

SOUTH KOREA SECURITY ANALYSIS REPORT

AI-Assisted Open Source Intelligence Assessment

Analysis Period: October 21, 2026 - October 28, 2026

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

Security Analysis Report: South Korea (October 21-28, 2026)

Executive Summary

The period from October 21 to October 28, 2026, saw a significant escalation of tensions on the Korean Peninsula, primarily driven by heightened rhetoric and military posturing from North Korea following a September landmine incident. South Korea responded with firm warnings and continued its joint military exercises with the United States, even as bilateral alliance management faced "turbulence" over the postponement of a key security meeting and disagreements on wartime operational control. Concurrently, South Korea grappled with sophisticated AI-powered cyberattacks targeting its financial sector and a widespread PHP vulnerability, exposing critical cybersecurity weaknesses. These developments underscore a complex security environment characterized by persistent inter-Korean threats, evolving alliance dynamics, and a growing cyber warfare landscape.

Key Security Developments

- Escalating Inter-Korean Border Tensions and North Korean Threats

Tensions along the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) remained critically high following a September 21 landmine explosion that injured three South Korean soldiers. On October 21, North Korea's state media reported that "new firepower units" had taken firing positions along the border, and Kim Yo Jong, sister of leader Kim Jong Un, threatened to resume anti-Seoul propaganda broadcasts and deploy additional tactical strike assets. South Korea's Defense Ministry expressed grave concern, warning of "stern punishment" and "decisive retaliation" against any further provocations.

- Mutual Accusations and UN Complaints Regarding DMZ Incidents

Both Koreas lodged complaints with the United Nations Security Council this week. On October 26, North Korea accused South Korea of laying mines along the border and opening fire on its personnel, while South Korea had previously sent a letter to the UN Security Council stating that the September 21 explosion was caused by North Korean-planted mines, a clear violation of the Korean Armistice Agreement. A Reuters

correspondent observed three North Korean armored vehicles and construction work in the DMZ near Gimpo on October 26, further indicating North Korean military activity.

- Postponement of South Korea-U.S. Security Consultative Meeting (SCM)

The annual South Korea-U.S. Security Consultative Meeting (SCM), typically held in November, has been postponed to early 2027. This marks the first time in 28 years that the meeting will not occur in the current year, with sources citing scheduling conflicts and unresolved differences over the timing and pace of the wartime operational control (OPCON) transition as key factors. Foreign Minister Cho Hyun acknowledged "turbulence" in bilateral relations but denied claims of a collapse.

- South Korea-U.S. Combined Air Drills (Freedom Flag)

South Korea and the United States commenced their Freedom Flag combined air drills on October 26 at Kunsan Air Base in Gunsan. These two-week exercises involve key aerial assets, including South Korean F-15K, KF-16, and F-35A fighter jets, and U.S. F-16s, RC-135s, MH-60S helicopters, F-35B stealth jets, and MQ-9 Reaper drones. The drills focus on counter-air and air interdiction missions, aiming to enhance wartime joint operations and assess South Korea's capability to lead combined exercises in line with OPCON transition efforts.

- Multinational Mine Warfare Exercise Conclusion off Busan

The U.S. Navy, Republic of Korea Navy, and 15 partner nations successfully concluded the ninth Multi-National Mine Warfare Exercise 2026 (MNMIWEX 26) off the southeast coast of Busan on October 16, with reports emerging between October 20-22. The drills focused on mine detection, harbor clearance, and autonomous underwater systems, highlighting efforts to maintain operational flexibility and secure maritime routes in the Indo-Pacific.

- South Korea's Hypersonic Glide Vehicle (HGV) Development

On October 21, it was reported that South Korea conducted its first launch of a hypersonic glide vehicle (HGV) on October 8. This development is seen as strengthening South Korea's ability to conduct preemptive strikes against key targets during a crisis and complements its independent conventional counterforce doctrine, the "three-axis system." North Korea criticized this development as indicative of Seoul's "confrontational ambition."

- AI-Powered Cyberattacks on South Korean Banks

In early October 2026, multiple major South Korean financial institutions, including Shinhan Bank, KB Kookmin Bank, Hana Bank, BNK Busan Bank, Yegaram Savings Bank, and Hyundai Capital, experienced significant data breaches. Authorities suspect these incidents involved the use of artificial intelligence (AI)-powered attack automation tools, prompting South Korean regulators to push for an "AI responding to

AI attacks" strategy.

- PHP Vulnerability Exposes South Korea's Cyber Weaknesses

A critical security flaw in the widely used PHP web programming language triggered a wave of cyberattacks globally, prompting South Korea to raise its private-sector cybersecurity alert to "caution" on October 22 and activate emergency response measures. The crisis exposed a gap in government preparedness, with the Korea Internet & Security Agency (KISA) yet to determine the extent of vulnerable PHP versions used by public institutions.

- South Korea Offers Military Dialogue to North Korea

On October 23, South Korea's defense ministry formally proposed military talks with North Korea to "mutually confirm the precise location" of their border and discuss restoring military communication lines and preventing accidental clashes. This offer came amidst North Korean threats and followed South Korea's letter to the UN Security Council regarding the landmine incident.

- South Korea's Diplomatic Withdrawal from Ukraine

On October 21, South Korea announced a partial withdrawal of diplomatic personnel from Ukraine, citing persistent airstrike threats and a deepening diplomatic dispute between Seoul and Kyiv. The dispute reportedly centers on Ukraine's public disclosure of the repatriation of North Korean prisoners of war to South Korea.

- South Korean Defense Industry Shifts to European Production

South Korean defense groups, including Hanwha Aerospace and Hyundai Rotem, are increasingly shifting production to Europe to meet rising demand, particularly from countries like Poland and Romania. This strategic move is influenced by European defense spending increases and new common funds tied to European content and control, highlighting South Korea's growing role as a global arms exporter.

Geopolitical Impact and Regional Dynamics

The past week has seen South Korea navigating a complex and increasingly volatile geopolitical landscape. The escalation of inter-Korean tensions directly impacts regional stability, with North Korea's aggressive rhetoric, military fortifications in the DMZ, and threats of deploying new tactical assets raising the risk of miscalculation and accidental clashes. This confrontational posture from Pyongyang, coupled with its continued development of nuclear-capable missiles, challenges the long-established conventional deterrence on the peninsula and could embolden North Korea to further challenge the existing security order.

Relations with the United States, South Korea's primary ally, are experiencing "turbulence," as acknowledged by both sides. The postponement of the annual Security Consultative Meeting (SCM) to early 2027, the first such delay in 28 years, underscores significant disagreements, particularly concerning the pace and timing of the wartime operational control (OPCON) transition. This friction, alongside earlier reports of intelligence sharing issues and scaled-back military drills, could be perceived by adversaries as a crack in the alliance, potentially compromising Seoul's ability to respond effectively to North Korean threats. Despite these challenges, both nations continue to engage in joint military exercises, such as the Freedom Flag air drills, demonstrating a commitment to maintaining combined operational capabilities.

South Korea's diplomatic efforts extend beyond the immediate peninsula. Foreign Minister Cho Hyun's meeting with The Korea Society delegation and a diplomatic briefing for 16 countries on Korean Peninsula peace and security highlight Seoul's proactive approach to garnering international support and understanding. However, the partial withdrawal of diplomatic personnel from Ukraine due to a diplomatic dispute and security concerns indicates the complexities of South Korea's broader international engagements and the need to prioritize national interests and personnel safety amidst global instability. The growing role of South Korea as a middle power in global arms exports, with its defense industry shifting production to Europe, signifies a strategic diversification of its foreign policy and an attempt to define its influence beyond traditional security alliances.

Military and Defense Analysis

South Korea's military posture during this period reflects a dual focus on deterring immediate North Korean threats and advancing long-term modernization goals. The successful launch of a hypersonic glide vehicle (HGV) on October 8, reported on October 21, marks a significant leap in South Korea's independent conventional counterforce capabilities. This HGV, designed for preemptive strikes and difficult to intercept, enhances the "three-axis system" doctrine, which aims to counter North Korea's evolving missile and nuclear threats. This development is crucial as North Korea continues to modernize its own arsenal, including testing "strategic" submarine-launched cruise missiles (SLCMs) and decentralizing its nuclear command-and-control.

Joint military exercises with the United States remain a cornerstone of South Korea's defense strategy. The ongoing Freedom Flag air drills at Kunsan Air Base, involving advanced fighter jets and reconnaissance aircraft, are vital for enhancing interoperability, refining wartime operational procedures, and strengthening combined air defense capabilities. Similarly, the recently concluded multinational mine warfare exercise off Busan, involving 15 partner nations, underscores the

importance of maritime security, mine detection, and harbor clearance in maintaining operational flexibility in a contested Indo-Pacific. These exercises are critical for adapting to North Korea's evolving capabilities, including its use of unmanned systems, electronic warfare, and cyber operations, lessons potentially gleaned from DPRK soldiers deployed in Ukraine.

The ongoing discussions and disagreements with the U.S. regarding the wartime operational control (OPCON) transition are a significant aspect of South Korea's defense policy. While South Korea aims to retake OPCON by 2030 or earlier, the postponement of the SCM due to these differences highlights the complexities and potential friction points within the alliance. South Korea's efforts to lead combined exercises, as seen in the Freedom Flag drills, are part of verifying its capabilities for this transition. Defense spending continues to increase, with the 2026 budget up 8.2% to approximately $47.1 billion, reflecting a deliberate government decision to bolster its defense industry as a pillar of the national economy and a tool of foreign policy. The upcoming K-DEX 2026 exhibition in December will further showcase South Korea's ground combat systems and emerging military technologies, signaling continued investment in defense modernization and exports.

Outlook and Forecast

Short-term trends (1-3 months): Inter-Korean tensions are expected to remain elevated, with a high likelihood of continued rhetoric and low-level provocations along the DMZ. North Korea's threats to resume propaganda broadcasts and deploy additional tactical assets suggest a period of sustained psychological warfare and military posturing. South Korea will likely maintain its "stern response" posture, leading to a cycle of action and counter-action. The postponement of the SCM with the U.S. indicates that alliance management will require careful diplomatic efforts to bridge differences on OPCON transition, potentially impacting the perception of alliance cohesion. Cybersecurity threats, particularly from AI-powered attacks and vulnerabilities in widely used software like PHP, will continue to be a significant concern for both public and private sectors.

Critical flashpoints and risk areas: The Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) remains the most critical flashpoint, with any miscalculation or accidental clash having the potential for rapid escalation. North Korean military activities, including the deployment of armored vehicles and howitzers, and South Korean warning shots, create a volatile environment. The Northern Limit Line (NLL) in the Yellow Sea also remains a perennial flashpoint for maritime incidents. The ongoing diplomatic dispute with Ukraine, while not directly impacting the Korean Peninsula, highlights the potential for South Korea's international engagements to become risk areas if not carefully managed.

Indicators to monitor: Key indicators to monitor include any further North Korean military provocations (e.g., missile tests, border incursions, resumption of propaganda broadcasts), the tone and outcome of future U.S.-South Korea alliance discussions, particularly regarding OPCON, and the effectiveness of South Korea's cybersecurity defenses against advanced threats. The rhetoric from both Pyongyang and Seoul, as well as the activities of the UN Command in the DMZ, will be crucial in assessing the immediate security climate. Public opinion in South Korea regarding responses to North Korea and the alliance with the U.S. could also influence policy decisions.

Strategic recommendations: South Korea should continue to strengthen its independent defense capabilities, including the development and deployment of advanced systems like HGVs, to enhance deterrence against North Korea's evolving threats. Simultaneously, robust diplomatic efforts are essential to de-escalate tensions with North Korea, including pursuing military dialogue to clarify border lines and restore communication channels. Regarding the U.S. alliance, transparent and consistent communication is vital to resolve differences on OPCON transition and reinforce trust, ensuring a unified front against shared threats. Investment in cybersecurity infrastructure and capabilities, including an "AI responding to AI attacks" strategy, is paramount to protect critical national infrastructure and financial systems from sophisticated cyber threats. Finally, South Korea should continue to leverage its growing defense industry as a tool for diplomatic influence and economic partnership, particularly with European nations, while carefully managing the geopolitical implications of such engagements.

Structured Assessment

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ANNEX: COLLECTED ARTICLES BY SOURCE

Source: Daily NK

• For some North Koreans, harvest duty becomes a picnic (2026-10-28 00:38)

North Korea’s 2026 fall harvest mobilization looks very different depending on where people work. At some well-funded state agencies and enterprises in South Pyongan province, workers finish harvesting by midday. They then spend the afternoon eating and relaxing outdoors, turning a compulsory chore into something close to a company picnic. Sideline farms are plots that […]

• Hoeryong lectures target Chinese phone users (2026-10-27 18:33)

North Korean intelligence officers in North Hamgyong province used neighborhood lectures in mid-October 2026 to attack secret users of Chinese mobile phones. Visiting towns along the Chinese border, they hurled crude insults at phone users and told ordinary North Koreans to report anyone they catch. The officers belong to the National Intelligence Agency, North Korea’s […]

• Pyongyang ties loyalty to Kim mausoleum donations (2026-10-27 14:59)

Pyongyang authorities have launched a Kumsusan Palace of the Sun fundraising drive that runs through the end of 2026. Officials call the campaign voluntary, yet they are tying each person’s donation to assessments of political loyalty, which has led cadres and ordinary Pyongyang residents alike to quietly complain about the added financial strain. The Pyongyang […]

• North Korean teen defies mother to join army (2026-10-27 00:19)

A widowed mother in Tanchon, South Hamgyong province, has begged her son’s school to keep him off North Korea’s 2026 conscription rolls. The teenager, however, is refusing his military service exemption and insists on joining the Korean People’s Army. The senior high school student could legally skip service as his mother’s only source of support. […]

• North Korea screens young single women for factory jobs in China (2026-10-26 19:30)

North Korea has begun final screening of unmarried female workers in their 20s bound for jobs in China, and they could start work at Chinese factories as early as December 2026. They come from factories and enterprises in South Pyongan province, which closed its recruitment drive in late September. Women who pass the central government’s […]

• Smuggling ban drives North Korean units to cheap Chinese work (2026-10-26 17:16)

North Korea's foreign currency-earning units are scrambling for low-paying contract manufacturing work from China in October 2026. A prolonged crackdown on cross-border smuggling has wiped out one of their most important sources of hard currency. These units are trading companies and enterprises run by state agencies, the military and the Workers' Party of Korea. Each [⋯]

• Satellite imagery maps 23 towers at North Korea's Voice of Korea transmitter site (2026-10-26 14:37)

Satellite imagery of a shortwave radio transmitter site in Hyangsan county, Jagang province, shows 23 large steel towers spread across four zones. The towers reveal the scale of the infrastructure North Korea still uses in 2026 to beam state propaganda around the world. The site is known as a main transmission hub for Voice of [⋯]

• Why is North Korea opening bulgogi restaurants when meat is so scarce? (2026-10-26 13:24)

North Korea has opened a string of state-run bulgogi restaurants across the country since September 2026. The glossy venues offer a striking display of abundance from a country still known for chronic food shortages. Rodong Sinmun, the official newspaper of the ruling Workers' Party of Korea, has given the openings prominent coverage. Its photos show [⋯]

• North Korea uses DMZ landmine blast to step up student military drills (2026-10-26 00:50)

North Korean authorities are using last month's DMZ landmine explosion to justify tougher military drills for high school students. In anti-South Korea lectures, officials are telling students that Seoul fabricated the September 2026 incident to provoke a war. A source in North Pyongan province told Daily NK on Friday that the campaign targets the Youth [⋯]

• Secret abortion pills leave Kaechon schoolgirl bleeding in the street (2026-10-23 14:35)

A teenage girl in Kaechon, South Pyongan province, collapsed in the street in early October 2026 after taking abortion pills. She had secretly bought the drugs at a local market without any prescription or medical advice. Her case shows how the stigma around premarital pregnancy is putting North Korean women's health at serious risk. The [⋯]

• North Koreans dodge style patrols as constitution enshrines the socialist lifestyle (2026-10-22 13:42)

North Koreans are finding quiet ways around the socialist lifestyle crackdown in 2026, even after Kim Jong Un's government wrote the campaign into the country's revised constitution. Sources inside the country say people are swapping outfits, warning one another about patrols and wiping their phones to stay one step ahead. Picture a North Korean woman [⋯]

• New Yalu River Bridge opens, but customs delays leave trucks waiting for hours (2026-10-21 19:43)

The New Yalu River Bridge between China and North Korea opened on Oct. 15, 2026, after 12 years of delays. Slow customs clearance on both sides, however, is leaving cargo truck drivers stuck for more than three hours. The four-lane bridge links Sinuiju in North Pyongan province with Dandong in China's Liaoning province. Many observers [⋯]

• North Korean traders turn to Chinese mixer trucks and pump trucks (2026-10-21 17:37)

North Korean trade workers are seeking concrete mixer trucks and pump trucks from China in 2026, broadening demand for heavy construction equipment. Trade workers are staff of state-licensed trading companies who manage North Korea's cross-border commerce with China. A source in China familiar with North Korea-China trade told Daily NK on Tuesday that these inquiries [⋯]

• Signs point to Kim Jong Un preparing for a Trump-Kim summit (2026-10-21 14:30)

As talk of a possible Trump-Kim summit grows in 2026, shifts in North Korea's domestic political events suggest Kim Jong Un is quietly preparing to meet Donald Trump. The U.S. president told reporters on Oct. 12 that he "may" meet Kim during an Asia trip next month. That trip includes the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit [⋯]

• Nuclear tests, purges and a pandemic: The long road to the New Yalu River Bridge (2026-10-21 09:02)

China and North Korea opened the New Yalu River Bridge on Oct. 15, 2026, a full 17 years after the two neighbors first agreed to build it. Strained North Korea-China relations explain only part of the delay. North Korea's slow work on roads and customs facilities and international sanctions over its nuclear weapons program also [⋯]

Source: Hankyoreh

• Andrea Bang explores connection, understanding across language and cultural divides (2026-10-27 12:02)

• Fewer quality jobs push young Koreans to take whatever work they can get (2026-10-27 12:02)

• Seoul is 'working closely' with US on timing of OPCON transfer, says Korean defense chief (2026-10-27 12:02)

• Lee calls joining CPTPP 'unavoidable,' proposes export levy to help fishers and farmers (2026-10-27 12:02)

• Samsung bets on humanlike hands in humanoid robot race (2026-10-27 12:02)

• Lula’s win deals blow to ‘Donroe Doctrine,’ puts brakes on rightward shift in Latin America (2026-10-27 12:02)

• Korea’s economy grew 1% in Q3, more than triple the BOK’s forecast (2026-10-27 12:02)

• Top Swiss diplomat to visit Pyongyang for opening of new diplomatic office (2026-10-27 12:02)

• Ceremony to be held on Oct. 29 to mark 4th anniversary of Itaewon tragedy (2026-10-27 12:02)

• Why China’s Gen Z is dreaming of Mao (2026-10-27 12:02)

• Kim’s China visit signals increased economic cooperation as US talks remain on back burner (2026-10-26 12:02)

• He killed Korea’s president 47 years ago. A posthumous retrial may finally answer why. (2026-10-26 12:02)

• [Column] What it will take to make a US-North Korea summit happen (2026-10-26 12:02)

• [Editorial] Seoul must be ready for anything with North Korea (2026-10-26 12:02)

• Who is Wang Huning? The No. 4 Chinese official becoming a key player on North Korean affairs (2026-10-26 12:02)

• [Interview] US-Korea ties at ‘uniquely dangerous moment,’ but investment is the new backstop (2026-10-26 12:02)

• Without migrants, Korea’s population would have shrunk last year (2026-10-26 12:02)

• An Se-young extends winning streak to 50 with French Open three-peat (2026-10-26 12:02)

• [Korea travels] In dakgalbi’s hometown of Chuncheon, tradition meets reinvention (2026-10-25 06:02)

• French protests highlight need to address public discontent in Korea, says budget minister (2026-10-23 12:02)

• [News analysis] Can the two Koreas keep their war of words from turning into a military clash? (2026-10-23 12:02)

• Coupang founder avoids indictment for coverup of young worker’s death from overwork (2026-10-23 12:02)

• Korea raises cyber threat level to ‘caution’ amid PHP vulnerability (2026-10-23 12:02)

• UNC tightened DMZ entry rules for top South Korean commanders in 2023 (2026-10-23 12:02)

• Chief of US 8th Army calls unit a ‘global force,’ hinting at deployment beyond Korea (2026-10-23 12:02)

• Oh Se-hoon cleared on appeal, keeping his seat as Seoul mayor for now (2026-10-23 12:02)

• North Korea has laid an estimated 960,000 mines in DMZ since 2024, South’s military says (2026-10-23 12:02)

• Police investigate after North Korean IT workers found posing as South Korean employees (2026-10-23 12:02)

• High tensions along inter-Korean border prompt fears of return to tit-for-tat of 2024 (2026-10-22 12:02)

• Will Korea be safe from the coming debt crisis? (2026-10-22 12:02)

• Data leak in Vietnam exposes 9 years of Korean airline passenger records (2026-10-22 12:02)

• [Column] Is this America’s last Red Scare? (2026-10-22 12:02)

• North Korea signals possible resumption of anti-South loudspeaker campaign (2026-10-22 12:02)

• [Interview] Shared responsibility in a ‘multiplex’ world, and what Korea brings to it (2026-10-22 12:02)

• Bank of Korea holds rate at 3%, signals more hikes as growth outlook brightens (2026-10-22 12:02)

• North Korea’s Kim Yo-jong inspects fortification of border with South (2026-10-21 12:02)

• Anne Carson, Han Kang among Nobel laureates whose pirated works Anthropic used to train AI (2026-10-21 12:02)

• Appeals court slashes prison term for Yoon’s justice minister over martial law role (2026-10-21 12:02)

• From Instagram to IRL, Korea’s far right takes memes offline and into daily life (2026-10-21 12:02)

• Before they can vote, Korea’s teens are already swimming in election fraud content (2026-10-21 12:02)

• Korea’s exports near $1 trillion milestone, but US trade risks cloud outlook (2026-10-21 12:02)

• ‘KPop Demon Hunters’ singer Ejae marries music producer Sam Kim in Seoul (2026-10-21 12:02)

Source: Korea Times

• Presidential office to hold emergency meeting over financial-sector hacking attacks (2026-10-28 06:02)

The presidential office was set to hold an emergency meeting Wednesday to discuss responses after hacking attacks on multiple financial firms led to customer data breaches. Song Ki-ho, vice chief of Cheong Wa Dae's National Security Office, will preside over the meeting, which will be attended by officials from the Financial Services Commission, the presidential office said. Mirae Asset Global Investments, crypto exchange Bithumb and Daishin Securities all reported data breaches involving customers earlier Wednesday following separate recent hacking attacks. The emergency meeting is expected to discuss the full extent of the damage from the cyberattacks and measures to prevent further damage.

• PPP slams defense minister over remarks on trusting US forces in event of war with N. Korea (2026-10-28 06:02)

The main opposition People Power Party (PPP) on Wednesday accused Defense Minister Kang Shin-chul of undermining the South Korea-U.S. alliance over his remarks about trusting the U.S. military in the event of a war with North Korea. Kang came under fire during a parliamentary audit Monday when he questioned whether South Korea can "really trust the U.S. military" if a war broke out with North Korea, while responding to an opposition lawmaker's concerns over

Seoul's push to retake wartime operational control (OPCON) from Washington. "The defenseminister's remarks are undermining the trust in the 73-year-old alliance," PPP chiefspokesperson Park Choong-kwon said in a commentary. Rep. Park criticized Kang for pushingahead with the OPCON transfer despite not having held any talks with U.S. Defense SecretaryPete Hegseth since taking office last month. He urged President Lee Jae Myung to immediatelydismiss Kang, saying he is no longer qualified to serve as defense minister. Other lawmakersalso denounced Kang's remarks, questioning his views on national security. "Is it not becausethe defe

• PM pledges Korea will take lead in climate crisis response (2026-10-28 06:02)

Korea will be at the forefront of efforts to combat climate change, Prime Minister Han Seong-sook said Wednesday as she opened an international conference on climate crisis. "There is a saying that this summer has been the hottest one yet, but it will be the coolest summer we will ever experience," Han said in an opening address at the Global Cooperation Conference on Climate Crisis Response. "Climate crisis is no longer a warning for the future but has become a disaster that threatens our lives today." She outlined measures that Korea has taken against climate change, including the Korea Green Transformation (K-GX) strategy, which seeks sustainable growth and climate crisis response at the same time, and a series of efforts to help industries transition away from carbon emissions. "It has been more than 10 years since the Paris Agreement. It is time to produce specific outcomes," Han said, referring to the agreement adopted in 2015 with the goal of limiting global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. "If each nation's climate policy is going to lead to ta

• Ex-justice minister, special counsel appeal martial law-related ruling (2026-10-28 06:02)

Former Justice Minister Park Sung-jae and special counsel Cho Eun-suk have both appealed to the Supreme Court, challenging an appellate court ruling that reduced Park's prison sentence from 25 years to nine years over his role in former President Yoon Suk Yeol's martial law declaration, judicial officials said Wednesday. Park and Cho's team filed their appeals with the Seoul High Court on Tuesday, the officials said. Park was indicted on charges of playing a key role in Yoon's martial law imposition on Dec. 3, 2024, and participating in an alleged insurrection. The charges included ordering the possible dispatch of prosecutors to a martial law-related organ, putting Korea Immigration Service (KIS) officials in charge of travel bans on standby and directing the Korea Correctional Service (KCS) to assess detention centers' available capacity. The Seoul Central District Court sentenced Park to 25 years in prison after finding him guilty of all charges brought by Cho. But the Seoul High Court last week reduced his prison sentence to nine years, acquitting him of charges related to the KIS an

• Births up 13% in August to highest in 7 years (2026-10-28 06:02)

The number of babies born in Korea shot up 13 percent in August from a year earlier, marking the 26th consecutive month of increase, government data showed Wednesday. A total of 23,703 babies were born in August, up from 20,983 a year earlier, according to the Ministry of Data and

Statistics. It marked the highest figure for any August since the 24,371 posted in 2019. Thecountry's total fertility rate, the average number of children a woman is expected to have in herlifetime, rose 0.09 from a year earlier to 0.87 in August. The rate remains well below the 2.1births per woman needed to maintain a stable population without immigration. The number ofbirths has maintained an upward trajectory since July 2024. Over the January-August period,193,783 babies were born, up 14.5 percent from a year earlier. It was also the highest figure forthe period since 2019. The recent rebound came amid a growing number of marriages, anincrease in the population in their 30s and more positive attitudes toward having children. Thenumber of marriages in August fell 1.2 percent from a year earlier to 19,21

• Regulatory standoff delays debut of Seoul's 1st modern streetcar line (2026-10-28 06:02)

The launch of Korea's first modern streetcar network has encountered a temporary regulatory roadblock, forcing city officials to push back the line's planned December debut as local authorities work to finalize safety protocols along shared pedestrian and roadway corridors. The Seoul Metropolitan Government said Wednesday that full commercial operation of the Wirye Line tram — a 5.4-kilometer wireless streetcar project — will be postponed into next year. Although physical construction is 97 percent complete, the delay stems from protracted disputes among government agencies over traffic safety infrastructure and regulatory jurisdiction. Spanning 12 stations, the 350.3 billion won ($253 million) transit project connects Macheon Station on Seoul Subway Line 5 with Bokjeong Station and Namwirye Station on Line 8 and the Suin-Bundang Line. The line represents a major milestone for urban transit in Korea, marking the return of streetcars to the capital for the first time since the city decommissioned its original tram network in 1968. It is also the nation’s first transit line to deplo

• Seoul rallies 1,486 volunteers to clean up Han River parks (2026-10-28 06:02)

More than 1,400 people joined forces across Seoul’s Han River parks this month, picking up litter, learning recycling rules and promoting bicycle safety in a city campaign to keep its popular riverside spaces clean and safe. The Seoul Metropolitan Government said Wednesday that 1,486 citizens, corporate employees and volunteers took part in three Fall Hangang Volunteer Day events held at Ichon, Ttukseom and Yeouido Hangang parks between Oct. 13 and Oct. 24. The campaign, organized under the theme “Keep Hangang clean, keep Hangang safe,” combined litter pick-up with environmental education and public safety programs. The first event, held Oct. 13 at Ichon Hangang Park, brought together 50 corporate volunteers who collected trash along park walkways. The second gathering, on Oct. 17 at Ttukseom Hangang Park, drew 95 participants for litter collection and campaigns promoting environmental awareness and safe park use. Yeouido Hangang Park hosted the largest event on Saturday, attracting 1,341 people, including children and adults who took part in environmental missions and quizzes about

• Jeonbuk National University institute to recruit 141 schoolchildren for advanced science programs (2026-10-28 06:02)

Jeonbuk National University's Science Education Institute for the Gifted will recruit 141 students for its 2027 advanced programs for elementary and middle school students to nurture young scientists in the region, the university said Tuesday. The elementary school advanced program will admit 51 students, with 17 each in science, mathematics and interdisciplinary studies. The middle school advanced program will admit 90 students, with 15 each in mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, Earth science and information science. The university said the institute will also give priority to applicants who have completed designated preparatory programs and those from socially disadvantaged backgrounds. Eligible applicants include students who have completed either the online preparatory program jointly offered by 26 university-affiliated science education institutes for gifted students nationwide or the in-person Jeonbuk Science Dream Tree Development Program run by the institute. Seven places will be reserved for priority applicants each in physics, Earth science and information science, whi

- President Lee to hold meeting on national safety (2026-10-28 06:02)

President Lee Jae Myung was set to hold a government meeting Wednesday to discuss measures to ensure public safety and protect the rights of victims of safety incidents. The second plenary meeting of the national life and safety committee, to be presided over by Lee at Cheong Wa Dae, is expected to discuss measures to ensure public safety and protect victims' rights guaranteed under the public life and safety law, which is scheduled to take effect next Wednesday, the presidential office said. On May 7, the National Assembly passed the law, which stipulates the duties of the country and local governments to ensure people's rights to safety, including the rights to have their lives and properties protected and to lead safe lives. It also calls for the protection of victims of safety incidents, their family members and witnesses. Wednesday's meeting will be attended by about 70 government officials, victims of safety incidents and their family members. During the session, officials plan to outline the government's safety policies and measures to reduce suicides, unattended deaths, industrial

- Global greenhouse gas levels hit new heights in 2025: report (2026-10-28 06:02)

Global atmospheric concentrations of heat-trapping greenhouse gases reached unprecedented highs in 2025, according to a report released by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), driven by continued fossil fuel combustion and industrial activity. Carbon dioxide (CO_2) levels in the atmosphere hit a record high of 426.8 parts per million (ppm) — meaning there are now 1.5 times as much CO_2 in the air as there was before the Industrial Revolution in 1750. Two other powerful heat-trapping gases, methane and nitrous oxide, also reached record highs. But the report offered a slight silver lining regarding carbon dioxide. The annual concentration increase slowed to 2.8 parts per million in 2025, down from 3.5 parts per million the previous year. Climatologists attributed the temporary moderation to the recovery of terrestrial carbon sinks and a decline in wildfire activity following the strong El Niño phenomenon of 2023 and 2024. Regional monitoring data from Korea reflected an even starker trajectory. Findings published by the Korea Meteorological Administration showed background con

• Former USFK commanders raise concerns over command structure after OPCON transfer (2026-10-28 06:02)

WASHINGTON — Two former U.S. Forces Korea (USFK) commanders on Tuesday raised concerns that Korea's envisioned wartime operational control (OPCON) transfer could weaken the bilateral alliance and undermine military effectiveness if Seoul and Washington fail to preserve a robust combined command structure. In an online symposium hosted by the Institute for Corean-American Studies, retired Gen. Walter Sharp warned that changes to the Korea-U.S. Combined Forces Command (CFC) following the transfer could have implications for the longstanding alliance. "That whole combined nature goes away and ... I really do see it as a doorway to greatly reducing the alliance, greatly reducing our work with Korea," Sharp said. Sharp also questioned whether a future CFC would remain genuinely bilateral after the transfer, particularly regarding the roles of the countries' Military Committee Meeting and Security Consultative Meeting, as well as the approval of wartime operational plans. Retired Gen. Paul LaCamera, another former USFK commander, also expressed concerns about the future command arrangement,

• Seungri already married to pregnant girlfriend: report (2026-10-28 06:02)

Former BIGBANG member Seungri, who is reportedly expecting his first child, has already legally married his pregnant girlfriend, according to a report. Ilgan Sports reported Tuesday that Seungri and his wife, who is pregnant, have registered their marriage and are legally married. The report came a day after Gray News reported that Seungri's girlfriend, who is in her 20s, is expecting a baby boy in January next year. The news that Seungri is set to become a father drew public attention, with the revelation that the couple had already registered their marriage emerging later. As news of the expected birth broke before any announcement of marriage, speculation arose that the couple had conceived before marriage. Seungri denied the speculation, saying he was not considering holding a wedding ceremony at this time. The couple is reportedly preparing for the birth. The news of Seungri's marriage and impending fatherhood has drawn additional attention as he recently faced a complaint over alleged special assault. In August, Seungri was accused of threatening a man with a soju bottle and assaulti

• State arms agency completes development of homegrown Marine attack helicopter (2026-10-28 06:02)

Korea has completed the development of a homegrown Marine Attack Helicopter (MAH) fitted with a range of weapons systems, including air-to-ground missiles, for multidimensional amphibious operations, the state arms procurement agency said Wednesday. The attack helicopters are built on a Marine variant of the KUH-1 Surion helicopter, known as the MUH-1 Marineon, with new added features and weapons systems to counter attacks from enemy choppers and drones, according to the Defense Acquisition Program Administration (DAPA). DAPA launched a 450 billion-won ($337 millon) project to develop the homegrown MAH in 2022. Since then, it has completed a number of test flights and weapons tests, including live-fire tests involving turret-mounted machine guns, air-to-ground missiles, and guided and unguided

rockets. It passed a full combat suitability evaluation in July and received airworthinesscertification in August, guaranteeing the plane's suitability for safe flight. When deployed, theMAH system is expected to expand the Marines' amphibious operations not only on the ground,but also in the ai

• Gov't to lift hoarding bans on urea, medical goods as supplies stabilize (2026-10-28 06:02)

Korea will lift bans on hoarding urea, urea solution, medical syringes and needles imposed earlier this year following supply concerns stemming from the Middle East war, citing stable inventories and supplies, the finance ministry said Wednesday. The Ministry of Finance and Economy made the announcement during a meeting of economy-related ministers, saying the hoarding ban on urea and urea solution, introduced in March, will expire at the end of this month. Restrictions imposed on medical syringes and needles, which have been in place since April, will also be lifted, the ministry added. Urea is used to curb emissions in diesel vehicles and make agricultural fertilizers. Under the bans, companies were prohibited from holding inventories exceeding 200 percent of their average monthly sales last year for seven days or longer for urea products and five days for medical supplies. "With domestic supplies remaining stable and no signs of hoarding or disruption to market order, the government will seek to end the hoarding ban," the ministry said. "Even after the ban expires, the government will c

• Lee warns against 'irresponsible extremism' jeopardizing reforms (2026-10-28 06:02)

President Lee Jae Myung on Wednesday warned against "irresponsible extremism" that he said is demanding excessive reform, insisting such extremism may jeopardize effective reforms. Lee made the remarks on the social platform X in response to a user demanding he apologize for describing his critics as "irresponsible extremists." "There are those who sincerely call for prosecution reform for the country and the people, but there are also those who, in reality, hinder prosecution reform by only calling for clarity or making excessive, inflammatory demands for their hidden political and personal agendas," the president wrote. "Calling for ' all-or-nothing' approaches as if they are the only true leader of reform and attacking those who are genuinely seeking reform while inciting fears of failure to take advantage of the urgent desire of some people to reform is irresponsible extremism," he added. Lee's message was widely seen as targeting hard-liners within his ruling Democratic Party of Korea who accused Lee of backtracking on prosecution reform, the party's long-standing agenda. Lee earlier

• Gov't to carry out large-scale inspections into IT infrastructures amid recent hacking attacks (2026-10-28 06:02)

The government is set to carry out large-scale vulnerability inspections on around 170 key information technology (IT) infrastructures in the private sector, amid back-to-back cybersecurity breaches at public institutions and financial firms, an official said Wednesday. The ministry of science and ICT will conduct a security vulnerability assessment targeting 111 public organizations that manage such infrastructures, with a particular focus on those connected to the Internet, such as web pages and public-facing servers. Inspections are expected to conclude

by the end of the year at the latest, the official added. The latest measures come after a total of16 commercial banks reported cyberattacks that led to the breach of customer data this year.President Lee Jae Myung has also expressed concern over such attacks, calling for the countryto develop cybersecurity methods suited to the artificial intelligence (AI) era.

• Special counsel launches inspection of local election ballots stored at Seoul handball arena (2026-10-28 00:02)

A special counsel team on Wednesday launched an inspection of ballot papers stored at a handball arena as part of its probe into an unprecedented shortage of ballots during the June 3 local elections. Special counsel Lee Tae-han's team entered the Olympic Park Handball Gymnasium in southeastern Seoul to examine 2.47 million ballots, surveillance camera footage and other material. The gymnasium was used as a vote counting center and continues to house ballot papers cast in Seoul's southeastern Songpa Ward as protesters have blocked their removal amid calls for accountability and a rerun of the elections.

• Fire at shantytown in southern Seoul extinguished after nearly 13 hours; 1 injured (2026-10-28 00:02)

A fire that broke out at a shantytown in Seoul's southern Gangnam district was fully extinguished early Wednesday, nearly 13 hours after it started, authorities said. Firefighters completely put out the blaze at Guryong Village at 4:39 a.m., after containing the main fire late Tuesday. The fire broke out at around 3:50 p.m. Tuesday, prompting 39 residents to flee to safety. One woman reportedly sustained a minor leg injury. No other casualties were reported. Authorities mobilized 232 personnel and 110 pieces of equipment to battle the blaze, which spread rapidly through densely packed makeshift homes. The Gangnam Ward office said 107 people from 77 households were affected by the fire, with temporary shelters arranged at a nearby school and gymnasium.

• Korea chases global top 100, but world's leading universities take different paths (2026-10-28 00:02)

SINGAPORE, LONDON, SEOUL — Breaking into the world’s top 100 has become a common ambition among Korean universities. However, the world’s leading university ranking agencies have a surprising response for institutions chasing higher positions: Stop chasing the rankings. " The dog should wag the tail, the tail should not wag the dog," said Phil Baty, chief global affairs officer at Times Higher Education (THE), cautioning universities against allowing rankings to dictate their priorities. "Rankings should inform university strategy and decision-making, not drive them." Ben Sowter, senior vice president at QS, raised a similar concern, warning that universities risk losing their competitive edge if they all pursue similar strategies. “The important thing is that you build a really nuanced strategy where you don’t have a whole group of universities trying to do exactly the same thing as each other,” he said. “In that context you end up competing with yourselves rather than necessarily distinguishing yourselves internationally.” Global university rankings are evolving to reflect

• 3 ex-officials appeal to top court over 2019 deportation of N. Koreans (2026-10-27 12:02)

Three former government officials on Tuesday appealed an appellate ruling sentencing them to suspended prison terms for forcibly repatriating two North Korean fishermen in 2019, taking the case to the Supreme Court, sources said. Last week, the Seoul High Court upheld a lower court's guilty verdicts for Chung Eui-yong, former national security adviser; former National Intelligence Service Director Suh Hoon; and former Unification Minister Kim Yeon-chul. All three served in former President Moon Jae-in's administration in November 2019, when Seoul deported two North Korean fishermen back to North Korea after they were captured near the eastern maritime border. The fishermen had been accused of killing 16 fellow crew members on their vessel. A lower court found all three former officials guilty but deferred their sentencing. The appellate court sentenced Chung and Suh to 18 months in prison, suspended for three years, and Kim to a one-year prison term suspended for two years, ruling they violated the basic rights of the fishermen by repatriating them back to their communist homeland. Those

• Instant photo kiosk featuring President Lee set to open at presidential house annex (2026-10-27 12:02)

An instant four-cut photo kiosk will open at an annex of the presidential house in Seoul, allowing visitors to take photos with images of President Lee Jae Myung, his office said Tuesday. The photo booth will go into service at Sarangchae, a public pavilion annexed to Cheong Wa Dae on Wednesday, marking the first anniversary of Lee's presidency, the presidential office said. Visitors can choose from 32 photo frames featuring Lee; his wife, first lady Kim Hea Kyung; or images of Korean cultural heritage assets before taking photos with them and downloading the photos on their smartphones, according to the office.

• Korea hosts G20 global financial stability conference in Seoul (2026-10-27 12:02)

Korea's finance ministry on Tuesday hosted a global conference bringing together experts to discuss financial stability and supply chains in the era of artificial intelligence (AI). The Ministry of Finance and Economy and the state-run Korea Development Institute co-hosted the G20 Global Financial Stability Conference 2026 in Seoul, an annual event first held in 2013 to discuss ways to address global financial challenges. Around 300 financial experts from across the globe participated in this year's event, discussing ways to enhance the stability and resilience of the global economy and address risks and challenges arising from AI-driven innovation, according to the ministry. In his opening remarks, Second Vice Finance Minister Huh Chang stressed the spread of AI and the restructuring of supply chains could pose new threats to financial market stability. Huh called for preemptive measures to address AI-related risks and sufficient financial capacity to cope with future turbulence, alongside efforts to link financial safety nets with supply chain resilience. Laura Alfaro, chief economist a

• Foreign tourist arrivals in Korea estimated to have set annual record early (2026-10-27 12:02)

Foreign tourist arrivals in Korea this year are estimated to have already set an all-time annual record, the culture ministry said Tuesday. Preliminary figures from the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism showed that this year's arrivals reached about 18.91 million through Monday, and the total is believed to have surpassed the previous annual record of 18.94 million, set last year, Tuesday, with more than two months left in the year. The ministry expects about 1.94 million people to visit next month if the current trend continues, with the annual total topping 20 million for the first time in the third week of November. Culture, Sports and Tourism Minister Chae Hwi-young said breaking the annual record more than two months early has brought the government's ambitious year-end target of 23 million foreign visitors "within reach." Visitor numbers rose across most major markets, including Chinese-speaking regions, Japan, Southeast Asia, Europe and the Americas. Growth is also spreading beyond Seoul, with more foreign tourists entering the country through regional airports and ports and

- No casualties reported in shanty town fire in southern Seoul (2026-10-27 12:02)

A fire broke out at a shantytown in Seoul's posh southern district of Gangnam on Tuesday, but no casualties have been reported so far, officials said. The fire broke out at about 3:50 p.m. at a makeshift building at Guryong Village, prompting 39 residents to flee to safety, according to fire authorities. Fire authorities issued a Level 1 emergency response at 3:59 p.m. and later raised the response level by one notch as the fire spread. A total of 232 personnel and 70 pieces of equipment were mobilized to the scene to fight the blaze. No injuries or missing persons have been reported so far, and 39 residents have evacuated the area on their own, officials said. Authorities have guided the locals to a safe area and deployed six firefighting helicopters to prevent the blaze from spreading into a wildfire. Firefighting officials plan to look into the cause of the blaze and assess the damage as soon as the blaze is extinguished. The Gangnam Ward office sent a safety text message advising nearby residents to close their windows and for vehicles to avoid the area. President Lee Jae Myung instructe

- Ruling party decides to seek parliamentary probe into Supreme Court chief amid impeachment calls (2026-10-27 12:02)

The ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) said Tuesday it has decided to seek a parliamentary investigation into Supreme Court Chief Justice Cho Hee-dae, with some hardliners calling for his impeachment over allegations of political interference. During a general meeting of its lawmakers, the DPK agreed to push for the probe, aiming to pass a related motion at a parliamentary plenary session scheduled for Thursday next week, DPK floor spokesperson Jeon Eun-su told reporters. The DPK has accused Cho of meddling in last year's presidential election after the Supreme Court overturned a not-guilty verdict in President Lee Jae Myung's election law violation case and sent it back to a lower court for retrial just ahead of the June 3 presidential election. The party also took issue with Cho's refusal to recommend a new candidate for Supreme Court justice as requested by the presidential office, as well as allegations of improper use of official funds. The DPK had previously hinted at seeking Cho's impeachment over the allegations but was also considering seeking a parliamentary

investigation i

• [EXPLAINER] From Kim Young-sam to Lee Jae Myung: golf's enduring political trap (2026-10-27 12:02)

Golf has again become a political flashpoint in Korea after an opposition lawmaker’s allegation against first lady Kim Hea Kyung prompted an explicit denial from LPGA star Lydia Ko and a sharp rebuttal from Cheong Wa Dae. This episode drew fresh attention to why the sport remains so politically sensitive in Korea despite becoming more accessible to the public. Rep. Joo Jin-woo of the main opposition People Power Party (PPP) claimed that Kim received an exclusive golf lesson from Ko on Oct. 20 and released a video that featured a woman who Joo claimed is the golfer. Ko, a Korean-born New Zealand LPGA Hall of Fame member, denied any involvement, saying she attended an official sponsor event that day. She warned of legal action over false information and defamatory coverage. Cheong Wa Dae also dismissed Joo’s account as false and warned that media outlets could be held responsible for repeating his assertions without verifying the facts. Joo subsequently removed Ko’s photograph from the video and acknowledged “some errors” but offered no apology. Golf and power “The controversy ref

• Marine Corps commander to visit Thailand for talks on defense cooperation (2026-10-27 12:02)

The commander of Korea's Marine Corps will visit Thailand this week to discuss expanding military and defense industry ties between the two countries, Korea's armed force said Tuesday. Lt. Gen. Ju Il-suk will make a four-day trip to Bangkok and Sattahip, an eastern coastal district home to Thailand's Marine Corps base, from Tuesday through Friday, the Marine Corps said in a media note. During the visit, Ju plans to hold bilateral talks with Rear Adm. Weerachai Leeka, commander of the Royal Thai Marine Corps, and other senior military officials to discuss efforts to strengthen military cooperation and expand defense industry partnership between the two armed forces. Ju will also pay tribute at a Korean War memorial in Chonburi, honoring Thai soldiers who fell while fighting alongside Korean forces during the 1950-53 conflict. The monument is located inside the headquarters of Thailand's 21st Infantry Regiment, a core unit deployed during the war and which now symbolizes the enduring friendship between the two nations, the Marine Corps said.

