



SOUTH KOREA SECURITY ANALYSIS REPORT

AI-Assisted Open Source Intelligence Assessment

Analysis Period: March 13, 2026 - March 20, 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 posture from March 13 to March 20, 2026, was characterized by heightened vigilance against North Korean provocations and significant advancements in its defense industry and international defense partnerships. The period saw North Korea conduct multiple ballistic missile launches, coinciding with the ongoing large-scale Freedom Shield 2026 joint military exercises with the United States, underscoring persistent inter-Korean tensions. Domestically, South Korea elevated its terror alert level in central Seoul for a major public event, reflecting broader concerns about international security uncertainties. Concurrently, Seoul solidified a substantial defense pact with Australia, signaling a strategic pivot towards enhanced regional security cooperation and a push for self-reliant defense capabilities.

Key Security Developments

- **Military Activities and Exercises: Freedom Shield 2026 Concludes Amidst North Korean Provocations**

South Korea and the United States conducted their annual Freedom Shield 2026 joint military exercises from March 9 to March 19, 2026. These defensive drills aimed to strengthen combined readiness, multi-domain operations, and prepare for the transfer of U.S. wartime operational control (OPCON) to South Korea, while also focusing on deterring North Korea's nuclear threats. As part of these exercises, joint river-crossing drills were staged in Yeoncheon on March 14.

Significance: The exercises are a critical component of the alliance's readiness, but their timing often draws strong reactions from Pyongyang, as seen during this period.

- **Security Incidents and Threats: North Korea Launches Ballistic Missiles**

On March 14, 2026, North Korea launched approximately 10 ballistic missiles toward the East China Sea, with launches detected from the Sunan area around 13:20 local time. This marked North Korea's third missile test in 2026 and directly coincided with the Freedom Shield exercises. Earlier in the week, North Korea also tested strategic cruise missiles launched from its destroyer Choe Hyon.

Significance: These launches are a clear demonstration of North Korea's continued military development and its consistent use of provocations to protest joint ROK-US drills, escalating tensions on the peninsula.

- **Defense Policy and Strategic Shifts: Emphasis on Self-Reliant Defense and OPCON Transfer**

Defense Minister Ahn Kyu-baek stated on March 17, 2026, that the Ministry of National Defense is prioritizing the safety of overseas-deployed units and maintaining an enhanced surveillance and guard posture toward North Korea in close ROK-U.S. cooperation. Ahn declared 2026 a "watershed year" for rebuilding the "people's military" and firmly advancing the defense-reform roadmap, which includes restoring wartime operational control (OPCON) during his term. South Korea aims to finalize a roadmap for accelerating the OPCON transfer by April 2026 and complete Full Operational Capability (FOC) verification by October 2026.

Significance: This highlights South Korea's commitment to taking greater responsibility for its own defense, aligning with the 2026 U.S. National Defense Strategy's call for allies to assume primary responsibility for regional security.

- **Diplomatic Relations: US Redeployment of Air Defense Systems**

South Korean President Lee Jae-myung confirmed on March 10, 2026, that the U.S. planned to redeploy 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 in the war on Iran. President Lee expressed opposition to the withdrawal but acknowledged South Korea's limited power to prevent the move.

Significance: This redeployment underscores the stretched capabilities of the U.S. military due to global commitments and raises concerns in Seoul about potential gaps in its own air defense capabilities against North Korean threats.

- **Defense Acquisitions and Arms Deals: "K-Pivot" Defense Pact with Australia**

On March 18, 2026, South Korea and Australia finalized a \$15 billion "Blue-Water & Steel" Pact, dubbed the "K-Pivot." This comprehensive defense agreement involves South Korea transferring advanced manufacturing capabilities to Australia, including the production of KSS-III Block II submarines and the integration of the KF-21 Boramae stealth fighter into the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF). Notably, the deal includes the first-ever overseas production line for Hyunmoo-series cruise missiles in Adelaide.

Significance: This landmark deal significantly deepens defense industrial cooperation between the two nations, enhancing Australia's deep strike capabilities and positioning South Korea as a critical defense technology partner in the Indo-Pacific.

- **Counter-terrorism and Public Security: Elevated Alert for BTS Concert**

South Korea raised its terror alert level from "attention" to the second-tier "caution" in parts of central Seoul (Jongno District and Jung District) from March 18 to March 22, 2026. This measure was enacted in anticipation of a large-scale free BTS comeback concert at Gwanghwamun Square on March 21, expected to draw up to 260,000 people. President Lee Jae-myung urged authorities to remain vigilant against potential

threats, including acts of terrorism, citing uncertainties from international affairs, specifically the U.S.-Israel war on Iran. The U.S. Embassy in Seoul also issued a security alert on March 19, noting the Republic of Korea's "caution" level crisis alert due to the increased risk for a "Mass Gathering Crowd Disaster."

Significance: This demonstrates South Korea's proactive approach to public safety and counter-terrorism, particularly for high-profile events that could be targets amidst a volatile global security environment.

- Defense Industry Developments: KADDEX 2026 and Export Ambitions

The Korea Army International Defense Industry Exhibition (KADDEX 2026) is set to showcase Korea's defense capabilities, including unmanned systems, AI, robotics, and integrated battlefield technologies, featuring 500 companies and 1,600 booths. South Korea aims for \$20 billion in arms exports by 2026, reflecting its ambition to become a top five global exporter. The Lee Jae Myung administration is increasing South Korean defense spending by 7.5%, approximately \$44.8 billion, in fiscal year 2026, with a pledge to increase military spending by 8.2% in 2026.

Significance: These developments highlight South Korea's robust and growing defense industrial base, which is becoming a significant player in the global arms market and a key enabler of its self-reliant defense strategy.

- Cybersecurity: Ongoing Concerns from Past Breaches

While specific incidents within the reporting period were not detailed, ongoing impacts and responses to major data breaches that occurred in 2025 involving South Korean telecom operators (KT, SK Telecom, LG U+) continue to shape the cybersecurity landscape. These incidents have led to increased cybersecurity spending, legislative debate on data liability, and a rise in cyber insurance. The government formed an interagency body in September 2025 to strengthen its cybersecurity response.

Significance: The lingering effects of these breaches underscore the persistent vulnerability of critical infrastructure to cyberattacks and the government's ongoing efforts to bolster national cybersecurity.

Geopolitical Impact and Regional Dynamics

South Korea's security developments during this period have notable geopolitical implications, particularly concerning regional stability and its relationships with major powers. The continued North Korean missile provocations, exemplified by the March 14 launches, reinforce the persistent threat Pyongyang poses to the Korean Peninsula and the broader Indo-Pacific. These actions, often timed with joint ROK-US exercises like Freedom Shield, highlight North Korea's strategy of using military demonstrations to challenge the alliance and assert its nuclear status, while simultaneously

strengthening ties with Russia and China, which it sees as providing a strategic advantage against dialogue with the US or South Korea. The US redeployment of air defense assets from South Korea to the Middle East, though acknowledged by Seoul as a difficult reality, could be perceived by adversaries as a potential weakening of immediate deterrence capabilities in Northeast Asia, even if the US reaffirms its extended deterrence commitments.

The significant defense pact with Australia, the "K-Pivot," marks a strategic expansion of South Korea's influence beyond traditional alliances. This \$15 billion deal, involving advanced manufacturing and missile technology transfer, creates a "Middle-Power Axis" that directly impacts regional power dynamics. It provides Australia with enhanced deep strike capabilities independent of US approval, and for South Korea, it diversifies its security partnerships and strengthens its position as a key defense exporter. This move could be interpreted as a hedge against potential shifts in US foreign policy, particularly given the 2026 US National Defense Strategy's emphasis on allies taking greater responsibility for their own defense. The silence from Beijing regarding this deal suggests a recalculation of its regional strategy, as it links two technologically advanced middle powers in a way that could complicate China's regional ambitions.

Furthermore, South Korea's increasing engagement with NATO and European partners, aiming to transition from a mere arms exporter to an embedded defense partner, signifies a broadening of its security horizons. This diversification of partnerships, coupled with its growing defense industry and ambition to become a top-five global arms exporter, positions South Korea as a more influential actor in global security. The potential for South Korea to provide non-lethal military aid to Ukraine, sourced from the US, also indicates its willingness to contribute to broader international security efforts, albeit cautiously to avoid direct confrontation with Russia. These developments collectively demonstrate South Korea's proactive approach to navigating a complex geopolitical landscape, balancing traditional alliances with new strategic partnerships to enhance its national security and regional standing.

Military and Defense Analysis

South Korea's military and defense posture during this period reflects a clear commitment to modernization and self-reliance, driven by persistent threats from North Korea and evolving US strategic priorities. The ongoing Freedom Shield 2026 exercises with the United States are central to maintaining a robust combined defense posture, focusing on strengthening readiness and preparing for the conditions-based transfer of wartime operational control (OPCON) to South Korea. This transfer, with a roadmap to be finalized by April 2026 and Full Operational Capability (FOC)

verification by October 2026, signifies a major strategic shift, placing greater responsibility on South Korean forces to lead combined operations and possess credible deterrence capabilities against North Korean nuclear threats.

The 2026 U.S. National Defense Strategy (NDS) explicitly calls for allies like South Korea to assume primary responsibility for their conventional defense, with the U.S. providing "critical but limited support." This necessitates significant capability developments in South Korea, particularly in integrated air and missile defense with depth and reload capacity, robust munitions and sustainment capabilities, resilient command and control systems, and enhanced counter special operations and infrastructure protection. South Korea's defense spending reflects this commitment, with the Lee Jae Myung administration increasing it by 7.5% (approximately \$44.8 billion) in fiscal year 2026, and a pledge for an 8.2% increase in 2026. This investment fuels modernization programs aimed at building a modern, technologically advanced force, including the development of a "3-axis system" and potentially 500,000 war drones by 2026. The KADEX 2026 exhibition further underscores this focus on future technologies, showcasing advancements in unmanned systems, AI, robotics, and integrated battlefield solutions.

Outlook and Forecast

Short-term trends (1-3 months): In the immediate future, inter-Korean tensions are likely to remain high, particularly following North Korea's recent missile launches and the conclusion of the Freedom Shield exercises. Pyongyang will likely continue its pattern of military demonstrations and rhetoric, potentially including further missile tests or other provocations, to protest joint drills and assert its nuclear capabilities. South Korea will maintain a heightened state of readiness, with close ROK-US cooperation in surveillance and intelligence gathering on North Korean activities. The focus on finalizing the roadmap for OPCON transfer by April 2026 will be a key internal defense priority, potentially leading to further announcements or exercises related to this transition. Diplomatic efforts to engage North Korea are unlikely to yield significant breakthroughs given Pyongyang's current stance.

Critical flashpoints and risk areas: The most critical flashpoint remains the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) and maritime borders, where accidental clashes or intentional provocations could quickly escalate. North Korea's continued development of nuclear and missile capabilities, including potential advancements in its "nuclear triad" and emerging military technologies, poses an existential threat. The potential for North Korea to use nuclear threats to try and decouple the US-South Korea alliance is a significant concern. Furthermore, the redeployment of US air defense assets from South Korea to the Middle East could create perceived vulnerabilities that North Korea might attempt to exploit. Cybersecurity threats, particularly from North Korea, remain

a constant risk to South Korea's critical infrastructure and public data, as evidenced by past breaches.

Indicators to monitor: Key indicators to monitor include the frequency and nature of North Korean missile tests and military exercises, any changes in North Korean rhetoric or diplomatic overtures, and the progress of the ROK-US OPCON transfer. Developments in South Korea's defense industry, particularly its export deals and technological advancements showcased at events like KADEX 2026, will indicate its growing self-reliance and global influence. The stability of the US-South Korea alliance, especially in light of US strategic recalibrations, and any further shifts in US military posture in the region will also be crucial. Lastly, the broader geopolitical environment, including the ongoing conflict in the Middle East and US-China relations, will continue to shape South Korea's security calculus.

Strategic recommendations: South Korea should continue to prioritize the modernization of its military capabilities, with a particular emphasis on integrated air and missile defense, resilient command and control, and advanced intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) assets to counter North Korean threats. Strengthening its domestic defense industrial base and diversifying its defense partnerships, as demonstrated by the Australia deal, is crucial for enhancing self-reliance and reducing dependence on a single external power. While maintaining a strong deterrent posture, Seoul should also explore avenues for de-escalation and confidence-building measures with North Korea, even if direct dialogue remains challenging. Finally, investing heavily in cybersecurity infrastructure and capabilities is paramount to protect against persistent cyber threats from state-sponsored actors.

ANNEX: COLLECTED ARTICLES BY SOURCE

Source: Daily NK

- [North Koreans sour on fancy factory sweets as taste fails to match packaging](#) (2026-03-19 22:01)

North Korea has seen a marked increase in the distribution of factory-made candy and cookies across the country, but citizens in North Pyongan province complained Wednesday that slick new packaging is masking substandard products sold at prices many cannot justify. The rise in packaged confections follows the regime's push to build food factories in the [...]

- [Rice and corn prices hit record highs in North Korea amid China transport revival](#) (2026-03-19 18:15)

Rice and corn prices at North Korean markets have surged to historic highs in 2026, with the won's sharpest depreciation against the dollar on record driving up the cost of imported goods across the board. Analysts say the resumption of passenger train and flight services between Beijing and Pyongyang is fueling a spike in demand [...]

- [North Korean defectors in China rattled by police photo visits](#) (2026-03-19 13:56)

North Korean defectors living in China are reportedly gripped by fear after police in their neighborhoods began making repeated visits to photograph them, sources told Daily NK on Wednesday, amid heightened security tied to China's biggest annual political meetings. A source in China said police in defectors' neighborhoods have been calling ahead to schedule the [...]

- [North Korean children forced into streets for a week to perform election enthusiasm](#) (2026-03-19 02:00)

North Korean schoolchildren as young as elementary age were forced to march through neighborhoods waving flowers and singing state songs for a full week before the country's March 15 Supreme People's Assembly elections, with teachers privately admitting the burden fell almost entirely on students while adults found ways to slip away. A South Hamgyong province [...]

- [Tofu dregs replace grain as North Korea's rural food crisis worsens](#) (2026-03-18 20:56)

North Korean households in rural areas of North Hamgyong province have lost access to grain entirely, forcing people to survive on biji (tofu dregs) porridge and kkojang-tteok, a coarse cake made by mixing tofu waste with corn flour. "There are many people suffering from food shortages in Kilju county and surrounding rural areas," a North [...]

- [North Korea mobilizes emergency funds to hold fuel prices amid global oil spike](#)

(2026-03-18 19:44)

North Korea has injected millions of dollars in emergency funds to prevent domestic fuel prices from spiraling out of control amid a surge in global oil prices triggered by the ongoing crisis in the Middle East, Daily NK has learned. A source in North Pyongan province told Daily NK on Wednesday that Pyongyang issued an [...]

- [Inside the Sinuiju greenhouse: the hidden rail station built for Kim Jong Un](#) (2026-03-18 13:16)

Satellite imagery has revealed that North Korea built a private rail station for Kim Jong Un at the center of the newly inaugurated Sinuiju Combined Greenhouse Farm on Wihwa Island, near the Chinese border in North Pyongan province, Daily NK has confirmed. The station, which bears what appears to be a State Affairs Commission emblem, [...]

- [North Korea's military-civilian solidarity rallies draw public frustration](#) (2026-03-18 09:41)

North Korea held a military-civilian solidarity rally in the city of Hamhung on March 6, but some people in South Hamgyong province say the event amounted to little more than a standard political rally, reflecting a broader shift away from the goodwill exchanges that once defined such gatherings since the Ninth Congress of the Workers' [...]

- [Fight breaks out at North Hamgyong farm over access to non-arable plots](#) (2026-03-18 02:43)

Desperate to supplement their income, North Korean farm workers in North Hamgyong province are coming to blows over access to non-arable plots of land that offer rare opportunities to grow and sell crops on the side. A source in North Hamgyong province told Daily NK on Tuesday that two farming households at a collective farm [...]

- [Trapped in the net: North Korean workers in Chinese seafood factories](#) (2026-03-18 00:57)

Daily NK has released a comprehensive report examining how North Korean workers dispatched to Chinese seafood processing factories are subjected to systematic forced labor, wage exploitation, sexual abuse, and round-the-clock surveillance. The report, titled “Exploitation, Control, and Accountability Inside Chinese Seafood Packaging,” is based on in-depth interviews with 30 workers and managers, including currently stationed [...]

- [North Korea unveils next-stage public health goals at party congress](#) (2026-03-18 00:30)

North Korea's health ministry used the Ninth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea earlier this month to announce an ambitious new phase in what the regime calls its “public health revolution,” pushing to transform healthcare from a basic social service into a pillar of state strategy, a source in Pyongyang told Daily NK on [...]

- [North Korea fuel prices spike 25% amid Iran war before stabilizing](#) (2026-03-17 20:24)

Fuel prices in North Korea spiked by as much as 25% in early March following the outbreak of war involving Iran, before partially stabilizing after authorities intervened with emergency measures, Daily NK has learned. According to Daily NK's regular market price survey, the price of one kilogram of gasoline at a Pyongyang market stood at [...]

- [Kim Yo Jong named WPK General Affairs Department head: promotion or demotion?](#) (2026-03-17 14:51)

North Korea's state media disclosed last week that Kim Jong Un's younger sister has been appointed head of the General Affairs Department of the ruling Workers' Party of Korea (WPK), prompting South Korean media outlets to widely characterize the move as a promotion. But a closer look at the role and the optics surrounding it [...]

- [North Korea's wealthy youth buy cars they can't drive, hire drivers to profit](#) (2026-03-17 10:55)

Young North Koreans with wealthy parents are buying vehicles they cannot drive and hiring drivers to run them as taxis or freight haulers, turning private car ownership into a key income-generating asset, multiple Daily NK sources inside North Korea reported Monday. The trend has been spreading across several parts of the country in recent months, [...]

- [North Korea cracks down on rumors about soldiers captured in Ukraine](#) (2026-03-17 02:35)

North Korean authorities have ordered state security agents to identify and suppress rumors spreading along the Chinese border about soldiers captured by Ukrainian forces, as public anxiety over military deployments to Russia grows, a source told Daily NK on Monday. The source said stories about North Korean prisoners of war in Ukraine have been circulating [...]

- [Border soldiers forced to replant trees doomed to die](#) (2026-03-16 22:31)

North Korean soldiers guarding the border with China have been mobilized to plant trees ahead of Arbor Day on March 14, but many are voicing frustration over what they see as a politically driven campaign that sends trees to their deaths. A source in North Pyongan province told Daily NK on Monday that since March [...]

- [North Korean parents push back on tailored school uniform policy](#) (2026-03-16 14:00)

North Korean authorities are conducting daily inspections of school uniform production and distribution ahead of the 2026 academic year beginning in April, but a policy requiring made-to-measure uniforms has drawn complaints from parents struggling to keep up with the costs. A Daily NK source in North Hamgyong province reported Friday that officials in each district [...]

- [North Korea's poorest youth are choosing brutal labor brigades over life at home](#) (2026-03-16 13:00)

Young North Koreans facing poverty and an unrelenting burden of workplace levies are volunteering for the country's much-dreaded labor brigades in growing numbers, choosing grueling construction work as an escape from hardship at home. A Daily NK source in North Hwanghae province said Friday that recent months have seen a rising number of young people [...]

- [North Korea holds open party meeting to force light industry results from local officials](#) (2026-03-16 01:42)

North Pyongan province's party committee has summoned local commercial and light industry officials to a two-night, three-day open party general meeting in Sinuiju, pressing them to deliver tangible results on light industry targets set at the ninth Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) congress. A Daily NK source in North Pyongan province said Thursday that the [...]

- [North Korea targets currency traders with undercover operatives as won crisis deepens](#) (2026-03-16 01:38)

North Korea has drawn its sharpest response yet to a currency crisis, deploying undercover security cadets and newly assigned officers to crack down on illegal foreign exchange trading in markets across the country. A source in Ryanggang province told Daily NK on Thursday that the Cabinet and the Ministry of Social Security issued a directive [...]

- [North Korea's new school stalls draw student fans but leave vendors counting losses](#) (2026-03-15 23:30)

Small vendor stalls have begun appearing outside schools in parts of North Korea, offering students and teachers a convenient place to buy snacks, stationery, and hygiene products. But for the operators running them, the stalls are proving more symbolic than profitable. A Daily NK source in North Hamgyong province said Monday that a number of [...]

- [North Korea's machinery import surge: farms, factories and shipyards stocked up](#) (2026-03-15 18:44)

North Korean trading companies have sharply expanded machinery imports from China since late last year, with equipment ranging from farm machinery and industrial tools to shipyard gear and medical devices now flowing across the border at what Chinese traders describe as an unprecedented pace. Machinery imports surge as Kim Jong Un accelerates local development policy [...]

- [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 [...]

Source: Hankyoreh

- [All hail the K-pop kings: BTS is back!](#) (2026-03-20 06:01)
- [How to navigate the BTS show safely and smoothly](#) (2026-03-20 06:01)
- [Energy facilities become latest targets in intensifying Middle East war](#) (2026-03-19 12:01)
- [Trump says US neither wants nor needs allies' help in Strait of Hormuz](#) (2026-03-19 12:01)
- [Is Trump trying to use reverse psychology to get allies to support Iran war?](#) (2026-03-19 12:01)
- [\[Column\] Even after Trump' s gone, the good old days aren' t coming back](#) (2026-03-19 12:01)
- [K-pop fans flocking to Seoul left scrambling to find places to store luggage](#) (2026-03-19 12:01)

- [AMD pursues Samsung, Naver deals as Korea cements itself as key partner in AI](#) (2026-03-19 12:01)
- [Oil prices surge as Middle East tensions escalate into energy supply crisis](#) (2026-03-19 12:01)
- [Trump adviser causes stir by suggesting Israel might nuke Iran](#) (2026-03-18 12:01)
- [Trump’ s miscalculation in Iran derails plan for highly anticipated summit with Xi](#) (2026-03-18 12:01)
- [US counterterrorism director abruptly resigns, unable to support Iran war ‘in good conscience’](#) (2026-03-18 12:01)
- [\[Editorial\] Korea must rally nations to unite against Trump’ s bullying](#) (2026-03-18 12:01)
- [‘Golden’ acceptance speech interruption draws criticism over ‘disrespect’ at Oscars](#) (2026-03-18 12:01)
- [Ejae’ s Oscar dress inspired by Korean Empire’ s ceremonial court attire](#) (2026-03-18 12:01)
- [BTS taps into history of ‘Arirang’ in teaser for new album](#) (2026-03-17 12:01)
- [Air China to resume Beijing-Pyongyang flights amid thawing ties](#) (2026-03-17 12:01)
- [Will US shifting THAAD to Mideast really leave a hole in South Korea’ s air defenses?](#) (2026-03-17 12:01)
- [\[Editorial\] Korea must say no to sending soldiers into Trump’ s war](#) (2026-03-17 12:01)
- [Trump inflates USFK numbers, pressures Seoul to ‘defend’ US in Strait of Hormuz](#) (2026-03-17 12:01)
- [South Korean PM says Trump ‘very intrigued’ by proposal to improve US-North Korea ties](#) (2026-03-16 12:00)
- [‘KPop Demon Hunters’ wins big at Oscars with awards for animated feature, song](#) (2026-03-16 12:00)

- [‘A team effort’ : Trump calls on South Korea, others to police Hormuz Strait \(2026-03-16 12:00\)](#)
- [US call for backup in Strait of Hormuz could put allies like Korea in ‘kill box’ \(2026-03-16 12:00\)](#)
- [Why Korea may not be able to say no to Trump’ s request for warships in Hormuz Strait \(2026-03-16 12:00\)](#)
- [North Korea claims to test nuclear-capable MRLS able to strike South Korea \(2026-03-16 12:00\)](#)
- [Return of the kings: BTS comeback turns Seoul thoroughfare into a stage \(2026-03-16 12:00\)](#)
- [US trade probes hit Korea’ s already struggling steel, petrochemical sectors \(2026-03-16 12:00\)](#)
- [\[Column\] 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 \(2026-03-13 12:01\)](#)

Source: Korea Times

- [Possible trash bag shortage looms as Middle East crisis depletes raw material supply](#) (2026-03-20 05:57)

The government has launched a nationwide inspection of trash bag stockpiles amid concerns that the U.S.-Israel war on Iran could lead to supply shortages. The Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment said Friday that it had asked local governments across the country to conduct a preemptive review of trash bag inventories after manufacturers notified authorities that they had enough raw materials to last only about a month. Trash bags are made using linear low-density polyethylene, or LLDPE, and high-density polyethylene, or HDPE, both of which are derived from naphtha, a crude oil-based feedstock. Growing uncertainty over naphtha supply linked to disruptions at the Strait of Hormuz has pushed up prices for a range of petroleum-based products. A survey by the Korea Federation of Plastics Industry Cooperatives found that the supply price of polyethylene rose by 200,000 won (\$133) in March alone. Some companies were also reportedly told that the supply price of LLDPE could rise by an additional 400,000 won to 800,000 won. Local governments are believed to have enough trash bags in reserv

- [Fire breaks out at car parts plant in Daejeon; 25 injured: authorities](#) (2026-03-20 05:57)

A fire broke out at a car parts plant in the central city of Daejeon on Friday, injuring at least 25 people, authorities said. The National Fire Agency said it has issued a national firefighting mobilization order as the number of victims could increase. Prime Minister Kim Min-seok also ordered the interior ministry and the fire agency to use all available equipment and personnel to rescue people and extinguish the fire.

- [Why Koreans feel poorer even as official income data improves](#) (2026-03-20 05:57)

Even as official data shows a narrowing income gap, Koreans say they feel the wealth gap is growing due to the heavy burden of groceries and housing costs. A report published Thursday by the Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs, titled "Why do people feel inequality is severe?", highlighted this gap between official data and reality. The research noted that the country's Gini index — a key measure of income distribution where a lower number signifies less inequality — dropped from 0.418 in 2011 to 0.392 in 2023. The official index was compiled by the Ministry of Data and Statistics. Analyzing this data, the institute concluded that an expansion of government transfers, such as state pensions and various public benefits, has helped narrow the statistical wealth gap. However, public perceptions moved in the opposite direction during the same period. Perception vs. reality Lower-income households see the gap between themselves and higher earners as growing wider, even if their actual earnings increased. The institute attributed this directly to the cost of living. Because groce

- [Trade ministry launches task force to respond to USTR probes](#) (2026-03-20 05:57)

The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Resources launched Friday a joint task force with private industries to coordinate responses to the United States' trade investigations into South Korea over structural excess capacity and forced labor, officials said. Earlier this month, the office of

the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) launched consecutive trade inquiries into South Korea and other major economies to uncover what it calls "unfair" trade practices related to structural excess capacity and production, and separate probes involving forced labor under Section 301 of the 1974 Trade Act. The task force, led by the ministry, comprises officials from relevant authorities and private industries, as well as trade experts. It will respond to the trade inquiries and related procedures, such as submission of written opinions and public hearings. During Friday's trade strategy meeting, Trade Minister Yeo Han-koo said the USTR's move appears to be aimed at restoring trade-related measures Washington had imposed on partners before the U.S. Supreme Court struck down U.S. President Donald Trump's "r

- [Korea ramps up bid for Canada's \\$44 bil. submarine deal](#) (2026-03-20 05:57)

Korea is ramping up efforts to secure Canada's submarine procurement project, with Defense Acquisition Program Administration (DAPA) Minister Lee Yong-cheol saying the outcome remains too close to call. "It is difficult to say at this point whether we will win or lose," Lee said during a press briefing Thursday. Still, he emphasized the strategic importance of the project, noting that a successful bid could significantly elevate Korea's position in the global defense market. "If we secure the deal, it could fundamentally change the landscape of Korea's defense industry," he said. Canada is seeking to replace its aging submarine fleet with up to 12 next-generation vessels under a project estimated at around 60 billion Canadian dollars (\$43.7 billion). Korea and Germany have emerged as the leading contenders, with Berlin proposing an industrial package that combines submarine sales with automotive and battery investments, in line with Ottawa's push to attract broader manufacturing investment alongside defense contracts. The Canadian submarine program is widely regarded as a k

- [Korea's rights body urges safer undocumented migrant crackdowns after Daegu death](#) (2026-03-20 05:57)

The National Human Rights Commission of Korea urged authorities to take stronger safety measures when planning crackdowns on undocumented migrants, citing concerns over possible clashes during enforcement operations. The commission said Friday it recommended to Justice Minister Jung Sung-ho in January that enforcement plans include measures to block access to areas prone to falls or other accidents. It also called for immigration officer ID cards — currently worn on lanyards, which can be grabbed or snagged — to be redesigned in a form and material that better protects the physical safety of both officers and foreign nationals subject to enforcement. Authorities have faced repeated criticism over heavy-handed enforcement tactics. Last October, Tu Anh, a 25-year-old Vietnamese, was found dead after falling from a building while hiding from immigration officers during a crackdown at an industrial complex in Daegu. In a separate case in 2024, an unidentified complainant alleged that immigration officers raided a restaurant without presenting documents or identifying themselves to the o

- [Jeonju to support multilingual menus for foreign tourists as city draws 10 million visitors a year](#) (2026-03-20 05:57)

Jeonju City has partnered with the local restaurant industry to promote regional food culture as a part of an effort to transform the city into a global tourism hub. The city said on Thursday it held a “multilingual menu support relay campaign” and a resolution event on hygiene and friendly service at the annual general meeting of the Wansan-gu branch of the Korean Federation of Restaurants at the Jeonbuk Regional Office of SMEs and Startups. During the meeting, restaurant owners announced a joint pledge to create clean and safe kitchen environments, provide friendly service and ensure reasonable prices in a bid to build a trustworthy dining environment for tourists. Centered around its Hanok Village, Jeonju attracts around 10 million visitors a year, with the number of foreign tourists also showing a gradual increase. In response to the growth, the city plans to launch a relay campaign to support multilingual menus and reduce language barriers for overseas visitors. The initiative will help restaurants create menus in English, Chinese — both simplified and traditional — and Japa

- [Foreign visitors increase sharply ahead of BTS concert](#) (2026-03-20 05:57)

The number of foreigners visiting South Korea this month increased by more than 30 percent from a year ago, data showed Friday, indicating a possible influx of global BTS fans ahead of the K-pop band's comeback concert in Seoul this weekend. According to the Korea Immigration Service, the number of foreigners, excluding crew members, who entered the country from March 1-18, was tallied at 1,099,700, marking an increase of 32.7 percent, or 271,200, from 828,500 in the same period of last year. The increase can probably be attributed to the gathering of BTS fans in time for Saturday's concert on Gwanghwamun Square in central Seoul. If those arriving here Thursday and Friday are taken into account, there are predictions that the number of foreign visitors could rise by more than 50 percent on-year. As if to prove the BTS effect, the increase is particularly noticeable among those in their teens and 20s, where the band's fan base is large. The number of foreign visitors in their teens and 20s rose by 40 percent and 35.2 percent, respectively, the data showed.

- [DPK lawmaker says to leave party amid sexual harassment allegations](#) (2026-03-20 05:57)

Rep. Jang Kyung-tae of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK), who is facing sexual harassment allegations, said Friday he will leave the party and seek to prove his innocence. Jang made the announcement a day after a police review panel recommended that his case be referred to prosecutors over allegations that he sexually harassed a female aide. "I will prove my innocence and return so as not to cause harm to the party," Jang wrote on his Facebook account. "Although there were controversies during the investigative process, I will faithfully cooperate and prove my innocence," he added. The two-term lawmaker is accused of sexually harassing the aide during a staff dinner at a restaurant in October 2023. Authorities also allege that he caused "secondary harm," including exposing the victim's identity.

- [Downtown Seoul to enter security lockdown for massive crowd at BTS concert](#) (2026-03-20 05:57)

Police commandos and barricades will be deployed across downtown Seoul this weekend as authorities brace for one of the largest-ever crowds for K-pop group BTS' comeback concert, officials said Friday. BTS is set to perform at Gwanghwamun Square on Saturday to mark its return after a four-year hiatus, with up to 260,000 people expected to fill the area stretching from the main stage to Sungnye Gate, over a kilometer away. It would mark one of the largest crowds in the area since the 2002 Korea-Japan World Cup, when around 200,000 to 250,000 people gathered to cheer for the home team. As fans and visitors are expected to flock from across the world, authorities are on high alert, with plans to deploy about 15,000 personnel for safety management, including some 6,700 police officers. Police plan to operate tactical teams to respond to drone threats, while triple-layer barricades will be installed around the concert site to ward off potential terror threats. Concertgoers will have to go through metal detectors, with police planning further checks with handheld detectors. Those without identi

- [Defense ministry seeks to revise drone command's role rather than disband it](#) (2026-03-19 11:57)

The defense ministry said Thursday it will push to reform the Drone Operations Command into a military unit tasked with overseeing drone policy and education instead of its abolishment. The move is seen as a compromise after a special advisory committee tasked with reforming the military called on the ministry in January to scrap the command as part of a wider organizational reform following former President Yoon Suk Yeol's botched martial law bid in late 2024. The ministry said it will seek to reform the command into one dedicated to advancing military drone concepts and policy as well as cooperation with the private sector amid efforts to strengthen the military's drone capabilities. It also plans to disperse the command's operational functions across different military branches. The drone command had been embroiled in allegations of sending drones over Pyongyang during Yoon's term in an apparent move to provoke the North and use it as a pretext for his short-lived imposition of martial law.

- [Stage, security, anticipation all falling into place ahead of BTS concert](#) (2026-03-19 11:57)

Jane, a 67-year-old American, flew to Seoul specifically for K-pop juggernaut BTS' concert this Saturday. As a longtime BTS fan, she attended Jin' s solo concerts in Tampa and London, and J-Hope' s in San Antonio — but has never seen all seven of them together on one stage. When BTS announced its return as a full group for the first time in nearly four years with a comeback concert set for central Seoul's iconic Gwanghwamun Square, she booked a flight. “This is my first BTS group concert,” she told The Korea Times at the square, Thursday, two days before the show. “BTS is paving the way. This is amazing what they’ re doing with the hallyu (Korean wave) — they've really taken it to the next level,” she added. The venue reflected the scale of what was coming — stage nearly complete, steel barriers extending well beyond the square into surrounding streets, crew members speaking a mix of languages rushing around with quiet urgency. Gwanghwamun Square, a space more often used for protests and public rallies, was now operating under unprecedented restrictions, with up to 260,0

- [Korea's KF-21 fighter jet closes in on 1st export deal with Indonesia](#) (2026-03-19 11:57)

Korea is on the verge of clinching its first export deal for the domestically developed KF-21 Boramae fighter jet, with Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto expected to visit the jet's manufacturer during a state visit later this month to sign a preliminary agreement, industry officials confirmed Thursday. “Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto will be visiting Korea to meet with Korean President Lee Jae Myung and have a ceremony for signing an agreement,” an industry official told The Korea Times, Thursday. “The two countries will be having a ceremonial event together.” Indonesia plans to purchase 16 fighter jets in the first order — down from the originally planned 48 — due to budget constraints, Asia Business Daily reported Thursday. Subianto is scheduled to visit Korea Aerospace Industries (KAI), the Sacheon, South Gyeongsang Province-based manufacturer of the jet, during his state visit from March 31 to April 2. The two sides aim to finalize an implementation contract in the first half of this year. The deal would mark a milestone for the KF-21 project that began in 20

- [Drone warfare poses new security threats to South Korea, experts warn](#) (2026-03-19 11:57)

North Korea is rapidly absorbing drone warfare tactics and combat experience through its participation in Russia's war against Ukraine, raising new security concerns for South Korea, experts said Thursday. They warned that the growing role of low-cost unmanned systems is reshaping modern warfare and could directly affect the security environment on the Korean Peninsula. The remarks were made at a seminar hosted by Rep. Yu Yong-weon of the People Power Party at the National Assembly in Seoul. The event brought together Ukrainian and South Korean security experts to assess how recent conflicts are transforming the nature of warfare. Yu said the global security environment is undergoing what he described as a fundamental shift, with unmanned systems emerging as a central driver of change on the battlefield. He pointed to cases in which relatively inexpensive drones are used to destroy high-value targets, noting that such developments are challenging long-standing assumptions about military power and deterrence. “The rules of warfare are being rewritten,” Yu said, emphasizing that the gap

- [Tripartite council puts AI at top of agenda as robot fears grow](#) (2026-03-19 11:57)

The presidential Economic, Social and Labor Council has placed artificial intelligence (AI) at the center of its new work agenda, establishing a dedicated AI transition committee as part of a broader effort to revitalize tripartite social dialogue. The council under President Lee Jae Myung held its first plenary session Thursday at Cheong Wa Dae, unveiling a package of seven committees that collectively target what officials call Korea's “compound transition crisis” of an AI revolution, demographic change and the green energy transition. Its committee on “labor-management coexistence in the AI transition” seeks to map how AI spreads through workplaces, how jobs and skills will change, and what cooperation models labor and management can build around that shift. Council Chair Kim Ji-hyung said AI has become one of the most pressing challenges for the nation's economy and labor market and therefore needs to be handled as a dedicated social dialogue agenda, amid fears of job replacement as companies such as Hyundai Motor move to introduce humanoid robots like “Atlas.” Speaki

- [Number of marriages hits 7-year high in 2025](#) (2026-03-19 11:57)

The number of marriages in Korea climbed to a seven-year high in 2025, rebounding to prepandemic levels, according to the Ministry of Data and Statistics, Thursday. Experts point to a growing population of people in their early 30s and a gradual shift in young people's attitudes toward marriage as key drivers behind the rise. A total of 240,300 couples tied the knot last year, up 8.1 percent from a year earlier. The figure had been in steady decline from 2018 to 2022, plunging from 257,600 to an all-time low of 191,700. It began to recover in 2023, marking a third straight year of gains in 2025. The average age at first marriage stood at 33.9 for men and 31.6 for women. Meanwhile, divorces fell 3.3 percent year-on-year to 88,000. "The increase in marriages can largely be explained by the so-called 'echo boom generation' — those born between 1991 and 1996 during a temporary rise in births — reaching prime marrying age," said Hong Sok-chul, an economics professor at Seoul National University. "With a larger population in their early 30s, the total number of marriages natura

- [Ruling party introduces key prosecution reform bill at plenary session, triggering filibuster from main opposition](#) (2026-03-19 11:57)

The ruling Democratic Party Korea (DPK) on Thursday introduced a prosecution reform bill aimed at separating investigative and indictment powers at a parliamentary plenary session, prompting the main opposition party to launch a filibuster. In what would be a major overhaul of the prosecution service, the bills are follow-up measures to a government reorganization law that will abolish the existing prosecution service structure in October and outline the framework for launching new investigative and indictment agencies in the same month. During the plenary session, the main opposition People Power Party launched a filibuster in protest, after the DPK brought the bill to establish an indictment agency to the floor. Under the bill, the indictment agency will only handle indictments, while a separate body, the so-called serious crimes investigation agency, will have powers to open investigations into crimes involving corruption and economic offenses, among others. No change was made to the title of the agency's chief, which will remain "prosecutor general." The government has pushed for the

- [Police release photo, identity of stalking murder suspect](#) (2026-03-19 05:57)

Police on Thursday disclosed the photo and personal information of a suspect in a high-profile stalking murder case in Namyangju, 20 kilometers east of Seoul. The driver's license photo of Kim Hoon, 44, who was arrested for stalking and killing his ex-girlfriend last Saturday while wearing an electronic ankle monitor, was made public by the Gyeonggi Bukbu Provincial Police Agency. The police said the suspect's identity disclosure was made in consideration of the brutality of his crime, sufficient evidence to prove the crime, the severity of the damage and public interests. The police said they released Kim's driver's license photo with his consent considering that he is now receiving treatment at a hospital. Kim allegedly broke the windows of a car his former live-in partner was riding in, killed her and fled in his own car. He was hospitalized for taking an undisclosed type of drug at the time of his apprehension. The case has sparked criticism that the authorities failed to protect the 20-something victim even though she was wearing a smartwatch as a subject of police protection and th

- [Korea's policies deemed insufficient to encourage aluminum can recycling](#) (2026-03-19 05:57)

The government has been criticized for insufficient policies for aluminum can recycling, as the number of Koreans choosing aluminum cans as their most preferred beverage packaging material rose from a year earlier, signaling a growing preference for more recyclable materials. The Seoul Korea Federation for Environmental Movements (KFEM) released the findings Thursday, after a survey of 1,011 adults nationwide on the occasion of Global Recycling Day, marked annually on March 18. The latest poll followed a previous one conducted in February 2025. When asked about their most preferred beverage packaging material, 34.7 percent of respondents chose aluminum cans, up 10.8 percentage points from the previous year. Plastic bottles remained the top choice at 43.4 percent, but the results were interpreted as a sign of shifting consumer sentiment toward more recyclable packaging. Nearly 8 in 10 respondents agreed that recycling materials without losing their original properties is important to mitigate the climate crisis. Even so, only about half were aware that aluminum cans can be infinitely recyc

- [Korea to remove charcoal briquettes from store shelves to prevent suicide attempts](#) (2026-03-19 05:57)

The government and Korea's retail industry agreed Wednesday to remove charcoal briquettes from open store displays in a move aimed at preventing suicide attempts. The measure comes as nearly one in four suicide deaths in the country involve charcoal briquettes. The Office for Government Policy Coordination said its Suicide Prevention Policy Office signed a memorandum of understanding with five retail industry groups at the Government Complex Seoul. The signatories included associations representing chain stores, convenience stores, supermarkets, online shopping platforms and campgrounds. Under the agreement, retailers will no longer keep charcoal briquettes on store shelves and will instead provide them only upon customer request. Product packaging will also carry stickers displaying the suicide prevention hotline number, 109. According to the office, 3,525 people died in 2024 from carbon monoxide poisoning involving charcoal briquettes, accounting for 23.7 percent of all suicide deaths that year. The government said the figure underscored the need to better manage access to the common

- [Number of marriages in Korea rises 8.1% to 7-year high in 2025](#) (2026-03-19 05:57)

The number of marriages in Korea increased 8.1 percent from a year earlier in 2025 to post the highest figure in seven years, government data showed Thursday. A total of 240,300 marriages were reported last year, up from 222,400 cases in 2024 and marking the third consecutive year of increase, according to the Ministry of Data and Statistics. The 2025 tally was similar to the pre-pandemic level of 239,200 cases posted in 2019. The number of marriages hovered around the 200,000 threshold from 2020-2023, as many couples postponed the event during the pandemic, before the tally rebounded to 222,000 in 2024. The ministry attributed the recent rise in marriages to an increase in population in their early 30s and the concentration of

marriages that had been delayed during the pandemic. Positive perception toward marriage has also been increasing among singles, it added. The average age of first marriage for men came to 33.9 in 2025, while the corresponding figure for women stood at 31.6. Ten years ago, men got married at an average age of 32.6 and women did so at 30. The number of divorces decreased

- [Lee emphasizes worker acceptance in labor flexibility push](#) (2026-03-19 05:57)

President Lee Jae Myung said Thursday importance should be attached to the likelihood of workers' acceptance in adopting labor market flexibility, expressing objection to unilateral sacrifices by laborers when companies adjust workplace policies. Lee made the remarks during a debate session with the Economic, Social and Labor Council, a tripartite presidential advisory body, alongside labor groups and government officials. "We need to create conditions in which workers can accept the kind of employment flexibility that companies seek. It cannot be forced, as that would be unfair," Lee said during the session at Cheong Wa Dae. He emphasized the importance of reinforcing the social safety net to support workers amid a changing job market, calling on companies that benefit from increased labor flexibility to shoulder a greater share of the burden. "It is not right to proceed in a way that demands unilateral sacrifice from workers. We need to create a rational environment that everyone can accept," he said. "Building a sufficient social safety net is essential so that workers do not feel ins

- [Self-driving hub opens in Hwaseong, bringing autonomous tech into daily life](#) (2026-03-19 05:57)

A stretch of suburban roads southwest of Seoul is being turned into a real-world laboratory for self-driving technology, as the government moves to push autonomous vehicles out of test tracks and into everyday life. The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport said it will open an "AI (artificial intelligence) autonomous driving hub" Friday in Hwaseong, Gyeonggi Province, where self-driving services will be tested not just for transportation but also for a range of city management tasks. The project is part of a broader government initiative to accelerate future mobility and build so-called "K-AI cities," integrating AI into urban infrastructure. The testing zone spans 36.13 square kilometers in western Hwaseong with a total road network of 46.5 kilometers. Within the area, autonomous systems will be deployed to support mobility for vulnerable groups, carry out street cleaning, monitor road conditions and even transport emergency patients. The ministry said the hub will serve as a control center built on an intelligent transportation system, designed to address the limitations

- [Ruling party, gov't agree on support measures for SMEs hit by rising oil prices](#) (2026-03-19 05:57)

The ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) and the government agreed Thursday on the need to provide support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and micro business owners to cushion them from rising oil prices due to an intensifying war in the Middle East. The meeting, attended by DPK lawmakers and Financial Services Commission (FSC) officials, came as the government is preparing a supplementary budget to address the fallout from the ongoing

conflict. The two sides also discussed plans to provide financial support to the state-run Industrial Bank of Korea (IBK), one of the key policy lenders in Korea, to help lower borrowing costs for SMEs and mom-and-pop stores, DPK Rep. Kim Nam-geun said during a briefing. At the meeting, FSC Chairman Lee Eog-weon said the government will seek to include in the supplementary budget programs aimed at easing the burden on companies and small merchants hit by the Middle East crisis. The DPK and the government earlier agreed to draw up and submit this year's first supplementary budget bill to the National Assembly by the end of this month.

