Gov't to draft extra budget using excess tax revenue: budget ministry](#) (2026-03-13 01:37)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- The government said Friday it plans to swiftly draw ...

- [Lee calls for close monitoring of gas stations as fuel price cap takes effect](#) (2026-03-13 01:36)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Friday called for close m...

- [Medical school admission quota rises to 3,548 for 2027 academic year](#) (2026-03-13 01:35)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- The nation's medical school admission quota for the ...

- [Passenger train linking N. Korea, China arrives in Beijing for 1st time in 6 years](#) (2026-03-13 01:22)

SEOUL/BEIJING, March 13 (Yonhap) -- A passenger train linking the capitals of No...

- [Gov't files objection to court mediation for Japan-funded foundation to pay damages to victim of wartime sexual slavery](#) (2026-03-13 01:19)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- The government has recently filed an objection to a ...

- [Hanwha Aerospace partners with gaming giant Krafton to develop physical AI](#) (2026-03-13 01:14)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- Hanwha Aerospace Co., South Korea's leading defense ...

- [Police raid land ministry over Jeju Air crash](#) (2026-03-13 01:06)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- Police raided the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure a...

- [Lee vows supports for industrial sectors in AI adoption](#) (2026-03-13 01:06)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung said Friday the government w...

- [\(WBC\) Dominican manager Pujols guarding against S. Korea's small ball in quarterfinals](#) (2026-03-13 01:03)

MIAMI, March 12 (Yonhap) -- Dominican Republic manager Albert Pujols said Thursd...

- [\(WBC\) Budding S. Korean star seeking to use knockout game as measuring stick](#) (2026-03-13 00:34)

MIAMI, March 12 (Yonhap) -- The emerging South Korean star Kim Do-yeong said Thu...

- [POSCO Future M partners with U.S. battery startup for advanced materials development](#) (2026-03-13 00:29)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- POSCO Future M Co., the battery materials unit of So...

- [Korean won falls against dollar amid oil price surge over supply concerns](#) (2026-03-13 00:26)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean currency fell against the U.S. doll...

- [\(LEAD\) Seoul shares open sharply lower as new Iran leader vows to keep Hormuz blockade](#) (2026-03-13 00:19)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks started sharply lower Friday aft...

- [\(WBC\) S. Korea captain implores teammates not to be intimidated by Dominican Republic](#) (2026-03-13 00:14)

MIAMI, March 12 (Yonhap) -- South Korea captain Lee Jung-hoo said Thursday he do...

- [Seoul shares open sharply lower as new Iran leader vows to keep Hormuz blockade](#) (2026-03-13 00:03)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks started sharply lower Friday aft...

- [\(URGENT\) Seoul shares open 3.06 pct lower as new Iran leader vows to keep Hormuz blockade](#) (2026-03-13 00:01)

(END)

- ['KPop Demon Hunters' to return for sequel](#) (2026-03-12 23:19)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- Netflix's record-breaking animated feature "KPop Dem...

- [\(WBC\) S. Korea manager calls on pitchers to minimize mistakes vs. powerful Dominican lineup](#) (2026-03-12 23:14)

MIAMI, March 12 (Yonhap) -- With South Korea about to take on the top home run-h...

- [\(3rd LD\) PM calls on Vance to work together to quickly implement deals on nuclear subs, energy, shipbuilding](#) (2026-03-12 23:03)

WASHINGTON, March 12 (Yonhap) -- Prime Minister Kim Min-seok called on U.S. Vice...

- [\(WBC\) Ex-MLB All-Star Ryu Hyun-jin to start vs. Dominican Republic in quarterfinals](#) (2026-03-12 22:47)

MIAMI, March 12 (Yonhap) -- South Korea will start former major league All-Star ...

- [N. Korea slams Japan's plan to deploy long-range missiles](#) (2026-03-12 22:36)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- North Korea on Friday denounced Japan for its plan t...

- [N. Korea picks candidates for deputies to rubber-stamp parliament ahead of elections](#) (2026-03-12 22:17)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- North Korea has completed the selection of candidate...

- [\(2nd LD\) Vance welcomes Nat'l Assembly passage of U.S. investment bill: Seoul's PM office](#) (2026-03-12 22:12)

WASHINGTON, March 12 (Yonhap) -- U.S. Vice President JD Vance welcomed the South...

- [\(EDITORIAL from Korea JoongAng Daily on March 13\)](#) (2026-03-12 22:09)

Concerns about political pressure on the judiciary emerged immediately after two...

- [\(EDITORIAL from The Korea Times on March 13\)](#) (2026-03-12 22:08)

In recent days, a large banner displayed on the outer wall of the Embassy of Ira...

- [\(EDITORIAL from The Korea Herald on March 13\)](#) (2026-03-12 22:07)

South Korea's per capita income marked \$36,855 in 2025, according to Bank of Kor...

- [Top headlines in major S. Korean newspapers](#) (2026-03-12 22:06)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- The following are the top headlines in major South K...

- [\(LEAD\) S. Korean PM meets Vance in Washington after parliament passes U.S. investment bill](#) (2026-03-12 18:05)

WASHINGTON, March 12 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's Prime Minister Kim Min-seok met w...

- [\(LEAD\) U.S. sanctions 6 individuals, 2 entities for roles in N. Korean IT worker 'fraud': Treasury Dept.](#) (2026-03-12 17:53)

WASHINGTON, March 12 (Yonhap) -- The U.S. Treasury Department said Thursday it s...

- [S. Korean PM meets Vance to discuss bilateral relations in Washington](#) (2026-03-12 17:40)

WASHINGTON, March 12 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's Prime Minister Kim Min-seok held ...

- [U.S. sanctions 6 individuals, 2 entities for roles in N. Korean IT worker 'fraud': Treasury Dept.](#) (2026-03-12 17:02)

WASHINGTON, March 12 (Yonhap) -- The U.S. Treasury Department said Thursday it s...

- [\(URGENT\) U.S. sanctions 6 individuals, 2 entities for roles in N. Korea-orchestrated IT worker schemes: Treasury Dept.](#) (2026-03-12 16:43)

(END)

- [S. Korea issues special travel advisory for Turkey's southeast following Iran's missile attacks](#) (2026-03-12 13:49)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- South Korea on Thursday issued a special travel advi...

- [Lee warns of monitoring, sanctions against unfair price hikes](#) (2026-03-12 12:49)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung said Thursday the government...

- [\(2nd LD\) N. Korea, China resume cross-border passenger train service for 1st time in 6 yrs](#) (2026-03-12 12:31)

BEIJING/DANDONG, March 12 (Yonhap) -- North Korea and China resumed an internati...

- [Gov't designates 23 necessities for special price monitoring amid Middle East crisis](#) (2026-03-12 11:48)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- The government has designated 23 key items, such as ...

- [\(LEAD\) Gov't to implement fuel price cap system starting midnight to help ease cost burdens](#) (2026-03-12 10:56)

SEJONG, March 12 (Yonhap) -- The government said Thursday it will implement a te...

- [Seoul mayor again delays PPP candidate registration for local elections](#) (2026-03-12 10:50)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon said Thursday he did not regi...

- [5 S. Koreans flee from Iran amid Middle East conflict](#) (2026-03-12 10:41)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- Five South Korean nationals have fled from Iran amid...

- [Gov't to implement fuel price cap system this week to help ease cost burdens](#) (2026-03-12 10:18)

SEJONG, March 12 (Yonhap) -- The government said Thursday it will implement a te...

- [\(2nd LD\) Judicial reform laws take effect allowing constitutional appeals of court rulings, punishment for 'legal distortion'](#) (2026-03-12 10:16)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- A set of judicial reform laws were officially procla...

- [\(URGENT\) S. Korea to implement temporary fuel price cap system this week to help ease cost burdens](#) (2026-03-12 10:08)

(END)

- [JCS chairman, USFK commander inspect front-line troops during annual joint drills](#) (2026-03-12 09:31)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- Top military commanders of South Korea and the U.S. ...

- [\(3rd LD\) S. Korea, U.S. agree on need to implement summit agreements in 'balanced' manner: Seoul official](#) (2026-03-12 09:23)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and the United States agreed Thursday on...

- [\(LEAD\) N. Korea, China resume cross-border passenger train service for 1st time in 6 yrs](#) (2026-03-12 09:08)

SEOUL/DANDONG, March 12 (Yonhap) -- North Korea and China resumed an internation...

- [\(URGENT\) Passenger train between N.K.-China passes Amnok River railway bridge for 1st time in 6 yrs](#) (2026-03-12 08:34)

(END)

- [\(2nd LD\) S. Korea, U.S. agree on need to carry out joint summit agreements in 'balanced' manner: Seoul official](#) (2026-03-12 08:26)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and the United States agreed Thursday on...

- [Lee orders thorough probe into belated discovery of remains of Jeju Air crash victims](#) (2026-03-12 08:15)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Thursday ordered a thorou...

- [\(2nd LD\) National Assembly passes special bill on U.S. investment pledges with bipartisan support](#) (2026-03-12 07:54)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- The National Assembly on Thursday passed a special b...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-03-12 07:53)

The following is the second summary of major stories moved by Yonhap News Agency...