• Woman sentenced to 10-month prison term for spitting at police officer at election rally (2026-10-27 12:02)

A court on Tuesday sentenced a woman to 10 months in prison for spitting at a police officer and assaulting others during rallies to protest ballot shortages in June's local elections. The 45-year-old, surnamed Kim, was accused of assaulting a total of five people, including the police officer who was trying to restrain her, during rallies outside the Olympic Park Handball Gymnasium in southeastern Seoul on June 22 and 23. The Seoul Eastern District Court convicted her of obstruction of official duties and sentenced her to prison, citing her history of repeated assault and other offenses since February, as well as concerns she may reoffend. It also cited

favorable factors in determining the level of punishment, including the fact that Kim admitted toher crimes, showed remorse and was diagnosed with bipolar disorder in 2024.

• Special panel seeks to question ex-President Yoon over 2022 crowd crush (2026-10-27 12:02)

A special commission investigating the deadly 2022 Itaewon crowd crush plans to question former President Yoon Suk Yeol over the government's handling of the disaster, officials said Tuesday. The National Commission for the Investigation of the October 29 Itaewon Disaster outlined its plan to question the jailed ex-president and former Interior Minister Lee Sang-min in December as it shared the interim results of its probe. The commission is tasked with uncovering the cause of the tragedy, which happened during Halloween festivities in Seoul's nightlife district of Itaewon on Oct. 29, 2022, when crowds surged into a narrow alley, leaving 159 people dead and 196 injured. The panel found various shortcomings in the government response to the disaster. According to the interim probe results, the interior ministry's situation room became aware of the crowd crush at 10:48 p.m. on the night of the tragedy, but only notified then Minister Lee 43 minutes later. Yoon, who served as president at the time, made rescue instructions at 11:21 p.m., but the ministry did not deliver them for 55 minutes. T

• Lee, Lula swap warm words after Brazil election (2026-10-27 12:02)

Two former child factory workers who rose to become presidents exchanged warm messages following Brazil’s presidential election. Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva thanked President Lee Jae Myung on Monday (local time) for congratulating him on his election victory, saying the two leaders share goals ranging from workers’ rights to environmental protection. “My dear friend President Lee Jae Myung, I sincerely thank you for your message,” Lula wrote in Portuguese on X, formerly Twitter, in response to Lee’s post a day earlier. “We will continue defending dialogue between nations, social justice, workers’ rights and environmental protection,” he wrote. “The future we want to build must offer dignity and opportunities to everyone.” He added, “I know these are goals we share. I hope we meet again soon.” Lee congratulated Lula on Monday after the Brazilian leader won a runoff election Sunday, securing an unprecedented fourth presidential term. “My dear friend and comrade President Lula, I couldn’t be happier to congratulate you on your election victory,”

• PPP urges Cheong Wa Dae to clarify first lady's golf allegations (2026-10-27 12:02)

The main opposition People Power Party (PPP) on Tuesday urged the presidential office to clarify allegations that first lady Kim Hea Kyung received private golf lessons from a prominent professional golfer at a military-run golf course. PPP floor leader Jeong Jeom-sig said Cheong Wa Dae should establish the facts surrounding allegations over the first lady's golf lessons, which were first disclosed by PPP lawmaker Joo Jin-woo earlier this week. Joo alleged Monday that the wife of President Lee Jae Myung received "imperial-style" golf lessons from a world-renowned golfer at Taereung Golf Club in northern Seoul on Oct. 20, the day when a man in his 70s set fire to two buildings in southern Seoul, leaving five people seriously injured and 14

others with minor injuries. Cheong Wa Dae immediately dismissed Joo's claim as " groundless"and urged the press to exercise caution in reporting the allegations. The PPP floor leadercriticized the presidential office for characterizing media reports citing Joo's claims as thedissemination of false information, describing the stance as a form of media

• Everland's baby panda Shu Bao to make public debut this week (2026-10-27 12:02)

Shu Bao, the youngest member of Everland's giant panda family, will venture outside her indoor enclosure for the first time on Friday, at the age of five months. Everland, operated by Samsung C&T Resort Group, announced Monday that Shu Bao, born on June 3, will begin making regular outings at Panda World starting Thursday. A female giant panda born naturally to parents Ai Bao and Le Bao, Shu Bao is the fourth giant panda cub born in Korea, following her older sisters Fu Bao and twin pandas Rui Bao and Hui Bao. Weighing just 171 grams at birth, Shu Bao now weighs more than 9 kilograms and is growing steadily under the care of her mother Ai Bao, zookeepers and veterinarians. She began taking her first wobbly steps at around 120 days old. More recently, she has been moving around on her own near her mother and actively exploring her surroundings. Ahead of her public debut, Shu Bao has been undergoing a gradual acclimation process to help her adjust to new spaces and environments. She has been expanding her range of activities little by little, following her mother from the indoor enclosure

• Brunson's call for year-round drills short on details (2026-10-27 12:02)

Seoul’s military says it will maintain its two major annual exercises with Washington while continuing joint training throughout the year, following a call by the top U.S. commander in South Korea for more consistent training. The Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said the allies are “flexibly conducting and developing a balanced year-round training system while firmly maintaining their regular combined exercises in both halves of the year.” Gen. Xavier Brunson, commander of U.S. Forces Korea (USFK), said at an American Chamber of Commerce in Korea event on Wednesday that he had met JCS Chairman Gen. Jin Yong-sung to discuss the upcoming Freedom Shield exercise. “We can’t hinge our readiness on two exercises a year,” Brunson said. “It’s got to be training throughout the entirety of the year where we continue to shape ourselves to meet the objective set forward for us by our national command authorities.” The allies hold Freedom Shield in March and Ulchi Freedom Shield in August, both large-scale exercises centered on command-post operations. They also conduct smaller combined

• Nuclear watchdog approves 10-year lifespan extension for Kori units 3, 4 (2026-10-27 12:02)

The country's nuclear watchdog decided Tuesday to extend the operational life of two nuclear reactors located on the country's southeastern coast by an additional 10 years. The approval by the Nuclear Safety and Security Commission (NSSC) came four years after the Korea Hydro & Nuclear Power (KHNP), the state-run power operator, requested the agency review the restart of Kori units 3 and 4. The two pressurized water reactors of 1,025 megawatts gross capacity had stopped power generation after 40 years of commercial use that began in 1985 and 1986,

respectively. The country's nuclear watchdog had approved last year a 10-year extension for the Kori-2 light-water reactor. The decision also came after the commission approved early this month the accident management program for the two nuclear reactors — a document that outlines preparations, including strategies to maintain safe conditions, to prevent accidents and mitigate any fallout if a nuclear accident occurs. Accordingly, Kori-3 will be able to operate till September 2034 and Kori-4 will run until August 2035.

- Top court issues additional arrest warrant for jailed ex-first lady (2026-10-27 12:02)

The Supreme Court on Tuesday issued a new arrest warrant for jailed former first lady Kim Keon Hee to keep her in custody for two more months, citing the risk of fleeing and destroying evidence. The decision comes after the top court convened a hearing for Kim, the wife of former President Yoon Suk Yeol, earlier in the day to decide whether to extend her detention period set to expire Saturday. The top court handed out the decision hours after the hearing, citing risk of flight and destruction of evidence. Kim is currently standing trial at the Supreme Court in two separate cases — the first on corruption charges and the other on bribery-related charges. Special counsel Min Joong-ki's team requested the new warrant based on the second case, as her existing warrant on corruption charges will expire before a final verdict. Kim attended the hearing virtually from the Seoul Nambu Detention Center, where she has been held since August 2025. She reportedly dismissed the allegations of accepting bribes for mediation and pleaded her innocence during the video call. Her lawyers are known to have

- AI scans Korea's highways to keep wildlife, drivers safe (2026-10-27 06:02)

On winding roads where mountainous terrain meets heavy traffic, a rustle in the brush at dusk can turn into a deadly collision within seconds. Roadkill incidents pose a constant hazard to wildlife and motorists across Korea, often resulting in severe property damage, human injuries and secondary pileups on high-speed thoroughfares. In a bid to prevent such incidents, the Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment on Wednesday will launch a pilot artificial intelligence (AI)-powered roadkill prevention system along National Route 17 in Cheongju, North Chungcheong Province in central Korea. Conventional mitigation measures like eco-corridors, wildlife overpasses and fencing have reduced animal fatalities along long stretches of highway. However, intersections and entrance or exit ramps remain notoriously difficult to secure without blocking traffic or human access, leaving vulnerable gaps in eco-fencing networks. The new system bridges those gaps using smart surveillance. Closed-circuit television cameras continuously monitor roadside terrain. When an animal steps toward the road, AI algo

- Defense ministry says Kang's 'US trust' remarks meant to counter lawmaker's OPCON transfer doubts (2026-10-27 06:02)

Defense Minister Kang Shin-chul's recent remarks on U.S. trust were intended to counter a lawmaker's doubts over Seoul's push to retake wartime operational control (OPCON) from Washington, not to question the ally's credibility, the defense ministry said Tuesday. Kang drew

media attention Monday when he pushed back against an opposition lawmaker skeptical ofSeoul's push for the OPCON transition, citing an uncertain global security landscape, whereeven a military superpower, like the United States, faces challenges in the ongoing conflict withIran. Responding to Rep. Sung Il-jong of the main opposition People Power Party, Kang said, "Then if a war breaks out with North Korea, can we really trust the U.S. military as youdescribed?" "Because that is not the case, the OPCON transition must take place on afoundation of guaranteed trust," Kang said, advocating the OPCON road map to build acombined forces system, led by a South Korean general, with the U.S. military serving in asupporting role. However, several domestic media outlets reported the remarks Tuesday assuggesting the ministe

• Ruling party lawmaker expresses deep regret over US visa delay (2026-10-27 06:02)

Rep. Jung Chung-rae of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea criticized U.S. authorities Tuesday over a visa delay that prevented him from visiting Washington for a parliamentary audit of Seoul's diplomatic missions. Jung had initially planned to join the audit team of the parliamentary foreign affairs committee on its U.S. trip earlier this month, but was forced to switch to the Europe audit team as his visa application remained under review ahead of his planned departure. "I find the U.S. authorities' handling of the matter deeply regrettable," he said during a parliamentary audit, stressing that he had worked hard to promote friendly relations between Seoul and Washington. Jung said he had no choice but to switch to the Europe audit team out of concern that he might not be able to participate in the parliamentary audit at all. He also expressed regret that the main opposition party had turned the visa issue into a controversy about growing strains in the South Korea-U.S. alliance. "This is a matter that both parties should transcend their differences and protest to the U.S. about, rathe

• University of Seoul to hold session to broaden students' major choices (2026-10-27 06:02)

The University of Seoul will hold its 2026 Major Information Session on Thursday at its Centennial Memorial Hall to expand students’ options for choosing their majors. The university said the session, organized as part of the government’s University Innovation Support Project, aims to help students interested in pursuing multiple majors and those enrolled in the School of Liberal Studies design their own academic paths. A total of 31 schools, departments, project groups and administrative offices, including the Office of Academic Affairs, will participate in the session. At each booth, representatives will introduce major-specific curricula and flexible academic options, including double majors, minors, changes of major and modular curricula. They will also provide road maps outlining degree requirements for each major, along with personalized consultations to help students plan their academic paths. The event will also feature activity booths offering personal color analysis and tarot readings about university life, with souvenirs available for participants. Students can register in a

• Seoul to maintain major allied drills as Brunson calls for year-round training (2026-10-27 06:02)

Seoul's military says it will maintain its two major annual exercises with Washington while continuing joint training throughout the year, following a call by the top U.S. commander in South Korea for more consistent training. The Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said the allies are "flexibly conducting and developing a balanced year-round training system while firmly maintaining their regular combined exercises in both halves of the year." Gen. Xavier Brunson, commander of U.S. Forces Korea (USFK), said at an American Chamber of Commerce in Korea event on Wednesday that he had met JCS Chairman Gen. Jin Yong-sung to discuss the upcoming Freedom Shield exercise. "We can't hinge our readiness on two exercises a year," Brunson said. "It's got to be training throughout the entirety of the year where we continue to shape ourselves to meet the objective set forward for us by our national command authorities." The allies hold Freedom Shield in March and Ulchi Freedom Shield in August, both large-scale exercises centered on command-post operations. They also conduct smaller combined

• Nuclear watchdog set to decide on 10-year lifespan extension for Kori units 3, 4 (2026-10-27 06:02)

The country's nuclear watchdog was set to decide Tuesday whether to extend the lifespan of two nuclear reactors by an additional 10 years. The Nuclear Safety and Security Commission (NSSC) plans to hold a meeting to review a request to restart and operate two 950-megawatt capacity pressurized water reactors — Kori units 3 and 4 — that have reached beyond the 40-year designed lifecycle. The Kori-3 reactor was suspended in Sept. 28, 2024, and the operational lifespan of the Kori-4 reactor expired on Aug. 6, 2025. The two reactors are among nine aging plants for which the Korea Hydro and Nuclear Power (KHNP), the state-run power operator, plans to seek life extensions. Korea's nuclear watchdog had approved a 10-year lifespan extension for the Kori-2 lightwater reactor last year. The latest deliberation comes after the commission early this month approved the accident management program for the two nuclear reactors, a document that outlines preparations, including strategies to maintain safe conditions, to prevent accidents and mitigate any fallout if a nuclear accident occurs. If approve

• Defense chief heads to Philippines for ASEAN-led defense ministers' meeting (2026-10-27 06:02)

Defense Minister Kang Shin-chul heads to the Philippines Tuesday to attend a regional defense ministers' meeting, his first multilateral security gathering since taking office, the Ministry of National Defense said. Kang will take part in the 13th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) on Thursday, the ministry said. The ADMM-Plus brings together defense ministers from the 11 ASEAN member states and eight of the bloc's dialogue partners, including Korea, the United States and Japan. Launched in 2010, it serves as a platform for defense cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. The Philippines, which holds the rotating ASEAN chair this year, is hosting the meeting in Lapu-Lapu City in the province of Cebu. At this year's meeting, participants will assess the regional security environment and discuss ways to strengthen defense cooperation for peace and stability. During the main session, Kang will stress the need for international cooperation to maintain

regional peace and propose practical measures to boost defense cooperation betwe

• Seoul, Tokyo form united front against counterfeiters, drug traffickers (2026-10-27 06:02)

As K-pop, Korean cosmetics and fashion continue to capture global consumers, a darker shadow industry has grown alongside them: counterfeiters pumping out fake Korean goods, and international smuggling syndicates attempting to move illicit narcotics across borders. In response, Korea’s top customs official is launching a broad diplomatic campaign to enlist global enforcement agencies in cracking down on intellectual property theft and drug trafficking. Lee Jong-wook, head of the Korea Customs Service (KCS), will initiate the campaign on Oct. 29, during a high-level summit with his Japanese counterpart. The bilateral meeting marks the starting line of an ambitious diplomatic expansion aimed at building real-time information-sharing networks with key trading partners across Asia, Europe and the Americas. During the upcoming Tokyo summit, KCS said Lee plans to formally request that Japanese customs authorities streamline application processing for Korean companies seeking border enforcement of their intellectual property rights. Under Japan’s customs protection system — which mirrors

• Korea prepares real life space sweeper to hunt orbiting junk (2026-10-27 06:02)

Science fiction is quietly becoming an engineering reality in Korea. Long a staple of science fiction and brought to life in the 2021 Korean blockbuster film "Space Sweepers," the concept of orbital sanitation vessels is becoming a reality as Korea’s space agency prepares a mission to clean up the increasingly crowded skies. The Korea AeroSpace Administration (KASA) announced a milestone step, Tuesday, in its effort to tackle orbital debris. Meeting at Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology's (KAIST) Satellite Technology Research Center in Daejeon, officials completed the System Integration Readiness Review for the Active Debris Removal Satellite (ADR-SAT). Having cleared technical evaluations from an independent panel of experts, engineers will begin final assembly of the flight model next month, setting the stage for a launch aboard Korea's homegrown Nuri rocket in 2027. The initiative comes at a critical juncture for low Earth orbit. As commercial megaconstellations and national satellite programs proliferate, space junk — defunct satellites, spent rocket boosters and

• N. Korean artillery deployed along western border not seen as new weapon system: JCS (2026-10-27 06:02)

North Korean artillery deployed along the western front line appears to be legacy weaponry rather than a new system that Pyongyang recently threatened to forward-deploy, a South Korean military official said Tuesday. What appears to be North Korean self-propelled artillery has been spotted farther south than its usual positions along the western front near the inter-Korean border, close enough to be captured by South Korean media cameras. Photos taken by Yonhap News Agency from an observation deck at a park in Gimpo, west of Seoul, showed what experts say appears to be a 122 millimeter self-propelled howitzer deployed in a coastal border area of Kaepung County, Hwanghae Province. "Our understanding is that North

Korea has deployed legacy artillery along coastal areas in plain view," the South's Joint Chiefs ofStaff (JCS) spokesperson Capt. Jang Do-young said in a press briefing when asked for commenton the development. "While North Korea has mentioned new weapons systems in its recentstatements, we believe that this cannot be considered as such," he said. Kim Yo-jong, thepowerful sist

• Investigation body chief attends Cabinet meeting for 2nd time amid controversy (2026-10-27 06:02)

Kim Ji-yong, the inaugural chief of the Serious Crime Investigation Agency (SCIA), once again attended a Cabinet meeting presided over by President Lee Jae Myung on Tuesday, despite opposition criticism that his presence could undermine the agency's neutrality and independence. Kim's attendance marked the second time he had joined the weekly Cabinet meeting since heading the SCIA, which was launched Oct. 2 as part of a criminal justice overhaul stripping prosecutors of their independent investigative powers. Kim Jong-chul, acting commissioner general of the Korean National Police Agency, and acting Prosecutor General Lee Jeong-hyun also showed up at the Cabinet meeting. During a recent parliamentary audit of the Lee administration, a heated debate erupted over whether it is appropriate for heads of investigative and prosecutorial agencies to attend Cabinet meetings. Opposition lawmakers argued that their attendance could compromise their agencies' neutrality and independence, while ruling party lawmakers countered that their presence was necessary to coordinate on state affairs and ensur

• Supreme Court finalizes 3-yr prison term for ex-commander over Marine's death (2026-10-27 06:02)

The Supreme Court on Tuesday finalized a three-year prison term for a former Marine commander for negligently causing the death of a young Marine in 2023. Lim Seong-geun, former commander of the Marine Corps 1st Division, was convicted of causing death or injury through occupational negligence and violating orders under the Military Criminal Act, in connection with the death of Cpl. Chae Su-geun and the injury of other Marines during search operations for heavy rain victims in Yecheon, some 160 kilometers southeast of Seoul, in July 2023. The top court upheld a lower court's three-year sentence for Lim, ruling there were no errors in the interpretation of the law. Lim was indicted by special counsel Lee Myeong-hyeon's team in November 2025 for allegedly sending the Marines on the search mission without providing life vests and other safety equipment. He was also indicted for allegedly disobeying orders to transfer operational control to the Army during the search.

• President Lee says Korea should learn from European protests to sustain growth (2026-10-27 06:02)

President Lee Jae Myung said Tuesday that Korea should learn from growing public protests in Europe, citing low growth as a potential reason for the unrest and stressing the importance of ensuring sustained growth at home. The president made the remarks at a Cabinet meeting, as a

wave of protests and mass demonstrations over rising living costs and economic inequality hasswept across European nations, including France, Spain and Italy. "As large-scale protests haveoccurred recently in many European countries, social confusion and conflict have ensued," Leesaid. "We should take the European situation as an example of what not to do." Lee said manyexperts pointed to high energy and living costs, a stagnant economy and accumulatedinequality as factors gripping Europe, adding, "The biggest and most fundamental reason mightbe low growth." "Prolonged low growth has worsened youth unemployment and (economic)polarization and weakened fiscal status, shaking social stability from the root," the presidentsaid of the European situation. Despite recent "impressive results" in Korea's economic

• Special counsel searches Seoul handball arena in ballot shortage probe (2026-10-27 06:02)

A special counsel team on Tuesday searched a handball arena that served as a vote counting center earlier this year as part of a probe into an unprecedented shortage of ballots during the June 3 local elections. Special counsel Lee Tae-han sent investigators to execute a search-and-seizure warrant at the Olympic Park Handball Gymnasium in southeastern Seoul, to secure election records and surveillance camera footage. It marked the special counsel team's first search and seizure of the arena since its investigation launched last month. Lee's team said it plans to review the secured material to investigate the circumstances surrounding the ballot shortage and allegations of poor election management by the National Election Commission. Multiple polling stations reported ballot shortages during the local elections, and some voters were forced to turn back without casting their votes, sparking major public outcry. The search took place a day before the special counsel team's inspection of voter ballots stored at the gymnasium. The site houses 2.47 million ballot papers cast in Seoul's southeast

• Defense chiefs of S. Korea, US to hold talks in Philippines ahead of ASEAN meeting (2026-10-27 06:02)

Defense Minister Kang Shin-chul and U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth will hold their first bilateral talks in the Philippines this week ahead of a ministerial meeting led by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), a source familiar with the matter said Tuesday. Kang and Hegseth are expected to meet one-on-one on Wednesday, a day ahead of the ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) Plus plenary in Cebu, according to the source. It will mark their first sit-down since Kang assumed office in September. Kang is scheduled to depart for Cebu on Tuesday to attend the high-level regional security dialogue and hold a series of bilateral meetings with his counterparts from the participating countries, the defense ministry said in a release. Kang's upcoming talks with Hegseth come as the allies face a host of pending defense and alliance issues to work out, particularly Seoul's efforts to retake wartime operational control (OPCON) from Washington. The Lee Jae Myung administration seeks to regain wartime OPCON before its five-year term ends in 2030, or even earlier. Washington, howeve

• 48 riot police units to be deployed during inspection of local election ballots (2026-10-27 06:02)

Forty-eight riot police units will be deployed to maintain order during a special counsel team's inspection of ballots cast in the June 3 local elections, the Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency (SMPA) said Tuesday. Special counsel Lee Tae-han's team is set to visit the Olympic Park Handball Gymnasium in southeastern Seoul on Wednesday to examine 2.47 million ballots, surveillance camera footage and other material, as part of its probe into an unprecedented shortage of ballots during the local elections. The gymnasium was used as a vote counting center and continues to house 2.47 million ballot papers cast in Seoul's southeastern Songpa Ward as protesters have blocked their removal amid calls for accountability and a rerun of the elections. The SMPA said it will deploy 48 riot police units, 150 police officers tasked with dialogue and mediation, and 300 detectives and investigators to the site following a request from Lee's team to help maintain order during the inspection. The total size of the police force is expected to be around 3,330, as a riot police unit typically consists of some 60

- Top court to hold hearing on new arrest warrant for jailed ex-first lady (2026-10-27 06:02)

The Supreme Court was scheduled to hold a hearing Tuesday to decide whether to issue a new arrest warrant for jailed former first lady Kim Keon Hee to continue to keep her in custody. The hearing was set to take place at 2:30 p.m. after special counsel Min Joong-ki's team requested the warrant for Kim, the wife of former President Yoon Suk Yeol. Kim is currently standing trial at the Supreme Court in two separate cases — the first on corruption charges and the other on bribery-related charges. Min's team requested the new warrant based on the second case, as her existing warrant on corruption charges will expire Saturday before a final verdict. She will attend her arrest warrant hearing virtually from the Seoul Nambu Detention Center, where she has been held since August 2025. The top court is expected to make a decision on the warrant as early as later in the day. The hearing takes place as the Supreme Court is currently reviewing Kim's sentences by appellate court benches — a four-year prison sentence in the corruption case and a five-year prison sentence in the bribery case. The top

- First lady's attendance at adoptees' gathering offers comfort, visibility, but will it bring real change? (2026-10-27 06:02)

More than 600 Korean-born adoptees came from countries around the world to visit the nation of their birth, for the International Korean Adoptee Associations (IKAA) Gathering, Oct. 19-24. The Oct. 19 opening ceremony for this year's event featured a historic appearance by first lady Kim Hea Kyung, marking the first time a Korean first lady has attended the gathering. Her visit also marked the third occasion that adoption-related issues have been publicly addressed during President Lee Jae Myung's administration. For many attendees, the gesture was meaningful, but it was also met with cautious optimism and lingering frustration. The triennial IKAA Gathering goes far beyond heritage tourism or giving participants opportunities to reconnect with their roots. It serves as a platform for collective advocacy, bringing together grassroots organizers, legal experts, scholars and adoptees to address longstanding systemic issues. Discussions range from reclaiming citizenship and navigating long-term residency in Korea to birth family searches, DNA testing and calls for greater transparency in adop

• Court temporarily suspends 2-year bidding ban on LIG D&A; (2026-10-27 06:02)

LIG Defense & Aerospace (LIG D&A) said Tuesday a court has temporarily suspended a two-year ban on its participation in defense procurement bids imposed by Korea's arms procurement agency. Last month, the Defense Acquisition Program Administration (DAPA) imposed the ban after LIG D&A officials were indicted on charges of bribing a DAPA official during weapons procurement tenders. The ban was due to take effect Thursday. LIG D&A said in a regulatory filing that the court had suspended the ban until Nov. 20, allowing the company to continue bidding for defense contracts. A formal hearing is scheduled for Nov. 5 to review the company's request for a longer suspension. The court will then decide whether to keep the ban suspended pending the outcome of the company's lawsuit challenging the sanction. "If the court grants the request, LIG D&A will be able to continue bidding for defense contracts until a ruling is issued on its lawsuit seeking to overturn the ban," the company said, adding it will continue to present its case through formal legal proceedings.

• 'Doctor X' faces petition to halt airing over Gwangju Uprising depiction (2026-10-27 00:02)

The Korean medical drama “Doctor X: Mafia in White” has become the latest target of political controversy over how fictional works portray history, after a National Assembly petition demanded a halt to its airing over its depiction of the 1980 Gwangju Uprising. The petition, posted Saturday on the National Assembly’s petition website, calls for a review of the drama’s production and a halt to its broadcast. It has gathered the 100 supporters required to be made public. The petitioner said Episode 6, which aired Saturday, depicted the 1980 pro-democracy movement in Gwangju despite its having no connection to the plot. “The uprising remains a political issue, with the ruling and opposition parties and the left and right divided on some aspects,” the petitioner said. “Broadly, no one would dispute that it is a painful chapter of history, but it is hard to accept a drama abruptly using the uprising, which is still politically contested in its details.” The episode featured a character suffering the effects of a gunshot wound to the head sustained during the uprising, along w

• 4 years on, Itaewon businesses face Halloween with mixed expectations (2026-10-27 00:02)

The streets of Itaewon have gone through several iterations over the years — not just the place itself but the meaning attached to it. If you ask someone from the early 2000s or even the 2010s, they would paint a completely different landscape from the Itaewon that exists today. Itaewon is going through a period of social reconstruction, fueled by several factors — the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2022 Halloween crowd crush, U.S. military redeployment out of nearby Yongsan Garrison, commercial redevelopment and, the hot issue at the moment, the tightened restrictions placed on Itaewon businesses. Lasting impact Despite the heavy political atmosphere that lays over Itaewon like dark clouds before a storm, there are some local business owners who feel optimistic about its future. Linus Kim, who has operated Linus BBQ for more than a decade, expects the Halloween nightlife to be stronger than in the years immediately after the crowd crush tragedy. “Itaewon’s nightlife has seen a significant

resurgence over the past year, driven partly by a new generation that came of age during COVIDand

• 5-year term sought for ex-vice minister over presidential residence relocation (2026-10-26 12:02)

Special counsel Min Joong-ki's team on Monday requested a five-year prison term for former Vice Land Minister Kim Oh-jin over alleged favoritism in the 2022 relocation of the presidential residence. Min's team made the request during Kim's trial at the Seoul Central District Court, where he faces multiple charges, including abuse of authority and obstruction of rights. The team also sought a five-year sentence for a former presidential secretary, surnamed Hwang, and a three-year term for Kim Tae-young, CEO of 21 Gram, the interior design company that handled renovation work at the presidential residence in Yongsan, central Seoul. Kim and Hwang are accused of helping 21 Gram secure the contract for the relocation and renovation of the presidential residence through improper means following former President Yoon Suk Yeol's election victory in March 2022. Min's team suspects that the two abused their authority to arrange for a construction company to lend its business license to 21 Gram, which lacked a general construction license. The interior design company is known to have ties to former

• LIG D&A; CEO denies company's involvement in bribery allegations (2026-10-26 12:02)

The chief of Korean defense company LIG Defense & Aerospace Co. (LIG D&A) on Monday denied the company's involvement in a bribery scandal linked to weapons procurement bids. Appearing as a witness before the National Assembly's defense committee, LIG D&A CEO Shin Ick-hyun said two company executives indicted on charges of bribing an official at the Defense Acquisition Program Administration (DAPA) during weapons procurement tenders have maintained their innocence. Asked whether the company knew about the alleged payment of 300 million won ($226,700) in bribes, Shin said, "It is structurally impossible for the company to raise such an amount through its internal procedures." Last week, DAPA barred LIG D&A from bidding on defense contracts for two years over the bribery allegations, a move that could hamper the company's efforts to secure new domestic defense orders. LIG D&A expressed regret over the decision, arguing that the penalty was imposed before the criminal trial had concluded. The company said it plans to take legal action to challenge the ban. Shin acknowledged his moral responsi

• 1 in 10 Korean adults used obesity drugs in 2025: report (2026-10-26 12:02)

One in 10 adults in Korea used or was prescribed obesity drugs such as Wegovy and Mounjaro in the past year, with younger generations reporting higher usage and one-third of respondents saying they would use such drugs in the future. According to the “2026 Korea Wellness Report” released Sunday by KB Financial Group, 10.3 percent of the 2,000 men and women aged 25 to 69 who were surveyed in July and August said they used or were prescribed GLP-1 obesity drugs in the past year. The drugs mimic hormones that regulate appetite and blood sugar to aid weight loss. By generation, Generation Z, born after 1995, had the highest usage

rate at 16.5 percent, followed by millennials at 14.2 percent, Generation X at 7.7 percent andbaby boomers at 2.9 percent. Usage was higher among men at 11.6 percent than women at 9percent, but women were more aware of the drugs at 83.1 percent than men at 73 percent.Asked about future use, 33.9 percent of respondents said they would use obesity drugs ifcircumstances allowed, with the share rising to 39.7 percent among Gen Z, who cited“appearance and bod

• Lee meets with ex-parliamentary speaker, stresses national unity (2026-10-26 12:02)

President Lee Jae Myung met with former National Assembly Speaker Woo Won-shik on Monday and discussed state administration issues, a presidential spokesperson said. Lee invited Woo to Cheong Wa Dae for lunch in recognition of his service as parliamentary chief, presidential spokesperson Kang Yu-jung said. Woo's term lasted from mid-2024 to mid-2026. During the lunch, the two discussed views extensively on state administration. Lee, in particular, stressed the importance of national unity, to which Woo expressed agreement, Kang said.

• Korea seeks to complete key OPCON verification, set transfer year by Dec. (2026-10-26 12:02)

Defense Minister Kang Shin-chul said Monday that Seoul is working with Washington to complete the second stage of verification for the transfer of wartime operational control (OPCON) and agree on a target year for the handover by the end of 2026. Kang also said the three conditions previously agreed upon by the allies remain valid, despite recent remarks by Gen. Xavier Brunson, commander of U.S. Forces Korea, suggesting that the standards for meeting those conditions may need to change. “We are closely consulting with the U.S. to complete the full operational capability (FOC) verification and determine a target year for the transfer,” Kang told lawmakers during a parliamentary audit of the defense ministry. He was responding to Rep. Kim Byung-joo of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea, who called for the allies to agree on a transfer timeline at their annual Security Consultative Meeting (SCM), expected to take place in the United States in December. The FOC assessment is the second stage of a three-phase verification process to assess whether the future Combined Forces Command, led

• Korea unlikely to join CPTPP by 2030 (2026-10-26 12:02)

President Lee Jae Myung said Monday that Korea is unlikely to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) during his term, but stressed the need to lay the groundwork despite political criticism, while protecting farmers and fishers from losses. Speaking at a meeting with representatives from the farming, livestock, forestry and fisheries sectors at Cheong Wa Dae, Lee said joining the mega trade bloc requires approval from every member country, making negotiations potentially lengthy. The CPTPP comprises 12 countries, including major economies such as Japan, the United Kingdom, Canada and Australia. It accounts for about 15 percent of global gross domestic product, making it one of the world’s largest free trade blocs. “Even if we pursue CPTPP membership, it is far more likely

that a final agreement will not be reached during my term," Lee said, referring to his singlefive-year presidency, which ends in June 2030. "Nevertheless, for the country as a whole, wehave to do the groundwork despite some criticism so we can move to the next sta

• 1 in 10 residents of Korea in their 20s, 30s have migrant backgrounds: data (2026-10-26 12:02)

Nearly one in 10 residents of Korea in their 20s and 30s comes from a migrant background as of last year, government figures showed Monday. The overall population with migrant backgrounds grew by nearly 100,000, offsetting a decline in Korean nationals without such backgrounds and driving a modest increase in the country's total population. People with migrant backgrounds accounted for 10 percent of all residents in their 20s and 9.5 percent of those in their 30s, according to the Ministry of Data and Statistics' population statistics for 2025. Migrant-background residents are defined as those who are migrants themselves or have at least one parent with a migrant background. The group encompasses foreign nationals and Korean citizens, including those who gained citizenship through naturalization or legal recognition of parentage, second-generation immigrants, North Korean defectors and their children. The figures were compiled from 27 types of administrative data held by 13 agencies, including resident registration, foreign national registration and nationality acquisition records. T

• Cybercrime ring busted over AI-powered data theft targeting hospitals, businesses (2026-10-26 12:02)

Police have busted a cybercrime ring that allegedly stole over 8 million pieces of personal information from dozens of businesses by using artificial intelligence (AI), officials said Monday. Seven suspects allegedly stole 8.2 million pieces of personal data and other internal records from over 90 entities, including hospitals, private academies and businesses, until recently from September last year, according to the Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency. The group is suspected of using AI tools to hack 60 of the targets and attempting to extort some of them. Of the targeted entities, 38 suffered losses, with the group demanding a combined 360 million won ($272,000) from them. Police said the group's 32-year-old ring leader was referred to the prosecution on Friday while he was under physical detention. The other suspects are facing further questioning. The ringleader, a self-taught hacker, learned about hacking skills by working at a security company, where the suspect was in charge of mock hacking attacks. Authorities have recently been on alert over cybercrime suspected of employing AI tool

• Seoul courts rail ties with 6 nations to boost Korean exports (2026-10-26 06:02)

Seoul is bringing railway officials from six countries to Korea this week in a bid to turn its urban transit expertise into overseas contracts for Korean rail operators and manufacturers. The Seoul Metropolitan Government said Monday that 12 officials from Vietnam, Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines, Egypt and Malaysia are taking part in its five-day international training program, which runs through Friday. The program is the largest of its kind since 2020, according to the

city, and brings together officials from countries pursuing major urban railway projects. Ratherthan limiting the visit to policy discussions, Seoul has designed the program to exposeparticipants to the technology and operations behind its transit network, from trafficmanagement to train manufacturing. The itinerary includes the Seoul Transport Operation andInformation Service, known as TOPIS, Seoul Metro, the Shinbundang Line and the Ui-SinseolLine, as well as the Korea Railroad Research Institute and a railway vehicle manufacturing plant.The visits are intended to give participants a broad view of Korea’s

• Seoul pop-up puts 19 young entrepreneurs' ideas to public test (2026-10-26 06:02)

Nineteen aspiring entrepreneurs will put their business ideas to the test in Seoul’s Ikseon-dong neighborhood Friday, showcasing products and services developed over five months in a city-backed program designed to turn local culture and resources into viable businesses. The Seoul Metropolitan Government said the pop-up event will run from 12:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. on the first floor of Stage X Ikseon, where visitors can try prototypes, offer feedback and help participants assess market demand. The teams are part of the fifth cohort of Local in Seoul, a program that trains young entrepreneurs to build brands rooted in the character, stories and resources of local neighborhoods. Since their selection in June, participants have prepared business ideas in four local commercial districts: Magok Art Street in Gangseo District, Konkuk Youth Street in Gwangjin District, Noryangjin Mannaro in Dongjak District and Gwanghui Road in Jung District. The projects range from tea-tasting kits inspired by East Asian traditions to interactive activities built around board games, emotion cards and illustrated

• Budget ministry to start early review of 2028 spending cuts (2026-10-26 06:02)

Korea's budget ministry said Monday it will begin reviewing spending restructuring measures in November for inclusion in the 2028 budget proposal, as part of efforts to develop detailed plans to improve spending efficiency. The Ministry of Planning and Budget unveiled the plan after incorporating 88 measures to cut spending by 44.2 trillion won ($33.4 billion) into the 2027 budget proposal. "In 2027, we plan to eliminate inefficient spending more promptly and precisely," Budget Minister Park Hong-geun said during a meeting of the Fiscal Management Strategy Committee. "We plan to begin identifying tasks in November and expand participation by private-sector experts and civil society groups," Park added. The budget ministry said it plans to harness artificial intelligence (AI) technologies to identify such tasks. "The government plans to use AI assistants to thoroughly review potential tasks, including issues raised by the National Assembly, the audit board and the press, and develop reasonable solutions by analyzing similar cases abroad," the ministry said.

• Korean family groups demand overhaul of national population plan (2026-10-26 06:02)

A coalition of 180 civic organizations is urging the government to rewrite its first national population strategy, saying the plan risks sidelining families even as Korea confronts persistently low birthrates and mounting demographic challenges. The Federation for Korean Families made six demands at a news conference, Friday, at the National Assembly, calling for

clearer fertility targets, stronger family support and a dedicated body to coordinate policies onmarriage, childbirth, child-rearing and caregiving. The group said the government's firstNational Population Strategy Basic Plan fails to include a target for raising the total fertility rate,despite a previously announced goal of reaching 1.0 child per woman by 2030. The federationsaid indicators such as life satisfaction and labor force participation cannot, by themselves,show whether people who want to marry and have children are facing fewer obstacles. It calledon the government to pair demographic targets with measures addressing housing costs,child-rearing expenses, work-life balance and access to caregiving time, arguin

• Korean diaspora network targets export growth for regional businesses (2026-10-26 06:02)

A global network of Korean diaspora business leaders will connect 160 regional companies with overseas buyers this week in an effort to open new export markets for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The Overseas Koreans Agency said Monday it would host the two-day World Korean Business Export Consultation on Oct. 27-28 in Wonju, Gangwon Province, and Daejeon, in partnership with the two local governments. About 160 buyers, including 20 members of the OK-Biz business advisory group, will take part alongside 160 SMEs from the two regions. The event will offer tailored, one-on-one business consultations in sectors including food, beauty, information technology and biotechnology, matching companies with buyers based on their industries and commercial needs. The initiative aims to turn connections forged through the 24th World Korean Business Convention into concrete opportunities for regional businesses seeking to expand overseas, drawing on the advisory group's international business networks. The agency has previously worked with local governments, including Busan, Jeonnam-Gwangju S

• French Korean War veteran's remains to be laid to rest in Busan (2026-10-26 06:02)

The remains of a French veteran of the 1950-53 Korean War will be brought to Korea on Tuesday and buried at the U.N. Memorial Cemetery in Busan this weekend, fulfilling his wish that he be laid to rest in the country he fought for, the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs said Monday. Serge Archambeau, who died on June 5 at the age of 96, volunteered for the war and served as a bazooka gunner with the 3rd Company of the French Battalion, part of the United Nations forces, from October 1951 to September 1952. He fought in some of the war’s fiercest battles, including the so-called Battle of T-Bone Hill and the Battle of the Iron Triangle, and received the Cross for Military Valour with bronze star and other French honors. His remains will arrive at Incheon International Airport’s Terminal 2 on Tuesday. Roger Quintard, secretary-general of a French veterans’ association and executor of Archambeau’s will, will accompany them because the veteran’s family is unable to travel for health reasons. A ceremony marking the arrival of the remains will begin at 12:20 p.m. A Ministry o

• Civil group files police complaint against agriculture minister over farmland survey (2026-10-26 06:02)

A civic group has filed a complaint with police against Agriculture Minister Song Mi-ryung over the government's ongoing farmland survey, accusing her of abusing power, sources said

Monday. The Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency received the complaint from the People'sWelfare Countermeasure Committee on Sunday, claiming Song pressed ahead with the surveywithout sufficient consultation from farmers, causing anxiety among them, according to thesources. The government launched the comprehensive nationwide survey earlier this year in aneffort to determine the actual ownership of farmland and prevent it from being used as aspeculative asset. Critics, however, have voiced concerns over the survey, arguing that it couldinfringe on the property rights of farmers.

• Drug suspect repatriated from Ghana after 22 years on the run (2026-10-26 06:02)

A man in his 80s, suspected of transporting more than 5 tons of narcotics aboard a fishing vessel in waters off South America in the early 2000s, has been repatriated to Korea after spending 22 years on the run, police said Monday. The Korean National Police Agency (KNPA) said the man, whose identity was withheld, was brought back home on Oct. 20 in coordination with the Busan Coast Guard after being deported by authorities in Ghana, where he had been hiding for about 22 years. The man is accused of transporting narcotics on behalf of a drug trafficking organization on five separate occasions in international waters off South America between 2002 and 2004, when he was serving as a supervisor of a deep-sea fishing vessel, and receiving payment for the shipments. The KNPA said the transported narcotics are believed to have been 5,385 kilograms of cocaine worth about 4.8 trillion won ($3.6 billion). The suspect fled to Ghana after his accomplices were arrested and lived there as an undocumented immigrant from around 2004. His repatriation came after the Busan Coast Guard placed him on Inter

• Korea, US kick off combined air drills this week (2026-10-26 06:02)

Korea and the United States kicked off their combined air drills this week, focusing on counter-air and air interdiction missions aimed at enhancing wartime joint operations, the Air Force said Monday. The Freedom Flag exercise began Monday for a two-week run at Kunsan Air Base in Gunsan, about 180 kilometers southwest of Seoul, involving the allies' key aerial assets, including the Korean Air Force's F-15K, KF-16 and F-35A fighter jets, the armed force said in a release. The KC-330 transport aircraft and E-737 Peace Eye early warning and control aircraft will also be deployed for the exercise. The U.S. Air Force's F-16 Fighting Falcon jet, RC-135 reconnaissance plane and its Navy's MH-60S Seahawk helicopter, as well as the F-35B stealth fighter jet and the MQ-9 Reaper unmanned surveillance aircraft of the U.S. Marines Corps will also participate in the drills. The air forces will operate day and nighttime "mission planning cells" to exchange tactics and expertise, while refining wartime operational and mission execution procedures, the Air Force said. The missions are designed to enhance

• Presidential special inspector vows political neutrality, independence (2026-10-26 06:02)

The new presidential special inspector, Choi Kil-su, on Monday pledged to uphold political neutrality and professional independence as he began his duties inspecting irregularities involving the president's spouse and close relatives. Choi made the remarks to reporters at his

office in central Seoul, following President Lee Jae Myung's formal appointment of him Friday tothe post tasked with inspecting corruption allegations involving the president's family and closerelatives, as well as senior presidential aides. He is the first presidential special inspectorappointed since late 2016, following the post's creation in 2014. "I will uphold political neutralityand independence in carrying out my duties to the end," Choi told reporters, adding he feels aheavy responsibility and will work to meet the public's expectations. Choi also pledged rigorousinspections, saying he plans to serve as a "panopticon," a circular prison design that allowsinmates to be constantly monitored. "Inspections are not something for which you have to wait,like the filings of complaints or lawsuits, but (basic

• Special counsel to inspect 2.5 mil. ballots in local elections shortage probe (2026-10-26 06:02)

A special counsel team said Monday it plans to examine about 2.5 million ballots at a vote counting center this week as part of its probe into ballot shortages during the June 3 local elections. Special counsel Lee Tae-han's team will carry out the examination Wednesday at the Olympic Park Handball Gymnasium, which served as a vote counting center during the local elections marred by the shortages. The team plans to verify the 2.47 million ballots and other equipment at the site to check for irregularities, such as possible forgery, in the presence of observers chosen by the National Assembly, lawmakers and journalists. The team said the examination will not serve as a recount of the votes, which takes place when there is an objection to election results. "By thoroughly investigating various suspicions in this examination, we will do our best to resolve the public's skepticism on the fairness and management of public elections," the team said. Lee's team was launched last month to investigate the shortages that sparked a major public outcry after some voters were forced to turn back witho

• Lee's approval rating falls to 35.3% after rebound: poll (2026-10-26 06:02)

President Lee Jae Myung's approval rating fell to 35.3 percent after rebounding the previous week, a poll showed Monday. In the poll conducted on 2,517 adults nationwide from last Monday to Friday by Realmeter, positive assessments of Lee's job performance fell 2 percentage points from the previous week. Lee's disapproval rating stood at 62.3 percent, up 1.9 percentage points from the previous week. Realmeter attributed the decline to growing concerns over the housing market and the economy, including the recent stock market plunge. The pollster also cited North Korea's threat to resume loudspeaker broadcasts toward the South and controversy over whether the chief of the Serious Crime Investigation Agency should attend Cabinet meetings. In a separate survey of 1,003 adults conducted between Thursday and Friday, support for the ruling Democratic Party of Korea fell 0.2 percentage point to 36 percent, while that of the main opposition People Power Party rose 1.7 percentage points to 42.6 percent. The survey on the president had a margin of error of 2 percentage points at a 95 percent confide

• Itaewon's Lit Lounge shines beacon through dark times over 4 years (2026-10-26 00:02)

Lit Lounge opened the doors of its Itaewon location just about four years ago in late October 2022. Following a soft opening on Oct. 27 and 28, its grand opening was held on Saturday, Oct. 29, a day that would go down in infamy, after 159 people died in a crowd disaster in a narrow alley a little less than 400 meters away. "Lit Lounge's early existence was shaped by one of the most devastating tragedies in recent Korean history: The Itaewon Halloween crowd crush," said Jason Waller, owner of Lit Lounge. "For many of us operating businesses in Itaewon, the aftermath of this tragedy was even more devastating than the COVID-19 pandemic." It would have been understandable, maybe even advisable, if he just quit. But Waller, also known as Pinnacle TheHustler, decided to keep going. "I think the biggest reason I refused to close Lit Lounge was because I didn't want to look in the mirror and see someone who had given up. But for me, as long as I still believed in what I was building and I could still see a path forward, I wasn't ready to quit," he said. "And now, Lit Lounge, which started in 202

- Lee says Korea emerging as global economic leader on record current account surplus (2026-10-25 11:57)

President Lee Jae Myung said Sunday that Korea has emerged as a leading player in the global economy, citing that the country posted the world's second-largest current account surplus among major economies in the second quarter. The country's current account surplus reached $116.63 billion in the April-June period, trailing only China's $193.72 billion, according to International Monetary Fund (IMF) data available on the Bank of Korea's Economic Statistics System. "The Republic of Korea is now moving beyond being a country that follows advanced economies to become a leading nation shaping the global economic landscape," Lee wrote in a social media post, referring to Korea by its official name. Lee noted that Korea's current account surplus exceeded the combined surpluses of Germany and Japan. He also highlighted the achievements of Korean companies in global markets, particularly in semiconductors, a key industry in the age of artificial intelligence (AI). Lee called for the country to capitalize on these achievements to strengthen its industrial competitiveness and raise its potential gr

- Police step up crackdown on fake uniforms ahead of Halloween (2026-10-25 11:57)

Police will launch a nationwide crackdown on imitation uniforms and equipment ahead of Halloween amid concerns that such items could be used to impersonate officers or disrupt police operations. According to the National Police Agency (NPA) Sunday, the weeklong operation will run from Monday through Nov. 1, targeting the production, sale and distribution of imitation police gear in cooperation with provincial and metropolitan police agencies. Under the current law, civilians who wear or possess official or imitation police uniforms or equipment face up to six months in prison or fines of up to 3 million won ($2,260). The crackdown follows concerns raised after the deadly 2022 Itaewon crowd crush, when people costumed in police uniforms were reportedly mistaken for actual officers, causing confusion and hindering rescue operations. Similarly, Korea also restricts the unauthorized wearing of military uniforms under a separate law, which prohibits civilians from wearing official military attire or uniforms that could make them difficult to distinguish from actual service members. During the

• North Korea's evolving threat goes beyond missiles as Russia ties deepen (2026-10-25 11:57)

North Korea’s military cooperation with Russia is giving Pyongyang more than new weapons. From electronic warfare equipment to battlefield lessons learned in Ukraine, the partnership could change how North Korean forces fight, military experts say, although the extent of those gains remains difficult to verify. Gen. Xavier Brunson, commander of U.S. Forces Korea, recently warned that North Korea had received Russian-made jamming equipment and had gained experience in moving troops and supplies over long distances through its involvement in Russia’s war against Ukraine. Speaking at a Center for Strategic and International Studies' event on Oct. 13, Brunson said the equipment marked a change in North Korea’s electronic warfare capabilities. “They didn’t have those jammers before. Those jammers were given to them by the Russians,” he said. Brunson also pointed to interference affecting movement in Korean territorial waters, saying the jamming activity had not reached its full potential. His remarks raised questions about how far Russian assistance has strengthened North Korea’s

• More Korean middle school students experience feelings of depression: data (2026-10-25 11:57)

The proportion of Korean middle school students who experienced feelings of depression exceeded that of high school students for the third consecutive year in 2025, data showed Sunday. The share of middle school students who said they felt depressed accounted for 26.2 percent last year, compared with 25.1 percent for high school students, according to the data by the Korean Educational Development Institute. In the study, "feelings of depression" were defined as experiencing sadness or despair severe enough to suspend daily routines for two consecutive weeks over the past year. In 2024, the proportion of such middle school students came to 27.9 percent, higher than 27.5 percent recorded for high school students. In 2023, middle school students experiencing feelings of depression accounted for 26.3 percent, compared with 25.6 percent for high school students. In the January-June period of this year, a total of 112 elementary, middle and high school students died by suicide. Of them, 43, or 38.4 percent, were middle school students, according to data by the education ministry. Last year, a

• Footage released of huge Korean national flag on Dokdo Island (2026-10-25 11:57)

Promotional footage of a huge national flag of Korea on its easternmost island of Dokdo was unveiled Sunday to mark Dokdo Day, a social media post showed. A 30-by-20-meter Taegeukgi, unfurled by 70 Koreans at a pier on Dokdo Island, was captured in 60-second footage taken by drone, according to Seo Kyoung-duk, a professor at Sungshin Women's University in Seoul, on social media. The video also contained various images of Dokdo Island in the East Sea and a message recommending foreigners visit as part of a global promotional campaign for Dokdo. Korea has said Dokdo is historically, geographically and under international law its territory, categorically rejecting Japan's claim to the territory. Korea keeps a small police detachment on the islets, to showcase its effective control of Dokdo.