- [US Army stationed in Korea conducts long-range aviation combat drills](#) (2026-03-19 05:57)

A U.S. Army unit stationed in South Korea said Thursday it has conducted large-scale aviation drills aimed at demonstrating its aviation combat capability. Soldiers from the 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade of the 2nd Infantry Division participated in the Talon Reach exercise, which ran from March 9-12, according to a release by the brigade. It involved AH-64 Apache attack helicopter, UH-60 Black Hawk and CH-47 Chinook aircraft, alongside sustainment elements and small unmanned aircraft systems, it said. The brigade's aviation regiment in charge of operating small unmanned aircraft systems supported reconnaissance and targeting missions across the battlespace. Following an extensive aviation mission stretching over 1,300 miles, or 2,092 kilometers, the Apache crews engaged in a precision fires mission against simulated enemy targets, wrapping up the exercise in an attack and seizure of an island. "Exercises like Talon Reach demonstrate the strength of the U.S.-ROK alliance and the commitment of both nations to maintaining a ready and capable combined force," it said, referring to South Korea b

- [Korean cafe's \\$1.35 'toilet without ordering' menu sparks online debate](#) (2026-03-19 05:57)

A social media post showing a cafe charging 2,000 won (\$1.35) for restroom use without a purchase has sparked heated debate online in South Korea. The image featured a screenshot of a self-order kiosk displaying a menu item reading "restroom use without ordering," priced at 2,000 won per person, per visit. The post also drew mixed reactions in an online community for small-business owners. One user said the fee was understandable, writing that many people come in just to use the restroom without buying anything and sometimes leave it in a filthy condition. From a cafe owner's perspective, the commenter said, such behavior can seem brazenly inconsiderate. Others were less sympathetic. Another commenter called the fee excessive and said it came off as "cold-hearted." One cafe owner also shared the challenges of managing restrooms at a business located in an area popular with tourists. "It is a big burden because people often throw away regular trash or even leave full garbage bags in the restroom," the owner wrote. The owner said a password system was added to the restroom door

- [Investigators question ex-oceans minister in Unification Church-linked bribery case](#) (2026-03-19 05:57)

A former oceans minister, who is a ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) lawmaker, appeared before investigators Thursday to be questioned about bribery allegations linked to the Unification Church. Rep. Chun Jae-soo is suspected of violating laws on bribery and political funds for allegedly receiving 20 million won (\$13,300) in cash and a luxury watch worth 10 million won from the church in 2018. The gifts are suspected to have been given to win Chun's support for church projects, including the construction of a proposed undersea tunnel connecting Korea and Japan. "I hope a conclusion is made as soon as possible," Chun told reporters as he arrived at a joint police-prosecutor team's office in southern Seoul. He did not answer their questions about the alleged gifts and favors. The joint investigation launched in January after a former Unification Church official claimed that he gave cash and other gifts on behalf of the church to current and former lawmakers, including Chun, between 2018 and 2020. Chun stepped down as oceans minister late last year shortly after the bribery allegations

- [S. Korea, US conclude key springtime military drills amid N. Korean threats](#) (2026-03-19 05:57)

South Korea and the United States wrapped up their annual Freedom Shield (FS) exercise Thursday aimed at strengthening their combined readiness posture, amid North Korea's verbal threats and the launch of some 10 ballistic missiles. The major springtime exercise, involving realistic wartime scenarios reflecting trends in modern warfare, drew to an end after an 11-day run, their militaries said in a joint statement. "The Republic of Korea and the United States successfully concluded FS 26, reaffirming a strong combined defense posture and further enhancing the alliance's ability to conduct operations across all domains," the statement said, referring to South Korea by its formal name. This year's exercise focused on assessing conditions to achieve the transfer of wartime operational control (OPCON) from Washington to Seoul as South Korea seeks a "conditions-based" handover within President Lee Jae Myung's five-year term ending in 2030. Some 18,000 troops took part in the drills, a scale similar to the previous year, but the number of field training exercises halved to around 22, compared

- [Gov't discusses adopting AI education programs in elementary, middle schools](#) (2026-03-19 05:57)

The science and education ministries discussed Thursday ways to foster artificial intelligence (AI) talent amid fast changes in the rapidly evolving sector, officials said. The Ministry of Science and ICT held a meeting with the Ministry of Education to seek joint efforts to provide AI education programs across all stages of schooling, including establishing education platforms in which students can engage directly with data and AI models. Korea will also provide training courses for teachers and prepare guidelines on the safe use of AI platforms. The government will promote cooperation among AI-related departments at local universities, including joint research and exchange programs. "Now is the golden time to implement policy measures to foster professionals amid a major transformation, under which the development of cutting-edge technologies is accelerating and the global industrial order is being reshaped by AI," Science Minister Bae Kyung-hoon said in a release.

- [Ruling party set to push prosecution reform bills at plenary session](#) (2026-03-19 05:57)

The ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) on Thursday was poised to push for the passage of key prosecution reform bills aimed at separating investigative and indictment powers, despite protest from the main opposition party. In what would be a major overhaul of the prosecution service, the bills are follow-up measures to a government reorganization law that will abolish the existing prosecution service structure in October and outline the framework for launching new investigative and indictment agencies in the same month. In protest, the main opposition People Power Party is expected to launch a filibuster if the DPK brings the bills to establish a serious crimes investigation agency and an indictment agency to the floor during a plenary session later in the day. The DPK, which holds a majority in the Assembly, is also expected to push for a parliamentary investigation into allegations of what it calls fabricated indictments under the Yoon Suk Yeol administration, covering the 2015 Daejang-dong development project in Seongnam when President Lee Jae Myung was the city's mayor, as well

- [Warehouse-style drugstores in Korea fuel rise in teen overdoses](#) (2026-03-18 11:57)

Lee, a 15-year-old middle school student in Ulsan, boarded a bus for an hour-long trip not to meet friends or shop for clothes, but to buy sleep aids. At a warehouse drugstore, she said, no one asked why she was buying pills, or how many. Warehouse drugstores in Korea are enabling a growing teenage overdose problem by removing face-to-face medical oversight from over-the-counter drug sales, a retail model regulators have yet to meaningfully address. Teenagers refer to the practice as “OD,” short for overdose — taking excessive amounts of over-the-counter drugs to cause hallucinations. Health officials say the trend has spread rapidly, fueled by easy access to medication and social media posts that help spread the trend. At the center of the issue is the warehouse drugstore model, where customers select over-the-counter medications directly from open shelves with minimal pharmacist consultation. The format contrasts with neighborhood pharmacies, where pharmacists typically screen purchases and question minors about their symptoms. “Local pharmacies either ref

- [Say “That’s not my job” and you may be out: AI ushers in age of voluntary overwork](#) (2026-03-18 11:57)

Nam Dong-deuk, 42, a 15-year veteran at his company, sat at his desk and turned on his computer. As his fingers moved across the keyboard and his eyes darted between the monitors, he looked as if he were casually chatting with a colleague. Ninety minutes later, he leaned back with a relaxed smile, like a student relieved to have finished his homework. In that time, he had created an artificial intelligence (AI) chatbot that could answer coworkers’ questions on the company’s internal messenger, from how to use vacation days to how to spend company reward points, using information drawn from internal manuals. Nam is not a seasoned developer fluent in code. A business administration major who has worked at both large corporations and startups, he is now an HR manager at an online commerce platform. The reason he was able to build the chatbot in under two hours, he said, was “vibe coding.” Nam described vibe coding as a way to create software simply by telling AI what function is needed,

instead of learning complex programming languages. Employees in each department can build the pro

- [1 in 3 young Koreans who leave Seoul return within 2 years, report finds](#) (2026-03-18 11:57)

About 1 in 3 young Koreans who move to regions outside the capital return to the Seoul metropolitan area in less than two years, underscoring the persistent struggle of regional cities to hold onto young residents. According to a report by the Korea Institute for Industrial Economics & Trade, released Wednesday, 34.9 percent of young people who moved away from the Seoul metropolitan area to regions outside the capital eventually returned, with an average stay outside the capital region of just 1.6 years. Of all young people who migrated between the two regions, 42.7 percent moved from non-capital areas to the Seoul metropolitan area and settled there — the highest share of any migration pattern. By contrast, only 21.3 percent made the reverse move and remained outside the capital region. The findings are based on data tracking the migration of about 1.45 million individuals aged 19 to 34 from 2016 to 2022. Economic opportunity was the primary pull factor. In a separate survey of 800 respondents last year, work or business ranked as the top reason for leaving their home regions, at 45 p

- [Defense chief inspects Freedom Shield drills at military bunker](#) (2026-03-18 11:57)

Defense Minister Ahn Gyu-back on Wednesday visited an underground bunker of the Capital Defense Command to inspect military readiness amid ongoing key springtime drills between the South Korean and U.S. militaries, his office said. Ahn urged troops to maintain a robust joint defense posture through "intensive" and "practical" training during his visit to the basement bunker on the 10th day of the 11-day Freedom Shield (FS) exercise, the defense ministry said. Citing the escalating conflict in the Middle East following U.S.-Israeli strikes on Iran last month, Ahn underscored the importance of "high-intensity" military training, saying the intensity of training directly translates into "combat capabilities." Ahn also visited a joint air defense operations center, where he urged troops to make the utmost efforts to carry out the exercise's remaining field drills, which will continue into next week after FS concludes Thursday. This year's FS drills were centered on preparing for a conditions-based wartime operational control (OPCON) transfer from Washington to Seoul. The current Lee Jae Myun

- [Police to set up crowd control zone for 100,000 people during BTS concert](#) (2026-03-18 11:57)

Police said Wednesday they will set up a crowd control zone with a capacity of 100,000 people around the stage where K-pop group BTS will perform in central Seoul this weekend. The zone will be set up so that no more than one person occupies every square meter, as safety is of paramount importance during the concert set to begin at 8 p.m. Saturday at Gwanghwamun Square, an official at the Seoul Metropolitan Police told reporters. Police expect around 260,000 people to gather in the area stretching from the square to Sungnye Gate, the largest number since the 2002 World Cup, when up to 250,000 people cheered in the streets. Random

checkpoints will be conducted on the day, with 72 teams of riot police and 35 teams of detectives deployed to the area. Audience members entering the crowd control zone will be required to walk through metal detectors and undergo searches for hazardous materials. "We decided to create the safest conditions possible given the nature of the event that can be attended by anyone in an open downtown area, and memories of the Itaewon tragedy," the official said, referring

- [Korea's Hormuz deployment, if decided, could take up to 3 months](#) (2026-03-18 11:57)

The potential deployment of Korean naval forces to the Strait of Hormuz could stretch into a months-long operation, with mine-clearing missions alone potentially taking three months or more, depending on conditions, military officials said. While some have raised the possibility of redirecting the Cheonghae Unit — currently operating in the Gulf of Aden — to the Hormuz mission, the unit is not equipped with mine-sweeping helicopters needed for such operations. Deploying a dedicated mine countermeasure vessel or an Aegis destroyer from a Korean port would be an entirely separate undertaking. Officials familiar with the matter said that even if a decision is made, the timeline would be shaped not only by preparation and transit, but also by the complexity of operations in a high-risk environment. "One thing is sending a vessel, but once you factor in mine-clearing operations in the area, the situation becomes far more complicated," a defense ministry official said. Another official noted that mine countermeasure operations are highly sensitive to environmental conditions. "Sea cond

- [Korea launches public-private committee to set up US investment management agency](#) (2026-03-18 11:57)

The government on Wednesday launched a committee tasked with establishing a state agency to manage investment projects in the United States under a bilateral strategic investment agreement, the finance ministry said. As a follow-up to a special bill tied to Seoul's \$350 billion investment pledge to Washington, the government plans to establish a public corporation responsible for the creation, management and operation of the investment fund. The establishment committee, chaired by First Vice Finance Minister Lee Hyung-il, consists of seven members, including four from the private sector, the Ministry of Finance and Economy said. The initiative comes as the special law is set to take effect three months after its promulgation. The National Assembly passed the bill last week. Lee said the committee will ensure that all necessary preparations and procedures are carried out without disruption so the agency can be launched in line with the law's implementation on June 18.

- [President dismisses geopolitical fears as exaggerated, sets sights on 'Korea premium'](#) (2026-03-18 11:57)

President Lee Jae Myung hosted a meeting on capital market reforms, Wednesday, arguing that geopolitical fears stemming from the divided Korean Peninsula are exaggerated and have long suppressed the value of Seoul stocks, suggesting that fixing the problem could turn the chronic "Korea discount" into a "Korea premium." "The geopolitical risk arising from the division of the

Korean Peninsula is more exaggerated than people think and even politically exploited, becoming a recurring problem,” the president said during the meeting at Cheong Wa Dae, held under the slogan “A capital market strong in crisis and trusted by the people.” While acknowledging that risks must be addressed, Lee sought to reassure markets by noting that South Korea's spending exceeds North Korea's by more than 1.4 times and that its economic power — the foundation of national defense — is “overwhelmingly ahead, to the point where it's hard to compare.” “I believe that, depending on what we do, the country doesn't have to suffer from the ‘Korea discount.’ It is entirely possible to move beyond fair

- [Korea secures 24 mil. barrels of oil from UAE: presidential aide](#) (2026-03-18 11:57)

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has pledged to treat Korea as its top priority for crude oil exports, President Lee Jae Myung's top aide said Wednesday, announcing that a total of 24 million barrels have been secured from the Gulf country as Tehran's blockade of the Strait of Hormuz threatens to squeeze Seoul's energy supply. “The UAE promised that Korea is the ‘No. 1 priority’ in supplying crude oil and we agreed that Korea could buy oil anytime through the UAE,” presidential chief of staff Kang Hoon-sik said at a briefing. In addition to 6 million barrels of crude oil under a previous agreement, the UAE promised this time that an additional 18 million barrels would be shipped to Korea. Roughly 6 million barrels will be shipped by three UAE cargo ships, while six Korean vessels will transport the remainder. Kang added that Seoul and Abu Dhabi plan to sign a memorandum of understanding on the oil supply chain in the near future. The announcement follows a rapid diplomatic push by Kang, who flew to the UAE Sunday for a four-day trip, serving as Lee's special envoy for strategic economic c

- [Korea moves to raise minimum salary for foreign workers to protect Korean wages](#) (2026-03-18 11:57)

Korea is moving to introduce what would function as a higher minimum wage floor for many foreign workers, by writing “reasonable” wage requirements for migrants directly into visa and stay conditions. Responding to inquiries from The Korea Times about this new immigration policy, revealed earlier this month, the Ministry of Justice said the goal is to protect the wage levels of Koreans by pushing up wage levels for foreign workers in certain visa categories. “The purpose of setting wage requirements for foreign workers, as in countries such as the United States and Britain, is to prevent declines in Korean workers’ wages and guard against violations of their working conditions,” a ministry official said in a recent statement. Under the 2030 Immigration Policy Future Strategy, the ministry plans to embed these wage thresholds in immigration rules, so that employers will have to meet or exceed them if they want to hire or keep foreign workers on visas such as E-7-1 or E-7-3. This comes after President Lee Jae Myung publicly questioned whether a growth model built on low paid mi

- [BTS' world tour projected to unleash economic boom surpassing Taylor Swift's impact](#) (2026-03-18 11:57)

K-pop supergroup BTS is returning from a nearly four-year hiatus with an 82-show world tour that analysts project will generate massive economic activity, establishing an economic engine expected to surpass the financial impact of Taylor Swift's recent global tour. The Korea Culture and Tourism Institute estimates the upcoming 34-city tour will yield 1.2 trillion won (\$840 million) per show. The Guardian reported that economists anticipate the North American leg alone will generate tens of trillions of won, significantly exceeding Taylor Swift's 60-date North American tour, which generated about 7 trillion won. Global media outlets are actively reporting on the comeback. The New York Times covered Korean fans rushing to internet cafes for tickets, while CNN broadcast its crew's attempts to book seats. "BTS is not just a regular K-pop group. They are really the engine of the industry itself," Berklee College of Music professor Ray Seol told CNN. The local economy is already feeling the "BTSnomics" effect ahead of Friday's release of the group's fifth studio album, "Arirang." Five-star ho

- [Handong Univ. achieves 1st Korean win at int'l moot court competition](#) (2026-03-18 05:57)

A team from the International Law School at Handong University won the 24th Red Cross International Humanitarian Law Moot Competition Saturday in Hong Kong — the first time a Korean team has taken the top prize since the competition began in 2003. The competition, jointly organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross and national Red Cross societies, is widely regarded as the region's leading moot court in international humanitarian law. It brings together regional champions and invited law schools to argue complex legal questions drawn from simulated armed conflict scenarios. This year's problem addressed contemporary issues in international humanitarian law, including the use of starvation as a method of warfare, forced conscription and the civilian toll of nuclear weapons. Participants were required to analyze and argue cases in English, applying the Geneva Conventions, customary international law, rules of engagement and principles of international criminal responsibility in written briefs and oral arguments modeled on proceedings before international courts. The Han

- [Kookmin Univ. study maps gap between AI hype and bureaucratic reality](#) (2026-03-18 05:57)

As governments around the world move to integrate generative artificial intelligence (AI) into the machinery of public decision-making, a new study suggests that confidence in the technology may be lagging behind its promise. A research team led by professor Kim Do-hyung of Kookmin University proposed a framework to measure what it describes as a critical disconnect: the gap between the actual maturity of AI systems and the expectations placed on them by stakeholders. The study, published in the peer-reviewed journal *Technovation*, argues that this divide could help determine whether the technology advances or falters in high-stakes public research and development programs. Seeking a more systematic approach, Kim and his co-authors devised what they call the "Maturity-Expectation Gap," or MEG, framework. The model draws on survey responses from experienced evaluators and pairs them with a machine learning analysis of academic research, aiming to measure both how ready the technology is

and how much is expected of it. Their findings point to a notable divergence. Different groups—
i

- [Korea wins cooperation of 6 UN agencies for global AI hub](#) (2026-03-18 05:57)

Korea has signed a letter of intent with six U.N. agencies outlining their willingness to cooperate for the launch of a global hub for artificial intelligence (AI) in the country, the prime minister's office said Wednesday. The document was signed in Geneva, Switzerland, on Tuesday (local time), by officials from the science ministry on the South Korean side and the International Labor Organization (ILO), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the International Telecommunication Union, the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Food Program and the United Nations Development Program on the U.N. side, the office said in a press release. The signing ceremony was attended by Prime Minister Kim Min-seok, who has been on a two-nation tour of the United States and Switzerland to promote South Korea's bid to host the AI hub. The government has billed the hub as a platform bringing together U.N. bodies, and South Korea's private and public sectors to produce AI-based solutions to global issues. Following meetings with U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and other agency chief

- [Medical Korea 2026 kicks off with focus on AI-driven global health care](#) (2026-03-18 05:57)

Medical Korea 2026 will open Thursday for a four-day run at Coex in Gangnam District, Seoul, featuring artificial intelligence (AI)-focused programs connecting Korea and the global health care industry. Hosted by the Ministry of Health and Welfare, the event has served since 2010 as a platform for global health care experts to share industry insights and promote international cooperation. Under the theme “AI-Powered Global Healthcare: Bringing the Future and the World Closer,” this year’s event will examine key challenges and the future of the health care industry in the era of AI. Edward Marx, chief executive officer of health care consulting firm Marx Advisory, will deliver a keynote address on how AI is reshaping the global health care industry. Jung Eun-young, director general of the Health Industry Policy Bureau at the health ministry, will outline Korea’s global medical services and future policy directions. Business meetings will connect overseas buyers seeking partnerships with Korean medical institutions and companies. Last year, 667 meetings led to 45 memorandums of un

- [Korea raises terror alert near BTS Gwanghwamun show venue as 260,000 fans expected](#) (2026-03-18 05:57)

Korea will raise the terror alert level in parts of central Seoul ahead of BTS’ free comeback concert at Gwanghwamun Square this Saturday, where more than 260,000 people are expected to gather. The prime minister's office announced Wednesday that the alert level will be elevated from the lowest “attention” to second-tier “caution,” out of a four-tier scale, in Jongno District and Jung District in central Seoul from the beginning of Thursday to midnight on Saturday as part of a preemptive move to prevent potential terror attacks. “Given the uncertainties driven by international affairs, the government concluded that it is hard to rule out the possibility of a potential terror threat to the event like BTS concert where a large crowd

would flock and will take a preemptive move to ensure the people's safety as a priority," the office said in a press release. This comes amid rising tensions caused by the U.S-Israel war on Iran and the influx of tourists coming to Seoul for the historic concert event. The alert is issued when there is a possibility of a terrorist attack and an

- [Police nab suspect behind airline pilot murder in Busan](#) (2026-03-18 05:57)

Police have apprehended a man on suspicion of fatally stabbing an airline pilot in Busan, officials said Wednesday. The man in his 50s, surnamed Kim, was taken into custody Tuesday evening after allegedly murdering the victim, a former colleague, early that morning at an apartment in Busan, about 330 kilometers southeast of Seoul. The suspect, who has been identified as a former airline pilot, has said he began planning the crime three years earlier and sought to kill four people, according to police. Shortly after the murder, Kim visited another former colleague's home in Changwon, about 300 kilometers southeast of Seoul, to allegedly carry out another attack but the attempt failed. He is also accused of attempting to strangle and kill another former pilot colleague on Monday in Goyang, northwest of Seoul, before fleeing the scene. The suspect is said to have fallen out with his former colleagues when he lost his job two years earlier.

- [Actor handed over to prosecution on DUI charges](#) (2026-03-18 05:57)

Actor Lee Jae-ryong, who was booked for causing a drunk driving accident and fleeing the scene in southern Seoul about two weeks ago, was referred to the prosecution without detention Wednesday. The Seoul Gangnam Police Station said it sent Lee's case to the Seoul Central District Prosecutors Office on charges of drunk driving, failure to take necessary actions after an accident and obstruction of a breathalyzer test. The 62-year-old actor is accused of crashing his car into the median barrier near Cheongdam Station in southern Seoul around 11 p.m. on March 6 and fleeing the scene. Immediately after the accident, he attended another drinking gathering and was apprehended by police at an acquaintance's house about three hours later. He initially denied drunk driving but later admitted to drinking four glasses of soju before the accident.

- [Korea adds 234,000 jobs in February; youth unemployment hits 5-year high](#) (2026-03-18 05:57)

Korea added 234,000 jobs in February, marking the fastest on-year growth in five months, though a slump in youth employment and the construction sector persisted, data showed Wednesday. The number of employed people rose by 0.8 percent from a year earlier to 28.41 million last month, according to the data from the Ministry of Data and Statistics. After slowing for two consecutive months, job growth rebounded to the 200,000 range in February, following gains of 225,000 in November, 168,000 in December and 108,000 in January. It also marks the largest on-year gain since adding 312,000 jobs in September 2024. Despite the overall rise, the data underscored a prolonged downturn in the manufacturing and construction sectors. Youth employment declined for the 22nd consecutive month in February, highlighting ongoing

challenges for young job seekers. By age, the number of employed people aged 15 to 29 fell by 146,000 in February, the ministry said. The unemployment rate for the age group came to 7.7 percent, the highest level for any February since 2021, when it stood at 10.1 percent. In contrast, e

- [Gov't to raise terror alert by 1 notch ahead of BTS concert](#) (2026-03-17 23:57)

The government said Wednesday it will raise the official terror alert by one notch ahead of K-pop group BTS' comeback show in central Seoul this weekend. The alert will be raised to the second-lowest level of "caution" on a four-tier scale for the Jongno and Jung wards from midnight Wednesday until midnight Saturday, the Office for Government Policy Coordination said in a press release. BTS' concert is scheduled to take place at Gwanghwamun Square in Jongno on Saturday, drawing an expected hundreds of thousands of fans and visitors from around the world. The alert level was adjusted following Prime Minister Kim Min-seok's orders to draw up appropriate safety measures and as terror threats could not be ruled out in the wake of recent global security conditions, the government said. Relevant agencies plan to step up patrols at key sites and facilities and strengthen joint response systems in preparation for emergencies.

- [Korea adds 234,000 jobs in February, logs fastest growth in 5 months](#) (2026-03-17 23:57)

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- [Pentagon official calls US 'flexibility' to meet urgent needs a 'strength' amid THAAD redeployment concerns](#) (2026-03-17 23:57)

WASHINGTON — A senior Pentagon official said Tuesday "flexibility" in redeploying military assets to meet urgent needs across the world is a "tremendous" strength of a U.S. defense system, while commenting on concerns about the reported movement of a South Korea-based missile defense asset to the Middle East. Michael Duffey, undersecretary of defense for acquisition and sustainment, made the remarks during a House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing, after The Washington Post reported last week that the Pentagon was moving parts of a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system to the Middle East amid the war with Iran. "I think our flexibility and our ability to redeploy assets to ensure that they meet the most poignant and urgent need across the globe is a tremendous strength of our system," he said. Duffey was responding to a question from Rep. Ami Bera (D-CA) about how long the U.S. plans to redeploy the THAAD asset to the Middle East. The official said that he cannot speak to the

duration of any particular redeployment of a military asset. But he reiterated the United States' c

- [BTS returns, merchants near comeback show venue brace for boom — or just another day](#) (2026-03-17 23:57)

When Moon Sang-ki, 50, manager of JH Texas Bar next to Cheonggye Stream in central Seoul, heard that BTS would perform just around the corner from his bar as a full group for the first time in nearly four years, he knew he had to do something. “Both my staff and I are ARMY (BTS’ fandom). When we heard BTS would perform just outside our restaurant, we decided to turn the bar into a gathering spot for fans from around the world,” Moon told The Korea Times in an interview Monday. “We usually close at 1 a.m., but that day we will stay open for 24 hours and play BTS songs.” Decorating his bar with a BTS theme, Moon will run the restaurant with a full staff on March 21, the day of the concert, with 10 staff members providing hall service and four in the kitchen, all wearing purple — the color associated with the group. “We are receiving reservations from ARMY around the world, including China, Indonesia, Japan and the United States,” Moon said. “Foreigners usually make up about one-third of our customers, but since decorating the place like this, the share has risen to about

- [Seoul capsule hotel blaze exposes fire safety blind spots ahead of BTS show](#) (2026-03-17 11:57)

A Saturday fire that injured 10 people at a Seoul capsule hotel has exposed a critical weakness in Korea's fire safety laws, revealing how regulatory gaps leave hundreds of foreign tourists in sleeping pods vulnerable to fire — a hidden crisis that has prompted citywide emergency inspections ahead of an upcoming BTS concert. With safety concerns mounting ahead of the K-pop group's comeback performance on Saturday, the Seoul Metropolitan Government announced it will conduct emergency safety inspections of 5,481 accommodation facilities by Thursday. The targeted sweep includes 4,904 urban bed-and-breakfasts, 381 traditional hanok guesthouses and 151 lodging facilities in the Jongno and Jung districts. The recent blaze at the Sogong-dong facility underscored the extreme danger of the city's self-registration system. The hotel operated on the third and sixth floors of a seven-story building, registering only seven rooms with the government. However, reservations for the day of the fire reached 124 people — 65 on the third floor and 59 on the sixth floor. Capsule hotels surged in Seoul f

- [Defense ministry to publish white paper for 1st time in 4 years](#) (2026-03-17 11:57)

The defense ministry is preparing to publish its defense policy paper for the first time in four years later this year, according to ministry officials Tuesday. The biennial defense white paper had not been updated since 2022, in the wake of a failed martial law bid in late 2024 by former President Yoon Suk Yeol. A draft version of the 2024 defense policy paper had been updated, but its formal publication was delayed due to the aftermath of the martial law turmoil. The new defense policy paper is expected to be published by the end of this year. If published, attention will focus on how South Korea redefines its relations with North Korea or adjusts its alliance with the United States. A description of North Korea had been a key part of the basis of South

Korea's defense policy. In the 2022 white paper, the defense ministry described the North Korean regime and its military as "our enemy."

- [Care workers press gov't for direct bargaining under new law](#) (2026-03-17 11:57)

Care workers nationwide have launched a coordinated push to bring government ministries they call their "real employers" to the bargaining table, citing a new labor law that expands the legal definition of an employer. They threatened to go on strike if their demands are not met. During a press conference at the office of the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions (KCTU), a powerful umbrella organization with more than 1 million members, the KCTU and affiliate unions said they have recently demanded that 57 ministries and public agencies hold talks with them as principal employers under the so-called "yellow envelope law" that came into force last week. Union leaders said most care workers — including elder-care aides, child care staff, disability support workers and home-care helpers — are formally hired by outsourced private facilities but effectively governed by state-set fees and guidelines, and that more than 2 million workers nationwide fall under this category, according to KCTU estimates. The government bodies they seek direct bargaining with include the Ministry of Health

- [PPP reform drive questioned as incumbents cut while Seoul mayor is courted](#) (2026-03-17 11:57)

The People Power Party's (PPP) local election nomination committee is facing criticism for its contradictory approach — barring incumbents from the race in some regions while repeatedly reopening registration in Seoul to recruit current Mayor Oh Se-hoon. This inconsistency has fueled concerns that the main opposition party's "reform" drive may be motivated more by internal political calculations than by a desire to be more competitive. The party's committee on Monday decided to cut off incumbent North Chungcheong Governor Kim Young-hwan from the nomination process and reopen candidate registration before selecting a final nominee. This is the first time the committee had excluded a current metropolitan-level head since its launch. Nomination committee chief Lee Jung-hyun defended the decision, saying the party must show voters a willingness to change rather than settling for stability. "What the PPP needs to demonstrate is not politics as usual, but politics that shakes itself up and transforms," Lee told reporters, emphasizing the need for political renewal. Kim immediately

- [Defense chief says received no official US request on sending warships to Middle East](#) (2026-03-17 11:57)

The defense ministry has not received any official request from the United States to deploy warships to the Middle East, Minister Ahn Gyu-back said Tuesday following U.S. President Donald Trump's call urging allies to send vessels to protect the Strait of Hormuz. Ahn made the remarks at a parliamentary session after Trump renewed his call Monday for South Korea, Japan, and other allies and partners to join U.S. efforts to keep the vital shipping route open, stressing Washington has long provided security protection to those countries. "The defense ministry has not received an official request," he told lawmakers when asked about the matter,

adding he does not consider Trump's social media messages urging the deployment of warships constitute an official request. While noting that the ministry has held various internal discussions prior to an official request, Ahn said such details are not yet at the stage where they can be disclosed. He stressed that such a deployment "should be decided in consideration of national interest, public safety, the Constitution and law," and would be a matter

- [Cabinet endorses special law on \\$350 bil. investment pledge to US](#) (2026-03-17 05:57)

The Cabinet on Tuesday endorsed a special law to facilitate Korea's \$350 billion investment pledge to the United States, paving the way for implementation of the commitment under a bilateral trade deal reached last year. The approval came five days after the bill passed the National Assembly with bipartisan support, giving legal backing to a memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed between Seoul and Washington in November. The law will take effect three months after it is promulgated. At the core of the legislation is the creation of a joint corporation to carry out Seoul's \$350 billion investment commitment, along with a strategic investment fund to be set up under the entity. Under the plan, \$150 billion will be allocated to the shipbuilding sector, while the remaining \$200 billion will go to projects that support the economic and national security interests of both countries. The corporation will have capital of 2 trillion won (\$1.34 billion), fully funded by the Korean government. Details such as the timing and method of funding will be set by presidential decree. The passage comes ab

- [Tourists can now buy Seoul transit passes with overseas credit cards](#) (2026-03-17 05:57)

Seoul will introduce a new payment system allowing foreign tourists to purchase public transportation passes using overseas credit and debit cards, as the city expects an influx of visitors ahead of BTS' comeback performance on Saturday. The Seoul Metropolitan Government announced Monday that the Climate Companion Card — an unlimited public transportation pass valid within Seoul — and one-off subway tickets can be purchased using overseas credit and debit cards starting Tuesday. Purchases will be available through new ticket machines installed at 273 subway stations across Lines 1 to 8. Kakao Pay and Naver Pay will also be accepted. The policy is part of the city's efforts to address difficulties faced by foreign tourists, many of whom have been left confused in front of ticket machines that require cash. It is also intended to ease the inconvenience of having to search for currency exchange counters. Previously, overseas credit cards could not be used with Seoul's public transportation card readers, forcing many foreign visitors to buy one-off tickets using cash. The city said

- [S. Korea launches committee for preliminary review of US investment projects](#) (2026-03-17 05:57)

The South Korean government said Tuesday it has launched a committee to preliminarily review potential investment projects in the United States under a bilateral strategic investment agreement. The government published a presidential directive in the official gazette

establishing a temporary implementation committee for the Korea-U.S. strategic investment memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed in November. The move marks a preparatory step toward establishing a new state-run corporation tasked with implementing Seoul's envisioned \$350 billion investment in the U.S. after the National Assembly of South Korea passed a special bill to support the initiative last week. The special legislation will take effect three months after its proclamation. As part of efforts to speed up procedures to select U.S. investment projects before the law takes effect, Seoul launched the committee to conduct preliminary reviews of potential projects. The strategic investment MOU implementation committee, headed by the industry minister, will oversee investment consultations with Washington and assess the comm

- [Defense, foreign ministries raided over presidential residence relocation](#) (2026-03-17 05:57)

A special A counsel team raided the defense and foreign ministries Tuesday as part of its probe into suspicions linked to the presidential residence's relocation under former President Yoon Suk Yeol. The team said it was searching multiple locations, including the interior ministry and the Presidential Security Service, over alleged favoritism in connection with the relocation following Yoon's 2022 presidential victory. At the time, Yoon relocated the presidential office from Cheong Wa Dae to the defense ministry compound in central Seoul and moved the presidential residence to the foreign minister's official residence. The move drew scrutiny from critics, with a state audit into the relocation later finding irregularities and legal violations by the interior ministry and the Presidential Security Service. A company linked to the former first lady had also won a contract for the relocation without a proper license, raising suspicions of favoritism. The raid comes a day after the team searched the home and office of Rep. Yoon Han-hong of the main opposition People Power Party. An earlier spec

- [Everything Seoul lined up for BTS fans](#) (2026-03-17 05:57)

Seoul is transforming itself into an extended concert venue ahead of BTS' comeback show Saturday, with the city government rolling out a month of landmark lighting, themed festivals and guided tours designed to give the hundreds of thousands of fans — collectively known as ARMY — more than a single night out, the Seoul Metropolitan Government announced Monday. Starting Friday, the day the highly anticipated album "Arirang" drops, 15 city landmarks, including Sebitseom and Cheonggye Stream, will be lit in red — the color associated to the promotions of the new album — to mark their return, turning its skyline into a dynamic nighttime stage. City officials say the lighting is designed to make Seoul feel like a giant open-air performance space. To demonstrate the city's welcome, greeting banners will be hung along Sejong-daero near the Gwanghwamun concert venue and "welcome ARMY" messages will be displayed on 10 media facades across the city. Major tourist spots and traditional marketplaces will also show welcome phrases in seven languages — English, Chinese, Japanese, Vie

- [Army halts small firearms training after elementary school student wounded by bullet in Daegu](#) (2026-03-17 05:57)

The Army has suspended all shooting training involving small firearms after an elementary school student was wounded by a bullet in Daegu while such training was under way at a nearby military range, officials said Tuesday. The previous day, the student was wounded near the neck at a playground in the southern city of Daegu. The student was sent to a hospital to receive treatment for the non life-threatening injury and has been released. "Shooting training involving small firearms has been suspended across all Army units. We plan to assess when to resume such training after evaluating safety and risks at all firing ranges," an Army official said. The armed service is conducting an investigation to determine whether the accident was related to the firing training, and will seek to build more indoor firing ranges and vertical backstops in the long term to prevent similar safety accidents.

- [Veterans ministry to launch team to track down remains of independence fighter Ahn Jung-geun](#) (2026-03-17 05:57)

The veterans ministry will launch a public-private team this week tasked with tracking down and repatriating the remains of independence fighter Ahn Jung-geun (1879-1910), believed to be buried in China, the ministry said Tuesday. The 23-member team, comprising officials from the veterans, foreign and unification ministries, as well as historians and family members of the late independence fighter, will set sail Wednesday, the ministry said. Ahn was executed in 1910 for the assassination of Japanese Prime Minister Ito Hirobumi in China's Harbin the previous year. His remains are believed to be buried near Lushun Prison in the northern Chinese port city of Dalian. In his will, he requested that his remains be returned to Korea after national independence, but the exact location of his burial remains unknown. Last month, President Lee Jae Myung wrote on X, formerly Twitter, that the government is doing its best to excavate and repatriate his remains.

- [Police nab Korean man over threat to bomb US airport](#) (2026-03-17 05:57)

Police said Tuesday they have apprehended a Korean man on suspicion of posting a threat to bomb a U.S. airport last year. The 20-something man allegedly posted the threat on the website of a Detroit airport on March 20 after getting angry with airport authorities during a visit there. The post prompted local and federal police to launch a search for explosives. In January, U.S. Homeland Security Investigations requested the cooperation of the Korean police. The suspect was caught after police here secured related evidence during a raid on his home earlier this month. He has been referred to the prosecution on charges of making public threats, police said.

- [DPK to push for plenary vote on prosecution reform bills this week](#) (2026-03-17 05:57)

The leader of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) said Tuesday the party plans to put prosecution reform bills centered on separating investigative and indictment powers to a vote at the National Assembly plenary session this week. Rep. Jung Chung-rae said the DPK, which holds a majority in the National Assembly, will push to bring the key prosecution reform bills to the floor during a plenary session on Thursday. The bills are follow-up measures to a

government reorganization law that will abolish the existing prosecution service structure in October and outline the framework for launching new investigative and indictment agencies in the same month. "The party, the government and Cheong Wa Dae reached a compromise through close consultations," Jung said during a press briefing. "Provisions that had raised strong public concerns were either removed or revised." Jung said the bills aim to fully separate prosecutors' investigative and indictment powers, stripping prosecutors under the proposed indictment agency of their authority to direct police investigations or interfere in ongoing

- [Korean, US Army troops hold combined drills in California desert](#) (2026-03-17 05:57)

Korean and U.S. Army troops conducted joint drills in a desert in California earlier this month to enhance their combat capabilities and interoperability, the South's Army said Tuesday. Some 120 personnel, mostly from the 5th Armored Brigade, joined the exercise held at the U.S. National Training Center (NTC) in the Mojave Desert in California from March 4 to 15, according to the armed service. Participating troops engaged in a two-month training program ahead of their departure and held terrain reconnaissance and tactical discussions with their U.S. counterparts before conducting combat training. The training focused on sharpening counter-drone response capabilities to reflect new trends in modern warfare and familiarizing troops with command and control procedures in harsh climate and nighttime operations. First launched in 2014, the drills marked the 10th such combined exercise to take place at the U.S. training facility, which spans 2,400 square kilometers and is known for its tough desert training environment.

- [Ex-President Yoon, wife face same court in separate trials](#) (2026-03-17 05:57)

Former President Yoon Suk Yeol and his wife, former first lady Kim Keon Hee, face separate trials at the same court Tuesday for the second time over corruption and other allegations. Yoon is scheduled to appear at the Seoul Central District Court for his trial on charges of receiving free opinion polls from Myung Tae-kyun, a self-proclaimed power broker, ahead of the 2022 presidential election. He is accused of colluding with his wife to accept the polls in exchange for supporting former Rep. Kim Young-sun's nomination as a People Power Party candidate in the parliamentary by-elections later that year, following his presidential victory. In an earlier trial, the court acquitted Kim of the identical charge, ruling that the polls could not be recognized as economically benefiting the couple. Meanwhile, Kim appeared at the same court for her trial on charges of accepting various gifts allegedly in return for her influence in public office appointments. Kim is accused of receiving jewelry worth over 100 million won (\$67,000), including a Van Cleef & Arpels necklace, from a construction company.

- [Lee calls for cautious approach to prosecution reform amid hard-line DPK push](#) (2026-03-16 11:57)

President Lee Jae Myung on Monday called for a measured and strategic approach to the ongoing prosecution reform to ensure it achieves its intended purpose, responding to hard-line calls within the ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) for sweeping changes to the prosecution

system. Lee made the remarks on his social media account on X, as some hardliners in the DPK have been pushing for far-reaching reforms aimed at sharply curbing prosecutorial powers. Their proposals include renaming the prosecutor general as the "chief of the indictment agency" in line with plans to transform the prosecution service into a body focused solely on indictments. "The separation of investigation and prosecution, as well as the exclusion of the prosecution from investigative authority, has already been confirmed as a national policy task and is irreversible," Lee wrote. "It is difficult to understand why the title of prosecutor general should be changed to 'chief of the indictment agency,' which could leave room for controversy over its constitutionality." Under a government reorganization bill passed by

- [Samsung chairman's \\$3,700 Italian vest draws online attention](#) (2026-03-16 11:57)

Samsung Electronics head Lee Jae-yong returning from Europe has caught online attention — this time because of his outfits. Lee returned to Korea on Friday after a visit to Europe, where he is believed to have met with European automakers to discuss Samsung's automobile electronics industry. Samsung SDI head Choi Ju-seon reportedly accompanied Lee on the trip. But it was Lee's outfit that quickly caught attention of people online. He was seen wearing a white vest over a suit, an item that some internet users said looked identical to one worn by a man believed to be Lee in a travel YouTube video filmed at a ramen restaurant in Kyoto last September. That earlier video, uploaded by a travel YouTuber, showed a man resembling Lee eating alone at the restaurant. The person's identity was never officially confirmed. But after photos of Lee's return from Europe circulated this week, some online commenters pointed to the apparent match in outerwear as reason to believe the man in the Kyoto video was in fact the Samsung chairman. The vest Lee wore is believed to be from Italian luxury brand

- [What AI overtaking jobs looks like](#) (2026-03-16 11:57)

"Are you actually a human?" The voice of a middle-aged man, thick with anger, roars through the phone. For Lee Eun-young — a pseudonym for a woman in her 40s who works at the customer service desk of a major credit card company — the moment is nothing new. She pauses for a second before replying. "Yes, sir. I'm a human." This time, the caller does not calm down easily. "Since when did I say I wanted to talk to artificial intelligence (AI)?" he snaps. "You people let machines do all the work while you sit back and collect easy money?" The words sting. But they are not entirely surprising. Roughly one in four calls Lee receives each day now begins with complaints about the company's AI customer service system. No one at the company has shared the numbers with her. Still, she has a sense of how things are going from the pile of frustrations customers unload the moment they reach a real person. Customer service desk jobs like Lee's are experiencing the future arrive faster than other industries — and it is not a comforting one. For years, the job was widely seen as one of

- [Seoul mayor snubs PPP primary again, fueling leadership speculation](#) (2026-03-16 11:57)

Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon has twice refused to register as a candidate for the People Power Party's (PPP) Seoul mayoral primary, even as the main opposition party extended its registration

deadline for a third time on Monday in an apparent bid to draw the incumbent into the race. The unusual standoff has fueled speculation that the mayor's decision may be part of a broader political calculation rather than a simple disagreement over the party's nomination process. Oh said he will not file for candidacy unless the party first commits to meaningful reform and clarifies its political direction before asking contenders to enter the race. The PPP's nomination committee reopened the registration window again and set Tuesday as the latest deadline for candidates to apply, with interviews scheduled for Friday. The repeated extensions were widely interpreted as an attempt to pressure Oh into participating. The move came shortly after Lee Jung-hyun returned as chair of the party's nomination committee, just two days after announcing his resignation. Lee publicly called on Oh to take part in t

- [English kindergarten divide: Over 50% of children in southern Seoul attend, under 15% in north](#) (2026-03-16 11:57)

Three in 10 students in Seoul have attended “English kindergartens,” with participation far higher in the city's southern neighborhoods than in those north of the Han River, suggesting parents in relatively affluent districts are far more likely to send their children to such programs. According to a survey by the Seoul Metropolitan Office of Education released Sunday, 29 percent of parents with children in kindergarten, elementary or middle school said their child is currently attending or has attended an English kindergarten. The survey polled 25,487 respondents in Seoul — 11,941 parents, 9,006 students and 4,540 teachers. In Korea, English kindergartens refer to private academies that teach young children — typically from around age 3 until they enter elementary school — primarily in English. They have drawn criticism for intensifying the private education industry. Last year, some lawmakers introduced a bill under which all cram school programs in English would be prohibited for children under 36 months. In Seocho District and Gangnam District, the two most affluent dist

- [Suspect in laced drink murders linked to three more victims](#) (2026-03-16 11:57)

Police said Monday they have identified three more victims of a 20-year-old woman who was recently arrested on suspicion of murdering two men with laced drinks. Kim So-young is accused of causing bodily injury to three additional men beyond the victims investigators had initially identified, a police official told reporters. Prosecutors earlier indicted Kim on murder and other charges for giving drinks spiked with benzodiazepine, a depressant, to three men between last December and last month. Two died, while one recovered. Further investigation found that Kim gave laced drinks to three more victims on separate occasions in Seoul between last October and January this year. A forensic analysis determined that one of the newly identified victims had benzodiazepine in his system. Kim met the threshold for psychopathy in a police-administered test. Her trial is scheduled to begin April 9.