- [Nongshim, Samyang to cut ramyeon prices in line with gov't cost stabilization efforts](#) (2026-03-12 07:44)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- South Korean ramyeon makers said Thursday they will ...

- [Incumbent Gov. Kim, six-term lawmaker Choo declare bids for Gyeonggi governor](#) (2026-03-12 07:43)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- Incumbent Gyeonggi Gov. Kim Dong-yeon and six-term l...

- [\(2nd LD\) Seoul shares close lower on extended Middle East tension; won sharply down](#) (2026-03-12 07:42)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks closed lower Thursday amid escal...

- [Complaint filed against top court chief justice for 'legal distortion'](#) (2026-03-12 07:35)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- A complaint was filed against Supreme Court Chief Ju...

- [N. Korea, China resume cross-border passenger train service for 1st time in 6 yrs](#) (2026-03-12 07:24)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- North Korea and China resumed an international passe...

- [S. Korea, Japan to hold finance ministers' talks in Tokyo this week](#) (2026-03-12 07:09)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- Finance Minister Koo Yun-cheol will hold talks with ...

- [AI-driven innovation at forefront in 2027 gov't R&D; policy vision](#) (2026-03-12 07:08)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- The government on Thursday unveiled a policy vision ...

- [Hyundai Motor, Chinese firm sign MOU on battery recycling in Indonesia](#) (2026-03-12 07:07)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- Hyundai Motor Group said Thursday it has signed a me...

- [Mexico official guarantees security for S. Korean team, supporters during World Cup](#) (2026-03-12 07:00)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- With South Korea gearing up for FIFA World Cup match...

- [\(LEAD\) \(WBC\) S. Korea to take on Dominican Republic in quarterfinals](#) (2026-03-12 07:00)

MIAMI, March 12 (Yonhap) -- South Korea will face the mighty Dominican Republic ...

- [\(2nd LD\) Trade chief vows to protect S. Korea's interests through consultations with U.S. over USTR probe](#) (2026-03-12 06:57)

SEJONG, March 12 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's top trade negotiator vowed Thursday c...

- [\(LEAD\) Korean won falls sharply against dollar amid oil price volatility](#) (2026-03-12 06:49)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean currency fell markedly against the ...

- [\(LEAD\) Seoul shares close lower on extended Middle East tension; won sharply down](#) (2026-03-12 06:48)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks closed lower Thursday amid escal...

- [\(LEAD\) National Assembly passes special bill on U.S. investment pledges with bipartisan support](#) (2026-03-12 06:43)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- The National Assembly on Thursday passed a special b...

- [\(LEAD\) N. Korea's Kim, daughter test pistols together at munitions factory](#) (2026-03-12 06:41)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un inspected a factory ...

- [Seoul shares close lower on extended Middle East tension; won sharply down](#) (2026-03-12 06:35)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks closed lower Thursday amid escal...

- [Spending on private education turns downward in 2025](#) (2026-03-12 06:17)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- Spending on private education for young South Korean...

- [\(LEAD\) Lee urges extra budget to be swiftly prepared to stabilize people's livelihoods, prop up recovery](#) (2026-03-12 06:16)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Thursday instructed his a...

- [\(URGENT\) National Assembly passes special bill on U.S. investment pledges with bipartisan support](#) (2026-03-12 06:13)

(END)

- [Supreme Court finalizes loss of seat for ruling party lawmaker over fraud](#) (2026-03-12 05:59)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- The Supreme Court on Thursday finalized a ruling str...

- [\(LEAD\) Trade chief vows to protect S. Korea's interests through consultations with U.S. over USTR probe](#) (2026-03-12 05:59)

SEJONG, March 12 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's top trade negotiator vowed Thursday c...

- [Lee urges extra budget to be swiftly prepared to stabilize people's livelihoods, prop up recovery](#) (2026-03-12 05:46)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Thursday instructed his a...

- [SeMA opens 7th branch, bringing media art to Seoul's southwest](#) (2026-03-12 05:30)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- The Seoul Museum of Art (SeMA) on Thursday opened Se...

- [\(URGENT\) Lee calls for extra budget to be swiftly drafted](#) (2026-03-12 05:17)

(END)

- [NCSoft targets 5 tln won in sales by 2030 through more shooters, anime games](#) (2026-03-12 05:14)

SEONGNAM, South Korea, March 12 (Yonhap) -- NCSoft Corp., a major South Korean g...

- [\(LEAD\) Samsung, LG display arms closely watching fallout of Middle East crisis](#) (2026-03-12 05:10)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- Heads of South Korean display makers said Thursday t...

- [Antitrust regulator fines pork processors 3.15 bln won for price-fixing](#) (2026-03-12 05:00)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- The antitrust regulator said Thursday it has imposed...

- [Today in Korean history](#) (2026-03-12 05:00)

March 13

- [Trade chief vows to protect S. Korea's interests through consultations with U.S. over USTR probe](#) (2026-03-12 05:00)

SEJONG, March 12 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's top trade negotiator vowed Thursday c...

- [BOK to maintain cautious monetary stance amid uncertainties over Middle East crisis](#) (2026-03-12 04:52)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- The central bank said Thursday it would maintain a c...

- [\(LEAD\) Top U.S. diplomat for East Asia holds talks with Seoul officials on alliance, N. Korea](#) (2026-03-12 04:46)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- The top U.S. diplomat for East Asia policy held talk...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-03-12 04:30)

The following is the first summary of major stories moved by Yonhap News Agency ...

- [Ruling party, gov't agree to provide energy vouchers to vulnerable households amid Middle East crisis](#) (2026-03-12 04:27)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- The ruling Democratic Party (DP) and government offi...

- [\(WBC\) S. Korea to take on Dominican Republic in quarterfinals](#) (2026-03-12 04:22)

MIAMI, March 11 (Yonhap) -- South Korea will face the mighty Dominican Republic ...

- [Foreign net selling of S. Korean stocks hits record high in Feb.: BOK](#) (2026-03-12 03:00)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- Foreign investment in the South Korean stock market ...

- [FSS chief discusses regulations on banks' capital base, virtual assets at Basel meeting](#) (2026-03-12 03:00)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- The chief of South Korea's financial watchdog has at...

- [Gov't picks 4,600 science researchers to promote basis research activities](#) (2026-03-12 03:00)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- The science ministry said Thursday it has selected a...

- [Current account surplus expected to ease downward pressure on Korean won: BOK](#) (2026-03-12 03:00)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's current account surplus is expected to...

- [Economy shows 'gradual' increase in production despite improved consumption: KDI](#) (2026-03-12 03:00)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean economy is showing continued signs ...

- [Samsung Display expects business headwinds in H2 linked to Middle East conflict: CEO](#) (2026-03-12 02:40)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- The head of Samsung Display Co. said Thursday the co...

- [\(LEAD\) Judicial reform laws take effect allowing constitutional appeals of court rulings, punishment for 'legal distortion'](#) (2026-03-12 02:34)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- A set of judicial reform laws were officially procla...

- [Seoul shares down late Thu. morning amid Iran uncertainties](#) (2026-03-12 02:26)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks continued to trade lower late Th...

- [Finance chief promises full gov't support for businesses grappling with Middle East uncertainties](#) (2026-03-12 02:15)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- The government will provide full support for busines...

- [Lotte Card given penalty for leaking critical information of 450,000 customers](#) (2026-03-12 02:14)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- Lotte Card Co. has been slapped with a penalty and a...

- [S. Korean envoy delivers Lee's message for stronger ties to Chile's new president](#) (2026-03-12 02:13)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- A special envoy for President Lee Jae Myung has deli...

- [ICT exports double in Feb. on AI-driven chip demand](#) (2026-03-12 02:00)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's exports of information and communicati...

- [Industry ministry to double budget to support SMEs affected by foreign import barriers](#) (2026-03-12 02:00)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- The government will double its budget this year to s...

- [S. Korea posts fiscal surplus of 11.3 tln won in Jan. on increased tax revenue](#) (2026-03-12 01:50)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- South Korea posted a fiscal surplus of more than 11 ...

- [\(LEAD\) PM set to visit U.S. for talks on U.N. hub, possible meeting with Vance](#) (2026-03-12 01:47)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- Prime Minister Kim Min-seok is set to depart for the...

- [S. Korea aims to actively consult with U.S. as Washington opens new trade probe](#) (2026-03-12 01:30)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- South Korea will "actively consult with" the United ...

- [\(WBC\) RBI leader eyes trip to final for S. Korea](#) (2026-03-12 01:16)

MIAMI, March 11 (Yonhap) -- South Korean slugger Moon Bo-gyeong said Wednesday h...

- [PM set to visit U.S., Switzerland to promote S. Korea's bid to host U.N. hub](#) (2026-03-12 01:00)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- Prime Minister Kim Min-seok is set to depart Thursda...

- [Taihan Cable begins construction of 2nd Vietnam plant for extra-high-voltage products](#) (2026-03-12 00:57)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- Taihan Cable & Solution Co., South Korea's secon...

- [Nearly 4,000 vehicles shipped from S. Korea to Russia over 3 yrs despite sanctions: customs agency](#) (2026-03-12 00:53)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- Nearly 4,000 vehicles worth a combined 179.6 billion...