• Foreign-language emergency calls more than double in Korea (2026-10-25 11:57)

As a record number of international tourists visit Korea, police are facing a growing demand for interpretation services, both for foreign-language emergency calls and at crime scenes. However, budget constraints have hindered efforts to recruit additional professional interpreters for languages other than English and Chinese, leaving officers to struggle with language barriers, particularly at crime scenes where interpreters are often difficult to secure on short notice. Foreign arrivals to Korea rose 21.5 percent year-on-year to 17.11 million in the first nine months of this year, up from 14.08 million in 2025, further increasing demand for police interpretation services. According to data submitted by the National Police Agency to Rep. Park Ju-min of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea, police received 21,252 emergency calls in foreign languages last year, nearly double the 10,348 recorded in 2024. The surge has continued this year, with 21,012 foreign-language calls recorded through August, nearly equaling last year's annual total. Despite repeated requests for additional interpreter

• Incidents involving Koreans in 10 nations under travel advisory rise 50%: data (2026-10-25 05:57)

The number of accidents and incidents involving Korean nationals in 10 major countries under Seoul's travel advisory rose nearly 50 percent in 2025 from the previous year, data showed Sunday. In the 10 countries for which Seoul issued travel advisories the most over the past five years, the cases of accidents and incidents involving Korean nationals came to 4,016 in 2025, up 48.3 percent from 2024, according to the data from the foreign ministry and the National Police Agency to Rep. Kim Joon-hwan of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea. The countries are Russia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cambodia, Thailand, China, El Salvador, Mexico, Lebanon, Iran and Laos. Cases of losing contact saw the sharpest rise, increasing to 617 in 2025 from the previous year's 248, the data showed. Kidnapping and confinement more than doubled to 553 last year from 246 in 2024. Cases of suspected missing jumped nearly five times to 188 in 2025. By country, accidents and incidents involving Koreans increased the most in China, with such cases rising to 1,580 from the previous year's 1,133. In Cambodia

• Korea to expand int'l flights in winter season (2026-10-25 05:57)

Korea will increase international passenger flights for the winter season, with more services to Japan and China amid strong travel demand, the transport ministry said Sunday. A total of 5,353 weekly international flights are scheduled on 264 routes connecting 44 countries during the winter season from Oct. 25 to March 27 of 2027, according to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport. The flights will be operated by 84 airlines, including 11 Korean carriers and 73 foreign airlines. The weekly total marks a 7.6 percent increase from 4,973 flights during last year's winter season, surpassing the pre-pandemic level of 4,980 in the winter of 2019. The expansion will be driven mainly by additional services to Japan and China, with weekly flights increasing by 314 and 232, respectively, amid robust inbound and outbound travel demand.

• Nat'l health insurance fiscal balance for foreigners tops $753 mil. in surplus last year (2026-10-25 05:57)

The fiscal balance of Korea's national health insurance for foreigners posted a surplus exceeding 1 trillion won ($753 million) for the first time last year, but the account for Chinese nationals swung to a deficit, data showed Sunday. The fiscal balance for foreign nationals came to 1,012.8 trillion won in the black last year, up from 943.9 billion won the previous year, according to data submitted by the National Health Insurance Service (NHIS) to Rep. Jeon Jin-sook of the ruling party. Insurance premium paid by foreign nationals totaled 2.54 trillion won, while medical expenses covered by the NHIS stood at 1.52 trillion won. It marked the first time that the health insurance fiscal balance for foreigners posted a surplus topping 1 trillion won. It also represented the consecutive surplus streak since 2017. But the fiscal balance for Chinese nationals logged a deficit of 40.9 billion won last year, turning from a surplus of 5.5 billion won in the previous year. In 2025, insurance premiums collected from Chinese people totaled 956.4 billion won, while payouts shouldered by the NHIS for m

• Chungnam National University holds town hall on future development plans (2026-10-25 05:57)

Chungnam National University held a town hall meeting on Friday to discuss its future development, including a proposed merger with another national university. About 250 people, including faculty members, staff, teaching assistants, students and alumni, attended the meeting at Baekma Hall of the university’s Jeongsimhwa International Cultural Center. The university said the meeting was organized to build consensus on major issues and future development plans, including a proposed merger with Kongju National University. Participants also discussed the Glocal University Project and a support package for flagship national universities, sharing their views on the university’s future. The two-hour meeting began with opening remarks by President Kim Jeong-kyoum, followed by a presentation on the university’s future direction by Kim Young-guk, vice president for external affairs. “The meeting provided a forum for university members to better understand the key issues facing Chungnam National University, discuss its future direction and share their views,” President Kim said. “I since

• University of Seoul co-hosts Seoul Big Data Forum to explore new possibilities for data use (2026-10-25 05:57)

The University of Seoul held the 2026 Seoul Big Data Forum at Coex in southern Seoul from Oct. 6-7 to explore how artificial intelligence (AI) and big data technologies will shape future cities and open up new possibilities for data use. The two-day event was co-hosted by the Seoul Metropolitan Government, the Seoul Institute and the Seoul AI Foundation, the university said Friday. The forum brought together domestic and international experts to discuss advances in AI and big data and share their research findings. About 2,600 people, including AI, big data and robotics professionals, along with members of the public, attended the forum both in person and online. The keynote address was delivered by Dennis Hong, a renowned roboticist and

professor at the University of California, Los Angeles, who directs the Robotics & Mechanisms Laboratory. In a presentation titled “When Intelligence Gets a Body: Humanoids and the Rise of Physical Intelligence,” Hong discussed the potential of humanoid robots and physical AI. His lively and engaging presentation drew an enthusiastic response from the

• President Lee mulls picking justice minister nominee from 2 prosecutor-turned-lawmakers (2026-10-25 05:57)

President Lee Jae Myung is mulling over selecting a justice minister nominee from between two prosecutor-turned-lawmakers after his previous pick for the post withdrew his candidacy last month over lobbying allegations, a source at the presidential office said Sunday. Rep. Park Kyoon-taek and Rep. Yang Bu-nam of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) are the candidates that Lee is reviewing for justice minister, a source at Cheong Wa Dae told Yonhap News Agency. "After a lengthy deliberation, Lee is reviewing the choice between Park and Yang. An official nomination is expected to be made soon," the source said. In a Cabinet reshuffle in late August, Lee nominated Rep. Kim Seung-won of the DPK to lead the justice ministry. A parliamentary confirmation hearing was held last month, but Kim withdrew his candidacy amid controversy over various allegations, including lobbying for a COVID-19 treatment drug. Amid a two-month vacancy in the justice minister post, Lee is believed to be carefully reviewing the nomination while considering public sentiment. Park and Yang, both first-term lawmaker

• Granddaughter of Korean independence fighter brings Korean history to US schools (2026-10-24 18:02)

At the first Korea Book Festival in Vancouver, Canada, which runs through Oct. 31, a very meaningful book was exhibited: "Jessie’s Diary," reborn as a graphic novel. On Oct. 8, a session was held where readers read the original work and shared their impressions, receiving a great response. The graphic novel has been introduced in French, Chinese and Japanese, and preparations are underway to publish an English edition of the original work as well. "Jessie’s Diary" is a child-rearing journal kept for eight years, beginning in 1938 with the birth of the couple’s eldest daughter, Jessie, by Yang Woo-jo (1897-1964) and Choe Seon-hwa (1911-2003), a husband and wife who participated in the Korean Provisional Government. Alongside their deep love for their family, the diary chronicles the provisional government’s life in exile, the daily lives of independence activists and anecdotes about prominent figures in the independence movement, including Kim Gu and Ahn Chang-ho. It has been recognized for its historical value. The diary came to public attention in 1999 when Kim Hyun-ju, 54, the

• Cattle farmers in Korea reeling from solar panel policy (2026-10-24 18:02)

At noon on Aug. 6 in a rural village in Naju, Jeonnam-Gwangju Special Metropolitan City, a thermal imaging drone camera showed the home and Korean cattle barn of Kim Young-hee, 73, and her husband, Lim Jae-yeol, 70, glowing red like a blazing heat island. Surrounded on all sides by three solar power plants that resembled a black sea, their home was trapped in the middle, with its roof surface temperature soaring to as high as 65 degrees Celsius. The nearest

solar panels extended almost to the boundary of their yard, just 3 to 5 meters from the frontdoor. “When the sun rises in summer, both inside and outside our house become anunbearable sauna. Sweat makes it impossible to keep my eyes open, so I flee to the villagecommunity center during the day. As soon as the sun comes up, I get so dizzy and develop suchsevere headaches that I simply cannot endure it. This is something that kills people — a ‘torture device.’ Government officials say solar power poses no scientifically provenproblems, but when I am suffering like this right in front of my kitchen window, how persuasivec

• Pharmacies emerge as new K-beauty stops for foreign tourists (2026-10-24 00:02)

In Seoul's bustling Namdaemun Market, a group of American tourists stepped out of a pharmacy and opened their shopping bags to show their haul: a box of Bacchus energy drinks and three packages of polydeoxyribonucleotide (PDRN) skin care products. Inside, other foreign shoppers queued at the counters with acne treatments, scar gels and cosmetics in hand. Pharmacists in white coats scanned their purchases at the registers. Scenes like this are becoming increasingly common as Korean pharmacies emerge as a new stop on the K-beauty tourism route. Foreign visitors are seeking both over-the-counter (OTC) dermatological drugs available only at pharmacies and pharmacy-sold cosmetics promoted through social media. “Foreign tourists now account for 40 to 50 percent of our sales,” Park Jun-sun, who runs one of the pharmacies in Namdaemun Market, told The Korea Times. “There weren’t that many when I opened two years ago, but the number suddenly started rising about a year ago.” Even at larger pharmacies that cater mainly to Korean customers, foreign shoppers have become more visible. Staff

• North Korea's diversifying missile arsenal complicates South's defense (2026-10-24 00:02)

North Korea is displaying an increasingly diverse missile arsenal this year, firing from different platforms — on land, aboard warships and, according to Pyongyang, underwater from a submarine — while testing weapons designed to carry heavier warheads, maneuver to evade interception and inflict damage over wider areas. The frequency of missile tests has also increased, with 16 ballistic missile launches recorded through Oct. 12, which exceeds the six recorded in all of 2025 and 12 in 2024. But what's more threatening than the frequency of ballistic missiles is diversification, with cruise missile tests added on seven occasions through Oct. 14, involving land-based launchers, destroyers and, purportedly, a submarine. The expanding arsenal gives North Korean leader Kim Jong-un’s military more options to approach targets from different directions and coordinate strikes, placing greater demands on South Korean and U.S. defenses even as questions remain over Pyongyang's technological claims. Widening range of weapons This year's ballistic launches began near Pyongyang on Jan. 4 with susp

• Spring comes earlier, autumn foliage later as climate change alters forests (2026-10-23 18:02)

If you are planning a fall foliage trip this year, you may need to set off a little later than expected. The peak autumn foliage season is forecast to arrive later than usual. According to the Korea Forest Service, fall colors will spread gradually from the central to southern regions, starting with Mount Seorak on Oct. 20. Foliage is expected to reach its peak nationwide only in late October, with peak dates forecast for Oct. 28 at Mount Songni, Nov. 4 at Mount Naejang and Nov. 6 at Mount Halla. The average peak date for maples and oaks nationwide is expected to be Oct. 31, about 0.8 days later than the average peak date over the past five years. The delayed foliage season is not an isolated development this year. As temperatures rise, spring is arriving increasingly early while autumn is shifting later, a pattern that researchers have consistently observed in Korea's forests. The seasonal clock that we have long taken for granted is changing. A 2021 study by researchers at the Korea National Arboretum and Seoul National University’s Graduate School of Environmental Studies tracked 25

• Birdwatching takes off among young Koreans (2026-10-23 18:02)

As you stroll among the trees, you hear a rustle and stop to listen. You raise your binoculars and quietly scan the spot where the sound came from. After waiting patiently, you may finally catch a glimpse of something rarely encountered in everyday life: a small, precious bird. Birdwatching, or birding, is emerging as a new hobby among Korea’s millennials and Gen Z. Until recently, it was largely seen as a pastime for middle-aged and older people, requiring expensive equipment and specialized knowledge. But smartphones have made the activity accessible to almost anyone. With celebrities, including actress Kim Tae-ri, author Chung Se-rang and model Lee So-ra, sharing their interest in birdwatching, it has even gained a reputation as a trendy hobby. Taking off during COVID-19, with smartphones lowering the barrier to entry Content about birdwatching has recently proliferated on social media. On Instagram, posts tagged “birdwatching" number approximately 144,000, while those tagged “birdwatching records" and “birdwatching life” number around 17,000 and 14,000, respectively. A gro

• Busan emerging as Asia's next coastal destination: CNN (2026-10-23 12:02)

Busan is emerging as a next-generation coastal destination in Asia as international interest in the Korean city grows, according to a recent foreign media report. The development of the Busan Lotte Tower and the Busan Opera House near the city's North Port is expected to further boost its appeal as a tourist destination. CNN highlighted the city's transformation in a travel article published Thursday titled "How the world's largest port city is becoming Asia's next coastal destination." "Busan, Korea's second-largest city, has been making big changes to establish itself as a destination in its own right, rather than simply a place to visit alongside other travel destinations," CNN said. The report stressed that Busan is not simply a "miniature version" of Seoul. "If Seoul is New York, Busan is Los Angeles," CNN said, describing the city as " younger, cooler and less stressful." CNN also pointed to Busan's transformation from a "world's largest port city" into a "design-driven city." A prime example is the Busan Lotte Tower, which is being built on the site of the former Busan City Hall, abo

• [COVER STORY] Acquittal revives Seoul mayor's presidential prospects (2026-10-23 12:02)

Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon's acquittal Friday gives him an opportunity to turn his legal victory into greater influence within the conservative opposition, easing a threat to his tenure that had overshadowed his fifth term and constrained his presidential prospects. The Seoul High Court reversed a July ruling that fined Oh 10 million won ($7,500) and ordered him to forfeit 21 million won — a sentence that would have cost him his mayoral post had it become final. The appeals court ruling does not end the case. Special counsel Min Joong-ki's team said it would appeal to the Supreme Court. But the reversal of a verdict that could have removed Oh from office gives him more room to advance his agenda in the capital and strengthen his standing within the main opposition People Power Party (PPP). The lower court's conviction had raised questions about whether Oh could complete his four-year term, creating uncertainty around long-term projects. The acquittal reduces that burden and gives his administration greater political stability to pursue its priorities. Oh entered his fifth term with a

• Army's Ground Operations Command stages field training drills linked to counterfire warfare (2026-10-23 12:02)

The Army's Ground Operations Command (GOC) has conducted an annual counterfire field training exercise (FTX) to enhance its readiness for wartime operations, the armed service said Friday. The drills were conducted from Monday through Friday, involving some 4,100 troops affiliated with the Combined Ground Component Command (CGCC), according to the Army. The GOC also serves as the ground component command of the Korea-U.S. Combined Forces Command (CFC), which was transitioned into a standing unit earlier this year. During the drills, which were held in tandem with the annual Hoguk exercise, troops trained under a simulated all-out war scenario on the Korean Peninsula. The CGCC task force, comprising intelligence and artillery units, attempted to occupy positions and detect and strike targets using their combined assets. A range of joint surveillance and strike assets, including the allies' unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), counter-battery radars, the Korean Tactical Surface-to-Surface Missile (KTSSM) and K9 self-propelled howitzer, were mobilized for the drills. The troops also practiced res

• Why Gemini is at the center of Korean politics (2026-10-23 12:02)

Gemini, the generative artificial intelligence (AI) by Google, has become the center of Korean politics in recent days, as President Lee Jae Myung and opposition politicians used the tool to defend their logic in the debate over investigative body chiefs' attendance at Cabinet meetings. The debate turned a dispute over investigative independence into a political contest over AI-generated responses, with high-profile opposition lawmakers citing Gemini on issues ranging from Cabinet attendance to whether Lee's suspended criminal trials should resume. The AI use battle began when Lee posted on X (formerly Twitter) on Wednesday under the heading, "I asked Gemini," posting the AI assistant's answers to reject criticism of his decision to have the heads of the newly launched Serious Crimes Investigation Agency (SCIA) and the Prosecution Service attend Cabinet meetings. His posting came after SCIA's inaugural chief Kim Ji-yong took part in Tuesday's Cabinet meeting, presided over by Lee. The opposition bloc

criticized Kim's attendance, saying it would undermine the investigative bo

• Lee urges reform of outdated regulations hampering growth of advanced industries (2026-10-23 12:02)

President Lee Jae Myung on Friday urged prompt and bold reform of outdated regulations that hamper the growth of new technologies or advanced industries, calling it an essential task in the country's drive for global industrial leadership. The president made the call at the second plenary meeting of the regulation rationalization committee, aimed at easing regulations to help nurture advanced industries and ensure balanced development, both of which are key initiatives of the Lee administration. "Rationalizing regulations is an essential task in establishing an irreplaceable Republic of Korea," Lee said, reiterating his administration's push to establish global leadership in advanced industries. The president said new regulations would still be needed and should even be strengthened to protect people's lives and safety, as well as social fairness and transparency, but any outdated regulations hampering growth should be promptly reformed. "Outdated, inconvenient regulations that block new technologies and the development of new industries should be reformed promptly and boldly," he said. T

• Science minister vows to come up with pan-ministerial measures to regulate smart glasses (2026-10-23 12:02)

Science Minister Bae Kyung-hoon said Friday his ministry will make efforts to devise measures to address problems caused by smart glasses, vowing to speed up related guidelines already under preparation. Bae made the remarks during a parliamentary audit held at the National Assembly when a lawmaker asked whether the ministry is planning to deal with concerns over covert filming and privacy violations caused by such devices. "We will swiftly come up with response measures from a pan-ministerial level," Bae said, noting that President Lee Jae Myung pointed out the issue during a recent Cabinet meeting. "We are preparing a guideline but will speed up its progress." Smart glasses are wearable computer frames that integrate digital technology into eyewear, allowing people to film objects with a camera installed on the glasses, or show visual information on the lenses. The technology was brought to the mainstream mostly by Ray-Ban from Meta Platforms Inc. The device has recently face scrutiny in Korea, as a few people have been caught using them to cheat in academic and technical exams or ille

• Middle schooler bitten by pet cobra, spotlighting illegal exotic pet ownership (2026-10-23 12:02)

A middle school student bitten by a cobra while trying to trade it illegally has been caught by police, raising concerns about illegal ownership of wild animals. According to the police, a 14-year-old boy in Cheongju, North Chungcheong Province, was bitten on the back of his hand by a cobra Tuesday, prompting an emergency call to 119. He showed signs of paralysis and was airlifted to the Armed Forces Capital Hospital in Seongnam, Gyeonggi Province, where he received anti-venom treatment. The bite reportedly occurred when he took the cobra out of its cage to sell it to another person. The snake was a forest cobra, which he had obtained through

an online community. The species is a designated wild animal under the Wildlife Protection andManagement Act, and trading or keeping it is prohibited in principle. Police plan to investigatehow the cobra was traded before deciding whether to formally book him. This is the latest caseof someone in Korea being caught illegally keeping dangerous wild animals. In July, a crocodilecaught in a stream in Yeoju, Gyeonggi Province, was identified as a Si

- Main opposition welcomes Seoul mayor's acquittal in political funds trial (2026-10-23 12:02)

The main opposition People Power Party (PPP) on Friday welcomed an appeals court's decision to acquit Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon in a high-stakes political funds case linked to opinion polls ahead of the 2021 mayoral by-election. Oh, who had been fined 10 million won ($7,500) by a lower court for violating the Political Funds Act and was at risk of losing his mayoral post, was acquitted on appeal. He is affiliated with the PPP. "It is a great relief and at the same time only the right thing that the city administration, entrusted to Mayor Oh Se-hoon by ten million residents of Seoul, can continue without disruption," PPP chief spokesperson Park Choong-kwon said in a commentary. "The ruling shows that the truth always prevails in the end, even if it takes time," he said. Oh had been indicted on charges of having a political supporter make payments totaling 33 million won for opinion polls he allegedly received on 10 occasions from self-proclaimed power broker Myung Tae-kyun ahead of the 2021 election. Under the Political Funds Act, elected officials are stripped of their seats if they receive

- Seoul police step up crowd safety measures for Halloween (2026-10-23 12:02)

Police will step up crowd safety measures in major nightlife districts across Seoul for Halloween festivities next week, officials said Friday. The Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency (SMPA) said it will operate a special safety management period from Friday to Nov. 1. During this period, 4,594 police personnel — including 30 riot police units, 120 regional patrol teams, 120 special task force members, 99 detectives and 765 traffic police — will be deployed to Itaewon, Hongdae, Seongsu, Myeongdong and Ikseon-dong, where large crowds are expected to gather. The heightened safety measures come as Seoul prepares for its fourth Halloween since the 2022 Itaewon crowd crush, a tragic incident that claimed 159 lives in a narrow alleyway in the popular nightlife neighborhood. From Oct. 30 to Nov. 1, police will closely manage traffic control in collaboration with local district governments, restricting vehicle access in phases based on crowd density. In major crowd gathering areas like Itaewon and Hongdae, police will also carry out preventive patrols to ease public anxiety caused by a recent s

- Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon acquitted in political funds case (2026-10-23 12:02)

An appeals court on Friday acquitted Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon of political funding charges linked to opinion polls conducted ahead of his 2021 election, overturning a local court conviction that threatened his tenure and political future. The Seoul High Court panel, led by Judge Ku Hoi-geun, reversed a July ruling that fined Oh 10 million won ($7,500) and ordered him to forfeit 21 million won — a sentence that would have cost him his mayoral post had it become

final. The case centered on allegations that Oh commissioned opinion polls from politicalbroker Myung Tae-kyun ahead of the 2021 Seoul mayoral by-election and had his supporter, abusinessman named Kim Han-jung, pay for them. The charges involved 10 polls and paymentstotaling 33 million won. The central dispute was whether Oh had requested the polls and knewthat Kim was paying for them. “Myung’s testimony is the only direct evidence on the centralissue in this case, but it is inconsistent overall and conflicts with objective circumstances onnumerous points, making it difficult to believe,” the judge said. “It is diffic

• Culture ministry to audit ex-museum chief over misattributed calligraphy (2026-10-23 06:02)

The culture minister said Friday his ministry will conduct a thorough audit of the former National Museum of Korea chief who resigned over the museum's controversial display of a misattributed calligraphic work from his private collection. You Hong-june stepped down earlier this week after the museum wrongly displayed the calligraphy in an exhibition as the work of a Korean independence activist. The piece was later identified as the work of a prominent pro-Japanese collaborator during Japan's 1910-45 colonial rule of Korea and turned out to be from You's own private collection. "I think the incident has damaged the reputation and public trust the museum has built over the years," Culture Minister Chae Hwi-young told a lawmaker during a parliamentary audit of the ministry. "The ministry will seek to restore public confidence through a rigorous investigation." The audit will not be limited to the alleged abuse of authority by the former director but will also look into "every procedure involved in the management and authentication of the exhibit at issue," Chae added.

• Suspected N. Korean IT worker found at S. Korean firm under false identity for 1st time (2026-10-23 05:57)

Police are investigating North Korean information technology (IT) workers suspected of taking jobs at a South Korean company under false identities, the first time authorities have disclosed such a case. The case raises concern that wages earned through such employment are funding Pyongyang’s weapons development, amid a recent large-scale U.S. crackdown on similar remote employment fraud. Police said Thursday that they independently detected one suspected case last year in which a North Korean IT worker fraudulently took a job. The worker was reportedly hired by a private South Korean company and carried out development work. Police are tracing the amount and method of payments while also probing possible organized links. North Korean IT workers are increasingly landing remote jobs at global companies under forged identities and with fast-evolving artificial intelligence (AI) tools, funneling their earnings to Pyongyang. In July, 11 countries, including South Korea, the United States and Japan, issued an alert warning that North Korea relies on a network of skilled IT workers to fund i

• Lee appoints special inspector to probe corruption involving first family, aides (2026-10-23 05:57)

President Lee Jae Myung on Friday appointed a former senior prosecutor as special inspector tasked with investigating irregularities involving the president's spouse, close relatives and senior presidential officials. Lee approved the appointment of Choi Kil-su, presidential spokesperson Kang Yu-jung said, a day after the parliamentary legislation and judiciary committee adopted a confirmation hearing report on him with bipartisan support. The appointment made Choi, a former senior prosecutor, the first presidential watchdog appointed since 2016. Lee earlier nominated him for the post from among three candidates recommended by the ruling and opposition parties, and the bar association. The special inspector is tasked with investigating corruption allegations involving the president's family and relatives, as well as senior presidential aides. The special inspector post was established in 2014 but had remained vacant since its first inspector stepped down in September 2016.

• S. Korea proposes military talks with N. Korea over border conflict issue (2026-10-23 05:57)

South Korea on Friday proposed to hold military talks with North Korea to prevent accidental clashes stemming from unclear border lines in the Military Demarcation Line (MDL). The proposal comes as tensions along the border continue to escalate after three South Korean soldiers clearing a patrol route were injured in a North Korean mine explosion south of the MDL within the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) amid Pyongyang's so-called border fortifications. “South Korea's defense ministry is formally proposing official military talks with North Korea. Seoul aims to verify the precise location of the land border, restore military hotlines and discuss measures to prevent accidental clashes in border areas,” Kim Hong-chul, director general for defense policy at the Ministry of National Defense, said in a statement. “The United Nations Command (UNC) can also join the discussion if necessary with specific dates and venues to be arranged through Panmunjeom.” The statement came about a month after the DMZ mine explosion, which South Korea's defense ministry concluded was caused by the North’s l

• Jeonbuk National University, KAIST researchers develop soft robot (2026-10-23 05:57)

A joint research team from Jeonbuk National University and the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) has developed an ionic soft robot called the Ionograsper that can detect nearby objects and grasp them in response to light. The findings were published in the international journal Advanced Materials, and the paper was selected as a cover article. The study is titled “A Multifunctional Ionograsper Enabling Ion-Redistribution Proximity Sensing and Structural-Reconfiguration-Driven Bidirectional Actuation.” Jeonbuk National University said Thursday that the research was led by Kim Yong-min, a professor at its School of Chemical Engineering, and Moon Hong-chul, a professor in KAIST’s Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering. The university noted that the key innovation lies in a single soft material that serves as both a sensor and an artificial muscle. The robot can be activated by brief exposure to low-intensity ultraviolet light and retains its deformed shape for more than 10 minutes after the light is switched off, without requiring further energy i

• Appeals court acquits Seoul Mayor Oh in political funds case (2026-10-23 05:57)

An appeals court on Friday acquitted Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon of political funding charges linked to opinion polls conducted ahead of his 2021 election, overturning a conviction that threatened his political future. The verdict given by a panel of judges at the Seoul High Court, led by Ku Hoi-geun, reversed a July sentence imposing a fine of 10 million won ($7,500) and ordering the forfeiture of 21 million won. The case centered on allegations that Oh commissioned polls from political broker Myung Tae-kyun ahead of the 2021 Seoul mayoral by-election and had his supporter, Kim Han-jung, cover the costs. Prosecutors brought charges involving 10 polls and payments totaling 33 million won. "Myung Tae-kyun's testimony, which constitutes virtually the only evidence, is difficult to believe on the whole," Judge Ku said. Under the Political Funds Act, elected officials are stripped of their seats if they receive a finalized fine of 1 million won ($750) or a heavier penalty for improper acceptance of political funds. The central dispute was whether Oh had requested the polls and knew that Kim was

• Arrest warrant sought for woman accused of killing own mother (2026-10-23 05:57)

Police said Friday they have sought an arrest warrant for a woman on suspicion of killing her mother at their home in western Seoul the previous day. The suspect in her 40s allegedly killed her mother in her 60s at 8:15 a.m. Thursday at their home in Seoul's Gangseo Ward and voluntarily called the police. Police arrived at the scene and put her under emergency arrest at around 8:40 a.m., according to the Gangseo Police Station. Police filed for a warrant to formally arrest her Thursday night, officials said. Reasons for the suspect's alleged killing of her own mother were not immediately available. When calling the police, the suspect described the victim as her "stepmother" but the victim was confirmed to be her biological mother. The suspect's daughter told police that she heard the suspect saying the victim had attempted to feed her poisoned food, although police have found no relevant evidence. Investigators have also obtained statements that the suspect had previously expressed negative feelings toward her mother, including using abusive language against her. The suspect is denying the

• Korean pop artist Rydia trades verses with Dutch rapper on bilingual single 'Saranghaeyo' (2026-10-23 05:57)

In Korea, a pop career is supposed to start in a trainee dormitory when one is a teenager. Rydia's started in Rotterdam at 39. The Seoul-born singer-songwriter, now 41 and six years into life in the Netherlands, put a music career off for most of her adult life before deciding it was never too late to reinvent herself. She officially launched as an independent artist on June 19. Four months and seven releases later, and she's about to drop her most openly cross-cultural track yet. "Saranghaeyo" (I Love You), out Oct. 23, pairs her with Dutch rapper Jermaine Kool in a back-and-forth where nobody meets anyone halfway on language. He raps in Dutch. She raps in Korean. The two converge on the chorus, an English-Korean hook that professes love for all the pretty girls, and then, to be fair, all the pretty boys. The collaboration came together almost by accident. Rydia signed up for a K-pop and European crossover songwriting camp run by a Dutch studio, where the producer on her team learned she was Korean and mentioned a friend who loved Korea. "It's actually funny. I only met him

• Military academy merger plan delayed amid ongoing deliberations: official (2026-10-23 05:57)

A detailed road map for the planned integration of military academies will likely be announced later than originally planned to ensure the ongoing deliberations reflect the positions of all stakeholders, a Seoul official said Friday. The Lee Jae Myung administration is pushing to establish a single military academy by merging those of the Army, Air Force and Navy to enhance joint capabilities amid a declining birth rate and changing warfare environment driven by drones and artificial intelligence technologies. However, the plan has faced strong pushback from active-duty service members and alumni groups, who regard the move as a politically motivated effort to weaken the Army and argue it will erode the capabilities of the individual service branches. "We think that it will be physically difficult to announce (the detailed plans) before the end of this month," a defense ministry official told reporters on background. "We are still in the process of gathering opinions." The delay appears to reflect Defense Minister Kang Shin-chul's earlier indication the ministry may rethink the plan cons

• USFK has no access policy change yet amid reported BYD car ban at US base in Japan (2026-10-23 05:57)

The U.S. Forces Korea (USFK) said on Friday there are no changes to policies regarding entry restrictions on Chinese vehicles, following U.S. Forces Japan’ s (USFJ) reported decision to ban vehicles made by Chinese electric car giant BYD from entering one of its bases amid security concerns. According to Yonhap News Agency, Friday, USFJ decided to ban electric vehicles made by BYD from Kadena Air Base in Okinawa starting Oct. 26. The air base is the U.S.' largest overseas installation and serves as a key strategic hub for regional defense against security threats from China, Russia and North Korea. The ban is widely seen as an effort to prevent intelligence leaks of sensitive military operations, according to the report. The Japanese air base is home to the 18th Wing of the U.S. Fifth Air Force, hosting tactical fighter aircrafts, radar systems and ammunition stockpiles. Speculations were mounting that the BYD ban may expand to other major bases in the country and potentially extend to USFK, the report added. However, there is no sign so far that the USFK has adopted such measures. “U.

• Special counsel says deceased NEC official's note cites no coercion (2026-10-23 05:57)

A National Election Commission (NEC) official, who was found dead a day after undergoing questioning by a special counsel, did not mention any coercive interrogation by special counsel investigators in a note he left behind, the investigation team claimed Friday. The NEC official, in his 40s, was found dead outside his apartment in Hwaseong, south of Seoul, on Wednesday morning. He left a suicide note, in which he reportedly expressed grievances over the questioning he faced the previous day. The NEC official's lawyer, who was present during the questioning, earlier claimed that investigators had pressured and coerced the deceased and that there had been procedural shortcomings in drawing up his interrogation records. The investigation team, led by special counsel Lee Tae-han, said it has checked the content of the deceased's suicide note through proper procedures, and confirmed that it did not mention any

coercion. The deceased rather mentioned that he did not hold a grudge against the specialcounsel, while only pointing out organizational problems at the NEC, the team added. The specia

• Lee calls for proactive prevention of violent crimes to build 'supersafe' society (2026-10-23 05:57)

President Lee Jae Myung on Friday called for proactive efforts to prevent violent crimes to ensure a "supersafe" society following a series of violent crimes targeting random victims or family members. The president made the remarks at a pan-government meeting aimed at building a supersafe country amid heightened public safety fears following a stabbing spree targeting random people at a building in Incheon, just west of Seoul, last week and a suspected arson earlier this week, in which a man set fires at two buildings in southern Seoul. Several people were injured in the stabbing attack, with one of them having been left in cardiac arrest, while 19 people were injured, one of them seriously, in the suspected arson. Also last week, a man was apprehended after allegedly stabbing his mother-in-law to death and kidnapping his estranged wife, prompting public outcry over the police's failure to prevent the crime despite previous warning signs. "This situation in which people are forced to worry about their safety in their everyday lives should not be allowed to continue," the president said,

• Lee's approval rating hits 40% for 1st time since early September: poll (2026-10-23 05:57)

President Lee Jae Myung's approval rating rose to 40 percent for the first time since early September, a poll showed Friday. The survey, conducted by Gallup Korea from Tuesday through Thursday on 1,001 people aged 18 and older, showed that positive assessments of Lee's performance increased 1 percentage point from the previous week. Those who disapproved of Lee's handling of state affairs fell by 2 percentage points on-week to 50 percent. Lee's approval rating last stood at 40 percent in the first week of September, before falling to a record low of 37 percent in two consecutive polls conducted in late September and early October. Among those who positively assessed Lee's performance, 21 percent cited diplomacy, followed by economic and livelihood issues at 14 percent, and communication at 7 percent. Real estate policies, along with economic and security concerns, were among the main reasons cited by those who disapproved of Lee's performance. Support for the ruling Democratic Party rose 1 percentage point to 37 percent, marking its second consecutive weekly gain after hitting a record low

• Appeals court to rule on Seoul mayor's high-stakes political funds trial (2026-10-23 05:57)

An appeals court was set to rule Friday on Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon's trial in a high-stakes political funds case stemming from opinion polls he allegedly received ahead of the 2021 mayoral by-election. If the Seoul High Court upholds his conviction by a lower court and the ruling is finalized through appeal, Oh will lose his mayorship after being elected into office for a fifth term in June. Under the Political Funds Act, elected officials are stripped of their seats if they receive a finalized fine of 1 million won ($754) or heavier punishment for improper

acceptance of political funds. Oh's sentencing hearing was scheduled to be broadcast live at 2p.m. Oh is accused of having a political supporter make payments totaling 33 million won foropinion polls he received on 10 occasions from self-proclaimed power broker Myung Tae-kyunahead of the 2021 election. The lower court sentenced Oh to a fine of 10 million won in Julyafter partially recognizing the charges. It ruled that Oh had asked Myung for opinion polls onfive occasions and his supporter paid the power broker 21 million won. The d

• Vanished without a trace: Korea's most mystifying unsolved missing person cases (2026-10-22 23:57)

Of the roughly 70,000 adults reported missing in Korea every year, nearly all are found within weeks. But a small fraction vanish without a trace, and some stay missing for decades. According to data from the National Police Agency submitted in August to Rep. Chung Choon-saeng of the Rebuilding Korea Party, the share of missing adult cases resolved within 30 days has stayed near 99 percent over the past five years. It stood at 98.8 percent in 2022, 98.9 percent in 2023, 98.8 percent in 2024, 99 percent in 2025 and 99.4 percent through July 2026. For the slim remainder, however, investigators run out of leads. Here are some of Korea’s most baffling adult missing person cases that remain unsolved. Veterinary student Lee Yun-hee (2006) Lee Yun-hee, a veterinary student at Jeonbuk National University in Jeonju, North Jeolla Province, went missing 20 years ago and has never been found. On June 5, 2006, she attended an end-of-semester gathering with professors and classmates at a restaurant roughly 1.5 kilometers from her studio apartment. She returned home around 2:30 a.m. the next day. Lee

• After 35 years of searching, activist still fights indifferent system for Korea's missing (2026-10-22 23:57)

Na Joo-bong has spent 35 years searching for missing people. For him, the recent case of a Jeju police officer who prematurely closed multiple missing persons cases was no surprise. “Among 262 police stations in Korea, many lack missing persons investigation teams. It’s a department officers avoid, since the work spans missing children and adults, as well as runaways, with a heavy caseload and little to show for the effort,” said Na, 69, chief of the National Organization of Finding Missing Children and Family. The severity of the problem came to light in August, when the Jeju officer was found to have closed the case of Jang Mi-ran, a 37-year-old woman missing for months, without confirming her whereabouts. Jang’s remains were later found, and the officer admitted to closing multiple such cases to avoid the extra workload involved in keeping them open. The case has raised public awareness of missing adults, but the current Act on the Protection and Support of Missing Children only covers people who went missing before turning 18, along with people with intellectual disabilities

• African architect's career break leads to unexpected modeling fame in Korea (2026-10-22 23:57)

For Tanoé Akouba Leïla Olivia, modeling was the last thing on her mind when she came to Korea, because she was certain about her aspirations of working as an architect. Her

professional training in interior design and 3D visualization in the U.K., Italy and Spaincemented her commitment to the field, until a career break in Korea made her rethink her pathand eventually become a full-time model. Born in Cote d’ Ivoire to an Ivorian father andMalian mother, Leïla spent her early childhood traveling between countries due to the nature ofher parents’ work. Her childhood was filled with memories of the bright streets ofManchester, the antique avenues of Spain and the bustling roads of Italy. From time to time,she would find herself enjoying the flavorful food in Nigeria and exploring the historical andcolorful streets of Togo and Senegal. This lifestyle led her to consider herself “un enfant dumonde” — a French expression meaning “child of the world.” After completing herinternship in Marbella and Valencia, she took a big leap and moved to China to work as a 3Dvisua

- S. Korea, US hold combined river-crossing drills (2026-10-22 11:57)

South Korea and the United States on Thursday held joint river-crossing drills aimed at enhancing interoperability as part of the annual Hoguk military exercise, the South Korean Army said. Some 540 troops from the allies took part in the drills along the Namhan River in Yeoju, about 65 kilometers southeast of Seoul. The drills mobilized some 130 pieces of equipment, including 10 KM3 amphibious bridging vehicles, ribbon bridge systems and about 50 combat vehicles, such as K2 tanks and K21 armored vehicles. During the drills, the allied forces jointly installed and crossed a bridge spanning a 280-meter section of the river. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Kim Gyu-ha and U.S. Brig. Gen. Robert Brown, commanding general of the 2nd Infantry Division/South Korea-U.S. Combined Division, observed the drills.