- [Police seek arrest warrant for man accused of stalking, killing ex-girlfriend](#) (2026-03-16 11:57)

Police said Monday they have sought an arrest warrant for a man accused of stalking and killing his ex-girlfriend while wearing an electronic ankle monitor. The 40-something man was apprehended by police Saturday shortly after he broke the windows of a car his former live-in partner was riding in, killed her and fled in his own car. The suspect broke his electronic ankle monitor before fleeing from the crime scene in Namyangju, Gyeonggi Province, to the nearby county of Yangpyeong. The Namyangju Bukbu Police Station said they filed for an arrest warrant for the suspect after consulting the prosecution and a court hearing on whether to issue the warrant will be held Tuesday. The suspect is currently being treated as he was found to have taken an undisclosed type of drug at the time of his apprehension. The case has sparked criticism that the authorities failed to protect the 20-something victim even though she was wearing a smartwatch as a subject of police protection and the man was under various restraining orders for stalking her. At a press briefing Monday, an official of the National P

- [Gov't to strengthen swine flu response after virus detected in livestock feed](#) (2026-03-16 05:57)

The government plans to strengthen quarantine measures at local pig farms, slaughterhouses and fodder production facilities, after the African swine fever (ASF) virus was detected in pig feed, the agricultural ministry said Monday. According to the ministry, an epidemiological investigation found the ASF virus inside the ingredients and feed using porcine plasma, a digestible protein source derived from the blood of pigs. The government suspects blood from an infected pig was mixed in and has decided to discard all fodder suspected to be infected, while recalling more than 490 tons of feed related to the problematic manufacturer, it added. The move came as the country reported a yearly record of ASF outbreaks, 22 cases, in less than three months since the start of this year. The figure marks a sharp increase compared to the combined tally of 17 for the last two years from 2024 to 2025. Quarantine authorities are also conducting a third round of inspections of pig farms nationwide until Friday. They are additionally carrying out daily blood tests on pigs slaughtered at some 64 slaughterhou

- [Ruling party, gov't agree to submit extra budget bill by end-March](#) (2026-03-16 05:57)

The ruling Democratic Party Korea (DPK) and the government agreed to draw up and submit this year's first supplementary budget bill to the National Assembly by the end of this month to help ease livelihood concerns that stem from the ongoing war in the Middle East, officials said Monday. The DPK and the government also agreed to gradually release 22.46 million barrels of oil from its strategic reserves over the next three months amid soaring global oil prices triggered by the Middle East conflict. The decision was made during a task force meeting attended by officials from the finance ministry, the Financial Services Commission and other agencies to discuss measures to stabilize energy supply and oil prices, Rep. Ahn Do-geol said in a press briefing. The planned release comes in line with an agreement among the 32 member countries of the International Energy Agency to make 400 million barrels of oil from their reserves available to the market. The contribution of each country in the collective endeavor was calculated in proportion to its share of the member countries' total oil consumpti

- [Dispatching warships to Hormuz requires parliamentary approval: PPP floor leader](#) (2026-03-16 05:57)

The floor leader of the main opposition People Power Party (PPP) said Monday any decision to dispatch Korea's warships to the Strait of Hormuz would require parliamentary approval, as U.S. President Donald Trump called on countries to send ships to the crucial oil shipping route in the Gulf region. The remarks by Rep. Song Eon-seog of the PPP came as Trump called on Korea and other countries affected by Iran's attempt to close the Strait of Hormuz to send ships to keep the strait "open and safe" on Saturday amid growing concerns over disruptions to shipping along the waterway. "The issue of deploying our military to a region with a high possibility of involvement in combat would be a grave decision," Song said during the party's supreme council meeting. "This is a matter that requires the National Assembly's approval in accordance with the Constitution and relevant laws." He also said the issue of deploying the Cheonghae naval unit, currently operating in the Gulf of Aden for anti-piracy operations, to the Strait of Hormuz would require parliamentary approval, stressing that it would ef

- [Special counsel raids PPP lawmaker's home, office over presidential residence relocation](#) (2026-03-16 05:57)

The second comprehensive special counsel team raided the home and office of Rep. Yoon Han-hong of the main opposition People Power Party on Monday over alleged favoritism surrounding the relocation of the presidential residence about four years ago. Investigators from the team began a search of the lawmaker's home and office in the morning to secure materials related to the presidential residence relocation and renovation in 2022. The raid is the first compulsory investigation by the second special counsel team, which launched last month to investigate 17 allegations that the three previous special counsel teams could not resolve. The charge of abuse of power was reportedly applied in the search and seizure warrant for Rep. Yoon. A previous special counsel team said the lawmaker was involved in the alleged favoritism while serving as the head of a task force on the presidential residence relocation, though it did not indict him due to insufficient investigation time. The controversy began when 21 Gram, an interior design company without a general construction license, was improperly chose

- [Lee suggests adjusting basic pension payments for low-income seniors](#) (2026-03-16 05:57)

President Lee Jae Myung on Monday floated the idea of adjusting basic pension payments for elderly people in proportion to their income level. Lee made the remarks in a post on the social media platform X, sharing a link to a news story about the government's plan to gradually ease the reduction in basic pension payments for couples aged 65 or older when both spouses receive the benefit. The adjustment is expected to begin next year, starting with low-income households. "A married couple growing old together should not face disadvantages," Lee wrote on X. "I have heard that there are even cases in which people opt for sham divorces to avoid reductions in their basic pension payments." Citing Korea's high suicide rate among the elderly, Lee said poverty remains one of the most serious challenges facing older adults and suggested it may be time to review the current pension structure. "If we want to reduce elderly poverty

that can even drive people to take their own lives, we need to revise the current basic pensionsystem," he said.

- [3 Japanese punk bands ready to play Seoul](#) (2026-03-15 23:57)

Japan has one of the oldest punk scenes in the world, dating back to the 1970s — certainly one of the first outside of the West, and probably the first in Asia. The Japanese punk scene has many close ties with neighboring Korea's own scene, which is much smaller and about 20 years younger, having started in the early 1990s. "Since Japan is the closest country to us and the cultures are similar, we've been performing with Japanese bands quite often for a long time," said Park Byung-sun, guitarist of the Korean band Pogo Attack. Park said he and his friends in the Korean scene have been collaborating with punk bands in Japan every year going back to about 2003. Now in his 40s, he mentioned that he lived in Tokyo for two years before turning 30, during which time he played in the Japanese band 00 Squad. This month, Korea is seeing an unusually high number of Japanese bands visiting, with three acts coming here for two separate tours over the next couple weeks. Yasumasa Okise remembers his first visit to Korea, during the 1988 Summer Olympics. "I was still a boy, but I remember th

- [Korean language classes fill up as students from migrant backgrounds increase](#) (2026-03-15 11:57)

Schools with high concentrations of students from migrant backgrounds have increased 2.6-fold in Korea over the past five years, while improvements in the educational environment for them have lagged behind. According to data submitted by the Ministry of Education to the office of Rep. Jin Sun-mee of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea, Sunday, the number of schools with high concentrations of students coming from migrant backgrounds rose from 47 in 2020 to 123 in 2025. Schools are designated as having a "high concentration" if they have more than 100 enrolled students from migrant backgrounds, accounting for 30 percent or more of the overall student body. By region, Gyeonggi Province has the largest number of high migrant population schools, at 52. It was followed by Seoul with 18 schools, South Chungcheong Province with 10, Daegu with eight and Incheon with seven. Daejeon, Ulsan and North Jeolla Province had the lowest numbers, with just one such school each. The increase comes despite Korea's steadily declining school-age population. The number of students from migrant backgrounds

- [Foreign voting rights debate resurfaces ahead of June 3 local elections](#) (2026-03-15 11:57)

With the June 3 local elections approaching, debate has resurfaced over voting rights for foreign residents as Korea's foreign population continues to grow. It has been two decades since the government allowed certain long-term foreign residents to vote in local elections, but critics argue that the current rules violate the principles of reciprocity and international fairness. The government first granted voting rights to foreign permanent residents in local elections in 2006 during the Roh Moo-hyun administration. At that time, the number of eligible foreign voters stood at just 6,726, but the figure has grown steadily — rising to 12,878 in 2010, 48,428 in 2014, 106,205 in 2018 and 127,623 in 2022. Under the current Public Official Election Act, foreign

residents who have obtained permanent residency are allowed to vote in elections for local government leaders and local council members after three years of holding an F-5 visa. According to the Ministry of Justice, Korea had more than 1.6 million registered foreign residents as of December last year, including 220,788 permanent resi

- [Middle-aged Koreans report highest stress levels, shifting from younger groups](#)

(2026-03-15 11:57)

People in their 40s recorded the highest levels of stress in daily life among adults, marking a shift away from younger generations as economic pressures and workplace competition weigh more heavily on middle-aged Koreans. This generational shift reflects a broader socioeconomic reality, as the anxieties of midlife — compounded by stagnant wages and rising household debt — have eclipsed the pressures once felt mainly by younger Koreans entering the workforce. According to 2024 data from the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency on Sunday, from an annual survey of about 10,000 people, 25.9 percent of respondents age 19 and older said they feel “very much” or “much” stress in daily life — a level similar to the 25.5 percent recorded in 2014. Among age groups, people in their 40s recorded the highest stress rate at 35.1 percent — more than eight percentage points higher than in 2014. Those in their 30s followed at 34.7 percent, while adults ages 19 to 29 recorded 30.3 percent. In the 2014 survey, people in their 30s had reported the highest stress level at 34 percent,

- [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 woul

- [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, metimes 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 pollack stew or ft tofu up, and the place turns into mething 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 other

- [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 cause

- [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

Source: The Korea Herald

- [BTS' RM injures ankle ahead of comeback show](#) (2026-03-20 05:59)

RM of BTS injured his ankle Thursday, just two days before the group's comeback show, Big Hit Music said Friday. According to the agency, the injury occurred during a rehearsal Thursday. RM was taken to a hospital for a detailed examination and was diagnosed with a sprain of the accessory navicular, a partial ligament tear and a talus contusion. Medical staff advised him to wear a cast and minimize movement for at least two weeks to focus on recovery. Despite the injury, RM expressed a strong de

- [Samsung Life, Samsung Fire to sell \\$1b Samsung Electronics stake](#) (2026-03-20 05:51)

Samsung Group's insurance units are selling a combined 1.5 trillion won (\$1 billion) stake in Samsung Electronics after the chipmaker's treasury share cancellation pushed up their ownership ratios. Samsung Life Insurance said Thursday it will sell 6,244,658 Samsung Electronics shares worth about 1.3 trillion won. Samsung Fire & Marine Insurance said separately it will sell 1,091,273 shares worth 227.5 billion won. Combined, the planned sale amounts to about 0.12 percent of Samsung Electronics' t

- [Fire at Daejeon auto parts plant injures at least 50](#) (2026-03-20 05:46)

Firefighters in Korea are battling a blaze at an auto parts factory in Daejeon, where at least 50 people have been injured, authorities said Friday. The fire broke out at about 1:17 p.m. at a facility in Munpyeong-dong, according to the Daejeon Fire Headquarters. Authorities raised the response level to Phase 2 at 1:31 p.m., mobilizing all available equipment from local and neighboring fire stations. A total of 46 vehicles and 115 personnel have been deployed to contain the fire. A Phase 2 respo

- [BTS comeback sparks 103% surge in hotel bookings by foreign visitors](#) (2026-03-20 05:41)

As BTS readies for its comeback concert in central Seoul on Saturday, the number of accommodation bookings by foreign visitors jumped 103 percent this week in comparison to last week, data showed Friday. According to the data analysis by AllMyTour, an artificial intelligence-based bed bank solution provider, bookings by overseas travelers also increased by 63.3 percent compared to the same period last year, while the figure for the entire month of March rose by 33.5 percent on year. The data sho

- [Driver killed by truck while clearing 2-ton coils on expressway](#) (2026-03-20 05:28)

A man in his 70s died after a vehicle struck him while he was handling fallen cargo on an expressway Friday, authorities said. The accident occurred at about 5:25 a.m. on the Yeongdong Expressway in Siheung, Gyeonggi Province. Police said three coils of metal wire loaded on a truck's trailer fell onto the road while the vehicle was in motion. The driver pulled over into the third lane and was attempting to clear the cargo when he was hit by a 4.5-ton truck approaching from behind. He was taken t

- [Baemin links BTS comeback event with neighborhood cafes in Seoul](#) (2026-03-20 05:27)

Baemin, Korea's leading food delivery platform, said Friday it will launch a special support program for small cafes in central Seoul in connection with "BTS The City Arirang Seoul," a citywide event celebrating BTS' comeback. "BTS The City Arirang Seoul" will take place across Seoul from Friday through April 19, featuring a variety of programs including exhibitions, shopping and food events, as well as media facades, drone shows and music light shows integrated into the city's landscape. Baemin

- [Lee Jae Myung's approval climbs to record high amid economic focus](#) (2026-03-20 05:26)

President Lee Jae Myung's approval rating has climbed to a new high of 67 percent, extending a steady upward streak, a poll showed Friday, with economic management cited as the top driver of public support. According to a Gallup Korea poll conducted from Tuesday through Thursday on 1,004 respondents aged 18 and older, positive assessments of Lee's job performance rose 1 percentage point from the previous week to 67 percent, marking a third consecutive weekly high and extending an upward trend fo

- [Taste of two royal dessert tables at Gyeongbokgung](#) (2026-03-20 05:20)

Mornings and afternoons at Gyeongbokgung come with a rare indulgence this spring: tasting the same desserts Korea's kings once enjoyed. From April 8 to May 27, the palace will host the 2026 edition of its Gyeongbokgung Saenggwabang program. The seasonal culinary experience recreates Joseon-era (1392-1910) royal desserts once prepared in the saenggwabang, the kitchen dedicated to sweets and light refreshments. The 70-minute program offers a set of six traditional confections paired with a medicin

- [Finance chief says BTS concert expected to generate great amount of economic value](#) (2026-03-20 05:18)

Finance Minister Koo Yun-cheol said Friday a live performance by K-pop supergroup BTS this weekend is expected to generate trillions of won in economic value in South Korea. The seven-member group will take to the stage under the title "BTS The Comeback Live: Arirang" at Gwanghwamun Square in Seoul on Saturday to celebrate the release of its new studio album, "Arirang," its first in nearly four years. "This concert is expected to generate trillions of won in economic value, but its intangible ef

- [Citi Korea wins four Triple A awards from The Asset](#) (2026-03-20 05:16)

Citibank Korea and Citigroup Global Markets Securities Korea won four top honors at The Asset Triple A Awards 2026, underscoring Citi's position in sustainable finance, commercial banking and advisory work in Korea. Citibank Korea was named best bank for sustainable finance and best commercial bank, while Citigroup Global Markets Securities Korea won best corporate and institutional adviser and best equity adviser, the companies said Thursday. The Asset, a regional financial publication, said th

- [Qualcomm highlights Korea's role, Samsung partnership](#) (2026-03-20 05:10)

US chip giant Qualcomm Technologies underscored South Korea's strategic importance as a global hub for technological innovation, highlighted its long-standing partnership with Samsung Electronics, along with its vision for the Korean market. At Friday's press briefing held at a Seoul hotel, the company pointed to Korea as a market where technological leadership directly shapes consumer perception and adoption. Kim Sang-pyo, president of Qualcomm Korea, said 61 percent of Korean consumers view th

- [Samsung to spend record W110tr this year to lock in long-term AI chip customers](#) (2026-03-20 05:08)

Samsung Electronics said it would invest a record 110 trillion won (\$73.5 billion) in facilities and research this year as it moves to secure multiyear supply deals with major AI chip customers, according to a corporate value-up plan disclosed Thursday. The figure represents a 21.7 percent increase from 2025 and the first time Samsung's annual spending has exceeded 100 trillion won. It is also the largest single-year allocation within the company's previously announced 450 trillion-won, five-yea

- [Hyundai Motor supplies eight hydrogen trucks to Uruguay](#) (2026-03-20 05:06)

Hyundai Motor Company said Friday it had supplied eight Xcient Fuel Cell hydrogen-powered trucks to Uruguay for deployment in the Kahiros project, a green logistics initiative aimed at decarbonizing the country's timber transportation sector. Set to begin full-scale operations in the second half of 2026, the project is a private-sector collaboration led by the Kahiros consortium. Hyundai's Xcient Fuel Cell truck is a 37.2-ton-class tractor model equipped with a 180-kilowatt hydrogen fuel system

- [Seoul considers more steps beyond naphtha export controls: Cheong Wa Dae](#) (2026-03-20 04:53)

South Korea is weighing additional measures to stabilize naphtha supplies, on top of planned export controls, as the Middle East crisis disrupts shipments of the key petrochemical feedstock. "The government plans to implement export control measures to minimize overseas outflows of naphtha and is considering additional steps needed to stabilize the industrial supply chain," a presidential official said on condition of anonymity. Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Koo Yoon-cheol said Wedn

- [Samsung Heavy Industries wins W377.9b LNG ship order in Oceania](#) (2026-03-20 04:52)

Samsung Heavy Industries said Friday it has secured a 377.9 billion won (\$253 million) contract to build a liquefied natural gas carrier for a shipping company in Oceania. The vessel is scheduled for delivery by April 2029, the company said in a press release, without disclosing the client's name. With the latest deal, Samsung Heavy said it has secured ship orders worth \$2.4 billion so far this year, achieving about 17 percent of its annual order target of \$13.9 billion. The company said it plan

- [Kia targets 13 EV models by 2030, expands global production footprint](#) (2026-03-20 04:52)

South Korean automaker Kia plans to roll out 13 electric vehicle models by 2030 and broaden its manufacturing presence across major global markets, according to the company's CEO on Friday. Speaking at Kia's annual general meeting in Seoul, President and CEO Song Ho-sung outlined the carmaker's vision to lead the mass adoption of EVs, and overcome the industry's current demand slowdown, often referred to as the "EV chasm." The company's three key strategies include strengthening its EV lineup, e

- [Oil shock risk could reach Korea's trash bags](#) (2026-03-20 04:48)

Geopolitical tensions in the Middle East are beginning to ripple into daily life in South Korea, with authorities warning that supplies of official trash bags could be impacted. The government has started reviewing inventory levels held by local authorities, amid concerns that disruptions to crude oil supply could affect the production of key raw materials. Officials at the Ministry of Environment said the review began Thursday after manufacturers warned they have about one month's worth of raw

- [Top court upheld construction site manager's liability in Russian worker's death](#) (2026-03-20 04:48)

South Korea's Supreme Court has held a construction site manager responsible for the death of a Russian worker who fell from a structure along a building's exterior, despite prior instructions restricting access to the area. The ruling underscores the heightened duty of site supervisors to ensure safety in hazardous environments, particularly when foreign national workers who are not fluent in Korean are involved, raising the risk of miscommunication.

According to data from the Construction Work

- [BTS' new album 'Arirang' released](#) (2026-03-20 04:47)

BTS released their fifth album, 'Arirang,' at 1 p.m., Friday, marking the group's first full-group comeback in three years and nine months. The album explores the group's identity and universal emotions, drawing inspiration from the traditional Korean folk song, Arirang. Reflecting BTS' Korean roots while capturing sentiments the seven members experience today, the 14-track album aims to resonate with listeners across cultures and generations. Lead track "Swim" conveys the message of continuing

- [LG Energy Solution targets ESS business at up to 40% of portfolio](#) (2026-03-20 04:44)

LG Energy Solution CEO Kim Dong-myung said Friday the company plans to have its energy storage system business take up around 40 percent of its portfolio down the road, in line with efforts to meet market trends. "The company plans to have ESS and new businesses take up the mid-40 percent range down the road, compared with the current level of 20 percent, maintaining a stable and balanced portfolio," Kim said during a shareholders' meeting held in Seoul. "We plan to offer distinctive competitive

- [Netflix exec says BTS comeback show was impossible to pass up](#) (2026-03-20 04:41)

Hours before the release of "Arirang" — BTS's first full-group studio album in nearly four years — the organizers behind the group's Saturday comeback concert held a press briefing at a theatre in central Seoul, steps from Gwanghwamun Square, where the show will take place. This time, Netflix holds exclusive global streaming rights to the concert. Brandon Riegg, Netflix's VP of unscripted series and sports, said the decision to partner with Hybe on the event — the streamer's first live music bro

- [Canada issues safety advisory ahead of BTS Seoul concert](#) (2026-03-20 04:35)

The Canadian Embassy in Seoul issued an updated safety advisory on Friday, ahead of BTS' comeback concert at Gwanghwamun Square on Saturday, warning of significant crowds and transportation disruptions. In a notice sent to registered Canadians, the government said up to 250,000 people are expected to attend the evening event, prompting authorities to raise a "caution" level crisis alert. Road closures will be in effect from Friday evening through Sunday morning, with additional disruptions to pu

- [APR zeroes in on Europe through Sephora](#) (2026-03-20 04:29)

APR said Friday that its flagship skin care brand Medicube has been launched on Sephora, signifying the Korean firm's entry into the European market. The rollout will cover 17 countries across Europe, including France, Germany, Italy and Spain, with Medicube products set to be introduced at around 450 offline stores as well as Sephora's online platforms in phases this month. According to APR, the products include the Zero Pore Pad, PDRN Pink Peptide Ampoule, Collagen Night Wrapping Mask and Coll

- [Hotels roll out tailored perks as pet-friendly travel surges](#) (2026-03-20 04:28)

Hotels are sharpening their appeal to “pet-fam” travelers, a fast-growing segment of owners who treat pets as family and expect them to be part of the trip. The shift reflects broader demographic changes. Nearly 28.6 percent of Korean households now own pets, according to the Agriculture Ministry’s 2025 animal welfare plan. Domestic travel with pets is also on the rise, with lodging experiences climbing from 53 percent in 2022 to 60.4 percent in 2024, data from the Korea Tourism Organization sho

- [Hyosung Heavy Industries develops Korea’s first spring-operated gas circuit breaker](#) (2026-03-20 04:07)

Hyosung Heavy Industries said Friday it has developed a spring-operated 362-kilovolt gas circuit breaker and successfully passed certification under standards set by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. A gas circuit breaker is a key safety device used in power grids, which manages electrical loads and maintains stable operations by quickly interrupting current during faults, preventing blackouts or equipment damage. The company said the newly developed 362kV breaker is the fir

- [Kim Jong-un’s daughter Ju-ae takes the wheel of tank](#) (2026-03-20 03:58)

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un oversaw a joint offensive drill involving a new main battle tank, the North's state media reported Friday, with photos showing his his daughter Ju-ae riding alongside him in the armored vehicle, the latest sign of her growing visibility at key military events. The Korean Central News Agency said Kim visited the Pyongyang Training Base No. 60 under the Korean People’s Army’s Capital City Defence Corps a day earlier, where he observed “a coordinated offensive tactic

- [Online payments rise 9.2 pct on-year in 2025 to record high: data](#) (2026-03-20 03:23)

The value of electronic payments in South Korea extended its upward trend to an all-time high in 2025, driven by steady growth in online transactions, central bank data showed Friday. The daily average value of payment gateway services reached 1.55 trillion won (\$1.04 billion) last year, up 9.2 percent from a year earlier, according to the data from the Bank of Korea. The daily average number of transactions also rose 11.8 percent on-year to 33.64 million. Both the number of transactions and the

- [TXT launches story collecting campaign](#) (2026-03-20 03:03)

Tomorrow X Together asked fans to share stories of moments that have made them wish for “one more day,” in a campaign inspired by its upcoming EP, label Big Hit Music announced Thursday. Promotional posters for the event also included the text, “TXT will do the asking for you,” piquing fans' interest. The group is set to return April 13 with its eighth EP, “7th Year: A Moment of Stillness in the Thorns.” In the lead-up to the release, the group has offered a series of unusual promotional activit

- [Police investigate suspected fake gold sales on Coupang](#) (2026-03-20 02:57)

Police are investigating claims that counterfeit gold products were sold through e-commerce platform Coupang, as rising prices fuel a broader increase in gold-related crime. A woman in her 60s filed a complaint alleging that gold items worth about 14 million won (\$9,400) she purchased on Coupang in January, including necklaces, bars and bracelets, were either fake or of substandard purity, according to the Gimpo Police Station. The buyer said she initially purchased the items as gifts and for in

- [S. Korea hosts cultural exchange roundtable in Russia to mark 35th anniv. of diplomatic ties](#) (2026-03-20 02:51)

South Korea hosted a roundtable in Moscow to discuss ways to advance cultural relations and exchanges with Russia, marking the 35th anniversary of the establishment of their formal bilateral diplomatic relations, the foreign ministry said Friday. The roundtable on South Korea-Russia cultural exchanges, held the previous day, was attended by Mikhail Shvydkoy, Russia's special presidential representative on international cultural cooperation, former Russian ambassadors to South Korea, and scholars

- [Disney Korea expands 'Mickey & Friends' K-fashion collaborations](#) (2026-03-20 02:51)

The Walt Disney Company Korea is deepening its push into Korea's fashion scene, teaming up with a new wave of local brands to reposition "Mickey & Friends" as a style symbol rather than a nostalgic character franchise. Starting this month, Disney Korea is rolling out a series of collaborations with Songzio and Marithe Francois Girbaud, both of which have gained traction at home and abroad amid the rise of Korean fashion. The collections reinterpret Mickey Mouse and related characters through eac

- [Lee's approval rating hits new high since inauguration: poll](#) (2026-03-20 02:48)

President Lee Jae Myung's approval rating climbed to 67 percent, marking the highest level since he took office, a survey showed Friday. The survey by Gallup Korea, conducted Tuesday through Thursday on 1,004 respondents aged 18 and over, showed that the positive assessment of Lee's overall performance rose 1 percentage point from the previous week, marking a third consecutive week of record highs. The negative assessment also rose 1 percentage point to 25 percent, while 8 percent were undecided

- [Veterans minister pays respects to late ex-first ladies on their death annivs.](#) (2026-03-20 02:47)

Veterans Minister Kwon Oh-eul has paid his respects to late former first ladies on their death anniversaries and sent wreaths on behalf of President Lee Jae Myung, officials said Friday. Kwon has attended memorial events of former first ladies whose death anniversaries fell after Lee took office in June last year and sent flowers in Lee's name, according to his ministry. On Thursday, Kwon attended the memorial service of Francesca Donner, the wife of the nation's first president, Rhee Syng-man.

- [Cosmosy to drop prerelease from 2nd EP](#) (2026-03-20 02:28)

Girl group Cosmosy will release “Chance” on Friday ahead of the full release of its second EP, due out on March 31, according to agency NTT docomo Studio. It will be the second prerelease from the group's EP, “of the world,” after “Physics,” which was released last year. On Thursday, the group also performed “Chance” on stage for the first time for a television music chart show. The upcoming mini album will expand Cosmosy’s sci-fi narrative imbued with eastern aesthetics, building on that of its

- [Korean won rebounds against US dollar as oil prices ease](#) (2026-03-20 02:22)

The South Korean currency opened higher against the US dollar Friday, rebounding after falling to its weakest level in 17 years on the previous day, as global oil prices declined amid efforts by the US and Israel to ease concerns about a prolonged crisis in the Middle East. The won opened at 1,492 won per dollar, up 9 won from the previous session. On Thursday, the currency fell to 1,501 per dollar, its lowest level since March 10, 2009, when it hit 1,511.1 during the global financial crisis. Th

- [T.O.P returns with first solo studio album on April 3](#) (2026-03-20 02:15)

Former Big Bang member T.O.P will release his first solo album since debut, marking a major return to music after more than a decade. According to a Friday announcement by his agency, Topspot Pictures, the rapper will release "Another Dimension" on April 3 across major streaming platforms. The album marks T.O.P’s first solo project in 13 years since the 2013 digital single "Doom Dada." He took the lead in producing the new album, overseeing the project over an extended period. In recent weeks, T

- [Seoul shares open higher amid hopes for easing Mideast tensions](#) (2026-03-20 02:12)

South Korean shares opened almost 1 percent higher Friday amid hopes the US and Israel-led war against Iran, weighing heavily on global financial markets, may end sooner than expected. The benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index rose 53.89 points, or 0.94 percent, to 5,817.11 in the first 15 minutes of trading. Overnight, the Dow Jones Industrial Average closed 0.44 percent lower, the tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite lost 0.28 percent, and the S&P 500 dropped 0.27 percent but pared most of their

- [BTS revisits ‘Arirang’ history at Howard, but why has it sparked racial debate?](#) (2026-03-20 02:11)

Howard University is at the center of a heated debate after BTS featured the historically Black college in the teaser for its upcoming album, drawing criticism over the animation's depiction of race and whitewashing. The one-minute video for “Arirang” was released March 13 on the group’s official YouTube channel. The teaser opens with the seven BTS members gathered around a gramophone. The scene shifts to 1896 at Howard University, where seven Korean students are depicted recording “Arirang.” Th

- [Gov't says economy on recovery path, warns of Middle East risks](#) (2026-03-20 02:01)

South Korea's economy remains on a recovery path, but downside risks are increasing due to the situation in the Middle East, the finance ministry said Friday. The Ministry of Finance and Economy made the assessment in its monthly economic report, known as the Green Book, marking the fifth consecutive month it has used the term "recovery" to describe the economy. "Recently, our economy has continued its recovery trend, supported by improving domestic demand, including consumption and strong export

- [N. Korea's Kim oversees combined drill involving new main battle tanks](#) (2026-03-20 01:57)

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un oversaw a joint offensive drill featuring new main battle tanks equipped with an "active protection system," saying ground troops will be equipped with the "superior" tank "extensively," state media reported Friday. Kim oversaw "a coordinated offensive tactical drill of infantrymen's and tankmen's sub-units" a day earlier at the Pyongyang Training Base No. 60 under the Capital City Defence Corps of the Korean People's Army, the Korean Central News Agency said. The

- [Seoul sends English alerts for BTS crowd](#) (2026-03-20 01:57)

Seoul sent its first bilingual emergency alerts as the city prepares for the crowds of up to 260,000 expected to gather for BTS' s comeback performance this week. The city government said it issued safety text messages in both Korean and English Friday morning, marking a shift in how authorities communicate with the growing number of foreign visitors at large-scale events. The alerts detailed a series of road closures in central Seoul, including major routes near Gwanghwamun Square. Sejongdaero i

- [Day6' s Wonpil to hold solo concert in May](#) (2026-03-20 01:55)

Wonpil of Day6 will hold a solo concert in Seoul on May 1-3, label JYP Entertainment announced Thursday. The three shows are named after his solo EP, "Unfiltered," which is set for release on March 30. The mini album comprises seven tracks, all co-written by the singer-songwriter. The new release comes about four years after Wonpil's first solo album "Pilmography," which was supported by his first-ever solo show. Separately, Day6 performed twice in Taipei earlier this month for its tour celebrat

- [Savings banks swing to black in 2025; delinquency rate falls](#) (2026-03-20 01:55)

The savings banking industry returned to the black last year from a year earlier, aided by a decline in loan-loss reserves, data showed Friday. The combined net profit of 79 savings banks nationwide reached 417 billion won (\$278 million) last year, shifting from a loss of 423 billion won a year earlier, according to their trade association. The data showed that their loan-loss reserves declined by 455 billion won last year compared with a year earlier. Their asset soundness improved, with the de

- [Ex-envoy to Brazil appointed ambassador to Canada](#) (2026-03-20 01:52)

A former South Korean ambassador to Brazil has been appointed as the country's new ambassador to Canada, the foreign ministry said Friday. The ministry unveiled the appointment of Lim Ki-mo, who also previously served as ambassador to Argentina. Kim earned a bachelor's degree in Hispanic language and literature at Seoul National University before joining the foreign service in 1991. He also served as deputy director-general for the office preparing for Seoul's hosting of the Asia-Pacific Economic

- [A traveler's guide to BTS filming locations](#) (2026-03-20 00:00)

Before they became tourist stops, these places were backdrops. A barren stretch of reclaimed land in Buan. A disused runway in Jecheon. A solitary rock rising from the sea in Jeju. Each was chosen for a specific visual mood — isolation, youth, nostalgia — and captured in moments that would later circulate worldwide through music videos. Today, those same locations draw visitors not for what they are alone, but for what they once represented on screen. Wanjū: Hanok serenity and slow travel Wanjū,

- [BTS' new album title, 'Arirang,' is pure Korean — are you saying it right?](#) (2026-03-20 00:00)

Yes, we've been waiting for this. K-pop juggernaut BTS is back after four years — and the global hype for the group's fifth full-length album, “Arirang,” set for release on Friday, is already going wild. New music, new visuals, new era and, of course, a new wave of buzz. But this time, the conversation isn't just about concept photos or what the seven bandmates will roll out. It's also about the language itself. Since the title is a pure Korean word, videos across YouTube, Instagram and X explain

- [Follow BTS' favorite food spots in Seoul: From trainee meals to fine dining](#) (2026-03-20 00:00)

As BTS prepares to take over Gwanghwamun Square this Saturday, thousands of fans from around the world are expected to descend on the capital. For many in Army, the group's global fandom, the trip is about more than just the music — it's about stepping into the everyday lives of the seven members. That includes eating where they ate. From humble neighborhood diners that sustained the group during their trainee years to the refined dining rooms they favored after becoming global stars, Seoul cont

- [\[Robert J. Fouser\] The 386 Generation's final act](#) (2026-03-19 20:30)

Earlier this month, I had the pleasure of meeting a Korean friend for dinner in Boston. As the conversation turned to future plans, my friend told me he would have to retire in two years, at age 60. He mentioned that he was worried about finding work to fill the gap between retirement and the beginning of his pension. He added that when he got together with friends, the most common topic was working after retirement. On the train back to Providence, Rhode Island, that evening, I thought about th

- [Iran hits back at multiple Gulf refineries after Israeli strike on its offshore gas field](#) (2026-03-19 10:30)

DUBAI (AP) — Iran intensified its attacks on its Gulf Arab neighbors' energy sites Thursday, hitting a Saudi refinery on the Red Sea and setting Qatari liquefied natural gas facilities and two Kuwaiti oil refineries ablaze as it struck back following an Israeli attack on its main natural gas field, a major escalation in the Mideast war that has sent global fuel prices soaring. Brent crude oil, the international standard, spiked to as high as \$118 a barrel, up more than 60 percent since Israel a

- [Seoul to provide \\$2 million in humanitarian aid to conflict-hit Lebanon](#) (2026-03-19 10:10)

South Korea will provide \$2 million in humanitarian assistance to conflict-hit Lebanon, the foreign ministry said Thursday. The assistance will be financed through an emergency overseas assistance program of the state-run Korea International Cooperation Agency and aid from non-governmental organizations and private companies, the ministry said. Israel has widened its strikes on Iran into southern Lebanon and the capital, Beirut, leaving nearly 1,000 Lebanese people killed and nearly 1 million ot

- [Samsung Life to unload W1.32tr worth of shares in Samsung Electronics](#) (2026-03-19 10:09)

Samsung Life Insurance Co. said Thursday it will sell around 1.32 trillion won (\$881.6 million) worth of its shares in Samsung Electronics Co. In a regulatory filing, Samsung Life said it decided to offload about 6.24 million shares, equivalent to roughly 0.11 percent of the outstanding shares of Samsung Electronics. Samsung Fire & Marine Insurance Co. also said it will sell about 1.09 million shares, or 0.02 percent of the total Samsung Electronics stocks, worth 227.5 billion won. The companies

- [Which areas of Seoul should be featured in 'KPop Demon Hunters' sequel? Here are Seoul mayoral hopefuls' answers.](#) (2026-03-19 09:31)

An unusual question lightened the mood during the televised debate of the Democratic Party of Korea's Seoul mayor hopefuls aired on SBS on Thursday. The question: which areas of Seoul could the sequel to Netflix's hit "KPop Demon Hunters" be set? Here are the top picks of the mayoral hopefuls Chong Won-o, Kim Hyung-nam, Reps. Jeon Hyun-heui, Kim Young-bae and Park Ju-min. Gwanghwamun, the main gate of Gyeongbokgung in central Seoul, has long served as the iconic cultural landmark at the heart of

- [North Korean liquor stuck at customs may clear under revised rules](#) (2026-03-19 09:00)

Attention is growing over whether North Korean goods routed through third countries can enter South Korea, after Seoul introduced clearer verification standards to reduce confusion in such transactions. A recent case suggests the changes may soon be tested. According to local wire News1 on Thursday, Jung Ik-hyun, head of a small local trading firm, filed additional materials through the government-run Inter-Korean Exchange and Cooperation System. Jung' s firm imported some 3,500 bottles of North

- [Korean Pavilion reimagines liberation in Venice Biennale 2026](#) (2026-03-19 08:59)

The Korean Pavilion at the 2026 Venice Biennale will center on the theme of “liberation,” a term deeply rooted in Korea’s modern history, particularly its experience of Japanese colonial rule. To artistic director Binna Choi, the notion of liberation has since expanded beyond its historical origins to take on layered meanings in contemporary Korea, from political struggles, including periods of martial law, to broader questions of social and collective agency. “The pavilion, constructed largely

- [Weddings in Korea reach highest level since 2018](#) (2026-03-19 08:34)

The number of marriages in South Korea rose to about 240,000 in 2025, extending a three-year rebound after more than a decade of declines, according to the Ministry of Statistics on Thursday. Marriages last year increased 8.1 percent from 2024, following a 14.8 percent surge the previous year -- the largest annual increase on record. The number of marriages had fallen for 11 consecutive years from 2012 before turning upward in 2023. Officials attributed the rebound to pent-up demand, as couples

- [It just got easier to dine out with your pets in Korea](#) (2026-03-19 08:33)

South Korea has eased several requirements for pet-friendly restaurants to address confusion and operational burdens that have persisted since a new system allowing pets inside dining establishments took effect earlier this month. The Ministry of Food and Drug Safety announced Thursday that it had prepared updated operating guidelines for restaurants that allow pets, and one of the key revisions expands how restaurants can verify a pet’s vaccination status. Until now, proof had to be provided th

- [Korean composer Lee Hanurij named 1 of 3 finalists for Concours de Geneve](#) (2026-03-19 08:31)

Lee Hanurij, a 20-year-old composer from South Korea, has been named as one of the three finalists for the Concours de Geneve Composition Competition 2026. A student at the Korea National University of Arts, Lee has built an early international profile with performances at the Wittener Tage fur neue Kammermusik, the Verbier Festival, the Daegu International Contemporary Music Festival and Initiative Neue Musik OWL. Lee was selected alongside Chen Sing-Yat, 24, of Hong Kong, and Rafael Marino Arc

- [AMD, Seoul agree to expand AI partnership beyond Seoul into regional industries](#) (2026-03-19 08:31)

South Korea’s presidential office and Advanced Micro Devices Chief Executive Lisa Su agreed to expand cooperation to bring artificial intelligence into regional industries, as Seoul steps up efforts to spread the gains of its AI drive beyond the capital. Im Moon-young, vice chair of the Presidential Council on National Artificial Intelligence Strategy, and Ha Jung-woo, senior presidential secretary for AI and future planning, met Su in Seoul on Thursday, according to the

presidential office. The

- [The Boyz notify contract termination with One Hundred over unpaid settlements](#) (2026-03-19 08:31)

The Boyz have notified their agency One Hundred of the termination of their exclusive contracts, citing unpaid settlement payments, the group's legal representative said Thursday. According to law firm Yulchon, all members except New informed the agency last month that they would terminate their contracts due to "material breaches of the exclusive agreement and an irreparable breakdown of trust." "The artists notified One Hundred Label of the termination of their exclusive contracts on Feb. 10,

- [Children's headphones sold on Temu, Amazon found to exceed safety limits](#) (2026-03-19 08:20)

Several children's headphones sold on major overseas shopping platforms were found to contain hazardous chemical levels that far exceed South Korea's safety limits, according to an investigation by the Korea Consumer Agency. The agency examined 20 children's headphone models sold on AliExpress, Temu and Amazon, and found that seven products, or 35 percent of those tested, contained phthalate plasticizers at levels up to 200 times higher than the domestic safety standard of 0.1 percent. Four of t

- [Outrage grows as mother claims daughter's estate despite 40-year absence](#) (2026-03-19 08:13)

The story of a woman facing a challenge to her inheritance of her sister's estate by a mother who abandoned them decades ago has triggered widespread outrage. The case, first shared on a radio counseling program Wednesday, has drawn strong public sympathy. Many viewers compared it to the case of K-pop singer Goo Hara, whose death in 2019 prompted legal reform aimed at restricting the inheritance rights of parents who had neglected or abused their children. However, legal experts say that the wom

- [Beloved Korean travel series turns 10, invites 'KPop Demon Hunters' director](#) (2026-03-19 08:04)

MBC's long-running travel series "Welcome, First Time in Korea?" is entering its 10th year of broadcast with a refreshed format and a buzzy new cast lineup that includes the Oscar-winning "KPop Demon Hunters" director, Chris Appelhans. The show, which returns Thursday after a six-month hiatus, has built a devoted following over the years, generating viral moments as foreign national visitors navigate Korean culture and travel the country. Originally structured around a host living in Korea who w

- [Leniency granted to father who killed disabled daughter after 34 years of care](#) (2026-03-19 08:03)

A father who killed his mentally disabled adult daughter was convicted of murder and sentenced to three years in prison, a Daegu court said Thursday, citing mitigating circumstances including the decades of care he provided for the victim. The defendant, in his 70s, suffocated his 40-year-old daughter at his former wife's home in Daegu, about 240 kilometers southeast of Seoul, at around 9 a.m. on Oct. 23. According to the court, he attempted to quiet her down as she was making loud noises, sayin

- [Cambodia's first Korean language teachers ready for class](#) (2026-03-19 07:57)

The Ministry of Education on Thursday held a graduation ceremony for the first batch of Cambodian Korean language teachers at the Royal University of Phnom Penh, with 11 graduates set to begin teaching at local schools from the 2026-27 academic year. The program selected students who majored in Korean or scored at least Level 4 on the Test of Proficiency in Korean, aiming to train them as Korean language teachers. Participants completed 105 hours of coursework across 11 subjects since September

- [Posco Future M partners with US cleantech startup Molten for alternative graphite materials](#) (2026-03-19 07:55)

Posco Future M said Thursday it has partnered with US cleantech startup Molten Industries to develop natural graphite anode materials using raw materials not derived from mining. The two companies signed a memorandum of understanding on March 11 in Seoul, attended by Hong Young-jun, head of Posco Future M's Technology Research Laboratory, as well as Molten Industries CEO Kevin Bush and CTO Caleb Boyd. Under the agreement, Posco Future M will combine its anode material technologies with Molten's

- [Samsung Display CEO named SID fellow](#) (2026-03-19 07:55)

Samsung Display said Thursday that CEO Yi Chung has been named a fellow of the Society for Information Display, widely regarded as the world's leading display industry organization. The fellowship is awarded annually to members with outstanding research and technical contributions. Selection is based on peer recommendations and committee review, with appointments limited to less than 0.1 percent of total membership. SID cited Yi's leadership in OLED innovation, including the development of the w

- [BOK policymaker flags risks at AmCham forum](#) (2026-03-19 07:53)

The American Chamber of Commerce in Korea hosted Lee Soo-hyung, a member of the Monetary Policy Board at the Bank of Korea, for a closed-door executive roundtable on Thursday to discuss Korea's monetary policy direction and the domestic and global economic outlook. Lee presented a comprehensive assessment of current macroeconomic conditions, projecting global growth at 3.1 percent in 2026. For Korea, she forecast gross domestic product growth of 2.0 percent, supported by robust semiconductor exp

- [\[Key Points\] US-Japan summit to test Seoul](#) (2026-03-19 07:45)

Trump-Japan summit: President Donald Trump is expected to press Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi to support maritime security operations in the Strait of Hormuz during their Washington meeting. Pressure on Seoul: Analysts say even limited Japanese participation could increase US pressure on South Korea to contribute naval support. Strategic dilemma: Seoul faces a balancing act between alliance expectations, domestic political risks and ongoing security negotiations with Washington. Hormuz tensions:

- [\[Key Points\] Allies wrap up annual Freedom Shield exercise](#) (2026-03-19 06:52)

Freedom Shield wraps: South Korea and the US concluded their annual 11-day Freedom Shield exercise, with officials calling it progress toward wartime operational control transfer. OPCON transition push: The allies are in the Full Operational Capability phase, aiming to complete verification within the year as Seoul targets transfer by 2030. Reduced field drills: The number of field training exercises dropped to 22 from last year's 51, as Seoul dispersed drills to ease tensions with North Korea.