- [Judicial reform laws take effect allowing constitutional appeals, punishment for 'legal distortion'](#) (2026-03-12 00:53)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- A set of judicial reform laws were officially procla...

- [\(2nd LD\) U.S. launches Section 301 trade investigation into S. Korea, China, Japan, 13 other economies: USTR](#) (2026-03-12 00:44)

WASHINGTON, March 11 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump's administration op...

- [Korean won falls against dollar amid rising oil prices as Middle East crisis drags on](#) (2026-03-12 00:42)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean currency fell against the U.S. doll...

- [\(WBC\) Veteran pitcher Ryu Hyun-jin hoping for deep run in knockout round](#) (2026-03-12 00:38)

MIAMI, March 11 (Yonhap) -- Veteran South Korean pitcher Ryu Hyun-jin hasn't pit...

- [\(LEAD\) Seoul shares open lower amid extended woes over oil prices; won sharply down](#) (2026-03-12 00:22)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks started slightly lower Thursday ...

- [Int'l customs body classifies outdoor display modules as duty-free](#) (2026-03-12 00:19)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- The World Customs Organization (WCO) has decided to ...

- [\(WBC\) Cardinals reliever O'Brien ruled out for S. Korea](#) (2026-03-12 00:14)

MIAMI, March 11 (Yonhap) -- South Korea manager Ryu Ji-hyun said Wednesday that ...

- [Seoul shares open lower amid extended woes over oil prices](#) (2026-03-12 00:03)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks started slightly lower Thursday ...

- [N. Korea set to elect new leadership at largest women's organization](#) (2026-03-12 00:03)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- North Korea will hold a congress of the country's la...

- [\(URGENT\) Seoul shares open 0.75 pct lower amid oil volatility](#) (2026-03-12 00:01)

(END)

- [National Assembly set to vote on bill on U.S. investment pledges](#) (2026-03-11 23:47)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- The National Assembly is set to hold a plenary sessi...

- [\(LEAD\) U.S. launches Section 301 trade investigation into S. Korea, China, Japan, 13 other economies: USTR](#) (2026-03-11 23:35)

WASHINGTON, March 11 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump's administration op...

- [Seventeen's Vernon, The8 to launch new unit this summer](#) (2026-03-11 23:32)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- Vernon and The8 of K-pop boy group Seventeen will fo...

- [U.S. to release 172 mln barrels from strategic oil reserve: energy secretary](#) (2026-03-11 23:30)

WASHINGTON, March 11 (Yonhap) -- The United States plans to release 172 million ...

- [U.S. to initiate Section 301 trade investigation into S. Korea, China, Japan, 13 other economies: USTR](#) (2026-03-11 23:16)

WASHINGTON, March 11 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump's administration wi...

- [\(URGENT\) U.S. to initiate Section 301 trade investigation into S. Korea, China, Japan, 13 other economies: USTR](#) (2026-03-11 23:15)

(END)

- [\(2nd LD\) Trump says 'we've won' in war with Iran](#) (2026-03-11 22:52)

WASHINGTON, March 11 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump claimed Wednesday t...

- [Top U.S. diplomat for East Asia to hold talks with Seoul officials on alliance, N. Korea](#) (2026-03-11 22:30)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- The top U.S. diplomat for East Asia policy was set t...

- [N. Korea's Kim, daughter test pistols together at munitions factory](#) (2026-03-11 22:19)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un inspected a factory ...

- [\(EDITORIAL from Korea JoongAng Daily on March 12\)](#) (2026-03-11 22:01)

Financial markets remain volatile in the wake of tensions in the Middle East, an...

- [\(EDITORIAL from The Korea Times on March 12\)](#) (2026-03-11 22:01)

As the escalating conflict in the Middle East drives up oil prices, the governme...

- [\(EDITORIAL from The Korea Herald on March 12\)](#) (2026-03-11 22:01)

Patriot and Terminal High Altitude Area Defense antimissile systems deployed wit...

- [Top headlines in major S. Korean newspapers](#) (2026-03-11 22:00)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- The following are the top headlines in major South K...

- [\(LEAD\) Trump says war with Iran will end 'soon' as 'practically nothing left to target': Axios](#) (2026-03-11 18:15)

WASHINGTON, March 11 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump said Wednesday that...

- [S. Korea to release 22.46 mln barrels from oil reserves under IEA release plan](#) (2026-03-11 16:24)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- South Korea plans to release 22.46 million barrels o...

- [Trump says war with Iran will end 'soon' as 'practically nothing left to target': Axios](#) (2026-03-11 15:00)

WASHINGTON, March 11 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump said Wednesday that...

- [U.S. military has struck more than 5,500 targets in Iran, including over 60 ships: CENTCOM](#) (2026-03-11 14:39)

WASHINGTON, March 11 (Yonhap) -- The U.S. military has struck more than 5,500 ta...

- [Cheong Wa Dae denies report on reviving open-to-all bar exam](#) (2026-03-11 13:52)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- The presidential office denied a news report Wednesd...

- [FC Seoul eliminated in round of 16 at top Asian club tournament](#) (2026-03-11 12:10)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- FC Seoul have been eliminated in the top Asian club ...

- [Para cross-country skier wins record 3rd medal for S. Korea](#) (2026-03-11 11:39)

TESERO, Italy, March 11 (Yonhap) -- Para cross-country skier Kim Yun-ji captured...

- [AMD's Lisa Su to visit S. Korea next week, may meet with Samsung chief](#) (2026-03-11 11:24)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- Lisa Su, the head of Advanced Micro Devices Inc. (AM...

- [Iranian Embassy in Seoul displays banner with image of Khamenei](#) (2026-03-11 11:10)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- The Iranian Embassy in Seoul has put up a banner bea...

- [Defense minister inspects S. Korea-U.S. military exercise sites](#) (2026-03-11 10:08)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- Defense Minister Ahn Gyu-back on Wednesday inspected...

- [State oil company chief apologizes for steep price hikes at gov't-run stations](#) (2026-03-11 10:04)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- The chief of the Korea National Oil Corp. (KNOC) apo...

- [\(WBC\) S. Korea manager mulling roster change with quarterfinals on horizon](#) (2026-03-11 09:22)

MIAMI, March 11 (Yonhap) -- South Korea manager Ryu Ji-hyun said Wednesday he wi...

- [Relocation of THAAD interceptors to Middle East seen as imminent: sources](#) (2026-03-11 09:11)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- Interceptors of a Terminal High Altitude Area Defens...

- ['The King's Warden' surpasses 12 million admissions](#) (2026-03-11 08:28)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- The Korean historical drama "The King's Warden" has ...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-03-11 08:04)

The following is the first summary of major stories moved by Yonhap News Agency ...

- [\(LEAD\) Gov't mulls targeted extra budget to help vulnerable groups as fuel prices surge: finance chief](#) (2026-03-11 07:45)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- South Korea is considering a targeted supplementary ...

- [Gov't to provide comprehensive support for SME exporters to Middle East](#) (2026-03-11 07:44)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- The government will provide comprehensive support fo...

- [\(2nd LD\) Seoul shares up for 2nd day on bargain hunting amid Iran woes](#) (2026-03-11 07:29)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks finished higher for the second s...

- [Lee, Ghanaian president agree to boost cooperation in maritime securiy, climate change](#) (2026-03-11 07:28)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung held summit talks with Ghana...

- [Korean Air extends Dubai flight suspension until March 28 over Middle East tensions](#) (2026-03-11 07:17)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- Korean Air Co. said Wednesday it will extend the sus...

- [Gov't reviews crowd safety measures for BTS concert](#) (2026-03-11 07:12)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- The government has mapped out crowd safety measures ...

- [Hanwha to showcase air defense capabilities at BEDEX 2026 in Belgium](#) (2026-03-11 07:11)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- Hanwha Group, South Korea's chemicals-to-defense con...

- [\(WBC\) Pitcher Son Ju-young sidelined with elbow inflammation](#) (2026-03-11 07:10)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- Left-hander Son Ju-young, who started South Korea's ...

- [\(LEAD\) Korean won rises for 2nd session on easing oil prices, weaker dollar](#) (2026-03-11 07:10)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean currency rose for the second consec...

- [S. Korea involved in oil reserve release discussions with IEA](#) (2026-03-11 07:09)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean government is "closely involved" in...

- [Singer Choi Yena hopes new single 'Catch Catch' inspires Korean baseball team](#) (2026-03-11 06:52)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- K-pop singer Choi Yena said Wednesday she hopes her ...

- [\(LEAD\) Seoul shares up for 2nd day on bargain hunting amid Iran woes](#) (2026-03-11 06:52)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks finished higher for the second s...

- [Football chief predicts deep run for S. Korea at World Cup](#) (2026-03-11 06:45)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- South Korean football chief Chung Mong-gyu predicted...

- [\(2nd LD\) N. Korea's Kim oversees another cruise missile test from destroyer amid Seoul-Washington military drills](#) (2026-03-11 06:41)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has overseen another...

- [Seoul shares up for 2nd day on bargain hunting amid Iran woes](#) (2026-03-11 06:36)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks finished higher for the second s...

- [Ex-JCS chief banned from leaving country over alleged martial law role](#) (2026-03-11 06:19)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- A retired admiral who served as the country's highes...