- Seoul offers no response to US Eighth Army commander remarks on broader USFK role (2026-10-22 11:57)

The Seoul government held off on responding Thursday to remarks by the U.S. Eighth Army commander suggesting that American troops stationed here should be prepared for missions beyond countering North Korean threats. Cheong Wa Dae, the Ministry of National Defense and the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) did not comment when asked about Lt. Gen. Joseph Hilbert’s email interview with the South China Morning Post on the Eighth Army’s readiness for broader regional operations. According to sources familiar with the South Korean military, the lack of comment reflected a reluctance to publicly interpret Hilbert’s remarks, rather than an articulated government position on a broader U.S. Forces Korea (USFK) role. The sources noted whether deployments beyond the Korean Peninsula would require prior consultation between Seoul and Washington has yet to be clarified. In an email interview published by the South China Morning Post on Wednesday, Hilbert said it would be “irresponsible to focus myopically” on threats within the Korean Peninsula or assume that being stationed in South Korea preven

- 34 student activists convicted of illegal entry into presidential compound, US base (2026-10-22 11:57)

A court on Thursday found 34 student activists guilty of trespassing on the then presidential compound and a U.S. military base between 2022 and 2024. The Seoul Western District Court sentenced a senior leader of the Korean Progressive University Student Union (KPUSU) to a suspended four-month prison term and ordered 32 other members to pay fines ranging from 1 million won ($756) to 6 million won. One other member received a deferred sentence of a 1 million-won fine. Two others were indicted but acquitted. The students faced multiple charges, including trespassing on a U.S. military installation in Korea in August 2022 and March 2023 to stage rallies against joint military exercises between Korea and the United States. In January and October 2024, they attempted to illegally enter what was then the presidential compound in Seoul's Yongsan Ward to demand the resignation of then President Yoon Suk Yeol and a special counsel investigation into then first lady Kim Keon Hee. The court ruled that the defendants did not act on impulse but conspired in advance, such as by sharing picket signs wit

• Lee says rebound in potential growth rates should lead to balanced growth (2026-10-22 11:57)

President Lee Jae Myung said Thursday that the recent rebound in the country's potential growth rates signals a recovery in the national economy's fundamentals and that the trend should help promote balanced growth of both large and small firms. The president made the remarks at a meeting with his senior aides, citing a recent International Monetary Fund (IMF) report projecting the country's potential growth rate at 2.14 percent this year and 2.2 percent in 2027. The figures mark the first consecutive annual increases in about 40 years. "The rebound in potential growth rates, which can be viewed as basic physical strength for an economy, is welcome news that indicates the foundation for the growth of our economy is getting stronger," Lee said. The president stressed that this trend should serve as a steppingstone to promote sustainable, balanced growth by further solidifying the competitiveness of artificial intelligence and other advanced industries while focusing financial and policy resources on sectors that are slower to recover. "In order for the rare rebound in potential growth rat

• AI, drones guard nightlife districts as Seoul ramps up Halloween safety measures (2026-10-22 11:57)

The Seoul Metropolitan Government will deploy artificial intelligence crowd (AI)-monitoring cameras, airborne drones and mobile command buses across 14 major nightlife hubs starting Friday as part of an intensive safety management campaign ahead of Halloween. The special safety management period, running from Friday through Nov. 1, comes as city officials brace for large weekend crowds fueled by a surge in international tourism. Monthly foreign visitor arrivals to Korea recently topped 2 million for three consecutive months, bringing total inbound travel between May and September past 10 million. The heightened vigilance reflects lingering national trauma from the October 2022 crowd crush in Itaewon, which claimed 159 lives in a narrow, sloped alleyway. That tragedy prompted a sweeping overhaul of Korea’s municipal safety protocols, transforming Halloween from a loosely managed commercial event into one of the country's most heavily policed and technologically monitored public gatherings. The

targeted zones include eight high-density priority areas — Itaewon, Hongdae, Seongsu-dong,

• Parliamentary committee adopts confirmation report for special inspector nominee (2026-10-22 11:57)

A parliamentary committee adopted a confirmation hearing report for a special inspector nominee Thursday, clearing the way for the appointment of the first presidential watchdog in over a decade. The parliamentary legislation and judiciary committee approved the report for Choi Kil-su with bipartisan support following his confirmation hearing last month. The special inspector is tasked with investigating corruption allegations involving the family and relatives of the president and senior aides to the president. In the report, the committee said Choi was fit for the job, given his commitment to maintaining political neutrality and independence and his expertise in investigating corruption cases. The report also outlined concerns over whether Choi could carry out investigations impartially, noting that he was recommended by the ruling Democratic Party. Choi, a former senior prosecutor, was nominated by President Lee Jae Myung from among three candidates recommended by the ruling and opposition parties and the bar association in August. If appointed, Choi would become the first special inspe

• Constitutional Court says heavier penalty for parricide constitutional (2026-10-22 11:57)

The Constitutional Court on Thursday ruled constitutional a provision of the Criminal Act that imposes harsher penalties for those who murder their own family members than those convicted of ordinary murder. The court voted 8-1 on a petition filed by an individual who argued that Article 250, Paragraph 2 of the Criminal Act, which defines the crime of murdering a lineal ascendant, violates the constitutional rights to equality and the pursuit of happiness. The provision stipulates that those who kill their own or their spouse's immediate family members shall be punished by a minimum prison sentence of seven years, compared with the minimum prison sentence of five years for those convicted of murdering others. The plaintiff had been indicted on charges of killing their own father by neglecting him while serving as his caregiver, and received a final sentence of four years in prison in March 2022. The Constitutional Court said murdering a lineal ascendant fundamentally undermines the special bond and trust between parent and child and destroys the very foundation of the family unit, adding

• 6 more election offices entered false voter turnout data: special counsel (2026-10-22 11:57)

A special counsel team said Thursday that six additional local election commissions have been found to have falsely entered voter turnout data during the June 3 local elections, bringing the total to 36 commissions. Special counsel Lee Tae-han's team has been investigating various suspicions surrounding the National Election Commission (NEC), the state election watchdog, after unprecedented ballot shortages were reported during the local elections, forcing some voters to turn back without casting their votes. In a press release, Lee's team said that following last week's disclosure of 30 local commissions that falsely entered voter turnout figures, it identified six more through searches, analysis of seized items and questioning of officials. The six were the local commissions in Chungju, North Chungcheong Province; Nonsan, South

Chungcheong Province; two districts in Changwon, South Gyeongsang Province; Sangju, NorthGyeongsang Province; and Gangneung, Gangwon Province.

• PPP urges gov't to resume loudspeaker broadcasts against N. Korea's mine blast (2026-10-22 11:57)

The main opposition People Power Party (PPP) on Thursday renewed calls for the government to resume loudspeaker broadcasts along the inter-Korean border to protest against recent mine blasts in the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), and to replace top security officials here over the incident that left three South Korean soldiers injured. The PPP accused President Lee Jae Myung of failing to take action over the Sept. 21 blasts, which the South Korean military determined to have been caused by mines planted "deliberately" by North Korea. "The president has described North Korea's nuclear weapons as a 'last resort of defense,' even when the North has explicitly stipulated preemptive nuclear strikes under its law on nuclear forces policy," PPP floor leader Jeong Jeom-sig wrote on Facebook. "How can we even consider retaking wartime operational control (OPCON) when the commander-in-chief cannot even tell the difference between an attack and defense, or between a land mine provocation and an 'unfortunate accident?'" he added. Rep. Jeong called for the immediate resignation of Unification Minister Chu

• Ex-officials defend 2019 repatriation of NK fishermen as criminal deportation (2026-10-22 11:57)

Three former officials convicted of forcibly repatriating North Korean fishermen in 2019 defended the move Thursday, describing it as a deportation of criminals. Chung Eui-yong, former national security adviser, Suh Hoon, former National Intelligence Service director, and Kim Yeon-chul, former unification minister, made the assertion in a statement issued a day after the Seoul High Court sentenced them to suspended prison terms for their involvement in the case. "The reality of this case is not a simple forced repatriation of North Korean defectors," the statement said. "It was a deportation measure against criminals who fled to the South after committing serious inhumane crimes." The three served in former President Moon Jae-in's administration in November 2019, when Seoul deported two North Korean fishermen back to North Korea after they were captured near the eastern maritime border. The fishermen had been accused of killing 16 crew members. The move sparked outcry from critics as the fishermen had expressed their intent to defect to South Korea, which maintains a policy of accepting

• Coupang, affiliates found to have committed 205 workplace safety violations (2026-10-22 11:57)

The government said Thursday it will take criminal enforcement action over safety violations at Coupang and its affiliates, after inspections uncovered suspected cover-ups of workplace accidents and inadequate safeguards at logistics facilities. The Ministry of Employment and Labor found 205 violations of the Occupational Safety and Health Act across 105 logistics centers and delivery camps. It said 61 violations would be subject to criminal enforcement

action, while the remaining 144 would draw administrative fines totaling about 1.96 billion won($1.48 million). Separate labor inspections also found that Coupang had failed to include keyprovisions of its performance improvement program (PIP) in its employment rules, in violationof the Labor Standards Act. The ministry said it will issue a corrective order and impose a fine. “Covering up workplace accidents or failing to report them not only prevents workers fromreceiving proper treatment and compensation, but also hinders efforts to determine theircauses and identify and address hazards, making further accidents more likely,”

• Presidential office denies investigation chief's Cabinet meeting attendance compromises impartiality (2026-10-22 05:57)

The presidential office on Thursday refuted media criticism that the chief of the new investigative body attending Cabinet meetings could compromise impartiality and independence in investigations. The response came amid growing media criticism after Kim Ji-yong, chief of the Serious Crime Investigation Agency (SCIA), attended Tuesday's Cabinet meeting for the first time since taking office, despite the long-held practice of investigation chiefs not attending such meetings. In a social media post the previous day, President Lee Jae Myung said chiefs of all government institutions under his command could attend Cabinet meetings, but many media outlets pointed out that such a move could compromise the investigation chief's independence and impartiality in conducting investigations. "The government is strenuously working toward maintaining fairness and political neutrality in investigations and independence in indictments. This principle will remain unwavering going forward," Lee's senior secretary for the press, Seong Ghi-hong, told reporters. The official also made clear that no individua

• Soongsil University, Chung-Ang University team develops technology to disrupt lip-sync deepfakes (2026-10-22 05:57)

A joint research team from Soongsil University and Chung-Ang University has developed a technology to disrupt lip synchronization in deepfake videos that use artificial intelligence (AI) to make a person's lip movements match an audio track. Soongsil University said Tuesday that the team, led by professor Choi Dae-sun of its AI Security Center and professor Kwon Jun-seok of Chung-Ang University, developed the technology, dubbed MUTE. According to the team, MUTE is the first technology to disrupt lip synchronization in deepfake videos using audio protection alone. The paper, titled “MUTE: Multi-Level Alignment Uncoupling Against Talking-Head Exploitation for Voice Protection,” was accepted for presentation at the Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS) 2026, one of the world’s leading AI conferences. The study was conducted as part of a research and development project supported by the Personal Information Protection Commission and the Korea Internet & Security Agency (KISA). The research team included doctoral student Kim Dong-hyun, master’s student Kim Seung

• Seoul claims top spot in global AI adoption, 3rd overall in 2026 AI Cities Index (2026-10-22 05:57)

Seoul has secured third place overall — and claimed the top spot worldwide in artificial intelligence (AI) adoption and implementation — in the newly released 2026 AI Cities Index compiled by Britain's The Observer, the Seoul Metropolitan Government said Thursday. The benchmark evaluation, built on Tortoise Media's established Global AI Index, assessed 57 major metropolitan centers across 36 countries using 50 indicators split into three core pillars: investment, innovation and implementation. San Francisco and New York claimed the top two global spots, while Seoul finished third, outranking major international hubs including Beijing, Paris and London, which filled out the fourth through sixth positions. The Observer, founded in 1791 as the world's oldest Sunday newspaper, introduced city-level rankings for the first time this year, capturing a fundamental shift as AI power increasingly concentrates in urban centers. Seoul's standout performance came in the implementation category, where it ranked first globally ahead of Tokyo (third) and Singapore (fifth). This metric measu

• Hankuk University of Foreign Studies offers training for new hires at semiconductor companies (2026-10-22 05:57)

Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (HUFS) held a two-day training program Oct. 19-20 to help newly hired employees at local semiconductor materials, parts and equipment companies develop practical skills. The university said Wednesday that its G-Anchor Project Group organized the program in cooperation with Yongin City, Gyeonggi Province. The G-Anchor Project is a provincial initiative designed to support universities in promoting regional innovation. Twenty-five newly hired employees from six semiconductor-related companies in Yongin — including Rorze Systems, BMI Tech, GnG InTech, SurplusGlobal, Justem and Appletree — participated in the training. They worked in a range of fields, including manufacturing, design, sales, research and development, and quality control. The training program aimed to deepen participants' understanding of the semiconductor industry and develop the practical skills and workplace adaptability needed to perform their jobs effectively. Lim Ju-won, a professor in HUFS' Division of Semiconductor and Electronics Engineering, oversaw the program. Faculty me

• Incheon stabbing suspect tests negative for psychopathy (2026-10-22 05:57)

INCHEON — The suspect behind last week's stabbing spree in Incheon has tested negative for psychopathy, police and legal sources said Thursday. The Incheon Metropolitan Police Agency conducted a psychopathy test on the 59-year-old suspect, Choi Choong-rak, but his score fell below the 25 out of 40 points needed to classify him as a psychopath. Choi is accused of attempting to kill 10 people at a commercial complex in Incheon, west of Seoul, on Oct. 13, by wielding knives in both hands. The rampage left eight people injured, including one who remains unconscious after suffering cardiac arrest. The two others escaped without harm. During police questioning, Choi said he carried out the attack out of anger over medical treatment he received at a local hospital. He also told police that he did not target specific people but chose those who looked weaker than him. Choi has 10 prior convictions, including two for attempted murder. Police said they are analyzing evidence and conducting further

investigations to determine his motive and whether the attack was premeditated.

• S. Korean, US air forces to bolster autonomous combat platform cooperation (2026-10-22 05:57)

The air forces of Korea and the United States will sign a letter of intent (LOI) on autonomous combat platform cooperation Thursday to bolster collaboration in the manned-unmanned combat systems, the Korean Air Force said. The LOI will be signed during a meeting between the chiefs of staff of the two countries' air forces — Gen. Son Sug-rag and U.S. Gen. Kenneth Wilsbach, the South's armed force said in a statement. The autonomous collaborative platform (ACP) refers to an autonomous system designed to collaborate with manned aircraft and other unmanned assets to execute air missions. Such manned-unmanned teaming (MUM-T) is regarded as a cornerstone of next-generation air operations, reducing risks to pilots and significantly boosting the operational range and survival chances for airmen. The collaboration comes as the U.S. Air Force is pushing for the development and operational integration of the unmanned combat aircraft systems. Korea's Air Force is also working to lay the groundwork to secure operational capabilities for the MUM-T systems. Building on the collaboration, the two air fo

• US troops in S. Korea must be ready for missions beyond peninsula, commander says (2026-10-22 05:57)

The commander of the U.S. Eighth Army in South Korea said his troops must be ready for deployment outside the Korean peninsula if ordered, arguing that it would be "irresponsible" to focus "myopically" on threats there. Lt. Gen. Joe Hilbert said that while his command's focus was on fulfilling U.S. commitments under its mutual defense treaty with Seoul, the Eighth Army's location did not limit the missions it could undertake. It would be "irresponsible to focus myopically" on threats on the Korean peninsula alone, he told the South China Morning Post by email, or to "suggest that we cannot do other things simply because we are in Korea." Describing the Eighth Army as part of a "global force" that trains for "readiness so that we can deploy where needed by our national command authority," Hilbert cited the Eighth Army's participation in multinational exercises across the Asia-Pacific as an example of its activities beyond the peninsula. "We view readiness as largely threat-agnostic. If we have a trained, ready force capable of executing the Army's assigned missions, we can apply that forc

• Yonsei University portal hack leaks data of 10,000 students, graduates (2026-10-22 05:57)

Personal information belonging to about 10,000 Yonsei University students and graduates has been leaked in a hacking of the university's portal service, the university said Thursday. Yonsei University's information and communications office said it has confirmed unauthorized access to the portal by an external party, resulting in the exposure of personal information of some members of the university community. It apologized for the concern and inconvenience caused by the breach. The exposed data includes student ID numbers, mobile phone numbers and email addresses of current students and graduates, as well as certain system management

information, the university said. However, sensitive personal information, such as residentregistration numbers, was not compromised, it said. After discovering the hack, the universitytook steps to block the point of intrusion and requested a police investigation. The universitysaid details of the breach, including the specific types of personal information exposed for eachaffected individual, will be available on its website from 1 p.m. Thursday.

• Busan shark returns to canal after brief exit (2026-10-22 05:57)

BUSAN — Bukang-i the shark, which was guided out of a canal in South Korea's southeastern city of Busan after more than a month there, has returned to the waterway. The shark was seen swimming Thursday morning in a narrow space between a flat floating platform installed near the canal's exit to prevent it from coming back and a net set up as a second backstop, a day after it was successfully guided out of the canal. Observers say the fish could have swum its way into the canal under the floating platform, known as a pontoon. The shark -- named Bukang-i after Bukhang, Korean for North Port -- was first spotted in the canal Sept. 18. Since then, the canal park, located about 330 kilometers southeast of Seoul, has turned into a major attraction, drawing over 1.6 million visitors as of Sunday. After two previous attempts to guide the fish to the open sea failed, officials had waited for it to exit the canal on its own. But after it didn't, the officials made a third attempt over concern it could die if water temperatures fell further. On Wednesday, a joint team involving municipal and Coast

• Veterans minister to pay tribute to 2 late former presidents (2026-10-22 05:57)

Veterans Minister Kwon Oh-eul will visit the graves of two former presidents, including controversial former dictator Park Chung-hee, the veterans ministry said Thursday, following through on his pledge to honor past leaders regardless of political differences. Kwon was set to attend a memorial ceremony later in the day marking the 20th anniversary of the death of Choi Kyu-hah, the 10th president, from December 1979 to August 1980, at the Daejeon National Cemetery and pay his respects, according to the ministry. Choi assumed office following the assassination of Park in October 1979 and resigned under pressure from then Army Gen. Chun Doo-hwan, who took power through a military coup. Choi is the shortest-serving president in post-Korean War history. Kwon plans to visit the Seoul National Cemetery on Monday and pay tribute to Park, the ministry said. Kwon's moves are considered rare, as paying respects to controversial past leaders like Park has often drawn criticism, especially from the liberal bloc. Kwon, a Cabinet member in the liberal Lee Jae Myung government, has expressed a commitmen

• Korea, US conclude multinational maritime mine warfare exercise off Busan (2026-10-21 23:57)

WASHINGTON — South Korea and the United States have concluded a multinational maritime mine warfare exercise off Korea's southeastern port city of Busan with 15 partner nations, according to the U.S. Navy. The ninth Multi-National Mine Warfare Exercise 2026 concluded Friday after bringing together mine countermeasures vessels, explosive ordnance disposal personnel, clearance divers and autonomous underwater vehicles, the U.S. Navy said in a press

release. The exercise was aimed at strengthening mine warfare capabilities and interoperabilityamong participating navies through combined maritime operations. It included mine-huntingoperations, harbor clearance and port-entry scenarios, mine detection and neutralization, andseabed surveys using unmanned underwater systems. The U.S. Navy deployed USS Chief, anAvenger-class mine countermeasures ship, alongside expeditionary mine countermeasurescompanies and diving detachments. The South Korean Navy participated with mine laying andhunting vessels, supported by specialized clearance divers and underwater disposal teams. Theexercise also i

- Korea's int'l student boom puts universities to new test (2026-10-21 23:57)

SINGAPORE, LONDON, SEOUL — Korea reached its goal of attracting 300,000 international students ahead of schedule. Now comes the harder part. As the government shifts its focus from quantity to quality, universities face a tougher test of whether they can turn rising enrollment into quality education, meaningful career opportunities and long-term talent retention. Under its Study Korea 300K initiative launched in 2023, the government set a target of attracting 300,000 international students by 2027. It reached that milestone early, with enrollment climbing to 307,464 this year, according to the Ministry of Education. Yet the gap between recruitment and retention remains wide, raising questions about whether universities are equipped to deliver on the government's new priorities. Despite a surge in international enrollment, Korea continues to struggle to retain foreign graduates. Of the 36,271 international students who graduated from Korean universities between August 2023 and February 2024, 42.9 percent left Korea, while fewer than 5,000 secured employment in the country. The problem is

- Busan authorities guide shark out of canal on third attempt (2026-10-21 12:02)

Authorities in the southeastern port city of Busan successfully guided a shark out of a city canal Wednesday on their third attempt after the animal spent more than a month trapped there. The shark — named Bukang-i after Bukhang, the Korean word for North Port — was first spotted in the canal Sept. 18. Since then, the canal park has turned into a major attraction, drawing over 1.6 million visitors as of Sunday. A joint rescue team involving municipal and Coast Guard officials used a net secured to a pontoon, a flat floating platform, to drive the shark out of the canal at Busan's North Port, located about 330 kilometers southeast of Seoul. Authorities began the operation around 10 a.m., steering the shark toward Marina Bridge with the net. The shark, which had been swimming near the bridge, was spotted in waters outside the canal near a pier at around 6 p.m. The sighting indicated that Bukang-i had left the canal, at least for the time being. However, the waters near the pier are not considered open sea. Authorities hope the shark will eventually make its way into open waters. After tw

- Prosecutors seek 5-year prison term for pastor over courthouse riot (2026-10-21 12:02)

Prosecutors on Wednesday requested a five-year prison term for conservative activist pastor Jeon Kwang-hoon over his alleged involvement in a courthouse riot last year by supporters of

former President Yoon Suk Yeol. The Seoul Western District Prosecutors Office sought thesentence during a hearing at the Seoul Western District Court, where Jeon faced multiplecharges, including instigating trespassing in special-protection buildings. Jeon is accused ofbeing behind pro-Yoon protesters' violence at the same court on Jan. 19 last year, following thecourt's decision to extend Yoon's detention over his martial law declaration in December 2024.The prosecution also charged Jeon with violating the Assembly and Demonstration Act andobstructing general traffic for urging rally participants gathered in Gwanghwamun Square tomarch toward the court one day before the violence. Prosecutors said using violence to attack acourt simply because the judicial process or trial outcome does not meet one's expectations is aserious crime that fundamentally undermines the rule of law, adding that Jeon was

• Brunson refuses to back down on his position on OPCON transfer (2026-10-21 12:02)

The Korean Peninsula faces a rapidly evolving threat environment, U.S. Forces Korea (USFK) Commander Gen. Xavier Brunson and a senior U.S. official said in back-to-back warnings from Seoul and Washington, raising questions about how those changes could affect the timing of the transfer of wartime operational control (OPCON). Their remarks followed a renewed dispute over the OPCON transfer after Brunson suggested on Oct. 14 that evolving threats called for new transition standards, drawing objections from Seoul’s defense ministry and an unusual response from President Lee Jae Myung. “Our security environment is not standing still. We see continued DPRK use of ballistic and cruise missiles and their advancements,” Brunson said Wednesday at a luncheon hosted by the American Chamber of Commerce in Korea (AMCHAM), using the acronym for North Korea’s official name. Brunson and U.S. Ambassador to South Korea Michelle Park Steel were the featured speakers at the event, attended by Korean and American business leaders. Held to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the U.S., the program exp

• Lee says AI should be used to bridge health care gaps worldwide (2026-10-21 12:02)

President Lee Jae Myung said Wednesday that artificial intelligence (AI) technology should be used responsibly in the health care sector to bridge health care gaps worldwide. The president delivered the message in a speech to the World Bio Summit 2026 in Seoul, which was read on his behalf by his senior secretary for social affairs, Kim Kyoung-ja. The World Health Organization is hosting the event Wednesday and Thursday in collaboration with the Korean government. "In the health care sector, which is directly connected to human lives, AI technology should be used safely and responsibly to bridge gaps in medical services worldwide," the president said. The summit adopted the "AI Healthcare Seoul Declaration," calling for global solidarity to ensure that the benefits from AI innovations are shared by all and that AI technology is used in safe and responsible manners. "Narrowing gaps between countries in the health care sector and ensuring that everyone has access to proper medical services is the task of our time, and everyone should work together to accomplish it," Lee noted.

• Seoul eyes long-term digital infrastructure projects via sovereign wealth fund (2026-10-21 12:02)

SEJONG — Korea plans to provide patient capital for long-term digital infrastructure projects through the country's planned sovereign wealth fund, the second vice finance minister has said. Second Vice Finance Minister Huh Chang outlined the plan during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Finance Ministers' Meeting held in Hong Kong from Tuesday to Wednesday, according to the Ministry of Finance and Economy. Huh's remarks came after Korea unveiled plans earlier this year to launch a new sovereign wealth fund in 2027 to make continuous investments in cutting-edge and strategic industries. During one of the sessions at the finance ministerial meeting, Huh highlighted the importance of public funding and the mobilization of private capital in pursuing major projects in future growth industries. The senior policymaker said that the country plans to provide long-term patient capital, which refers to investment that does not require immediate returns, for digital infrastructure projects through the sovereign wealth fund. The new fund will also serve as an anchor investor to attract a

• Gangnam arson attack renews alarm over elderly men with grudges (2026-10-21 12:02)

A man in his 70s arrested on suspicion of injuring 19 people in an arson attack cited a personal grudge as his motive, renewing concern over elderly people driven by resentment starting fires. On Tuesday, two buildings in Seoul’s Gangnam District were set on fire and the suspect was caught fleeing. He mostly acknowledged planning and committing the arson, police said Wednesday. He is believed to have harbored a grievance against patent law firms over their handling of a trademark registration. When reporters asked about his motive, he shouted that the firms had cheated him. Asked what he would say to the victims, he replied, “Tell them to stop cheating people.” The suspect had already been detained in 2022 for preparing to commit arson after visiting the same two law firms, dousing employees with gasoline and threatening them with a lighter. The case is the latest in a pattern of arson attacks by older adults acting on accumulated grudges. One of the most striking was the 2008 arson of Sungnyemun — Korea's National Treasure No. 1, built in 1398 as the main southern gate of Seoul'

• Election official found dead after special counsel questioning (2026-10-21 12:02)

A National Election Commission (NEC) official was found dead Wednesday, a day after being questioned by a special counsel team investigating the election watchdog in connection with the unprecedented ballot shortages in the local elections. According to the sources, the official in his 40s was found in the flowerbed of an apartment building in Hwaseong, about 45 kilometers south of Seoul, at 7:06 a.m. with a suicide note expressing grievances he felt during the questioning. Police suspect he jumped from his apartment. The investigation team has been looking into why the ballot shortages happened and if any corruption or irregularities were involved in contracts for election-related supplies, such as early voting ballot boxes and voting site banners used in last year's presidential election and the June 3 local elections. The deceased underwent questioning at the investigation team's office Tuesday as a suspect over alleged obstruction of the bidding process and breach of trust. The questioning ended around

8:55 p.m., and the official left the office at 10:40 p.m. after reviewing his sta

• Appeals court slashes ex-justice minister's sentence to 9 years over martial law role (2026-10-21 12:02)

An appellate court on Wednesday significantly reduced former Justice Minister Park Sung-jae's sentence from 25 years to nine years in prison over his role in former President Yoon Suk Yeol's failed martial law bid. The Seoul High Court handed down the lighter sentence, convicting Park of playing a key role in an insurrection under Yoon's short-lived declaration of martial law in December 2024, while overturning a lower court's conviction on multiple other charges. The appellate court ruled Park was aware that Yoon's emergency decree did not meet the substantive and procedural conditions for martial law, and the declaration was made for unconstitutional and illegal purposes. It found Park's order for the chief of the immigration office at the justice ministry to have his official in charge of placing exit bans report to work constituted playing a key role in an insurrection, as well as his instruction to the head of correctional services to check the capacity of correctional facilities. The court, however, acquitted him of insurrection charges over his instructions to review possibly send

• Court sentences 3 ex-officials to suspended prison terms over 2019 deportation of N. Koreans (2026-10-21 12:02)

An appellate court on Wednesday handed down suspended prison terms for three former officials for forcibly repatriating two North Korean fishermen in 2019 despite their intention to defect to South Korea. The Seoul High Court upheld a lower court's guilty verdicts for Chung Eui-yong, former national security adviser; former National Intelligence Service Director Suh Hoon; and former Unification Minister Kim Yeon-chul. It, however, acquitted former Presidential chief of staff Noh Young-min, who had earlier been convicted over his involvement in the case. All four served in former President Moon Jae-in's administration in November 2019, when Seoul deported two North Korean fishermen back to North Korea after they were captured near the eastern maritime border. The fishermen had been accused of killing 16 crew members. The move sparked outcry from critics as the fishermen had expressed their intent to defect to South Korea, which maintains a policy of accepting North Korean defectors. A lower court found all four former officials guilty but deferred their sentencing. The appellate court sente

• Budget minister vows to review vulnerabilities in funding for firefighters (2026-10-21 12:02)

SEJONG — Korea's budget minister on Wednesday vowed to look into potential vulnerabilities in the country's funding for firefighters, amid concerns that they have become a financial burden for regional governments. "I agree that the issue needs to be carefully examined," Budget Minister Park Hong-geun said during a meeting with reporters in the central city of Sejong. "We have not yet held detailed internal discussions on how the situation should be improved," Park said. "We need to look into the issue with the presidential office, the interior ministry, the fire

agency and regional governments." His remarks came after Gyeonggi Province Gov. Choo Mi-aerecently described firefighters as a "fiscal drain," triggering public backlash while drawingattention to underlying issues in the funding system. Choo's remarks were based on concernsthat firefighting services have become a burden on local government finances, despitefirefighters being classified as central government employees since 2020. "It is the responsibilityof the state to create an environment where those who sacrifice and de

• DPK considering parliamentary probe into Supreme Court chief amid impeachment calls (2026-10-21 12:02)

The ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) said Wednesday it is considering launching a parliamentary investigation into Supreme Court Chief Justice Cho Hee-dae amid an ongoing debate within the party over whether to seek his impeachment. Following a meeting of the party's supreme council, DPK spokesperson Cho Gye-won told reporters that the party was considering launching such a probe to look into "specific grounds" for impeaching the chief justice after the ongoing parliamentary audit ends later this month. When asked whether the probe would be aimed at impeaching the chief justice, the lawmaker replied, "It is intended to shed light on the grounds for impeachment ... so it could be seen that way." The announcement came after DPK leader Kim Min-seok said on Friday that the party has begun discussing various options to impeach Cho. Some DPK lawmakers have called for Cho's impeachment, taking issue with his refusal to recommend a new candidate for a Supreme Court justice as requested by the presidential office, as well as allegations of improper use of official funds. Other lawmakers, how

• Korean doctor operates remotely from Seoul on pig in Shanghai (2026-10-21 12:02)

Sitting at a console in Seoul, a Korean doctor successfully operated on a pig using a surgical robot about 870 kilometers away in Shanghai, marking Korea’s first cross-border telesurgery demonstration using a commercial platform. Kang Seok-ho, a professor of urology at Korea University College of Medicine, says the technology could profoundly transform surgical care, allowing doctors to operate from distant facilities and across borders, including on patients in disaster zones and battlefields. “I was delighted. I also found it remarkable that I could actually perform surgery in Shanghai from here,” Kang said in a recent interview with The Korea Times. The demonstration was conducted on Friday at Coex in Seoul during the Korean Urological Association’s annual meeting. The Toumai system developed by China’s MicroPort MedBot was used, according to the hospital. Telesurgery allows a physician to control surgical instruments through a communications network rather than being physically present in the same surgery as the patient. Unlike remote consultations, it involves the surgeon

• Why has video of former presidential couple singing together surfaced now? (2026-10-21 12:02)

A video of former President Yoon Suk Yeol and his wife, Kim Keon Hee, singing a duet has been released, featuring the couple at the center of Korea’s first-ever case of a former president and first lady being detained simultaneously. The video was posted on social media by a close

aide to Kim, prompting speculation that it may be intended to build public support for herrelease ahead of the expiration of her detention period at the end of this month. The video wasposted Saturday by Jung Ji-won, a former administrative official at the presidential office whoserved as Kim's aide during the Yoon administration. It shows the couple, dressed casually,singing "All I Ask of You" from the musical "The Phantom of the Opera" at what appears tobe their residence. In the musical, the characters Christine and Raoul sing the song as theypledge their eternal love to each other. "Another hobby of the first lady is giving singinglessons to the president," Jung wrote. "They were such an affectionate couple that they evenpracticed songs as duets." Jung's account was created in

• President Lee to increase engagement through live broadcasts, social media (2026-10-21 12:02)

President Lee Jae Myung said Wednesday he will increase engagement with the public through live broadcasts, the press, on-site visits and social media. The president made the remarks on the social platform X, sharing a news article suggesting that Lee engage more frequently with reporters covering the presidential office. "I will expand live broadcasts of state administration, press contact, on-site visits and SNS (social networking service)," the president said, expressing agreement with the article. Lee has frequently used social media to engage directly with the public, sharing details of his official activities and diplomatic engagements and commenting on social issues. Meeting with reporters on Monday, Lee described social media as his "lifeline," saying his presidency would not have been possible without it. In a separate X post, Lee also refuted opposition criticism of the attendance of the prosecution and serious crime investigation chiefs as observers at Cabinet meetings. Citing a response from Gemini to a question he had asked, the president said the assertion that the chiefs of

• Korea space agency joins int'l satellite alliance for global disaster relief (2026-10-21 12:02)

The Korea AeroSpace Administration (KASA) said Wednesday it has joined the board of the International Charter: Space and Major Disasters, a global partnership in which space agencies provide satellite images to countries hit by disasters. KASA joined during the charter's 56th regular board meeting at Ochanomizu Sola City in Tokyo, which opened Monday and continues through Friday. The space agency will take part in setting the charter's policies as a board member starting in 2027. The charter is a voluntary, nonbinding partnership set up by space agencies for humanitarian, nonprofit purposes. When a major disaster such as an earthquake, typhoon or heavy snowfall strikes, member agencies take images of the affected area with their satellites, provide them to the country hit by the disaster and help analyze the damage. It has 17 member agencies from countries including the United States, France, Japan, China and India, as well as the European Space Agency. The board, its main decision-making body, reviews and approves major policies and sets plans and strategies. It holds regular meeti

• High tech, universal access propel Seoul subway to top of global rankings (2026-10-21 12:02)

When international travelers step onto a Seoul subway train platform, they are often struck by the lack of trash on the floor, delayed trains or dead zones on their smartphones. That seamless efficiency has now earned the Korean capital top honors in two major international transit rankings. British lifestyle media outlet "Time Out" placed the Korean capital fifth in its 2026 global transit survey — up three spots from last year — with 91.1 percent of surveyed residents expressing satisfaction. Meanwhile, CNN featured Seoul in its roundup of the world's 18 best metro systems, highlighting its cleanliness, high safety standards and tech-forward amenities. Behind the global accolades lies decades of aggressive infrastructure investment, particularly in passenger safety, accessibility and digital convenience. A central cornerstone of the system's safety record is its universal platform screen door network. Implemented under Mayor Oh Se-hoon during his first term as mayor, Seoul completed glass barrier installations across all 262 initial stations on Lines 1 through 8 by 2009. The initia

- USFK commander calls for more frequent combined drills with S. Korea throughout year (2026-10-21 05:57)

The top U.S. military commander in South Korea called Wednesday for conducting more spread-out combined exercises between the allies throughout the year, rather than relying on the current biannual drills, citing the need to better adapt to an evolving security environment. U.S. Forces Korea (USFK) Commander Gen. Xavier Brunson made the remarks during a dialogue session in Seoul, saying he met with the South's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) Chairman Gen. Jin Yong-sung earlier this week to discuss their next springtime drills. "I just had a meeting this week with General Jin, and we talked about how we might train in the upcoming Freedom Shield (FS) exercise," Brunson said during the event hosted by the American Chamber of Commerce in Korea (AMCHAM). "And what one of the things that we discovered is that we can't hinge our readiness on two exercises a year. It has got to be training throughout the entirety of the year, where we continue to shape ourselves to meet the objectives set forward for us by our national command authorities," he said. "We have to understand that as the environment ch

- Japanese tourists flock to Haman County for unique cultural experiences (2026-10-21 05:57)

“Metcha kirei!” The Japanese exclamation, which means "it's really beautiful," rang out at Mujinjeong Pavilion in Haman County, South Gyeongsang Province, as dusk settled on the evening of Oct. 15. When local residents set fire to around 3,000 nak-hwa sticks — made by wrapping oak charcoal powder in hanji, traditional Korean paper, and twisting it into long wicks — a torrent of vivid red sparks rained down over the pond. Reflected on the water, the sparks blurred the boundary between heaven and earth, creating a dreamlike atmosphere. Each time the suspended lines were shaken, cascades of sparks poured down. “I’ve never seen fireworks that fall downward rather than shoot up into the sky. They’re truly magical,” said Sato Mio, 44, who visited from Osaka, Japan. “I’m amazed by the ingenuity of Koreans in the past, who created such beautiful displays of fire.” Her travel companion, Suzuki Ren, 47, gave a thumbs-up. “I’ve visited Seoul and Busan many times, but this is my first time in Haman,”

he said. “I’d definitely like to come back if I get the chance.” Th

• District in Seoul automates bulky waste disposal with one-shot AI app (2026-10-21 05:57)

A district in Seoul is turning to computer vision to overhaul one of the most tedious chores of urban living: getting rid of old furniture and discarded household appliances. Eunpyeong District in northwestern Seoul has launched a pilot program using an artificial intelligence (AI) mobile application that allows residents to arrange bulky waste disposal by snapping a single photograph. The service is the first of its kind to be deployed by a municipality in Korea. Around the world, forward-looking metropolitan centers are racing to integrate machine learning into municipal waste management. Cities like Singapore and Zurich have deployed AI-powered robotic sorters and smart sensors in public bins to optimize collection. However, automating the resident-facing reporting process through consumer computer vision remains a rare frontier in smart city innovation — placing the Seoul district at the forefront of AI-driven urban convenience. In Korea, disposing of large items requires reporting each piece to the local district office and paying a designated collection fee. Previously, Eunpyeon

• Korean heritage schools in Japan turn to parents for curriculum overhaul (2026-10-21 05:57)

When heritage language schools gather to refine their teaching strategies, the focus traditionally rests on textbooks, grammar drills and classroom educators. But at a recent weekend summit in Japan, a fresh voice took center stage in the effort to preserve Korean culture among the next generation: the parents. Responding to direct feedback from the local Korean diaspora, the Overseas Koreans Agency joined hands with the Kansai Association of Korean Language Schools to host an innovative three-day training workshop in Osaka on Friday and Saturday. For decades, weekend Korean schools across Japan have served as cultural anchors for "Zainichi" — ethnic Koreans who settled in Japan primarily during the colonial era, along with their descendants. Today, Japan's Ministry of Justice registers more than 400,000 ethnic Korean residents, with the total Zainichi community estimated at around 1 million when including naturalized citizens and those with Japanese nationality. As generations shift and multiethnic households grow, maintaining linguistic ties to their ancestral homeland presents new c

• Appeals court reduces ex-special counsel's sentence to 6 years in bribery case (2026-10-21 05:57)

An appellate court on Wednesday reduced former special counsel Park Young-soo's sentence on bribery-related charges by one year to six years in prison. The Seoul High Court also fined Park 200 million won ($150,000) and ordered him to forfeit 200 million won after finding him guilty of accepting the same amount from a private developer for campaign funds in his bid for the head of the Korean Bar Association. The court acknowledged the transactional nature of the exchange, noting the developer had asked Park, who then served as Woori Bank's board chair, for the bank to join talks on a consortium for the Daejang-dong property project in Seongnam, south of Seoul. A lower court had sentenced Park to seven years in prison after convicting him

of accepting 300 million won from the developer. The appellate court found him guilty ofaccepting only 200 million won, citing inconsistencies in the developer's testimony on the restof the amount. It upheld the lower court's acquittal and dismissal of other charges against Park,including allegations that he belonged to the so-called "5 billion-won clu

• Korea expands farm technology support for war-scarred South Sudan (2026-10-21 05:57)

Korean peacekeepers deployed under the United Nations Mission in South Sudan are leveraging advanced agricultural science to help improve food security in one of the country's most vulnerable regions. The initiative, led by Korea’s Rural Development Administration in partnership with the military’s Hanbit Unit, integrates high-yield crop technologies into civil-affairs operations to help local communities work toward long-term agricultural self-sufficiency. Rather than relying solely on short-term food aid, Korean agricultural experts are embedding field-tested farming techniques into military civil assistance, establishing a scalable model for military-led development assistance. South Sudan, which gained independence in 2011 following decades of conflict, continues to suffer from severe food insecurity compounded by seasonal flooding, internal instability and economic shocks. The ongoing crisis in neighboring Sudan has further strained local resources as more than 1.4 million refugees and returnees have poured across the border since 2023, swelling demand for basic staples in alre

• Home of ex-election watchdog chief raided over improper overseas trip (2026-10-21 05:57)

A special counsel team on Wednesday raided the home of a former National Election Commission (NEC) chief over allegations he took improper overseas trips during his time in office. Investigators from special counsel Lee Tae-han's team searched Roh Tae-ak's home and seized a cell phone and other evidence as part of their probe into various alleged irregularities at the election watchdog. Roh has been accused of taking his wife on three overseas business trips using the NEC's money during his time in office from May 2022 until June this year, when he resigned over widespread ballot shortages in the June 3 local elections. Lee's team said it launched the raid after detecting falsehoods in official reports written by an NEC official on the outcome of the trips. Twelve personnel were mobilized in the search, including two prosecutors and seven investigators. The search warrant listed charges of embezzlement, the falsification of official documents and their use. A prosecution-police task force had earlier secured evidence and testimony that an NEC employee had been assigned to assist Roh's wif

• PPP slams diplomat withdrawal from Ukraine as 'emotional response' (2026-10-21 05:57)

The main opposition People Power Party (PPP) on Wednesday criticized the Lee Jae Myung government's decision to withdraw additional diplomatic personnel from Ukraine, describing the move as an "emotional response." The foreign ministry announced the decision on Tuesday, following the recall of its ambassador to Ukraine, amid an ongoing dispute over Kyiv's unilateral disclosure of the transfer of two North Korean prisoners of war (POWs) to South Korea. PPP floor leader Jeong Jeom-sig said the withdrawal decision was difficult to understand unless the

government was steering its foreign policy away from the United States and other partnernations, and toward an alignment with North Korea, China and Russia. "The government arguesthat the withdrawal of its diplomatic personnel is due to the threat of air strikes, but no one isgoing to take that at face value," Jeong said in a Facebook post. "With the war in Ukrainedragging on for more than four years, why was the (withdrawal) decision made shortly after adispute erupted over the transfer of North Korean POWs?" he asked. Jeong then urged t

- 'Smart camp' system built at Hanbit Unit in South Sudan (2026-10-21 05:57)

The Army said Wednesday it has built a "smart camp" system using advanced technology at a military base of the Hanbit Unit deployed in South Sudan for a U.N. peacekeeping mission in an effort to enhance the safety of troops. A smart camp is an advanced system that integrates various functions needed to operate a military base, such as surveillance and facilities management, by applying information and communications technology (ICT). A ceremony marking the establishment of a smart camp was held Tuesday (local time) at the Hanbit Unit base in South Sudan, marking the first of its kind among U.N. peacekeeping operation bases, according to the Army. The move is expected to enhance the safety and operational efficiency of peacekeeping troops as well as reduce harm on the environment. The South Korean government proposed the smart camp model applied to U.N. peacekeeping operations during a peacekeeping ministerial conference in Seoul in 2021. It has since implemented the project by selecting the Hanbit Unit as a pilot model. During the event, the participants showcased the key functions of the

- DPK issues warnings against Gyeonggi governor, lawmaker over remarks seen as disparaging firefighters (2026-10-21 05:57)

The ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) decided Wednesday to issue warnings against Gyeonggi Province Gov. Choo Mi-ae and one of its lawmakers over controversial remarks deemed insulting to firefighters. Choo came under fire after describing the firefighting service as the biggest "headache" and "fiscal drain" for local governments during a parliamentary audit last Tuesday. "(The warnings) are intended to urge those involved to seriously reflect on themselves and prevent similar incidents from recurring," DPK spokesperson Cho Gye-won told reporters after the decision was reached during a closed-door meeting of the party's supreme council. "We apologize once again to the firefighters and the public," he said. The DPK also decided to issue a warning against Rep. Boo Seung-chan, who defended Choo during another parliamentary audit Monday, saying she had sufficiently apologized and that the firefighting services were indeed draining local government finances despite firefighters being classified as central government employees since 2020. Choo offered an apology on Saturday, but her apolog

- National museum chief offers to resign over misattributed work from private collection (2026-10-21 05:57)

You Hong-june, director of the National Museum of Korea, offered to resign Wednesday amid a controversy over the museum's display of a misattributed calligraphic work from his private

collection. He came under fire after the piece, written by a prominent pro-Japanese collaboratorduring Japan's 1910-45 colonial rule of Korea, was wrongly introduced as the work of a Koreanindependence activist and was found to be from his private collection. The museum removedthe item from its ongoing special exhibition following the controversy. In a statement sent toreporters, You said he has concluded that he should step down "to restore the museum'starnished honor." "The deep trust the public has placed in the National Museum of Korea andthe value our staff has built collapsed in an instant because of my personal mistake," he said. "All criticism over this matter is entirely my responsibility." You, a prominent art historian andauthor of the bestselling book series "My Exploration of Cultural Heritage," apologized twiceand bowed before lawmakers at a parliamentary audit on Monday. However, calls

• Arson suspect admits to setting fires at 2 buildings in southern Seoul: police (2026-10-21 05:57)

A man suspected of setting fires at two buildings in southern Seoul that left nearly 20 people injured this week has largely admitted to planning and carrying out the arson, police said Wednesday. The fires at the adjacent buildings in Seoul's southern ward of Gangnam on Tuesday left 19 people injured, including one who was rushed to a hospital in a state of cardiac arrest. Police apprehended the suspect, in his 70s, hours later. The suspect, who set fires at separate patent firms at the two buildings, told investigators that he bought two jerrycans, a lighter and flammable material near his home in western Seoul on Friday, according to the police. He claimed the patent firms had defrauded him by issuing fake patent registration certificates, and that he had wanted to scare them and let the world know, the police said. The police said it plans to seek a warrant for the suspect's formal arrest on suspicion of arson resulting in injury after questioning him again.

• Lee urges 'aggressive' police reform to address wrongful practices, systems (2026-10-21 05:57)

President Lee Jae Myung on Wednesday urged the police to aggressively reform themselves to address wrongful practices and systems, also stressing the need for a special system to independently vet police investigations. The president made the call in a speech marking the 81st Police Day, as the police have assumed greater investigative authority following the Lee administration's prosecution reform, which removed prosecutors' investigative powers, leaving them in charge only of indictments and their maintenance. "By objectively looking back on what has been lacking, (police) should aggressive pursue reform to boldly address wrongful practices and systems," the president said. Lee stressed that the investigative power, entrusted by the people, must be exercised fairly in accordance with laws and principles, and that investigations must be conducted with clear accountability. The president said that investigative processes and results should be rigorously scrutinized while being shielded from external influence, especially calling for the establishment of a special system to independently

• President Lee to meet with WHO chief to discuss cooperation in healthcare (2026-10-21 05:57)

President Lee Jae Myung was set to meet with World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus on Wednesday to discuss ways to enhance cooperation in healthcare. The meeting at Cheong Wa Dae comes as Tedros is visiting Seoul to attend the World Bio Summit 2026, which the WHO is hosting in partnership with Korea from Wednesday to Thursday. During the meeting, Lee plans to introduce his initiatives involving artificial intelligence (AI) technology, including those related to healthcare, to the WHO chief, his office said. The president also plans to highlight the need for close cooperation with the WHO to help spread the benefits of healthcare innovations across the world, including through the establishment of global hubs for AI and the nurturing of global bio workforces, according to Cheong Wa Dae.