- [Samsung SDS taps W6.4tr cash for AI, cloud push](#) (2026-03-19 06:46)

Samsung SDS said Wednesday it will prioritize growth investments using its roughly 6.4 trillion won (\$4.7 billion) in cash reserves, betting on artificial intelligence and cloud computing to drive its next phase of expansion. At its annual shareholders meeting, CEO Lee Jun-hee outlined a capital allocation plan focused on balancing growth investments with shareholder returns.

“We view 2026 as a pivotal year that will determine leadership in AI and cloud,” Lee said.

“Our priority this year is gro

- [아미는 지금 'BTS 성지 순례' 중](#) (2026-03-19 06:45)

[코리아헤럴드=박태미 기자] “믿기지 않아요. 제가 여기 있다는 게.” 우즈베키스탄에서 온 소디크 조노바 샤크리조다는 서울 광화문광장 한복판에서 BTS 공식 응원봉인 ‘아미밤’을 손에 들고, 수년간 화면으로만 보던 도시를 바라보며 잠시 멈춰 섰다. 며칠 후, 바로 이 장소에서 BTS가 공연을 펼칠 예정이다. 여러 차례 비자 발급을 시도한 끝에 BTS 컴백을 며칠 앞두고 서울에 도착한 샤크리조다는 “그들이 저를 치유했어요”라며, BTS와 같은 시간과 공간에 있다는 사실이 깊은 의미로 다가온다고 말했다. 샤크리조다는 최근 서울을 찾은 수많은 해외 팬들 중 한 명이다. BTS 컴백을 앞두고 서울 곳곳은 팬들, 이른바 ‘아미’들의 비공식 집결지로 변하고 있다. 수년간 화면 속에서만 BTS를 접해온 팬들에게 지금의 서울은 꿈꾸던 세계가 현실이 된 듯한 공간이다. 성수, 홍대, 명동 등지에서는 빌딩 외벽을 가득 채운 광고판이 BTS 멤버들의 얼굴로 거리를 수놓고 있다. 스웨덴 출신으로 현재 한국

- [What's next for BTS after March 21?](#) (2026-03-19 06:43)

BTS is set to make its long-awaited return to the stage at Gwanghwamun Square on Saturday, but attention is already shifting to what comes next for the global supergroup. The concert — marking the group's first full-group stage in three years — is expected to be followed by a series of high-profile international activities, signaling the start of BTS' next chapter. First, the septet will head to New York, where they are scheduled to take part in a special fan event

hosted in collaboration with S

- [Korean economy resilient but faces rising risks: FKCCI](#) (2026-03-19 06:32)

South Korea's export-driven economy remains resilient but faces rising risks from global trade tensions and geopolitical uncertainty this year, speakers said Thursday at an event hosted by the French-Korean Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The FKCCI held its Economic Forecast 2026, a high-level business luncheon focused on Korea's economic outlook, global macroeconomic trends, and the shifting trade and geopolitical landscape affecting companies operating in and with Korea. FKCCI Chairman David

- [GS Entec targets Japan's offshore wind market at Tokyo expo](#) (2026-03-19 06:24)

GS Entec, an energy equipment and engineering unit of GS Group, said Thursday it is participating in this week's 2026 World Smart Energy Week in Tokyo as it steps up efforts to expand its footprint in the global offshore wind market. The event, which kicked off Tuesday, is one of Asia's largest renewable energy exhibitions, bringing together around 1,600 companies from 67 countries. At the exhibition, GS Entec showcased installation footage from the Yeonggwang-Nakwal offshore wind project and pr

- [Judicial reform draws early concerns over court capacity, enforcement](#) (2026-03-19 06:23)

Over 100 constitutional appeals against court rulings had been filed as of Wednesday, within just a week of a reform measure taking effect that allows direct challenges to court judgments, raising concerns over potential abuse. A set of judicial reform laws was promulgated on March 12 that allow constitutional appeals against Supreme Court rulings, introduce penalties for judges who intentionally distort legal principles and expand the Supreme Court. The reforms mark the first major overhaul of

- [US-Japan summit to test Seoul as Trump presses allies for Hormuz role](#) (2026-03-19 06:13)

Click here for [Key points] US-Japan summit to test Seoul US President Donald Trump's summit with Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi is expected to sharpen a strategic dilemma for Seoul, as the US president ramps up pressure on allies to contribute to maritime security operations in the Strait of Hormuz. If Tokyo were to signal even limited participation following the Thursday meeting in Washington, analysts say the United States is likely to intensify calls for Seoul to follow suit — raisin

- [South Korea's top cultural institutions launch K-culture programs ahead of BTS comeback concert](#) (2026-03-19 06:13)

South Korea's Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism is launching a series of cultural programs across five major national institutions to coincide with BTS' comeback concert on March 21, aiming to deepen foreign visitors' engagement with Korean heritage. Starting March 20, the National Museum of Korea, the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, the National Folk Museum of Korea, the National Museum of Korean Contemporary History, and

the National Library of Korea will each offer progr

- [Samsung keeps digital signage crown for 17 years](#) (2026-03-19 06:10)

Samsung Electronics said Thursday it has maintained its No. 1 position in the global commercial display market for the 17th consecutive year, holding a 35.2 percent share with shipments of 2.5 million units. The company also unveiled next-generation products, including Spatial Signage and Samsung Color E-Paper, as it strengthens its commercial display lineup. Spatial Signage features proprietary three-dimensional plate technology that creates the illusion of added depth within a slim 52-millimet

- [Porsche rolls out 10 new models in Korea, eyes EV growth](#) (2026-03-19 06:07)

Porsche said Thursday it will launch more than 10 new models in South Korea this year, starting with the East Asia debut of the Cayenne Electric, as it steps up its push in the high-performance electric vehicle market. At a New Year press conference in Seoul, Porsche Korea CEO Mathias Busse said the lineup will include the Cayenne Electric, the Korea-exclusive Panamera Red Exclusive, as well as the new 911 Turbo S and Macan GTS. “Bringing the Cayenne Electric to Korea at an early stage is partic

- [Coupang CEO works the overnight delivery shift](#) (2026-03-19 05:59)

Coupang CEO Harold Rogers is working an overnight shift to prepare for early morning deliveries at one of the company’s logistics sites from Thursday to Friday, with the intention to assess working conditions in the demanding atmosphere. Rogers is to work alongside employees at a Coupang logistics center near Seongnam, Gyeonggi Province, handling packages for its Rocket Delivery system, which has been a key driver of its rapid growth in South Korea. He is to be accompanied by Democratic Party of

- [\[Photo News\] Lotte chief honors Olympic medalists](#) (2026-03-19 05:55)

From left: Lotte Group Chairman Shin Dong-bin poses with snowboarders Choi Ga-on, Yu Seung-eun and Kim Sang-kyum after the athletes received cash awards from Shin for winning medals at the 2026 Milan Cortina Winter Olympics in Italy last month. Choi, Yu and Kim received 100 million won (\$67,000), 35 million won and 70 million won for gold, bronze and silver medals, respectively. The awards were funded from Shin’s personal resources, reflecting his long-standing support for Korean winter sports.

- [Humanoid race may be won by the hand, not on foot](#) (2026-03-19 05:55)

Earlier this month, Seoul's COEX hosted an event whose name said it all: the China Humanoid Conference, "First Journey to Korea." Unitree, Fourier, Leju and Huawei presented humanoids already working in Chinese factories and retail stores. It felt less like an introduction than a declaration. The Korean engineers in the audience knew the scoreboard: China ships the vast majority of the world's humanoids, with over 140 companies in the race. On volume and speed, the contest was over. Not everyone

- [Scaled-back Freedom Shield drills still support OPCON transfer, allies say](#) (2026-03-19 05:52)

South Korea and the United States concluded their annual Freedom Shield exercise on Thursday, with officials saying the drills marked a meaningful step toward wartime operational control transfer, a goal Seoul aims to achieve during President Lee Jae Myung's term through 2030. The assessment comes amid concerns that reduced field training — part of Seoul's efforts to improve ties with North Korea — could weaken readiness, as Pyongyang has long denounced the drills as a rehearsal for an invasion.

- [Seoul braces for 260,000-strong BTS crowd with sweeping security plan](#) (2026-03-19 05:50)

Seoul is tightening security and crowd-control measures across central landmarks, as global fans descend on the capital for BTS' long-awaited comeback at Gwanghwamun Square this Saturday. The area surrounding the square has already transformed into full "BTS mode," with entry gates and steel barricades installed to regulate movement. Police estimate that as many as 260,000 people -- a crowd comparable to the 2002 FIFA World Cup celebrations -- could gather on the day of the performance. Authorit

- ['K-chicken belt': Korea's fowl play for tourism](#) (2026-03-19 05:49)

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs unveiled plans Thursday to build a nationwide culinary tourism network centered on Korean chicken dishes, seeking to turn the country's growing global appeal into a draw for gastronomic tourism. The initiative, dubbed the "K-chicken belt," seeks to embrace the full breadth of Korean food culture by linking regional chicken specialties with local history, culture and landmarks to draw foreign visitors outside Seoul and boost regional economies.

- [Bang Si-hyuk reigns over K-pop stock wealth](#) (2026-03-19 05:47)

Hybe Chairman Bang Si-hyuk dominated South Korea's culture and content sector in shareholder wealth, holding shares worth 4.8 trillion won (\$3.2 billion) as of Tuesday, according to a report from the Korea CXO Institute released Thursday. Bang, widely credited with building BTS, owns 13.15 million shares in Hybe — far outpacing other major figures in the industry. A total of 27 individual shareholders in the sector held stakes worth more than 10 billion won each, with their combined holdings ris

- [SK Telecom, Ericsson partner for 6G era](#) (2026-03-19 05:32)

SK Telecom said Thursday it has signed a memorandum of understanding with Sweden's Ericsson to expand cooperation on artificial intelligence-powered mobile network technologies. The partnership will focus on joint research and testing across key areas, including AI-based radio access networks, or AI-RAN, 5G evolution, open and autonomous networks, security and 6G standardization. In AI-RAN, the companies aim to develop networks that can learn and predict channel conditions in real time to optimi

- [\[Legal Updates in Korea\] Restrictions on student smartphone use in schools](#) (2026-03-19 05:29)

• Updated Law: Elementary and Secondary Education Act What it does: Limits students' use of smartphones and other smart devices in schools Took effect: March 1 South Korea has introduced new rules restricting students' use of smartphones and other smart devices in schools, amid growing concerns about their impact on learning and emotional well-being. Under the revised law, students are generally not allowed to use smart devices during class. However, exceptions may be made for students with disa

- [Boston Dynamics valuation jumps 20-fold on humanoid hype](#) (2026-03-19 05:25)

Boston Dynamics, the robotics arm of Hyundai Motor Group, has seen its estimated valuation increase over twentyfold in roughly five years to around 30 trillion won (\$20 billion), reflecting growing investor enthusiasm for humanoid robotics and automation. According to a business report filed by Hyundai Glovis on Wednesday, the group's logistics unit invested an additional 89.1 billion won in Boston Dynamics last year. As a result, Hyundai Glovis' stake in the Boston-based robotics company increa

- [Mercedes-Benz Korea names ex-Nordics chief as CEO](#) (2026-03-19 05:24)

Mercedes-Benz Korea said Thursday it has named Shirin Emeera as its new chief executive officer, while current CEO Mathias Vaitl will take on a senior global role at the German automaker. Emeera, who will take over as the head of the Korean unit effective July 1, brings more than 20 years of experience at the German luxury carmaker and currently serves as head of Dealer Model Market Management and Global Network Development at Mercedes-Benz AG. Before her current position, Emeera also served as

- [Korean banks' Middle East exposure hits W4.3tr](#) (2026-03-19 05:24)

South Korean authorities said the war in the Middle East has so far had a limited impact on the country's financial industry, while warning that a prolonged crisis could "weigh significantly" on both the real economy and financial markets. The Financial Services Commission held a meeting Thursday with associations and institutions across major financial sectors to assess the fallout from the latest Middle East tensions, as higher oil prices, rising foreign-exchange volatility and climbing bond y

- [Upstage, AMD link up on Korea AI push](#) (2026-03-19 05:22)

South Korean AI startup Upstage said Thursday it has discussed collaboration with US chipmaker Advanced Micro Devices to develop next-generation AI models and support Korea's domestic artificial intelligence ecosystem. Upstage CEO Kim Sung-hoon met AMD CEO Lisa Su in Seoul earlier in the day to explore cooperation opportunities. AMD previously invested in Upstage during its Series B funding round. Under the partnership, Upstage will use AMD's graphics processing units over the next year to advan

- [Lee calls for labor flexibility, stronger safety net for workers](#) (2026-03-19 05:13)

Distortions in South Korea's labor market could be addressed by increasing labor flexibility and social security, President Lee Jae Myung said Thursday. Lee delivered the remarks while attending a discussion at Cheong Wa Dae on Thursday, marking the inauguration of the Economic, Social and Labor Council under his administration. It was the first time in about seven years that a sitting president had attended the inauguration of the presidential advisory body, which brings together representative

- [Polish man given 13-year term in \\$3.6 million drug smuggling case](#) (2026-03-19 05:01)

South Korea's Supreme Court upheld a 13-year prison sentence for a Polish national convicted of smuggling more than 5.4 billion won (\$3.6 million) worth of illicit drugs into the country. The top court recently finalized the ruling against the 24-year-old defendant for violating the Act on the Aggravated Punishment of Specific Crimes. Prosecutors said the defendant conspired with a Germany-based drug distributor to import large quantities of psychotropic substances into Korea in April 2025. The

- [Incheon Airport gears up for surge of BTS fans this week](#) (2026-03-19 04:57)

South Korea is ramping up immigration operations at Incheon Airport, deploying extra staff and expanding passport control capacity ahead of a surge in overseas visitors expected for BTS' Saturday performance. Effective Wednesday, immigration officials began working extra hours, while non-immigration airport staff started assisting with immigration duties, according to the Ministry of Justice. More passport control zones are being operated than usual, and additional personnel have been deployed t

- [School staff caught with live bullets on campus](#) (2026-03-19 04:49)

Police are investigating a school official who was found in possession of live ammunition at a school in Ansan, Gyeonggi Province, the Ansan Sangnok Police Station said Wednesday. The man, in his 50s, was found with three rounds of ammunition after police were dispatched following a report. Authorities plan to investigate him on suspicion of violating the Act on the Safety Management of Guns, Swords, and Explosives. The ammunition, including live and blank rounds for a K2 rifle, was reportedly f

- [Cha Biotech cuts vaccine stake, bets on CGT, AI](#) (2026-03-19 04:44)

Cha Biotech said Thursday it will transfer 8.95 million shares in Cha Vaccine Institute, worth 23.8 billion won (\$15.8 million), to Solux, AriBio Investment Purpose No. 13 and other investors. Following the deal, Cha Biotech's stake in the Kosdaq-listed affiliate will fall to 1.34 million shares, or 4.99 percent, marking a strategic exit from management control while retaining a minority stake for future collaboration. The proceeds will be used to strengthen core growth areas, including cell and

- [Taiwan relabels 'South Korea' in tit-for-tat naming dispute](#) (2026-03-19 04:37)

Taiwan has changed South Korea's name in its immigration system from "Korea" to "South Korea," in a retaliatory move over Seoul labeling Taiwan as "China (Taiwan)," despite repeated requests for a revision. The change in how Korean nationals are labeled on Taiwan's alien resident certificates took effect March 1, according to a statement from Taiwan's Foreign Ministry. The move was described as a reciprocal measure after Seoul did not revise what Taiwan considers inappropriate labeling of the is

- [Woman injured after falling into gap at Seoul subway station](#) (2026-03-19 04:36)

An 80-year-old woman sustained injuries after falling into the gap between a subway train and the platform, renewing concerns about safety hazards posed by wide platform gaps. According to Seoul Metro, the accident occurred at 2:40 p.m. on March 9. The victim had been boarding a train at Gimpo International Airport Station on Subway Line No. 5 when she fell into the 15-centimeter gap between the train door and the platform. The woman was reportedly trapped from the waist down even moments before

- [What fine dust can do to your body](#) (2026-03-19 04:34)

Clear skies have returned after days of heavy pollution, but experts warn that the danger of fine dust lingers, often in ways not immediately visible. Fine dust remains one of the most persistent health threats during Korea's spring season, with growing evidence that its impact extends far beyond the lungs. According to medical experts, the health effects of airborne particles vary significantly depending on their size. Larger particles primarily irritate the eyes, nose and throat, but as partic

- [Korea, Central Asia highlight Nowruz festival heritage](#) (2026-03-19 04:08)

The Korea-Central Asia Secretariat and five Central Asian nations highlighted the cultural heritage of the Nowruz festival as a link between Korea and Central Asia on Wednesday. Nowruz means "New Day," symbolizing the rejuvenation of nature and the start of a new year. The festival is celebrated on the first day of spring, typically on March 21, coinciding with the astronomical vernal equinox. The festival is said to have a history spanning thousands of years in regions along the Silk Road, incl

- [GS Caltex makes carbon capture fun for kids](#) (2026-03-19 04:02)

GS Caltex said Thursday it has launched a carbon reduction education campaign, "CCU~S," aimed at introducing carbon capture technology to children through interactive learning. At the center of the campaign is a hands-on educational kit designed to explain carbon capture, utilization and storage in an accessible way. The kit uses a playful analogy, allowing children to simulate capturing carbon emissions and using them to help grow plants. Through the activity, participants can learn key concept

- [Booking hotels in Korea could get more transparent](#) (2026-03-19 03:50)

The South Korean government is moving to require accommodation businesses to post standardized price lists online, in a bid to curb arbitrary overpricing. The move comes as such practices are seen as undermining trust among international visitors, amid recent concerns over price gouging tied to BTS concerts scheduled in Seoul, Busan and Goyang through June. The Ministry of Health and Welfare said Thursday it is in the early stages of revising the Enforcement Rule of the Public Sanitation Management

- [In Ukraine, Sean Penn gifted Oscar made from train carriage hit by Russia](#) (2026-03-19 03:39)

KYIV, Ukraine (AFP) -- US actor Sean Penn, who skipped Sunday's Oscars ceremony to visit Ukraine, has been gifted a symbolic version of the famous statuette made from the damaged metal of a train carriage hit in a Russian strike. Penn, a staunch backer of Kyiv, scooped the best supporting actor award at the glitzy Hollywood ceremony for his role in dystopian dramedy "One Battle After Another" but chose to visit Ukraine instead of receiving the award in person. Penn is a vocal advocate for Ukrain

- ['BTS Pilgrimage': Fans walk in BTS' footsteps, share Seoul moments ahead of concert](#) (2026-03-19 03:38)

"It's incredible. I can't believe that I'm here." Sodikjonova Shakhrizoda paused in the middle of Gwanghwamun Square, her "Army Bomb," BTS' official light stick, in hand, taking in the city she had only seen through screens for years. In a few days, BTS will perform on the same ground she stands on. Shakhrizoda had made the trip from Uzbekistan after multiple attempts to secure a visa, arriving just days before the long-awaited BTS comeback. "They healed me," she said, adding that being here, in

- [Finding BTS when they needed them](#) (2026-03-19 03:30)

Among fans of BTS, known collectively as Army, there is a saying shared across the fandom: You find BTS when you need them. For British fan Maxine Wilson, the phrase feels literal. Wilson discovered the group in 2018 while struggling with severe depression and a rare form of epilepsy. After an argument with her father, she threw her phone against the wall in frustration. The screen lit up and YouTube had opened — and a BTS song began to play. "I just remember sitting on the floor crying and the

- [Seoul's red lights in honor of BTS draw political scrutiny](#) (2026-03-19 03:03)

With BTS' comeback concert just two days away, Seoul is set to glow in red, a decision that has sparked controversy as the group's signature color is purple and the chosen hue carries potential political overtones. The Seoul Metropolitan Government said it will illuminate 15 of the city's landmarks — including Sebitseom, Cheonggyecheon, Seoul Botanic Park, N Seoul Tower and Lotte World Tower — in red for two hours from 7:30 p.m. on both Friday, the day of BTS' album release, and Saturday, the da

- [US weighs more troops as Iran war enters possible new phase](#) (2026-03-19 03:00)

WASHINGTON (Reuters) -- US President Donald Trump's administration is considering deploying thousands of troops to reinforce its operation in the Middle East, as the US military prepares for possible next steps in its campaign against Iran, said a US official and three people familiar with the matter. The deployments could help provide Trump with additional options as he weighs expanding US operations, with the Iran war well into its third week. Those options include securing safe passage for o

- [Right-wing lawmaker claims warship dispatch to Hormuz Strait could be 'opportunity' for S. Korea](#) (2026-03-19 02:57)

Rep. Ahn Cheol-soo called for Korea to consider dispatching naval vessels to the Strait of Hormuz, calling the request — now apparently withdrawn — from US President Donald Trump a "turning point" for the South Korea-US alliance. The four-term People Power Party lawmaker said in a Facebook post Thursday that a decision to dispatch vessels to the war-affected strait could serve as leverage in advancing bilateral discussions related to South Korea's greater independence in civil use of nuclear pow

- [From 'Burn the Stage' to 'BTS: The Return,' BTS cinematic universe comes full circle](#) (2026-03-19 02:53)

Seoul hasn't seen anything quite like this in a long time. By the time BTS takes the stage at Gwanghwamun Square on Saturday, with the storied Gyeongbokgung as a backdrop and an estimated 260,000 fans packed into a stretch of road that normally handles morning commuters, the city will have already spent a week purple. Hotels in central Seoul are booking rooms at five times their usual rate. Subway trains will skip stations closest to the venue. The government has placed the surrounding districts

- [Seoul schools to adopt German-style apprenticeships for automotive students](#) (2026-03-19 02:53)

The Seoul Metropolitan Office of Education said Thursday that it will sign a memorandum of understanding on Friday with the Korean-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry to introduce Germany's dual-track vocational training model to vocational high schools in Seoul and foster talent in the mobility sector. Under the agreement, the Seoul education office will introduce Germany's "Ausbildung" system, a 36-month program combining company-based practical training with college-level classroom instru

- [Cesar Chavez accused of sexually abusing labor rights leader](#) (2026-03-19 02:50)

Labor rights activist Dolores Huerta revealed she was among women and girls who say they were sexually abused by Cesar Chavez, the widely admired Latino icon who brought to light the struggles of farmhands while leading the United Farm Workers union. The stunning allegations against Chavez, who died more than three decades ago, drew immediate calls to alter memorials honoring the man who in the 1960s helped secure better wages and working

conditions for farmworkers and has been long revered by m

- [Indian envoy pitches Korean investment in shipbuilding, startups](#) (2026-03-19 02:48)

South Korean shipbuilders and startups should seek to expand into India to capitalize on India's drive to become a global hub for manufacturing, technology and maritime industries, Indian Ambassador to South Korea Gourangalal Das said Wednesday. Speaking at the launch of the Korea-India Future Association, a nonprofit aimed at strengthening people-to-people, academic, and cultural exchanges, Das reiterated India's ambition to become a global manufacturing hub and expand maritime capacity. India

- [Cravity goes dark in 3rd Japan single](#) (2026-03-19 02:44)

Cravity released "Blast Out," its third single album in Japan, on Thursday, Starship Entertainment has announced. The newest endeavor consists of six tracks including the title track, which shines a light on darker, stronger shades on the nine bandmates. Also included are "Koiyanai? Don't You Love Me?," which was prereleased in January, and "Paradox," for which Serim, Allen and Woobin co-wrote lyrics. Woobin also participated in writing the melody. The nonet will have a mini showcase in Tokyo t

- [Researchers uncover iPhone spyware capable of penetrating millions of devices](#) (2026-03-19 02:41)

A powerful software exploit capable of penetrating and stealing information from potentially hundreds of millions of Apple iPhones was planted on dozens of websites in Ukraine in recent weeks, researchers said Wednesday. The discovery marks the second time this month that researchers have found spyware targeting iPhones and other Apple devices. Together, the two hacking tools show that the market for sophisticated malware capable of stealing data and cryptocurrency wallet information is flourish

- [Ex-counterterrorism official says he wasn't allowed to share concerns about Iran war with Trump](#) (2026-03-19 02:36)

WASHINGTON (AP) — Joe Kent, the former counterterrorism director who resigned this week over concerns about the Iran war, said Wednesday that he and other senior officials with doubts about the airstrikes "were not allowed" to share them with US President Donald Trump. Speaking on Tucker Carlson's show, Kent said the president relied on a small circle of advisers in making his decision to strike Iran. Kent claimed Israel forced Trump's hand despite what he said was no evidence that Iran posed an

- [Ruling party, govt. agree on support measures for SMEs hit by rising oil prices](#) (2026-03-19 02:27)

The ruling Democratic Party and the government agreed Thursday on the need to provide support for small and medium-sized enterprises and micro business owners to cushion them from rising oil prices due to an intensifying war in the Middle East. The meeting, attended by DP

lawmakers and Financial Services Commission officials, came as the government is preparing a supplementary budget to address the fallout from the ongoing conflict. The two sides also discussed plans to provide financial support

- [US assesses China not planning to invade Taiwan in 2027](#) (2026-03-19 02:21)

WASHINGTON (Reuters) -- China does not currently plan to invade Taiwan in 2027 and seeks to control the island without the use of force, the US intelligence community said Wednesday, striking a measured tone on one of the world's biggest potential flashpoints. The assessment in the intelligence agencies' annual report on global threats comes as Beijing has stepped up pressure on Taiwan with frequent military drills, even as US President Donald Trump has played down the risk of Chinese military

- [Venezuelan leader sacks defense minister](#) (2026-03-19 02:10)

CARACAS, Venezuela (AFP) -- Venezuelan interim President Delcy Rodriguez announced the sacking Wednesday of Defense Minister Vladimir Padrino Lopez, who headed the military for almost a decade under ousted leader Nicolas Maduro. Rodriguez, who took over after Maduro was deposed by US forces in January, thanked Lopez for his service but did not give any explanation for the change in the important post. Padrino said on Telegram it had been "the honor of my life" to serve in the post and to "protec

- [3 TWS members team up with 24kGoldn](#) (2026-03-19 02:10)

Dohoon, Jihoon and Kyungmin of TWS collaborated with US hip-hop musician 24kGoldn on "You Like It I Love It," which releases March 23, said the group's agency Pledis Entertainment Thursday. The upbeat pop tune is part of NHN Bugs' singles project, essential;studio, which uploaded a teaser of the artists vibing together on their phones to its YouTube channel, @essentialme. 24kGoldn is the artist behind "Mood," which topped Billboard's Hot 100 for eight weeks and claimed the No. 1 spot on the UK's

- [Runaway truck wheel hits bus driver on expressway; Driver brings bus to safety, dies](#) (2026-03-19 02:05)

A bus driver was killed Tuesday after a wheel detached from a cargo truck and crashed through the windshield of a bus on a highway in Pyeongtaek, Gyeonggi Province. The accident occurred at around 3:40 p.m. Tuesday near Poseung Junction on the Seohaean Expressway, when a wheel detached from a cargo truck traveling toward Seoul, according to local broadcaster SBS. Video footage showed the bus continuing forward with a shattered windshield, swerving slightly as its hazard lights flashed, then pull

- [US national debt surges past \\$39 trillion](#) (2026-03-19 02:05)

WASHINGTON (AP) — The national debt surpassed a record \$39 trillion Wednesday, a milestone that comes just weeks into the US-Israeli war in Iran. The unprecedented figure highlights competing administration priorities, from passing a massive tax law and boosting defense

spending and immigration enforcement to chipping away at the debt itself — the latter of which Donald Trump promised to do as both a candidate and as president. The Government Accountability Office outlines some of the impact of

- [\[Contribution\] International Day of Forests: Forests as key economic assets](#) (2026-03-19 02:04)

March 21 is the International Day of Forests, designated by the United Nations. This year's theme, "Forests and Economies," reminds us that forests are not only natural assets that sustain human life but also a vital foundation of economic activity. "Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree." This quote, attributed to Martin Luther, captures the essence of forests. Planting a tree is not about immediate results; it is an act of responsibility a

- [An AI-rendered Val Kilmer will posthumously appear in a new film](#) (2026-03-19 02:02)

NEW YORK (AP) -- A year after the actor's death, a generative AI version of Val Kilmer will co-star in an independent film, in one of the boldest uses yet of artificial intelligence in moviemaking. First Line Films announced Wednesday that Kilmer has posthumously joined the cast of a film titled "As Deep as the Grave." The producers said that, before his death, Kilmer had signed on to perform in the movie but was unable to because of his health. Kilmer's estate gave permission for his digital re

- [Strikes hit world's largest natural gas field in Iran, and Tehran retaliates with more attacks](#) (2026-03-19 02:00)

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Israel killed Iran's intelligence minister as it kept up its campaign against the Islamic Republic's top leadership and reportedly attacked an Iranian offshore natural gas field Wednesday, as the war escalated pressure on the region's economic lifeblood: energy. Iran condemned the strike on its massive South Pars natural gas field, with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian warning of "uncontrollable consequences" that "could engulf the entire world." Iran escala

- [Samyang fires up Seoul with Buldak 'House of Burn' pop-up](#) (2026-03-19 01:59)

Samyang Foods said Thursday it will open a Buldak-themed pop-up store, "House of Burn," at its headquarters in Myeong-dong from March 20 to 24, targeting foreign tourists visiting Seoul. Under the slogan "Make Life Spicy!," the space will offer an immersive brand experience centered on the company's flagship Buldak lineup. Visitors will be able to sample popular products including Buldak ramen, Carbo Buldak and MEP Taeng. The venue will also feature lounge and powder room facilities, along with

- [\[Graphic News\] BTS to brighten Gwanghwamun with comeback concert](#) (2026-03-18 23:00)

BTS is set to hold an outdoor concert on March 21 to celebrate the release of its fifth album "Arirang," transforming Gwanghwamun Square into festival grounds. The event, "BTS the

Comeback Live — Arirang,” will take place at Yukjo Yard, north of Gwanghwamun Square. These seven members will enter through the gates of Geunjeongmun, Heungnyemun and Gwanghwamun, passing the royal viewing platform Woldae, with the procession and concert streamed live to viewers in 190 territories via Netflix. The perfo

- [\[팟캐스트\] \(776\) 다가오는 BTS 컴백, 도시가 무대가 되다](#) (2026-03-18 22:00)

Seoul becomes citywide stage for BTS comeback 진행자: 최정윤, Tannith Kriel 기사 요약: 21일 광화문에서 열릴 예정된 BTS 컴백 무대를 앞두고 서울 전역에서 호텔과 주요 관광지, 상점들이 손님 맞이 준비에 나서고 있다. [1] As K-pop supergroup BTS prepares for its long-awaited comeback, Seoul is turning purple as hotels, landmarks and shops gear up for the group’s return. long-awaited: 오래 기다리던, 고대했던 gear up: 준비하다 [2] Across the capital, businesses are rolling out themed experiences tied to “BTS The City Arirang Seoul,” a citywide initiative developed with the gr

- [\[Wang Son-taek\] When miscalculation meets asymmetry](#) (2026-03-18 20:30)

The war with Iran that started with airstrikes from the United States and Israel is now in its third week. As expected, Iran has suffered heavy destruction under the overwhelming military power of the US and Israel. Iran’s stubborn resistance to the world’s hegemonic power also follows a pattern that many observers anticipated. Yet several aspects of the conflict have unfolded in unexpected ways. Most strikingly, Iran’s preparations to counter the US assault appear weaker than many had assumed.

- [\[Steve Lopez\] AI won’t take this job](#) (2026-03-18 20:30)

For quite a while now, someone has been living inside my computer, writing emails for me. I don’t recall signing up for this artificial intelligence feature, which is like having a word valet. It’s in my phone, too, which offers three serviceable but impersonal responses I can fire off to someone who has just sent me an email pitching a story or asking if I want to meet for coffee. “I’d like to do coffee,” was one of the suggested responses to a recent email. “Let me circle back soon about timin

- [Presidential office reviews defense industry co-growth plans](#) (2026-03-18 17:19)

The presidential office said Wednesday it held a meeting to review co-growth strategies in the defense industry, bringing together major defense firms and relevant government agencies. The meeting, chaired by Senior Presidential Secretary for Economic Growth Ha Joon-kyung, was attended by officials from Hanwha Aerospace, Hyundai Rotem, LIG Nex1, Hanwha Systems and Korea Aerospace Industries, along with representatives from the Ministry of SMEs and Startups and the Defense Acquisition Program Adm

- [Gov’t holds meeting on potential evacuation of S. Korean vessels in Hormuz Strait](#) (2026-03-18 12:57)

The foreign ministry said Wednesday it held an interagency meeting to assess the situation in the Strait of Hormuz and discuss ways to ensure the safety of South Korean ships and crew members operating in the area. In the meeting attended by officials from the oceans and defense ministries, the Coast Guard and diplomatic missions in the Middle East, participants discussed the current situation and support measures for a possible evacuation, the ministry said. Participants said they will continue

- [PM discusses AI hub cooperation with Swiss president](#) (2026-03-18 12:01)

Prime Minister Kim Min-seok, who is visiting Switzerland, held phone talks with Swiss President Guy Parmelin on Wednesday to discuss South Korea's bid to host a global hub for artificial intelligence (AI), Kim's office said. In the 20-minute conversation held upon the request of Parmelin, Kim explained that the AI hub is an international program aimed at advancing discussions on technology, rules and education in the field of AI, according to the prime minister's office. Kim said South Korea hop

- [S. Korea, China industry ministers hold first talks in 4 yrs, discuss supply chains](#) (2026-03-18 11:38)

Industry ministers of South Korea and China held talks Wednesday to discuss ways to stabilize supply chains amid heightening geopolitical uncertainties and promote bilateral cooperation in advanced industries, Seoul's industry ministry said. South Korean Industry Minister Kim Jung-kwan met with Chinese Minister of Industry and Information Technology Li Lecheng in Beijing to discuss ways to advance the two countries' industrial cooperation in advanced industries, such as semiconductors and batter

- [Top diplomats of S. Korea, Indonesia hold phone talks ahead of Prabowo's state visit](#) (2026-03-18 11:37)

Foreign Minister Cho Hyun held phone talks his Indonesian counterpart, Sugiono, on Wednesday, Cho's office said, as the two countries prepare for Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto's planned visit to South Korea later this month. The phone talks were held ahead of Prabowo's state visit to South Korea from March 31 to April 2 for summit talks with President Lee Jae Myung to discuss bilateral ties. Cho and Sugiono expressed hope that Prabowo's visit will serve as a milestone in further elevatin

- [Regulator seeks to ban 'split listing,' create 2-tier Kosdaq market](#) (2026-03-18 11:30)

South Korea's financial regulator said Wednesday that it will move to ban "split listing" by conglomerates here, which have long been blamed for hurting shareholder value, and create a two-tier system for the tech-laden Kosdaq market. The Financial Services Commission (FSC) said it would seek to ban duplicate listing, which occurs when a core business division is spun off and listed separately, a practice that has been frequently favored by large business groups here and cited as one of the majo

- [Kyobo Life nears banking entry with SBI Savings Bank deal](#) (2026-03-18 10:01)

Kyobo Life Insurance has moved closer to completing its acquisition of SBI Savings Bank after securing regulatory approval, strengthening its push to broaden its portfolio and advance into a comprehensive financial group. The company said Wednesday that it had received approval from the Financial Services Commission for a change in the bank's major shareholder. Kyobo now plans to complete its acquisition of a 50 percent plus one share stake in SBI Savings Bank, which will make it the lender's la

- [ECCK wary of labor legal fog despite bullish Korea outlook](#) (2026-03-18 08:50)

A single date — March 10th — may come to redefine the landscape of South Korea's labor relations, when the amended Trade Union and Labor Relations Adjustment Act, known as the "Yellow Envelope" bill, took effect. For the European Chamber of Commerce in Korea, the law's enactment confirmed what it had long feared: collective bargaining rights now extend beyond a direct employment contract, reordering how companies must think about their entire supply chain. "The uncertainty regarding the new law

- [Bill drafted to attract more skilled foreign workers](#) (2026-03-18 08:49)

A South Korean lawmaker drafted a bill Wednesday aimed at attracting more young immigrants to South Korea and placing South Korea's youth immigration-related functions under the jurisdiction of the Justice Ministry. The bill proposed by Democratic Party of Korea Rep. Lee Sung-yoon, or a revision to the Framework Act on Treatment of Foreigners Residing in the Republic of Korea, is designed to provide legal grounds for the Justice Ministry's move to introduce more visas for young talents from fore

- [Seoul's AI secretary to meet AMD CEO Lisa Su](#) (2026-03-18 08:23)

Ha Jung-woo, senior presidential secretary for artificial intelligence and future planning, will meet AMD CEO Lisa Su on Thursday, the presidential office said, to discuss cooperation with Korean chipmakers and broader AI ecosystem development. According to the presidential office, Ha will hold talks with Su, who is visiting South Korea to meet with local tech companies including Samsung Electronics and Naver. The two are expected to exchange views on cooperation with South Korean semiconductor

- [No Chinese bleached chicken feet entered Korea: ministry](#) (2026-03-18 08:07)

South Korea's food safety authorities said no imports of Chinese chicken feet linked to a recent hygiene controversy have entered the country, seeking to reassure consumers after reports of chemical bleaching at processing plants. The Ministry of Food and Drug Safety said Wednesday it had reviewed import records following media reports that some Chinese facilities used hydrogen peroxide to whiten chicken feet, a practice that has drawn scrutiny over food safety standards. The ministry found no e

- [AMD CEO deepens ties with Samsung, Naver in AI infrastructure push](#) (2026-03-18 08:00)

Samsung Electronics said Wednesday it has signed a memorandum of understanding with Advanced Micro Devices to expand strategic collaboration on next-generation artificial intelligence memory and computing technologies. The signing ceremony was held at Samsung's Pyeongtaek campus in Gyeonggi Province, as AMD CEO Lisa Su visited the site in the afternoon on the first day of her two-day trip to South Korea. This marks Su's first visit to Korea since taking office in 2014. "Samsung and AMD share a c

- [Seoul stocks jump over 5% on chip rally](#) (2026-03-18 07:30)

South Korean stocks surged more than 5 percent Wednesday, on a semiconductor rally boosted by the ongoing US chip giant Nvidia's global artificial intelligence conference. The Korean won strengthened against the US dollar. The benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index closed up 284.55 points, or 5.04 percent, to 5,925.03. The index came under strong buying pressure from foreigners and institutional investors, triggering the Korea Exchange, the country's main bourse operator, to issue a buy-sid

- [Samsung Electronics unions set for May strike](#) (2026-03-18 07:24)

Samsung Electronics' labor unions will launch a general strike in May, marking the first such action in nearly two years and only the second in the company's history. A joint labor coalition said Wednesday it had secured the legal right to strike after 93.1 percent of participating members backed a walkout. The coalition, known as the Joint Struggle Headquarters, brings together three unions: the Samsung Group United Union Samsung Electronics Co. Union, the National Samsung Electronics Union and

- [Lawmaker to stress need for mutual benefit on trip to US](#) (2026-03-18 06:54)

South Korea and US relations must be based on mutual trust as the allies navigate unexpected developments and challenges, a six-term lawmaker has stressed. Rep. Cho Kyoung-tae of the main opposition People Power Party says matters such as sending naval support to the Middle East, as requested by US President Donald Trump, require a careful approach. As deploying naval assets to the war-stricken region requires the National Assembly's consent, Cho said Trump's recent warship request points to Sou

- [Damien Hirst questions fragility of reason, desire at Seoul show](#) (2026-03-18 06:48)

No matter how far science advances or how firmly one clings to rationality, death remains beyond human control. British artist Damien Hirst, known for his direct and provocative works, confronts audiences with the inevitability of death in his Seoul exhibition "Damien Hirst Nothing Is True But Everything Is Possible." Raised by a single mother in a working-class household, Hirst developed a rebellious spirit early on, later emerging as a leading figure of the Young British Artists, whose rise be

- [Seoul raises oil alert level as Middle East tensions threaten supply](#) (2026-03-18 06:34)

South Korea on Wednesday raised its oil resource security alert, warning that the war in the Middle East is heightening risks to supply and pushing up global prices. Seoul has also decided to import a total of 24 million barrels of crude from the United Arab Emirates, equivalent to more than eight times the country's daily consumption, in a move aimed at stabilizing supply. Iran has responded to the US-Israeli attacks by blockading the Strait of Hormuz, a vital sea lane for oil and gas. The supp

- [National Pension caught in crossfire over Heeseung's departure from Enhypen](#) (2026-03-18 06:33)

South Korea's National Pension Service was drawn into unexpected K-pop backlash after fans, angered by Heeseung's departure from Enhypen earlier this month, flooded one of its call centers with complaints. The state pension operator — which runs one of the world's largest pension funds, with assets exceeding 1,600 trillion won — is a major shareholder in Hybe, the parent company of Enhypen's management agency, Belift Lab. Kim Sung-joo, the NPS chief executive, said in a Facebook post on Wednesda

- [Ourhome brings BTS' favorite meals to Incheon Airport](#) (2026-03-18 06:22)

Ourhome, F&B partner for “BTS The City Arirang Seoul,” will showcase a special BTS-themed menu at their branded spaces in Incheon airport. During the festival period, the company will feature a special BTS-themed menu at the “Culinary Square” food courts at Incheon Airport terminals 1 and 2. The menu is named “BTS The City Welcome & Farewell set,” consisting of spicy perilla oil buckwheat noodles and a tonkatsu set, both dishes favored by the members. Customers that purchase the special menu wil

- [K-pop fan activists make National Geographic's changemakers list](#) (2026-03-18 06:19)

The two co-founders of the climate advocacy group Kpop4planet have been named to National Geographic's 33 list for 2026, marking the first time a Korean has been included in the annual recognition of global changemakers. Kpop4planet said Wednesday that Kim Hye-kyeong and Nurul Sarifah were selected in the “Visionaries” category, which honors individuals driving breakthrough solutions to pressing global challenges. NG33, launched last year in honor of the 33 founding members of National Geographi

- [\[Photo News\] 'To the Greater Value,' HDC Group marks 50th anniversary](#) (2026-03-18 06:18)

HDC Group on Wednesday unveiled its new slogan, "To the Greater Value," as the Korean construction conglomerate marked its 50th anniversary. HDC Group Chairman Chung Mong-gyu noted the company's role in developing Korean cities and infrastructure, and underlined a new vision for the next 50 years that will incorporate energy and artificial intelligence. The conglomerate also announced its new corporate identity with the slogan, highlighting its commitment to offering greater value to customers.