- [Ruling party, gov't announce reform measures for NongHyup following corruption scandal](#) (2026-03-11 06:12)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- The ruling Democratic Party (DP) and the government ...

- [Multinational augmentees from UNC member states participate in Freedom Shield exercise](#) (2026-03-11 06:04)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- Multinational forces from member states of the U.N. ...

- [11 S. Koreans flee Saudi Arabia on Japan's chartered flight amid Middle East conflict](#) (2026-03-11 06:03)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- Eleven South Koreans fled Saudi Arabia on a Japanese...

- [Gov't eyes measures for stable electricity rates amid volatile global energy prices](#) (2026-03-11 05:50)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- The government will prepare precautionary measures t...

- [N. Korea speeds up preparations for next week's parliamentary elections](#) (2026-03-11 05:48)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- North Korea has been speeding up its preparations fo...

- [Son Heung-min records assist in LAFC's draw in regional tournament](#) (2026-03-11 05:36)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- Son Heung-min has picked up yet another assist for L...

- [Lee congratulates Kim Yun-ji on winning second medal at Winter Paralympics](#) (2026-03-11 05:02)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Wednesday congratulated p...

- [Today in Korean history](#) (2026-03-11 05:00)

March 12

- [K-pop agency RBW acquires 257 Entertainment in global push](#) (2026-03-11 04:46)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- RBW, the agency behind K-pop acts Mamamoo and Oh My ...

- [\(LEAD\) Household loans fall for 3rd month in Feb.; mortgage loans edge up on moving demand](#) (2026-03-11 04:44)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- Household loans extended by South Korean banks fell ...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-03-11 04:30)

The following is the first summary of major stories moved by Yonhap News Agency ...

- [\(Movie Review\) 'Samakdo': ambitious premise, uneven delivery](#) (2026-03-11 03:51)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- The Korean occult thriller "Samakdo" sends chills do...

- [Samsung SDI vows to overcome EV-related business challenges through ESS, robot sector opportunities](#) (2026-03-11 03:00)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- The head of Samsung SDI Co.'s research center said W...

- [Household loans fall for 3rd month in Feb.; mortgage loans edge up on moving demand](#) (2026-03-11 03:00)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- Household loans extended by South Korean banks fell ...

- [Lee gifts specially designed Ghana chocolate to Ghanaian president](#) (2026-03-11 02:44)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung prepared Ghana chocolate and...

- [Aging baseball stadium in Jamsil to be replaced with 30,000-seat dome by 2032](#) (2026-03-11 02:44)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- The Seoul city government said Wednesday it plans to...

- [KBO preseason to start this week amid WBC fever](#) (2026-03-11 02:39)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- The preseason in South Korean baseball is set to sta...

- [Seoul shares extend gains late Wed. morning amid Iran uncertainties](#) (2026-03-11 02:31)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks extended gains late Wednesday mo...

- [Deterrence posture against N. Korea won't be hindered regardless of potential shift of USFK's assets](#) (2026-03-11 02:22)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- The deterrence posture against North Korea will not ...

- [Appeal trial begins for ex-PM Han over insurrection charges](#) (2026-03-11 02:02)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- An appellate trial for former Prime Minister Han Duc...

- [Investigators again raid Shincheonji sect over alleged collusion with politics](#) (2026-03-11 01:18)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- A joint prosecution-police team investigating suspec...

- [40 years on stage, soprano Sumi Jo says music can 'change people'](#) (2026-03-11 01:04)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- Renowned South Korean soprano Sumi Jo has said she h...

- [Korean won falls amid oil price volatility as Middle East conflict continues](#) (2026-03-11 00:55)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean currency fell slightly against the ...

- [\(LEAD\) Exports up 55.6 pct during first 10 days of March on robust chip demand](#) (2026-03-11 00:53)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's exports jumped 55.6 percent from a yea...

- [InterBattery 2026 kicks off to showcase future battery technologies](#) (2026-03-11 00:52)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- InterBattery 2026, South Korea's largest battery ind...

- [Hyundai Motor ranks 2nd in operating profit among global automotive peers in 2025](#) (2026-03-11 00:38)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- Hyundai Motor Group, the world's third-largest autom...

- [Exports up 55.6 pct during first 10 days of March](#) (2026-03-11 00:35)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's exports jumped 55.6 percent from a yea...

- [N.K. defector-turned-journalist officially recognized by gov't as S. Korean detainee in N. Korea](#) (2026-03-11 00:30)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- Ham Jin-woo, a North Korean defector-turned-journali...

- [\(LEAD\) Seoul shares open higher amid oil price swings](#) (2026-03-11 00:22)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks started higher Wednesday as inve...

- [BLACKPINK's 'Go' debuts on Billboard Hot 100 at No. 63](#) (2026-03-11 00:20)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- K-pop girl group BLACKPINK's latest single "Go" debu...

- [Police refer lawmaker, ex-councilor at center of bribery scandal to prosecution](#) (2026-03-11 00:10)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- Police on Wednesday referred an independent lawmaker...

- [Gov't to mobilize all policy tools in dealing with Middle East-related economic uncertainties](#) (2026-03-11 00:03)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- South Korea will mobilize all available economic pol...

- [Seoul shares open higher amid oil price swings](#) (2026-03-11 00:03)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks started higher Wednesday as inve...

- [\(URGENT\) Seoul shares open 2.28 pct higher amid oil price swings](#) (2026-03-11 00:02)

(END)

- [Samsung launches Galaxy S26 series worldwide following record preorders](#) (2026-03-11 00:01)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Electronics Co. said Wednesday it has offici...

- [S. Korea highlights commitment to nonproliferation principles at nuclear energy summit](#) (2026-03-10 23:59)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- South Korea has reaffirmed its commitment to upholdi...

- [Krafton CEO to double as head of new AI robotics unit in U.S.](#) (2026-03-10 23:41)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- Kim Chang-han, chief executive officer (CEO) of Sout...

- [\(LEAD\) N. Korea supports Iran's choice of new supreme leader amid raging war in Middle East](#) (2026-03-10 23:27)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- North Korea said Wednesday it respects the Iranian p...

- [\(LEAD\) N. Korea's Kim oversees another cruise missile test from destroyer amid Seoul-Washington military drills](#) (2026-03-10 22:49)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has overseen another...

- [N. Korea supports election of Iran's new supreme leader amid raging war in Middle East](#) (2026-03-10 22:03)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- North Korea said Wednesday it supports the election ...

- [\(EDITORIAL from Korea JoongAng Daily on March 11\)](#) (2026-03-10 21:58)

President Lee Jae Myung said Monday that while his government opposes the redepl...

- [\(EDITORIAL from The Korea Times on March 11\)](#) (2026-03-10 21:58)

Spurred into action by an unprecedented lack of bids from hopefuls seeking the P...

- [\(EDITORIAL from The Korea Herald on March 11\)](#) (2026-03-10 21:58)

Tilted playing field : With Yellow Envelope Act taking effect, unions should exe...

- [Top headlines in major S. Korean newspapers](#) (2026-03-10 21:57)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- The following are the top headlines in major South K...

- [N. Korea conducts another cruise missile test from destroyer amid Seoul-Washington military drills](#) (2026-03-10 21:41)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- North Korea has conducted another test-firing of str...

- [\(URGENT\) N. Korea says it 'strongly' denounces U.S.-Israel's act of aggression against Iran](#) (2026-03-10 21:15)

(END)

- [\(URGENT\) N. Korea conducts another strategic cruise missile test from destroyer Choe Hyon on Tuesday: state media](#) (2026-03-10 21:13)

(END)

- [\(LEAD\) Iran operation will end when Trump determines military objectives have been met: White House](#) (2026-03-10 21:01)

WASHINGTON, March 10 (Yonhap) -- The U.S. military operation against Iran will e...

- [Iran operation will end when Trump determines military objectives have been met: White House](#) (2026-03-10 20:03)

WASHINGTON, March 10 (Yonhap) -- The U.S. military operation against Iran will e...

- [Senate Democrats say S. Korea-U.S. alliance is 'under strain' amid Trump's foreign policy](#) (2026-03-10 17:34)

WASHINGTON, March 10 (Yonhap) -- U.S. Senate Democrats said in a new report Tues...

- [\(LEAD\) Pentagon says USFK maintaining 'combat-credible' force posture in Korea amid THAAD redeployment report](#) (2026-03-10 15:10)

WASHINGTON, March 10 (Yonhap) -- U.S. Forces Korea (USFK) remains focused on ens...

- [Pentagon says USFK remains focused on 'combat-credible' force posture in Korea amid THAAD redeployment report](#) (2026-03-10 14:58)

WASHINGTON, March 10 (Yonhap) -- The U.S. Forces Korea (USFK) remains focused on...

- [Hegseth says Iran war is 'quite contained,' but warns of 'most intense day of strikes' ahead](#) (2026-03-10 14:38)

WASHINGTON, March 10 (Yonhap) -- U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said Tuesda...

- [FM Cho discusses Middle East situation with Indian, Vietnamese counterparts](#) (2026-03-10 14:19)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- Foreign Minister Cho Hyun held separate phone talks ...