• Busan to launch 3rd attempt to guide canal-trapped shark back to sea (2026-10-21 05:57)

BUSAN — Authorities in the southeastern port city of Busan were set to make a third attempt Wednesday afternoon to guide a shark back to the open sea as it has spent over a month trapped in a city canal. A joint rescue team involving municipal and Coast Guard officials will use a net secured to a pontoon — a flat floating platform — to drive the shark out of the canal at Busan's North Port, located about 330 kilometers southeast of Seoul. The shark — named " Bukang-i" after Bukhang, the Korean word for North Port — was first spotted in the canal on Sept. 18. Since then, the canal park has turned into a major attraction, drawing over 1.6 million visitors as of Sunday. After two previous attempts to guide the fish to the open sea failed, officials have waited for it to exit the canal on its own. But it has not, and officials decided to make a third attempt over concern it could die if water temperatures fall further. In the latest operation, one vessel will tow the net while another sprays water jets to steer the shark toward the exit. However, this time, personnel will be statione

• Confirmation report for special inspector nominee to be adopted after 10-year vacancy (2026-10-21 05:57)

A parliamentary committee is set to adopt a confirmation hearing report this week for a special inspector nominee tasked with investigating corruption allegations involving the president's family and senior aides, officials said Wednesday, paving the way for an end to a 10-year vacancy. The report for Choi Kil-su is scheduled to be adopted by the parliamentary legislation and judiciary committee on Thursday, about a month after his confirmation hearing was held. Choi, a former senior prosecutor, was nominated by President Lee Jae Myung from among three candidates recommended by rival parties and the bar association in August. The special inspector post was established in 2014 to investigate alleged irregularities involving the president's spouse and close relatives, and senior presidential officials, but has remained vacant since 2016 amid disagreements between the rival parties on the recommendations of candidates. The planned adoption of the report comes after the ruling and opposition parties agreed earlier this week to include both favorable and unfavorable assessments of Choi's suit

• S. Korea observes multinational military exercise involving US, Japanese troops (2026-10-21 05:57)

WASHINGTON — South Korea is participating as an observer in a large-scale multinational military exercise involving some 56,000 U.S. and Japanese troops in Japan, according to the Pentagon Tuesday. Keen Sword 2027 began Monday with an opening ceremony on Ishigaki Island, Japan, and will run through Oct. 29, the Pentagon said in a press release. About 45,000 Japan Self-Defense Forces personnel and 11,000 U.S. service members are taking part in the exercise, alongside forces from Australia, Canada, France, Germany, the Netherlands, New Zealand and the Philippines. According to the Pentagon, South Korea and Britain are participating as observers. The exercise marks the 18th iteration of the biennial field training event, which includes air and missile defense, facility protection and repair, logistics and resupply, casualty evacuation and maritime operations. The training is designed to enhance interoperability, information sharing and defensive coordination among participating forces through bilateral and multilateral scenarios under realistic conditions, according to the statement. U.S. M

Source: The Korea Herald

• Mbappe apologizes after China backlash over Mao meme remarks (2026-10-28 06:01)

Kylian Mbappe has apologized in French, Chinese and English after comments about a meme depicting him as Mao Zedong triggered criticism in China and prompted several companies and broadcasters to distance themselves from the Real Madrid forward. Chinese media reported Monday that Mbappe acknowledged his remarks were inappropriate and said he understood they had offended people in China and Chinese communities elsewhere. "I apologize to everyone who was hurt by my words," Mbappe said in the state

• Kukmin Ilbo editor Shin Jong-soo elected as Korea News Editors' Association chief (2026-10-28 05:56)

Shin Jong-soo, editor and chief editorial writer for South Korean daily Kukmin Ilbo, was elected president of the Korea News Editors' Association on Wednesday. Shin will take over from Lee Tae-gyu of Hankook Ilbo, who has been leading the association since 2024. Shin said in his inaugural speech that the KNEA will play a lead role in restoring public trust toward legacy media and fostering a healthy public sphere. He also pledged to fulfill the public responsibilities of the press through KNEA a

• 'Hope' leads Blue Dragon Film Awards nominations with 10 noms (2026-10-28 05:50)

Na Hong-jin's creature feature "Hope" picked up 10 nominations to lead the field in the 47th Blue Dragon Film Awards as Lee Chang-dong's Netflix-backed "Possible Love" followed close behind with eight, according to the list of nominees released Wednesday. The “Wailing”

director’s sci-fi epic, which premiered at Cannes in May, is said to be the most expensive Korean film ever made. At this year's Blue Dragons, the film is up for best picture and best director, along with acting noms for Zo In-sun

• JBNU opens international center in Uzbekistan to expand academic tie (2026-10-28 05:50)

Jeonbuk National University has opened an international center in Uzbekistan to help Uzbek students pursue degrees in Korea and expand academic ties with universities in Central Asia, the university said Wednesday. The JBNU International Center opened Oct. 23 at Renaissance University in Tashkent during a visit by a delegation led by Cho Hwa-rim, JBNU’s head of international affairs. The center will provide admissions information and help prospective students connect with undergraduate and gradu

• LG Electronics' AI cooling orders hit W3tr as Q3 profit rises (2026-10-28 05:41)

LG Electronics reported a 13.5 percent year-on-year increase in third-quarter operating profit Wednesday, supported by improved television earnings and steady automotive electronics sales, while disclosing a fivefold increase in AI data center cooling orders during the first nine months of the year. Operating profit reached 781.9 billion won ($583.9 million) in the July-September period, up from 688.9 billion won a year earlier. Revenue increased 8.9 percent to 23.82 trillion won, according to t

• Seoul's prime office market bucks broader investment slowdown (2026-10-28 05:39)

Seoul's prime office market is seeing a fresh wave of major property transactions, with landmark properties changing hands or being put up for sale even as rising borrowing costs weigh on investment activity. Earlier this month, Samsung SRA Asset Management selected Igis Asset Management as the preferred bidder to acquire K-Twin Towers in central Seoul for 1.05 trillion won ($782 million). Located across from Gyeongbokgung in the Gwanghwamun area, the asset has maintained full occupancy, with bl

• PM pledges S. Korea will take lead in climate crisis response (2026-10-28 05:36)

South Korea will be at the forefront of efforts to combat climate change, Prime Minister Han Seong-sook said Wednesday as she opened an international conference on climate crisis. "There is a saying that this summer has been the hottest one yet, but it will be the coolest summer we will ever experience," Han said in an opening address at the Global Cooperation Conference on Climate Crisis Response. "Climate crisis is no longer a warning for the future but has become a disaster that threatens our

• Exo choreographer Back Koo-young steps into his own spotlight (2026-10-28 05:36)

Behind K-pop’s global success is an army of unseen creative talent — chief among them the choreographers and performance directors tasked with translating music into stadium-ready spectacles. Mnet’s dance competition series "Street World Fighter: Directors’ War" set out to drag these behind-the-scenes figures into the spotlight, pitting South Korea’s top directors

against one another in challenges spanning choreography, staging and production design. Following a high-stakes, two-month run, veter

• Time to take Korea’s tourism boom beyond Seoul, says culture minister (2026-10-28 05:35)

Korea is on track to hit its goal of 30 million foreign visitors ahead of the 2030 target, but sustaining that growth will depend on getting travelers out of the capital, the country’s top tourism official said Wednesday. “If foreign tourists keep increasing at this pace under current conditions, the capital area will soon be saturated. But this weakness is also an opportunity. It means regions outside the capital have more than enough room to take in additional visitors, as long as they are pre

• Harvard professor wins KY Cha Award for ovarian aging research (2026-10-28 05:21)

Harvard Medical School professor David Pepin has received the 13th KY Cha Award in Reproductive Medicine for his research into ovarian aging and hormone production, CHA Medical Center said Wednesday. The award was presented at the 82nd Scientific Congress of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, held in Baltimore from Saturday to Wednesday. Established by the ASRM in 2011, the award recognizes groundbreaking research in infertility and reproductive medicine. It is named after Cha Kwang

• Hit Broadway musical 'Hamilton' comes to Seoul and Busan (2026-10-28 05:11)

Broadway hit “Hamilton” will make its Korean debut in December as the first stop on a new world tour. Since opening on Broadway in August 2015, “Hamilton” has earned a record 16 Tony nominations and won 11 awards in 2016, including best musical. Its cast album became the first to be certified diamond in the US, for 10 million units, and has spent more than 500 weeks on the Billboard 200. Now the show is coming to Korea for the first time, as the first stop on a new world tour. The English-langua

• German chancellor, top CEOs head to Seoul for Asia-Pacific forum (2026-10-28 05:07)

South Korea is set to welcome top executives and policymakers from Germany and across the Asia-Pacific region this week for a high-profile business forum focused on industrial cooperation, artificial intelligence and supply chain resilience amid rising geopolitical and trade uncertainty. The 19th Asia-Pacific Conference of German Business, or APK 2026, will take place in Seoul from Thursday to Saturday. The event brings together about 750 business executives, policymakers and industry representa

• Samsung Electro-Mechanics' Q3 profit soars 165% as AI substrate business accelerates (2026-10-28 05:06)

Samsung Electro-Mechanics reported record quarterly revenue and operating profit Wednesday, driven by strong demand for artificial intelligence data center components and accelerating growth in its semiconductor substrate business. The Samsung Group affiliate

posted revenue of 3.76 trillion won ($2.81 billion) in the July-September period, up 30 percentfrom a year earlier, while operating profit surged 165 percent to 691 billion won. Revenue rose9 percent from the previous quarter, but operati

- Why Samsung Display was Apple's only pick for the OLED touchscreen MacBook Pro (2026-10-28 05:02)

Apple has spent years diversifying its display supply chain to reduce reliance on individual suppliers. But for two of its biggest hardware redesigns in years — its first foldable iPhone and an upcoming OLED touchscreen MacBook Pro — Samsung Display has emerged as the sole supplier. The Korean display maker's dominance is set to extend to Apple's new 14-inch and 16-inch MacBook Pros, expected to debut Wednesday at its "Pro and Tell" event in Los Angeles. The laptops would bring OLED screens and

- Cyberattack wave widens across Korean financial sector (2026-10-28 04:58)

Cyberattacks have hit more South Korean financial firms, with brokerage Daishin Securities reporting a data breach affecting more than 38,000 customers, while cryptocurrency exchange Bithumb and asset manager Mirae Asset Global Investments also confirmed security intrusions. The incidents extend a weeks-long wave of cyberattacks across the financial industry, raising concerns over security vulnerabilities and prompting the country's financial watchdog to call for stronger defenses. Daishin Secur

- Hyundai Motor's brand value hits $25b, ranks 29th globally (2026-10-28 04:57)

Hyundai Motor ranked 29th in Interbrand's Best Global Brands 2026, with its brand value reaching $25 billion, the South Korean automaker said Wednesday. Hyundai, which first entered the global top 100 in 2005, ranked fourth among automotive brands. Interbrand cited its competitiveness in robotics and electrification, along with its strong presence in the US and Europe, as key drivers of growth. The automaker posted record revenue of 186.25 trillion won ($140 billion) last year, with annual US ve

- No Israel winner, but Netanyahu not defeated (2026-10-28 04:55)

Israeli voters delivered a rebuke to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's far-right and religious governing coalition, but exit polls Wednesday suggested the election had no clear winner and indicated that the long-serving Israeli leader was far from defeated after three years of war ignited on his watch. The exit polls suggested voters gave opponents of the current government a solid majority in the next parliament. But it's not clear if those disparate parties — which include Arab-led factions

- DP vows state investigation into Supreme Court chief in December (2026-10-28 04:45)

The ruling Democratic Party of Korea on Wednesday maintained pressure on the judicial branch, vowing to launch a parliamentary investigation into Supreme Court Chief Justice Jo Hee-de in December. On Wednesday, Democratic Party senior spokesperson Rep. Park

Sung-joon said the party will submit the motion to launch a parliamentary investigation on Nov. 5, pass the motion in a plenary session on Nov. 12 or Nov. 19, and summon witnesses. This followed the party's decision Tuesday to launch a parlia

- Lee says migrant worker remarks aimed at prioritizing Korean hiring amid high unemployment (2026-10-28 04:41)

President Lee Jae Myung on Wednesday defended his recent remarks on migrant workers, saying that his intention was to emphasize the need to prioritize hiring Korean workers to address the country's "serious unemployment problem." His explanation came amid criticism of comments he made at a Cabinet meeting on Tuesday, when he questioned foreign workers' contributions to the South Korean economy, saying that they send their earnings overseas. The comments sparked a backlash from migrant rights adv

- Golf practice at playgrounds could come at a price (2026-10-28 04:35)

Practicing your golf swing at a children’s playground could soon draw more than parental complaints, as defying an order to stop could bring a fine of up to 3 million won ($2,240). Korea is proposing to ban sports activities that could endanger children at playgrounds, including golf and baseball, under a rule change planned to take effect in February 2027. The Ministry of the Interior and Safety on Friday issued a preliminary notice of the proposed amendment to the Enforcement Decree of the Act

- Pediatric doctors threaten to resign after disputed police raid (2026-10-28 04:35)

Seven doctors at Ajou University Hospital’s pediatric emergency center have threatened to resign amid a dispute over a police raid on the facility, the hospital confirmed Wednesday. Police searched the center on Sept. 30 as part of an investigation into an infant’s death in July, after the child’s parents filed a complaint alleging medical negligence. Medical staff said the search disrupted emergency care, while police maintained that officers followed procedure and did not interfere with treatm

- Man who poured boiling water on his wife has sentence reduced on appeal (2026-10-28 04:09)

A South Korean man convicted of pouring boiling water on his sleeping wife has had his prison sentence reduced on appeal after reaching a settlement with her. An appellate panel at the Uijeongbu District Court reduced the sentence for the man in his 40s from three years and six months to three years, citing a settlement that included a 15 million won ($11,200) payment and the victim’s request for leniency. The man poured boiling water on his wife’s face as she slept at their home in Uijeongbu, G

- Rubio joins Trump on campaign trail days before US midterms (2026-10-28 04:01)

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio made a rare appearance Tuesday alongside President Donald Trump on the midterms campaign trail, visiting an oil tanker filled with Venezuelan crude just

days before the crucial vote. Rubio and US Vice President JD Vance are widely viewed as topcontenders to carry the Republican Party into its post-Trump era in the 2028 election. But whileVance has been crisscrossing the country in recent weeks to rally support ahead of the Nov. 3polls, it is very unusual for

- Czech Republic, S. Korea envision wider nuclear, tech ties (2026-10-28 04:01)

South Korea and the Czech Republic aim to expand cooperation in nuclear energy, robotics and batteries, building on the Dukovany nuclear project, officials said at a national day reception Tuesday. South Korean Industry Minister Kim Jung-kwan pledged government support for the project and said he hoped it would lead to further nuclear cooperation, including at Temelin. Korea Hydro & Nuclear Power signed a contract in June 2025 to build two reactors at Dukovany. The agreement includes an option f

- Rights monitors raise concerns over senior UAE diplomat bid for next UN boss (2026-10-28 03:53)

Human rights monitors criticized senior UAE diplomat Lana Nusseibeh's candidacy to be the next UN chief on Tuesday, citing her role in championing the country's foreign policy and denying the UAE's role in fueling the conflict in Sudan. Pushback against the prominent Middle Eastern candidate has gathered steam since her late entry last week. Her bid upended the gridlocked race to replace UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, as he finishes his second five-year term this year. Despite months of

- Ukraine's Zelenskyy says territory recaptured, forces on the offensive (2026-10-28 03:51)

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Tuesday that the country's forces were retaking territory through a series of offensives, including one operation previously unannounced in which Kyiv's troops used gas pipelines to outflank Russian positions. Zelenskyy, speaking in his nightly video address, said Kyiv's battlefield position was the strongest in some time in the 4 1/2-year-long war and could be made stronger with more deliveries of air defense systems from its Western allies. Zelen

- US judge hears Justice Dept suit claiming noncitizens on California voter rolls (2026-10-28 03:49)

A US judge heard arguments on Tuesday on the Justice Department's request to block California from counting any mail ballots for the Nov. 3 midterm elections from more than 20,000 registered voters the Trump administration alleges are likely noncitizens. The Justice Department's Oct. 15 lawsuit marked an escalation in President Donald Trump's effort to boost the federal government's role in elections ahead of the midterms, with his Republican Party locked in a tight battle to retain control of

- FIFA to inspect candidate cities for 2030 World Cup in Spain, Portugal and Morocco (2026-10-28 03:45)

FIFA will begin inspections of candidate host cities in Spain, Portugal and Morocco ahead of the 2030 World Cup. According to Reuters, FIFA will send inspection teams in November and December to visit candidate cities and stadiums in the three co-host nations and assess their suitability for World Cup matches. The inspections will cover 15 cities, including seven in Spain such as Madrid, Barcelona and Seville, six in Morocco including Casablanca and Rabat, and Lisbon and Porto in Portugal. FIFA

- Arsenal embarrassed by 4th-tier Fleetwood (2026-10-28 03:45)

Arsenal slumped to one of the biggest upsets in the English League Cup's 66-year history, with the Premier League champion knocked out by fourth-tier Fleetwood Town in a penalty shootout in the round of 16 on Tuesday. Five months after losing on penalties to Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League final, Arsenal endured more shootout misery -- this time at 5,300-capacity Highbury Stadium, the intimate home of Fleetwood that bears the same name as Arsenal's storied former stadium. Fleetwood,

- Climate change must be declared 'global health emergency': Lancet study (2026-10-28 03:16)

Climate change must be declared a "global health emergency" to shape governments' policies after heat caused three million deaths between 2016 and 2023, a report in The Lancet said Wednesday. Published by the British medical journal ahead of the COP 31 climate summit in November, the 10th edition of the report brought together 146 researchers from 30 countries to assess the impact of climate change on the health of the world's population. It said there were a record 710,000 heat-related deaths i

- Births up 13% in Aug. to highest in 7 years (2026-10-28 03:15)

The number of babies born in South Korea shot up 13 percent in August from a year earlier, marking the 26th consecutive month of increase, government data showed Wednesday. A total of 23,703 babies were born in August, up from 20,983 a year earlier, according to the Ministry of Data and Statistics. It marked the highest figure for any August since the 24,371 posted in 2019. The country's total fertility rate, the average number of children a woman is expected to have in her lifetime, rose 0.09 f

- Trump makes last-minute push to keep Texas in Republican hands with third trip (2026-10-28 03:06)

US President Donald Trump was in Texas for the third time in a month Tuesday in a last-minute push to block Democrats from notching their first statewide election victory in more than three decades in next week's midterm elections. Trump was in Corpus Christi and Lubbock to boost Republican Ken Paxton’s competitive US Senate campaign against Democrat James Talarico. Not ceding the stage to the presidential spotlight, Talarico was in Amarillo, where he assailed a “broken, corrupt” political syste

• US-brokered truce appears to hold in Ukrainian town close to starvation (2026-10-28 03:02)

A ceasefire appeared to be holding on Tuesday around the Ukrainian town of Oleshky after more than four years of Russian occupation that have left trapped residents desperate for food, water and medicine. The local truce, brokered by US first lady Melania Trump with the involvement of Pope Leo, is intended to allow aid into Oleshky and enable those who want to leave to do so. Some residents say they have survived on a cup of rice or buckwheat a day, sometimes with a tomato, cucumber or wild pl

• Charles tackles thorny legacy of slavery on Caribbean trip (2026-10-28 03:01)

King Charles III began a Caribbean tour in the Bahamas Tuesday where he acknowledged "the great suffering of the past" in the face of pressure to apologize for the slave trade. The 77-year-old king, who is receiving treatment for an undisclosed form of cancer, will also highlight climate threats facing low-lying islands during the visit to three countries in nine days. He will first make solo visits to the Bahamas and Guyana, before being joined by his wife, Queen Camilla, for the final leg in A

• TXT shares more teasers for 9th EP "Perfect Storm" (2026-10-28 02:55)

Tomorrow X Together released teaser photographs for its upcoming mini album “Perfect Storm” on Wednesday via label Big Hit Music. The five members stand tall, gazing at the camera, seemingly unconcerned about the figures rushing past them, their charred white suits the only indication of any hardship. The ninth EP, due out on Nov. 6, depicts growing pains, and the lead single, “Angel Bite,” is a love song promising to be together despite the daunting reality. The EP will comprise six tracks, inc

• ‘No men overnight’: Notice at women-only residence sparks debate (2026-10-28 02:46)

A notice warning tenants of a women-only residential building that inviting men overnight could lead to lease termination has sparked online debate, with some defending the policy. The notice gained attention after a social media user who identified as a delivery worker shared a photo of it and questioned whether management had gone too far by posting the warning in a hallway. The notice reads: “Men are not allowed to stay overnight. This is a women-only residence. Please report any violations.

• ‘Possible Love’ earns three Gotham nominations, Jeon Do-yeon in lead race (2026-10-28 02:36)

Jeon Do-yeon’s awards season seems to be off to a strong start. The veteran Korean actor earned a nomination for outstanding lead performance at the Gotham Awards on Wednesday, one of three nods for Lee Chang-dong’s “Possible Love.” The Netflix-backed film made the cut for best international feature and best original screenplay, which Lee shares with co-writer Oh Jung-mi. Jeon is the only Korean performer nominated in this year’s acting races. The lead performance category, which does not separa

• Former Big Bang member Seungri says he is married, expecting first child (2026-10-28 02:35)

Seungri, formerly of boy band Big Bang, is married and expecting his first child early next year. Reports surfaced Tuesday that Seungri’s partner was pregnant and that the couple planned to marry after the birth of their son in January. However, Seungri clarified through local media outlet Ilgan Sports on Wednesday that the two had already registered their marriage and are legally married. He denied speculation that the pregnancy preceded the marriage. The couple has reportedly set up a home in

• Nvidia's Madison Huang returns to Seoul amid physical AI push (2026-10-28 02:33)

Madison Huang, Nvidia's senior director of product marketing for Omniverse and robotics and daughter of CEO Jensen Huang, is expected to visit Seoul next month, industry sources said Wednesday. Huang is expected to attend Nvidia AI Day Seoul 2026 at Coex in southern Seoul on Nov. 9-10 as the US chip giant deepens its push into Korea's robotics and manufacturing sectors. While she is not scheduled to speak, she is expected to take part in meetings and other events. It would mark her fourth visit

• 1 classroom, 5,000 km apart: Seoul students learn beyond borders (2026-10-28 02:30)

"This is gochujang, a Korean sauce made with red chili peppers," Kim Ha-jin, a sixth grader at Seoul Beondong Elementary School, said as she scooped a spoonful of the red pepper paste and held it up to her laptop's camera. Although Kim was sitting alongside her classmates, she was speaking to students as far as 5,000 kilometers away at SDIT Al Ihsan Banjarmasin, an Islamic elementary school in South Kalimantan, Indonesia, and Bansei Elementary School in Nara, Japan. Each sixth grader at the Seou

• HD Construction Equipment opens W116.8b engine plant targeting AI data centers (2026-10-28 02:30)

HD Construction Equipment has opened a 116.8 billion won ($87.5 million) engine plant in Gunsan, North Jeolla Province, to ramp up production of high-capacity power-generation engines amid surging demand from AI data centers, the company said Wednesday. Built over two years on a 62,700-square-meter site, the facility has an annual production capacity of 1,250 power-generation engines rated between 1 and 3 megawatts, as well as 120 military tank engines. It can also produce 1,460 megawatt-hours o

• Korea National Opera begins its four-year journey through Wagner’s 'Ring' this week (2026-10-28 02:21)

The Korea National Opera raises the curtain Thursday on “Das Rheingold,” starting a four-year project to stage all of Richard Wagner’s “Der Ring des Nibelungen.” No Korean company has done this before. The production runs through Sunday at the Seoul Arts Center’s Opera Theater, 150 years after the cycle was first performed in full in 1876. The other three

operas will follow through 2029. “As this is the first time in Korean opera history that acompany is producing all four ‘Ring’ operas itself

• BTS adds another week to Billboard 200 stay (2026-10-28 02:20)

BTS' fifth studio album “Arirang” has ranked No. 46 on the latest Billboard 200 rankings released Tuesday, making 31 weeks in a row on the main albums chart chart. The album made a hotshot debut on the ranking and stayed at No. 1 for three weeks. It slid down five rungs from the previous week. Main track “Swim” sat at No. 28 and No. 10 on its Global 200 and Global excl. US, respectively, maintaining a spot among the top 10 on the latter for 30 weeks, after a chart-topping debut. In the meantime,

• Kumho Tire sweeps four major global design awards (2026-10-28 02:17)

Kumho Tire has swept four major international design awards in 2026, completing the feat with a win at Japan's Good Design Award, the South Korean tire-maker said Wednesday. The latest honor went to its Ecsta Sport A/S, an ultrahigh-performance all-season tire designed for both conventional and electric vehicles. The tire features longitudinal tread grooves to reduce road noise and extended lateral channels to improve water drainage and wet-road performance. Racing-flag patterns on the sidewalls

• Govt. to require firms to deposit severance funds with financial institutions (2026-10-28 02:06)

South Korea will push to make it mandatory for businesses with 100 or more employees to deposit funds for severance payments with external financial institutions starting in 2028 to prevent nonpayment, the finance ministry said Wednesday. The Ministry of Finance and Economy discussed the plan during a meeting of economy- and science-related ministers, aiming to have affected businesses begin preparations in 2027 for full implementation the following year. "Requiring businesses to deposit funds f

• Youngone secures W8.8b refund in Scott ownership dispute (2026-10-28 02:01)

Youngone Corporation has ended a more than four-year arbitration dispute over its acquisition of Swiss sports brand Scott, securing a refund of about 8.8 billion won ($6.6 million) in escrow funds. The South Korean apparel maker, which raised its stake in Scott to 96.71 percent last year, will recover the funds after an arbitral tribunal decided that it was not required to pay the remaining 25 percent of the acquisition price to former shareholder Beat Zaugg. According to a regulatory filing Tue

• Ex-UN chief Ban-led foundation to hold high-level climate dialogue this week (2026-10-28 01:54)

A foundation led by former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said Wednesday it will host a high-level dialogue in Seoul this week to discuss clean energy transitions and regional climate cooperation. The forum will take place Thursday on the sidelines of Global Green Growth Week

2026, where experts and officials at home and abroad will discuss ways to advance energysecurity and clean transitions in Northeast Asia and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations,according to the foundation. Topics

• Carney reshapes Canada’s alliances as US ties strain (2026-10-28 01:51)

MONTREAL, Canada (AFP) -- Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney will try to secure unprecedentedly close ties with the EU when he hosts the bloc's leaders this week, with the possibility of a special "associate member" status even being raised. But for Carney, who has assured Canadians they could trust him in a crisis, forging new agreements with Europe is just one piece of a plan to reposition Canada's place in the world in response to attacks from US President Donald Trump. "America is trying to

• Consumer brands warn of more price hikes as war costs bite (2026-10-28 01:42)

LONDON (Reuters) -- The world's top consumer goods and food companies, from Coca-Cola and Procter & Gamble to Nestle and Reckitt, have warned of further price hikes next year to cover rising costs even as shoppers remain reluctant to splurge on groceries. Higher energy, raw material and freight costs as a result of the US war on Iran mean that the companies making everything from laundry detergent to soda and snacks face a balancing act to protect profit margins. Even higher prices on everyday i

• State arms agency completes development of homegrown Marine attack helicopter (2026-10-28 01:33)

South Korea has completed the development of a homegrown Marine Attack Helicopter fitted with a range of weapons systems, including air-to-ground missiles, for multidimensional amphibious operations, the state arms procurement agency said Wednesday. The attack helicopters are built on a Marine variant of the KUH-1 Surion helicopter, known as the MUH-1 Marineon, with new added features and weapons systems to counter attacks from enemy choppers and drones, according to the Defense Acquisition Prog

• SK hynix posts record Q3 profit, plans W100tr in shareholder returns this year (2026-10-27 23:48)

SK hynix reported record third-quarter earnings on Wednesday and outlined plans to return about 100 trillion won ($75.5 billion) to shareholders this year, as booming demand for artificial intelligence memory pushed quarterly revenue above 100 trillion won for the first time. The South Korean memory chip maker said operating profit rose 38 percent from the previous quarter to 83.33 trillion won, delivering an operating margin of nearly 80 percent. Revenue increased 32 percent to 104.62 trillion

• [Graphic News] Korea’s marine waste up 20% in 4 years (2026-10-27 23:00)

The amount of marine waste collected from South Korean waters rose nearly 20 percent over four years, with submerged waste such as discarded fishing gear showing a sharper increase,

government data showed. The total volume of marine waste collected increased 19.8 percent,from 120,736 tons in 2021 to 144,615 tons in 2025, according to data from the Ministry ofOceans and Fisheries submitted to Rep. Lee Seong-gwon of the People Power Party, a memberof the National Assembly’s Agriculture, Food, R

• [Gautam Mukunda] Too much AI can stifle innovation (2026-10-27 20:30)

The latest way to sell artificial intelligence is with a high-tech version of the promise that corporate America last bought from Six Sigma. Earlier this month, Workday Inc. told investors that its customers should pay for its AI agents out of what they spend on labor and services, not just software. Workday itself, its CEO said, was looking to replace new hires with AI. One of the promises of AI is that it will take processes previously performed by expensive and unreliable humans and do them w

• [Kim Seong-kon] Skilled diplomacy is crucial in times of crisis (2026-10-27 20:30)

Due to Korea's geographical location and geopolitical situation, diplomacy has always been crucial to its survival. Today, Korea has many competent and trustworthy diplomats. In the past, however, the country did not always seem to excel at foreign affairs. During the Joseon era, for example, diplomacy was largely based on toadyism because the state was subservient to a big, strong neighboring country. Some of our history teachers, too, misunderstood the true nature of diplomacy. They often thou

• Lawmaker calls for scrutiny of labor-sending countries over migrant worker penalties (2026-10-27 11:14)

A lawmaker on Tuesday called for continued oversight of all countries that send workers to Korea to ensure foreign nationals are not unfairly penalized by their native countries while working in Korea. The move follows Uzbekistan and Bangladesh pledging to end practices that financially penalized their nationals for changing jobs without home-country approval. During a parliamentary audit of the Ministry of Employment and Labor, Rep. Shin Jeong-hoon of the Democratic Party of Korea urged the gov

• The Hanok Heritage named Best New Hotel at Tatler awards (2026-10-27 11:04)

A hanok retreat in Yeongwol, Gangwon Province, has been named Best New Hotel at the Tatler Best Asia Pacific Awards 2026, just a year after opening. The Hanok Heritage received the Best-in-Class distinction at a ceremony held Thursday at Yan Garden in Shanghai. It was the only Korean hotel to win the award. Now in their third year, the awards are presented by Tatler Asia and recognize hotels, restaurants and bars across the Asia-Pacific region. More than 900 judges take part in the evaluation an

• Supreme Court issues new detention warrant for former first lady Kim Keon Hee (2026-10-27 10:43)

The Supreme Court on Tuesday issued an additional detention warrant for former first lady Kim Keon Hee, allowing her to remain in custody for another two months over concerns that she could flee or destroy evidence. The decision came just days before her existing detention period was due to expire Saturday, as the top court has yet to reach a verdict in a separate case involving stock manipulation, illegal political funding and bribery allegations. Kim has been detained since August 2025 over al

• Top court issues additional arrest warrant for jailed ex-first lady (2026-10-27 10:41)

The Supreme Court on Tuesday issued a new arrest warrant for jailed former first lady Kim Keon Hee to keep her in custody for two more months, citing the risk of fleeing and destroying evidence. The decision comes after the top court convened a hearing for Kim, the wife of former President Yoon Suk Yeol, earlier in the day to decide whether to extend her detention period set to expire Saturday. The top court handed out the decision hours after the hearing, citing risk of flight and destruction o

• Baby panda Shu Bao to make public debut at Everland (2026-10-27 10:34)

Shu Bao, the youngest member of Everland's giant panda family, will meet visitors for the first time starting Friday at the theme park's Panda World in Yongin, Gyeonggi Province. The female cub was born June 3 to mother Ai Bao and father Le Bao through natural breeding, making her the fourth giant panda born in Korea after her older sisters Fu Bao and twins Rui Bao and Hui Bao. She weighed just 171 grams at birth and now weighs more than 9 kg, according to Everland. Ahead of the debut, she has b

• 3 ex-officials appeal to top court over 2019 deportation of N. Koreans (2026-10-27 10:34)

Three former government officials Tuesday appealed an appellate ruling sentencing them to suspended prison terms for forcibly repatriating two North Korean fishermen in 2019, taking the case to the Supreme Court, sources said. Last week, the Seoul High Court upheld a lower court's guilty verdicts for Chung Eui-yong, former national security adviser; former National Intelligence Service Director Suh Hoon; and former Unification Minister Kim Yeon-chul. All three served in former President Moon Jae

• No casualties reported in shanty town fire in southern Seoul (2026-10-27 10:25)

A fire broke out at a shantytown in Seoul's posh southern district of Gangnam on Tuesday, but no casualties have been reported so far, officials said. The fire broke out at about 3:50 p.m. at a makeshift building at Guryong Village, prompting 39 residents to flee to safety, according to fire authorities. Fire authorities issued a Level 1 emergency response at 3:59 p.m. and later raised the response level by one notch as the fire spread. A total of 232 personnel and 70 pieces of equipment were mo

• Defense chiefs of S. Korea, US to hold talks in Philippines ahead of ASEAN meeting (2026-10-27 10:22)

Defense Minister Kang Shin-chul and US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth will hold their first bilateral talks in the Philippines this week ahead of a ministerial meeting led by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), a source familiar with the matter said Tuesday. Kang and Hegseth are expected to meet one-on-one Wednesday, a day ahead of the ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) Plus plenary in Cebu, according to the source. It will mark their first sit-down since Kang assumed office

- ‘Avoid revealing clothes’ advice prompts revision of migrant worker textbook (2026-10-27 08:57)

The Ministry of Employment and Labor said Tuesday it will revise a textbook used to train migrant workers before they arrive in South Korea after it was found to advise them to "avoid revealing clothes" to prevent sexual violence. The ministry acknowledged that the textbook used under the Employment Permit System contained “inappropriate” content in a section on labor laws, sexual violence prevention and victim protection. “We plan to revise it as soon as possible,” the ministry said in a statem

- 'Prince of Asia' Lee Kwang-soo sets bar high for fan interaction (2026-10-27 08:52)

South Korean actor Lee Kwang-soo is drawing attention for his unusually frequent and playful interactions with fans on Dear U Bubble, where he has earned a reputation for being highly responsive and approachable. Known as the “Prince of Asia” for his popularity across Southeast Asia, Lee brings the offbeat humor that made him a fan favorite on "Running Man" to the platform. He sends dozens of messages a day, runs polls and asks fans for advice on everyday choices, according to reports. He also r

- JB Financial logs record 9-month profit (2026-10-27 08:43)

JB Financial Group posted its highest-ever net profit of 595.7 billion won ($450 million) in the first nine months of the year, the banking group announced Tuesday. Net profit attributable to shareholders rose 0.8 percent on-year to 210 billion won in the third quarter and 2.9 percent to 595.7 billion won in the January-September period. Both figures marked record highs for their respective periods. Revenue also increased, with third-quarter revenue rising 13 percent year-on-year to 1.27 trillio

- Naver seals $9b Brookfield deal to finance AI factory (2026-10-27 08:42)

Naver has finalized a deal with US-based global asset manager Brookfield to secure up to $9 billion in artificial intelligence computing infrastructure, putting a formal financing structure in place for its $10 billion AI factory project with Nvidia. Naver disclosed the agreement in a regulatory filing Tuesday, following its decision in July to name Brookfield its exclusive preferred negotiating partner for a 12-week period. Under the deal, Brookfield will establish a special-purpose vehicle, te

- LG Innotek posts record Q3 sales, but profit misses forecasts (2026-10-27 08:41)

LG Innotek’s record third-quarter sales failed to cushion a sharp currency hit, with operating profit more than halving as higher material costs eroded gains from strong demand for smartphone cameras. The Apple supplier said Tuesday that operating profit fell 53.4 percent from a year earlier to 94.8 billion won ($71.5 million), less than half the 197.3 billion won forecast compiled by financial data provider FnGuide. Revenue rose 18.6 percent to 6.37 trillion won, a third-quarter record. Its ope

- Citibank Korea's new chief takes office (2026-10-27 08:40)

Citibank Korea announced Tuesday that Kim Kyoung-ho, head of the corporate banking group, has been appointed as its new chief for a three-year term. The appointment follows an extraordinary general meeting of shareholders and a meeting of the board of directors. Kim was nominated as the final candidate for the position of Citi Country Officer and Banking Head for Korea on Sept. 22. The nomination committee cited Kim's strong expertise and proven track record in corporate banking and client relat

- Ruling party decides to seek parliamentary probe into Supreme Court chief amid impeachment calls (2026-10-27 08:39)

The ruling Democratic Party said Tuesday it has decided to seek a parliamentary investigation into Supreme Court Chief Justice Cho Hee-dae, with some hardliners calling for his impeachment over allegations of political interference. During a general meeting of its lawmakers, the DP agreed to push for the probe, aiming to pass a related motion at a parliamentary plenary session scheduled for Thursday next week, DP floor spokesperson Jeon Eun-su told reporters. The DP has accused Cho of meddling i

- Tom Kim returns to PGA Tour at Mexico Open after Asian Games gold (2026-10-27 08:38)

Tom Kim will return to PGA Tour competition this week after a two-month break following his gold medal at the 2026 Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games. Kim will compete in the VidantaWorld Mexico Open, the fifth event of the PGA Tour's fall series, from Thursday through Sunday at Vidanta Vallarta in Bahia de Banderas, Nayarit, Mexico. The tournament has a $6 million purse. It will be Kim's first PGA Tour event since the Tour Championship in late August. He competed in the Presidents Cup in the United State

- Instant photo kiosk featuring President Lee set to open at presidential house annex (2026-10-27 08:38)

An instant four-cut photo kiosk will open at an annex of the presidential house in Seoul, allowing visitors to take photos with images of President Lee Jae Myung, his office said Tuesday. The photo booth will go into service at Sarangchae, a public pavilion annexed to Cheong Wa Dae on Wednesday, marking the first anniversary of Lee's presidency, the presidential office said. Visitors can choose from 32 photo frames featuring Lee; his wife, first lady Kim Hea Kyung; or images of Korean cultural h

• Is golf an improper presidential pastime? (2026-10-27 08:30)

South Korea's politicians are once again butting heads over golf — this time with the focus on first lady Kim Hea Kyung. Rep. Joo Jin-woo of the main opposition People Power Party has accused the presidential couple of enjoying special privileges, including reserving consecutive tee time slots to play golf at a military-owned golf course, Taereung Country Club in eastern Seoul. Joo has claimed that Lee was spotted playing golf there with his family on Oct. 10 and first lady Kim went again on Oct

• Homeplus stores face power cuts over unpaid bills (2026-10-27 08:26)

Six Homeplus stores have received notices warning of possible electricity cutoffs over unpaid utility bills, as the troubled retailer faces mounting financial pressure. According to industry sources Tuesday, Homeplus stores in Pocheon, Goyang, Namyangju and Paju are scheduled to face disconnections between Oct. 27 and 30. Another store in Songdo, Incheon, is expected to face a cutoff in November. Under Korea Electric Power Corp.’s supply terms, the utility issues a cutoff notice when electricity

• Fire breaks out at Gangnam’s Guryong Village (2026-10-27 08:17)

A fire broke out at Guryong Village in southern Seoul’s Gangnam-gu on Tuesday, sending thick smoke into the air and prompting police to restrict access as firefighters worked to prevent the flames from spreading. The fire was reported at about 3:50 p.m. No injuries had been reported as of 5 p.m., according to fire authorities. Firefighters were dispatched after receiving a report that a fire appeared to have started at a garbage collection site. They initially deployed 168 personnel and 51 vehic

• Korea sets new record for foreign tourist arrivals (2026-10-27 08:15)

Korea has shattered its annual record for foreign tourist arrivals with more than two months still left in the year, surpassing last year’s historic high of 18.94 million on Tuesday. The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism based the milestone on a provisional count of 18.91 million arrivals through Monday and a daily average of about 64,000 visitors this year. From January through September, 17.11 million foreign nationals visited Korea, up 21.5 percent from a year earlier. Over the same per

• Lee suggests ways around legislative delays in lowering juvenile criminal age (2026-10-27 08:13)

President Lee Jae Myung on Tuesday suggested exploring alternatives to lengthy legislative procedures as his administration moves toward a decision on the extent and scope of lowering the age of criminal responsibility. Lee made the suggestion during a closed-door session of a weekly Cabinet meeting, where the Justice Ministry presented its review of public opinion survey results on lowering the age threshold, according to senior presidential spokesperson Kang Yu-jung. The proposal revisits a lo

• Nuclear watchdog approves 10-year lifespan extension for Kori units 3, 4 (2026-10-27 08:10)

The country's nuclear watchdog decided Tuesday to extend the operational life of two nuclear reactors located on the country's southeastern coast by an additional 10 years. The approval by the Nuclear Safety and Security Commission came four years after the Korea Hydro & Nuclear Power Co., the state-run power operator, requested the agency review the restart of Kori units 3 and 4. The two pressurized water reactors of 1,025 megawatts gross capacity had stopped power generation after 40 years of

• Acom's 'Franz & Marie' reaches London stage after 18 years (2026-10-27 07:54)

South Korean production company Acom has opened "Franz & Marie" at Charing Cross Theatre in London — the culmination of an 18-year journey that began with a cold commission in 2007 and survived a pandemic, a composer's death, and repeated rejections from West End producers. Acom artistic director Yun Ho-jin, best known for creating the landmark South Korean musical "The Last Empress (1995)," commissioned the musical adaptation of Georg Buchner's "Woyzeck" in 2007, bringing on Chris Broderick, wh

• S. Korea withdraws 8 diplomatic personnel from Ukraine: FM Cho (2026-10-27 07:41)

Foreign Minister Cho Hyun said Tuesday that South Korea has withdrawn eight diplomatic personnel from Ukraine amid a dispute over Kyiv's disclosure of the transfer of two North Korean prisoners of war. Cho made the remarks during a parliamentary audit of the foreign ministry, saying that despite the partial withdrawal, he has continued communication with the Ukraine foreign minister to resolve the issue. South Korea recalled its ambassador to Ukraine, Park Ki-chang, earlier this month and decide

• Former ruling party leader calls US visa delay ‘very regrettable’ (2026-10-27 07:38)

A delay faced by Rep. Jung Chung-rae in receiving a US visa became the subject of a parliamentary dispute Tuesday, with the former ruling party leader criticizing Washington’s handling of his application. Opposition lawmakers, however, questioned whether the case reflected problems in Seoul-Washington relations. Jung, a former leader of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea, had planned to visit Washington for a parliamentary audit of the South Korean Embassy on Oct. 12. He was unable to attend b

• Woman sentenced to 10-month prison term for spitting at police officer at election rally (2026-10-27 07:38)

A court on Tuesday sentenced a woman to 10 months in prison for spitting at a police officer and assaulting others during rallies to protest ballot shortages in June's local elections. The 45-year-old, surnamed Kim, was accused of assaulting a total of five people, including the police officer who was trying to restrain her, during rallies outside the Olympic Park Handball Gymnasium in southeastern Seoul on June 22 and 23. The Seoul Eastern District Court convicted her of obstruction of official

• Top court holds hearing on new arrest warrant for jailed ex-first lady (2026-10-27 07:28)

The Supreme Court convened a hearing Tuesday to decide whether to issue a new arrest warrant for jailed former first lady Kim Keon Hee to continue to keep her in custody. The hearing took place at the top court after special counsel Min Joong-ki's team requested the warrant for Kim, the wife of former President Yoon Suk Yeol. Kim is currently standing trial at the Supreme Court in two separate cases -- the first on corruption charges and the other on bribery-related charges. Min's team requested

• Seoul shares surge 3% on renewed AI optimism, easing oil prices (2026-10-27 07:12)

Seoul shares closed higher Tuesday, led by gains in technology shares, as renewed optimism over artificial intelligence and falling oil prices boosted risk appetite. The Korean won strengthened against the US dollar. The benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index gained 168.87 points, or 3.09 percent, to close at 5,638.34. As the market rallied on strong foreign buying, the Korea Exchange activated a buy-side sidecar at 10:13 a.m., suspending buy orders in program trading for KOSPI-listed share

• After three delays, is Korea ready to tax crypto? (2026-10-27 06:47)

Six years, three delays and now another wait? South Korea is due to start taxing cryptocurrency income in January, but exchanges, investors and lawmakers are again asking for more time. " Even the experts don't know how we should pay the tax," said Cho Sang-hyuk, who runs the Fireant Crypto community and is campaigning for a delay. "I've paid for consultations with tax accounting firms, but they still tell me we'll have to wait until the rules take effect." Cho filed a petition calling for a two-

• Moreno to name squad for November friendlies Wednesday (2026-10-27 06:26)

South Korea interim coach Robert Moreno will announce his squad Wednesday for the national team's final friendlies of the year, with attention focused on his choices ahead of next month's Middle East trip. Moreno will hold a news conference at Korea Football Park in Cheonan to unveil the squad for matches against Saudi Arabia and Qatar in Doha on Nov. 13 and 17. National team rosters are usually announced on the Monday a week before an international window, but Moreno will reveal his list four d

• How Hanwha Aerospace made Changwon a launchpad for global defense expansion (2026-10-27 06:25)

CHANGWON, South Gyeongsang Province — At a sprawling manufacturing complex in South Korea's southeastern industrial heartland, the future of arms exports takes shape in a place built for technologies of the past. Once developed to manufacture conventional military hardware under South Korea's push for self-reliance in the 1970s, Changwon now sits at the center of Hanwha Aerospace's ambitions to build a new defense ecosystem powered by artificial intelligence, robotic production lines and uncrewe

• AmCham stresses workforce training, risk management in AI transition (2026-10-27 06:25)

The American Chamber of Commerce in Korea stressed that businesses must invest in workforce training and risk management to turn artificial intelligence adoption into lasting productivity gains. The message was delivered at AmCham's HR Workshop 2026, held Tuesday at the Grand Hyatt Seoul, where around 100 business leaders and industry experts discussed how companies can integrate AI into daily operations while managing organizational and legal risks. "Having the tools is only the beginning. Empl

• Daiso breaks ground on W600b logistics hub in Yangju (2026-10-27 06:25)

Asung Daiso has begun construction of a 600 billion won ($453 million) logistics center in Yangju, Gyeonggi Province, its largest to date, as the South Korean fixed-price retailer expands its distribution network to meet growing demand from stores and online shoppers. The company held a groundbreaking ceremony Monday at the Yangju Eunnam General Industrial Complex, attended by about 400 people, including Asung Daiso Chairman Park Jeong-bu and Yangju Mayor Jeong Deok-yeong. Scheduled for completi

• Four years on, Lee Jae-yong steers Samsung from chip slump to AI boom (2026-10-27 06:18)

Samsung Electronics Chairman Lee Jae-yong marked four years in the role on Tuesday with the company forecasting its biggest quarterly profit, a dramatic reversal from the semiconductor downturn that engulfed the early months of his tenure. Lee is now focused on strengthening Samsung’s technological lead and pursuing growth in robotics, automotive electronics and artificial intelligence-powered manufacturing as the memory business rebounds. No anniversary ceremony or special message was planned.