- [Nol Universe targets tour, activity business as new growth pillar](#) (2026-03-18 06:14)

The way Koreans plan overseas trips has shifted, with less weight on where they go and more on what they will actually experience when they get there. Nol Universe, South Korea's leading travel booking platform, is making a direct play for that change, betting on its tour and activity business as the category for its next phase of growth. At a press briefing Wednesday, the company laid out its ambitions for its tour and activity business, referring to everything a traveler does once the flight l

- [Offshore Korea ETFs make waves with strong returns](#) (2026-03-18 06:14)

Amid a buoyant stock market, South Korea-focused exchange-traded funds listed on overseas bourses are attracting strong investor interest, channeling fresh capital into domestic equities. The iShares MSCI South Korea ETF, managed by BlackRock, is currently the top-performing fund among the firm's iShares ETF lineup this year. Listed on the NYSE Arca, the ETF has risen 33.68 percent year-to-date based on net asset value as of Monday, outperforming the iShares S&P GSCI Commodity-Indexed Trust, whi

- [Lee eyes market overhaul to turn 'Korea discount' into 'Korea premium'](#) (2026-03-18 06:08)

President Lee Jae Myung on Wednesday called for a sweeping overhaul of the country's capital markets, vowing to tackle chronic governance flaws and market distortions to turn the long-standing "Korea discount" into a "Korea premium." Lee underscored at the meeting at Cheong Wa Dae that "shifting to productive finance is a very important priority in national policy." A broad cross-section of market participants attended the meeting, including Kosdaq- and Konex-listed firms, startups, institutiona

- [Korea rolls out W1.5tr aid as Mideast turmoil hits supply chains](#) (2026-03-18 06:08)

South Korea will roll out a 1.5 trillion won (\$1 billion) financial support package for local companies affected by the escalating conflict in the Middle East, while temporarily designating naphtha as an economic security item amid rising supply chain risks. Finance Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Koo Yun-cheol announced the measures at an emergency economy ministers' meeting and a supply chain stabilization committee meeting in Seoul on Wednesday. "The situation in the Middle East has persis

- [What foreign voters should know about Korea's local elections](#) (2026-03-18 06:03)

Thousands of foreign residents in South Korea will be eligible to vote in the June 3 local elections, a little-known right that comes with strict legal responsibilities. Under the Public Official Election Act, foreign nationals aged 18 or older who have held permanent residency status, or an F-5 visa, for at least three years are granted voting rights in municipal elections. As of January 2025, more than 140,000 foreign residents had qualified to vote for local government heads and council membe

- [LG Energy Solution, GM JV to begin ESS battery production in US](#) (2026-03-18 06:01)

LG Energy Solution is set to begin production of energy storage system batteries at its joint venture facility with General Motors in Tennessee, securing a total of five ESS manufacturing sites in North America. The Ultium Cells joint venture announced Wednesday a \$70 million plan to produce lithium iron phosphate (LFP) battery cells for energy storage systems at its Spring Hill, Tennessee, plant. The project will convert part of the facility's existing EV battery lines, with mass production tar

- [BTS' 'Swim' teaser hints at Hollywood-facing strategy](#) (2026-03-18 06:01)

BTS unveiled a teaser for its new main track "Swim" at midnight on Wednesday, drawing attention not only to the song but also to the high-profile names attached to its music video. The 17-second teaser offers limited clues. Nearly five seconds are devoted to the Big Hit Music logo, leaving less than 10 seconds of actual footage, making it difficult to gauge the song's concept or sound. Music critics say the teaser suggests the music video may cater to the Western pop market rather than emphasize

- [Cultural heritage mobilizes as BTS return draws global attention](#) (2026-03-18 06:00)

Major cultural institutions are preparing for a surge of visitors ahead of the highly anticipated comeback concert of BTS, rolling out new lines of merchandise and adjusting exhibit layouts for the estimated 260,000 people expected to gather in central Seoul. The March 21 performance to take place in front of Gwanghwamun will mark the group's first full concert together in nearly four years, following the respective completion of mandatory military service by all seven members. In the lead-up, t

- [Resale prices for BTS light sticks soar ahead of reunion show](#) (2026-03-18 05:46)

Ahead of BTS' long-awaited comeback concert at Gwanghwamun Square this weekend, as well as their April concert in Goyang, demand for the group's official light sticks is surging across online resale platforms, triggering price increases and supply shortages. The Army Bomb is the official BTS light stick used by fans, known as Army, at the group's concerts or performances to show support. The latest Army Bomb is the band's fourth version and its first light stick to be released in six years. Ligh

- [Samsung SDI chief signals reshaping JV partnership with Stellantis, GM](#) (2026-03-18 05:38)

Samsung SDI CEO Choi Joo-sun signaled potential reshaping of US joint ventures with Stellantis and General Motors, as the company explores a shift from premium electric vehicle batteries toward more cost-competitive products and fast-growing energy storage systems. During a shareholders meeting in Gangnam, southern Seoul, Wednesday, Choi addressed speculation about Stellantis potentially withdrawing the joint venture, stating, "We are discussing various options." He added that amid slowing US de

- [Samsung shareholders meeting turns upbeat on stock rebound, bigger dividend](#)

(2026-03-18 05:36)

SUWON, Gyeonggi Province — Samsung Electronics' annual shareholders meeting opened to applause on Wednesday, a sharp break from last year's tense gathering as investors returned in high spirits after the stock's rebound, record annual revenue and a larger dividend plan. At the company's 57th annual general meeting at Suwon Convention Center, the contrast with 2025 was evident from the start. A year ago, the room was dominated by frustration over a share price stuck in the 50,000 won (\$33.65) range.

- [North Korea earns billions from Russia through troops, arms: report](#) (2026-03-18 05:36)

North Korea is suspected to have earned billions of dollars from Russia as compensation for troop deployments and arms exports supporting Moscow's war in Ukraine, according to a report released Wednesday. South Korea's Institute for National Security Strategy estimated that Pyongyang generated between \$7.67 billion and \$14.4 billion from such activities between August 2023 and December 2025. According to Seoul's intelligence authorities, the North has deployed troops to Russia since October 2024.

- [Is North Korea ready for a female leader?](#) (2026-03-18 05:35)

South Korea's spy agency said last month that North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's daughter, known as Ju-ae, appears to have entered the stage of being groomed as a successor — a striking assessment in a country long defined by rigid patriarchy and deeply entrenched gender inequality. The National Intelligence Service's latest evaluation marked a shift from its earlier description of Ju-ae as the "most likely successor," to suggesting that Pyongyang may now be actively moving toward formalizing her.

- [Calls mount for integration of Korea's airport operators](#) (2026-03-18 05:32)

The labor union of Korea Airport Corp. has highlighted the need to invigorate local airports to overcome regional imbalance as the country mulls integrating its three airport operators: KAC, Incheon International Airport Corp. and Gadeokdo New Airport Construction Authority.

"Under the government's policy to turn Incheon Airport into a hub, it had a chance to grow the fastest among all airports nationwide," said the KAC labor union on Wednesday in a statement. "This imbalanced policy has caused

- [Compose Coffee rolls out BTS-themed drinks](#) (2026-03-18 05:25)

Compose Coffee said it will unveil two collaboration drinks on Friday as part of "BTS The City Arirang Seoul," a project celebrating the comeback of K-pop group BTS. The promotion will run from March 20 to April 13 at select stores in Seoul and Goyang, where the project events will take place. The drinks — The City All-Day Oat and The City Ganache Chocolate Latte — will be introduced as limited-edition menu items. The City All-Day Oat is an oat latte made with decaffeinated coffee, while The City

- [SK Bioscience expands global health push, securing funding for RSV antibody](#) (2026-03-18 05:14)

SK Bioscience said Wednesday it has secured funding from the Research Investment for Global Health Technology Foundation to advance the clinical development of RSM01, a monoclonal antibody candidate aimed at preventing respiratory syncytial virus, strengthening its presence in the global infectious disease market. According to SK Bioscience, the RIGHT Foundation agreed to provide 4 billion won (\$2.7 million) — the largest grant available per project — to the Korean vaccine developer. With the fu

- [30% of teens struggle to read for more than 10 minutes: survey](#) (2026-03-18 04:57)

More than 3 in 10 high school students in South Korea reported having struggles to read long texts, according to a recent survey. In response to a question asking whether they often find it difficult to stay focused when reading long passages for more than 10 minutes, 22.2 percent said “yes,” while 8.4 percent said “very much so,” totaling 30.6 percent, according to a survey of over 3,500 high school students by Jinhaksa, an educational research institute. By contrast, 26 percent answered “no” a

- [Seven teens accused of filming teachers over 170 times](#) (2026-03-18 04:48)

Seven recent high school graduates are standing trial on 178 counts of illegally photographing female teachers while they were still students in 2024. According to local media reports, the Busan District Court is hearing the case under the Act on Special Cases Concerning the Punishment of Sexual Crimes, which criminalizes the unauthorized filming or distribution of images that can cause sexual humiliation. The defendants are accused of targeting eight female teachers between May and November 202

- [LG picks Trevor Paglen for 2026 Guggenheim art-tech award](#) (2026-03-18 04:39)

American artist Trevor Paglen has been named the 2026 recipient of the LG Guggenheim Award, organizers said on Wednesday, recognizing his work exploring the hidden infrastructures of artificial intelligence, surveillance and digital systems. Paglen, the fourth honoree under the LG Guggenheim Art and Technology Initiative, will receive an unrestricted \$100,000 prize as part of the five-year partnership between LG and the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum aimed at supporting artists working at the inte

- [Seoul wins ‘No. 1 priority’ for UAE oil, secures 18 million more barrels](#) (2026-03-18 04:33)

South Korea has secured an additional 18 million barrels of crude oil from the United Arab Emirates, whose leadership pledged to give Seoul top priority in oil supplies amid a global supply crunch triggered by the Middle East crisis. Kang Hoon-sik, the presidential chief of staff, made the announcement on Wednesday hours after returning from his trip to the UAE on Monday and Tuesday as President Lee Jae Myung’s special envoy for strategic economic cooperation. Kang underscored that “the UAE has

- [LS Electric to invest \\$168M to expand US switchgear capacity](#) (2026-03-18 04:24)

LS Electric said Wednesday it will invest \$168 million to expand its switchgear manufacturing capacity in the US, as the Korean power equipment maker seeks to bolster its footprint across the North American market. The company currently manages two switchgear sites in the US: MCM Engineering II in Utah and the Bastrop Campus in Texas. The fund will be used to triple production capacity in the Utah plant. The current Utah facility will be expanded sixfold from 13,233 square meters to 79,338 square

- [South Korea thanks Qatar and Saudi Arabia for evacuation assistance](#) (2026-03-18 04:07)

President Lee Jae Myung expressed gratitude to the leaders of Qatar and Saudi Arabia for their support in helping South Korean nationals safely evacuate from the Middle East amid recent regional tensions. On Tuesday, Lee sent letters of appreciation to Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, acknowledging their countries' assistance during the evacuations. In his message to the Qatari emir, Lee thanked Qatar for facilitating an emergency commercial

- [Seoul thanks Japan for assistance in evacuating nationals from Middle East](#) (2026-03-18 04:07)

South Korea has expressed appreciation to Japan for its assistance in evacuating Korean nationals from the Middle East amid ongoing regional instability. President Lee Jae Myung sent a letter on Tuesday to Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, thanking Tokyo for its support in safely transporting South Korean citizens. According to the presidential office on Wednesday, Japan helped evacuate 12 individuals from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on March 11 and four Korean nationals from Muscat, Oman, on March 10.

- [Vietnamese trio caught setting up ecstasy lab in Korea after learning how to make it via ChatGPT](#) (2026-03-18 03:32)

Three Vietnamese nationals have been arrested for allegedly smuggling drug precursors into South Korea via air cargo and manufacturing MDMA, commonly known as ecstasy, customs authorities said Wednesday. The suspects were referred to the Incheon District Prosecutors' Office in January on charges of violating the Narcotics Control Act, according to the Incheon Airport Regional Customs. They are accused of importing key precursor chemicals, including safrole and MDP-2-P glycidate, from Vietnam and

- [Weather on BTS' side for comeback show](#) (2026-03-18 03:26)

Near-perfect spring weather is in store for Saturday, the day of the K-pop megaband BTS' comeback concert in Seoul, with daytime highs reaching around 15 degrees Celsius, Korea's weather agency said Wednesday. However, those attending the outdoor concert should be mindful of the sharp temperature swings typical of springtime in Korea, and are advised to dress in layers and bring a jacket. According to the Korea Meteorological Administration,

temperatures are expected to drop to around 4 degrees

- [Ex-pilot who killed colleague targeted 3 more in revenge plot](#) (2026-03-18 03:13)

A former pilot arrested for killing an airline captain said he had planned to murder three more former colleagues, whom he blamed for losing his job two years ago, police said Wednesday. The suspect, surnamed Kim, was detained at around 8 p.m. on Tuesday in Ulsan, where the victim was found dead at his home earlier that morning, according to police. Kim admitted to the killing and told investigators he had spent three years planning to target four people. Saying the attacks were justified, he cl

- [Surge in propofol, ADHD drug prescriptions raises misuse concerns](#) (2026-03-18 03:13)

The use of high-risk prescription drugs such as propofol and ADHD medications is climbing rapidly in South Korea, raising concerns over misuse and side effects, government data showed Wednesday. A total of 21.1 million people were prescribed narcotic-class drugs in 2025, rising steadily from 18.84 million in 2021, according to the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety. The total number of prescriptions reached 1.96 billion last year, marking a 7.1 percent increase over the four-year period. Under the

- [Le Sserafim hits 20th week on Billboard Global Chart](#) (2026-03-18 02:49)

Le Sserafim extended its stay on the Billboard Global Excl. US chart to 20 weeks straight with “Spaghetti (Feat. J-Hope of BTS).” This marks the longest run on the tally for a single released in 2025 from a fourth-generation K-pop girl group, Source Music noted. The funk-pop tune peppered with J-Hope rapping is the lead single from the group’s first single album, which was released in October last year. It debuted on Billboard’s Hot 100 at No. 50 and on the UK’s Official Singles Top 100 at No. 4

- [45 million more face hunger threat from war: UN](#) (2026-03-18 02:44)

GENEVA (AFP) -- An extra 45 million people could face acute hunger if the Middle East war rages on beyond June, swelling the number worldwide to a "terrible" high, the UN warned Tuesday. The war, now in its third week, and its shockwaves on food and fuel costs could price families out of staple foods far beyond the region, the UN's World Food Program said. "The escalating humanitarian fallout from the conflict in the Middle East is growing more concerning by the day," warned WFP deputy executive

- [Doosan Enerbility wins first large steam turbine order in North America](#) (2026-03-18 02:39)

Doosan Enerbility said Wednesday it signed a contract with a US company to supply a 370-megawatt-class steam turbine and generator for power generation serving a data center. The deal marks the first time the company has secured a steam turbine supply contract in North America, with the client remaining undisclosed. Through the order, Doosan Enerbility demonstrated its capability to provide combined-cycle power solutions that integrate gas and steam turbines, the company said. Combined-cycle pow

- [Daewoo E&C; to launch Summit luxury apartments in key Seoul, Gwacheon projects](#) (2026-03-18 02:32)

Daewoo Engineering & Construction plans to introduce its high-end residential brand Summit in several major redevelopment projects in Seoul and Gwacheon this year, the company said Wednesday. The projects include Heukseok District 11, Singil District 10, Noryangjin District 5 and Gwacheon Jugong Complex 5, as the builder seeks to expand its presence in the premium housing segment. Since launching the Summit brand with Yongsan Prugio Summit in 2014, Daewoo E&C has positioned the brand as a landma

- [Taihan Cable eyes global expansion as it turns 85](#) (2026-03-18 02:22)

Taihan Cable & Solution Vice Chair Song Jong-min on Tuesday pledged to transform the company into a global leader in the power infrastructure market, as it marked its 85th anniversary. "Starting as the first cable company in 1941, we have built the foundation of Korea's power industry by connecting cities and factories, and seas and continents," said Song in a commemorative address, emphasizing the company's leading role in industrial development. This year also marks five years since Hoban Grou

- [4 former Zerobaseone bandmates to start anew: report](#) (2026-03-18 02:16)

Four former bandmates of Zerobaseone will begin a new chapter as a new group on May 26, according to a local media report Wednesday. YH Entertainment acknowledged that another debut is in the works for Zhang Hao, Ricky, Han Yujin and Kim Gyuvon, but did not provide any specifics. The aforementioned four debuted with the project group in 2023 as finalists of TV competition "Boyz Planet." The nine-member act extended its group activities by two months and held its final gigs, encore shows for the

- [Satellite images begin to show damage wrought by Iran war](#) (2026-03-18 02:13)

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Satellite images are beginning to be released giving a glimpse into the toll of the Iran war, with ships ablaze in an Iranian port and destroyed buildings at an American base. Information has so far been scarce about the damage being done across the Middle East, particularly when it's inside closed military facilities, since the start of the war on Feb. 28. The images come from Planet Labs PBC, a San Francisco-based firm used by media outlets, including The Ass

- [Lee thanks Japan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia for support in evacuating S. Koreans from Middle East](#) (2026-03-18 02:11)

President Lee Jae Myung has sent letters to the leaders of Japan, Qatar and Saudi Arabia to express his gratitude for their cooperation in evacuating South Korean nationals from the Middle East, Cheong Wa Dae said Wednesday, with the US-Israel war with Iran destabilizing the region. In a letter to Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi the previous day, Lee expressed his appreciation for Japan's assistance in evacuating 16 South Koreans and their family

members of other nationalities to Tokyo on

- [US Attorney General Pam Bondi subpoenaed to answer questions from Congress about the Epstein files](#) (2026-03-18 02:08)

WASHINGTON (AP) -- US Attorney General Pam Bondi was subpoenaed Tuesday to answer questions from Congress about the Justice Department's sex trafficking investigation of Jeffrey Epstein and the agency's handling of millions of files related to the disgraced financier. Bondi was ordered to appear for a deposition on April 14 by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform after a vote earlier this month that was supported by five Republicans. The Justice Department's failure to fend off the s

- [Global airlines hike fares, cut routes as fuel costs balloon](#) (2026-03-18 01:58)

Global airlines sounded the alarm Tuesday over soaring jet fuel prices triggered by the US-Israeli war against Iran, warning of hundreds of millions of extra costs, higher fares and cuts to some routes. Delta Air Lines Chief Executive Ed Bastian said the dramatic run-up in jet fuel prices had increased the airline's costs by as much as \$400 million in March alone. The industry is moving quickly to pass on higher expenses through fare hikes, he told a JPMorgan industrials conference. American Ai

- [Enhypen logs 8th consecutive week on Billboard](#) (2026-03-18 01:56)

Enhypen is showing strong staying power on Billboard charts in the US, continuing upward momentum weeks after the last release. According to the latest chart dated March 21, the group's seventh EP, "The Sin : Vanish," jumped 74 spots to No. 61 on the Billboard 200. Since debuting at No. 2 on the Jan. 17 chart, the album has remained on the ranking for eight consecutive weeks. The release also performed well across other album charts. It reclaimed the top spot on Billboard's world albums chart, a

- [Stray Kids to drop single on 8th debut anniversary](#) (2026-03-18 01:51)

Stray Kids will release a digital single on March 25 in celebration of its eighth debut anniversary, label JYP Entertainment announced Wednesday. The cover image for the single "Star, Light (Stay)" features the compass motif used for the group's official light sticks. Each member contributed to the artwork by drawing their own star. Stay is the name of their official fandom community. The group is likely to perform the single at its upcoming fan meeting in Incheon. Under the title, "Stay in Our

- [Rome's Colosseum gets a fresh look that recreates the footprints of long-gone columns](#) (2026-03-18 01:48)

ROME (AP) -- The Colosseum has a bright new look following a restoration using the same travertine marble of ancient Rome to recreate parts of columns from 2,000 years ago. Thousands of Romans once flocked to this arena to watch gladiators battle each other and wild animals. The structure still captures the public's imagination; it is Italy's most popular tourist

destination, with 9 million visitors in 2025 alone. The project focused on a semicircular piazza outside the arena, where Roman specta

- [Zelenskyy and Starmer urge continuing support for Ukraine against Russia as Iran war steals focus](#) (2026-03-18 01:47)

LONDON (AP) — Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called Russia and Iran “brothers in hatred” Tuesday as he sought support from UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer at a time when the Iran war has robbed momentum from US-brokered talks to end Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. Zelenskyy urged Ukraine’s allies not to forget about his country, and suggested the US and others should make use of Ukraine’s anti-drone technology during a Middle East war that has also revived Russia’s ailing economy through i

- [Iran rejects deescalation offers](#) (2026-03-18 01:39)

Israel said Tuesday it had killed Iran’s security chief, the most senior figure targeted since the war’s first day, while a senior Iranian official said the new supreme leader had rejected deescalation offers conveyed by intermediary countries. Iran did not immediately comment on Israel’s announcement it had killed Ali Larijani, widely viewed as one of Iran’s most powerful figures and a confidant of slain Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and his son and successor, Mojtaba. In a sign of Ira

- [Trump says NATO’s refusal to help on Iran is “very foolish mistake”](#) (2026-03-18 01:37)

WASHINGTON (Reuters) -- US President Donald Trump on Tuesday said the US had been informed by most of its NATO allies that they did not want to get involved with the country’s military operation in Iran, a move he described as a “very foolish mistake.” But Trump gave no indication that he plans to punish NATO allies for their stances, as he took questions from reporters in the Oval Office during the St. Patrick’s Day visit of Irish Prime Minister Micheal Martin. Trump said NATO countries were

- [Top US security official quits, says Iran did not pose immediate threat](#) (2026-03-18 01:26)

WASHINGTON (Reuters) -- A top security official in US President Donald Trump’s administration resigned over the war in Iran on Tuesday, saying the country had posed no imminent threat to the US. Joe Kent, who headed the National Counterterrorism Center, is the first senior official in Trump’s administration to resign over the conflict, now in its third week. “I cannot in good conscience support the ongoing war in Iran. Iran posed no imminent threat to our nation, and it is clear that we starte

- [Alpha Drive One to return in May: report](#) (2026-03-18 01:22)

Alpha Drive One is preparing for a May return, local media reported Wednesday. Agency WakeOne Entertainment confirmed that the group is preparing a new album, but said the exact timeline is yet to be finalized. The rookie boy band was formed through an audition show and debuted in January with “Euphoria.” The EP sold more than 1.44 million copies in the first

week, the second most for a debut album from a group, and the fourth most for a debut album overall, in K-pop history. Last week, the grou

- [\[Graphic News\] Majority of Korean companies plan to hire AI talent](#) (2026-03-18 01:00)

Majority of Korean companies plan to hire AI talent 대다수 한국 기업 AI 인재 채용 계획해 Nearly 70 percent of South Korean companies plan to recruit artificial intelligence personnel this year, but many are struggling to find candidates who can contribute immediately, according to a recent survey by developer growth platform Grepp. 개발자 성장 플랫폼 그렙의 최근 설문조사에 따르면, 한국 기업의 70% 가까이가 올해 AI 인력을 채용할 계획이 있으나, 즉시 투입 가능한 인재를 찾는 것에 어려움을 겪고 있다고 한다. About 68.5 percent of respondents said they intend to hire AI staff, citing

- [Seven-ton meteor that fell from the Cleveland sky could be seen several states away](#) (2026-03-18 00:57)

CLEVELAND, Ohio (AP) -- A 7-ton meteor that sped across the Cleveland sky at 72,420 kph on Tuesday before breaking apart in a thunderous boom startled residents who feared an explosion. People several states away reported seeing the bright fireball even though it was 9 a.m. The American Meteor Society said it received reports from Wisconsin to Maryland. NASA later confirmed that it was a meteor nearly 1.83 meters in diameter. "This one really does look like it's a fireball, which means it's a me

- [Seoul shares open sharply higher on tech boost](#) (2026-03-18 00:43)

South Korean shares kicked off nearly 3 percent higher Wednesday, driven by sharp gains in blue chip tech shares, despite continuing uncertainties in the Middle East. The benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index jumped 162.04 points, or 2.87 percent, to 5,802.52 in the first 15 minutes of trading. Overnight, major US indexes closed higher for the second straight session despite a rebound in global oil prices. The Dow Jones Industrial Average edged up 0.1 percent, while the tech-heavy Nasdaq c

- [Oscar-winning 'KPop Demon Hunters' soundtrack climbs Billboard charts](#) (2026-03-18 00:25)

Netflix's animation sensation "KPop Demon Hunters," which won two Oscars earlier this week, saw its original soundtrack climb on both the main singles and albums charts of the US Billboard, the latest charts showed Wednesday. "Golden" from the soundtrack rose one place to No. 7 on the Billboard Hot 100, logging its 38th consecutive week on the chart. Another hit song from the soundtrack, "How It's Done," held steady at No. 86. The film's soundtrack album climbed two spots to No. 11 on the Billbo

- [Lee to preside over meeting on reform plans of capital markets](#) (2026-03-18 00:14)

President Lee Jae Myung is set to preside over a meeting Wednesday with investors and financial authorities to review ways to reform and stabilize the country's capital markets,

officials said. The meeting will be attended by Financial Services Commission Chairman Lee Eog-won and Lee Chan-jin, governor of the Financial Supervisory Service, as well as investors and representatives of companies listed on the Kosdaq and Konex index. Lee is also expected to review response measures to heightened mar

- [S. Korea to raise terror alert ahead of BTS comeback](#) (2026-03-17 23:33)

The government announced Wednesday it will raise its terror alert near the venue for boy band BTS' concert marking their comeback in a preemptive safety measure. Effective for three days, from Thursday early morning at 12 a.m. until Saturday at midnight, South Korea will raise the terror alert level in Jongno-gu and Jung-gu of Seoul from the lowest "attention" to the level of "caution," the second-lowest in the four-tier system. With the measure, the level of security and patrol in event venues

- [\[Graphic News\] Majority of Korean companies plan to hire AI talent](#) (2026-03-17 23:00)

Nearly 70 percent of South Korean companies plan to recruit artificial intelligence personnel this year, but many are struggling to find candidates who can contribute immediately, according to a recent survey by developer growth platform Grepp. About 68.5 percent of respondents said they intend to hire AI staff, citing AI-driven upgrades to existing businesses (38 percent) and development of new revenue models (36.4 percent) as primary motivations. Companies are seeking both technical specialist

- [\[Kim Seong-kon\] Is AI translation trustworthy? Not quite](#) (2026-03-17 20:30)

Today, we are witnessing the advent of a new era and can foresee a radically different future due to the ubiquity of AI. Elon Musk has already predicted that, within 10 to 20 years, employment will become unnecessary and thus optional because AI will perform nearly all tasks, except, probably, for plumbing. If so, AI will rapidly replace humans in many areas. Indeed, robots have been with us for some time. When you click on a website these days, you frequently need to verify that you are human.

- [\[Helena Oh\] 1 million TPS: The internet of money for the AI era](#) (2026-03-17 20:30)

Stablecoins can no longer be explained solely in the language of speculative assets. What matters now is not price, but infrastructure. Stripe, a global provider of online payments and financial software that has become one of the core payment networks powering e-commerce, noted in its 2025 annual letter that stablecoin payments are rapidly emerging as a practical means of settlement. According to Stripe, stablecoin payment volume nearly doubled last year to about \$400 billion, with roughly 60 p

- [\[Brahma Chellaney\] US shows China how to seize Taiwan](#) (2026-03-17 20:30)

Since returning to office last year, US President Donald Trump has ordered military strikes from the Caribbean and eastern Pacific to Africa and the Middle East, targeting alleged drug-smuggling boats and suspected terrorist groups. He has attacked Venezuela and

kidnapped its leader, Nicolas Maduro. And he has joined Israel in a large-scale assault on Iran that amounts to a major escalation from last year's strikes, which supposedly "obliterated" the country's nuclear facilities. Meanwhile, he i

- [Samsung C&T; signs \\$3b green ammonia supply deal with Reliance of India](#) (2026-03-17 12:13)

Samsung C&T, the construction and trading arm of Samsung Group, has secured a \$3 billion deal from Reliance Industries of India to purchase green ammonia, according to the companies Tuesday. Under the supply and purchase agreement, Samsung C&T's trading and investment division will receive green ammonia from Reliance Industries for about 15 years starting in October 2028 and supply it to its customers. The buyers were not disclosed due to confidentiality agreements. A Samsung C&T official said t

- [Gov't discusses ways to expand cybersecurity cooperation with NATO members](#) (2026-03-17 12:09)

The foreign ministry said Tuesday it has discussed ways to step up cybersecurity cooperation with officials of North Atlantic Treaty Organization member states and Indo-Pacific partners. Youn Jong-kwon, Seoul's ambassador for international cybersecurity affairs, discussed the issue during the Cyber Champions Summit held in the Czech Republic on Sunday to Monday (local time), the ministry said in a press release. On the sidelines of the event, Youn attended a session jointly held by South Korea, t

- [SK hynix's cashable assets more than double in 2025 on HBM boom](#) (2026-03-17 12:05)

The combined amount of cashable assets of SK hynix more than doubled in 2025 from a year earlier on the back of robust earnings led by high bandwidth memory products, a report showed Tuesday. SK hynix held 34.9 trillion won (\$23.4 billion) worth of cashable assets in 2025, rising sharply from 14.1 trillion won a year earlier, the company's regulatory filing showed. The company's debt, on the other hand, came to 22.2 trillion won in 2025, down 435.8 billion won from the previous year, indicating

- [Korean Air extends Dubai flight suspension until April 19 over Middle East tensions](#) (2026-03-17 11:34)

Korean Air Co. said Tuesday it will extend the suspension of its Incheon-Dubai flights through April 19 due to ongoing military conflict in the Middle East. Its KE951 and KE952 flights between South Korea's Incheon and the United Arab Emirates' Dubai have been suspended since Feb. 28, when the airline brought back KE951 and canceled KE952 following US and Israeli air strikes on Iran. The suspension of the Incheon-Dubai route had originally been scheduled to be lifted on March 28, but the company

- [Lee orders review of vehicle curbs as oil prices surge amid Middle East tensions](#) (2026-03-17 09:06)

The government is reviewing restricting the use of motor vehicles as part of possible measures to reduce the country's fuel consumption. At Tuesday's Cabinet meeting, the Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment said the timing and scope of such measures are currently under review, in response to calls from President Lee Jae Myung. “Energy conservation efforts must be spread across society,” Lee said, according to the presidential office. “If necessary, please prepare various measures to redu

- [Kumho Tire rolls out premium SUV tire in global push](#) (2026-03-17 09:01)

South Korean tire maker Kumho Tire on Tuesday launched the Crugen GT Pro, a premium comfort tire tailored for sport utility vehicles, as part of its push to deepen its foothold in the global SUV and electric vehicle market. The new tire integrates Kumho’s Crugen technology platform and is designed to offer enhanced ride comfort, low noise and improved fuel efficiency, the company said. The company said the Crugen GT Pro has earned a Grade 2 rating in rolling resistance under Korea’s energy effic

- [Students returning from Middle East get one-stop education support](#) (2026-03-17 08:46)

The Seoul Metropolitan Office of Education said Tuesday it will provide psychological support, child care services and guidance on South Korea’s education system for students and parents returning from the Middle East following the outbreak of conflict involving Iran. The office said it would offer a one-stop support service to help students reintegrate into Korean classrooms and navigate the country’s education system. Parents can request assistance through the education office’s hotline (1396)

- [Hanpass eyes Kosdaq debut to scale global cross-border fintech push](#) (2026-03-17 08:45)

Hanpass, a South Korean fintech firm specializing in overseas remittances for foreign residents, is set to debut on the Kosdaq this month, aiming to evolve into a global cross-border “super app” as it accelerates overseas expansion. The company said Tuesday that it finalized its initial public offering price at 19,000 won (\$13) per share — the top end of its indicative range — after drawing strong institutional demand. In a book-building process held March 6-12, some 2,229 institutional investor

- [Oh Se-hoon joins Seoul mayoral race](#) (2026-03-17 08:37)

Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon said Tuesday he will register as a candidate in the city’s mayoral race under the conservative People Power Party, ending days of delay as he pressed for internal party reform. Speaking at a press conference at Seoul City Hall, Oh said he decided to enter the race out of “a sense of responsibility to Seoul citizens and a commitment to put the party before personal interests.” He said he could not take lightly the support and trust he has received from the public and the co

- [Half of severely depressed seek AI counseling: survey](#) (2026-03-17 08:24)

More than half of South Koreans classified as having severe depression have used artificial intelligence-based counseling programs, a survey showed Tuesday. The usage rate stood at 53 percent among those categorized as severely depressed, nearly double that of respondents who were not depressed (27 percent) and higher than those who were mildly depressed (41 percent), according to the survey by the Gyeonggi Research Institute. The survey was conducted on 1,012 residents of Seoul, Incheon and Gye

- [Satellite images suggest THAAD capabilities remain in South Korea](#) (2026-03-17 08:09)

Satellite imagery showing components of the US Terminal High Altitude Area Defense system have emerged, indicating that the missile defense system likely remains operational, despite reports that some assets were redeployed to the Middle East amid escalating tensions involving the United States and Israel on one side and Iran on the other. Images captured Thursday by commercial satellite company Planet Labs and shared on Monday by Jeffrey Lewis, a nonproliferation expert at the Middlebury Instit

- [Airline pilot killed in Busan; former co-pilot suspected in attack](#) (2026-03-17 07:33)

A 56-year-old airline pilot was stabbed to death at his home in Busan on Tuesday, with police suspecting the attacker to be a former colleague. The victim was found dead at around 7 a.m. in an apartment in Busanjin-gu. The attack is believed to have occurred at around 5:30 a.m. The suspect, a man in his 50s who remains at large, previously worked as the victim's co-pilot before leaving the company in 2024. He is believed to have resigned after being grounded following concerns raised in a psycho

- [Seoul's classical April: Two festivals, a month without intermission](#) (2026-03-17 06:31)

Two festivals, one city, four weeks. They couldn't be more different in temperament — and that's exactly the point. Seoul Arts Center Orchestra Festival and Seoul Spring Festival of Chamber Music return to fill the April calendar, offering contrasting yet complementary takes on classical music at the height of the sdvoeason. Together, they turn Seoul into a monthlong stage, where grand orchestral spectacle meets the intimacy of chamber performance. The Seoul Arts Center Orchestra Festival is the

- [How far are Koreans willing to go for the perfect 'aegyosal'?](#) (2026-03-17 06:30)

In South Korea's ever-evolving beauty landscape, few features have proven as enduring or as obsessively refined as aegyosal, the subtle puff of fat just below the lower lash line. The naturally occurring feature, associated with youth and expression, has transformed into a carefully constructed aesthetic shaped over decades by surgery, injectables, makeup and, in the latest trend, semipermanent tattooing. Aegyosal tattoos are gaining traction among young people, who are turning to the low-cost,

- [Can South Korea afford to deploy naval forces to the Strait of Hormuz?](#) (2026-03-17 06:17)

Questions are rising over Seoul's naval capabilities, as well as its political will, to support US operations in the Middle East following US President Donald Trump's call for allies' involvement. While the South Korean government remains cautious — saying no official request has been made beyond Trump's remarks — attention has turned to whether the Korean Navy could realistically contribute forces if such a request were made. The Navy, for its part, has declined to comment on the matter, saying

- [China link roils Korea Zinc control battle](#) (2026-03-17 06:15)

Ahead of Korea Zinc's March 24 annual shareholders' meeting, scrutiny of China Investment Corp.'s investment in MBK's Fund VI has resurfaced as the ownership fight between the Young Poong-MBK alliance and Korea Zinc further intensifies. Young Poong, Korea Zinc's largest shareholder, joined forces with MBK in 2024 to challenge Chairman Choi Yun-beom, setting up the current contest for control. With Young Poong and MBK seen as holding the larger stake and Choi relying on friendly shareholders and

- [SK hynix eyes US listing to unlock AI premium](#) (2026-03-17 06:13)

SK hynix, the world's second-largest memory chip maker, is stepping up plans to list on the US market via American Depositary Receipts or ADRs, as it looks to close a persistent valuation gap with global semiconductor peers despite strong AI-driven earnings. SK Group Chairman Chey Tae-won confirmed Monday that the company is actively reviewing an ADR issuance, signaling a more concrete move beyond earlier disclosures. In a regulatory filing in December, SK hynix said it was considering various s

- [Foreign minister minces words on US warship request](#) (2026-03-17 06:11)

Foreign Minister Cho Hyun on Tuesday avoided a direct answer over whether Seoul had received a request from Washington to deploy a South Korean warship to the war-stricken Strait of Hormuz. Asked by Rep. Kim Sang-wook of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea whether Seoul had received any such request from the United States, either formally or informally, Cho responded with vague remarks. "The situation is, we can say it was a request (for naval forces deployment), or we can say it was not," Cho

- [Hyundai showcases hydrogen value chain at Tokyo expo](#) (2026-03-17 06:04)

Hyundai Motor Group said Tuesday it will showcase its hydrogen technologies across the full value chain at the H2&FC Expo in Tokyo, as it steps up efforts to position itself as a global hydrogen solutions provider. Held at Tokyo Big Sight, the expo is one of the world's leading hydrogen and fuel cell industry events, bringing together companies to present next-generation technologies and discuss market trends. At the event, Hyundai will operate a booth centered on HTWO, its hydrogen brand and bu

- [More than half of Koreans want wealthy to pay more tax](#) (2026-03-17 06:02)

More than half of South Koreans believe taxes on high-income earners should be increased, a recent survey showed, as policymakers explore ways to ease the tax burden on salaried workers. According to a report by the Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs, 56.8 percent of respondents said the tax burden on high-income earners is low, including 14.9 percent who described it as “excessively low.” In contrast, 54.7 percent and 51.3 percent said taxes paid by middle- and low-income groups, res

- [Celltrion lands W295b CMO deal with global pharma](#) (2026-03-17 05:56)

Celltrion said Tuesday it has signed a 294.9 billion won (\$198 million) contract manufacturing agreement with an undisclosed global pharmaceutical company to supply drug substance. The three-year deal runs from 2027 to 2029 and includes an option to expand to 375.4 billion won upon mutual agreement. The contract underscores Celltrion’s accelerating push into the global contract development and manufacturing organization market. Earlier this year, the company signed a 678.7 billion won CMO deal w

- [Nvidia chief flags Samsung, SK hynix as key AI partners](#) (2026-03-17 05:36)

Samsung Electronics and SK hynix took center stage at Nvidia’s GPU Technology Conference, unveiling next-generation AI memory technologies as competition intensifies to supply the backbone of the global artificial intelligence boom. At the four-day event in San Jose, Samsung revealed a physical version of its next-generation high-bandwidth memory chip, HBM4E, for the first time — underscoring its push to close the gap in the high-stakes AI memory race. The seventh-generation chip is designed to

- [Samsung’s TriFold showcases foldable ambitions, not profits](#) (2026-03-17 05:34)

Samsung Electronics ended domestic sales of the Galaxy Z TriFold on Tuesday, wrapping up a three-month run for the device that was designed more as a technology showcase than a profit driver. The smartphone, which launched here on Dec. 12 at 3,590,400 won (\$2,410), sold out within minutes each time new stock arrived. Samsung released small batches every one to two weeks through its online store and at select retail locations, with each round clearing in roughly two to five minutes. Despite the s

- [Shinsegae joins US AI push with new data center deal](#) (2026-03-17 05:32)

South Korean retail giant Shinsegae Group is set to build the nation's largest artificial intelligence data center in partnership with an Nvidia-backed AI firm, in a deal that marks the first test of the Trump administration's push to export American AI technology abroad. According to the group Tuesday, it signed a memorandum of understanding in San Francisco on Monday with US startup Reflection AI for a data center with a power capacity of 250 megawatts, to be equipped with Nvidia graphics proc

- [North Korea develops humanoid robots: report](#) (2026-03-17 05:28)

North Korea has developed humanoid robots for public and educational use, a Japan-based pro-North Korean outlet reported Tuesday. According to the report by Choson Sinbo, robots developed at a university of education in Pyongyang — named Dojeon and Sujae — have been introduced to provide teaching assistance. The newspaper did not provide details on whether the robot is fully operational or explain its technical capabilities. However, similar robots appear to have already been demonstrated public

- [Hyundai-Nvidia alliance targets robotaxi race with Tesla](#) (2026-03-17 05:25)

Hyundai Motor Group and Nvidia are expanding their strategic partnership in autonomous driving, moving beyond Level 2 driver assistance toward Level 4 robotaxi technologies. Hyundai said Tuesday the companies will jointly develop next-generation autonomous driving solutions by combining Hyundai Motor and Kia's software-defined vehicle capabilities with Nvidia's AI-driven autonomous technologies. The partnership will also include deploying Nvidia's Level 2+ systems — enhanced driver assistance re

- [Ruling bloc forges compromise on prosecution reform bill, bridging internal rifts](#) (2026-03-17 05:25)

South Korea's ruling bloc has reached an internal agreement on a sweeping prosecutorial reform bill that would strip prosecutors of any authority to direct or intervene in investigations by removing contentious provisions from the original draft. Rep. Jung Chung-rae, chair of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea, unveiled the revised compromise bill on Tuesday after coordination among the ruling party, the government and Cheong Wa Dae. The announcement came after rifts within the Democratic Part

- [Seoul police ban civilian firearm retrieval ahead of BTS comeback concert](#) (2026-03-17 05:22)

The Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency said Tuesday it will temporarily bar civilian gun owners from retrieving firearms from police stations on Saturday as the city hosts K-pop group BTS' comeback concert. Under current law, civilians may store firearms used for hunting at local police stations and retrieve them during hunting season with police approval. Authorities said the measure is intended to ensure public safety and prevent potential terrorism and accidents during the concert, which is exp

- [Hybe shares edge higher ahead of BTS comeback](#) (2026-03-17 05:22)

Shares of K-pop giant Hybe are edging higher as investors position for the long-awaited return of BTS, with the group set to hold its first performance in nearly four years at a comeback concert in central Seoul on Saturday. Hybe's stock has traded in a relatively limited range compared to the overall Korean market this year. It closed at 350,000 won (\$235) on Monday up slightly from 346,000 won on Jan. 2. As of 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, shares were trading at 364,500 won, up 4.14 percent from the pre

- [Seoul rolls out tourism campaign to welcome BTS fans at Gwanghwamun](#) (2026-03-17 05:22)

With BTS' highly anticipated comeback performance scheduled to take place at Gwanghwamun Square on March 21, nearby areas in central Seoul are gearing up to welcome fans visiting the city. The Korea Tourism Agency said Tuesday that it will launch a tourism promotion program in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism ahead of the concert. The campaign hopes to draw the expected influx of international fans to broader tourism experiences across Seoul. Outdoor digital billboard

- [BTS' Suga co-authors music-based autism therapy manual](#) (2026-03-17 05:20)

Suga of BTS has co-authored "MIND Program," a newly published manual introducing a music-based approach to social skills development, released on Tuesday. According to Severance Hospital in Seoul, the MIND program (Music, Interaction, Network and Diversity) is designed to support children and adolescents with autism spectrum disorder through structured musical engagement. Unlike traditional social training models that depend on language comprehension and cognitive ability, the program encourages

- [Webtoon has paid its creators \\$2.8 billion. It wants to pay them more](#) (2026-03-17 05:04)

Nasdaq-listed Webtoon Entertainment has paid out 4.15 trillion won (roughly \$2.8 billion) to creators on its platform over the past five years, the company said Tuesday at a press briefing in Seoul, its most concrete public accounting yet of how much money flows to the artists behind the world's largest webcomics ecosystem. Yongsoo Kim, named President of the Los Angeles-based company less than two weeks ago, made the figure the centerpiece of his first public appearance in the role. The event,

- [13 years on: The milestones that shaped BTS](#) (2026-03-17 04:54)

June 2013 — BTS debuts under Big Hit Entertainment with the single album "2 Cool 4 Skool."
May 2015 — The group gains international momentum with "The Most Beautiful Moment in Life, Pt. 1," beginning the influential "HYHYH" series.
Nov. 2017 — BTS becomes the first K-pop group to perform at the American Music Awards, performing "DNA."
May 2018 — BTS releases its third LP "Love Yourself: Tear," becoming the first K-pop act to debut at No. 1 on the Billboard 200.
Feb. 2019 — BTS presents at the Gra