- [\(LEAD\) About 6,300 S. Koreans leave Middle East over past 7 days](#) (2026-03-10 13:48)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- About 6,300 South Korean nationals have left countri...

- [About 6,300 S. Koreans leave Middle East over past 7 days](#) (2026-03-10 11:56)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- About 6,300 South Korean nationals have left countri...

- [S. Korea reports 2 new bird flu cases; total rises to 55](#) (2026-03-10 11:14)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- South Korea has confirmed new cases of highly pathog...

- [Samsung Biologics, Eli Lilly to establish biotech incubator in Incheon](#) (2026-03-10 11:10)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Biologics Co., the biotech arm of Samsung Gr...

- [NCSOFT to acquire 70 pct stake in German game developer JustPlay for 301.6 bln won](#) (2026-03-10 10:36)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- NCSOFT Corp., a major South Korean gamemaker, said T...

- [Top general visits key Marine, Navy units to inspect S. Korea-U.S. drills](#) (2026-03-10 09:59)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's top general on Tuesday visited key Mar...

- [Samsung Electronics spends 37.7 tln won in R&D; in 2025](#) (2026-03-10 09:58)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Electronics Co. said Tuesday it spent a reco...

- [\(News Focus\) USFK's relocation of military assets to Middle East raises concerns about Seoul's capability to deter N.K. threats](#) (2026-03-10 09:54)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- The U.S. Forces Korea (USFK)'s apparent move to relo...

- [Prosecutors indict woman accused of fatally drugging 2 men](#) (2026-03-10 09:23)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- Prosecutors on Tuesday indicted a 20-year-old woman ...

- [Lee to hold summit talks with Ghanaian president Wed.](#) (2026-03-10 08:54)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung will hold summit talks with ...

- [\(LEAD\) Train service between Beijing, Pyongyang to resume this week for 1st time in 6 yrs](#) (2026-03-10 08:13)

SEOUL/BEIJING, March 10 (Yonhap) -- Train service linking Pyongyang and Beijing ...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-03-10 08:00)

The following is the second summary of major stories moved by Yonhap News Agency...

- [Starring Ju Ji-hoon, Ha Ji-won, 'Climax' gives voice to desires nobody talks about](#) (2026-03-10 07:54)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- ENA's new series "Climax" is a work that "scratches ...

- [Enhypen reshaped as six-member group with Heeseung's departure](#) (2026-03-10 07:45)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- K-pop boy band Enhypen will be reorganized as a six...

- [\(LEAD\) PM to visit New York, Switzerland for talks on U.N. hub](#) (2026-03-10 07:44)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- Prime Minister Kim Min-seok will visit New York and ...

- [SK Innovation to invest US\\$380 mln in SK hynix's U.S. AI affiliate](#) (2026-03-10 07:30)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- SK Innovation Co. has decided to invest US\$380 milli...

- [Lee expresses hope new labor law will promote dialogue to resolve labor-management disputes](#) (2026-03-10 07:28)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Tuesday expressed hope th...

- [\(2nd LD\) Seoul shares rebound more than 5 pct on eased Iran woes; won sharply up](#) (2026-03-10 07:28)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks rebounded more than 5 percent Tu...

- [\(LEAD\) Korean won rebounds sharply after hitting 17-yr low amid Middle East crisis](#) (2026-03-10 07:07)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean currency rose sharply against the U...

- [Last remaining Dokdo resident dies at 88](#) (2026-03-10 07:05)

ULLEUNG, South Korea, March 10 (Yonhap) -- The last remaining resident of South ...

- [\(LEAD\) Seoul shares rebound more than 5 pct on eased Iran woes; won sharply up](#) (2026-03-10 06:56)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks rebounded more than 5 percent Tu...

- [Seoul shares rebound more than 5 pct on eased Iran woes; won sharply up](#) (2026-03-10 06:36)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks rebounded more than 5 percent Tu...

- [Lee calls for cooperation between big firms, SMEs for sustainable growth](#) (2026-03-10 06:35)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Tuesday urged big compani...

- [\(URGENT\) KOSPI rebounds more than 5 pct on eased Iran woes; won sharply up](#) (2026-03-10 06:33)

(END)

- [Concrete mound at Muan airport built to save construction costs: audit](#) (2026-03-10 06:22)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- A concrete mound blamed for the deadly 2024 plane cr...

- [Gov't to set up committee to honor civic resistance to martial law](#) (2026-03-10 06:10)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- The government will establish the presidential "Comm...

- [Hyundai Mobis wins 2nd chassis module supply deal from Mercedes-Benz](#) (2026-03-10 06:06)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- Hyundai Mobis Co., South Korea's leading auto parts ...

- [U.S. moving parts of THAAD anti-missile system from S. Korea to Middle East: report](#) (2026-03-10 05:58)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- The United States has been moving parts of its Termi...

- [Train service between Beijing, Pyongyang to resume this week for 1st time in 6 yrs](#) (2026-03-10 05:43)

SEOUL/BEIJING, March 10 (Yonhap) -- Train service linking Pyongyang and Beijing ...

- [\(LEAD\) Antitrust watchdog fines Mercedes-Benz 11.2 bln won over misleading EV battery info](#) (2026-03-10 05:07)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's antitrust regulator on Tuesday imposed...

- [BTS expands Gwanghwamun concert capacity to 22,000 with added standing zones](#) (2026-03-10 05:01)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- K-pop juggernaut BTS will perform before some 22,000...

- [Today in Korean history](#) (2026-03-10 05:00)

March 11

- [Antitrust watchdog fines Mercedes-Benz 11.2 bln won over misleading EV battery info](#) (2026-03-10 04:56)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's antitrust regulator on Tuesday imposed...

- [PM likely to visit New York this week for talks on U.N. hub](#) (2026-03-10 04:45)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- Prime Minister Kim Min-seok is likely to visit New Y...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-03-10 04:44)

The following is the first summary of major stories moved by Yonhap News Agency ...

- [DP, gov't mull buying over 6 mln barrels of crude oil from foreign refiners in S. Korea](#) (2026-03-10 03:46)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- The ruling Democratic Party (DP) and the government ...

- [Number of foreign residents in S. Korea nears 1.7 mln in 2025](#) (2026-03-10 03:00)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- The number of foreign nationals residing in South Ko...

- [Customs agency launches inspection into illegal distribution of fuel products](#) (2026-03-10 03:00)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- Tax authorities launched Tuesday an intensive inspec...

- [Ex-President Yoon refuses to attend hearing on 2022 Itaewon disaster](#) (2026-03-10 02:49)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- Former President Yoon Suk Yeol on Tuesday refused to...

- [S. Korea providing supplies to its stranded vessel in Strait of Hormuz: official](#) (2026-03-10 02:47)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- South Korea is in the process of providing supplies ...

- [Lee says need for extra budget to support small business owners, firms amid Mideast crisis](#) (2026-03-10 02:46)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung said Tuesday that it is time...

- [Assembly speaker urges rival parties to form special committee on constitutional revision](#) (2026-03-10 02:44)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- National Assembly Speaker Woo Won-shik on Tuesday ca...

- [\(LEAD\) Lee says possible shift of USFK's military assets won't affect deterrence against N. Korea](#) (2026-03-10 02:41)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung said Tuesday that a potentia...

- [Seoul shares extend gains late Tues. morning as crude price stabilizes](#) (2026-03-10 02:38)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks continued to trade higher late T...

- [S. Korean troops in Lebanon report strikes near military base amid Middle East conflict](#) (2026-03-10 02:20)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- South Korean troops dispatched to Lebanon for peaceck...

- [\(2nd LD\) N. Korean leader's sister warns of 'terrible consequences' amid S. Korea-U.S. military drills](#) (2026-03-10 02:19)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- The powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong-...

- [Lee says possible shift of USFK's military assets won't affect deterrence against N. Korea](#) (2026-03-10 02:08)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung said Tuesday that a potentia...

- [KOTRA pledges support for 80 service firms with high export prospects](#) (2026-03-10 02:00)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- The Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA) ...

- [S. Korea's per capita income edges up 0.3 pct to stay in US\\$36,000 range amid weak won](#) (2026-03-10 01:32)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's per capita income edged up 0.3 percent...

- [\(URGENT\) Lee says possible shift of USFK's military assets won't affect deterrence against N. Korea](#) (2026-03-10 01:27)

(END)

- [BTS to launch 'Arirang' pop-ups to mark new album release](#) (2026-03-10 01:26)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- K-pop supergroup BTS will open special pop-up stores...

- [\(URGENT\) Lee says difficult to fully oppose possible shift of USFK's military assets](#) (2026-03-10 01:24)

(END)

- [N. Korea rallies voters ahead of next week's parliamentary elections](#) (2026-03-10 01:24)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- North Korea on Tuesday urged voter participation ahe...

- [\(LEAD\) N. Korean leader's sister warns of 'terrible consequences' amid S. Korea-U.S. military drills](#) (2026-03-10 01:09)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- The powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong-...

- [SK hynix develops advanced LPDDR6 for mobile devices with AI features](#) (2026-03-10 00:59)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- SK hynix Inc. said Tuesday it has developed an advan...

- [Top U.S. diplomat for East Asia to pay tribute to memorial honoring USFK soldiers this week](#) (2026-03-10 00:38)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- The top U.S. diplomat for East Asia policy will pay ...