• Seoul says Kim's China visit may have involved discussions on US-N. Korea dialogue (2026-10-27 06:14)

South Korean Foreign Minister Cho Hyun said Tuesday that North Korea and China may have discussed the possibility of US-North Korea dialogue during the North Korean leader's visit to the Chinese border city of Dandong last week. Speaking at a parliamentary audit of the National Assembly's Foreign Affairs and Unification Committee, Cho acknowledged the possibility that the two countries had exchanged views on the potential talks, particularly given the presence of a senior Chinese diplomat respon

• Chip boom drives Korea's surprise 1% GDP growth in Q3 (2026-10-27 06:12)

South Korea's economy grew more than three times faster than expected in the third quarter, powered by booming semiconductor exports and investment, raising the prospect of a significant upgrade to the country's annual growth outlook. Real gross domestic product expanded 1 percent from the previous quarter, far exceeding the Bank of Korea's August forecast of 0.3 percent, preliminary data showed Tuesday. The unrounded growth rate was 0.97 percent. The surprise expansion puts the economy on track

• Fan accused of racist taunt toward Son Heung-min after MLS match (2026-10-27 06:10)

A video showing a spectator shouting a racially charged remark at South Korea captain Son Heung-min of LAFC after an MLS match has sparked criticism. The New York Post reported Monday that an LAFC fan was seen shouting a racist remark at Son following an MLS match. The incident occurred after LAFC's 2-2 draw with the LA Galaxy at BMO Stadium in Los Angeles on Sunday. In a video posted on social media, a spectator wearing an LAFC jersey repeatedly shouts "ni hao," Chinese for "hello," at Son as h

• Oh Hyeon-gyu scores winner 11 minutes after coming on as Besiktas wins 2-0 (2026-10-27 06:10)

Oh Hyeon-gyu scored the winning goal 11 minutes after coming off the bench as Besiktas beat Basaksehir 2-0 in the Turkish Super Lig on Monday. The goal came as competition for places up front on the South Korean national team intensified ahead of next month's two away friendlies, with Cho Gue-sung also scoring recently for Midtjylland. Oh began the match on the bench and entered in the 65th minute in place of Wilfred Ndidi. One minute after coming on, he forced a save with a right-footed long-ra

• Hoseo University brings Uzbek delegation to Korean semiconductor manufacturer (2026-10-27 06:10)

Uzbek government officials and university professors visited semiconductor substrate manufacturer Simmtech in Cheongju, North Chungcheong Province, Tuesday as part of a training program focused on semiconductor packaging and industrial cooperation. The delegation toured the company’s headquarters and production facilities, where Simmtech officials introduced key production processes and explained how its manufacturing lines operate. The visit was arranged by Hoseo University’s Graduate School of

• Former US Open champion McDowell latest player to leave LIV Golf (2026-10-27 06:10)

Former US Open champion Graeme McDowell of Northern Ireland is leaving LIV Golf as the league faces growing uncertainty over its future. McDowell announced Monday that he had decided not to take part in LIV Golf's planned new structure, dubbed "LIV 2.0," which is targeted for launch next year. The veteran golfer has four PGA Tour wins, including the 2010 US Open, and 11 victories on the DP World Tour. He left the PGA Tour to join LIV Golf in 2022. McDowell has recently held talks with the DP Wor

• From Han River busking to Kintex crowds: Benson Boone comes full circle in Korea (2026-10-27 06:09)

GOYANG, Gyeonggi Province — Benson Boone didn't walk onto the stage for his latest Korean concert. He flipped onto it. Standing atop a grand piano as screams filled Kintex Exhibition Center 2 in Goyang on Monday, the 24-year-old American singer-songwriter launched himself into a backflip before kicking off “Sorry I’m Here for Someone Else.” It was a fitting

introduction to the energy-packed 100-minute show. Across 20 songs, Boone sprinted across the stage, threw himself into his signature backfl

• Hanwha Ocean Q3 profit surges 68% on high-margin ship orders (2026-10-27 06:04)

South Korean shipbuilder Hanwha Ocean said Tuesday that its third-quarter operating profit jumped 67.6 percent from a year earlier, driven by strong earnings and a recovery in its offshore energy business. Operating profit from July to September reached 485.7 billion won ($366.8 million), up from 289.8 billion won a year earlier, the company said in a regulatory filing. Revenue rose 12.9 percent on-year to 3.41 trillion won, while net profit plunged 46.1 percent to 145.1 billion won. The results

• Japanese investment group claims JYP takeover, raising questions over credibility (2026-10-27 06:03)

An obscure investment group claiming to be based in Japan sparked controversy in the K-pop industry Monday by announcing plans to acquire a controlling stake in JYP Entertainment. Questions remain over whether the group has the financial resources and corporate standing to carry out the deal. The unusual episode began when the Nexroc Group and SVCV Inc. announced plans to acquire between 25 percent and 50 percent of JYP's shares, with a potential public tender offer scheduled to begin Nov. 20. T

• Korea should save chip boom windfall for downturns: IDB economist (2026-10-27 05:58)

South Korea should set aside part of the revenue generated during the chip boom to cushion against future downturns, Laura Alfaro, chief economist and economic counselor of the Inter-American Development Bank, said Tuesday. Her remarks come as Korea moves to establish a 162 trillion won ($122 billion) Future Response Fund, which will channel additional tax revenue generated by the semiconductor boom into long-term investments while building reserves to offset future revenue shortfalls. While Alf

• Korean sunscreens go global as Kolmar-Goodai sales hit 100m (2026-10-27 05:54)

Korean sunscreens are gaining ground in global beauty markets, with products developed through a partnership between cosmetics manufacturer Kolmar Korea and beauty company Goodai Global surpassing 100 million units in cumulative sales over five years. The milestone, reached in March, highlights the growing appeal of Korean sunscreens that offer more than ultraviolet protection. Lightweight textures, minimal white cast and added skincare benefits have become key selling points overseas, helping t

• Hana Bank teams up with Banyan Tree Seoul to woo wealthy clients (2026-10-27 05:45)

Hana Bank has partnered with Banyan Tree Club & Spa Seoul to expand its wealth management offerings beyond financial services, targeting ultra-high-net-worth clients with exclusive lifestyle and family programs. The bank signed a memorandum of understanding Monday with Able Hyundai Hotel & Resort, which operates Banyan Tree Seoul, to jointly develop services spanning

dining, arts, culture and wellness. The signing ceremony was attended by Hana Bank President Lee Ho-sung and Able Hyundai Hotel &

• Taihan Cable's European orders top W500b with German deal (2026-10-27 05:45)

Taihan Cable & Solution has secured a turnkey contract to build a 380-kilovolt underground power transmission network in Germany through its Dutch subsidiary, strengthening its foothold in Europe's high-voltage infrastructure market. Under the agreement, Taihan Netherlands B.V. will handle engineering, construction and overall project management, while the South Korean parent company will supply high-voltage cables, joints and other key components. In a regulatory filing Tuesday, Taihan disclose

• Woman carried off Gangnam road by police after refusing to leave (2026-10-27 05:44)

A woman was carried off a busy road in Seoul’s southern Gangnam-gu by three police officers after refusing to move, a video circulating online showed Tuesday. The footage showed the woman walking in the middle of Gangnam-daero, holding a phone to her ear and speaking loudly as vehicles passed nearby. When police officers approached her, she sat down and then laid in the road. The officers tried to help her up, but she remained on the ground. Three officers eventually lifted her by her arms and l

• Forbes-featured Korean kids YouTuber accused of overwork, low pay (2026-10-27 05:44)

A former employee of the company behind popular children’s YouTube channel Hey Jini has accused it of imposing excessive workloads and disputing her occupational injury claim after she developed panic disorder. The woman, identified by the pseudonym Kim Min-hee, said she had worked long hours producing and managing the company’s Chinese-language channel. She said the Korea Workers’ Compensation and Welfare Service had recognized her condition as work-related. The Hey Jini channel, created by Kan

• Paik Jong-won pitches K-sauce to US distributors (2026-10-27 05:41)

The Born Korea is stepping up efforts to bring its TBK sauces to the US market, with CEO Paik Jong-won pitching the products to major Asian food distributors as the company seeks to expand beyond its restaurant business. Paik held three product presentations and cooking demonstrations for JFC International and Wismettac Asian Foods, exploring potential partnerships in distribution and product development. JFC, an affiliate of Japan's Kikkoman Group, distributes more than 15,000 Japanese and othe

• Why picking up acorns in the woods is a big no-no (2026-10-27 05:37)

Acorns and chestnuts are popular ingredients in Korean dishes and snacks, but collecting them without permission in parks and forests can lead to fines or criminal penalties. Authorities are stepping up enforcement during the autumn harvest season, when hikers and other visitors gather forest products. The Korea National Park Service is monitoring unauthorized collection in national parks, while the Korea Forest Service is cracking down on illegal activities in forests. In

southern Seoul, Gangna

• KGC highlights red ginseng extract as temperatures drop (2026-10-27 05:36)

KGC is promoting JungKwanJang's flagship red ginseng extract, Hong Sam Jung, as colder weather draws renewed attention to immune health and daily wellness. As temperatures fluctuate and mornings and evenings grow colder, maintaining healthy habits such as adequate sleep, balanced meals and regular exercise becomes increasingly important. Hong Sam Jung, made entirely from domestically grown 6-year-old red ginseng, is one of JungKwanJang's signature products and the star of its red ginseng lineup.

• Samsung Wallet taps Tencent to expand payments in China (2026-10-27 05:36)

Samsung Electronics is introducing QR code payments in China through Samsung Wallet Money, allowing Korean users to use WeChat Pay without setting up a separate payment service. The company signed a memorandum of understanding with Tencent and Woori Bank at Tencent's headquarters in Shenzhen, China, on Monday. The signing ceremony was attended by Chai Won-cheol, vice president and head of Samsung Electronics' Digital Wallet Team under its Mobile eXperience Business; Daniel Hong, vice president o

• Shinhan Financial eyes early ROE target as profit climbs (2026-10-27 05:32)

Shinhan Financial Group is on course to achieve its 10 percent return on equity target a year ahead of schedule, after posting double-digit profit growth in the first nine months of 2026. The banking group reported Tuesday that cumulative net profit rose 12.7 percent year-on-year to 5.03 trillion won ($3.8 billion), driven by stronger interest and fee income. Return on equity reached 11.9 percent at the end of September, up about 0.9 percentage point from a year earlier and above the group's 10

• Stella Artois unveils ‘invisible’ billboard campaign in Seoul (2026-10-27 05:25)

Belgian beer brand Stella Artois has launched an outdoor advertising campaign in Seoul that creates the illusion of transparent digital billboards to promote its new Pure Gold lager, its Korean distributor Oriental Brewery said Tuesday. Instead of conventional graphics, the ads replicate the windows and exterior walls of the buildings behind the screens, making the displays appear to disappear into their surroundings. A large 3D image of Pure Gold stands out against the re-created facades, putti

• LG Energy Solution eyes 2 GWh ESS supply deal with Israel's Energix (2026-10-27 05:24)

LG Energy Solution said Tuueday it had signed a nonbinding agreement with Israeli renewable energy developer Energix to supply 2 gigawatt-hours of energy storage systems across Europe and North America over the next two years. Under the memorandum of understanding, signed at LG Energy Solution's headquarters in Yeouido, Seoul, the company plans to supply 1.5 GWh of ESS capacity in Europe and 0.5 GWh in North America within 24 months. The partners will also explore expanding the total supply volu

• Amazon doubles down on K-beauty’s next leap in US (2026-10-27 05:21)

Amazon has become the front door for Korean beauty companies in the US, and the e-commerce giant now plans to welcome more and open new rooms for those already inside. Amazon Global Selling Korea, the local arm of Amazon’s cross-border selling business, unveiled new initiatives Tuesday at Amazon Beauty in Seoul 2026 to build on Korean beauty’s presence in the US. "Amazon Global Selling Korea will carry out four core projects in 2027 with K-beauty sellers to secure leadership in the global market

• Anthropic IPO puts Korean tech firms' early bets in spotlight (2026-10-27 05:21)

Anthropic's planned Nasdaq listing could deliver substantial valuation gains to South Korean tech companies that invested in the US artificial intelligence startup, with SK Telecom emerging as a key potential beneficiary. The developer of the Claude AI chatbot filed for an initial public offering with the US Securities and Exchange Commission on Monday, targeting a Nasdaq debut under the ticker "ANT" as early as November. Anthropic is reportedly seeking to raise as much as $100 billion at a valu

• Should prayers be allowed anywhere? (2026-10-27 05:10)

Photos showing three men who appeared to be praying outside a highway rest stop’s food court have drawn mixed reactions online over religious activity in shared spaces. The two photos were posted Sunday on the online community Bobaedream. The user who shared the photos said the men had taken off their shoes and begun bowing in front of the food court. The images feature three men facing the same direction, one kneeling while the others bend forward with their heads toward the floor. Their postur

• Luxury takes a seat at K-cafes (2026-10-27 05:07)

Seoul-based cafes are emerging as venues for luxury brands to engage with Korean consumers through limited-edition collaborations that extend beyond traditional fashion retail. This fall, Italian fashion house Bottega Veneta and French luxury brand Maison Margiela are partnering with local Korean cafes, bringing their brand identities into everyday consumer settings. South Korea ranked first globally in per capita spending on personal luxury goods in 2024, at approximately $324 per person annual

• Most Koreans aged 60-74 don’t consider themselves old: survey (2026-10-27 05:00)

Many South Koreans approaching or past retirement age don’t consider themselves old and want more opportunities to participate in society, a survey showed Tuesday, as the country grapples with a rapidly aging population. Nearly 76 percent of respondents aged 60 to 74 said they did not see themselves as old, according to the survey commissioned by the Hankyoreh Economy & Society Research Institute. The figure rose to 83.4 percent among those in their 60s. When asked what determines whether someon

• Taekwondo festival to bring 40 countries together in Gangnam (2026-10-27 04:48)

Some 900 people from about 40 countries will gather at Kukkiwon, the World Taekwondo Headquarters in southern Seoul, on Saturday for a festival featuring competitions and Korean cultural activities. The 2026 Foreigner Taekwondo Exhibition Festival will run from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Kukkiwon in Gangnam-gu. Participants include US Forces Korea personnel, international students, foreign workers and members of multicultural families, according to Gangnam-gu Office. Organized by Gangnam-gu and Kukk

• Lee says Korea must learn from Europe’s unrest, rooted in low growth (2026-10-27 04:48)

President Lee Jae Myung said Tuesday that low economic growth was the root cause of social unrest across Europe, and that South Korea must learn from the turmoil. His remarks came as Europe grappled with a wave of protests stretching from Albania to Belgium, Italy, Portugal and Spain, alongside mass demonstrations in France, where thousands of people have been arrested in recent weeks. The grievances vary across the continent, ranging from rising living costs and strained public services in Fran

• Seoul to dip to 2 C Wednesday as autumn cold snap hits Korea (2026-10-27 04:44)

South Korea is bracing for a sharp drop in temperatures Wednesday, with Seoul expected to wake up to just 2 degrees Celsius and parts of the country dipping below freezing as an autumn cold snap sweeps across the peninsula. According to the Korea Meteorological Administration, Wednesday's morning temperatures will range from minus 2 to 7 C nationwide, falling 5-10 C from Tuesday. Strong winds will make conditions feel even colder, with daytime highs reaching only 11-16 C. Seoul, Incheon and Suwo

• Turks and Koreans chose to rebuild: envoy (2026-10-27 04:37)

South Korea and Turkey should expand cooperation in defense, energy and advanced technologies as bilateral ties gain fresh momentum, Turkey’s new ambassador to Seoul, Fatih Yildiz, said Monday. Speaking at an event in Seoul marking the 103rd anniversary of the proclamation of the Republic of Turkey, Yildiz highlighted the longstanding ties between the two countries and called for deeper cooperation in strategic industries. Turkey supported South Korea during the 1950-53 Korean War, and the two c

• MDL issue requires concessions unlikely from either side: experts (2026-10-27 03:29)

South Korea's push for military talks with North Korea over the Military Demarcation Line faces a basic problem: Agreeing on where the line lies could require one of two sides that have faced each other across it for more than seven decades to concede ground to the other, experts said Monday. Nam Sung-wook, a professor of North Korean studies at Korea University, said the issue was difficult because settling the precise location of the military line would inevitably require one side to accept at

• Trump administration loses push to block California votes from alleged noncitizens (2026-10-27 03:25)

A US appeals court on Monday ruled against President Donald Trump's administration in a major voting dispute ahead of the midterm elections, denying a request to block California from counting mail ballots from people on a list of more than 20,000 registered voters the federal government alleges are likely noncitizens. The 2-1 decision by the San Francisco-based 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals marked the latest setback in Trump's efforts to assert a greater federal role in overseeing elections

- Seventeen’s Junghan, Joshua reign on Oricon charts (2026-10-27 02:47)

Junghan and Joshua of Seventeen topped Oricon’s Weekly Album ranking with their first EP as a subunit, “Dreamscape,” said agency Pledis Entertainment, citing the latest ranking. The duo climbed the Daily Album ranking for two days upon release before claiming the top spot on the weekly tally. The EP sold more than 800,000 copies in its first week, after logging 650,000 units on the day of release, a record in Korea for a subunit. On Oct. 30, the two will begin touring Asia, starting with a three

- Gas prices under Trump edge past Biden's as midterms loom (2026-10-27 02:46)

HOUSTON (Reuters) -- Americans have paid more for their gasoline and diesel at the pump on average during President Donald Trump's second term than they did under his Democratic predecessor, Joe Biden, according to the AAA. Surging fuel prices are a major thorn in Trump's side as midterm elections loom and the Republican Party looks to defend narrow majorities in both legislative chambers on Nov. 3. The price of a gallon of regular gasoline has averaged $3.472 a gallon since Trump took offi

- Microsoft offers voluntary exit packages to 60,000 staff (2026-10-27 02:43)

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) -- Microsoft is offering voluntary buyouts to about 60,000 employees, the company said Monday, roughly a quarter of its workforce, as the tech giant seeks to cut costs while pouring money into artificial intelligence. Staff on select teams in the United States, Canada, India and Britain at vice president level and below will be eligible, a Microsoft spokesperson said, while some groups of employees, including some working on data centers, sales and marketing, are excluded. "T

- US, Canada working on deal to ease steel, auto tariffs (2026-10-27 02:42)

OTTAWA (Reuters) -- The United States and Canada are working on a deal to ease US tariffs on Canadian steel and autos, two US and four Canadian sources said, as the two governments try to repair relations that soured after trade talks broke down in August. The talks focus on tariffs imposed under Section 232 of US trade law, including up to 50 percent tariff on Canadian steel and a 25 percent tariff on autos, with negotiators discussing potential relief from those duties. Just 32 percent of Ame

- Foreign tourists get free palace entry, up to 25% off duty-free shopping during Korea Grand Festival (2026-10-27 02:39)

Foreign visitors to Korea can tour the country’ s main royal palaces for free and get up to 25 percent off at duty-free shops during the second Korea Grand Festival, which runs from Thursday through Nov. 15, the government said Tuesday. The four main palaces of the Joseon era (1392–1910) — Gyeongbokgung, Changdeokgung, Deoksugung and Changgyeonggung — will be free to enter, along with Jongmyo Shrine and the Joseon royal tombs. K-Heritage stores at the palaces will sell cultural goods at 10 percen

• Special counsel searches Seoul handball arena in ballot shortage probe (2026-10-27 02:38)

A special counsel team on Tuesday searched a handball arena that served as a vote counting center earlier this year as part of a probe into an unprecedented shortage of ballots during the June 3 local elections. Special counsel Lee Tae-han sent investigators to execute a search-and-seizure warrant at the Olympic Park Handball Gymnasium in southeastern Seoul, to secure election records and surveillance camera footage. It marked the special counsel team's first search and seizure of the arena sinc

• Anthropic points to AI dangers, soaring sales in IPO filing (2026-10-27 02:36)

WASHINGTON (AFP) -- Anthropic, one of the world's leading artificial intelligence companies, on Monday made public its plans to sell shares on the stock market, revealing soaring sales but also potentially dire safety risks in a major test of whether the AI boom can deliver profits. Its filing warns investors of dangers ranging from its conflict with the Trump administration to AI systems acting on their own, alongside huge spending commitments on computing power. The listing would be the first

• Ex-FBI chief and Trump critic James Comey hit with fresh charges (2026-10-27 02:36)

Former FBI director James Comey has been charged with allegedly disclosing national defense information, the third criminal case brought against the outspoken critic of US President Donald Trump. In a criminal complaint unsealed on Monday, Comey is accused of communicating the information in October 2016, when he was head of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, to a " person not entitled to receive it." Comey was charged in September 2025 with making false statements to Congress and obstructing a

• Netanyahu touts Trump endorsement (2026-10-27 02:35)

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu boasted of his endorsement from Donald Trump on the eve of Israel's election, suggesting the two leaders could restart their war against Iran if he wins, after Trump said they should "finish the job." "US President Donald Trump has come with a friendship that has never existed before between an Israeli prime minister and an American president. And it is doubtful we will ever have such a friendly president again," Netanyahu said in a televised appearance

• Saudi defense pact countries push for peace in Tehran (2026-10-27 02:34)

Top officials from Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Pakistan met Iranian officials in Tehran on Monday in a bid to deescalate the Middle East conflict, as Yemen's Houthis launched new attacks on Saudi Arabia and Egypt approved defense support for the Gulf kingdom. The talks were the first high-level contact between Iran and the three nations — which signed the Mecca mutual defence pact in August — since a war that began with US and Israeli strikes on Iran also spread to Saudi Arabia and Yemen. Saudi A

• UN probe accuses Israel of 'extermination' in West Bank (2026-10-27 02:31)

Israel has committed the crime against humanity of "extermination" in the West Bank, while continuing to commit "genocide" against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, United Nations-mandated investigators said Monday. The UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry said Israeli forces had also committed other crimes against humanity and war crimes in the West Bank, which Israel has occupied since 1967. The commission, which does not speak for the UN itself, first determined in a September 202

• P1Harmony to release 10th EP in November (2026-10-27 02:30)

P1Harmony is set to release its 10th EP, “Blow Up,” on Nov. 6, agency FNC Entertainment said Tuesday. With the new album, the group returns to the superhero-themed narrative it has built up since its debut, with all six members returning to carry out the final mission. The group made its debut in October 2020 via a film in which the bandmates assemble in a dystopian setting in search of hope. The latest mini album is the group's first new material in about eight months, since its ninth EP “Uniqu

• Russian attack on Kyiv kills one, injures 10, hits educational institution, metro station (2026-10-27 02:29)

A Russian missile attack on the Ukrainian capital Kyiv on Monday killed at least one person and injured 10, including students at a dormitory, officials said. The late-evening attack hit an educational institution, residences, an underground station and medical facilities. Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko, writing on Telegram, said one person had been killed near a supermarket. Ukraine's state rescue services said a body was found by a heavily damaged apartment building. Klitschko put the number of

• Le Sserafim exceeds 100m Spotify streams with ‘Boompala’ (2026-10-27 02:16)

Le Sserafim has generated 100 million streams on Spotify with the single “Boompala” as of Sunday, Source Music announced Tuesday. It is the group's 18th song to achieve the feat. “Boompala” was released in May as the main track for its second full-length album, “Pureflow Pt. 1.” The Latin house number sampling “Macarena” made No. 10 on Billboard’s Bubbling Under Hot 100 and No. 177 on Spotify’s Daily Top Songs Global Chart. The album entered the Billboard 200 at No. 10, becoming the quintet’s fi

• Trump says Brazil election looked rigged (2026-10-27 01:53)

US President Donald Trump said Monday that leftist incumbent Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's surprise win in Brazil's presidential vote "looked like another rigged election," although the party of defeated right-winger Flavio Bolsonaro later acknowledged the result. The son of former President Jair Bolsonaro, Flavio Bolsonaro has refused to concede defeat in Sunday's presidential election, saying he would seek the annulment of Lula's victory after the Supreme Court extended voting by two hours. Lat

• Rubio to host G20 foreign ministers' meeting in Atlanta (2026-10-27 01:45)

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio will host a Group of 20 foreign ministers' meeting in Atlanta this week to discuss ways to advance cooperation on shared economic and security challenges, his office said Monday. Rubio will travel to Atlanta to host the two-day meeting starting Friday, the State Department said in a release, adding that Washington will work with G20 partners "to address geopolitical crises contributing to global economic shocks, including threats to freedom of navigation, energy

• With military service on horizon, pitcher hoping to leave Tigers on positive note (2026-10-27 01:45)

baseball-pitcher With military service on horizon, pitcher hoping to leave Tigers on positive note By Yoo Jee-ho DAEGU, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- Over the past three seasons, Kia Tigers reliever Jung Hai-young has gone from one of the top closers in South Korean baseball to a pitcher who could no longer be trusted in key spots. The fall has been jarring. In 2024, Jung became the first closer to top the All-Star fan voting in Korea Baseball Organization (KBO) history. He led the league with 31 saves th

• France promises to replace university admissions system (2026-10-27 01:44)

France’s government pledged Monday to replace its national online university admissions platform by 2028, seeking to quell student anger after weeks of often violent mass protests over education and living costs. Higher Education Minister Philippe Baptiste announced “substantial change” to the platform for 2027, before its replacement the following year. Ministers also pledged up to 4 billion euros ($4.5 billion) in low-interest loans for school renovations, alongside smaller classes, additional

• 48 riot police units to be deployed during inspection of local election ballots (2026-10-27 01:44)

Forty-eight riot police units will be deployed to maintain order during a special counsel team's inspection of ballots cast in the June 3 local elections, the Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency said Tuesday. Special counsel Lee Tae-han's team is set to visit the Olympic Park Handball Gymnasium in southeastern Seoul on Wednesday to examine 2.47 million ballots, surveillance camera footage and other material, as part of its probe into an unprecedented shortage of ballots during the local elections.

• Blackpink’s Jisoo to drop 2nd prerelease from 1st solo LP (2026-10-27 01:15)

Jisoo of Blackpink is releasing a second single from her first solo studio album on Friday, ahead of full album rollout, her agency Blissoo announced Tuesday. A teaser image for the prerelease “Addicted” captured her peeking from behind a black shimmering curtain, with her long mane and pointy fingernails all polished up in jet black as well. The artist put out “Click,” the first song from the upcoming solo LP, in September, topping iTunes songs charts in nine regions and debuting on Spotify’s d

• Kane becomes first Englishman in 25 years to win Ballon d'Or, Putellas wins third (2026-10-27 00:45)

LONDON (AP) -- Harry Kane became the first Englishman in 25 years to win the Ballon d'Or on Monday after a prolific scoring season for club and country. Kane scored 73 goals for club and country last season, finishing as Europe's top scorer and breaking records in Germany and at the World Cup, where he captained England to a third-place finish. The Bayern Munich star said the achievement was built on much more than goals. "Anything is possible with hard work, when no one else is watching, to go

• Seoul stocks open higher on Wall Street gains, renewed AI optimism (2026-10-27 00:33)

South Korean stocks opened higher Tuesday, tracking overnight gains on Wall Street, as renewed optimism over artificial intelligence and easing oil prices lifted investor sentiment. The benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index rose 189.18 points, or 3.46 percent, to 5,658.65 as of 9:15 a.m. Overnight, the Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 0.28 percent, while the S&P 500 advanced 0.7 percent and the tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite climbed 0.82 percent. Investor sentiment improved after AI startu

• S. Korea's GDP expands 1% in Q3 on strong exports, investment: BOK (2026-10-27 00:09)

Strong semiconductor-led exports and investment drove South Korea's economy to grow faster than expected by 1 percent in the third quarter from a quarter earlier, putting annual growth of 3.6 percent within reach, central bank data showed Tuesday. The country's real gross domestic product -- a key measure of economic growth -- rose 1 percent in the July-September period from three months earlier, according to advance data from the Bank of Korea. The third-quarter reading marked an increase from

• [Lim Woong] Stop saying these things about AI (2026-10-26 20:30)

President Lee Jae Myung recently took to social media to rebut critics of a new practice: having the country's top investigators and prosecutors sit in on his Cabinet meetings. His evidence was an exchange with Gemini, Google's generative artificial intelligence. According to the post, the chatbot labeled the objection as sophistry that “flatly denies” the president's constitutional authority to supervise the executive branch. It went further, warning that barring investigators from the room wou

• [Lee Jae-min] New dress code, new stress (2026-10-26 20:30)

Interviews are always stressful. Schools and jobs are on the line, and you have to show the best version of yourself in that exact moment. I have had my own share of interviews over the years. I still vividly remember every detail of my very first one for the Foreign Ministry, back in March 1992, right out of college. Here is the thing: among various sources of stress that day, what stood out most was the attire. What should I wear? What shoes? What tie color? As a young man fresh out of college

• Marvel heroes to light up Han River in Seoul's final drone show of year (2026-10-26 12:32)

Two thousand drones will illuminate the sky above Ttukseom Hangang Park on Saturday, bringing Marvel characters and movie scenes to the Han River for Seoul's final drone light show of the year. The 15-minute performance will begin at 8:30 p.m. on Saturday, featuring Iron Man and other Marvel characters in formations synchronized with music, according to the Seoul Metropolitan Government. It will use the largest number of drones deployed for the city's Han River show. Visitors arriving early can

• KB Kookmin Bank finds 2,091 more people affected by data leak (2026-10-26 12:20)

KB Kookmin Bank said Monday an additional 2,091 people were found to have had their personal information compromised in a hacking incident early this month. The discovery increased the total number of people affected to 2,210 after 119 people were confirmed on Oct. 2 to have had their personal data leaked. The additional people comprise 1,631 customers and 460 company executives and employees, the bank said. The increase was not caused by any additional hacking attacks and was discovered through

• Seoul pet festival brings adoption, play and conversations on loss (2026-10-26 11:49)

Rescue dogs will walk a red carpet in search of new families and pet owners can join conversations about saying goodbye to their animal companions at a Seoul festival on Saturday. The inaugural Seoul Daengnyang Days will take place at Oil Tank Culture Park in Mapo-gu on Oct. 31, featuring performances, hands-on activities and programs exploring life with pets, according to the Seoul Metropolitan Government. Among the highlights is a red-carpet adoption event from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m., where rescu

• 'Signal' Season 2 reportedly set for December return, tvN says date unconfirmed (2026-10-26 09:03)

Hit K-drama "Signal" is reportedly set to return for a sequel in December, though broadcaster tvN said Monday that no premiere date has been confirmed. According to local reports, "Signal" Season 2 is slated to premiere on Dec. 7 as part of tvN's Monday-Tuesday drama lineup. However, the broadcaster dismissed the reports. "Nothing has been decided," tvN told The Korea Herald regarding the series' premiere date. First aired in 2016, "Signal" is a fantasy crime thriller about detectives from the p

• Illit returns with 'Break Even,' turning heartbreak into defiance (2026-10-26 09:02)

Illit's return Monday marks a shift from the group's earlier portrayals of innocent crushes toward a more assertive approach to romance. The five-member group, currently promoting as a quartet while Moka remains on hiatus, introduced its fifth EP, "Break Even," at a media showcase in Seoul ahead of its 6 p.m. release. The EP's electro-pop lead single "You’re Under Arrest" was unveiled at the group's recent encore concert in Seoul. Its lyrics playfully accuse someone of committing the "crime" of

• US visitor visa refusal rate for Koreans jumps to nearly 25% (2026-10-26 08:58)

The proportion of South Korean applicants denied US visitor visas surged to nearly 25 percent last year, exceeding refusal rates for applicants from several other major countries. Foreign Ministry officials suggested that tighter screening amid heightened political debate over immigration in the US may have contributed to the increase. Rep. Kim Dai-sik of the opposition People Power Party questioned whether bilateral relations had also played a role. According to ministry data released by Kim on

• In one Korean county, 1 in 3 young people have migrant backgrounds (2026-10-26 08:48)

Nearly one in three residents aged 24 or younger in Goseong, Gangwon Province, had a migrant background last year, the highest share nationwide and more than four times the national average, government data showed Monday. According to the Ministry of Data and Statistics’ 2025 report on the migrant-background population, 1,402 of Goseong County’s 4,429 residents in that age group had migrant backgrounds as of Nov. 1, 2025. They accounted for 31.7 percent, compared with 7.7 percent nationwide. Of

• 'My Wish' envisions culture leading to world peace (2026-10-26 08:18)

“I want our nation to become the most beautiful nation in the world... I do not want our nation to become the richest and powerful nation in the world. Because I have felt the pain of being invaded by another nation. I do not want my nation to invade others. It is sufficient that our wealth is such that it makes our lives abundant and our military strength such that it is able to repel others' invasion. The only thing that I desire in infinite quantity is the power of a highly-developed culture.

• Late poets Yoon Dong-ju, Kim Nam-jo receive Korea’s highest cultural honor (2026-10-26 08:15)

Yoon Dong-ju, one of Korea’s most beloved poets, whose introspective Korean-language poetry captured the pain of life under Japanese colonial rule, and Kim Nam-jo, one of the most prominent female poets of postwar Korea, were posthumously awarded the Geumgwan Order of Cultural Merit, the country’s highest cultural honor, on Monday. Born in 1917 in Longjing, in what is now China’s Jilin province, Yoon graduated from Yonhi College, now Yonsei University, in 1941 and went to study in Japan, first a

• How Kim Koo is remembered (2026-10-26 08:11)

Democratic Party of Korea Rep. Kim Yong-man's office is filled with memorabilia related to independence activist Kim Koo. The first-term legislator, who represents Hanam-eul, Gyeonggi Province, occupies room No. 815 of the National Assembly Members' Office Building. The number evokes Korea's Liberation Day, Aug. 15. The references to Kim Koo and Korean independence are only natural: Kim Yong-man, 40, is a great-grandson of Kim Koo. There is even a slight physical resemblance between the two. "I

• Late Kim Sae-ron's mother, family lawyer referred to prosecutors in Kim Soo-hyun case (2026-10-26 08:03)

The mother of late actor Kim Sae-ron and the bereaved family's lawyer have been referred to prosecutors on suspicion of defaming actor Kim Soo-hyun, his agency said Monday. Kim Soo-hyun's agency, Gold Medalist, said the two were referred to the Public Prosecution Service without detention following police investigations into criminal complaints filed by the actor and the agency. The dispute began in March 2025, when Kim Sae-ron's family and the YouTube channel HoverLab alleged that Kim Soo-hyun

• Seoul's zombie-themed bus tour sparks online buzz (2026-10-26 07:46)

With blood smeared across their faces and clothes, zombies roam the streets of downtown Seoul, creeping toward a sightseeing bus filled with tourists. As the bus makes its way through the city, the bloodied figures prowl around the vehicle, with some suddenly climbing aboard and rushing toward passengers. Others emerge from sidewalks, startling people waiting for the bus and turning an ordinary sightseeing trip into a scene straight out of a horror movie. The staged zombie attacks are part of a

• Alpha Drive One's Geonwoo seeks court ruling on contract with WakeOne (2026-10-26 07:46)

Alpha Drive One member Geonwoo has reportedly filed a lawsuit against his agency, WakeOne, asking a court to clarify his contractual status after about six months on hiatus. According to local media reports on Sunday, the suit seeks to clarify his rights and obligations under his exclusive contract, rather than necessarily terminate it. The dispute is believed to center on his future with the group, from which he has been on an indefinite hiatus since April. Geonwoo suspended activities followin

• 'Superstar K' set to return in 2027: reports (2026-10-26 07:42)

One of South Korea's most popular audition shows, "Superstar K," is set to return in 2027, 11 years after its last season, according to local reports. Mnet reportedly plans to resurrect the series in 2027, with open recruitment slated to begin next month. The production aims to accept contestants regardless of age, gender, style, or citizenship. The season is tentatively titled "Superstar K 2027." Debuting in 2009, "Superstar K" launched a nationwide craze for TV auditions via large-scale open t

• Koreans struggle more with everyday physical tasks after 75: report (2026-10-26 07:42)

At what age do everyday tasks like climbing stairs, squatting or getting up from a chair start to feel harder? A government report says that, for South Koreans, physical functioning begins to decline more noticeably in the mid-70s. The average score on the Life Functioning Scale-10, which measures how easily older adults can perform everyday activities, fell more sharply from age 75 onward, according to a recent report by the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency. The average score was 92.

• Seoul shares dip over 1% ahead of earnings reports, Fed decision (2026-10-26 07:05)

Seoul shares ended lower Monday, tracking losses on Wall Street, as investors remained cautious ahead of third-quarter earnings reports from major chipmakers and the US Federal Reserve's rate decision later this week. The Korean won rose against the US dollar. After opening 0.92 percent lower, the benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index extended its losses to close down 80.83 points, or 1.46 percent, at 5,469.47. Trade volume was light at 190.46 million shares worth 12.01 trillion won ($9.08

• Lee backs CPTPP entry but rejects unfair burden on farmers, fishers (2026-10-26 06:35)

Joining a major trans-Pacific trade pact is essential for South Korea, but farmers and fishers will not be left to weather the fallout without support, President Lee Jae Myung said Monday. "We must no longer unilaterally force losses and suffering on those who lack power or are few in number," Lee said Monday during a meeting with around 110 farmers and fishers at Cheong Wa Dae in Seoul. It marked the first time in eight years that a sitting South Korean president had met with a large group of f

• Hyundai Motor scales back US production shift after union talks (2026-10-26 06:32)

Hyundai Motor and its labor union agreed to reduce planned US production relocation to 74,000 units from its Ulsan plant to secure domestic employment, resolving monthslong negotiations over facility reconstruction. According to media reports Monday, Hyundai’s management and its union signed an agreement outlined by the employment stability committee, mapping out volume transfer and workforce relocation tied to the reconstruction of Ulsan plant one and line two of plant four. A primary focus of

• Samsung's Hong Ra-hee honored for decades of philanthropy (2026-10-26 06:30)

Hong Ra-hee, honorary director of the Leeum Museum of Art and widow of the late Samsung Group Chairman Lee Kun-hee, was awarded the Dongbaek Medal of the Order of Civil Merit on Monday for more than four decades of philanthropy spanning arts, health care and social welfare. The Dongbaek Medal is the third-highest of five grades of the Order of Civil Merit, a government honor recognizing contributions to public welfare and national development. Hong previously received a gold-level humanitarian a

• Inside Henkel's Korean factory making adhesives for AI chips (2026-10-26 06:20)

SONGDO, Incheon — Inside a tightly controlled factory in Songdo, German chemicals giant Henkel is producing a critical but often overlooked ingredient in AI chips: semiconductor adhesives. Workers in cleanroom suits operate mixing equipment under strict temperature and humidity controls. Some rooms glow yellow, with ultraviolet light filtered out to prevent unwanted chemical reactions. The materials produced here help hold chips together, protect delicate connections and dissipate heat — increas

• Deutsch Motors' profit rises 25% on strong BYD sales (2026-10-26 06:13)

South Korean auto dealer Deutsch Motors reported a 25.4 percent rise in operating profit for the first nine months of 2026, buoyed by growing sales of Chinese electric vehicles from BYD and improved performance across its subsidiaries, the company said Monday. Consolidated operating profit climbed to 35.1 billion won ($26.5 million) from 28 billion won a year earlier, while revenue rose 6.8 percent to 2.04 trillion won. Net profit more than tripled to 3.58 billion won, according to preliminary e

• Why does education matter so much to Koreans? Min Jin Lee tackles the obsession in ' American Hagwon' (2026-10-26 06:11)

The opening sentence of Min Jin Lee's "American Hagwon," sets the terms for a new story about Korean families, migration and the enduring belief that education can secure a better future: " The rules of engagement have changed already." It's an approach she used in her previous work. The million-selling multigeneration saga "Pachinko," opens with the line, "History has failed us, but no matter." Her debut novel, "Free Food for Millionaires," begins with a similarly frank statement — "Competence c

• Seoul’s income trial offers dignity, choice: UK professor (2026-10-26 06:08)

Cash support can give low-income households greater control over their daily lives, and Seoul should look beyond income and employment figures to understand its impact, British social policy researcher Abigail Davis said. Davis, a professor and co-director of the Centre for Research in Social Policy at Loughborough University, said the value of Seoul’s Stepping Stone Income project lies in allowing recipients to decide how best to meet their needs. “By offering cash transfers, rather than vouche

• Justin Bieber's food trail in Seoul (2026-10-26 06:07)

Justin Bieber's surprise visit to Seoul on Friday has drawn attention online, with fans sharing sightings of the singer at restaurants and cafes across the city. Bieber arrived in Seoul with his wife, Hailey Bieber, as part of a promotional visit for his fashion and lifestyle brand Skylrk. He announced his arrival on Instagram, writing "Made it to Seoul," and has since shared a flurry of posts featuring his wife and travel companies. Sightings of the couple in Seoul neighborhoods including Seong

• Brokerages warn of further Kospi downside (2026-10-26 06:06)

South Korean brokerages are warning of further downside in the Kospi as foreign selling and weakening trading activity weigh on stocks. Korea Investment & Securities has identified 5,200 as a potential floor, while Goldman Sachs has slashed its 12-month target by 25 percent, though it remains bullish on Korean equities. The outlook comes ahead of major central bank meetings this week, with investors watching for policy signals that could determine the market's near-term direction. Korea Investme

• Kane favored over Yamal, Mbappe for Ballon d'Or (2026-10-26 06:04)

LONDON (AFP) -- England captain Harry Kane is the favorite in a wide-open race for the Ballon d'Or at a ceremony in London on Monday, with Lamine Yamal and Kylian Mbappe also in contention to be named the world's best soccer player. The 70th edition of the award, established by France Football magazine, will be held in England for the first time in recognition of inaugural winner Stanley Matthews and could produce the first English winner in 25 years. Bayern Munich striker Kane scored 73 goals i

• Is tradition the next Korean scent? (2026-10-26 06:03)

Many travelers enjoy buying perfumes on their travels for the associated memories, to gift as souvenirs, or to own unique scents linked to the region they visit. In Seoul, homegrown perfume brands such as Nonfiction, Tamburins and Granhand have attracted international customers with fragrances that reflect the city's modern side. Two other Seoul-based brands have decided on a different approach: drawing on traditional Korean culture to explore what makes a scent distinctly Korean. Chwi incorpora

• New 'Call of Duty' turns virtual Korean War into real political battle (2026-10-26 06:02)

A fictional North Korean invasion of Seoul is becoming the fodder for a real political battle in South Korea, with the latest installment of the blockbuster "Call of Duty" franchise drawing politicians into a debate over national security, inter-Korean relations and freedom of expression. "Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 4," which depicts a devastating second Korean War triggered by a surprise North Korean attack, has become an unlikely political talking point in Seoul, with opposition politicians

• Trump attacks El-Sayed in Michigan (2026-10-26 06:01)

US President Donald Trump intensified his anti-Muslim rhetoric against Michigan Senate candidate Abdul El-Sayed Sunday, portraying him as a threat to national security and questioning his loyalty to the US in remarks that drew a sharp rebuke from a former top Arab American ally. Trump called El-Sayed, a former Detroit health official, a “jihadist” who was “on the side of the terrorists” and would “have to go through a metal detector before he’s allowed to go into the Senate.” He also repeatedly

• Samsung may have overtaken SK hynix in HBM revenue, analysis suggests (2026-10-26 05:58)

Samsung Electronics may have overtaken SK hynix in third-quarter high-bandwidth memory revenue, according to US equity research firm Bernstein, potentially challenging its smaller Korean rival's long-held leadership in the global AI memory market. Bernstein estimated Samsung's HBM revenue at $8.7 billion for the July-September quarter, up 33 percent from the previous quarter, compared with $7.6 billion for SK hynix, an increase of 11 percent. The estimated $1.1 billion lead follows more than a y

• S. Korea moves to sell sprawling Argentina farm after decades of neglect (2026-10-26 05:58)

South Korea is moving to sell a sprawling state-owned farm in Argentina, after almost five decades of failed development efforts, according to parliamentary documents released Monday. The Llajta Mauca Farm, purchased in 1978 under the Park Chung-hee administration to support Korean agricultural emigrants, covers 20,882 hectares, over one-thrid of the area of Seoul. But it has remained largely unused for nearly half a century despite costing taxpayers approximately 4.95 billion won ($3.74 million

• Beyond exports: China's automakers dig deeper into Europe (2026-10-26 05:57)

Chinese automakers are turning Europe from an export market into a manufacturing foothold, building factories and joining forces with established rivals to overcome trade barriers and challenge the region's automotive giants. Facing fierce competition and overcapacity at home, companies including BYD, Chery and Geely are moving production closer to European customers. Their strategy goes beyond avoiding EU tariffs: By taking advantage of underused factories and local partnerships, they are posit

• Korea’s housing ladder gets steeper (2026-10-26 05:55)

The gap in housing wealth between Korea’s richest and poorest 20 percent of households reached 290-fold in 2025, the widest since records began in 2017, highlighting deepening housing inequality. The ratio rose from 244.9 a year earlier, based on the average value of homes each group both owned and lived in. Kim Hyun-soo, a professor of architectural engineering at Dankook University, pointed to rising property prices in Seoul as a major factor widening the gap. He urged the government to priori

• Breakout K-drama ‘Doctor X’ faces calls to halt broadcast over Gwangju episode (2026-10-26 05:55)

A petition demanding that the breakout K-drama “Doctor X: Mafia in White” be taken off the air has been filed with the National Assembly following criticism of the show's portrayal of the 1980 Gwangju Democratic Uprising. Filed on the National Assembly’s website, the petition calls for a review of the drama’s production process and a suspension of its broadcast over concerns about its portrayal of a politically sensitive chapter in South Korean history. The controversy centers on the series’ six

• Mbappe scores twice as Real Madrid beats Barcelona 2-1 (2026-10-26 05:54)

Real Madrid beat Barcelona 2-1 in El Clasico on Sunday, ending the league leader's nine-game winning start to the La Liga season. Kylian Mbappe scored twice at Spotify Camp Nou as Real Madrid earned its fifth straight win in all competitions. The result moved third-place Real Madrid to 24 points from eight wins and two losses, three points behind Barcelona, which suffered its first league defeat after opening the season with nine straight victories. Real Madrid took the lead in the 41st minute w

• Musinsa bets on China as fashion flows both ways (2026-10-26 05:49)

In China, Musinsa's overseas aspirations take their most vivid form. Not only does Korea’s leading fashion platform run more stores there than anywhere abroad, but it also brings Chinese designers home to Korean shoppers. Through Musinsa Empty, its high-end select shop with three outlets in Seoul, Musinsa introduces Chinese designers to Korean shoppers. Its latest guest, footwear label Daphne.Lab, is holding its first Korean pop-up at the Seongsu branch, Musinsa announced Monday. Earlier, Musins

• Song Min-kyu records first assist for Nacional in win over Braga (2026-10-26 05:45)

Song Min-kyu recorded his first attacking point for Nacional with an assist in his fifth appearance for the Portuguese club. Nacional beat Braga 1-0 at Estadio da Madeira in Funchal, Portugal, on Monday, with Miguel Baeza scoring the winner from Song's assist in the ninth round of the 2026-27 Primeira Liga. The victory ended Nacional’s six-game league losing streak and gave the club its second win of the season, along with one draw and six losses, moving it into 15th place. Nacional scored in th

• Hyundai Glovis partners with Shopee to boost K-beauty exports (2026-10-26 05:43)

Hyundai Glovis has launched an integrated logistics service with Shopee Korea to help Korean cosmetics brands expand into Southeast Asia, the company said Monday. Launched this month, the service covers the entire shipping process, from domestic pickup and international freight to customs clearance, regulatory approvals and local order fulfillment. By bringing these services under one provider, Hyundai Glovis aims to shorten delivery times, reduce logistics costs and simplify compliance with var

• Samsung SDI wins 1 GWh US energy storage deal (2026-10-26 05:43)

Samsung SDI has secured a 1-gigawatt-hour energy storage system supply deal with US power developer Alpha Omega Power, bringing their combined contracts to 1.5 GWh as the Korean battery maker expands its North American business. The latest agreement, signed through Samsung SDI's Michigan-based subsidiary, follows an initial deal made last year, the company said Monday. The StarPlus Energy plant in Kokomo, Indiana, will produce the battery cells and modules, with deliveries scheduled by year-end.