- ['BTS: The Return' trailer teases a journey back to the beginning with new album 'Arirang'](#) (2026-03-17 04:54)

BTS has unveiled the trailer for its upcoming documentary film "BTS: The Return," offering a glimpse into the group's journey as it prepares for the release of its fifth LP, "Arirang," on Tuesday. Released on Netflix and BTS' official social media channels, the trailer traces BTS' past, present and future, as the members look back on their career from previous years and work to shape the next chapter of their career going forward. The trailer features scenes from its previous world tour, members

- [Love is in the air: K-dramas to watch this spring](#) (2026-03-17 04:54)

As spring breathes life back into the world, it also rekindles the urge for romance. Flowers bloom, the days grow longer and somewhere between the warmer air and the sprouting buds, love starts to feel a little more possible again. Reflecting that mood, romantic K-dramas are arriving in full force. Here are some of the hottest spring shows ushering in into the year's most romantic season. First up is Netflix's "Boyfriend on Demand," a glossy rom-com elevated by the star power of Blackpink's Jiso

- [AI soulmate? KAIST builds hyper-personalized AI chip](#) (2026-03-17 04:48)

Researchers at the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology have developed a semiconductor accelerator designed to run highly personalized artificial intelligence models directly on devices, a step that could expand AI services without relying on cloud computing. The chip, dubbed "SoulMate," was created by a team led by professor Yoo Hoi-jun at KAIST's Graduate School of AI Semiconductor, the institute said Tuesday. Unlike conventional AI systems that depend on remote servers, the new

- [Weak swimmers become heroes: Chinese tourists save Korean girl in Malaysia](#) (2026-03-17 04:43)

Four Chinese tourists risked their own lives to rescue a young South Korean woman from drowning in Malaysia, according to Korean-language media. The incident took place on March 9 near Sapi Island in Kota Kinabalu, according to reports. A Chinese tourist surnamed Meng was snorkeling with friends when she heard a girl crying for help. The girl was not wearing a life jacket and appeared to be struggling to stay afloat. Meng and a friend reached the girl and tried to keep her above water, but soon

- [From medals to mental health, experts rethink success in sport](#) (2026-03-17 04:42)

For decades, elite sport has been built on a simple equation: Endure more, sacrifice more and win more. But that model is beginning to crack. A growing number of athletes, researchers and governing bodies around the globe are rethinking what success in sport means, and questioning whether a system that produces medals at the expense of mental health can last. The answer lies in confronting what they describe as a largely overlooked issue -- "sports trauma," according to Kim Bui, a retired German

- [Venezuela overtakes Italy, will face US for WBC final](#) (2026-03-17 04:19)

MIAMI (AP) — Ronald Acuna Jr., Maikel Garcia and Luis Arraez hit run-scoring, two-out singles in a seventh-inning rally that led Venezuela over Italy 4-2 on Monday night and into its first World Baseball Classic championship game. Venezuela overcame a 2-0, fourth-inning deficit after rebounding from a three-run hole to beat defending champion Japan in a quarterfinal and reached the final for the first time after losing to South Korea in its only previous semifinal appearance in 2009. It meets th

- [LS Eco Energy wins \\$8m Malaysia data center deal](#) (2026-03-17 04:15)

LS Eco Energy said Tuesday its Vietnamese subsidiary LSCV has secured an \$8 million contract to supply bus ducts to a hyperscale data center being built in Malaysia by a global IT company. Bus ducts — high-capacity power distribution systems — are critical infrastructure for hyperscale data centers, which require massive amounts of electricity to support artificial intelligence and cloud services. LSCV will supply the equipment in phases in line with construction progress at the data center in J

- ['Born in Korea, Play for the World': BTS wrap lights up Seoul](#) (2026-03-17 04:14)

Kyobo Life Insurance has transformed its headquarters in central Seoul into a vibrant celebration of K-pop, unveiling a giant building wrap in collaboration with BigHit Music to deliver a message of hope and global ambition — just days before BTS’ highly anticipated comeback concert in the same area. Installed on the exterior wall of its Jongno headquarters, the massive display spans 90 meters wide and 21 meters high, covering 1,890 square meters. The wrap features the phrase, “Born in Korea, Pl

- [AI breakthrough doubles response speed in new study](#) (2026-03-17 04:14)

Researchers at Sogang University have developed a technique that can cut the response time of large language models roughly in half, a breakthrough that could improve the efficiency of AI systems that power chatbots and other generative tools. The study, led by professor Yi Young-min and graduate student Song Geun-soo from the university’ s Department of Artificial Intelligence, has been accepted to the international computer architecture conference ASPLOS 2026, the university said Tuesday. Their

- [Hanwha takes stake in KAI amid space push](#) (2026-03-17 04:10)

Hanwha Group has acquired a 4.99 percent stake in Korea Aerospace Industries, Korea’ s sole aircraft original equipment manufacturer, strengthening cooperation with the aerospace firm despite ongoing competition. According to a filing with the Financial Supervisory Service on Monday, Hanwha Aerospace and its subsidiaries acquired a combined 4.41 percent stake, while Hanwha Systems purchased an additional 0.58 percent, totaling 4.86 million shares. This is Hanwha’ s first investment in KAI since Ha

- [Hearts2Hearts to drop first Japanese song](#) (2026-03-17 04:06)

Hearts2Hearts will release a Japanese-language version of its hit single “RUDE!” at midnight, SM Entertainment said Tuesday. The new version reinterprets the original song’ s lyrics — which portray mischievous girls pushing back against rigid rules — in Japanese, offering a fresh charm for listeners. The track is also drawing attention as the group’ s first official Japanese-language release. “RUDE!” previously performed strongly on major music platforms, peaking at No. 2 on Melon’ s Top 100 and No

- [Russia has taken 12 settlements in Ukraine](#) (2026-03-17 03:43)

Russia has taken control of 12 settlements in Ukraine in the first two weeks of March as part of advances along the front line in eastern and southern Ukraine, Russian state-run news agencies quoted top Gen. Valery Gerasimov as saying Monday. In Kyiv, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the country's armed forces had disrupted Russian plans for an offensive, with Moscow failing to reinforce its troops. Gerasimov, the chief of Russia's General Staff, was speaking during a visit to the

- [E' last to showcase single in Japan before Asia tour](#) (2026-03-17 03:07)

Boy group E' last will meet its fans in Japan on March 28-29, agency E Entertainment announced Tuesday. The group will perform a concert on Saturday and hold a fan meetup on the following day, showcasing its second digital single "Tame," which was released last week. Only five members will be present at the Japan gig, however, as leader Rano enlisted last month. The group's most recent full-group endeavor was fifth EP "Versus" from May last year. The bandmates will return to Tokyo in June, for th

- [Afghanistan says 400 people killed in Pakistan strike on Kabul hospital](#) (2026-03-17 03:03)

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Afghanistan accused Pakistan of killing at least 400 people in an airstrike on a drug rehabilitation hospital in the Afghan capital late Monday. It marked a dramatic escalation of a conflict that began late last month and has seen repeated cross-border clashes as well as airstrikes inside Afghanistan. International calls for a ceasefire have gone unheeded. Pakistan dismissed the accusation that it had hit a hospital, saying its strikes, which were also conducted in east

- [Patient's sex could affect IBS treatment: research](#) (2026-03-17 02:59)

While several studies have shown that sex is a significant factor in the presentation of symptoms of irritable bowel syndrome, a recent study suggests that microbiota-directed therapies for the disease may also produce sex-specific effects. A research team at Seoul National University Bundang Hospital conducted the study to examine differences between men and women in treatment responses for the common chronic gastrointestinal disorder, which causes abdominal pain, bloating and irregular bowel h

- [Nearly 1 in 5 Korean science Ph.D.s plan to leave Korea](#) (2026-03-17 02:57)

Nearly 1 in 5 newly minted Ph.D.s in natural sciences in South Korea say they are planning to move abroad, raising concerns about a potential outflow of highly trained researchers from key science and technology fields. About 17.7 percent of doctorate recipients in natural sciences and 11.5 percent in engineering said they were considering migration in 2025, according to a study released Tuesday by the Korea Research Institute for Vocational Education and Training. The findings come as policymak

- [CNBlue's Lee Jungshin lends voice for eco exhibit](#) (2026-03-17 02:53)

Lee Jungshin of CNBlue will participate in an eco-conscious exhibition as an audio docent, his agency FNC Entertainment said on Tuesday. The singer will help explain photographs on display at “Earth in Focus: From Confession to Glory,” which raises awareness on climate change by showcasing nature, human and animals captured through camera lenses. Sharing empathy on the issue, the bassist chose to take the role, a first for him. The show will be held in Busan at Geumsaem Art Museum in Geumjeong C

- [Inside Harim’ s First Kitchen: A bet on premium home meals](#) (2026-03-17 02:46)

IKSAN, South Jeolla Province — Harim Group, Korea’ s 30th-largest conglomerate by assets, is best known for its leading poultry processing and distribution business. Now positioning itself as a global food and agribusiness company, the group is expanding its reach with a focus on premium ready-to-eat meals. The Korea Herald toured Harim's First Kitchen, a 520 billion won (\$347 million) advanced food manufacturing complex in Iksan, on Friday. Operated by Harim Industrial, the facility comprises fo

- [Baby Dont Cry all confidence in 1st EP teaser](#) (2026-03-17 02:41)

Baby Dont Cry put out a trailer clip for its first EP, “After Cry,” on Monday via agency P Nation. The four bandmates go cute and kitsch in the teaser, which includes voices asking “What do you see in me?” and saying “We can be whatever.” The upcoming mini album that comes out March 24 will be the first installment of the three-part “Cry” series. According to the trailer, the series will also include albums “We Bloom” and “Beyond the Limit.” The group dropped a prerelease track from the set, “Sh

- [Military launches probe after child hit by suspected stray bullet in playground](#) (2026-03-17 02:41)

South Korea’ s Army has suspended rifle shooting drills to conduct safety checks across all units, after an elementary school girl was injured at a playground in Daegu on Monday by what is believed to be a stray bullet. According to police and military officials, the incident occurred around 4:03 p.m. Monday at a playground near Gukwoo Elementary School, adding that the girl's injuries were not life-threatening. The girl, whose identity is not disclosed, was struck below the neck by an object sus

- [Trump asks China to delay Xi summit as Iran war rages](#) (2026-03-17 02:27)

US President Donald Trump said Monday he had asked China to delay his summit with Xi Jinping by around a month while he deals with the war in the Middle East. Trump had been due to visit Beijing from March 31 to April 2 to reset ties and extend a US-China trade truce, but the trip has been upended by the Iran conflict. "Because of the war I want to be here, I have to be here, I feel. And so we've requested that we delay it a month or so," Trump told reporters at the White House when asked about

- [Gulf states press US to neutralize Iran](#) (2026-03-17 02:15)

Gulf Arab states did not ask the US to go to war with Iran, but many are now urging it not to stop short by leaving the Islamic Republic still able to threaten the Gulf's oil lifeline and the economies that depend on it, three Gulf sources told Reuters. At the same time, these sources and five Western and Arab diplomats said Washington was pressing Gulf states to join the US-Israeli war. According to three of them, US President Donald Trump wants to show regional backing for the campaign, to be

- [Woman's body found in Seoul's Han River](#) (2026-03-17 02:15)

A woman's body was discovered in the Han River in eastern Seoul, prompting a police investigation into the circumstances of her death. The Seoul Seongdong Police Station said Monday that the body was found near a government vessel pier at Ttukseom Hangang Park, near the northern end of the Yeongdong Bridge. Police and fire authorities were dispatched to the scene at about 11:29 a.m. after a passerby reported seeing what appeared to be a human body floating in the river. Emergency responders late

- [Israel: Lebanese won't return until its citizens safe](#) (2026-03-17 02:14)

Israel on Monday warned that displaced Lebanese driven from their homes by its military campaign would not be able to return until the safety of Israelis living near the border was ensured, as Israeli troops pushed into new parts of southern Lebanon. In a briefing, Israeli military spokesperson Lt. Col. Nadav Shoshani told reporters that soldiers were now conducting ground operations in "new locations," describing the latest offensive as "limited and targeted." The extended operation began days

- [China warns Trump's latest tariff moves could damage trade ties](#) (2026-03-17 02:13)

PARIS (AP) — China warned Monday that US President Donald Trump's latest tariff moves could harm the countries' trade relationship, at the end of high-level talks in Paris. Li Chenggang, China's international trade representative, said the Chinese side had expressed serious concern about trade investigations into manufacturing in foreign countries that the Trump administration launched after the US Supreme Court struck down its earlier tariffs. "We are concerned that the possible results of such

- [President Lee Jae Myung orders 'watertight' safety, security measures ahead of BTS show](#) (2026-03-17 02:13)

President Lee Jae Myung on Tuesday called on government agencies to ensure that safety and security measures are fully in place for the BTS show to be held in central Seoul on Saturday. Speaking at Tuesday's Cabinet meeting, Lee said that the government must focus on safety for the performance. "Ministry of Interior and Safety, police, fire department and all other related ministries should prepare for all possibilities," Lee said. "Although likelihood is not said to be high, (government agencies

- [Trump vows to 'take' Cuba as island reels from oil embargo](#) (2026-03-17 02:03)

US President Donald Trump vowed Monday to "take" Cuba as the communist island plunged into darkness under a total power blackout linked to a crippling oil embargo imposed by Washington. After nearly seven decades defying the US, Havana's communist authorities are under massive pressure from a Trump administration determined to make history. "You know, all my life I've been hearing about the United States and Cuba. When will the United States do it?" Trump told reporters at the White House. "I do

- [Gulf importers race to reroute supplies amid Hormuz closure](#) (2026-03-17 02:03)

DUBAI (Reuters) -- Importers across the Gulf are scrambling to secure alternative routes for vital goods -- from food to medicines and factory supplies -- as the effective closure of the Hormuz strait blocks ports in an import-dependent region. The halt to commercial navigation through the critical shipping choke point brought on by the US-Israeli war on Iran has disrupted Gulf nations' oil exports, roiling global energy markets. But the closure is also forcing a rapid and costly supply chain r

- [Trump upset as US partners reject call for escorts](#) (2026-03-17 02:02)

Several US allies rebuffed Donald Trump's call Monday to send warships to escort tankers through the Strait of Hormuz, drawing criticism from the US president, who accused Western partners of ingratitude after decades of support. The US-Israeli war on Iran is in its third week with no end in sight. The critical Strait of Hormuz, through which 20 percent of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas flow, remains largely closed off, raising energy prices and fears of inflation. The conflict has a

- [Shinsegae launches probe, apologizes for employee intercepting NCT Jaemin' s fan gift vouchers](#) (2026-03-17 02:02)

South Korea' s retail giant Shinsegae Group has launched an internal investigation after one of its employees at an E-Mart store was found to have intercepted gift vouchers that a K-pop idol had sent to his fans. A Tuesday report by Busan Ilbo said Jaemin of NCT Dream sent fans 30 mobile gift vouchers worth 100,000 won (\$67) each on March 14 as presents for White Day. The vouchers were shared through the fan communication platform Bubble as images containing barcodes. These could then be exchange

- [Center for Islamic Civilization: Mega project for the international community](#) (2026-03-17 01:56)

On January 29, 2025, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev visited the Center for Islamic Civilization in Uzbekistan, offering detailed recommendations to integrate scientific and innovative projects developed by more than 2,000 researchers into its exhibitions. That visit served as a pivotal moment. Today, the center stands completed — an ambitious undertaking shaped by contributions from specialists and designers across more than 40 countries, united under a single vision. From the podium of the United

- [\[Graphic News\] Portugal tops retirement living rankings](#) (2026-03-16 23:00)

Portugal ranks as the best country in the world for retirement, according to the France-based retirement information website Retraite Sans Frontieres. The country scored high for its low cost of living, favorable climate and environment, tax benefits and retirement visas. Spain and Greece followed in second and third place, with Thailand, Mauritius, Morocco, Tunisia, Senegal, Vietnam and Indonesia rounding out the top 10. The rankings are drawing attention amid a growing trend of retirees, parti

- [SK hynix highlights AI memory innovations at Nvidia GTC](#) (2026-03-16 20:30)

SK hynix said Monday it is showcasing its latest artificial intelligence memory technologies at Nvidia's GPU Technology Conference in San Jose, California, highlighting solutions developed in collaboration with Nvidia. Nvidia GTC is one of the world's largest gatherings for AI and accelerated computing, drawing global technology firms, developers and researchers to discuss the latest advances and industry trends. This year's event runs Monday through Thursday.

“SK hynix has supplied memory produ

- [Samsung unveils HBM4E for first time at Nvidia GTC](#) (2026-03-16 20:30)

Samsung Electronics unveiled its seventh-generation HBM4E chip at Nvidia's GPU Technology Conference, widely known as GTC, highlighting its push to strengthen its position in the AI memory market. Samsung on Monday announced its participation in GTC 2026 in San Jose, California, which runs Monday to Thursday, where it presented the HBM4E technology alongside a range of memory solutions designed to support Nvidia platforms. At the event, Samsung set up an exhibition area dubbed the “HBM4 Hero Wal

- [\[Bae Su-kyeong\] The high cost of elegance](#) (2026-03-16 20:30)

“I have decided to find myself a home in the mountains, somewhere high up where one learns to live peacefully in the cold and the silence. That what the spirit reaches for may be eventually felt, if not exactly understood. Slowly, no doubt. I'm not talking about a vacation. Of course, at the same time I mean to stay exactly where I am. Are you following me?” In the poem “I Have Decided,” Mary Oliver writes about the will to reorient one's way of being. Modern societies often celebrate their open

- [\[Lee Jae-min\] English class shortage hits foreign students](#) (2026-03-16 20:24)

Seoul has become a popular destination for young people from around the world. Each year, more and more foreign students arrive at Korean universities through various international exchange programs. Some stay for a semester, while others stay for the whole academic year. In fact, one of the most prominent developments in Korean colleges lately is the growing population of international exchange students on campus. By the way, the number of foreign students seeking degrees in Korean universities

- [Korea expands automated immigration to EU, Schengen travelers](#) (2026-03-16 12:03)

South Korea on Monday began expanding access to its automated immigration clearance gates to travelers from the European Union, Schengen member states and Canada in a move aimed at simplifying entry procedures and boosting tourism. According to the Ministry of Justice, the list of countries eligible for using Korea's automated immigration clearance gates has been expanded to 42 from the previous list of 18. The expanded list now includes 19 EU members – Greece, Denmark, Latvia, Romania, Luxembourg

- [US, South Korea to meet this week on \\$350b deal fund](#) (2026-03-16 11:37)

Trade representatives from the US and South Korea are set to meet in Washington this week to discuss potential investments in American energy projects and other ventures under a recently approved \$350 billion fund, according to people familiar with the matter. The talks between South Korean officials and representatives from the US Commerce Department and President Donald Trump's National Energy Dominance Council are expected to review specific potential investments under that fund established a

- [Bithumb fined W37b, faces 6-month biz suspension over anti-money laundering lapses](#) (2026-03-16 11:01)

The country's anti-money laundering agency said Monday that it has decided to fine Bithumb, one of South Korea's crypto exchanges, some 37 billion won (\$24.8 million) and impose a six-month partial business suspension over lapses in customer verification obligations and transactions with unregistered partners. The Financial Intelligence Unit, under the Financial Services Commission said Bithumb did not comply with its obligations to verify the identities of users in about 6.59 million cases. The

- [N. Korea estimated to have earned up to \\$14.4b from Russia-Ukraine war involvement: report](#) (2026-03-16 10:42)

North Korea is estimated to have earned up to \$14.4 billion from its troop deployment to the Russia-Ukraine war and arms exports to Russia, a report showed Monday. The figures come from a recent report on the economic impact of North Korea's soldier dispatch and arms exports to Russia by Im Soo-ho at the Institute for National Security Strategy. "If North Korea fully collects payment for its troop deployments and arms exports, the key economic impact of sanctions, which is the reduction of hard

- [Why did Jeju soccer fans hold anti-racism placards before match?](#) (2026-03-16 09:15)

Racial slurs targeting a player for Jeju SK FC have prompted the club's supporters to launch an anti-racism campaign and call for changes in the spectator culture of Korean professional football. On Sunday, fans held placards reading "Say no to racism" during a fan event held before the team's match against FC Seoul at Jeju World Cup Stadium on Jeju Island. They also chanted the name of Italo Moreira Barcelos. The Brazilian midfielder plays in the K League 1, South Korea's top professional footb

- [Notorious serial arsonist arrested for massive Hamyang wildfire](#) (2026-03-16 08:51)

A man once dubbed the “Bongdaesan Squirrel,” a notorious serial arsonist blamed for a string of wildfires years ago, has been arrested again after allegedly igniting South Korea’s first major wildfire of the year, police said Monday. The South Gyeongsang Provincial Police Agency said on Monday it had detained a 67-year-old man surnamed Kim on charges of violating the Forest Protection Act for allegedly starting a massive wildfire in Hamyang on Feb. 21. The fire that broke out at around 9:15 p.m.

- [Lee orders stronger protections after stalking victim’s murder](#) (2026-03-16 08:37)

President Lee Jae Myung on Monday ordered an investigation into police officials over the murder of a stalking victim, and called for tougher measures to protect stalking and dating violence victims. The presidential office announced Lee’s instructions after criticism mounted that authorities had failed to properly protect the victim despite multiple warning signs before a fatal stabbing in Namyangju, Gyeonggi Province, Saturday. Lee Kyu-youn, senior presidential secretary for public relations a

- [Pearson to revise portrayal of Africa in textbooks upon Korean group's request](#) (2026-03-16 08:35)

British textbook publisher Pearson said it will revise future editions of its textbooks to more accurately depict Africa, following correction requests from the Voluntary Agency Network of Korea. “The content team is reviewing your suggestions and fixes will be made in any future releases of the titles,” Pearson said in an email response to the group’s recommendations. VANK, a South Korean internet-based civic group, submitted correction requests in January to major global publishers, including

- [Illit presses start on first tour with playful, game-themed Seoul concert](#) (2026-03-16 08:31)

Girl group Illit launched its concert tour in Seoul over the weekend with a colorful, game-themed show, sharing the excitement of a long-awaited milestone with its fandom, Gllit. The five-member group — Yunah, Minju, Moka, Wonhee and Iroha — held its first concert since debut in 2024, “Illit Live ‘Press Start’ in Seoul” on March 13 and 14 at Songpa, southern Seoul. Both shows sold out during presales, demonstrating the group’s growing ticket power. As the show opened, the members kicked off the

- [Liberal lawmaker holds solo protest against US warship request](#) (2026-03-16 08:14)

Rep. Lee Ki-heon, lawmaker of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea, has launched a solo protest against the United States’ request for South Korea to deploy naval vessels to the Strait of Hormuz amid the deepening Middle East crisis. Lee, a first-term liberal lawmaker, claimed Monday that deploying South Korea’s armed forces upon the request of US President Donald Trump on his Truth Social “would run counter to the spirit of our Constitution,” describing it as an unreasonable request that “disre

- [Why TikTok is becoming unavoidable for K-pop stars](#) (2026-03-16 08:02)

BTS member V joined TikTok on Friday, becoming the third member of the group to launch an account on the platform. His account quickly surpassed one million followers and was approaching four million as of Monday. While fellow member Jungkook first opened a TikTok account in 2023, he resumed activity in October under a new username. J-Hope also joined the platform in 2025. With BTS now in the 13th year of their career, industry watchers are paying close attention to why the veteran idols are emb

- [Why haven't K-pop games taken off?](#) (2026-03-16 08:01)

As K-pop continues its rapid global expansion, entertainment companies have increasingly tried to extend the genre's influence into gaming. Yet despite repeated attempts, few K-pop-based titles have managed to translate the industry's massive fandom into sustained success in the gaming market. The disconnect is notable given that South Korea's gaming sector plays a massive role in the global growth of K-content exports. According to a report released by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Touris

- [Oil price surge could hit Korea's growth, KIET warns](#) (2026-03-16 07:47)

SEJONG — A surge in oil prices triggered by the war involving Iran could deal a significant blow to the South Korean economy if the rally persists, given the country's heavy reliance on Middle Eastern crude oil, a state-run research institute warned Monday. The Korea Institute for Industrial Economics and Trade said it may need to revise down its economic growth forecast of 1.9 to 2 percent for this year if oil prices continue to rise and push up production costs in the coming months. “Geopoliti

- [In 'Korean Bloom,' hair weighs down woman facing discrimination](#) (2026-03-16 07:40)

This is one of a series of interviews in which Kim Hoo-ran, editor-at-large at The Korea Herald, speaks with leaders, trailblazers, unsung heroes and both well- and lesser-known figures who share the stories of their lives and their visions for a better world — Ed. An Asian character's dark hair grows at an unrealistic speed, like blinds being pulled down. When people press their palms together and bow in greeting the Asian woman and when people touch her hair, it grows, spilling onto the floor.

- [Special counsel raids conservative lawmaker's home, offices](#) (2026-03-16 07:26)

The special counsel on Monday raided three-term conservative Rep. Yoon Han-hong's home and offices over alleged involvement in former President Yoon Suk Yeol's decision to relocate the presidential residence. The counsel team, led by Kwon Chang-young, carried out search operations in his house in Gangnam-gu, southern Seoul, as well as his offices inside the National Assembly and Changwon, South Gyeongsang Province. The special counsel suspects that the three-term conservative lawmaker abused his

- [Samsung Bioepis, G2GBio partner on long-acting obesity drug development](#) (2026-03-16 07:12)

Samsung Bioepis and Epis NexLab, subsidiaries of Samsung Epis Holdings, have signed a joint research and licensing agreement with Korean biotech G2GBio to develop long-acting obesity treatments, the companies said Monday. The tripartite agreement aims to develop obesity drugs with extended dosing intervals and secure advanced drug delivery technologies using G2GBio's microsphere-based platform. Under the deal, Samsung Bioepis will obtain development and commercialization rights to G2GBio's pipeline.

- [Singing competition version of 'Culinary Class Wars' in works](#) (2026-03-16 07:01)

A singing competition take on the hit cooking survival show "Culinary Class Wars" is in development. According to local media reports, the project is being produced by Studio Slam, the studio behind "Culinary Class Wars," and is currently casting singers. The platform for the series has not yet been announced. Mirroring the structure of the original program, the singing edition will divide contestants into black and white teams. Established and widely respected vocalists will compete as part of the show.

- [NC AI leads Korean physical AI push with 'World Foundation Model'](#) (2026-03-16 06:30)

NC AI, the artificial intelligence subsidiary of NCSOFT, said Monday it has demonstrated its "World Foundation Model," highlighting its research infrastructure and positioning the technology as a potential "K-World Model" for Korea's AI ecosystem. The World Foundation Model, or WFM, uses a simplified architecture that generates actions directly from latent space information — data processed before images are produced — improving both efficiency and prediction accuracy. The model also addresses the challenges of large-scale AI training.

- [Korea Inc. rushes governance changes as shareholder meetings begin](#) (2026-03-16 06:28)

South Korea's shareholder meeting season starts this week, with major conglomerates such as Samsung Electronics and Hyundai Motor Group convening annual general meetings that will focus on governance changes and corporate strategies. This year's meetings are drawing heightened attention, with business groups rushing to amend bylaws and bolster management control before revisions to the Commercial Act take effect in the second half of the year. As major conglomerates view upcoming meetings as a critical time to address shareholder concerns.

- [Posco Future M wins W1tr EV battery anode supply deal](#) (2026-03-16 06:23)

Posco Future M said Monday it has won a 1 trillion won (\$668.2 million) contract to supply electric vehicle battery anode materials to a global automaker, its largest deal since entering the business in 2011. While the customer has not been disclosed, the agreement covers 2027-2032 and includes an option for extension upon mutual consent. The contract is part of a broader package arrangement that also includes a natural graphite anode supply deal signed in October. Building on this partnership, the company aims to strengthen its position in the EV battery supply chain.

- [Trump's call for naval support to face multiple hurdles](#) (2026-03-16 06:20)

Debate intensified in South Korea on Monday over whether the National Assembly would approve a potential deployment of the Cheonghae Unit to the Strait of Hormuz, as experts and lawmakers raised legal and political questions about the potential mission. Observers say that if Washington formally asks Seoul to dispatch forces to the strategic waterway, the issue of parliamentary consent could become the biggest variable shaping the government's response. The controversy follows remarks by US Presi

- [Visa denials for foreign students expose policy clash between central, local governments](#) (2026-03-16 06:17)

Visa denials have blocked 167 international students under age 19 from attending vocational schools in South Korea for the 2026 academic year, prompting calls for closer coordination among government agencies, a National Assembly report said Monday. The report from the National Assembly Research Service said 100 students were denied visas in South Jeolla Province, followed by 33 in North Gyeongsang Province and 17 each in North Jeolla and South Chungcheong provinces, after being admitted to voca

- [Seoul unveils year-round festival plans](#) (2026-03-16 06:16)

As foreign tourist numbers surge, Seoul plans to transform itself into a year-round festival city by expanding its seasonal events into a continuous, integrated program. The Seoul Metropolitan Government on Monday announced its “365 Festival City Seoul” initiative, aimed at elevating the capital's global brand with the Han River at the center of the festivities. The city said the plan is expected to draw 30 million foreign visitors to Seoul this year, attract 60 million attendees across its fest

- [Chip stocks wobble, but analysts raise targets for Samsung, SK hynix](#) (2026-03-16 06:05)

Even as geopolitical tensions in the Middle East weigh on equity markets worldwide, brokerages at home and abroad are raising their price targets for South Korea's two largest chipmakers, Samsung Electronics and SK hynix, betting that booming demand for artificial intelligence memory chips will drive strong earnings growth. With investor sentiment shaken by US-Israeli strikes on Iran, heavy foreign selling has dragged down shares of both chipmakers. As of Monday's close, shares of Samsung Electr

- [China seeking to repair North Korea ties ahead of Trump's visit: experts](#) (2026-03-16 06:05)

China appears to be stepping up efforts to repair ties with North Korea and expand exchanges with Pyongyang ahead of US President Donald Trump's expected visit to Beijing later this month, as Washington continues to signal interest in reopening dialogue with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, experts said. Earlier this month, China resumed Beijing-Pyongyang passenger train services after nearly six years of suspension, and Air China is set to restart direct flights between Beijing and Pyongyang la

- [Hanwha forges tech-lifestyle synergies to power new holding company](#) (2026-03-16 06:03)

Hanwha Group said Monday its technology and lifestyle units have begun embedding joint technologies across their operations, in a push to sharpen each division's competitive edge under a newly created holding company. The move follows Hanwha's board approval in January of a plan to establish Hanwha Machinery & Services Holdings as a new holding company overseeing affiliates, including Hanwha Vision, Hanwha Galleria, Hanwha Momentum and Hanwha Robotics. The restructured portfolio, pitched by the

- [Korean insurers face \\$1.1b exposure as Hormuz shipping risks rise](#) (2026-03-16 06:03)

South Korean insurers face nearly 1.7 trillion won (\$1.14 billion) in marine insurance exposure, as escalating conflict in the Middle East disrupts shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, with risks extending beyond insured values to rising war-risk premiums, tighter reinsurance conditions and potential delays in claims recovery. According to data from the Financial Supervisory Service submitted to Rep. Kang Min-kuk of the main opposition People Power Party, 10 domestic insurers and two reinsurer

- [OpenAI Korea pushes back on report claiming Claude surge](#) (2026-03-16 05:57)

OpenAI Korea's general manager has publicly disputed a domestic media report that used card payment data to argue Anthropic's Claude is rapidly gaining ground among South Korean corporate clients, calling the methodology misleading because most enterprise deals never appear in card transactions. Kim Kyoung-hoon, who leads OpenAI's Korean operations, wrote on LinkedIn on Sunday that card spending figures fail to capture how large businesses actually pay for AI services. "Many enterprise clients p

- [Lee floats basic pension overhaul to address elderly poverty](#) (2026-03-16 05:52)

President Lee Jae Myung on Monday floated the idea of restructuring South Korea's basic pension system to provide greater support to low-income seniors and address poverty among the aging. "The biggest cause of elderly suicide is poverty in our country, where both the overall suicide rate and the elderly suicide rate are among the highest in the world," Lee wrote on his official X account. "If we want to reduce elderly poverty that even drives people to suicide, we need to revise the basic pensi

- [Samsung SDI wins \\$1b ESS battery supply deal in US](#) (2026-03-16 05:49)

Samsung SDI said Monday it has clinched a 1.5 trillion won (\$1 billion) deal to supply prismatic energy storage system batteries for a US energy firm, building on its growing presence in the North American energy storage market. While details of the contract, including the customer's identity, remain undisclosed, deliveries will take place in phases from this year through 2029. The batteries will be produced at a StarPlus Energy facility in Indiana, as part of a joint venture between Samsung SDI

- [60% of Korea's diet pill users aren't obese: report](#) (2026-03-16 05:48)

South Korea's social preference for slim body types has led many people who are not medically obese to take diet pills, with such users accounting for nearly 60 percent of diet pill takers in the country, according to a report released Monday by a state research institute. The study also raised concerns about the risks of prolonged use, warning that many users experience significant side effects, including insomnia and clinical depression. "Social pressure to diet, the expansion of mass media, t

- [Korea, Cambodia deepen tax cooperation amid rising offshore evasion](#) (2026-03-16 05:46)

South Korean and Cambodian tax authorities are stepping up cooperation on cross-border information sharing tied to tax crimes and financial assets as they seek to trace proceeds concealed overseas. South Korea's National Tax Service said Monday that NTS Commissioner Lim Kwang-hyun and Kong Vibol, head of Cambodia's General Department of Taxation, signed a memorandum of understanding on the exchange of information for tax purposes during a meeting in Phnom Penh on Thursday. The agreement formaliz

- [Aggressive outreach drives Chinese biotech success: McKinsey's Shanghai analyst](#) (2026-03-16 05:43)

China's biopharmaceutical and biotechnology companies are rapidly expanding their global presence, driven not only by strong drug pipelines but also by increasingly aggressive outreach to international partners, according to a China industry expert. "If you look at the first two months of licensing or cross-border deals from Chinese innovators, the volume has already exceeded that of the first quarter last year," said Fangning Zhang, a partner at McKinsey & Company's Shanghai office, in an inter

- [Middle East response pushes Lee's ratings past 60% for first time since July](#) (2026-03-16 05:30)

President Lee Jae Myung's approval rating rose above 60 percent for the first time in about seven months, according to a poll released Monday, extending a recent rise in public support. In the survey conducted by Realmeter, Lee's positive approval rating stood at 60.3 percent, up 2.1 percentage points from the previous week and marking a second consecutive weekly increase. Negative evaluations fell by 2.1 percentage points to 35.0 percent, while 4.7 percent of respondents said they were unsure,

- [TCL turns to LG Display for its first OLED monitor](#) (2026-03-16 05:27)

LG Display has begun supplying organic light-emitting diode panels to Chinese electronics maker TCL for the first time, marking a notable partnership as the Chinese firm moves into the premium OLED monitor market. According to industry sources Monday, TCL's newly released 32X3A — the company's first OLED monitor — is equipped with a panel supplied by LG Display. The Korean display maker is understood to have started shipments in January. The 32-inch monitor supports 4K resolution and a 240-hertz

- [Korea on highest alert as simultaneous livestock epidemics spread nationwide](#)

(2026-03-16 05:14)

South Korea's quarantine authorities are on high alert as three major livestock diseases, highly pathogenic avian influenza, African swine fever and foot-and-mouth disease, spread simultaneously across the country, raising concerns over supply disruptions and higher livestock prices. The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs said Monday that all three diseases remain at the highest of four alert levels, with the government extending its special quarantine period by one month through th

- [For a few nights only, step into imperial evening at Deoksugung](#) (2026-03-16 05:05)

A nighttime cultural program invites visitors for a rare after-dark glimpse inside Seokjojeon, the Western-style hall within Deoksugung, the palace located near City Hall in central Seoul. Seokjojeon, built in the late Korean Empire (1897-1910) period, is a neoclassical structure and the first and last Western-style palace building constructed for the imperial court. The Seokjojeon Night Tour will run from April 8 to May 17, Wednesday through Sunday each week. Participants will begin with a guid

- [Unification minister urges North Korea to seize opportunity for dialogue with US](#)

(2026-03-16 05:04)

Unification Minister Chung Dong-young on Monday urged North Korea to engage in dialogue, saying recent remarks by US President Donald Trump suggest the door to talks remains open. Speaking to reporters on Monday, Chung said that South Korean Prime Minister Kim Min-seok's recent meeting with Trump reaffirmed the US president's continued interest in talks with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un. "We need to keep the spark of US-North Korea dialogue alive," Chung said. "I hope the North will not miss

- [Purple replaces green: Ube emerges as the next matcha](#) (2026-03-16 04:48)

Matcha, powdered Japanese green tea, dominated cafe menus worldwide for years, appearing in everything from lattes to cakes and ice cream. Now, a new color is taking over cafe counters and social media feeds: purple. At the center of the shift is ube, a vivid purple yam traditionally grown in Southeast Asia, particularly in the Philippines. Long a staple in Filipino desserts, ube, a Tagalog word for purple yam, is rapidly gaining popularity in the US and beyond, emerging as one of the latest glo

- [SK hynix overtakes Samsung as most preferred employer](#) (2026-03-16 04:46)

SK hynix has overtaken Samsung Electronics as the most preferred employer among South Korean job seekers, underscoring the rising appeal of semiconductor companies amid the global artificial intelligence boom. According to a survey released by job platform Saramin on Monday, 20 percent of the 2,304 respondents selected SK hynix as their top employer of choice. It marks the first time the memory chipmaker has surpassed Samsung Electronics, which had held the top spot since the survey began, Saram

- [Ruling bloc eases cap on coal, nuclear output to cushion Middle East crisis](#) (2026-03-16 04:38)

South Korea's ruling party and the government are scrambling to cushion the impact of the Middle East conflict, this time by easing the country's limit on the maximum output of coal-fired power plants and nuclear reactors. Rep. Ahn Do-geol of the Democratic Party of Korea said that, starting Monday, the limit on coal-fired power plants' capacity, set at 80 percent, will be lifted. Also, the capacity utilization rate of South Korean nuclear power reactors will be swiftly raised to 80 percent, whi

- [6 hours on screens, 1 hour outdoors: teens shrug, parents worry](#) (2026-03-16 04:32)

South Korea's high school students log about six hours of screentime a day on average, while devoting just over an hour to outdoor activities, revealing a significant imbalance in daily physical activity, according to a state research report. The report also found a stark gap between how students perceive their own smartphone use and how their parents assess it, urging a more careful approach that takes both perspectives into account when addressing overuse. The survey by the Korea Institute of

- [Seoul to host citywide festival for BTS' 'Arirang' comeback](#) (2026-03-16 04:32)

Seoul will be marking BTS' comeback and new album "Arirang" with a monthlong citywide celebration, featuring large-scale public events and fan programs across major landmarks in the capital. Detailed plans for "BTS The City Arirang Seoul" were unveiled Monday through the group's global fan platform Weverse. The festival will run from March 20, the day the new album drops, through April 19. Several landmark events are scheduled for the album's release day. Media facade displays will illuminate hi

- [APR's Medicube enters India via Nykaa partnership](#) (2026-03-16 04:01)

APR said Monday that its flagship beauty brand Medicube has entered Nykaa, India's largest beauty platform, marking a strategic partnership aimed at expanding its presence in the local market. Nykaa operates more than 260 offline stores across India and generates about 90 percent of its revenue online through an omnichannel strategy. Having steadily expanded its K-beauty category over the past decade, Nykaa plans to further strengthen its skin care portfolio through the collaboration with Medicu

- [Blackpink logs over 3.6b streams on largest Korean music platform](#) (2026-03-16 03:21)

Blackpink has been streamed more than 3.6 billion times on Melon, the largest music platform in Korea said Monday, citing its own tally. Over 2.5 billion plays came via group efforts, led by "As If It's Your Last" with more than 260 million plays, followed by "Ddu-du Ddu-du" and "Playing With Fire." Solo works from the four bandmates exceeded 1 billion: Jennie's "Solo," the first solo single from the group, logged close to 180 million plays, with Rose's collaboration with Bruno Mars, "Apt.," qui

- [Foreign visitor tickets for Spring Royal Culture Festival open at 2 p.m. March 16](#) (2026-03-16 03:20)

Ticket sales for foreign visitors to the 2026 Spring Royal Culture Festival, which will run from April 24 to May 3, are set to open at 2 p.m. on March 16. Hosted by the Korea Heritage Service and organized by the Korea Heritage Agency, reservations will be available through Creatrip, a travel platform widely used by international tourists visiting Korea. The Royal Culture Festival, held each spring and fall, is the country's largest heritage festival, unfolding across the five palaces of Seoul —

- [Retail fuel prices drop after implementation of price cap system: ministry](#) (2026-03-16 02:41)

Fuel prices at gas stations have dropped significantly since the government introduced a temporary price cap system last week, the industry ministry said Monday, vowing continued efforts to ease energy supply woes due to the Middle East crisis. The average gasoline price at gas stations nationwide came to 1,840.1 won (\$1.23) per liter as of Sunday, down 58.7 won from Thursday, a day before the price ceiling system took effect, according to data compiled by the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Res

- [Red Velvet's Irene teases first solo LP](#) (2026-03-16 02:41)

Irene of Red Velvet will return with her first full-length solo album, marking her first solo release in about 16 months since her debut EP "Like A Flower." "Biggest Fan" is set for release on March 30 at 6 p.m., kicking off a new round of solo promotions. The upcoming album will feature 10 tracks spanning a variety of styles, including the title track. According to SM Entertainment, "Biggest Fan" is a pop dance track built on a lively bass groove, combining narration-style rap with an addictive

- [Cha Eunwoo to host photo exhibit in Japan: report](#) (2026-03-16 02:35)

Cha Eunwoo of Astro will be holding a photo exhibition in Tokyo, according to a local media report. From March 28 to May 12, a collection of candid photographs capturing the singer-actor in "behind the scenes" moments will be on display under the title "Afterimage." The news comes while he is in the middle of an investigation over tax evasion, which could levy him with 20 billion won (\$13.3 million), the largest for an entertainer in Korea. Agency Fantagio explained that the event is being held

- [Hungary preelection showdown draws crowds](#) (2026-03-16 02:28)

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AFP) -- Huge crowds joined rival marches staged by Hungarian premier Viktor Orban and his main opponent Peter Magyar in Budapest Sunday, as both push allegations of foreign interference just four weeks before tightly fought elections. Orban -- who faces an unprecedented challenge to his 16-year rule -- has sought to portray the opposition leader as a "puppet" of Brussels and Kyiv, while Magyar has accused the Moscow-friendly premier of seeking the Kremlin's help to stay in pow

- [Oil extends gains as Mideast conflict threatens facilities](#) (2026-03-16 02:25)

SINGAPORE (Reuters) -- Oil prices extended gains on Monday as the US-Israeli war against Iran entered a third week, putting oil infrastructure at risk and keeping the Strait of Hormuz shut in the biggest disruption to global supplies ever. Brent crude futures jumped \$2.01, or 1.95 percent, to \$105.15 a barrel by 11:38 p.m. after settling \$2.68 higher Friday. US West Texas Intermediate crude climbed \$1.61, or 1.63 percent, to \$100.32 a barrel, after gaining nearly \$3 in the previous session. Bot

- [Hundreds rally in London for march](#) (2026-03-16 02:24)

LONDON (AFP) -- Hundreds of people turned out in London Sunday for a pro-Palestinian march banned by the government after police said it was organized by a group "supportive of the Iranian regime." Interior Minister Shabana Mahmood said earlier this week she had agreed to the ban to "prevent serious public disorder" in the context of the ongoing conflict in the Middle East, where Iran has launched strikes in retaliation against a US-Israeli offensive. It is the first time a protest march in the

- [Kazakhstan approves new constitution in referendum](#) (2026-03-16 02:22)

Kazakh voters in a referendum on Sunday approved a new constitution that may provide President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev with a loophole allowing him to stay in power in the Central Asian energy and minerals giant beyond 2029, exit polls showed. Two exit polls said around 87 percent of voters had backed the new constitution. Turnout stood at 73 percent, the electoral commission earlier said. The new constitution streamlines the country's parliament, and recreates the office of vice president, whic