- [Korean won rebounds sharply after dropping to 17-yr low amid Middle East crisis](#) (2026-03-10 00:33)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean currency gained sharply against the...

- [\(LEAD\) S. Korean economy grows 1 pct in 2025; Q4 GDP contracts 0.2 pct: BOK](#) (2026-03-10 00:31)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean economy expanded 1 percent in 2025 ...

- [\(LEAD\) Seoul shares open nearly 5 pct higher as Trump hints Iran war nearing end](#) (2026-03-10 00:28)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks started sharply higher Tuesday, ...

- [\(News Focus\) Pro-labor 'yellow envelope act' takes effect amid continued resistance](#) (2026-03-10 00:25)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- A revised labor law aimed at broadening workers' bar...

- [N. Korean leader's sister warns of 'terrible consequences' amid S. Korea-U.S. military drills](#) (2026-03-10 00:24)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- The powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong-...

- [\(URGENT\) N. Korean leader's sister warns S. Korea-U.S. military drills could result in 'terrible consequences'](#) (2026-03-10 00:10)

(END)

- [\(URGENT\) KRX issues buy-side sidecar for KOSPI on sharp hike](#) (2026-03-10 00:08)

(END)

- [Seoul shares open over 5 pct higher as Trump hints Iran war nearing end](#) (2026-03-10 00:03)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks started sharply higher Tuesday, ...

- [\(URGENT\) Seoul shares open 5.17 pct higher as Trump hints Iran war nearing end](#) (2026-03-10 00:02)

(END)

- [S. Korean economy grows 1 pct in 2025; Q4 GDP contracts 0.2 pct: BOK](#) (2026-03-09 23:11)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean economy expanded 1 percent in 2025 ...

- [N. Korea to hold congress of largest youth organization next month](#) (2026-03-09 23:07)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- North Korea will hold a congress of the country's la...

- [\(URGENT\) S. Korea's GDP grows 1 pct in 2025, matching earlier estimate: BOK](#) (2026-03-09 23:00)

(END)

- [\(URGENT\) BOK revises Q4 GDP growth estimate up to 0.2 pct contraction](#) (2026-03-09 23:00)

(END)

- [\(WBC\) Captain clutch: Lee Jung-hoo delivers big hit, key catch to send S. Korea to quarterfinals](#) (2026-03-09 22:29)

TOKYO, March 10 (Yonhap) -- Before South Korea played a win-or-go-home game agai...

- [\(EDITORIAL from Korea JoongAng Daily on March 10\)](#) (2026-03-09 21:59)

Concerns over a prolonged war in the Middle East are spreading into what economi...

- [\(EDITORIAL from The Korea Times on March 10\)](#) (2026-03-09 21:58)

Freedom Shield, the annual 10-day joint military exercise between South Korea an...

- [\(EDITORIAL from The Korea Herald on March 10\)](#) (2026-03-09 21:58)

The revised Trade Union and Labor Relations Act, more commonly known as the "Yel...

- [Top headlines in major S. Korean newspapers](#) (2026-03-09 21:58)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- The following are the top headlines in major South K...

- [N. Korea's Kim reaffirms relations with China in letter with Xi Jinping: KCNA](#) (2026-03-09 21:49)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un reaffirmed his count...

- [\(LEAD\) \(WBC\) Much-maligned S. Korean pitchers come through in high-stakes game](#) (2026-03-09 14:59)

TOKYO, March 9 (Yonhap) -- With the team's fate hanging in the balance, South Ko...

- [\(LEAD\) \(WBC\) Bats wake up just in time for S. Korea](#) (2026-03-09 14:49)

TOKYO, March 9 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean bats that had been dormant the previ...

- [\(WBC\) Emotional S. Korea manager calls win over Australia 'game of my life'](#) (2026-03-09 14:36)

TOKYO, March 9 (Yonhap) -- Reduced to tears of joy after South Korea clinched a ...

- [\(2nd LD\) \(WBC\) Going to Miami: S. Korea beats Australia to reach quarterfinals](#) (2026-03-09 14:21)

TOKYO, March 9 (Yonhap) -- South Korea defeated Australia 7-2 on Monday to advan...

- [\(WBC\) Much-maligned S. Korean pitchers come through in high-stakes game](#) (2026-03-09 14:20)

TOKYO, March 9 (Yonhap) -- With the team's fate hanging in the balance, South Ko...

- [\(WBC\) Bats wake up just in time for S. Korea](#) (2026-03-09 14:06)

TOKYO, March 9 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean bats that had been dormant the previ...

- [\(LEAD\) \(WBC\) Going to Miami: S. Korea beats Australia to reach quarterfinals](#) (2026-03-09 14:03)

TOKYO, March 9 (Yonhap) -- South Korea defeated Australia 7-2 on Monday to advan...

- [\(WBC\) Going to Miami: S. Korea beats Australia to reach quarterfinals](#) (2026-03-09 13:14)

TOKYO, March 9 (Yonhap) -- South Korea defeated Australia 7-2 on Monday to advan...

- [FM Cho vows transparency on nuclear submarine project in talks with IAEA chief](#) (2026-03-09 13:13)

SEOUL, March 9 (Yonhap) -- Foreign Minister Cho Hyun on Monday spoke by phone wi...

- [\(LEAD\) Top diplomats of S. Korea, Qatar discuss evacuations, energy supply amid Middle East crisis](#) (2026-03-09 12:37)

SEOUL, March 9 (Yonhap) -- Foreign Minister Cho Hyun held a phone call with his ...

- [Top diplomats of S. Korea, Qatar discuss evacuations, energy supply amid Middle East crisis](#) (2026-03-09 12:04)

SEOUL, March 9 (Yonhap) -- Foreign Minister Cho Hyun held a phone call with his ...

- [N. Korea cancels int'l marathon due to some reasons: tour agency](#) (2026-03-09 10:44)

SEOUL, March 9 (Yonhap) -- North Korea has decided to cancel the 2026 Pyongyang ...

- [PPP adopts resolution opposing ex-President Yoon's political comeback](#) (2026-03-09 10:41)

SEOUL, March 9 (Yonhap) -- The main opposition People Power Party on Monday apol...

- [Top presidential aide voices hope 'yellow envelope act' to promote labor-management dialogue](#) (2026-03-09 08:31)

SEOUL, March 9 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung's chief of staff said Monday ...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-03-09 08:01)

The following is the second summary of major stories moved by Yonhap News Agency...

- [\(LEAD\) Gov't to take steps to implement fuel price cap this week as Mideast crisis intensifies](#) (2026-03-09 07:56)

SEOUL, March 9 (Yonhap) -- The government plans to take steps to implement a cap...

- [\(WBC\) S. Korea leadoff Kim Do-yeong ready to flush losses, focus on task at hand](#) (2026-03-09 07:46)

TOKYO, March 9 (Yonhap) -- South Korean star Kim Do-yeong said Monday he and his...

- [Around 300 S. Koreans to return home aboard Qatari flight amid Middle East conflict](#) (2026-03-09 07:45)

SEOUL, March 9 (Yonhap) -- A special flight carrying around 300 South Korean nat...

- [\(WBC\) S. Korea manager wants players to see must-win game as 'opportunity'](#) (2026-03-09 07:37)

TOKYO, March 9 (Yonhap) -- South Korea manager Ryu Ji-hyun said Monday he wants ...

- [\(2nd LD\) Seoul shares sink nearly 6 pct amid Iran crisis, crude price hike; won sharply down](#) (2026-03-09 07:36)

SEOUL, March 9 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks fell nearly 6 percent Monday, wit...

- [U.S. investment bill expected to pass Nat'l Assembly this week](#) (2026-03-09 07:18)

SEOUL, March 9 (Yonhap) -- The National Assembly is expected to pass a special b...

- [Top U.S. diplomat for East Asia to visit S. Korea this week](#) (2026-03-09 07:17)

SEOUL, March 9 (Yonhap) -- The top U.S. diplomat for East Asia policy will visit...

- [\(2nd LD\) Companies on alert over global oil price surge amid Middle East crisis](#) (2026-03-09 07:11)

SEOUL, March 9 (Yonhap) -- South Korean companies are seeking responsive measure...

- [\(LEAD\) S. Korean currency slumps to 17-yr low against U.S. dollar amid Iran crisis](#) (2026-03-09 07:00)

SEOUL, March 9 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean won fell to a 17-year low against th...

- [8th Army participates in Freedom Shield exercise to enhance readiness posture](#) (2026-03-09 06:57)

SEOUL, March 9 (Yonhap) -- The U.S. Army based in South Korea began taking part ...

- [\(LEAD\) Seoul shares sink nearly 6 pct amid Iran crisis, crude price hike; won sharply down](#) (2026-03-09 06:53)

SEOUL, March 9 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks fell nearly 6 percent Monday, wit...

- [Industry ministry to form team to manage envisioned U.S. investment projects under trade deal](#) (2026-03-09 06:51)

SEOUL, March 9 (Yonhap) -- The industry ministry said Monday it will create a te...

- [Seoul shares sink nearly 6 pct amid Iran crisis, crude price hike; won sharply down](#) (2026-03-09 06:38)

SEOUL, March 9 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks fell nearly 6 percent Monday, wit...