• Unstoppable An Se-young claims 10th season title (2026-10-26 05:42)

An Se-young, the world No. 1 in women's singles, won the French Open for a third straight year on Sunday, beating India's P.V. Sindhu in the final of the Badminton World Federation tour event in Paris. Although An dropped the first game and trailed 8-5 in the third, she pulled away to win 16-21, 21-11, 21-12, securing her 11th straight win over the Indian player. The 24-year-old has not lost since March 8, when China's Wang Zhiyi, the world No. 2, beat her in the All England Open final. Sunday's

• Kim Jong-un shows readiness for international stage with China trip: lawmaker (2026-10-26 05:40)

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's recent China trip signals confidence and a readiness to break his silence on the diplomatic stage, a Democratic Party lawmaker said Monday. Kim's trip, made Saturday by crossing the Yalu River, appears to signal that the leader will no longer remain quiet diplomatically and may be ready for more active engagement, Rep. Youn Kun-young of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea said in a radio interview with MBC. Youn worked as an aide to former President Moon Jae-in

• Korea Investment Management enters Hong Kong ETF market with chip fund (2026-10-26 05:38)

Korea Investment Management's first exchange-traded fund developed in collaboration with China Universal Asset Management's Hong Kong unit has recently been listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, the asset manager announced Monday. The CUAM Solactive China & Global Semiconductor ETF, with a net asset value of 15.85 million Hong Kong dollars ($2.06 million), was listed Friday. The fund tracks the Solactive Ace ETF Connect China & Global Semiconductor Top 30 Index, developed by German index provi

• Cho Gue-sung scores as Midtjylland stays unbeaten through 12 league games (2026-10-26 05:36)

South Korea forward Cho Gue-sung scored for the first time in three matches as Midtjylland extended its unbeaten start to the Danish Superliga season. Midtjylland beat Lyngby BK 3-2 at MCH Arena in Herning, Denmark, on Sunday to remain unbeaten through 12 league matches at 8 wins and 4 draws. The result gave Midtjylland 28 points and temporarily moved it atop the 12-team standings, three points ahead of Copenhagen, which has played one fewer match. Cho, starting as the central striker, opened th

• Samsung Display faces profit squeeze as Apple, Samsung cut orders (2026-10-26 05:31)

Samsung Electronics and Apple are scaling back orders for smartphone components as soaring memory prices squeeze margins, threatening fourth-quarter earnings at Samsung Display, which draws nearly two-thirds of its revenue from the two handset makers. According to industry sources Monday, Samsung's mobile division has asked suppliers to trim fourth-quarter component deliveries by 20 to 30 percent from earlier plans. Apple has reportedly cut October orders for certain iPhone 18 Pro and Pro Max pa

• France's Le Pen launches presidential bid vowing to restore 'rule of law' (2026-10-26 05:27)

Marine Le Pen, France's far-right candidate to succeed President Emmanuel Macron, kicked off her campaign Sunday vowing to "restore the rule of law" if elected next year. Le Pen -- the frontrunner in the polls -- seems to be benefiting from the convulsions France has been going through for weeks, which has seen violence flare on the sidelines of mass cost-of-living rallies. " We are going to restore the rule of law," she said, after looting and arson erupted on the sidelines of demonstrations las

• Noh Seung-yul finishes tied for 17th at shortened Bermuda Championship (2026-10-26 05:24)

Noh Seung-yul finished tied for 17th at the PGA Tour ‘s Butterfield Bermuda Championship, which was shortened to 54 holes because of severe weather. The final round scheduled for Sunday at Port Royal Golf Course in Southampton, Bermuda, was canceled after wind gusts exceeded 64 kph. The 72 players had been preparing for the fourth round but were unable to start, and tournament officials eventually decided to cancel the round and reduce the event to 54 holes. Austin Smotherman of the United States

• Kim Bomi wins first LPBA title after rallying from 3-0 down (2026-10-26 05:16)

Kim Bomi of NH NongHyup Card rallied from three sets down to win her first LPBA title seven years after making her professional debut. Kim defeated Lim Jeong-suk of Crown Haitai 4-3 (4-11, 10-11, 4-11, 11-9, 11-8, 11-2, 9-5) in the women's final of the fifth tour event of the 2026-27 professional billiards season at KINTEX PBA Stadium in Goyang, Gyeonggi Province, on Sunday. Kim, who debuted in the 2019-20 season, claimed her first title in her 63rd tour event after finishing runner-up in her pr

• Seo Min-kyu wins bronze in senior Grand Prix debut (2026-10-26 05:16)

Seo Min-kyu won bronze in his senior Grand Prix debut, giving South Korean men's figure skating a potential successor to Cha Jun-hwan. Seo scored 161.07 points in the men's free skate at the opening event of the 2026-27 ISU Figure Skating Grand Prix series at IceParc in Angers, France, on Sunday. Combined with his short program score of 83.83, Seo finished third with 244.90 points. France's Adam Siao Him Fa won with 284.24 points, while Japan's Kao Miura took silver with 247.96. Seo finished jus

• ADHD drug prescriptions heavy in Gangnam (2026-10-26 05:13)

Prescriptions for controlled medications, including the ADHD drug methylphenidate and the anesthetic propofol, were heavily concentrated in Seoul's affluent Gangnam area last year, data showed Monday. According to local daily Kookmin Ilbo, citing data submitted by the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety to Democratic Party of Korea Rep. Nam In-soon, Gangnam-gu in southern Seoul recorded the highest volume of methylphenidate prescriptions across Seoul and Gyeonggi Province last year, at about 6.5 mi

• Brazil's Lula defies odds to clinch victory (2026-10-26 04:27)

Brazil's leftist President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva pulled off a dramatic comeback on Sunday as he clinched election victory against right-wing Sen. Flavio Bolsonaro, who trounced him in the first round. With Lula's victory, Brazil staved off a conservative wave that has seen numerous countries — such as Argentina, Chile, Colombia and Peru — all shift right, backed by US President Donald Trump. The leftist icon, who turned 81 on Tuesday, defied all projections to win an unprecedented fourth ter

• Attackers kill nurse, severely injure health worker responding to Ebola case in eastern Congo (2026-10-26 04:26)

A nurse was killed and a health worker severely injured after being attacked while responding to an Ebola alert in Congo, according to the World Health Organization. It was the latest in a series of attacks on health workers and responders that authorities say is hampering efforts to slow the fastest-growing Ebola outbreak in the world. The attack took place Saturday in the town of Bafwasende in the country's eastern Tshopo province, WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in a post

• Serbia’s strongman leader Vucic concedes defeat to student-led movement in seismic political shift (2026-10-26 04:24)

The long-serving strongman leader of Serbia, Aleksandar Vucic, conceded defeat on Sunday in an election that pitted him and his right-wing party against a diverse student-led opposition movement that spent two years protesting his government. It was a seismic political shift in the Balkan country where Vucic, who had been endorsed by Russian President Vladimir Putin and who denounced the student movement as a foreign-led attempt to unseat him, led with virtually absolute power for 14 years. Almo

• Presidential race in Bulgaria heads to runoff due to record low turnout (2026-10-26 04:23)

The presidential election in Bulgaria Sunday ended inconclusively, with the next head of state to be picked in a runoff, according to election officials. A record low turnout, attributed by observers to a general mistrust in politicians resulting in voter apathy, will pit two contrasting political visions against each other in a highly polarized contest on Nov. 1. In a surprisingly strong performance, the candidate of the pro-Western reformist opposition, Andrey Gyurov, will face the incumbent l

• ZB1’s hip-hop subunit to drop 1st single (2026-10-26 03:05)

Seok Matthew and Park Gunwook of Zerobaseone will return as the subunit EMP on Nov. 10, WakeOne Entertainment announced Monday. The teaser poster for the subunit's first digital single, “Off Script,” hinted at a stylish, free-spirited ambience. The single album will include a digital release of “Run,” a collaboration with Dynamic Duo due out on Nov. 4. EMP gave fans an early listen to the track on Saturday during a performance at a runners’ festival in Seoul. “Off Script” comes barely two months

• AI shoppers get first say in Korea's retail race (2026-10-26 03:02)

Korean retailers are testing products on artificial intelligence-generated shoppers before bringing them to real customers, using virtual consumers to predict buying decisions, fine-tune prices and identify potential flaws in shopping experiences. Known as "synthetic consumers," these AI-powered shoppers are designed to mimic real purchasing behavior. Built using large language models and consumer data, they allow companies to test products, marketing campaigns and store layouts without the time

• 1 in 5 murder suspects have history of domestic violence, stalking or sex crimes (2026-10-26 02:44)

Nearly 1 in 5 murder cases recorded in South Korea since 2023 involved a suspect who had previously committed domestic violence, dating violence, stalking or sexual violence, police data showed Monday. Of the 2,760 murder cases recorded from 2023 through September this year, 543 were believed to be committed by a suspect with a history of committing at least one of those crimes. The National Police Agency data was released by Rep. Kim Nam-hee of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea. The proporti

• Drug suspect repatriated from Ghana after 22 yrs on the run (2026-10-26 02:33)

A man in his 80s, suspected of transporting more than 5 tons of narcotics aboard a fishing vessel in waters off South America in the early 2000s, has been repatriated to South Korea after spending 22 years on the run, police said Monday. The Korean National Police Agency said the man, whose identity was withheld, was brought back home on Oct. 20 in coordination with the Busan Coast Guard after being deported by authorities in Ghana, where he had been hiding for about 22 years. The man is accused

• From translation to hazard detection, Daewoo E&C; puts AI to work (2026-10-26 02:32)

Daewoo Engineering & Construction is expanding AI use across its construction sites, introducing real-time translation, automated safety monitoring and digital management systems to reduce workplace risks and improve efficiency. The Korean builder began standardizing artificial intelligence translation and tablet-based safety training at its domestic sites in September, targeting communication barriers, administrative workloads and workplace hazards. Its AI translation system converts supervisor

• Mom's Touch targets 50 stores in Kazakhstan in Central Asia push (2026-10-26 02:32)

South Korean burger chain Mom's Touch plans to open at least 50 stores in Kazakhstan over the next decade, expanding its Central Asian footprint through a master franchise deal with local food conglomerate Shin-Line Group. The agreement, signed with Shin-Line's restaurant subsidiary Mom's Touch Central Asia LLP, also covers neighboring Kyrgyzstan, the company said Monday. The first Kazakhstan outlet is scheduled to open in the first half of 2027. The move follows Mom's Touch's entry into Uzbekis

• Twice’s Nayeon sets solo comeback date (2026-10-26 02:20)

Nayeon of Twice will release her solo single, “NA-sty,” on Nov. 20, announced label JYP Entertainment. The title, both for the album and the lead track, combines part of her name and the word “nasty,” hinting that she will express her playful and candid sides through the set. It will mark her return as a solo singer in almost 2 1/2 years. She has two solo mini albums under her belt: first EP “Im Nayeon” from 2022 and second EP “Na” from 2024, both of which debuted on Billboard 200 at No. 7. Main

• Enhypen to drop single next month (2026-10-26 01:52)

Enhypen will release “The Sin: Parallel World” on Nov. 20, the group announced Monday via agency Belift Lab. Physical albums will be available from Nov. 23. The upcoming single will be a spinoff of the eighth EP, “The Sin: Bliss,” which was released in August. The new single is also the third and final installment in the group's “The Sin” series, which began with its seventh EP, “The Sin: Vanish,” in January. The eighth mini album landed atop Billboard 200, a first for the six-piece act, and bec

• Virtual K-pop group Plave continues steady rise (2026-10-26 01:51)

While Ateez and Rescene, two K-pop acts from smaller agencies, have emerged as major players in an industry dominated by entertainment giants in the second half, virtual boy group Plave has been quietly carving out its own success story. The group's latest EP, "Hyperdrive," released Oct. 13, offers fresh evidence of that growth. According to figures released by Hanteo Chart on Oct. 19, the album sold approximately 1.32 million copies in its first week, surpassing the group's previous record of 1

• N. Korean officials pay tribute to fallen Chinese soldiers at Friendship Tower (2026-10-26 01:48)

North Korean officials have paid tribute at the Friendship Tower in Pyongyang in honor of fallen Chinese soldiers, state media reported Monday, after leader Kim Jong-un's surprise day trip to China's Dandong last week. The Korean Central News Agency said senior officials laid wreaths at the monument Sunday to mark the 76th anniversary of the Chinese People's Volunteers' entry into the 1950-53 Korean War. Among them were Kim Hyong-sik, vice chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly standing commi

• Seventeen’s Seungkwan, Dino start their military service (2026-10-26 01:43)

Seunkwan and Dino of Seventeen begin their military service on Monday, according to agency Pledis Entertainment. Both will serve in the Army's military band after receiving basic training. They are the last two of the 13-member act to be conscripted for service. Jeonghan completed his service in June, having been the first to do so. Six other members are in the midst of their service: Woozi, Hoshi and DK are in the Army, while Wonwoo, Vernon and Mingyu are serving as social service agents. S.Cou

• Presidential special inspector vows political neutrality, independence (2026-10-26 01:42)

The new presidential special inspector, Choi Kil-su, on Monday pledged to uphold political neutrality and professional independence as he began his duties inspecting irregularities involving the president's spouse and close relatives. Choi made the remarks to reporters at his office in central Seoul, following President Lee Jae Myung's formal appointment of him Friday to the post tasked with inspecting corruption allegations involving the president's family and close relatives, as well as senior

• Special counsel to inspect 2.5m ballots in local elections shortage probe (2026-10-26 01:35)

A special counsel team said Monday it plans to examine about 2.5 million ballots at a vote counting center this week as part of its probe into ballot shortages during the June 3 local elections. Special counsel Lee Tae-han's team will carry out the examination Wednesday at the Olympic Park Handball Gymnasium, which served as a vote counting center during the local elections marred by the shortages. The team plans to verify the 2.47 million ballots and other equipment at the site to check for irr

• Latest stop on South Korea’s shopping trail? The pharmacy (2026-10-26 00:41)

On a chilly October afternoon in Myeong-dong, Seoul’s bustling tourist shopping district, Vietnamese tourist Nguyen Lan was browsing the shelves of a pharmacy for red ginseng, a favorite dietary supplement for many South Koreans. She used Google Translate to ask the pharmacist how much it cost, what its benefits were and when to take it. Although Korean red ginseng is readily available in Vietnam, Nguyen said she preferred buying it in a pharmacy here in person because she felt more confident ab

• Seoul stocks open lower ahead of earnings reports, Fed decision (2026-10-26 00:29)

South Korean stocks opened lower Monday as investors awaited third-quarter earnings from major chipmakers and the US Federal Reserve's monetary policy decision later this week amid rising oil prices. After opening 0.92 percent lower, the benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index pared its earlier losses to trade down 24.45 points, or 0.46 percent, to 5,524.85 as of 9:15 a.m. The index gained 0.3 percent Friday but lost 2.08 percent for the week amid heavy foreign selling and volatility in semi

• SK hynix weighs $12.1 billion special dividend, newspaper says (2026-10-25 23:59)

SK hynix is considering a special dividend of about 16 trillion won ($12 billion), funded by gains from selling its stake in Japanese memory chip maker Kioxia, South Korean newspaper Dong-A Ilbo reported on Monday. The newspaper said the company could unveil the plan alongside third-quarter earnings on Wednesday. SK hynix could not be reached for comment outside of normal business hours. (Reuters)

• Korean won's nominal effective rate rises to 2-yr high (2026-10-25 23:55)

The Korean won's nominal effective exchange rate rose to its highest level in about two years, data showed Monday. According to the Bank for International Settlements, the won's nominal effective exchange rate stood at 94.83 as of last Tuesday, compared with the previous month's 91.99. It marked the highest level since Oct. 9, 2024, when the NEER was 94.91. The BIS' NEER measures a currency's value against those of major trading partners without adjusting for inflation, serving as a gauge of int

• N. Korea sends letter to UNSC calling DMZ mine blast S. Korean fabrication (2026-10-25 23:52)

North Korea has sent a letter to the president of the UN Security Council calling last month's land mine blast near the border an incident "fabricated" by South Korea, Pyongyang's state media reported Monday. The North's move came less than a week after South Korea sent to the council its own letter calling on North Korea to apologize for the Sept. 21 mine blast that injured three South Korean soldiers and take responsibility for its violation of the Armistice Agreement. The letter, sent Sunday

• [Graphic News] Heat-related illnesses hit third-highest level since 2011 (2026-10-25 23:00)

South Korea reported 4,066 patients with heat-related illnesses in 2026, the third-highest figure since nationwide monitoring began in 2011, according to the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency. The total dropped from 4,460 last year. The number of heat wave days came to 22 this year, down from 29.7 in 2025 and 30.1 in 2024. Despite fewer heat wave days, the number of heat-related illness patients remained high, underscoring the health risks posed by intense heat. The agency estimated 36

• [Ruth Pollard] The world courts Kim Jong-un (2026-10-25 20:30)

Kim Jong-un might be the world’s most in-demand leader. US President Donald Trump wants to meet him during a visit to Asia next month. So, too, do South Korean President Lee Jae Myung and Japan’s Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi. He stood shoulder-to-shoulder with Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin at a giant military parade in Beijing last year, and has an outstanding invitation to visit Russia. It’s not just the diplomatic isolation that’s lifting. With a bridge between North Korea and China officiall

• [Yoo Choon-sik] Turning AI promises into lasting capabilities (2026-10-25 20:30)

South Korea’s government is discovering that announcing large investments in artificial intelligence is easier than persuading companies and taxpayers that they will deliver lasting benefits. Recent confusion over the future of its sovereign AI program has exposed uncertainty about how major decisions are made and how success will be measured, a problem that additional spending alone cannot resolve. Its semiconductor industry provides a strong base for AI development, while dependence on foreign

• Korean musical producer Shin Chun-soo teams up with ‘Lion King’ director Julie Taymor (2026-10-25 13:01)

Korean musical theater producer Shin Chun-soo of OD Company has teamed up with Tony Award-winning director Julie Taymor on “The Grand Delusion,” a new musical that will have its world premiere in New York next year. The show will run May 11 to June 6, 2027, at the 837-seat Harvey Theater at BAM Strong, part of the Brooklyn Academy of Music. BAM was founded in 1861 and is known for avant garde and experimental work outside commercial Broadway. Taymor wrote the show and will direct it. The music i

• Lions veteran happy to cede spotlight to younger teammates (2026-10-25 11:10)

Even at the advanced age of 42, Samsung Lions veteran Choi Hyoung-woo was one of the best hitters in South Korean baseball in the regular season. He was one of just seven players to bat at least .300 and drive in at least 100 runs in the Korea Baseball Organization. Considering his production, it would seem like a no-brainer for the Lions to put him into their starting lineup to begin their postseason. However, injury-related and other factors kept Choi out of the lineup against the Kia Tigers f

• 2 S. Koreans finish as runners-up at LPGA event on home soil (2026-10-25 11:02)

Two South Korean players tied for second place at the LPGA Tour event on their home soil Sunday, with one blowing a four-stroke lead and another coming up short after a late push. Yuri Yoshida of Japan won the BMW Ladies Championship with a four-round total of 17-under 271 at Pine Beach Golf Links in Haenam, Jeonnam-Gwangju, some 330 kilometers south of Seoul, after carding a four-under 68 in Sunday's final round at the par-72 course. Yoshida held off two South Koreans, Ryu Hae-ran and Choi Hye-

• Lee says S. Korea emerging as global economic leader on record current account surplus (2026-10-25 10:45)

President Lee Jae Myung said Sunday that South Korea has emerged as a leading player in the global economy, citing that the country posted the world's second-largest current account surplus among major economies in the second quarter. The country's current account surplus reached US$116.63 billion in the April-June period, trailing only China's $193.72 billion, according to International Monetary Fund data available on the Bank of Korea's Economic Statistics System. "The Republic of Korea is now

• More middle than high school students in Korea experience feelings of depression: data (2026-10-25 10:41)

The proportion of Korean middle school students who have experienced feelings of depression exceeded that of high school students for the third consecutive year in 2025, data showed Sunday. The share of middle school students who said they felt depressed was 26.2 percent last year, compared with 25.1 percent for high school students, according to the data by the Korean Educational Development Institute. In the study, "feelings of depression" were defined as

experiencing sadness or despair severe

• Osong beauty expo draws nearly $100m in export deals (2026-10-25 10:41)

A cosmetics and beauty expo in South Korea's central city of Cheongju attracted export contracts worth nearly US$100 million during its three-day run, the provincial government said Sunday. The Cosmetics & Beauty Expo, Osong, Korea 2026 was held from Thursday through Saturday in Osong, a district of Cheongju, North Chungcheong Province, about 83 kilometers south of Seoul, attracting more than 17,400 visitors. The event brought together 254 domestic and foreign cosmetics companies, 200 invited bu

• [팟캐스트] (823) 누리호 5차 발사 성공적 이륙 (2026-10-25 09:15)

진행자: 홍유, Tannith Nuri rocket lifts off on fifth mission with 15 satellites aboard 기사 요약: 한국형 발사체 누리호가 수요일 전남 고흥 나로우주센터에서 위성 15기를 싣고 고도 약 575km 태양동기궤도를 향해 다섯 번째 발사에 나섰다. [1] South Korea’s homegrown Nuri rocket lifted off Wednesday on its fifth mission, carrying 15 satellites toward a sun-synchronous orbit about 575 kilometers above Earth. homegrown: 국산의, 자체 개발한 sun-synchronous orbit: 태양동기궤도. 위성이 매일 같은 지방시에 같은 지역 상공을 지나도록 설계된 궤도로, 지구 관측 위성에 주로 쓰임 [2] The three-stage rocket, also known as KSLV-II,

• Jamsu Bridge hosts a 400-meter fried chicken feast (2026-10-25 08:27)

Korean fried chicken is always a treat, but sharing the beloved staple at a single 400-meter-long table takes the culinary experience to a whole new level. The Seoul Metropolitan Government hosted a massive fried chicken festival Sunday on Jamsu Bridge, a day before the bridge began its transition into a pedestrian-only thoroughfare. Part of the Car-Free Jamsu Bridge Ttubeok-Ttubeok Festival, the inaugural Ttuchi-Ttuchi Chicken Day featured two dining sessions, at 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. Each session

• South Korea exceeds Asian Para Games target with 29 golds (2026-10-25 08:23)

South Korea surpassed its pre-tournament goal at the 2026 Aichi-Nagoya Asian Para Games, winning 29 gold medals and finishing fifth overall. The delegation collected 29 gold, 38 silver and 33 bronze medals. It reached 100 total medals with a silver in the mixed team sabre fencing event on the final day. South Korea had set a target of at least 21 gold medals and sixth place overall, lower than its goal at the 2022 Hangzhou Asian Para Games, where it finished fourth with 30 golds. Lawn bowls and

• Sparks of tradition (2026-10-25 08:21)

Visitors watch a traditional “nakhwa” display, in which sparks cascade from suspended bundles, at Yeogang Wharf near Silleuksa temple in Yeoju, Gyeonggi Province, on Sunday during the Yeoju Ogoknaru Festival. The festival featured local agricultural products, food stalls, performances and activities inspired by Joseon-era traditions. Its name combines “ogok,” meaning five staple grains, and “naru,” meaning a riverside landing.

• Woman killed by falling 60kg transformer radiator while leaving work (2026-10-25 08:15)

A woman in her 40s was killed when a transformer radiator fell from a factory building in Changwon, South Gyeongsang Province, as she was leaving work, police said Sunday. The radiator, weighing about 60 kilograms, fell about 4 meters from an exterior emergency staircase at a mobile phone parts factory in the city’s Masanhoewon-gu district at about 12:12 p.m. Saturday, according to Masan Dongbu Police Station. The woman, an employee at the factory, was taken to a hospital with serious injuries b

• Footage released of huge S. Korean national flag on Dokdo Island (2026-10-25 08:04)

Promotional footage of a huge national flag of South Korea on its easternmost island of Dokdo was unveiled Sunday to mark Dokdo Day, a social media post showed. A 30-by-20-meter Taegeukgi, unfurled by 70 South Koreans at a pier on Dokdo Island, was captured in 60-second footage taken by drone, according to Seo Kyoung-duk, a professor at Sungshin Women's University in Seoul, on social media. The video also contained various images of Dokdo Island in the East Sea and a message recommending foreign

• Volkanovski keeps promise with quick win over Evloev (2026-10-25 08:01)

Australian Alexander Volkanovski retained his UFC featherweight title with a second-round technical knockout of Movsar Evloev at UFC 333 on Saturday, ending the Russian's 20-fight unbeaten professional run and keeping a promise to his wife. A thunderous combination sent Evloev backing up against the cage and Volkanovski followed him to the canvas before landing a series of unanswered blows that caused referee Marc Goddard to stop the fight with six seconds remaining in the round. "It feels good

• Hanroro to hold first arena concerts in January (2026-10-25 07:57)

Hanroro will hold her first arena concerts in January, marking a major step in her career following a string of chart successes and growing demand for her live performances. The singer-songwriter announced Friday on her official social media accounts that her fifth solo concert, "Question Mark," will take place at Inspire Arena in Incheon on Jan. 2 and 3, 2027. Tickets will go on sale at 6 p.m. on Nov. 13. The upcoming shows mark her first performances at an arena-sized venue, following a steady

• Think twice before dressing as a cop this Halloween (2026-10-25 07:41)

Police will crack down on the manufacture, sale and distribution of imitation police uniforms and equipment ahead of Halloween, the National Police Agency said Sunday. The nationwide operation, conducted jointly with regional police agencies, will run from Monday through Nov. 1. Police said such items could be used to impersonate officers or cause confusion during police operations. Unauthorized wearing or possession of police uniforms and equipment, including legally regulated imitations, can c

• Infantino says he has support of 'vast, vast majority' (2026-10-25 07:38)

FIFA President Gianni Infantino said he has the backing of the "vast, vast majority" of soccer despite his failed plan to sell stakes in the World Cup. Infantino is seeking re-election next year as head of soccer's world governing body in the face of attempts to force him to stand down following the divisive plan. He infuriated soccer leaders in Europe, North America and Asia over the proposal to sell profits in the World Cup through a commercial subsidiary. But in an interview released Saturday

• From rebuilding lives to shaping futures, Posco's 1% gives back (2026-10-25 07:16)

Posco Group is expanding its employee-funded social contribution programs, providing advanced prosthetic devices to injured veterans and hands-on science education to students as part of efforts to support local communities and future generations. Established in 2013, the Posco 1% Sharing Foundation draws on voluntary contributions from group employees. Its initiatives focus on helping injured veterans regain independence, widening access to science education and encouraging employees to partici

• Mercedes-Benz Korea marks 20 years of technician training (2026-10-25 07:15)

Mercedes-Benz Korea is strengthening its after-sales service capabilities through training as its automotive technician development initiative marks its 20th anniversary. Launched in 2006 as the Automotive Mechatronic Traineeship, or AMT, the program was revamped in 2022 as the Automotive Electric Traineeship, or AET, to address growing demand for electric vehicle maintenance expertise. The AET program combines classroom instruction with practical training to prepare automotive engineering stude

• Jamsu Bridge readies for pedestrian makeover (2026-10-25 06:42)

PEDESTRIAN MAKEOVER — A sign seen Sunday at Jamsu Bridge shares information about upcoming construction. The bridge was to close to traffic at midnight on Monday to undergo its transformation into a cyclist- and pedestrian-only bridge by August next year. (Yonhap)

• In Dandong, Kim Jong-un invokes wartime past, eyes economic future (2026-10-25 06:23)

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's whirlwind one-day visit to China's border city of Dandong on Saturday brought together two defining features of Pyongyang's relationship with Beijing: A longstanding alliance rooted in the Korean War and the prospect of expanded economic cooperation. The trip, Kim's sixth to China overall and his first in 13 months, came just nine days after the long-delayed opening of a bridge expected to boost cross-border trade. It also fell on the eve of a major Chinese comm

• Why Kospi and Korean won have parted ways (2026-10-25 06:04)

The Korean won is saying goodbye to the days when its fortunes were closely tied to the ups and downs of the local stock market. Stock prices and the won's value have typically moved in tandem. Offshore investors hold roughly 40 percent of the main bourse Kospi's total market capitalization. When they sell shares and convert the proceeds into dollars for repatriation,

rising dollar demand puts downward pressure on the won. Conversely, when they convert dollars into won to buy Korean shares, dema

• Seoul mayor steps forward as conservatives seek unity (2026-10-25 05:58)

Fifth-term Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon is signaling a broader political role after an appeals court acquitted him of political funding charges, easing a threat to his career. Oh pledged Saturday to help unite Korea’s conservative opposition, a day after the ruling overturned a conviction that could have cost him his job. A fellow conservative heavyweight endorsed cooperation Sunday, adding to attention on Oh as a potential presidential contender. “With the general election approaching, the People Pow

• Police interpretation gaps leave foreigners lost in translation (2026-10-25 05:13)

Growing demand for police interpretation services in Korea is exposing gaps in multilingual support, from emergency calls to arrests and questioning. Foreign-language calls to the 112 emergency hotline reached 21,252 in 2025, more than double the 10,348 recorded in 2024, according to police data provided to Rep. Park Ju-min of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea. Another 21,012 calls were received in the first eight months of this year, nearly matching the total for all of 2025. The 112 centers

• Doctor fined after patient dies from heart muscle tear during acupuncture (2026-10-25 05:10)

A doctor of Korean medicine was fined 20 million won ($15,000) after a 92-year-old patient died from a tear in the heart muscle while receiving acupuncture treatment for back pain, the Daejeon District Court said Saturday. The doctor was accused of causing the tear while performing acupuncture on the patient's chest at about 2:35 p.m. on Aug. 14, 2022. The patient died at about 5:08 p.m. the same day. Prosecutors said the doctor failed to check the patient's pulse or explain the risks of acupunc

• Kim Jong-un's surprise trip to China (2026-10-25 04:45)

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un visited the Chinese border city of Dandong on Saturday to tour a Korean War memorial and cross a newly opened bridge linking the two countries. Kim made the one-day trip via the New Amnok River Bridge, which officially opened nine days earlier. He also stopped by an automobile factory and a Korean War memorial ahead of the 76th anniversary of Chinese troops' entry into the Korean War, according to the Korean Central News Agency, which reported on the visit Sunday.

• Foreign health insurance surplus nears W1tr (2026-10-25 04:40)

Foreign subscribers contributed more to South Korea’s national health insurance system than they received in medical benefits last year, leaving a gap of nearly 1 trillion won ($755 million), public data showed. Premiums assessed on foreign subscribers totaled 2.51 trillion won in 2025, while insurance benefits amounted to 1.52 trillion won, according to data released by the

National Health Insurance Service through the government’s public data portal. The differenceamounted to 989.1 billion wo

• Kidnapping, confinement cases involving Koreans double (2026-10-25 04:27)

Cases involving the kidnapping or confinement of South Koreans more than doubled last year across 10 countries frequently covered by Korean travel advisories, according to government data disclosed Sunday. The number rose to 553 in 2025 from 246 in 2024, with Cambodia accounting for 510 cases, according to figures that Rep. Kim Jun-hwan of the Democratic Party of Korea obtained from the Foreign Ministry and National Police Agency. Overall, incidents involving South Koreans in the 10 countries in

• California election officials frustrated, rattled by DOJ demand to sequester 'noncitizen' ballots (2026-10-25 04:17)

Local election officials across California are confused and frustrated after receiving letters from US President Donald Trump's Justice Department demanding that county registrars sequester ballots that the federal government believes were sent to noncitizen voters ahead of the midterm elections. The letters, which were sent Friday, ask for sensitive information, including Social Security numbers, on roughly 20,000 voters. It is illegal for noncitizens to register to vote or cast a ballot. The a

• Israeli forces displace Hebron families after deadly attack (2026-10-25 04:16)

Israeli forces pushed into the occupied West Bank city of Hebron on Saturday and displaced around 2,000 residents, vowing to exact a heavy price for an attack the day before in which two Palestinians killed two soldiers before being gunned down. The Palestinian Authority called for international pressure on Israel to protect residents, who said soldiers announced the evacuations over loudspeakers late at night as they packed what they could and left. Defense Minister Israel Katz said that the ar

• Obama assails 'cruelty' and indecency from Trump and his allies in the midterm campaign (2026-10-25 04:14)

Former US President Barack Obama on Saturday seized on what he described as cruelty and indecency coming from President Donald Trump and his Republican allies, stepping into one of the nation's ugliest midterm fights as he worked to rally Democratic voters in battleground Ohio. Obama took specific aim at Republican gubernatorial candidate Vivek Ramaswamy, who has doubled down on an advertising campaign featuring the estranged mother of Democratic rival Dr. Amy Acton. Trump and US Vice President

• Ukraine says Starshield back to normal, Musk says Kyiv violated terms (2026-10-25 04:14)

Ukraine said on Saturday that the Starlink satellite system and its military version Starshield were now fully functional after over a week of restrictions that disrupted military operations and intensified tensions with the US. But hours later, SpaceX CEO Elon Musk, whose company

owns Starlink, accused the Ukrainian military of violating the company's terms. Neither Musk nor the US government, which operates Starshield using Starlink technology, had taken responsibility for imposing the curbs.

• Soldiers guard Milan in Europe crisis (2026-10-25 04:12)

Thousands of young people marched Saturday through the streets of several Italian cities, including Milan, Rome and Turin, as authorities deployed large numbers of police and soldiers in a largely successful bid to stave off a repeat of the violent clashes and looting that marred similar recent protests. The demonstration in Milan remained peaceful, but there were brief clashes with police in both Rome and Turin. In Milan, thousands of young people marched the streets as soldiers were deployed a

• [World Class] Dongguk looks to Buddhism, Hallyu and AI to shape global identity (2026-10-25 03:57)

Behind each university's global ambitions are choices about what to preserve, what to develop and where to go next. In "World Class," The Korea Herald interviews leaders of Korean universities about the strengths they are cultivating and the futures they envision. — Ed. Dongguk University President Yun Jae-woong sees Buddhism, Korean culture and artificial intelligence as the foundations of a distinctive international education — one that gives students a reason to choose Dongguk beyond studying

• AIA Life Korea draws 7,000 to K-pop concert in Goyang (2026-10-25 02:52)

AIA Life Korea hosted a K-pop concert in Goyang, Gyeonggi Province, on Friday, drawing about 7,000 attendees from Malaysia, the Philippines and Singapore, according to the insurer. Held at KINTEX under the title "K-Pop Together, Give Together," the event brought together customers, employees and business partners from five AIA entities across four markets: AIA Life Korea, AIA Premier Partners, AIA Malaysia, AIA Philippines and AIA Singapore. Nearly 900 participants traveled from overseas, joinin

• Foreign, defense ministries had no prior communications on relocation plan: lawmaker (2026-10-25 02:26)

South Korea's foreign and unification ministries have exchanged no official correspondence with other government agencies over their planned relocation to Sejong, according to ministry responses cited by a lawmaker Sunday. Rep. Kim Dai-sik of the People Power Party, a member of the National Assembly's Foreign Affairs and Unification Committee, obtained the responses from the foreign, unification and defense ministries. The government announced Oct. 13 that it would pursue a second round of centr

• Year after Baek Se-hee's death, her loved ones turn to writing (2026-10-25 02:21)

An essay collection honoring the late author Baek Se-hee, best known for her international bestseller "I Want to Die but I Want to Eat Tteokbokki," has been published a year after her

death. Titled "Buttermilk Way," the book was released last week by three people who were among the closest to Baek: Kim Gang-to, her partner of seven years; Lee Su-hyun, a friend of 20 years; and her younger sister, Baek Da-hee. Baek died on Oct. 16, 2025, at age 35. The three contributors said they had never befor

• [Contribution] Korea projects artistic soft power in London (2026-10-25 02:02)

By Ronan Thomas LONDON — South Korea’s cultural and artistic exports have never been more popular in Britain. Unlike its short-lived 1990s UK cultural soft power contemporary, "Cool Britannia," the so-called Hallyu remains vibrant and enduring here. These days, K-pop, South Korean films, electronics, gaming, mobile phones, cars, food and K-beauty are all embedded in the UK consumer marketplace, particularly amongst younger generations. A major new art exhibition "Korea: 2,000 years of creativity

• Foreign cruise ship visitors to S. Korea near 1.3 mln in Jan.-Aug. period (2026-10-25 01:55)

The number of foreign visitors arriving in South Korea by cruise ship neared 1.3 million in the first eight months of this year, driven largely by arrivals from China, data showed Sunday. A total of 1.28 million foreign passengers and crew members arrived aboard cruise ships in the January-August period, up 12 percent from a year earlier, according to the Korea Tourism Organization. With 148 cruise ship port calls and 638,905 passenger arrivals scheduled for the fourth quarter, the annual total

• S. Korea's Q2 current account surplus ranks 2nd on robust chip exports (2026-10-25 01:53)

South Korea posted the second-largest current account surplus among major economies in the second quarter, surpassing the combined surpluses of Germany and Japan, central bank data showed Sunday. The country's current account surplus reached $116.63 billion in the April-June period, trailing only China's $193.72 billion, according to International Monetary Fund data available on the Bank of Korea's Economic Statistics System. Germany ranked third with a surplus of $52.28 billion, followed by Jap

• Nearly half of Koreans experience fatigue, sleep average of 6.3 hours: report (2026-10-25 01:46)

Nearly half of South Koreans surveyed experienced persistent fatigue despite adequate rest, while average nightly sleep fell to 6.3 hours, according to a KB Financial Group report released Sunday. The group’s 2026 Korea Wellness Report found that 49.9 percent of respondents had experienced lingering exhaustion during the previous month. Average sleep duration declined from 6.5 hours in 2024, while the proportion getting at least seven hours dropped 8.8 percentage points to 41.6 percent. Although

• Samsung's Exynos 2700 outscores Qualcomm's top chip by nearly 20% (2026-10-25 01:40)

Samsung Electronics' next-generation Exynos 2700 mobile processor scored nearly 20 percent higher than Qualcomm's top-end Snapdragon chip in an internal multicore CPU test, ahead of

its expected debut in the Galaxy S27 series early next year. The results came from recent in-house benchmark tests comparing the Exynos 2700 with Qualcomm's Snapdragon 8 Elite Extreme Gen 6, which powers Xiaomi's 18 Pro Max, according to industry sources Sunday. In Geekbench 6.5, the Exynos 2700 posted a multicore CP

- FC Seoul boss Kim Gi-dong happy to deliver on championship promise (2026-10-25 00:57)

When Kim Gi-dong took the helm for FC Seoul before the 2024 season, he had promised the club's supporters that he would bring them a title within three years. On Saturday, Kim delivered on that pledge, as FC Seoul clinched the K League 1 championship with five matches to spare. FC Seoul played Gangwon FC to a 1-1 draw at Seoul World Cup Stadium and improved to 67 points on 20 wins, seven draws and six losses. Ulsan HD FC remained in second place with 51 points, and they will not be able to catch

- FC Seoul crowned K League 1 champions (2026-10-25 00:52)

FC Seoul captured their first South Korean football title in 10 years Saturday. FC Seoul played Gangwon FC to a 1-1 draw in their K League 1 match at Seoul World Cup Stadium in the capital city and improved to 67 points with five matches to play on 20 wins, seven draws and six losses. Ulsan HD FC remained in second place with 51 points following their 2-2 draw with Pohang Steelers on Saturday and will not be able to catch FC Seoul the rest of the season. Teams were split into two tiers after Sat

- LIV Golf paid $15 million to retain executives before filing for bankruptcy, court records show (2026-10-25 00:47)

LIV Golf paid $15.6 million to retain seven of its executives, including $6.375 million to CEO Scott O'Neil, in the months between Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund saying it was ending financial support and LIV filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. The payments are part of a trove of documents filed late Thursday in US Bankruptcy Court in New Jersey. They included 129 payments to creditors in the 90 days before LIV's bankruptcy filing and $26 million to Jon Rahm in the year before the Sept. 8 fi

- Kim Jong-un returns from China after war memorial visit, state media says (2026-10-25 00:20)

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un returned to his country by road on Sunday after visiting a historic Korean War memorial in the Chinese border city of Dandong, North Korean state media reported. Kim visited the city on Saturday and crossed a newly opened bridge that connects the country to its biggest trading partner, China, which was seen as symbolizing a push by Beijing and Pyongyang to expand trade ties. North Korean state media heavily emphasized the historical weight of the visit, describ

- As Koreans eat less rice, CJ looks overseas to grow Hetbahn (2026-10-24 23:30)

JINCHEON, North Chungcheong Province — For three decades, CJ CheilJedang has honed a seemingly simple recipe for instant rice under its Hetbahn brand, which more often than not stands in for microwavable rice itself in Korea. The nation's first aseptic-packaged cooked rice, debuted in 1996, now holds about 65 percent of the domestic market and has grown into a lineup of multigrain bowls, pot-cooked rice, porridge, cup meals and even rice-studded gelato. Innovation continues at CJ’s smart factory

• Kim Jong-un makes surprise visit to China via new Yalu River bridge (2026-10-24 07:04)

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un made an unannounced visit to China on Saturday, crossing the newly opened New Yalu River Bridge into the border city of Dandong, South Korea's Unification Ministry confirmed. The surprise trip comes amid renewed diplomatic attention to the Korean Peninsula, with US President Donald Trump seeking to revive dialogue with North Korea and China preparing to host the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Shenzhen next month. Kim's arrival also comes a day before

• Is Korea’s black puffer era coming to an end? (2026-10-24 07:00)

Long black puffer jackets have long dominated South Korea’s winter streets. But in a country known for its fast-changing fashion trends, could brighter colors be making their way into winter wardrobes? K-pop stars such as Red Velvet’s Seulgi, Aespa’s Karina and Winter, and Ive’s Jang Wonyoung have been seen wearing puffer jackets in various colors, suggesting a shift influenced by local fashion brands. “In the past, companies often concentrated their inventory on staple colors like black and nav

• K-pop's master of ceremonies (2026-10-24 07:00)

Anyone who regularly attends K-pop showcases in South Korea has probably come across You Jae-phil. The energetic host is now a familiar face at events for some of the industry's biggest stars. This year alone, he hosted Ateez's "Golden Hour: Part 4" showcase on Feb. 5 and Aespa's second studio album "Lemonade" showcase on May 28. He also hosted a fan showcase and listening party for Tomorrow X Together member Yeonjun in July. But long before he became a sought-after K-pop host, You spent years b

• A quieter Seoul comes alive after dark (2026-10-24 07:00)

At Unhyeongung, where King Gojong and the future Empress Myeongseong held their wedding ceremony in 1866, visitors are gathering this fall for a quieter occasion: tea and conversation. The former residence of Gojong’s father, Heungseon Daewongun, invites visitors to make traditional Korean desserts, sip tea and share stories about their day, accompanied by live gayageum music. One dessert, gotgamdanji — dried persimmons stuffed with sweet fillings — was chosen to symbolize good fortune. “Every t

• Divorce gets a party of its own in Korea (2026-10-24 07:00)

On a crisp fall day in early October, Cho Seung-yeon, 37, walked down the aisle of a traditional Korean-style restaurant in Seoul's Bukchon Hanok Village, wearing a shimmering silver gown and carrying a bouquet. Some 30 guests applauded as she made her entrance, followed by group photos, celebratory toasts and a ceremony that looked much like a wedding. But Cho was celebrating the end of her marriage, not the beginning of one. Divorced several years earlier, the mother of 6-year-old twins had or

- Korean rapper denies infidelity allegations days after wedding (2026-10-24 05:55)

South Korean rapper Yang Hong-won has denied allegations of infidelity that surfaced just five days after his wedding to longtime partner Won Hyun-ju. In a statement released Friday, Yang's agency, AP Alchemy, confirmed that he had visited a motel with another woman before the wedding but denied any intimate contact. It also accused the person behind the allegations of attempted extortion. The controversy erupted earlier Friday when a person claiming to know Yang accused him of infidelity on Ins

- Experts discuss Lee's pragmatic diplomacy (2026-10-24 03:47)

South Korea should convert its technological and industrial strengths into greater diplomatic influence while also delivering tangible benefits to its partners, officials and experts said at a meeting in Seoul on Friday. The Jeju Forum Inter-Sessional Meeting, hosted by the Jeju Peace Institute at the Korea Press Center in Jung-gu, central Seoul, examined pragmatic diplomacy, cooperation with the Global South and follow-up measures to the inaugural Korea-Central Asia summit in September. Experts

- Blackpink's Lisa releases new EP 'Press Play' (2026-10-24 03:05)

Lisa of Blackpink released her six-track EP, "Press Play," Friday, featuring lead single "Tarantino" and an action-packed music video inspired by the filmmaker's signature cinematic style. The EP includes "Sawadika," "V12," "Cobra," "Cut U Off" and "Sweat." The music video for "Tarantino" follows Lisa as she makes her way through a hotel to deliver a letter to her favorite filmmaker, Quentin Tarantino. Along the way, she encounters a series of obstacles that lead to action-packed encounters. Ahe

- BTS' 'Swim' surpasses 1 billion Spotify streams, first 2026 release to hit milestone (2026-10-24 02:44)

BTS' hit single "Swim" has surpassed 1 billion streams on Spotify, becoming the first song released worldwide in 2026 to reach the milestone. The lead single from the group's fifth studio album, "Arirang," released March 20, surpassed 1 billion cumulative streams on the global music streaming platform as of Saturday, according to the group's agency. The achievement makes "Swim" the fastest BTS song to reach the milestone and brings the group's total number of songs with at least 1 billion Spotif

• N. Korea's Kim calls for 'strongest army' in speech for military meeting in Pyongyang (2026-10-24 02:28)

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has called for the regime's military to build the "strongest army" as he addressed a meeting of commanders in Pyongyang, the North's state media reported Saturday. Kim made the remarks as he supervised a meeting of company commanders Thursday and 23 in the North's capital, according to the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA). Kim told the commanders that "the main spirit of the Third Meeting of Company Leaders of the Korean People's Army is to build the strongest ar

• US Army activates air defense battalion in Guam amid N. Korean, Chinese missile threats: report (2026-10-24 02:22)

The US Army has activated an air defense battalion in Guam to bolster the island's defenses against regional missile threats, including those posed by North Korea and China, a US military news outlet reported Friday. The 3rd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, held an activation ceremony on Oct. 16 at Andersen Air Force Base in Guam and will assume the air defense responsibilities previously carried out by Task Force Talon, according to USNI News. Task Force Talon began its rotationa

• UN official thanks S. Korea for helicopter donation to Kenya for peacekeeping operations (2026-10-24 02:13)

A senior United Nations official expressed gratitude to South Korea Friday for donating eight military helicopters to Kenya to support UN peacekeeping operations. Jean-Pierre Lacroix, UN under-secretary-general for peace operations, made the remarks in a post on X following a ceremony marking the handover of eight refurbished MD 500 Defender helicopters to Kenya. " Grateful to the Republic of Korea for donating eight helicopters to enhance UN Peacekeeping's air mobility," Lacroix wrote. "Refurbis

• US Treasury Department proposes expanding tech investment restrictions to N. Korea (2026-10-24 01:51)

The US Treasury Department has proposed expanding restrictions on American investments in sensitive technologies to include North Korea and several other countries, as Washington seeks to prevent adversaries from using US capital to develop advanced military capabilities. The proposed regulations, detailed in a notice scheduled to be published in the Federal Register on Thursday, would expand the existing Outbound Investment Security Program, which currently covers China, including Hong Kong and

• Merz to visit Seoul for talks with Lee, German business forum (2026-10-23 12:41)

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz will visit South Korea on Oct. 29-30 for talks with President Lee Jae Myung and to attend the Asia-Pacific Conference of German Business, known as APK, the presidential office said Friday. The trip will be Merz’ s first visit to South Korea since taking office and the first bilateral official visit by a German chancellor in three years. Lee and Merz

will hold summit talks on the afternoon of Oct. 29, followed by a joint press statement and anofficial dinner, chie

• Lee calls for closer S. Korea-Japan supply chain cooperation (2026-10-23 12:15)

President Lee Jae Myung on Friday called for closer economic cooperation between South Korea and Japan, stressing the need for the two countries to work together on supply chains for advanced industries. Lee made the remarks during a meeting with a Japanese business delegation led by Yoshinobu Tsutsui, chairman of the Japan Business Federation, at Cheong Wa Dae, according to presidential spokesperson Kim Sung-wan. "South Korea and Japan are important countries for which cooperation is essential

• Hungary marks 1956 uprising, calls for closer S. Korea ties (2026-10-23 11:46)

Hungary called for closer investment and technology ties with South Korea at a reception in Seoul on Thursday marking the 70th anniversary of its 1956 uprising against Soviet rule. Anett Szelezsan, chargé d’ affaires at the Hungarian Embassy, linked the uprising’ s legacy to what she described as the countries’ shared commitment to democracy and human rights. “Our nation was brave enough to stand up for freedom,” she said. Soviet forces crushed the uprising, but it became an enduring symbol of res

• S. Korea donates 8 retired military helicopters to Kenya (2026-10-23 10:48)

South Korea has donated eight decommissioned military helicopters to Kenya after an overhaul, delivering on its pledge to support the U.N. peacekeeping missions in the region, officials said Friday. A ceremony marking the donation of the eight MD 500 Defenders was held at the Kenya Army Corps of Aviation in Nairobi on Friday (local time), according to the defense ministry. The move comes as South Korea pledged to provide choppers to the U.N. peacekeeping operations across Africa during the U.N.