- [French far-right eyes Marseille city hall](#) (2026-03-16 02:21)

PARIS (Reuters) -- Marseille's leftist mayor and his far-right rival were tied in Sunday's first-round municipal election, exit polls showed, boosting the nationalist National Rally's (RN) hopes of winning France's No. 2 city ahead of the 2027 presidential election. A divisive anti-immigration and eurosceptic party, the RN is now France's largest parliamentary bloc and polls suggest it could win the presidency next year. It has long struggled to build a power base across French towns and citie

- [Snow and wind batter parts of US, with threat of thunderstorms](#) (2026-03-16 02:19)

CHICAGO (AP) — A broad and erratic patchwork of severe weather rumbled across much of the US Sunday, dumping heavy snow and making roads impassable in the Upper Midwest while damaging high winds swept across the Plains. Hawaii continued to be affected by severe flooding. And portions of the mid-South readied for late-day thunderstorms. Forecasters said the storms would spread eastward by Monday, with mid-Atlantic states and Washington at greatest risk for high winds and tornadoes. Successive pun

- [Babymonster to tour again from June](#) (2026-03-16 02:19)

Babymonster announced its second international tour via label YG Entertainment Monday. The tour will span five continents, kicking off in Seoul in June before heading to six cities in Japan. The group then goes on to mark concert debuts in Oceania, Europe and South America. Babymonster's first tour, Hello Monsters, comprised 32 shows held across 20 cities, drawing around 300,000 total attendees. Before launching this year's tour, the group will release its third EP in May, fronted by lead track

- [EU to discuss bolstering Mideast naval mission](#) (2026-03-16 02:18)

BRUSSELS (Reuters) -- European Union foreign ministers will discuss this week bolstering a small naval mission in the Middle East but are not expected to decide on extending its role to the choked-off Strait of Hormuz, diplomats and officials say. The EU's Aspides mission was established in 2024 to protect ships from attacks by Yemen's Houthi rebel group in the Red Sea. It currently has an Italian and a Greek ship under its direct command and can also call upon a French ship and another Italia

- [Video of passerby, delivery drivers putting out fire in Yongin goes viral](#) (2026-03-16 02:16)

A video showing two delivery riders and a passerby rushing to put out a suspected arson fire near Bojeong Station in Yongin, Gyeonggi Province, has gone viral online, expressing praise for their quick response in stopping the flames from spreading. The fire broke out on Friday at around 12:21 a.m in a grassy area near Exit 1 of Bojeong Station, according to fire authorities. Dashcam footage from a passing car shows two delivery riders, their motorbikes parked nearby, trying to extinguish the fla

- [Seoul transit kiosks to accept overseas cards from Tuesday](#) (2026-03-16 02:15)

Seoul's subway system will begin accepting overseas-issued payment cards for transportation card purchases and recharging starting Tuesday, a move aimed at easing a long-standing inconvenience for foreign visitors using the city's public transit. The Seoul Metropolitan Government said 440 new transportation card kiosks will be installed across 273 stations on Seoul Subway Line Nos. 1 through 8, allowing payments to be made with overseas credit and debit cards as well as via mobile payment platfo

- [Illit to release new album next month](#) (2026-03-16 02:14)

Illit will drop its fourth EP "Mamihlapinatapai" on April 30, the group announced at the end of the concert it held in Seoul on Sunday. The upcoming set will include the main track "It's Me," according to agency Belift Lab. The new EP will be Illit's first new album in about ten months, since the third EP "bomb," which entered the Billboard 200 at No. 171 as its third entry on the main albums chart. It sold over 400,000 copies in the first week, marking a career best for the group. The five-memb

- [US, China wrap Paris talks on managed trade, agriculture deals](#) (2026-03-16 01:41)

PARIS (Reuters) -- Top US and Chinese economic officials were due to conclude talks in Paris on Monday, with potential areas of agreement in agriculture, critical minerals and managed trade that could be taken up by US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing, sources familiar with the discussions said. The sources told Reuters that the "remarkably stable" talks led by US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng would set in motion possible

- [Milan Cortina Paralympics end with another boycott by Ukraine at Games marked by Russia's return](#) (2026-03-16 01:28)

CORTINA D'AMPEZZO, Italy (AP) -- A closing ceremony boycotted by Ukraine signaled the end of the Milan Cortina Winter Paralympics on Sunday, hours after the US Para ice hockey team won the final gold medal of the Games that were marked by the return of the Russian flag and national anthem to the global sports stage. China continued its dominance as a Paralympic powerhouse and topped the medals table with 15 golds, two more than the United States, which matched its total from the 2018 Pyeongchang

- [Pope escalates call for ceasefire in Iran by addressing those responsible for the war](#) (2026-03-16 01:16)

ROME (AP) -- Pope Leo XIV demanded a ceasefire in the Middle East on Sunday in his strongest comments to date, directly addressing the leaders who launched the war in Iran. "On behalf of the Christians of the Middle East and all women and men of good will, I appeal to those responsible for this conflict," Leo said. "Cease fire so that avenues for dialogue may be reopened. Violence can never lead to the justice, stability, and peace that the people are waiting for." Leo didn't cite the United Sta

- [Trump says trip to China might be delayed, calls on Beijing to help unblock Hormuz Strait: report](#) (2026-03-16 01:09)

US President Donald Trump said Sunday that his planned trip to China might be delayed, redoubling his call for Beijing to help keep the Strait of Hormuz, a vital oil shipping route, open amid the ongoing US-Israeli war against Iran, according to a report. Trump made the remarks in an eight-minute call with the Financial Times, a day after he urged South Korea, China, France, Japan, Britain and others -- which are affected by the "artificial constraint" on the waterway -- to send ships to secure

- [Lee suggests adjusting basic pension payments for low-income seniors](#) (2026-03-16 01:06)

President Lee Jae Myung on Monday floated the idea of adjusting basic pension payments for elderly people in proportion to their income level. Lee made the remarks in a post on the social media platform X, sharing a link to a news story about the government's plan to gradually ease the reduction in basic pension payments for couples aged 65 or older when both spouses receive the benefit. The adjustment is expected to begin next year, starting with low-income households. "A married couple growing

- [SK hynix beats Samsung as most preferred company for job seekers: survey](#) (2026-03-16 01:03)

SK hynix Inc. was named the most preferred company among job seekers, a poll showed Monday, amid the chipmaker's record-breaking earnings following the artificial intelligence boom. According to the survey of 2,304 job seekers conducted by Saramin, a major South Korean job-search website, 20 percent said they wished to get a position at SK hynix, followed by Samsung Electronics Co. with 18.9 percent. It marked the first time for SK hynix to beat Samsung Electronics in related surveys, the platfo

- [Lee's approval rating edges up for 2nd consecutive week: poll](#) (2026-03-16 00:34)

President Lee Jae Myung's approval rating rose for the second consecutive week thanks in part to the government's efforts to stabilize oil prices as war in the Middle East has intensified, a poll showed Monday. According to the survey by Realmeter commissioned by a local news outlet, 60.3 percent positively assessed Lee's handling of state affairs, up 2.1 percentage points from the previous poll, while 35 percent gave a negative assessment, down 2.1 percentage points. This marks the first time L

- [Kospi opens higher amid oil price hike](#) (2026-03-16 00:33)

South Korean stocks started higher Monday on strong gains in tech shares despite a jump in global crude prices sparked by US air strikes on Iran's main export hub. The benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index rose 58.31 points, or 1.06 percent, to 5,545.55 in the first 15 minutes of trading. The Kospi's rise came despite a drop in major US stock indexes last week amid escalating turmoil in the Middle East. On Friday, the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 0.26 percent, while tech-heavy Nasdaq

- [Korean currency slips past 1,500 won per dollar for 1st time in 17 yrs amid Middle East crisis](#) (2026-03-16 00:31)

The South Korean currency fell past the 1,500-won level against the US dollar Monday for the first time in 17 years as global oil prices surged amid heightened tensions in the Middle East. The won opened at 1,501 per dollar, down 7.3 won from the previous session, breaching the 1,500-won mark for the first time in intraday trading since March 12, 2009, when the country was reeling from the global financial crisis. The won later trimmed its losses and was fluctuating in the mid-1,490 won range. A

- [\[Breaking\] 'KPop Demon Hunters' wins best animated feature Oscar](#) (2026-03-15 23:39)

Netflix's "KPop Demon Hunters" won the Academy Award for Best Animated Feature at Sunday's 98th Oscars ceremony at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, delivering the night's most anticipated result in the animation race. Directors Maggie Kang and Chris Appelhans accepted the award. "For those of you who look like me, I'm so sorry that it took us so long to see us in a movie that looks like this," Kang said. "This is for Korea, and Koreans everywhere." The win

rounds out a dominant awards run that sa

- [\[Graphic News\] Wildfires surge again amid dry conditions](#) (2026-03-15 23:00)

The number of wildfires in South Korea rose in February, raising alarms among authorities and experts. According to the National Fire Data System, 134 wildfires were recorded by February, a roughly 30 percent increase from the 103 incidents reported during the same period last year. After falling from a peak of 782 cases in 2022 to 268 in 2024, the number of wildfires climbed again to 408 in 2025. The number of wildfire days has also increased over the past two decades, rising from an annual ave

- [\[Yoo Choon-sik\] What the weakening won may be signaling](#) (2026-03-15 20:30)

In April 2024, when the won' s exchange rate broke through the 1,400 mark against the dollar, the leader of the Democratic Party of Korea at the time warned that a serious crisis was becoming reality and called an emergency meeting to press the government to respond. The message was unmistakable. A weakening currency was not just a market fluctuation but a warning sign for the nation. Nearly two years on, that same political leader occupies the presidential office, only to witness the rate remain

- [\[Man-Ki Kim\] Korea' s supply chain imperative](#) (2026-03-15 20:30)

Rising tensions in the Middle East have once again shaken global oil markets, raising concerns about potential disruptions to the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world' s most critical energy transit routes. For Korea, which imports nearly all its energy, such uncertainty poses a serious economic risk. The Strait of Hormuz is a vital artery for global energy. A large share of the world's crude oil and liquefied natural gas passes through this narrow corridor. Even brief disruptions can trigger price

- [Kim Yun-ji wins historic fifth medal at Winter Paralympics](#) (2026-03-15 12:09)

Kim Yun-ji, a 19-year-old para cross-country skier, claimed her fifth medal at the 2026 Milano-Cortina Winter Paralympics on Sunday, setting a record for the most medals won by a South Korean athlete at a single Olympic or Paralympic Games. Kim finished the cross-country skiing women's 20-kilometer interval start sitting event in 58 minutes and 23.3 seconds at the Tesero Cross-Country Stadium in Italy, beating Germany's Anja Wicker by 54 seconds and American four-time gold medalist Oksana Master

- [Evacuation flight brings home 204 Koreans from Middle East](#) (2026-03-15 10:41)

A South Korean military transport aircraft carrying more than 200 evacuees from the Middle East landed at Seoul Air Base in Seongnam, Gyeonggi Province, Sunday evening, completing a government operation to bring home Korean nationals who had been stranded, amid escalating regional conflict. The Air Force' s KC-330 Cygnus multirole aerial tanker touched down at 5:59 p.m. with 204 on board, along with five foreign family members and two Japanese nationals, according to the Foreign Ministry and Defe

- [BOK says Middle East-linked extra budget unlikely to fuel inflation](#) (2026-03-15 09:20)

The Bank of Korea said a supplementary budget being discussed to cushion the economic fallout from the war in the Middle East is unlikely to significantly fan inflation, even as oil-driven cost pressures build. In data submitted to Rep. Cha Gyu-geun of the minor Rebuilding Korea Party and released Sunday, the central bank said the inflationary impact of an extra budget tied to the Middle East crisis would likely be limited. A supplementary budget can generally add upward pressure on prices by bo

- [Civic groups urge Seoul to refuse Hormuz deployment](#) (2026-03-15 08:49)

Civic groups in South Korea urged the government Sunday to reject any US request to send warships to the Strait of Hormuz, warning that involvement in rising tensions with Iran could expose the country to security risks and legal challenges. The criticism, led largely by progressive and liberal organizations, came after US President Donald Trump called on countries including South Korea to deploy naval forces to the strategic waterway, where Iran has mounted a blockade and attacked several civil

- [Logistics worker stole 127 packages worth \\$80,000](#) (2026-03-15 08:34)

A logistics center employee in South Korea received a suspended prison sentence for stealing parcels containing high-end electronics worth about 120 million won (\$80,000) while working at a distribution facility, a court said Sunday. The Cheongju District Court sentenced the man in his 30s to one year and two months in prison, suspended for three years, and ordered him to complete 160 hours of community service, according to the ruling. Prosecutors said the employee stole packages 127 times betw

- [BTS comeback concert: Know before you go](#) (2026-03-15 08:19)

Authorities in Seoul are preparing extensive security and traffic measures ahead of the BTS comeback concert set for March 21 at Gwanghwamun Square. Here' s what visitors should know. Entry Access to the viewing area will be limited to 31 designated gates around the square and nearby Sejong-daero. Security Metal detectors will be installed at all gates and bag checks will begin at 7 a.m. Authorities are asking visitors to bring minimal belongings. Police will also deploy CCTV monitoring teams and

- [Belift Lab reaffirms Heeseung will not return to Enhypen](#) (2026-03-15 08:00)

Heeseung of Enhypen will not be returning to the boy band, its agency Belift Lab reaffirmed Sunday, less than a week after Hybe' s sub-label announced the main vocalist' s solo path outside the group. "Heeseung will not be returning to Enhypen," Belift Lab told The Korea Herald. "He has a clear artistic direction he wants to pursue, and we decided to respect that." The confirmation comes as fans — particularly international supporters — continue to organize large-scale campaigns urging the agency

- [Korea may need foreign workers to fill 110,000 elderly care jobs by 2028](#) (2026-03-15 07:41)

South Korea may face a shortage of about 110,000 elderly care workers by 2028, signaling the need to expand the role of foreign caregivers and guarantee them rights equal to local workers, according to a government-funded research institute. A report released Sunday by the Korea Immigration Service Foundation said foreign care workers should be integrated into the country's long-term care system with equal labor protections and broader social acceptance, as the country grapples with rapid popula

- [Running to make butter? 'Butter run' challenge churns up social media](#) (2026-03-15 07:38)

What if a morning jog could also produce a batch of homemade butter? That playful idea is behind the "Butter run," an unusual running challenge that has been spreading across TikTok and Instagram in recent weeks. Blending fitness with a kitchen experiment, the trend began in overseas running communities and is now catching the attention of runners in South Korea as well. The concept is simple. Participants pour heavy cream into a small bottle, zip-top bag or sealed container, tuck it into a runn

- [Six days left: Visitors gather at Gyeongbokgung ahead of BTS comeback concert](#) (2026-03-15 07:37)

Tourists walked around the main palace Gyeongbokgung to watch the changing of the royal guards ceremony at the Woldae platform in Seoul. K-pop supergroup BTS is set to hold an outdoor concert at the same site on March 21 for its long-awaited comeback, corresponding with its first new album in nearly four years, "Arirang." According to organizers, the group is expected to appear with Gyeongbokgung as a backdrop, proceed past the gate Gwanghwamun and the Woldae platform before taking to the stage

- [LG CEO visits AgiBot in China as company steps up humanoid robot plans](#) (2026-03-15 07:32)

LG Electronics CEO Lyu Jae-cheol visited Chinese humanoid robot maker AgiBot during a three-day trip to Shanghai earlier this week, signaling the Korean electronics giant's deepening commitment to robotics and AI as pillars of its future business. According to industry sources on Sunday, Lyu toured AgiBot's facilities starting Wednesday, meeting with the company's leadership to discuss trends in humanoid robotics and explore further collaboration. AgiBot ranks among the world's top humanoid robo

- [BTS comeback set to test Seoul's mobile networks](#) (2026-03-15 07:31)

South Korea's three major mobile carriers are racing to fortify their networks ahead of what is shaping up to be one of the country's largest live events in recent memory: the long-awaited BTS comeback concert in the heart of Seoul. The show, titled "BTS The Comeback Live: Arirang," is scheduled for 8 p.m. on March 21 at Gwanghwamun Square. Police estimate that upwards of

260,000 people will flood the area, with fans expected to begin gathering a full day in advance. The concert marks the group'

- [Wishy-washy: Opposition extends local election deadline yet again for Seoul mayor](#) (2026-03-15 07:31)

The main opposition People Power Party on Sunday extended its deadline yet again for candidate registration for June's Seoul mayoral race, in an apparent bid to woo incumbent conservative Mayor Oh Se-hoon. According to the People Power Party, it will prop open the door longer to the registration for its Seoul mayoral candidate nomination on Monday, accepting registrations on Tuesday before an interview of candidates Wednesday. The announcement is to mark a third time that the party is extending

- [Painted friends comfort Sero, zebra famous for zoo escape](#) (2026-03-15 07:30)

Sero, a 7-year-old male Grant' s zebra that became famous three years ago after escaping a zoo and roaming city streets, seems to be recovering psychologically from the loss of his companions thanks to some new friends, albeit only painted ones. Fine arts students from Sejong University painted zebras on the wall of Sero' s enclosure at Children' s Grand Park in April 2025 to help ease his loneliness. "Since the murals were painted, Sero has been seen sitting or rolling in the sand more often than

- [GS25 fresh food sales surge on preorder demand](#) (2026-03-15 07:17)

GS Retail said Sunday that fresh food preorders at its GS25 convenience chain are gaining momentum, with the company planning to broaden the category as younger consumers lead the charge. According to the company, the service, available through its mobile app, ran four promotional events between January and February, generating about 20,000 orders and pushing fresh-food sales through the app 540 percent higher than a year earlier. The model lets customers browse and pay for perishables online an

- [Gmarket drives higher traffic with brand partnerships](#) (2026-03-15 07:16)

Gmarket, the e-commerce arm of Shinsegae Group, said Sunday that brands participating in its strategic partnership program are seeing strong sales gains, prompting plans to extend the model into high-potential categories. The platform' s Joint Business Partnership, or JBP, program — through which it works with brands on promotional calendars, advertising plans and product strategies — now includes more than 1,300 brands. Among roughly 100 of the largest participants, transaction volumes have aver

- [\[Photo News\] Gurye in sea of yellow](#) (2026-03-15 07:13)

Visitors strolled among bright yellow cornelian cherry flowers in the village of Sansuyu, in Gurye, South jeolla Province, nestled in the foothills of Jirisan, as early spring unfolds across the countryside. The village has turned a vivid shade of yellow as sansuyu flowers bloom across the hillsides. Streams that remained frozen during the winter have thawed, signaling the arrival of

warmer days. With lighter clothing and cameras in hand, visitors walked along scenic paths, taking in the season

- [Seoul under pressure as Trump calls for naval support in Hormuz](#) (2026-03-15 06:24)

South Korea faces growing pressure to contribute naval forces to safeguard shipping through the Strait of Hormuz after US President Donald Trump called on major oil-importing countries to help keep the vital energy corridor open, placing Seoul at the center of a widening geopolitical test. The request comes at a sensitive moment for South Korea, whose economy remains heavily dependent on Middle Eastern crude oil that passes through the strait, while its alliance with Washington is undergoing wha

- [Korean authorities on alert as won flirts with 1,500 barrier](#) (2026-03-15 06:22)

South Korean authorities are on heightened alert and signaling possible verbal intervention as a Middle East-driven oil shock keeps pressure on the won, pushing the dollar-won monthly average toward crisis-era levels. The tougher tone follows the currency's brief breach of the 1,500-per-dollar mark in Friday overnight trading, renewing concern about the foreign-exchange market. "Major currencies such as the won, yen and euro are all weakening as the dollar strengthens," Finance Minister Koo Yun-

- [Ruling party furious after left-leaning news show claims government pressure to drop Lee charges](#) (2026-03-15 06:15)

The debate over reforming the legal system has intensified after a journalist alleged that allies of President Lee Jae Myung sought to persuade prosecutors to drop criminal charges against him. The allegation, denied by the government, has deepened opposition claims that the Lee administration's push for prosecution reform cannot be separated from the president's own legal situation. The ruling Democratic Party of Korea took legal action against Jang In-soo, an independent journalist who was for

- [Over half of workers report abuse by principal contractors: survey](#) (2026-03-15 06:13)

More than half of workers in South Korea said they have experienced or witnessed abusive practices by principal contractors, a recent survey showed. According to a study released Sunday by Workplace Gapjil 119, a South Korean civic group advocating for workers' rights, 55 percent of respondents said they had experienced such practices, including discrimination in wages, leave, work equipment and access to welfare facilities. The survey was conducted among 1,000 workers aged 19 and older between

- [A Korean fan's guide to the 98th Academy Awards](#) (2026-03-15 06:04)

The 98th Academy Awards, to be held at Hollywood's Dolby Theatre on Sunday, could shape up to be a landmark night for Korean cinema and Korean-rooted filmmaking. Two films with direct ties to Korea are in the running: one an overwhelming awards-season favorite and the other a dark-horse entry that gives one of the most eccentric works in Korean cinema its due. The

night's headline act for fans of Korean content will be Netflix's animated sensation "KPop Demon Hunters," which goes into Sunday's c

- [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 offic

- [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 rooftop

- [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 mea

- [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. Given Go's complexity and its demand for human intuition, experts had predicted such a 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 duty

- [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 China

- [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 at loanDepot park in Miami, while South Korea managed just two hits. The game was called with two outs in the bottom of the seventh when Austin Wells launched a three-run homer off So Hyeong-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-youn, 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. StandardChartered 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 reorganize

- [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 hi

- [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 Ko

- [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, No

- [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 Presi

- [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 rang

- [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-wat

- [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 continue

- [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 Gwangyang 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

Source: Yonhap

- [\(LEAD\) At least 50 injured in fire at Daejeon car parts plant](#) (2026-03-20 05:50)

DAEJEON, March 20 (Yonhap) -- A fire broke out at a car parts plant in the centr...

- [Netflix, BTS to turn Seoul into world's 'biggest watch party'](#) (2026-03-20 05:49)

SEOUL, March 20 (Yonhap) -- K-pop megagroup BTS is set to return with "BTS The C...

- [Lee orders resumption of highway project suspended due to allegations involving ex-first lady](#) (2026-03-20 05:46)

SEOUL, March 20 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung has ordered the resumption o...

- [\(LEAD\) BTS leader RM injures ankle ahead of Gwanghwamun concert](#) (2026-03-20 05:46)

SEOUL, March 20 (Yonhap) -- BTS leader RM has injured his ankle during a rehears...

- [\(URGENT\) 35 seriously injured, 15 slightly injured in fire at Daejeon car parts plant: authorities](#) (2026-03-20 05:39)

(END)

- [Media watchdog hosts forum on public access rights to global sports broadcast](#) (2026-03-20 05:37)

SEOUL, March 20 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's media watchdog on Friday hosted a publ...

- [BTS leader RM injures ankle ahead of Gwanghwamun concert](#) (2026-03-20 05:32)

SEOUL, March 20 (Yonhap) -- BTS leader RM has injured his ankle during a rehears...

- [Fire breaks out at car parts plant in Daejeon; 25 injured: authorities](#) (2026-03-20 05:30)

DAEJEON, March 20 (Yonhap) -- A fire broke out at a car parts plant in the centr...

- [\(LEAD\) N. Korea's Kim oversees drill involving new battle tanks; daughter Ju-ae in driving seat](#) (2026-03-20 05:22)

SEOUL, March 20 (Yonhap) -- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un oversaw a joint offe...

- [Hyundai supplies Xcient fuel cell trucks for Uruguay zero-emission logistics project](#) (2026-03-20 05:00)

SEOUL, March 20 (Yonhap) -- Hyundai Motor Co. said Friday it has supplied eight ...

- [Today in Korean history](#) (2026-03-20 05:00)

March 21

- [Lotte Chemical aims to restore financial health through restructuring efforts](#) (2026-03-20 04:59)

SEOUL, March 20 (Yonhap) -- Lotte Chemical Corp., the chemical arm of South Kore...

- [Finance chief says BTS concert expected to generate great amount of economic value](#) (2026-03-20 04:49)

SEOUL, March 20 (Yonhap) -- Finance Minister Koo Yun-cheol said Friday a live pe...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-03-20 04:30)

The following is the first summary of major stories moved by Yonhap News Agency ...

- [Fisheries farm output up 1.1 pct on-year in 2025: data](#) (2026-03-20 03:00)

SEOUL, March 20 (Yonhap) -- Fisheries output at South Korea's fishing farms last...

- [DAPA chief sees 50-50 chance for Seoul's bid for Canadian submarine deal](#) (2026-03-20 03:00)

SEOUL, March 20 (Yonhap) -- The chief of South Korea's defense procurement agenc...

- [Online payments rise 9.2 pct on-year in 2025 to record high: data](#) (2026-03-20 03:00)
SEOUL, March 20 (Yonhap) -- The value of electronic payments in South Korea exte...
- [Lee's approval rating hits new high since inauguration: poll](#) (2026-03-20 02:46)
SEOUL, March 20 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung's approval rating climbed to...
- [LG Energy Solution aims to expand ESS business to up to 40 pct of company portfolio](#) (2026-03-20 02:40)
SEOUL, March 20 (Yonhap) -- LG Energy Solution Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Kim...
- [Seoul shares trim earlier gains late Fri. morning on tech loss](#) (2026-03-20 02:36)
SEOUL, March 20 (Yonhap) -- South Korean shares trimmed earlier gains late Frida...
- [S. Korea hosts cultural exchange roundtable in Russia to mark 35th anniv. of diplomatic ties](#) (2026-03-20 02:29)
SEOUL, March 20 (Yonhap) -- South Korea hosted a roundtable in Moscow to discuss...
- [Veterans minister pays respects to late ex-first ladies on their death annivs.](#) (2026-03-20 02:21)
SEOUL, March 20 (Yonhap) -- Veterans Minister Kwon Oh-eul has paid his respects ...
- [Samsung Heavy wins 377.9 bln-won LNG ship order in Oceania](#) (2026-03-20 02:07)
SEOUL, March 20 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Heavy Industries Co. said Friday it has secu...
- [Trade ministry launches task force to respond to USTR probes](#) (2026-03-20 02:02)
SEOUL, March 20 (Yonhap) -- The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Resources launch...
- [Retailers, hotels in Seoul ramp up purple-themed marketing on eve of BTS concert](#) (2026-03-20 01:41)
SEOUL, March 20 (Yonhap) -- Retailers and hotels in central Seoul were seen Frid...
- [Gov't may impose export restrictions amid crude oil supply emergency: vice minister](#) (2026-03-20 01:35)
SEOUL, March 20 (Yonhap) -- South Korea remains in an "emergency situation" in t...
- [Ex-envoy to Brazil appointed ambassador to Canada](#) (2026-03-20 01:34)
SEOUL, March 20 (Yonhap) -- A former South Korean ambassador to Brazil has been ...
- [Foreign visitors increase sharply ahead of BTS concert](#) (2026-03-20 01:22)
SEOUL, March 20 (Yonhap) -- The number of foreigners visiting South Korea this m...

- [\(LEAD\) N. Korea's Kim oversees combined drill involving new main battle tanks](#)

(2026-03-20 01:17)

SEOUL, March 20 (Yonhap) -- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un oversaw a joint offe...

- [T.O.P to release 1st solo album in April, marking 20th year since debut](#) (2026-03-20 01:03)

SEOUL, March 20 (Yonhap) -- Singer-actor T.O.P, a former member of boy group BIG...

- [Gov't says economy on recovery path, warns of Middle East risks](#) (2026-03-20 01:00)

SEOUL, March 20 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's economy remains on a recovery path, bu...

- [Naver to offer special map service tailored to BTS comeback concert](#) (2026-03-20 00:59)

SEOUL, March 20 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's top search engine operator Naver Corp....

- [Budget minister nominee calls for long-term approach to basic income scheme](#)

(2026-03-20 00:52)

SEOUL, March 20 (Yonhap) -- Budget Minister nominee Park Hong-keun said Friday t...

- [\(LEAD\) BTS redefines 'Koreanness' in long-awaited full-group album 'Arirang'](#) (2026-03-20 00:43)

SEOUL, March 20 (Yonhap) -- Global K-pop sensation BTS said it wanted to keep Ko...

- [DP lawmaker says to leave party amid sexual harassment allegations](#) (2026-03-20 00:42)

SEOUL, March 20 (Yonhap) -- Rep. Jang Kyung-tae of the ruling Democratic Party (...)

- [S. Korea says attack on Qatar LNG plant unlikely to cause supply disruption](#) (2026-03-20 00:31)

SEOUL, March 20 (Yonhap) -- An attack by Iran on the world's largest liquefied n...

- [Seoul shares open higher amid hopes for easing Mideast tensions](#) (2026-03-20 00:31)

SEOUL, March 20 (Yonhap) -- South Korean shares opened almost 1 percent higher F...

- [Korean won rebounds against U.S. dollar as oil prices ease](#) (2026-03-20 00:24)

SEOUL, March 20 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean currency opened higher against the ...

- [Downtown Seoul to enter security lockdown for massive crowd at BTS concert](#) (2026-03-20 00:19)

SEOUL, March 20 (Yonhap) -- Police commandos and barricades will be deployed acr...

- [N. Korea denounces Japan's move to expand lethal arms exports](#) (2026-03-20 00:14)

SEOUL, March 20 (Yonhap) -- North Korea on Friday denounced Japan's push to expa...

- [Gov't, Hybe establish cybersecurity hotline to prepare against BTS-related online threats](#) (2026-03-19 23:58)

SEOUL, March 20 (Yonhap) -- The government has set up an emergency communication...

- [Seoul expresses concerns over Britain's new steel trade measure, vows response to minimize damage](#) (2026-03-19 23:54)

SEOUL, March 20 (Yonhap) -- Seoul's industry ministry has expressed concerns ove...

- [N. Korea's Kim oversees combined drill involving new main battle tanks](#) (2026-03-19 22:44)

SEOUL, March 20 (Yonhap) -- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un oversaw a joint offe...

- [\(EDITORIAL from Korea JoongAng Daily on March 20\)](#) (2026-03-19 22:09)

Seoul's Gwanghwamun area will become a global stage on Saturday as BTS returns w...

- [\(EDITORIAL from The Korea Times on March 20\)](#) (2026-03-19 22:09)

Korea's latest employment data presents a paradox that should alarm policymakers...

- [\(EDITORIAL from Korea Herald on March 20\)](#) (2026-03-19 22:08)

A market that leaps on reform rhetoric only to falter a day later is not yet a p...

- [Top headlines in major S. Korean newspapers](#) (2026-03-19 22:06)

SEOUL, March 20 (Yonhap) -- The following are the top headlines in major South K...

- [\(4th LD\) Trump calls on Japan to 'step up' as U.S. seeks to keep Strait of Hormuz open](#) (2026-03-19 21:59)

WASHINGTON, March 19 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump on Thursday express...

- [Savings banks swing to black in 2025; delinquency rate falls](#) (2026-03-19 21:00)

SEOUL, March 20 (Yonhap) -- The savings banking industry returned to the black l...

- [Delinquency rate on bank loans rises to 0.56 pct in Jan.](#) (2026-03-19 21:00)

SEOUL, March 20 (Yonhap) -- The delinquency rate on loans extended by local bank...

- [BTS set to make long-awaited comeback with 'Arirang'](#) (2026-03-19 21:00)

SEOUL, March 20 (Yonhap) -- Global K-pop sensation BTS will return as a full gro...

- [\(3rd LD\) Trump calls on Japan to 'step up' as U.S. seeks to keep Strait of Hormuz open](#) (2026-03-19 20:53)

WASHINGTON, March 19 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump on Thursday express...

- [\(2nd LD\) Trump calls on Japan to 'step up' as U.S. seeks to keep Strait of Hormuz open](#) (2026-03-19 19:29)

WASHINGTON, March 19 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump on Thursday express...

- [\(LEAD\) Trump calls on Japan to 'step up' as U.S. seeks to keep Strait of Hormuz open](#) (2026-03-19 18:03)

WASHINGTON, March 19 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump on Thursday express...

- [Trump calls on Japan to 'step up' as U.S. seeks to keep Strait of Hormuz open](#) (2026-03-19 17:25)

WASHINGTON, March 19 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump on Thursday express...

- [Hegseth says no 'definitive' time frame on ending Iran war, rejects 'forever war' speculation](#) (2026-03-19 14:43)

WASHINGTON, March 19 (Yonhap) -- U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said Thursd...

- [Qatar may have to declare force majeure on long-term LNG contract with S. Korea, others: report](#) (2026-03-19 14:35)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- The CEO of QatarEnergy warned Thursday that the stat...

- [Lee slams conservative YouTuber's slush fund accusations as 'pathetic,' 'malicious'](#) (2026-03-19 13:48)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Thursday lambasted a cons...

- [Police panel recommends prosecutorial referral for DP lawmaker on alleged sexual harassment](#) (2026-03-19 13:04)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- A police committee recommended Thursday that Rep. Ja...

- [PM Kim inspects Incheon Int'l Airport ahead of BTS comeback show](#) (2026-03-19 12:52)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- Prime Minister Kim Min-seok on Thursday inspected sa...

- [Samsung Electronics to close its TV plant in Slovakia: sources](#) (2026-03-19 10:09)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Electronics Co. will shut down its TV produc...

- [Samsung Life to unload 1.32 tln won worth of shares in Samsung Electronics](#) (2026-03-19 09:46)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Life Insurance Co. said Thursday it will sel...

- [Seoul to provide US\\$2 mln in humanitarian aid to conflict-hit Lebanon](#) (2026-03-19 09:26)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- South Korea will provide US\$2 million in humanitaria...

- [Samsung Electronics to invest 110 tln won in AI chip R&D; facilities this year](#) (2026-03-19 09:21)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Electronics Co. said Thursday it plans to in...

- [Korean Pavilion at Venice Biennale seeks comfort through art, with Han Kang's sculpture of blackened trees](#) (2026-03-19 08:40)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- The theme of art bringing comfort to humanity has ne...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-03-19 08:04)

The following is the second summary of major stories moved by Yonhap News Agency...

- [Seoul again urges its nationals to swiftly leave Iran, Iraq, Lebanon amid Mideast conflict](#) (2026-03-19 07:59)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- The foreign ministry on Thursday renewed a call for ...

- [\(LEAD\) Seoul shares dip nearly 3 pct on escalating Iran crisis, hawkish Fed; won slides to 17-yr low](#) (2026-03-19 07:49)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- South Korean shares ended almost 3 percent lower Thu...

- [S. Korea to export 16 homegrown KF-21 fighter jets to Indonesia: sources](#) (2026-03-19 07:48)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- South Korea plans to sign a deal to export 16 KF-21 ...

- [Defense ministry seeks to reform role of drone command instead of abolishment](#) (2026-03-19 07:40)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- The defense ministry said Thursday it will push to r...

- [Police to set up triple-layer barrier around BTS concert to counter terror threats](#) (2026-03-19 07:33)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- Police plan to set up three layers of barricades nea...

- [\(LEAD\) Ruling party introduces key prosecution reform bill at plenary session, triggering filibuster from main opposition](#) (2026-03-19 07:33)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- The ruling Democratic Party (DP) on Thursday introdu...

- [BTS marks comeback with drone light show over New York's Brooklyn Bridge](#) (2026-03-19 07:26)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- K-pop supergroup BTS lit up the night sky over New Y...

- [Seoul shares dip nearly 3 pct on escalating Iran crisis, hawkish Fed; won slides](#) (2026-03-19 07:04)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- South Korean shares ended almost 3 percent lower Thu...

- [\(LEAD\) Shops, restaurants turn purple to welcome BTS fans](#) (2026-03-19 07:01)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- Shops and restaurants in downtown Seoul were adorned...

- [The Boyz seek contract termination, agency refuses](#) (2026-03-19 06:52)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- Most members of K-pop boy band The Boyz have demande...

- [\(2nd LD\) Korean won plunges to new 17-yr low against U.S. dollar as Iran crisis persists](#) (2026-03-19 06:49)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean currency fell sharply to its weakes...

- [Lee orders comprehensive review of stalking cases after fatal incident](#) (2026-03-19 06:43)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Thursday urged police to ...

- [\(2nd LD\) AMD CEO discusses AI ties with S. Korean gov't, businesses](#) (2026-03-19 06:37)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- Lisa Su, chief executive officer (CEO) of Advanced M...

- [Mercedes-Benz Korea names sales network expert as new CEO](#) (2026-03-19 06:24)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- Mercedes-Benz Korea said Thursday it has appointed S...

- [Lee instructs strict economic readiness posture over concerns about prolonged Mideast war](#) (2026-03-19 06:13)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Thursday instructed senio...

- [Culture ministry launches events highlighting Korean culture to coincide with BTS concert](#) (2026-03-19 06:12)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- The culture ministry said Thursday it will launch ev...

- [BTS says is 'thrilled' ahead of Gwanghwamun comeback show](#) (2026-03-19 06:08)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- K-pop megastar BTS said Thursday it is "thrilled" to...

- [Shops, restaurants turn purple to welcome BTS fans](#) (2026-03-19 06:06)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- Shops and restaurants in downtown Seoul were adorned...

- [Unification ministry eyes peaceful coexistence with N. Korea under 5-yr vision for inter-Korean ties](#) (2026-03-19 05:45)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- The unification ministry said Thursday it will draw ...

- [Samsung Electronics' unionized workers to hold press conference amid strike plan](#) (2026-03-19 05:39)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- Unionized workers at Samsung Electronics Co. said Th...

- [Hanwha Aerospace joins Estonian defense industry association](#) (2026-03-19 05:38)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- Hanwha Aerospace Co. said Thursday it has joined a d...

- [LG Display CEO vows growth drive as earnings return to profit in 2025](#) (2026-03-19 05:23)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- LG Display Co. Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Jeong C...

- [Police release photo, identity of stalking murder suspect](#) (2026-03-19 05:23)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- Police on Thursday disclosed the photo and personal ...

- [U.S. biz lobby discusses economic outlook with BOK board member](#) (2026-03-19 05:16)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- The American Chamber of Commerce in Korea (AMCHAM) s...

- [Today in Korean history](#) (2026-03-19 05:00)

March 20

- [Research team verifies applicability of synaptic transistor for next-gen AI chips in space](#) (2026-03-19 05:00)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- A South Korean research team has confirmed the poten...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-03-19 04:30)

The following is the first summary of major stories moved by Yonhap News Agency ...

- [No. of marriages in S. Korea rises 8.1 pct to 7-yr high in 2025](#) (2026-03-19 03:06)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- The number of marriages in South Korea increased 8.1...

- [Credit card industry's 2025 net dips 9 pct on cost increases](#) (2026-03-19 03:00)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- Credit card companies in South Korea saw their combi...

- [S. Korea logs deficit in knowledge, culture services trade in 2025: BOK](#) (2026-03-19 03:00)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- South Korea recorded a deficit in knowledge and cult...

- [\(LEAD\) Lee puts importance on likelihood of workers' acceptance in adopting labor market flexibility](#) (2026-03-19 02:47)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung said Thursday importance sho...

- [Special envoy visits Azerbaijan ahead of S. Korea-Central Asia summit](#) (2026-03-19 02:45)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- A special envoy for the foreign minister visited Aze...

- [Lee puts importance on likelihood of workers' acceptance in adopting labor market flexibility](#) (2026-03-19 02:42)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung said Thursday importance sho...

- [\(LEAD\) S. Korea, U.S. conclude key springtime military drills amid N. Korean threats](#) (2026-03-19 02:41)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and the United States wrapped up their a...

- [\(LEAD\) AMD CEO discusses AI ties with Samsung, Upstage during S. Korea visit](#) (2026-03-19 02:35)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- Lisa Su, chief executive officer (CEO) of Advanced M...

- [Confectionary, ice cream makers to join retail price cut movement to help ease burdens: gov't](#) (2026-03-19 02:30)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- Major bakery, ice cream and confectionary companies ...

- [U.S. Army stationed in S. Korea conducts long-range aviation combat drills](#) (2026-03-19 02:29)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- A U.S. Army unit stationed in South Korea said Thurs...

- [Seoul shares down late Thurs. morning on escalating Mideast crisis, U.S. rate freeze](#) (2026-03-19 02:28)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- South Korean shares traded nearly 2 percent lower la...

- [Trade minister vows support for efforts to diversify rare earth supply chains](#) (2026-03-19 02:23)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- The government will support South Korean companies' ...

- [Ruling party, gov't agree on support measures for SMEs hit by rising oil prices](#) (2026-03-19 02:23)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- The ruling Democratic Party (DP) and the government ...

- [AMD, Upstage expand partnership to support S. Korea's AI push](#) (2026-03-19 02:08)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- U.S. chip giant Advanced Micro Devices Inc. (AMD) an...

- [\(LEAD\) Uncertainty over U.S. monetary policy deepens amid Middle East crisis: BOK](#) (2026-03-19 02:01)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- Uncertainty over the path of U.S. monetary policy ha...

- [Investigators question ex-oceans minister in Unification Church-linked bribery case](#) (2026-03-19 01:59)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- A former oceans minister, who is a ruling Democratic...

- [\(LEAD\) Authorities to closely monitor FX conditions amid Mideast crisis, U.S. rate freeze \(2026-03-19 01:49\)](#)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- The government will use all available resources to s...

- [Central Seoul ward refurbishes streets, digital signs ahead of BTS concert \(2026-03-19 01:44\)](#)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- The central Seoul ward of Jung said Thursday its off...

- [Nearly half of moviegoers cut cinema visits citing cost as primary factor: survey \(2026-03-19 01:14\)](#)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- Nearly half of moviegoers reduced cinema visits over...

- [S. Korea, U.S. conclude key springtime military drills amid N. Korean threats \(2026-03-19 01:14\)](#)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and the United States wrapped up their a...

- [Authorities to closely monitor FX conditions amid Mideast crisis, U.S. rate freeze \(2026-03-19 01:11\)](#)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- The government will use all available resources to s...

- [Financial firms urged to enhance risk management amid Middle East crisis \(2026-03-19 01:01\)](#)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- The country's financial regulator called on financia...

- [Gov't discusses adopting AI education programs in elementary, middle schools \(2026-03-19 01:00\)](#)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- The science and education ministries discussed Thurs...

- [Uncertainty over U.S. monetary policy deepens amid Middle East crisis: BOK \(2026-03-19 00:58\)](#)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- Uncertainty over the path of U.S. monetary policy ha...

- [SK Telecom, Ericsson join hands to collaborate on AI-based mobile network tech, 6G \(2026-03-19 00:54\)](#)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- SK Telecom Co. said Thursday it has partnered with S...

- [POSCO Future M partners with U.S. startup to develop advanced battery materials \(2026-03-19 00:48\)](#)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- POSCO Future M Co., the battery materials subsidiary...

- [\(LEAD\) Korean currency falls sharply past 1,500 won amid oil price surge \(2026-03-19 00:38\)](#)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean currency fell markedly past the 1,5...

- [Seoul shares open sharply lower on escalating Mideast crisis, U.S. rate freeze \(2026-03-19 00:25\)](#)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- South Korean shares kicked off sharply lower Thursda...

- [Korean currency falls sharply past 1,500 won amid oil price surge \(2026-03-19 00:24\)](#)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean currency fell markedly past the 1,5...

- [Samsung tops global commercial display market for 17 straight years in 2025 \(2026-03-19 00:19\)](#)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Electronics Co. has maintained its leadershi...

- [Hybe denies speculation of political motive behind BTS' red-themed comeback events \(2026-03-19 00:07\)](#)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- Hybe, the K-pop giant behind K-pop supergroup BTS, h...

- [Ruling party set to push prosecution reform bills at plenary session \(2026-03-19 00:01\)](#)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- The ruling Democratic Party (DP) on Thursday was poi...

- [N. Korea touts cement factory visited by leader Kim as exemplary case for boosting production \(2026-03-18 23:51\)](#)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- North Korea has touted a cement factory in the count...

- [Samsung Display CEO earns fellowship at global display industry forum \(2026-03-18 23:22\)](#)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Display Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Yi Chu...

- [Top headlines in major S. Korean newspapers \(2026-03-18 22:39\)](#)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- The following are the top headlines in major South K...