- [Prosecutors release identity of suspect accused of murdering two with laced drinks](#) (2026-03-09 06:37)

SEOUL, March 9 (Yonhap) -- Prosecutors on Monday released the identity and mug s...

- [\(URGENT\) Seoul shares end nearly 6 pct lower amid Iran crisis, crude price hike; won sharply down](#) (2026-03-09 06:36)

(END)

- [KRX experiences trading disruption amid sharp market drop](#) (2026-03-09 06:27)

SEOUL, March 9 (Yonhap) -- Stock trades were briefly disrupted at the country's ...

- [Ruling party vows to pass tax bill this month to help stabilize foreign exchange market](#) (2026-03-09 06:19)

SEOUL, March 9 (Yonhap) -- The ruling Democratic Party (DP) said Monday it plans...

- [Defense ministry aims to excavate some 200 remains from Korean War this year](#) (2026-03-09 06:03)

SEOUL, March 9 (Yonhap) -- The defense ministry said Monday it aims to locate so...

- [Families of Jeju Air crash victims protest discovery of additional remains](#) (2026-03-09 05:59)

SEOUL, March 9 (Yonhap) -- The bereaved families of the victims of the Jeju Air ...

- [No disruptions in essential goods supply to S. Korean vessels in Persian Gulf: ministry](#) (2026-03-09 05:52)

SEOUL, March 9 (Yonhap) -- South Korean vessels tied up in the Persian Gulf have...

- [Spy agency says providing real-time battle info to Korean firms in Middle East](#) (2026-03-09 05:52)

SEOUL, March 9 (Yonhap) -- The national spy agency is providing real-time inform...

- [FSS holds emergency meeting amid oil price hike, won's depreciation](#) (2026-03-09 05:48)

SEOUL, March 9 (Yonhap) -- The Financial Supervisory Service (FSS) held an emerg...

- [Police probing suspected use of ticket-buying bots for BTS comeback show](#) (2026-03-09 05:19)

SEOUL, March 9 (Yonhap) -- Police have begun investigating suspected use of bots...

- [PM to attend Boao Forum in China this month](#) (2026-03-09 05:19)

SEOUL, March 9 (Yonhap) -- Prime Minister Kim Min-seok plans to attend the Boao ...

- [\(LEAD\) Companies seek measures as global oil prices surge amid Middle East crisis](#) (2026-03-09 05:12)

SEOUL, March 9 (Yonhap) -- South Korean companies are seeking responsive measure...

- [Ejae named most-streamed K-pop artist in U.S. in 2025](#) (2026-03-09 05:09)

SEOUL, March 9 (Yonhap) -- Korean American singer-songwriter Ejae, who performed...

- [\(LEAD\) N. Korea's Kim attends concert marking Int'l Women's Day with wife, daughter](#) (2026-03-09 05:06)

SEOUL, March 9 (Yonhap) -- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un attended a concert ma...

- [Today in Korean history](#) (2026-03-09 05:00)

March 10

- [S. Korea, Switzerland agree to extend currency swap deal for 5 yrs](#) (2026-03-09 05:00)

SEOUL, March 9 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and Switzerland have agreed to extend the...

- [Corporate lending expansion slows in Q4: BOK](#) (2026-03-09 04:43)

SEOUL, March 9 (Yonhap) -- Loans extended to companies in South Korea grew at a ...

- [Crime action film 'The Ultimate Duo' finally opens after years of delay](#) (2026-03-09 04:33)

SEOUL, March 9 (Yonhap) -- The crime action film "The Ultimate Duo" finally sees...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-03-09 04:30)

The following is the first summary of major stories moved by Yonhap News Agency ...

- [Lee says to swiftly introduce fuel price cap as Mideast crisis intensifies](#) (2026-03-09 03:04)

SEOUL, March 9 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Monday called for authorit...

- [\(URGENT\) Lee says to swiftly introduce fuel price cap, explore ways to diversify sources of energy imports](#) (2026-03-09 02:42)

(END)

- [Gov't to refer Nonghyup chief to police over alleged embezzlement, bribery](#) (2026-03-09 02:38)

SEOUL, March 9 (Yonhap) -- The government said Monday it plans to refer the chai...

- [\(URGENT\) Lee calls for preemptive responses with worst-case scenarios in mind as Mideast crisis intensifies](#) (2026-03-09 02:38)

(END)

- [\(2nd LD\) Seoul shares down 8 pct late Mon. morning following trading suspension amid market slide](#) (2026-03-09 02:33)

SEOUL, March 9 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks plummeted around 8 percent late M...

- [KOFIA chief to attend int'l securities body gathering in India](#) (2026-03-09 02:27)

SEOUL, March 9 (Yonhap) -- The chief of the Korea Financial Investment Associati...

- [\(LEAD\) Seoul shares down 8 pct late Mon. morning following trading suspension amid market slide](#) (2026-03-09 02:15)

SEOUL, March 9 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks plummeted over 8 percent late Mon...

- [Former head of Seongdong district declares bid for Seoul mayor](#) (2026-03-09 02:00)

SEOUL, March 9 (Yonhap) -- A former chief of the Seongdong district in Seoul, Ch...

- [KRX eyes overseas partnerships to expand Korean derivative product trading](#) (2026-03-09 01:57)

SEOUL, March 9 (Yonhap) -- The Korea Exchange (KRX), South Korea's main bourse o...

- [KRX issues circuit breaker on KOSPI trading over market volatility](#) (2026-03-09 01:50)

SEOUL, March 9 (Yonhap) -- The Korea Exchange (KRX) issued a circuit breaker on ...

- [\(URGENT\) KRX activates circuit breaker on KOSPI, halting trading for 20 minutes amid market slide](#) (2026-03-09 01:37)

(END)

- [Lee to send special envoy to congratulate Chilean president on inauguration](#) (2026-03-09 01:33)

SEOUL, March 9 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung will dispatch Rep. Chung Il-y...

- [S. Korea, U.S. kick off annual key springtime military exercise](#) (2026-03-09 01:29)

SEOUL, March 9 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and the United States kicked off a key an...

- [Gov't to crack down on illegal foreign delivery riders](#) (2026-03-09 01:14)

SEOUL, March 9 (Yonhap) -- The government will initiate an intensive crackdown o...

- [Korean won sharply depreciates against greenback over Middle East crisis](#) (2026-03-09 01:09)

SEOUL, March 9 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean won depreciated sharply against the ...

- [Lee thanks Turkmenistan, Singapore for helping evacuate S. Koreans from Middle East](#) (2026-03-09 01:04)

SEOUL, March 9 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung has sent letters of appreciat...

- [S. Korea, S&P; to begin annual credit evaluation consultations this week](#) (2026-03-09 01:00)

SEOUL, March 9 (Yonhap) -- South Korea will begin its annual consultation meetin...

- [Lee's approval rating rebounds to 58.2 pct: poll](#) (2026-03-09 00:34)

SEOUL, March 9 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung's approval rating rebounded l...

- [\(LEAD\) Seoul shares plunge nearly 6 pct; KRX issues sidecar; won sharply down](#) (2026-03-09 00:28)

SEOUL, March 9 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks opened nearly 6 percent lower Mon...

- [\(URGENT\) KRX issues sell-side sidecar for KOSPI on sharp plunge](#) (2026-03-09 00:10)

(END)

- [203 S. Koreans return from Abu Dhabi aboard chartered flight](#) (2026-03-09 00:09)

YEONGJONGDO, South Korea, March 9 (Yonhap) -- More than 200 South Korean nationa...

- [Lee urges caution over reform measures to minimize side effects](#) (2026-03-09 00:07)

SEOUL, March 9 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Monday urged caution in pu...

- [Seoul shares open sharply lower on market volatility over Iran; crude oil prices surge](#) (2026-03-09 00:06)

SEOUL, March 9 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks started sharply lower Monday amid...

- [\(WBC\) S. Korea faced with number-crunching situation vs. Australia](#) (2026-03-09 00:04)

TOKYO, March 9 (Yonhap) -- Having dropped two straight games after an opening wi...

- [\(URGENT\) Seoul shares open 5.72 pct lower on market volatility over Iran; crude price surge](#) (2026-03-09 00:02)

(END)

- [Gov't urges oil refiners to refrain from excessive price hikes amid Middle East crisis](#) (2026-03-08 23:55)

SEOUL, March 9 (Yonhap) -- Industry Minister Kim Jung-kwan on Monday called on m...

- [Samsung SDI to unveil all-solid-state battery prototype for physical AI](#) (2026-03-08 23:46)

SEOUL, March 9 (Yonhap) -- Samsung SDI Co. said Monday it plans to showcase a sa...

- [BLACKPINK's 'Deadline' debuts at No. 8 on Billboard 200](#) (2026-03-08 23:44)

SEOUL, March 9 (Yonhap) -- The latest album from girl group BLACKPINK has landed...

- [LIV Golf to return to S. Korea with tournament in Busan](#) (2026-03-08 23:30)

SEOUL, March 9 (Yonhap) -- Saudi Arabia-backed LIV Golf announced Monday it will...

- [N. Korea's Kim attends concert marking Int'l Women's Day with wife, daughter](#) (2026-03-08 22:26)

SEOUL, March 9 (Yonhap) -- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un attended a concert ma...

- [\(EDITORIAL from Korea JoongAng Daily on March 9\)](#) (2026-03-08 21:51)

As the war between the United States and Israel against Iran spreads across the ...

- [\(EDITORIAL from The Korea Times on March 9\)](#) (2026-03-08 21:51)

Recent developments surrounding the possible redeployment of U.S. Forces Korea (...)

- [\(EDITORIAL from The Korea Herald on March 9\)](#) (2026-03-08 21:51)

On Thursday, South Korea's stock market staged a dramatic rebound, a day after a...

- [Top headlines in major S. Korean newspapers](#) (2026-03-08 21:51)

SEOUL, March 9 (Yonhap) -- The following are the top headlines in major South Ko...

- [Lee congratulates Kim Yun-ji on winning gold at Winter Paralympics](#) (2026-03-08 13:36)
SEOUL, March 8 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Sunday congratulated para ...
- [\(WBC\) Australia to start KBO pitcher Wells in crucial game vs. S. Korea](#) (2026-03-08 13:34)
TOKYO, March 8 (Yonhap) -- South Korean hitters will be up against a familiar fa...
- [Kim Yun-ji becomes 1st S. Korean female to win Winter Paralympic gold](#) (2026-03-08 13:18)
SEOUL, March 8 (Yonhap) -- Kim Yun-ji became the first South Korean woman to win...
- [\(WBC\) Japan holds off Australia as S. Korea stays alive](#) (2026-03-08 12:57)
TOKYO, March 8 (Yonhap) -- Japan rallied past Australia 4-3 for its third consec...
- [\(LEAD\) Seoul mayor not apply for PPP's candidacy for June local elections](#) (2026-03-08 12:43)
SEOUL, March 8 (Yonhap) -- Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon on Sunday did not apply for th...
- [\(LEAD\) Chartered plane departs from UAE to bring home 203 S. Koreans: ministry](#) (2026-03-08 12:18)
SEOUL, March 8 (Yonhap) -- A chartered plane departed from the United Arab Emira...
- [Latest LPGA winner from S. Korea 'proud' of herself for overcoming adversity](#) (2026-03-08 12:14)
SEOUL, March 8 (Yonhap) -- For the first time in nearly nine years, South Korean...
- [\(LEAD\) U.S. not likely to hike tariffs if special investment bill passed in parliament: industry minister](#) (2026-03-08 12:01)
YEONGJONGDO, South Korea, March 8 (Yonhap) -- Industry Minister Kim Jung-kwan sa...
- [U.S. not likely to hike tariffs if special investment bill passed in parliament: industry minister](#) (2026-03-08 10:50)
YEONGJONGDO, South Korea, March 8 (Yonhap) -- Industry Minister Kim Jung-kwan sa...
- [Seoul mayor not apply for PPP's candidacy for June local elections](#) (2026-03-08 10:18)
SEOUL, March 8 (Yonhap) -- Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon on Sunday did not apply for th...
- [Chartered plane departs from UAE to bring home 203 S. Koreans: ministry](#) (2026-03-08 09:49)
SEOUL, March 8 (Yonhap) -- A chartered plane departed from the United Arab Emira...
- [\(LEAD\) Lee Mi-hyang captures 3rd career LPGA title in China](#) (2026-03-08 09:35)
SEOUL, March 8 (Yonhap) -- Lee Mi-hyang has claimed her third career LPGA title ...

- [Lee Mi-hyang captures 3rd career LPGA title in China](#) (2026-03-08 09:02)
SEOUL, March 8 (Yonhap) -- Lee Mi-hyang has claimed her third career LPGA title ...
- [\(2nd LD\) \(WBC\) S. Korea falls to Chinese Taipei in extra innings](#) (2026-03-08 07:28)
TOKYO, March 8 (Yonhap) -- South Korea lost to Chinese Taipei 5-4 in extra innin...
- [\(WBC\) Left-hander Son Ju-young to start win-or-go-home game vs. Australia](#) (2026-03-08 07:23)
TOKYO, March 8 (Yonhap) -- Left-hander Son Ju-young's first World Baseball Class...
- [Women's rights advocates rally in Seoul on International Women's Day](#) (2026-03-08 07:17)
SEOUL, March 8 (Yonhap) -- Advocates for women's rights held a rally in downtown...
- [\(WBC\) S. Korea manager clinging to fading hope](#) (2026-03-08 07:13)
TOKYO, March 8 (Yonhap) -- South Korea manager Ryu Ji-hyun clung to fading hope ...
- [\(LEAD\) \(WBC\) S. Korean bats silenced in loss to Chinese Taipei](#) (2026-03-08 07:00)
TOKYO, March 8 (Yonhap) -- Save for one player's heroics, South Korean bats were...
- [\(LEAD\) \(WBC\) S. Korean pitching undone by home runs](#) (2026-03-08 06:57)
TOKYO, March 8 (Yonhap) -- South Korean pitchers surrendered three home runs in ...
- [Lee to preside over emergency economic meeting on Middle East tensions](#) (2026-03-08 06:44)
SEOUL, March 8 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung will preside over an emergenc...
- [\(WBC\) S. Korean bats silenced in loss to Chinese Taipei](#) (2026-03-08 06:42)
TOKYO, March 8 (Yonhap) -- Save for one player's heroics, South Korean bats were...
- [\(WBC\) S. Korean pitching undone by home runs](#) (2026-03-08 06:29)
TOKYO, March 8 (Yonhap) -- South Korean pitchers surrendered three home runs in ...
- [\(LEAD\) \(WBC\) S. Korea falls to Chinese Taipei in extra innings](#) (2026-03-08 06:27)
TOKYO, March 8 (Yonhap) -- South Korea lost to Chinese Taipei 5-4 in extra innin...
- [\(WBC\) S. Korea falls to Chinese Taipei in extra innings](#) (2026-03-08 06:15)
TOKYO, March 8 (Yonhap) -- South Korea lost to Chinese Taipei 5-4 in extra innin...
- [Samsung Electronics unionized workers to vote on strike amid controversy over disadvantages](#) (2026-03-08 05:55)

SEOUL, March 8 (Yonhap) -- Unionized workers at Samsung Electronics Co. are set ...

- [Lee to meet executives of large firms, SMEs this week](#) (2026-03-08 05:51)

SEOUL, March 8 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung will meet with senior officia...

- ['The King's Warden' surpasses 11 million admissions](#) (2026-03-08 05:25)

SEOUL, March 8 (Yonhap) -- The Korean historical film "The King's Warden" has at...

- [Today in Korean history](#) (2026-03-08 05:00)

March 9

- [Fuel price rise slows amid speculation of price cap system](#) (2026-03-08 04:37)

SEOUL, March 8 (Yonhap) -- Gasoline and diesel prices rose moderately Sunday as ...

- [Ex-President Moon says Trump's China visit could offer momentum for Korean Peninsula peace](#) (2026-03-08 03:52)

LOS ANGELES, March 8 (Yonhap) -- Former President Moon Jae-in has said U.S. Pres...

- [\(WBC\) Shortstop ready to shake off tough loss to Japan](#) (2026-03-08 03:00)

TOKYO, March 8 (Yonhap) -- South Korean shortstop Kim Ju-won said Sunday he and ...

- [\(WBC\) S. Korea manager declares unwavering faith in team after loss to Japan](#) (2026-03-08 02:57)

TOKYO, March 8 (Yonhap) -- South Korea manager Ryu Ji-hyun claimed Sunday his fa...

- [Harim in legal battle with FTC over 100 bln-won price-fixing penalty](#) (2026-03-08 02:42)

SEOUL, March 8 (Yonhap) -- Harim Co., South Korea's largest poultry-processing c...

- [Chinese Embassy in N. Korea introduces Wonsan-Kalma tourism zone](#) (2026-03-08 02:39)

SEOUL, March 8 (Yonhap) -- The Chinese Embassy in North Korea has introduced the...

- [Lee pledges to promote gender equality on International Women's Day](#) (2026-03-08 02:08)

SEOUL, March 8 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Sunday pledged to advance ...

- [S. Korea mulls adopting oil price cap system for 1st time in 30 yrs: sources](#) (2026-03-08 02:01)

SEOUL, March 8 (Yonhap) -- The government is considering adopting a price cap sy...

- [U.S. transport aircraft spotted departing Osan Air Base amid Patriot relocation speculation](#) (2026-03-08 01:45)

SEOUL, March 8 (Yonhap) -- U.S. military transport aircraft have been spotted ar...

- [\(WBC\) Chinese Taipei manager hoping players will sustain momentum in must-win game vs. S. Korea](#) (2026-03-08 01:17)

TOKYO, March 8 (Yonhap) -- With his team fresh off a resounding first victory at...

- [FX volatility reaches highest since COVID-19 pandemic amid Middle East tensions](#) (2026-03-08 00:59)

SEOUL, March 8 (Yonhap) -- The daily volatility of the Korean won against the U....

- [No. of drug addicts rises 49 pct from 2020 to 2024](#) (2026-03-08 00:26)

SEOUL, March 8 (Yonhap) -- The number of drug addicts receiving treatment in Sou...