- [\(EDITORIAL from Korea JoongAng Daily on March 19\) \(2026-03-18 22:02\)](#)

Amid rising volatility driven by Middle East tensions, the government has renewe...

- [\(EDITORIAL from The Korea Times on March 19\) \(2026-03-18 22:02\)](#)

Rep. Jung Chung-rae, chairman of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK), sai...

- [\(EDITORIAL from The Korea Herald on March 19\) \(2026-03-18 22:01\)](#)

Following the introduction of the "distortion of law" offense and a constitution...

- [Banks' earnings up 8.2 pct in 2025 on non-interest income](#) (2026-03-18 21:00)

SEOUL, March 19 (Yonhap) -- South Korean banks' combined net profit jumped by mo...

- [\(2nd LD\) Fed holds key rate steady, projects 1 rate cut this year amid Iran war uncertainty](#) (2026-03-18 19:57)

WASHINGTON, March 18 (Yonhap) -- The U.S. Federal Reserve on Wednesday held its ...

- [\(LEAD\) Fed holds key rate steady, projects 1 rate cut this year amid Iran war uncertainty](#) (2026-03-18 18:28)

WASHINGTON, March 18 (Yonhap) -- The U.S. Federal Reserve on Wednesday left its ...

- [U.S. Fed holds key rate steady amid concerns over Iran war impact on oil prices, inflation](#) (2026-03-18 18:03)

WASHINGTON, March 18 (Yonhap) -- The U.S. Federal Reserve left its benchmark int...

- [\(URGENT\) U.S. Fed holds key rate steady amid concerns over Iran war impact on oil prices, inflation](#) (2026-03-18 18:00)

(END)

- [N. Korea committed to expanding nuclear, missile programs; poses 'significant' threats to S. Korea, Japan: U.S. report](#) (2026-03-18 15:20)

WASHINGTON, March 18 (Yonhap) -- North Korea remains committed to expanding its ...

- [\(LEAD\) Gov't holds meeting on potential evacuation of S. Korean vessels in Hormuz Strait](#) (2026-03-18 14:33)

SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- The foreign ministry said Wednesday it held an inter...

- [Trump raises idea of shifting responsibility for Hormuz Strait to countries using it](#) (2026-03-18 13:58)

WASHINGTON, March 18 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump on Wednesday floate...

- [\(LEAD\) Police seek arrest warrant for suspect behind airline pilot murder](#) (2026-03-18 12:12)

BUSAN, March 18 (Yonhap) -- Police sought an arrest warrant Wednesday for a form...

- [\(2nd LD\) Samsung chief meets with AMD CEO in AI chip cooperation push](#) (2026-03-18 11:28)

SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Electronics Co. Chairman Lee Jae-yong met wi...

- [Gov't holds meeting on potential evacuation of S. Korean vessels in Hormuz Strait](#) (2026-03-18 10:55)

SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- The foreign ministry said Wednesday it held an inter...

- [PM discusses AI hub cooperation with Swiss president](#) (2026-03-18 10:44)

SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- Prime Minister Kim Min-seok, who is visiting Switzer...

- [S. Korea, China industry ministers hold first talks in 4 yrs, discuss supply chains](#) (2026-03-18 10:43)

SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- Industry ministers of South Korea and China held tal...

- [Top diplomats of S. Korea, Indonesia hold phone talks ahead of Prabowo's state visit](#) (2026-03-18 10:20)

SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- Foreign Minister Cho Hyun held phone talks his Indon...

- [Regulator seeks to ban 'split listing,' create 2-tier KOSDAQ market](#) (2026-03-18 10:05)

SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's financial regulator said Wednesday tha...

- [\(LEAD\) Police to set up crowd control zone for 100,000 people during BTS concert](#) (2026-03-18 09:08)

SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- Police said Wednesday they will set up a crowd contr...

- [Coupang partners with Nvidia to build AI factory](#) (2026-03-18 08:28)

SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- Coupang Inc. said Wednesday it has established an "A...

- [Taiwan changes 'Korea' to 'S. Korea' in immigration system in protest over Seoul's labeling of it as China](#) (2026-03-18 08:20)

SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- Taiwan said Wednesday it has changed South Korea's n...

- [\(LEAD\) Samsung Electronics to supply HMB4 chips for AMD's next-gen AI GPUs](#) (2026-03-18 08:10)

SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Electronics Co. said Wednesday it has signed...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-03-18 08:07)

The following is the second summary of major stories moved by Yonhap News Agency...

- [SK hynix set to build autonomous chip plant by 2030 amid booming AI demand](#) (2026-03-18 08:02)

SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- SK hynix Inc. said it plans to establish an autonomo...

- [Samsung Electronics to supply HMB4 chips for AMD's next-gen AI GPUs](#) (2026-03-18 08:00)

SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Electronics Co. said Wednesday it has signed...

- [N. Korea-China trade surpasses US\\$427 mln in Jan.-Feb., highest in 9 yrs](#) (2026-03-18 07:57)

SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- Trade between North Korea and China surpassed 2.94 b...

- [Defense chief inspects Freedom Shield drills at military bunker](#) (2026-03-18 07:50)

SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- Defense Minister Ahn Gyu-back on Wednesday visited a...

- [Police to set up crowd control zone for 100,000 people during BTS concert](#) (2026-03-18 07:47)

SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- Police said Wednesday they will set up a crowd contr...

- [\(2nd LD\) Seoul stocks jump over 5 pct on chip rally](#) (2026-03-18 07:36)

SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks surged more than 5 percent Wedne...

- [Finance chief pledges timely response to excessive FX market volatility](#) (2026-03-18 07:34)

SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- Finance Minister Koo Yun-cheol said Wednesday that t...

- [Gov't launches public-private committee to set up U.S. investment management agency](#) (2026-03-18 07:17)

SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- The government on Wednesday launched a committee tas...

- [Prosecutors raid Rainbow Robotics over suspected insider trading](#) (2026-03-18 07:15)

SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- Prosecutors on Wednesday raided robot platform compa...

- [\(LEAD\) Lee urges capital markets to embrace crisis as opportunity to advance reforms](#) (2026-03-18 07:08)

SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Wednesday called for effo...

- [S. Korea strongly advises nationals in Lebanon to leave as Israel ramps up ground attacks](#) (2026-03-18 07:07)

SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- The foreign ministry on Wednesday strongly advised S...

- [\(LEAD\) Seoul stocks jump over 5 pct on chip rally](#) (2026-03-18 07:01)

SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks surged more than 5 percent Wedne...

- [Four decades of Damien Hirst on display at MMCA, from shark to cherry blossoms](#) (2026-03-18 06:58)

SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- Most Koreans, even those new to art, may have heard ...

- [\(LEAD\) S. Korean won rises for 2nd session ahead of U.S. Fed's rate decision](#) (2026-03-18 06:55)

SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean currency gained sharply against the...

- [\(LEAD\) Samsung Electronics' unionized workers vote to strike over bonus](#) (2026-03-18 06:45)

SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- Unionized workers at Samsung Electronics Co. on Wedn...

- [Seoul stocks jump over 5 pct on chip rally](#) (2026-03-18 06:36)

SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks surged more than 5 percent Wedne...

- [Bears' Yang Eui-ji becomes 2nd highest-paid player in KBO history](#) (2026-03-18 06:35)

SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- Doosan Bears catcher Yang Eui-ji will earn a record ...

- [S. Korea seeks EU role in minerals partnership, help easing regulatory burdens on Korean firms](#) (2026-03-18 06:35)

SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- South Korea on Wednesday expressed hope that the Eur...

- [Legoland Korea eyes turnaround on stronger marketing, brand recognition](#) (2026-03-18 06:33)

SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- Legoland Korea Resort, owned by Europe's largest the...

- [\(URGENT\) Seoul shares surge more than 5 pct on chip rally](#) (2026-03-18 06:32)

fairydust@yna.co.kr (END)

- [NH Investment & Securities becomes 3rd IMA operator](#) (2026-03-18 06:22)

SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- The Financial Services Commission (FSC) on Wednesday...

- [Samsung Electronics' unionized workers vote to strike over bonus](#) (2026-03-18 06:08)

SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- Unionized workers at Samsung Electronics Co. on Wedn...

- [Gov't raises crude oil supply disruption alert to Level 2](#) (2026-03-18 06:00)

SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- The government raised Wednesday the alert over a pos...

- [Samsung Electronics to enhance business stability through multiyear chip deals](#) (2026-03-18 05:52)

SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- Jun Young-hyun, co-chief executive officer (CEO) of ...

- [KRX issues buy-side sidecar for KOSPI on sharp surge](#) (2026-03-18 05:49)

SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's main bourse operator on Wednesday issu...

- [Lee asks for public's cooperation in ensuring safety at BTS comeback show](#) (2026-03-18 05:47)

SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Wednesday asked for the p...

- [\(LEAD\) S. Korea secures extra supply of crude oil from UAE: presidential aide](#) (2026-03-18 05:44)

SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- The United Arab Emirates has pledged to make it a to...

- [\(URGENT\) KRX issues buy-side sidecar for KOSPI on sharp surge](#) (2026-03-18 05:39)

(

- [S. Korea, Poland discuss cooperation for upcoming G20 summit](#) (2026-03-18 05:33)

SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- Government representatives of South Korea and Poland...

- [Stray Kids to release new digital single for 8th debut anniversary](#) (2026-03-18 05:05)

SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- K-pop boy group Stray Kids will release a new digita...

- [Today in Korean history](#) (2026-03-18 05:00)

March 19

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-03-18 04:30)

The following is the first summary of major stories moved by Yonhap News Agency ...

- [No. of S. Korean stock shareholders reaches nearly 15 mln in 2025: data](#) (2026-03-18 03:48)

SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- The number of shareholder entities of South Korea-li...

- [UAE pledges to supply crude oil to S. Korea with top priority: presidential aide](#) (2026-03-18 03:00)

SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- The United Arab Emirates has pledged to supply crude...

- [FSS warns investors' against rushing to high-risk products amid market volatility](#) (2026-03-18 03:00)

SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- The financial watchdog on Wednesday warned retail in...

- [Samsung SDI CEO vows profit turnaround in H2 on AI sector demand](#) (2026-03-18 02:46)

SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- The head of Samsung SDI Co. vowed Wednesday to retur...

- [\(URGENT\) S. Korea to receive 18 mln barrels of crude oil from UAE: presidential adviser](#) (2026-03-18 02:39)

(END)

- [\(URGENT\) UAE pledges to supply crude oil to S. Korea with top priority: presidential adviser \(2026-03-18 02:35\)](#)

(END)

- [Seoul shares up over 3.5 pct late Wed. morning on tech surge \(2026-03-18 02:31\)](#)

SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- South Korean shares traded more than 3.5 percent hig...

- [Half of bond market experts predict consumer prices to rise due to Middle East turmoil \(2026-03-18 02:29\)](#)

SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- Half of bond experts in South Korea expected consume...

- [N. Korea highlights cement factory praised by leader Kim to drum up industrial output \(2026-03-18 02:18\)](#)

SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- North Korea has launched an industrial campaign to b...

- [S. Korea wins cooperation of 6 U.N. agencies for global AI hub \(2026-03-18 02:16\)](#)

SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- South Korea has signed a letter of intent with six U...

- [Gov't to ensure S. Korea treated no less favorably than other nations in USTR probe: minister \(2026-03-18 02:06\)](#)

SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- The government will respond to a U.S. trade inquiry ...

- [Lee thanks Japan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia for support in evacuating S. Koreans from Middle East \(2026-03-18 02:00\)](#)

SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung has sent letters to the lead...

- [Auto exports down over 20 pct in Feb. amid decline in working days: data \(2026-03-18 02:00\)](#)

SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's auto exports fell 20.8 percent from a ...

- [POSCO shares over 100 patent technologies with smaller firms \(2026-03-18 02:00\)](#)

SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- POSCO Group has shared more than 100 patents in ener...

- [Gov't cooperating with shipbuilders to prevent disruption in ethylene supplies \(2026-03-18 01:26\)](#)

SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- The government is closely cooperating with the shipb...

- [S. Korea to tighten monitoring of tariff-rate quota to prevent abuse by importers \(2026-03-18 01:22\)](#)

SEOUL, Marh 18 (Yonhap) -- The government on Wednesday announced plans to streng...

- [Police nab suspect behind airline pilot murder in Busan](#) (2026-03-18 01:06)

BUSAN, March 18 (Yonhap) -- Police have apprehended a man on suspicion of fatall...

- [SK Telecom's AI data center architecture certified by U.N. body as global standard](#) (2026-03-18 01:05)

SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- SK Telecom Co. (SKT), South Korea's biggest telecomm...

- [Actor handed over to prosecution on DUI charges](#) (2026-03-18 01:02)

SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- Actor Lee Jae-ryong, who was booked for causing a dr...

- [S. Korean won rises for 2nd session ahead of U.S. Fed's rate decision](#) (2026-03-18 01:00)

SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean currency gained against the U.S. do...

- [Trevor Paglen of U.S. wins this year's LG Guggenheim Award](#) (2026-03-18 01:00)

SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- U.S. artist and geographer Trevor Paglen has been na...

- [Jennie to headline Lollapalooza Chicago](#) (2026-03-18 00:52)

SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- Jennie of K-pop girl group BLACKPINK will headline t...

- [LS Electric to invest 250 bln won to expand U.S. switchgear plant](#) (2026-03-18 00:42)

SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- LS Electric Co., a South Korean electrical equipment...

- [Gov't to temporarily designate naphtha as economic security item amid supply woes](#) (2026-03-18 00:33)

SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- The government will temporarily designate naphtha as...

- [Seoul shares open sharply higher on tech boost](#) (2026-03-18 00:28)

SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- South Korean shares kicked off nearly 3 percent high...

- [Lee to preside over meeting on reform plans of capital markets](#) (2026-03-18 00:05)

SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung is set to preside over a mee...

- [\(LEAD\) S. Korea adds 234,000 jobs in Feb.; youth unemployment hits 5-yr high](#) (2026-03-17 23:57)

SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- South Korea added 234,000 jobs in February, marking ...

- [Seoul asks Pennsylvania to review tariff exemption for S. Korean shipbuilding materials](#) (2026-03-17 23:52)

SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- Seoul's industry ministry on Wednesday requested the...

- [N. Korea embarks on new project to modernize Pyongyang](#) (2026-03-17 23:39)
SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- North Korea has embarked on a new project to moderni...
- [Gov't to raise terror alert by 1 notch ahead of BTS concert](#) (2026-03-17 23:35)
SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- The government said Wednesday it will raise the offi...
- [Oscar-winning 'KPop Demon Hunters' soundtrack climbs Billboard charts](#) (2026-03-17 23:31)
SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- Netflix's animation sensation "KPop Demon Hunters," ...
- [Jisoo's rom-com 'Boyfriend on Demand' tops Netflix weekly chart](#) (2026-03-17 23:30)
SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- The romantic comedy "Boyfriend on Demand" rose to th...
- [S. Korea adds 234,000 jobs in Feb., logs fastest growth in 5 months](#) (2026-03-17 23:00)
SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- South Korea added 234,000 jobs in February, marking ...
- [Gov't to invest 750 bln won in next 2 yrs to commercialize AI-enabled products](#) (2026-03-17 23:00)
SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- The government plans to inject a combined 750 billio...
- [\(URGENT\) S. Korea adds 234,000 jobs in Feb., logs fastest growth in 5 months: data](#) (2026-03-17 23:00)

(END)

- [N. Korea, Russia mark 77th anniversary of bilateral treaty on economic, cultural cooperation](#) (2026-03-17 22:10)
SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- North Korea and Russia have marked the 77th annivers...
- [\(EDITORIAL from Korea JoongAng Daily on March 18\)](#) (2026-03-17 22:04)
Higher oil prices and a weaker won are already pushing up import costs, stirring...
- [\(EDITORIAL from The Korea Times on March 18\)](#) (2026-03-17 22:04)
Has spring arrived early for K-culture? The animated film "KPop Demon Hunters" g...
- [\(EDITORIAL from The Korea Herald on March 18\)](#) (2026-03-17 22:04)
The "King's Road" that runs from the gates of Gyeongbokgung to the heart of Gwan...
- [Top headlines in major S. Korean newspapers](#) (2026-03-17 22:04)
SEOUL, March 18 (Yonhap) -- The following are the top headlines in major South K...

- [Pentagon official calls U.S. 'flexibility' to meet urgent needs a 'strength' amid THAAD redeployment concerns](#) (2026-03-17 20:29)

WASHINGTON, March 17 (Yonhap) -- A senior Pentagon official said Tuesday "flexib...

- [Trump says his postponed trip to China may take place in 'about 5 or 6 weeks'](#) (2026-03-17 17:32)

WASHINGTON, March 17 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump said Tuesday that h...

- [\(LEAD\) Trump says U.S. no longer needs assistance from NATO allies, S. Korea or Japan to secure Strait of Hormuz](#) (2026-03-17 17:17)

WASHINGTON, March 17 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump said Tuesday that t...

- [Trump says U.S. no longer needs naval support from NATO allies, S. Korea or Japan to help secure Strait of Hormuz](#) (2026-03-17 15:51)

WASHINGTON, March 17 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump said Tuesday that t...

- [\(2nd LD\) Seoul mayor registers candidacy with PPP for local elections amid strife inside main opposition party](#) (2026-03-17 13:32)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon registered his candidacy with...

- [Samsung C&T; signs US\\$3 bln green ammonia supply deal with Reliance of India](#) (2026-03-17 11:55)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- Samsung C&T Corp., the construction and trading ...

- [Gov't discusses ways to expand cybersecurity cooperation with NATO members](#) (2026-03-17 11:38)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- The foreign ministry said Tuesday it has discussed w...

- [\(LEAD\) FM Cho sidesteps questions on whether U.S. asked Seoul to send warships to Middle East](#) (2026-03-17 09:36)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- Foreign Minister Cho Hyun sidestepped questions Tues...

- [Korean Air extends Dubai flight suspension until April 19 over Middle East tensions](#) (2026-03-17 08:45)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- Korean Air Co. said Tuesday it will extend the suspe...

- [SK hynix's cashable assets more than double in 2025 on HBM boom](#) (2026-03-17 08:12)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- The combined amount of cashable assets of SK hynix I...

- [Lee promotes deputy fire chief to head of National Fire Agency](#) (2026-03-17 08:06)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung has appointed Kim Seung-ryon...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-03-17 08:00)

The following is the second summary of major stories moved by Yonhap News Agency...

- [\(2nd LD\) Seoul shares rise for 2nd day on oil price retreat, tech boost](#) (2026-03-17 07:46)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- South Korean shares rose for the second consecutive ...

- [\(LEAD\) Defense chief says received no official U.S. request on sending warships to Middle East](#) (2026-03-17 07:35)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- The defense ministry has not received any official r...

- [\(LEAD\) AMD chief to visit Samsung's chip plant this week: sources](#) (2026-03-17 07:21)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- Lisa Su, chief executive officer (CEO) of Advanced M...

- [FM Cho to attend expanded G7 foreign ministers' meeting in Paris next week: foreign ministry](#) (2026-03-17 07:19)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- Foreign Minister Cho Hyun will travel to France next...

- [\(LEAD\) Seoul shares rise for 2nd day on oil price retreat, tech boost](#) (2026-03-17 07:08)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- South Korean shares rose for the second consecutive ...

- [\(LEAD\) Seoul mayor says to register candidacy with PPP for local elections](#) (2026-03-17 07:04)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon said Tuesday he will register...

- [Budget minister nominee emphasizes fiscal policy amid rising oil prices](#) (2026-03-17 06:56)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- Budget Minister nominee Park Hong-keun on Tuesday ca...

- [\(LEAD\) S. Korean currency rebounds from 17-yr low amid drop in oil prices](#) (2026-03-17 06:53)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean currency gained against the U.S. do...

- [S. Korea ranks No. 1 in export of memory chips, SSDs, face masks, 78 other items: report](#) (2026-03-17 06:52)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- South Korea had 81 products that led global exports ...

- [N. Korea shows off 'human-like' robots at polling station, schools](#) (2026-03-17 06:52)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- North Korea has showed off "human-like" robots at a ...

- [\(LEAD\) Korean currency volatility not at critical stage: BOK board member](#) (2026-03-17 06:51)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- The recent volatility and weakness of the Korean cur...

- [Seoul shares close higher on oil price retreat, tech boost](#) (2026-03-17 06:37)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- South Korean shares closed more than 1.5 percent hig...

- [Defense chief vows firm readiness against all possible situations involving Mideast conflict](#) (2026-03-17 06:36)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- Defense Minister Ahn Gyu-back pledged Tuesday to mai...

- [\(URGENT\) Seoul shares close 1.63 pct higher on oil price retreat, tech boost](#) (2026-03-17 06:33)

(END)

- [KRX to delay launch of 12-hour trading to Sept.](#) (2026-03-17 06:31)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's main bourse operator, the Korea Exchan...

- [S. Korea eyes 10 tln-won investment in AI sector via state fund](#) (2026-03-17 06:30)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- South Korea plans to invest 10 trillion won (US\$6.7 ...

- [Lee calls on police to enforce law in meticulous, fair manner](#) (2026-03-17 06:16)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Tuesday called on police ...

- [Korean currency volatility not at critical stage: BOK board member](#) (2026-03-17 06:14)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- The recent volatility and weakness of the Korean cur...

- [Seoul mayor says to register candidacy with PPP for local elections](#) (2026-03-17 06:06)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon said Tuesday he will register...

- [Seoul apartments' publicly assessed prices jump nearly 19 pct in 2026, fastest in 5 years](#) (2026-03-17 06:00)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- Officially announced prices of apartments in Seoul j...

- [\(2nd LD\) Samsung vows to triple HBM production, unveils HBM4E sample](#) (2026-03-17 05:57)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Electronics Co. is planning to triple its pr...

- [\(LEAD\) S. Korea officially launches committee for preliminary review of U.S. investment projects](#) (2026-03-17 05:56)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean government said Tuesday it official...

- [Galleries Art Fair to open next month with record participants](#) (2026-03-17 05:47)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- The Galleries Art Fair, also known as the Hwarang Ar...

- [Defense ministry to publish white paper for 1st time in 4 years](#) (2026-03-17 05:43)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- The defense ministry is preparing to publish its def...

- [Cabinet endorses special law on \\$350 bln investment pledge to U.S.](#) (2026-03-17 05:26)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- The Cabinet on Tuesday endorsed a special law to fac...

- [\(LEAD\) SK Group chief seeks closer ties with Nvidia during GTC 2026](#) (2026-03-17 05:19)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- SK Group Chairman Chey Tae-won attended an annual te...

- [AMD chief to visit Samsung's chip plant this week: sources](#) (2026-03-17 05:02)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- Lisa Su, chief executive officer (CEO) of Advanced M...

- [Today in Korean history](#) (2026-03-17 05:00)

March 18

- [\(LEAD\) Ex-President Yoon, wife face same court in separate trials](#) (2026-03-17 04:56)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- Former President Yoon Suk Yeol and his wife, former ...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-03-17 04:31)

The following is the first summary of major stories moved by Yonhap News Agency ...

- [S. Korea launches committee for preliminary review of U.S. investment projects](#)
(2026-03-17 03:11)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean government said Tuesday it has laun...

- [FTC charges HDC chief for omitting subsidiaries in regulatory filings](#) (2026-03-17 03:00)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- The antitrust regulator said Tuesday it has charged ...

- [FM Cho sidesteps questions on whether U.S. asked Seoul to send warships to Middle East](#)
(2026-03-17 02:59)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- Foreign Minister Cho Hyun sidestepped questions Tues...

- [Defense, foreign ministries raided over presidential residence relocation](#) (2026-03-17
02:54)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- A special counsel team raided the defense and foreig...

- [Lee urges thorough security measures ahead of BTS concert in Seoul](#) (2026-03-17 02:40)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Tuesday urged authorities...

- [Seoul shares up over 2 pct late Tues. morning amid oil price retreat](#) (2026-03-17 02:39)
SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- South Korean shares traded more than 2 percent highe...
- [Police request arrest warrant for North Chungcheong governor over alleged bribery](#) (2026-03-17 02:37)
SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- Police on Tuesday requested an arrest warrant for Ki...
- [Samsung Electronics ends sales of Galaxy Z TriFold despite strong popularity](#) (2026-03-17 02:35)
SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Electronics Co. has ended sales of the Galax...
- [U.S. confirms Tesla as buyer of LG Energy Solution's July battery deal](#) (2026-03-17 02:27)
SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- The U.S. government has confirmed that global electr...
- [Lee stresses role of financial measures in stabilizing housing market](#) (2026-03-17 02:21)
SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Tuesday called on the gov...
- [\(LEAD\) Police nab S. Korean man over threat to bomb U.S. airport](#) (2026-03-17 02:17)
SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- Police said Tuesday they have apprehended a South Ko...
- [PM meets U.N. chief to promote bid to host AI hub](#) (2026-03-17 02:09)
SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- Prime Minister Kim Min-seok met with U.N. Secretary...
- [Army halts small firearms training after elementary school student wounded by bullet in Daegu](#) (2026-03-17 02:06)
SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- The Army has suspended all shooting training involi...
- [\(LEAD\) Lee calls for measures to handle worst-case scenarios over prolonged Mideast crisis](#) (2026-03-17 02:00)
SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung said Tuesday the government ...
- [Lee calls for measures to handle worst-case scenarios over prolonged Mideast crisis](#) (2026-03-17 01:43)
SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung said Tuesday the government ...
- [Gov't to tighten reviews of high-value state asset sales](#) (2026-03-17 01:43)
SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- The government on Tuesday announced plans to tighten...
- [Celltrion wins 294.9 bln-won drug substance supply deal from global firm](#) (2026-03-17 01:39)
SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- Celltrion Inc., a major South Korean biopharmaceutic...

- [\(URGENT\) Lee urges energy-saving measures, including car license plate restrictions](#) (2026-03-17 01:26)

(END)

- [\(URGENT\) Lee calls for measures to handle worst-case scenarios over prolonged Mideast crisis](#) (2026-03-17 01:14)

(END)

- [Veterans ministry to launch team to track down remains of independence fighter Ahn Jung-geun](#) (2026-03-17 01:13)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- The veterans ministry will launch a public-private t...

- [Police nab S. Korean man over threat to bomb U.S. airport](#) (2026-03-17 01:04)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- Police said Tuesday they have apprehended a South Ko...

- [DP to push for plenary vote on prosecution reform bills this week](#) (2026-03-17 00:59)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- The leader of the ruling Democratic Party (DP) said ...

- [\(2nd LD\) N. Korea to hold first session of new Supreme People's Assembly on Sunday: KCNA](#) (2026-03-17 00:59)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- North Korea will hold the first session of its new S...

- [Hyundai Motor, Kia to adopt Nvidia's Level 2+ self-driving features](#) (2026-03-17 00:54)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- Hyundai Motor Co. and its affiliate Kia Corp. said T...

- [Platform operators ramp up preparations ahead of much-awaited BTS comeback](#) (2026-03-17 00:47)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- South Korean platform operators, ranging from stream...

- [S. Korean currency rebounds from 17-yr low amid drop in oil prices](#) (2026-03-17 00:37)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean currency gained against the U.S. do...

- [\(LEAD\) Seoul shares open sharply higher as global oil prices ease](#) (2026-03-17 00:26)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- South Korean shares kicked off sharply higher Tuesda...

- [Lee reaffirms commitment to measured prosecution reform](#) (2026-03-17 00:24)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Tuesday reaffirmed his co...

- [S. Korean, U.S. Army troops hold combined drills in California desert](#) (2026-03-17 00:23)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- South Korean and U.S. Army troops conducted joint dr...

- [N. Korea's Kim inspects memorial museum for troops sent to Russia in war with Ukraine](#) (2026-03-17 00:20)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un inspected a memorial...

- [Ex-President Yoon, wife set to face on same day in separate trials](#) (2026-03-17 00:12)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- Former President Yoon Suk Yeol and his wife, former ...

- [Seoul shares open sharply higher as global oil prices ease](#) (2026-03-17 00:03)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- South Korean shares kicked off sharply higher Tuesda...

- [\(URGENT\) Seoul shares open nearly 3 pct higher as global oil prices ease](#) (2026-03-17 00:02)

(END)

- [SK hynix highlights HBM leadership during Nvidia tech conference](#) (2026-03-16 23:29)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- SK hynix Inc. said Tuesday it will participate in th...

- [\(LEAD\) Samsung unveils HBM4E sample; NVIDIA CEO highlights closer ties](#) (2026-03-16 23:15)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Electronics Co. unveiled its seventh-generat...

- [\(LEAD\) N. Korea to hold first session of new Supreme People's Assembly on Sunday: KCNA](#) (2026-03-16 22:30)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- North Korea will hold the first session of its new S...

- [\(EDITORIAL from Korea JoongAng Daily on March 17\)](#) (2026-03-16 22:14)

As fears grow about a prolonged conflict in the Middle East, the Korean economy ...

- [\(EDITORIAL from The Korea Times on March 17\)](#) (2026-03-16 22:14)

Korea is facing repeated calls from the U.S. to send warships to help keep the S...

- [\(EDITORIAL from The Korea Herald on March 17\)](#) (2026-03-16 22:13)

U.S. President Donald Trump said in a social media post Saturday that "hopefully...

- [Top headlines in major S. Korean newspapers](#) (2026-03-16 22:13)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- The following are the top headlines in major South K...

- [\(3rd LD\) Trump renews calls on S. Korea, China, Japan, others to help keep Strait of Hormuz open](#) (2026-03-16 21:51)

WASHINGTON, March 16 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday renewed h...

- [N. Korea to hold first session of new Supreme People's Assembly on Sunday: KCNA](#) (2026-03-16 21:40)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- North Korea will hold the first session of its new S...

- [\(LEAD\) Trump says U.S. requested summit with Xi be delayed 'a month or so'](#) (2026-03-16 21:38)

WASHINGTON, March 16 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump said Monday the Uni...

- [Trump says U.S. requested summit with Xi be delayed 'a month or so'](#) (2026-03-16 21:19)

WASHINGTON, March 16 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump said Monday the Uni...

- [\(URGENT\) N. Korea's Supreme People's Assembly to convene first session on Sunday: KCNA](#) (2026-03-16 21:17)

(END)

- [\(URGENT\) Trump says U.S. requested summit with China be delayed 'a month or so'](#) (2026-03-16 21:04)

(END)

- [Import prices rise for 8th month in Feb. on rising oil prices: BOK](#) (2026-03-16 21:00)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- Import prices increased for the eighth consecutive m...

- [Samsung unveils HBM4E during Nvidia's annual tech conference](#) (2026-03-16 20:30)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Electronics Co. said Tuesday it unveiled its...

- [\(2nd LD\) Trump renews calls on S. Korea, China, Japan, others to help keep Strait of Hormuz open](#) (2026-03-16 19:56)

WASHINGTON, March 16 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday renewed h...

- [\(LEAD\) Trump renews calls on S. Korea, China, Japan, others to help keep Strait of Hormuz open](#) (2026-03-16 18:01)

WASHINGTON, March 16 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday renewed h...

- [Trump redoubles calls on S. Korea, China, Japan, others to help keep Strait of Hormuz open](#) (2026-03-16 17:09)

WASHINGTON, March 16 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday renewed h...

- [Ex-U.S. officials voice concerns about Trump gov't 'vacating' deterrence assets from Indo-Pacific amid Iran war](#) (2026-03-16 16:42)

WASHINGTON, March 16 (Yonhap) -- Former senior U.S. officials expressed concerns...

- [FM Cho, Rubio hold phone talks on Middle East issues](#) (2026-03-16 14:19)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- Foreign Minister Cho Hyun held phone talks with U.S...

- [S. Korea expands e-gates access to 42 countries](#) (2026-03-16 11:37)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- The justice ministry said Monday it has expanded the...

- [Bithumb fined 37 bln won, faces 6-month biz suspension over anti-money laundering lapses](#) (2026-03-16 10:38)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- The country's anti-money laundering agency said Mond...

- [N. Korea estimated to have earned up to US\\$14.4 bln from Russia-Ukraine war involvement: report](#) (2026-03-16 09:38)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- North Korea is estimated to have earned up to US\$14...

- [\(LEAD\) POSCO Future M wins 1 tln-won battery material supply deal from global automaker](#) (2026-03-16 09:11)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- POSCO Future M Co., the battery materials unit of PO...

- [Lee congratulates Netflix's 'K-Pop Demon Hunters' on winning Academy Awards](#) (2026-03-16 08:34)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung congratulated Netflix's "K-P...

- [Army chief, 8th Army commander inspect sustainment capabilities amid joint drills](#) (2026-03-16 08:23)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- The chief of the South Korean Army and the commander...

- [Lee calls for cautious approach to prosecution reform amid hard-line DP push](#) (2026-03-16 08:19)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Monday called for a measu...

- [\(LEAD\) Cheong Wa Dae says sufficient deliberations needed to handle Trump's request for Hormuz warships](#) (2026-03-16 08:15)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- Cheong Wa Dae said Monday that U.S. President Donald...

- [Top general inspects Army 2nd Operations Command's readiness amid Freedom Shield drills](#) (2026-03-16 08:09)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's top general on Monday visited the Army...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-03-16 08:02)

The following is the second summary of major stories moved by Yonhap News Agency...

- [Gov't accepts applications for GPU lease program for AI projects](#) (2026-03-16 07:48)
SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- The science ministry began Monday accepting applicat...
- [Lee criticizes belated, insufficient response to fatal stalking case](#) (2026-03-16 07:46)
SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Monday criticized law enf...
- [\(2nd LD\) Seoul shares close over 1 pct higher on chip gains; won declines](#) (2026-03-16 07:43)
SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks finished over 1 percent higher M...
- [S. Korea, U.S. in close communication over request for warship dispatch to Hormuz: presidential aide](#) (2026-03-16 07:37)
SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and the United States are in close commu...
- [\(LEAD\) \(News Focus\) Iran crisis sharply weakens Korean won, fueling inflation, economic fallout concerns](#) (2026-03-16 07:24)
SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean won's slide to a 17-year low Monday...
- [\(LEAD\) Seoul shares close over 1 pct higher on chip gains; won declines](#) (2026-03-16 07:23)
SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks finished over 1 percent higher M...
- [Prequel trilogy for 'Inside Men' to be produced](#) (2026-03-16 07:11)
SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- A prequel story to the hit Korean political thriller...
- [\(2nd LD\) S. Korean currency slips to fresh 17-yr low against U.S. dollar amid Iran crisis](#) (2026-03-16 07:07)
SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean currency fell to a 17-year low agai...
- [Ruling party seeks passage of bills adjusting role of new investigation agencies this week](#) (2026-03-16 06:52)
SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- The ruling Democratic Party (DP) is moving to accele...
- [Seoul shares close over 1 pct higher despite oil price hikes](#) (2026-03-16 06:41)
SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks finished over 1 percent higher M...
- [\(LEAD\) Yang Hyun-jun to return to Korea squad ahead of World Cup](#) (2026-03-16 06:39)
SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- Celtic winger Yang Hyun-jun has been recalled to Sou...
- [\(URGENT\) KOSPI closes 1.14 pct higher despite oil price hike](#) (2026-03-16 06:34)
(END)

- [Suspect in laced drink murders linked to three more victims](#) (2026-03-16 06:14)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- Police said Monday they have identified three more v...

- [Yang Hyun-jun to return to Korea squad ahead of World Cup](#) (2026-03-16 06:14)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- Celtic winger Yang Hyun-jun has been recalled to Sou...

- [Lee praises veteran pitcher Noh Kyung-eun's performance in WBC](#) (2026-03-16 05:54)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung praised South Korean veteran...

- [\(News Focus\) Iran crisis sharply weakens Korean won, fueling inflation, economic fallout concerns](#) (2026-03-16 05:44)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean won's slide to a 17-year low Monday...

- [Police seek arrest warrant for man accused of stalking, killing ex-girlfriend](#) (2026-03-16 05:42)

NAMYANGJU, South Korea, March 16 (Yonhap) -- Police said Monday they have sought...

- [BTS to light up Seoul landmarks to celebrate comeback](#) (2026-03-16 05:37)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- K-pop supergroup BTS will launch a monthlong cultura...

- [Pyongyang-sponsored hacking group uses KakaoTalk in malware distribution campaign: report](#) (2026-03-16 05:11)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- A North Korea-linked hacking group has used stolen K...

- [Today in Korean history](#) (2026-03-16 05:00)

March 17

- [S. Korea-Japan trade council calls for stronger bilateral cooperation in energy, supply chains](#) (2026-03-16 05:00)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- A Korea-Japan trade council called for stronger bila...

- [S. Korean manufacturing faced with increased cost burdens as Iran crisis persists: KIET](#) (2026-03-16 05:00)

SEJONG, March 16 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's manufacturing sector is expected to f...

- [\(LEAD\) Retail fuel prices drop at slower-than-expected pace after price cap system introduction: ministry](#) (2026-03-16 04:55)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- Fuel prices at gas stations have been steadily dropp...

- [\(3rd LD\) 'KPop Demon Hunters' wins Oscars for best animated feature, original song](#) (2026-03-16 04:46)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- Netflix's "KPop Demon Hunters" capped its awards run...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-03-16 04:30)

The following is the first summary of major stories moved by Yonhap News Agency ...

- [Science ministry offers smart water management solutions to Mekong nations](#) (2026-03-16 03:00)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- The science ministry said Monday it has completed an...

- [\(2nd LD\) 'KPop Demon Hunters' wins Oscars for best animated feature, original song](#) (2026-03-16 02:59)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- Netflix's "KPop Demon Hunters" capped its awards run...

- [Gov't to strengthen swine flu response after virus detected in livestock feed](#) (2026-03-16 02:49)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- The government plans to strengthen quarantine measur...

- [Retail fuel prices drop after implementation of price cap system: ministry](#) (2026-03-16 02:40)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- Fuel prices at gas stations have dropped significant...

- [Seoul stocks inch down late Mon. morning as oil price woes continue](#) (2026-03-16 02:33)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks traded slightly lower late Monda...

- [\(URGENT\) 'KPop Demon Hunters' takes Oscar for Best Original Song with 'Golden'](#) (2026-03-16 02:10)

(END)

- [Ruling party, gov't agree to submit extra budget bill by end-March](#) (2026-03-16 02:08)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- The ruling Democratic Party (DP) and the government ...

- [POSCO Future M wins 1 tln-won battery material supply deal from global automaker](#) (2026-03-16 02:03)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- POSCO Future M Co., the battery materials unit of PO...

- [LG eyes leadership in home robot sector through global AI partnerships: CEO](#) (2026-03-16 02:00)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- LG Electronics Inc. aims to take a leading role in d...

- [Unification minister urges N. Korea not to miss chance for talks with Trump](#) (2026-03-16 01:59)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- Unification Minister Chung Dong-young called on Nort...

- [Labor ministry launches inspection into alleged cover-up surrounding Coupang worker's death](#) (2026-03-16 01:48)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- The labor ministry on Monday launched an inspection ...

- [Dispatching warships to Hormuz requires parliamentary approval: PPP floor leader](#) (2026-03-16 01:21)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- The floor leader of the main opposition People Power...

- [Hankook Tire supplies EV tires for BMW's new iX3 SUV](#) (2026-03-16 01:19)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- Hankook Tire & Technology Co., the world's seven...

- [\(LEAD\) Trump says trip to China might be delayed, calls on Beijing to help unblock Hormuz Strait: report](#) (2026-03-16 01:06)

WASHINGTON, March 15 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump said Sunday that hi...

- [Special counsel raids PPP lawmaker's home, office over presidential residence relocation](#) (2026-03-16 00:55)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- The second comprehensive special counsel team raided...

- [\(LEAD\) 'KPop Demon Hunters' wins Oscar for Best Animated Feature](#) (2026-03-16 00:50)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- Netflix's global animation sensation "KPop Demon Hun...

- [Lee suggests adjusting basic pension payments for low-income seniors](#) (2026-03-16 00:44)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Monday floated the idea o...

- [Container shipping costs to U.S. east coast rise for 4th month in Feb.](#) (2026-03-16 00:38)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- Container shipping costs from South Korea to the U.S...

- [\(LEAD\) Korean currency slips past 1,500 won per dollar for 1st time in 17 yrs amid Middle East crisis](#) (2026-03-16 00:37)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean currency fell past the 1,500-won le...

- [Trump says trip to China might be delayed, calls on Beijing to help unblock Hormuz Strait: report](#) (2026-03-16 00:36)

WASHINGTON, March 15 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump said Sunday that hi...

- [\(LEAD\) KOSPI opens higher amid oil price hike](#) (2026-03-16 00:31)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks started higher Monday on strong ...

- [Ex-N. Korean point man on inter-Korean affairs serves as chief of rubber-stamp party](#) (2026-03-16 00:27)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- Ri Son-gwon, North Korea's former point man on relat...

- [Lee's approval rating edges up for 2nd consecutive week: poll](#) (2026-03-16 00:24)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung's approval rating rose for t...

- [SK hynix beats Samsung as most preferred company for job seekers: survey](#) (2026-03-16 00:14)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- SK hynix Inc. was named the most preferred company a...

- [Korean currency slips past 1,500 won per dollar amid oil price hike](#) (2026-03-16 00:11)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean currency fell past the 1,500 won le...

- [KOSPI opens higher amid oil price hike](#) (2026-03-16 00:11)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks started higher Monday despite a ...

- ['KPop Demon Hunters' wins Oscar for Best Animated Feature](#) (2026-03-16 00:03)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- Netflix's global animation sensation "KPop Demon Hun...

- [\(URGENT\) KOSPI opens 0.43 pct higher on oil prices hike](#) (2026-03-16 00:02)

(END)

- [\(URGENT\) Korean won slips past 1,500 won per dollar amid high oil prices](#) (2026-03-16 00:01)

(END)

- [Samsung SDI to supply 1.5 tln won worth of ESS batteries to U.S. energy firm](#) (2026-03-15 23:39)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- Samsung SDI Co. said Monday it has clinched an agree...

- [\(URGENT\) 'KPop Demon Hunters' clinches Oscar for Best Animated Feature](#) (2026-03-15 23:32)

(END)

- [N. Korea's Kim casts ballot at coal mine constituency in parliamentary elections](#) (2026-03-15 22:46)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has cast his ballot ...

- [\(EDITORIAL from Korea JoongAng Daily on March 16\)](#) (2026-03-15 22:05)

U.S. President Donald Trump has publicly called on five countries — Korea, China...

- [\(EDITORIAL from The Korea Times on March 16\)](#) (2026-03-15 22:04)

The recent controversy sparked by broadcaster Kim Ou-joon has once again thrown ...

- [\(EDITORIAL from The Korea Herald on March 16\)](#) (2026-03-15 22:04)

There are moments in economic policy when speed feels like virtue. President Lee...

- [Top headlines in major S. Korean newspapers](#) (2026-03-15 22:01)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- The following are the top headlines in major South K...

- [Lee vows to push through reform agenda at dinner with ruling party freshmen](#)
(2026-03-15 13:21)

SEOUL, March 15 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Sunday called on first-te...

- [Industry minister discusses energy, supply chain cooperation with Indo-Pacific economies](#)
(2026-03-15 11:18)

SEOUL, March 15 (Yonhap) -- South Korean Industry Minister Kim Jung-kwan attende...

- [\(3rd LD\) Military aircraft lands in Seoul with 211 S. Koreans, foreigners from Saudi Arabia](#)
(2026-03-15 10:07)

SEOUL, March 15 (Yonhap) -- A South Korean military transport aircraft bringing ...

- [Para cross-country skier wins record 5th medal for S. Korea](#) (2026-03-15 09:49)

SEOUL, March 15 (Yonhap) -- Para cross-country skier Kim Yun-ji clinched her fif...

- [\(2nd LD\) Military aircraft lands in Seoul with 211 S. Koreans, foreigners from Saudi Arabia](#)
(2026-03-15 09:17)

SEOUL, March 15 (Yonhap) -- A South Korean military transport aircraft bringing ...

- [S. Korea weighs Trump's ship request with careful consideration](#) (2026-03-15 07:52)

SEOUL, March 15 (Yonhap) -- The presidential office said Sunday it will carefull...

- [\(URGENT\) S. Korea weighs Trump's ship request with careful consideration](#) (2026-03-15 07:11)

(END)

- [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)

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