• Social media rumors of N. Korean leader's death are false: spy agency (2026-10-23 09:52)

The spy agency on Friday reported to a parliamentary committee that recent unverified rumors circulating social media claiming North Korean leader Kim Jong-un might have died are false, sources said. The National Intelligence Service (NIS) delivered the assessment during a closed-door meeting with ruling and opposition lawmakers on the National Assembly's Intelligence Committee, according to sources who attended the meeting. The rumors, which claimed Kim had suffered a severe brain hemorrhage, f

• S. Korea proposes military talks with N. Korea to ease tensions along border (2026-10-23 09:39)

South Korea renewed its offer Friday to hold military talks with North Korea to discuss their conflicting views on where the inter-Korean border sits, seeking to ease tensions sparked by last month's land mine blast inside the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ). Seoul and Pyongyang have traded sharp rhetoric since South Korea blamed the North for the Sept. 21 mine blast inside the DMZ

that injured three South Korean troops. Pyongyang has denied responsibility and vowed to take military actions along the b

• Hana Financial posts record 9-month profit of W3.62tr (2026-10-23 08:55)

Hana Financial Group posted a record net profit of 3.62 trillion won ($2.73 billion) in the first nine months of the year, while its share buybacks and cancellations approached 1 trillion won, marking its largest-ever shareholder return. The group said Friday that its consolidated net profit for the third quarter reached 1.22 trillion won, up 2.4 percent from the previous quarter and 7.8 percent from a year earlier. It was the highest quarterly profit since the group merged with Korea Exchange B

• Woori Financial's Q3 profit tops W1tr for second straight quarter (2026-10-23 08:51)

Woori Financial Group reported Friday a cumulative net profit of 2.66 trillion won ($2 billion) for the first nine months of 2026 as underlying income grew, though one-off gains from insurance acquisitions in 2025 mean the figure was down 4.9 percent year-on-year. Excluding bargain purchase gains related to last year's insurance acquisitions, profit rose 18.7 percent.
Third-quarter net profit fell 15.7 percent from last year's record quarter, but at 1.05 trillion won, it was its second-highest e

• Liberals vow judicial overhaul after court acquits Seoul mayor (2026-10-23 08:29)

Left-leaning politicians on Friday vowed renewed efforts to overhaul the judicial branch following a high court's acquittal of Seoul mayor Oh Se-hoon of his charges of violating the Political Funds Act. "This ruling is difficult to accept, both from a legal perspective and from common sense," Rep. Kim Min-seok, chair of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea, told reporters. "I believe it has fueled significant public suspicion (toward the judicial branch). It is deeply concerning that this should

• Deborah Turbeville's photos are all about the vibes (2026-10-23 08:14)

A specter haunts Deborah Turbeville’s photographs — the specter of a glamour in decay. Grainy and washed out in dusky grays, her pictures look like they came straight out of a dead stranger’s photo album, rather than the glossy magazines they were made for. The models are her ghosts: wan, remote figures who gaze past the camera and seem out of place wherever they stand. Ghosts, by nature, belong nowhere in particular, which is to say they could just as easily be anywhere. The rooms they haunt mi

• Special education support expands, but where are the teachers? (2026-10-23 07:45)

The government continues to expand support for children with disabilities, but there has not been a corresponding increase in the number of teachers needed to educate them, a lawmaker said Friday. According to Rep. Kang Kyung-sook of the Rebuilding Korea Party, the Ministry of Education provided disability screenings and assessments to 7,097 children aged 0 to 5 last year, under a pilot program to expand special education support to daycare centers. The

ministry also provided care and support se

• Justin Bieber hits Seongsu for Skylrk's Seoul debut (2026-10-23 07:06)

Thirteen years after his last concert in South Korea, Justin Bieber is back in the country — not as a pop star taking the stage, but as an entrepreneur promoting his own brand. Bieber and his wife Hailey arrived at Incheon International Airport early Friday morning, a day after his fashion and lifestyle brand Skylrk opened its first pop-up store in eastern Seoul's Seongsu-dong neighborhood, news reports said Friday. Videos of the couple circulating on social media showed Bieber wearing a hooded

• Winter is already knocking (2026-10-23 07:04)

Chilly autumn weather gripped South Korea on Friday morning, with frost and ice signaling the early arrival of winter in the country's northeast. According to the Korea Meteorological Administration, temperatures fell below 10 degrees Celsius across most regions, with Seoul recording a low of 6.6 C. The mercury dipped below 5 C in parts of northern Gyeonggi Province and inland Gangwon Province. In Inje County, part of Gangwon Province, a thin layer of frost covered cabbage and chili pepper field

• Seoul stocks end tad higher on bargain hunting (2026-10-23 07:03)

South Korean shares closed slightly higher Friday after plunging more than 3 percent in the previous session, as investors hunted for bargains in major chip stocks amid persistent concerns over investments in the artificial intelligence value chain. The Korean won strengthened against the US dollar. After choppy trading, the benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index rose 16.53 points, or 0.3 percent, to end at 5,550.30. The index opened 2.36 percent lower, but individual investors, who were ne

• Police to mobilize 4,600 for crowd safety measures during Halloween festivities (2026-10-23 06:40)

Seoul police said Friday 4,594 officers will be dispatched for crowd safety at areas expecting heavy foot traffic around Halloween, including the Itaewon area, where a crowd crush killed more than 150 people on Oct 29, 2022. Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency kicked off a special management period from Friday to Nov. 1, during which they will enforce crowd safety measures in five areas in the city: Itaewon, Hongdae, Seongsu-dong, Myeong-dong and Ikseon-dong. Strike teams, patrol teams, special ope

• AmCham, Cisco urge Korean firms to tackle aging IT security risks (2026-10-23 06:34)

The American Chamber of Commerce in Korea and US networking giant Cisco called for greater attention to cybersecurity risks posed by aging IT infrastructure, urging Korean businesses to modernize outdated systems as artificial intelligence reshapes the threat landscape. The two organizations held a closed-door roundtable Thursday at Cisco Korea's office in Seoul, bringing together business executives and cybersecurity experts to discuss the risks of end-of-life, or

EOL, technology — equipment an

• Hanwha takes Korean defense, manufacturing ETFs to Abu Dhabi (2026-10-23 06:32)

Hanwha Asset Management is set to become the first Korean asset manager to list exchange-traded funds on a Middle Eastern exchange, taking two US-listed products tracking Korea's defense and manufacturing sectors to Abu Dhabi as it seeks to build a global investor base. The company confirmed to The Korea Herald on Friday that it plans to cross-list its PLUS Korea Defense Industry Index ETF (KDEF) and PLUS Korea Manufacturing Core Alliance Index ETF (KMCA) on the Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange on

• Santos Bravos to mark first anniversary with new release (2026-10-23 06:28)

Santos Bravos, the Latin pop group launched by Hybe Latin America, will mark the group’s first anniversary with a new release on Nov. 20. The five-member group announced the release date through its social media accounts Thursday, posting a teaser image featuring a silhouette of a paper crane and a hand. This will be the group’s first release since releasing the collaborative single “Ooh Laka Laka La” with Latin pop star Enrique Iglesias earlier this month. It will also be the group’s first inde

• Coupang spends $3.6m lobbying Washington as midterms approach (2026-10-23 06:16)

E-commerce giant Coupang spent about $3.6 million lobbying Washington in the first nine months of this year, while its political action committee steered more donations toward Democrats ahead of the Nov. 3 midterm elections, federal filings showed Thursday. Coupang reported $3.62 million in lobbying expenses through September in its filings under the Lobbying Disclosure Act, more than double the $1.69 million a year earlier. Its reports target the Executive Office of the President, the State and

• Seoul proposes military talks with Pyongyang as border tensions rise (2026-10-23 06:11)

South Korea on Friday proposed military talks with North Korea to prevent accidental border clashes as tensions rise following a mine blast that injured South Korean troops in the Demilitarized Zone. The talks would seek to confirm the precise location of the Military Demarcation Line and discuss restoring military communication lines, Kim Hong-cheol, deputy minister for national defense policy, said. “If necessary, trilateral talks involving the United Nations Command are also possible,” Kim sa

• As Kospi gains global prominence, foreign media increase scrutiny (2026-10-23 06:11)

South Korea's stock market is drawing unprecedented international attention, with overseas media increasingly scrutinizing everything from individual stock debuts to regulators' handling of market volatility, reflecting the Kospi's growing exposure to global investors. Once largely viewed through the performance of semiconductor giants Samsung Electronics and SK hynix, Korea's equity market is increasingly making international headlines in its own right. Sharp market swings, controversial listin

• 'Because it's Apple': What drives Korea's first iPhone Duo buyers (2026-10-23 06:00)

"I ordered Samsung's Galaxy Z Fold8 with my wife, but returned mine unopened when I heard Apple was releasing a foldable." Kim, a Seoul-based game company employee in his mid-40s, was among the first customers collecting Apple's 3.29 million won ($2,300) iPhone Duo at Apple Myeongdong on Friday. His wife kept her Samsung phone. "I seriously considered switching to Android because of the Fold8," he said. But giving up his Apple Watch, AirPods and familiar iPhone software was too much of a barrier

• Why SK hynix shelved Solidigm's $150b US IPO plan (2026-10-23 05:57)

SK hynix's decision to shelve a potential US listing of its NAND flash subsidiary Solidigm reflects a strategic reassessment of how best to finance the company's next phase of growth, rather than a retreat from its expansion ambitions. The Korean chipmaker announced Friday that Solidigm had ended its review of pre-IPO fundraising and an initial public offering, 79 days after the plan first emerged on Aug. 5. The decision comes as a sharp correction in semiconductor stocks has made a favorable va

• Over 31,000 foreign students overstaying visas in Korea: data (2026-10-23 05:46)

More than 31,000 foreign students who had been issued either D-2 or D-4 visas were staying in South Korea illegally as of August, according to a government data showed Friday. A total of 31,665 foreign students who had entered Korea on undergraduate or language training visas were in Korea without permission as of August, according to Ministry of Justice data obtained by People Power Party Rep. Kim Hee-jung. Of these, 21,719 had entered on D-4 visas, which are issued for language study, while 9,

• Samsung honors Lee Kun-hee's legacy ahead of 6th death anniversary (2026-10-23 05:23)

Samsung Electronics Chairman Lee Jae-yong joined senior executives Friday at a memorial service for his late father, former Samsung Chairman Lee Kun-hee, ahead of the sixth anniversary of his death on Sunday. Lee arrived at the family burial site in Suwon, Gyeonggi Province, at around 8:40 a.m., shortly after returning from a business trip to the United Arab Emirates. He paid his respects at the grave, bowing twice before observing a moment of silence and performing a traditional memorial ritual

• [Breaking] Seoul mayor acquitted on appeal in political funds case (2026-10-23 05:19)

Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon on Friday was acquitted by an appellate court of charges that he violated the Political Funds Act ahead of the 2021 Seoul mayoral by-election, overturning a lower court's guilty verdict. The appellate ruling cancels Oh's conviction by the lower court, which had imposed a 10 million won fine that could have cost him his mayoral post if finalized. The Seoul High Court found insufficient evidence to establish that Oh had asked self-proclaimed political broker Myung Tae-kyun t

• K/DA and LoL Worlds go beyond the screen with Korea collaborations (2026-10-23 05:01)

Riot Games is rolling out a series of collaborations in Korea, including offline pop-up stores and limited-edition merchandise, to mark the opening of the 2026 League of Legends World Championship and the return of its virtual girl group K/DA. The 2026 LoL World Championship, Riot Games' flagship annual tournament and one of the biggest events in esports, kicked off on Oct. 15. Meanwhile, K/DA, a virtual girl group made up of characters from the popular online game LoL and voiced by K-pop artist

• Major K-pop agencies skip Grammys' new Asian pop category (2026-10-23 04:50)

K-pop's four biggest entertainment companies — Hybe, SM Entertainment, JYP Entertainment and YG Entertainment — have reportedly opted not to submit their artists to the Grammy Awards' newly created best Asian pop music performance category, adding weight to concerns first raised publicly by BTS over how the award separates Asian music from the broader pop field. The development significantly broadens the picture that emerged earlier this year, when BTS, and later Stray Kids, issued separate stat

• President seeks to quell public fears of violent crimes (2026-10-23 04:15)

President Lee Jae Myung on Friday urged government agencies to confront serious crime with the resolve of "declaring war" and called for stronger measures to prevent random attacks and protect victims of intimate partner abuse. Lee convened a government-wide meeting at Cheong Wa Dae amid growing public fears over a series of attacks, including an Oct. 13 stabbing in Incheon that injured eight people and an arson attack on two office buildings in Seoul's Gangnam-gu that injured 19. "Public anxiet

• TWS to 'light up' fans with 2nd single (2026-10-23 02:51)

TWS is rolling out an exclusive package of its second physical single "To Us," which includes ambient lighting, agency Pledis Entertainment announced Friday. The single is slated to come out on Nov. 2 and the "Beside" version was designed to allow fans to enjoy soft lighting, realizing the message of the forthcoming set which portrays the beauty of youth that shining through confusion and hardships. The package also includes a photobook, a leaflet and photo cards. The boy group is also opening a

• DP lawmaker says long road ahead to bring justice to Itaewon disaster victims (2026-10-23 02:48)

Finding the truth and justice for families of the 2022 Itaewon disaster victims remain a far off goal, Rep. Nam In-soon of the ruling Democratic Party said Friday, adding that those responsible still needed to be held accountable. "Although four years have passed, we are still in the process of revealing the truth behind the (Itaewon) disaster and hold people accountable for their wrongdoings," Nam said in a meeting she presided over as the chief of the ruling party's special committee investiga

• Woman kills her own mother, tells police she 'did bad thing to her stepmother' (2026-10-23 02:48)

South Korean police said Friday they had requested a warrant for the formal arrest of a woman in her 40s, accused of murdering her mother the previous day. The suspect was placed under emergency arrest at around 8:40 a.m. on Thursday at her home in Gangseo-gu district, western Seoul. She is believed to have killed the victim, who was in her 60s, between 7 a.m. and 8:15 a.m. on Thursday, according to the Seoul Gangseo Police Station. She called the police at 8:15 a.m., and told them, "I did a bad

• Seoul calls for North Korean apology over mine blast in letter to UN Security Council (2026-10-23 02:44)

South Korea sent a letter to the UN Security Council president Thursday calling on North Korea to take responsibility for a land mine explosion in the Demilitarized Zone last month and apologize, according to Seoul’s UN mission. Cha Ji-hoon, South Korea’s ambassador to the UN, sent the roughly two-page letter to his Greek counterpart, whose country holds the council’s rotating presidency. Greece approved its circulation, and the letter is expected to be distributed to all council members shortly

• I-dle’s Minnie teases solo EP (2026-10-23 02:41)

Minnie of I-dle has uploaded an audio snippet of her solo digital EP, “I Love You to the Moon and Back.” Teh snippet includes parts of all three songs, starting with “White Clouds” and “Insomnia,” both marked by minimal acoustic sounds, before giving a sample of main single, “To the Moon :),” a pop number with a guitar backing. She participated in writing all tracks portraying a range of emotions surrounding love with lyrics in Thai, her native language, a first for the idol. The musician is rel

• 80% of Netflix subscribers worldwide have watched Korean content (2026-10-23 02:30)

Roughly 80 percent of global Netflix subscribers have viewed Korean shows or movies, according to figures released by the streaming platform on Friday. The data was unveiled to mark the 10th anniversary of Netflix's service launch in Korea. According to the platform, more than 200 Korean productions have made it into its global Top 10 charts since the company began publishing the rankings on its official ranking platform, Tudum, in 2021. Netflix added that between its 2016 launch in Korea and 20

• Lee calls for proactive prevention of violent crimes to build 'supersafe' society (2026-10-23 02:23)

President Lee Jae Myung on Friday called for proactive efforts to prevent violent crimes to ensure a "supersafe" society following a series of violent crimes targeting random victims or family members. The president made the remarks at a pan-government meeting aimed at building a supersafe country amid heightened public safety fears following a stabbing spree targeting random people at a building in Incheon, just west of Seoul, last week and a suspected

arson earlier this week, in which a man se

• Middle schooler beaten by fellow students over deepfake images of classmates (2026-10-23 02:04)

A middle school student in Cheongju, North Chungcheong Province, was assaulted by fellow students for creating and distributing sexually explicit deepfake images of female classmates, police said Thursday. According to Cheongju Cheongwon Police Station, the student allegedly created the deepfake content using photos of female students taken without their consent. His actions came to light on Oct. 16, when one of the victims discovered the images. Police also found indications that the student ha

• Korea's Q3 art auction sales fall 11% as top-end deals dry up (2026-10-23 02:02)

South Korea's art auction market lost more ground in the third quarter as sales fell despite a larger number of works on offer, according to a report released Thursday by the Seoul-based Korea Art Authentication and Appraisal Research Center. Combined sales at the country's seven major auction houses totaled 27.97 billion won ($21.1 million) from July through September. That was down 10.8 percent from 31.36 billion won a year earlier, according to the report. More works went up for sale but fewe

• 'I want to be soldier one day': girl's promise revealed 11 years later (2026-10-23 02:00)

A man recently shared a handwritten note he received while serving as a mandatory soldier back in 2015, from a fifth grader who was concerned about his safety in the aftermath of North Korea's military provocations. The letter was said to be from a student attending Yeongwol Elementary School in Gangwon Province, dated Sept. 17, 2025. "I was moved and thankful when I saw the news that (the soldiers) stayed vigilant when North Korea raised tensions with provocations," the letter shared via variou

• Lee's approval rating hits 40% for 1st time since early Sept.: poll (2026-10-23 01:55)

President Lee Jae Myung's approval rating rose to 40 percent for the first time since early September, a poll showed Friday. The survey, conducted by Gallup Korea from Tuesday through Thursday on 1,001 people aged 18 and older, showed that positive assessments of Lee's performance increased 1 percentage point from the previous week. Those who disapproved of Lee's handling of state affairs fell by 2 percentage points on-week to 50 percent. Lee's approval rating last stood at 40 percent in the fir

• N. Korea has planted nearly 1 million land mines in DMZ since 2024: military (2026-10-23 01:50)

North Korea has planted an estimated 960,000 land mines in the Demilitarized Zone since 2024 as part of a campaign to fortify its border with South Korea, according to military data disclosed Friday. The South Korean military reported to the National Assembly that North Korea had laid approximately 960,000 mines along the DMZ since 2024, according to multiple lawmakers'

offices affiliated with the parliamentary intelligence and defense committees. Experts previously estimated that around 2 milli

• Hyundai Motor supplies 11 electric buses to Indonesia's Bali (2026-10-23 01:41)

Hyundai Motor Co. said Friday it has supplied 11 County electric buses to Bali, marking the introduction of the first electric public transportation service on the Indonesian resort island. The South Korean automaker supplied the buses as part of an official development assistance program, after winning a bid organized by the Global Green Growth Institute in October 2025. The delivery marks Hyundai Motor's second supply of electric buses to Indonesia, following the delivery of 11 County electric

• Lee set to meet with chief of Japanese business association (2026-10-23 01:39)

President Lee Jae Myung was set to meet with the chairman of a major Japanese business association Friday and discuss ways to boost bilateral cooperation and exchanges between their countries. Lee's upcoming meeting with Yoshinobu Tsutsui, chairman of the Japan Business Federation, comes as the Japanese businessman is visiting Seoul for the 33rd meeting between the federation and its South Korean counterpart, the Federation of Korean Industries. During Friday's meeting, Lee plans to hear the out

• GS Caltex showcases AI-driven workplace innovations (2026-10-23 01:32)

GS Caltex showcased a range of artificial intelligence-driven workplace innovations, from employee training tools to robotics and energy-saving initiatives, at its annual Deep Transformation Day held Thursday at GS Tower in southern Seoul. The fourth edition of the event, attended by GS Caltex Vice Chairman and CEO Hur Sae-hong and other executives and employees, featured 15 exhibition booths highlighting projects developed by staff to improve productivity and transform business operations. Amon

• Women's hotline receives nearly 300k calls a year, half for domestic violence (2026-10-23 01:23)

The 1366 Women's Emergency Hotline received 293,407 calls in 2024, according to a government-affiliated agency against sexual and domestic violence, with more than half concerning domestic violence. The number of annual calls since 2022 has hovered around 290,000, according to the Women's Human Rights Institute of Korea. The number has been fairly consistent, with 289,848 in 2022 and 294,328 in 2023. Established in 1998, the hotline takes reports of violence that is sexual or domestic in nature,

• Illit’s upcoming album logs half a million Spotify ‘pre-saves’ (2026-10-23 00:59)

Illit topped the Pre-Save ranking on Spotify with its fifth EP, “Break Even,” its agency Belift Lab said Friday. The EP logged over half a million “pre-saves” ahead of its Monday release. The group unveiled performance for main track “You’re Under Arrest” over the weekend ahead of official release, during the encore show it had in Seoul for tour “Press Start.” The video of

the live performance was uploaded on its channel and entered trending music video charts in adozen regions on YouTube. From

• N. Korea likely planted 960,000 land mines along inter-Korean border since 2024: lawmakers (2026-10-23 00:52)

North Korea has planted an estimated 960,000 land mines along the inter-Korean border since 2024, according to multiple lawmakers Friday, a move seen as part of its border fortification work after Pyongyang declared a "two hostile states" policy toward Seoul. The South Korean military has reported the estimate to the National Assembly, lawmakers affiliated with the parliamentary intelligence and defense committees told Yonhap News Agency. North Korea has stepped up border reinforcements since Ap

• Seoul shares open sharply lower amid persistent AI woes, rising oil prices (2026-10-23 00:41)

South Korean shares opened sharply lower Friday, weighed down by overnight losses in US artificial intelligence and semiconductor stocks, while rising oil prices added to market jitters. After opening 2.36 percent lower, the benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index fell 156.6 points, or 2.83 percent, to 5,377.17 as of 9:15 a.m. Overnight, US stocks closed mixed, with losses in major technology shares weighing on the broader market. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 0.02 percent, while the

• BTS amasses 200m views with ‘2.0’ music video (2026-10-23 00:39)

BTS exceeded 200 million plays on YouTube with the music video for “2.0,” label Big Hit Music said Friday. It is the first video from the group's fifth studio album, “Arirang,” to reach the milestone. The septet has released five music videos for the 14-track album, with “2.0” the second to come out, coming approximately two weeks since the album release. Paying homage to Park Chan-wook’s 2003 thriller “Oldboy,” BTS visualized a new chapter, adding its own humorous twist. “2.0” is a B-side track

• SK hynix halts review of Solidigm US IPO (2026-10-23 00:28)

SK hynix Inc. said Friday it has decided to suspend plans for the listing of its US subsidiary Solidigm, citing market conditions. Reports have circulated that Solidigm was considering an initial public offering in the United States as early as next year, potentially valuing the subsidiary at up to $150 billion. "We have decided to halt its review of a pre-IPO fundraising round and a subsequent IPO after taking into account overall capital market conditions," the South Korean chipmaker said. How

• Appeals court to rule on Seoul mayor's high-stakes political funds trial (2026-10-23 00:17)

An appeals court was set to rule Friday on Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon's trial in a high-stakes political funds case stemming from opinion polls he allegedly received ahead of the 2021 mayoral by-election. If the Seoul High Court upholds his conviction by a lower court and the

ruling is finalized through appeal, Oh will lose his mayorship after being elected into office for a fifth term in June. Under the Political Funds Act, elected officials are stripped of their seats if they receive a finalized f

• Movies in theaters this week (2026-10-23 00:00)

“Paradise Lost” (South Korea) Opened Oct. 21 Thriller Directed by Yeon Sang-ho When a boy who went missing years ago (Bae Hyun-sung) returns home, the mother (Kim Hyun-joo) begins to suspect something is off. “Clayface” (US) Opened Oct. 21 Horror/Thriller Directed by James Watkins A disfigured actor (Tom Rhys Harries) signs up for an experimental treatment that turns his body into living clay. Based on the DC Comics character. “Still Shining” (South Korea) Opened Oct. 21 Drama Directed by Song I

• Culture belongs to citizens: Snohetta on building opera houses for everyone (2026-10-23 00:00)

For centuries, opera houses have stood as monuments to high culture — grand stages where art, wealth and prestige converge. But for architect Kjetil Traedal Thorsen, the opera houses of the 21st century should be as much a part of everyday civic life as they are destinations for the arts. Thorsen is the co-founder of Snohetta, the Norwegian contemporary architecture firm behind an opera house that opened in Shanghai last week and another scheduled to open in Busan in 2028. It also designed the N

• Gangneung’s coffee festival goes beyond the cup (2026-10-23 00:00)

In Gangneung, Gangwon Province, coffee culture began with a row of vending machines facing the sea at Anmok Beach. Nearly two decades later, the city celebrates the drink with a five-day festival spread across its beaches, pine forests, harbor and neighborhoods. The 18th Gangneung Coffee Festival opened Wednesday and runs through Sunday along Gangneung Coffee Street and at sites throughout the city. Launched in 2009, the festival draws around 300,000 visitors a year and has grown out of the city

• Hacking attempts surge as companies, governments rush to patch PHP flaws (2026-10-22 23:06)

Global firms and governments rushed on Thursday to patch critical flaws in the PHP programming language that underpins much of the internet, as cloud firms reported a surge of hacking attempts after the vulnerabilities were disclosed. The push came after governments in Europe and elsewhere took websites offline as a precaution on Wednesday while website operators scrambled to secure systems running the software. The emergency shutdowns of banking, airline, rail, tax and government services from

• [Graphic News] Korean-language education expands overseas (2026-10-22 23:00)

Enrollment in Korean-language classes overseas reached 191,896 students in 2025, up about 50 percent from five years earlier. The 47 Korean Education Centers in 22 countries support

Korean-language education, teacher training, TOPIK testing and international studentrecruitment. Korean classes were offered at 2,777 schools in 47 countries. Center-operatedprograms grew from 731 courses with 20,580 students in 2023 to 1,200 courses with 28,751students in 2025. About 90 percent of participants we

• [Lee Byung-jong] President Lee's X posts (2026-10-22 20:30)

Addiction to social media is not limited to children and young people. A growing number of political leaders are turning to social media to communicate directly with their constituencies. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump are among the most active political communicators on social media and have some of the largest followings — nearly 400 million for Modi and 264 million for Trump. South Korean President Lee Jae Myung is a recent addition to this list. Calling soc

• 34 student activists convicted of illegal entry into presidential compound, US base (2026-10-22 12:46)

A court on Thursday found 34 student activists guilty of trespassing on the then presidential compound and a U.S. military base between 2022 and 2024. The Seoul Western District Court sentenced a senior leader of the Korean Progressive University Student Union (KPUSU) to a suspended four-month prison term and ordered 32 other members to pay fines ranging from 1 million won (US$756) to 6 million won. One other member received a deferred sentence of a 1 million-won fine. Two others were indicted b

• S. Korea to take on Saudi Arabia, Qatar in Nov. football friendlies (2026-10-22 12:38)

South Korea will face Saudi Arabia and Qatar in two men's football friendly matches next month in Doha, the sport's national federation announced Thursday. The Korea Football Association (KFA) said the Taegeuk Warriors will first take on 55th-ranked Saudi Arabia on Nov. 13 and then play 60th-ranked Qatar on Nov. 17. The first match will kick off at 5:30 p.m. (local time), or 11:30 p.m. (South Korea time), and the latter match will begin at 5 p.m. (local time), or 11:00 p.m. (South Korea time). T

• Court issues arrest warrant for suspect in patent firm arson attacks (2026-10-22 12:35)

A Seoul court on Thursday issued an arrest warrant for a man in his 70s suspected of setting fires at two buildings in southern Seoul earlier this week, leaving 19 people injured. The Seoul Central District Court issued the warrant on charges of arson resulting in injuries, saying the man is a flight risk. The suspect was taken into custody hours after setting fires at two patent firms in separate buildings in Seoul's Gangnam district Tuesday. The fires left 19 people injured, including one who

• Seoul Metropolitan Ballet pays tribute to Hans van Manen, adds 2 int'l dancers (2026-10-22 11:55)

The Seoul Metropolitan Ballet will pay tribute to Dutch choreographer Hans van Manen (1932-2025), a leading figure in European contemporary ballet, with a program of three of his works marking the first anniversary of his death. The company, run by the Sejong Center for the Performing Arts, will present "All for Hans van Manen" from Nov. 19 to 22 at the Sejong M Theater. The triple bill will close the company's 2026 season, its second full season since it was founded in 2024. The three works spa

• Nationwide court network restored after 2-hour outage (2026-10-22 11:36)

A nationwide court network outage disrupted access to the judicial case management system for about two hours on Thursday, but services were restored by 6 p.m., the National Court Administration said. The administration said the outage began at around 3:50 p.m., affecting the national case management system, online case searches that provide updates on court proceedings, and other judicial information systems, including those used to process arrest warrants. The administration said the outage wa

• A K-drama version of 'Culinary Class Wars'? 'Final Table' blends drama with reality TV (2026-10-22 11:33)

JTBC’s "Final Table" is a new venture, and one of the first Korean dramas to blend a scripted narrative with a reality variety show formula. The upcoming 12-episode series, set to premiere on Saturday, stars "KPop Demon Hunters" breakout star Ahn Hyo-seop as Kang Han, a prodigy chef battling for the title in the fictional elite culinary competition "The Table: K-Chef 2026." Instead of relying solely on the standard narrative, director Kim Do-hoon said he experimented with a new hybrid format by

• Pope Leo XIV invites youth to Seoul for World Youth Day 2027 (2026-10-22 10:00)

Registration for World Youth Day Seoul 2027 opened Thursday. On the same day, Pope Leo XIV released a video message inviting young people around the world to the Catholic gathering in the Korean capital next summer. "Today, as registration opens for next year’s World Youth Day, I warmly invite each of you to Seoul," the pope said in the message, which the Holy See Press Office released at 7 p.m. Korea time. "This is not merely an invitation to see a new city. It is a call to set out on a pilgrim

• Song Hye-kyo, Gong Yoo's 'Tantara' confirmed for Dec. 11 rollout (2026-10-22 09:20)

One of Netflix Korea's biggest K-dramas of 2026, "Tantara," has been confirmed for a Dec.11 rollout. The series features a powerhouse ensemble led by two A-listers: Song Hye-kyo ("The Glory," "Descendants of the Sun") and Gong Yoo ("Guardian: The Lonely and Great God," "The Trunk"). They are joined by a supporting cast that includes Lee Ha-nee, AOA's Seolhyun and Cha Seung-won. Set against the backdrop of Korea’s entertainment industry spanning the 1960s through the 1980s, "Tantara" chronicles c

• Aoora headlines music festival finale in India (2026-10-22 09:14)

Aoora, a Korean singer based in Mumbai, headlined the finale of "Krishnayanam 2026," a music festival held in Kollam, Kerala, India, on Saturday and Sunday. The festival featured just three performers: M. G. Sreekumar, K. S. Harisankar and Aoora, who closed the event. During his set, Aoora performed his songs "Thi Thi Thara" and "Shiva Shivam," along with his own renditions of popular Malayalam hits "Eyy Banane" and "Illuminati." Blending regional music with K-pop-inspired choreography and stage

• Hanwha-backed Nobu Bank spearheads Indonesia's QR payment innovation (2026-10-22 08:47)

Hanwha Life-backed Nobu Bank has topped Indonesia's QR payment market with an estimated 21.5 percent share by transaction volume, outpacing larger rivals despite its relatively modest size in the country's banking sector. Bank Indonesia separately identified Nobu as the largest provider of merchant-presented QR payment services by transaction volume in a March report. The figures reflect its presence in digital payments, although Nobu remains relatively small compared to Indonesia's major commer

• Korea to ease E-7-4 visa path for long-serving migrant workers (2026-10-22 08:44)

The Ministry of Justice said Thursday it would reform the E-7-4 skilled worker visa system, which allows eligible E-9 nonprofessional workers and E-10 seafarers to switch to a visa permitting a longer stay. The system assesses applicants' Korean proficiency, income and employment or residency duration. After the quota rose from 2,000 to 35,000 in September 2023, the number of E-7-4 visa holders reached 52,648 as of September this year. A June survey of 470 businesses and 316 foreign workers iden

• South Korea's Arctic shipping trial points to shorter route, operational hurdles (2026-10-22 08:38)

BUSAN — South Korea's first government-led Arctic shipping trial has shown the potential to cut the distance to Europe by about 35 percent and the transit time by roughly 10 days compared with the Suez Canal route, but participants said ice, severe weather and operational challenges remain obstacles to commercial service. The Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries shared the findings Thursday at a briefing in Busan with participants in the voyage, which ended Oct. 11 when the container ship Panstar Ac

• Constitutional Court upholds harsher penalties for killing parents (2026-10-22 08:36)

The Constitutional Court on Thursday upheld a law imposing harsher penalties for murdering a parent or other direct ascendant than for ordinary murder. The court ruled 8-1 that Article 250, Paragraph 2 of the Criminal Act, which prescribes aggravated punishment for killing one's own or one's spouse's direct ascendant, is constitutional. Under the provision, those convicted face the death penalty, life imprisonment or a prison term of at least seven years. Ordinary murder, by comparison, carries

• Sibelius' own orchestra brings its home repertoire to Seoul (2026-10-22 08:20)

The Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra, which gave the first performances of nearly all of Jean Sibelius' symphonies, will make its Seoul debut at Lotte Concert Hall on Thursday. The concert closes the orchestra's first Korean tour, which began in Daegu on Tuesday and stopped in Daejeon on Wednesday. Chief conductor Jukka-Pekka Saraste, a 70-year-old Finn who began his career as a violinist, will lead selections from Sibelius' "Pelleas et Melisande" and the composer's Symphony No. 2. Korean violini

• Free subway rides for seniors bring social benefits but strain operators: study (2026-10-22 08:08)

Free subway rides for people aged 65 and older in Korea generated an estimated 650.6 billion won ($492 million) in social benefits in 2025, as the growing senior population adds financial pressure on metro operators, a study released Thursday found. The Korean Society of Transportation conducted the study beginning in July at the joint request of six metro operators, including Seoul Metro. The report estimated health benefits at 338.6 billion won, including suicide and depression prevention, few

• AI meets fashion at Palantir's Seoul pop-up (2026-10-22 08:01)

A cafe in Hannam-dong, central Seoul, was bustling with visitors Thursday, with some lining up before opening to get their hands on branded merchandise from US software company Palantir Technologies, including hoodies, T-shirts and caps featuring the company's logo and messages. The two-day pop-up store, open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., marks Palantir's second merchandise event in South Korea, following its first pop-up in Seongsu-dong, Seoul, in October last year. This year's event, themed "Soverei

• Cheong Wa Dae holds emergency meeting over PHP security flaws (2026-10-22 07:58)

South Korea’s presidential National Security Office convened an emergency cybersecurity meeting on Thursday to coordinate a response to a critical vulnerability in PHP, a programming language widely used to power websites around the world. The meeting, chaired by Song Ki-ho, the third deputy director of the National Security Office, brought together senior officials from the Ministry of Science and ICT, the Ministry of National Defense and the National Intelligence Service, according to Cheong W

• A2O Soul to release debut album ‘Superstar’ in November (2026-10-22 07:26)

A2O Soul will release its debut EP, “Superstar,” on Nov. 9, roughly a month after introducing itself with a prerelease single of the same name. The 15-member boy group, produced by Lee Soo-man under A2O Entertainment, will release the five-track album at 6 p.m. through major streaming platforms. The album will include the prerelease single “Superstar” and second lead track “Dancing in the Dark,” as well as three additional songs built around what the group describes as its new synthwave sound. “

• Seoul stocks slide over 3% on profit-taking amid persistent AI woes (2026-10-22 07:24)

South Korean shares plunged more than 3 percent Thursday as investors took profits on major chip shares following a rebound in the previous session, amid concerns over investments in the artificial intelligence value chain. The Korean won strengthened against the US dollar. The benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index fell 201.8 points, or 3.52 percent, to 5,533.77. The index opened down 1.14 percent before briefly turning positive to reach an intraday high of 5,740.28. It soon resumed its de

• Korea rises as strategic hub for German firms: KGCCI chief (2026-10-22 06:57)

German companies are turning to South Korea as a strategic base for manufacturing and innovation, as the two countries leverage their industrial strengths and businesses diversify supply chains amid growing geopolitical uncertainty, according to the head of the Korea-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Marie Antonia von Schonburg, president and CEO of the chamber, said German companies look to Korea not just as a market for their products but as a base for manufacturing, technology developm

• Seoul to raise NK land mine armistice violation with UN Security Council (2026-10-22 06:36)

South Korea said Thursday it will formally raise North Korea's alleged violation of the Korean War Armistice Agreement with the United Nations Security Council, as Pyongyang stepped up its threats against Seoul over escalating military tensions along the inter-Korean border. Seoul's Foreign Ministry said South Korea's ambassador to the United Nations, Cha Ji-hoon, would send a letter — concerning two land mine explosions on Sept. 21 inside the Demilitarized Zone that injured three South Korean s

• After 10 years, watchdog on presidential inner circle returns: why it matters (2026-10-22 06:28)

After a decade in limbo, South Korea's long-dormant presidential watchdog is poised for a revival under the Lee Jae Myung administration, bringing back a key check on presidential power. The independent inspector general is tasked with investigating suspected misconduct involving the president's spouse, relatives within the fourth degree of kinship and senior presidential aides. The revival of the post, vacant since September 2016, marks the restoration of an oversight mechanism designed to prev

• Young Poong, MBK vow appeal after W837b lawsuit defeat (2026-10-22 06:26)

The Seoul Central District Court on Thursday dismissed an 837 billion won ($632 million) shareholder derivative lawsuit filed by Young Poong and MBK Partners against Korea Zinc Chairman Choi Yun-birm and other directors, handing the company's management a legal victory in their ongoing battle for control. The Young Poong-MBK alliance filed the suit in November 2024, alleging that Korea Zinc's directors caused substantial losses by buying back shares at 890,000 won apiece through a tender offer,

• Gyeonggi's plan to abolish immigration bureau sparks concerns over policy rollback (2026-10-22 06:25)

Gyeonggi Province’s plan to abolish its dedicated Immigrant Society Bureau has alarmed experts and civic groups, who warn the move could set back migrant integration efforts as the number of residents with migrant backgrounds in the province approaches 1 million. Under a restructuring plan announced Wednesday, Gyeonggi Province would eliminate five bureaus, including its Immigrant Society Bureau, amid Gov. Choo Mi-ae’s drive to cut spending. Established in July 2024, the bureau was South Korea’s

• Border tension invites right-wing political attacks (2026-10-22 06:22)

The country's conservative main opposition party is raising the heat on the Lee Jae Myung administration’s security and diplomatic policies as inter-Korean tensions continue to escalate. “North Korea’s last line of defense is not land mines nor nuclear weapons. The weapon of last defense North Korea has hidden is President Lee,” People Power Party Chair Rep. Jang Dong-hyeok said Thursday, honing in on earlier remarks by President Lee Jae Myung’. During a meeting with the press earlier this week,

• Eight regions lack Korean-language classes for migrant-background high school students (2026-10-22 06:18)

Eight of South Korea’s 16 provincial-level regions have no dedicated Korean-language classes for high school students from migrant backgrounds, despite the number of students more than doubling over the past four years. Some 15,877 of the country’s 37,660 migrant-background high school students, or 42.2 percent, attend schools in those regions, according to Education Ministry data obtained by Democratic Party of Korea Rep. Han Byung-do. Korean-language classes are specialized programs designed t

• N. Korea's Kim Yo-jong escalates border threats in apparent pressure tactic (2026-10-22 06:15)

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's sister stepped up her verbal offensive against Seoul on Thursday, threatening to resume propaganda loudspeaker broadcasts and telling a senior South Korean presidential adviser to "shut his mouth." The unusually aggressive campaign by Kim Yo-jong, department director of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, has raised questions about Pyongyang's intentions, with analysts pointing to a calculated effort to assert control over the increasingly vola

• BOK pauses rate hikes, but signals more may come (2026-10-22 06:14)

The Bank of Korea held its key interest rate at 3 percent Thursday, pausing after two consecutive hikes but keeping the door open to further tightening as stronger-than-expected growth and persistent inflation complicate its policy outlook. The Monetary Policy Board unanimously voted to leave the rate unchanged after raising it by 25 basis points in both July

and August. "We believe it is necessary to maintain the current restrictive stance, as growth and inflation have been stronger than expect

• LG Display swings to Q3 profit, but earnings fall 42% on year (2026-10-22 06:11)

LG Display returned to an operating profit in the third quarter on stronger seasonal demand for OLED panels, although earnings fell 42 percent from a year earlier as a weaker dollar and rising component costs weighed on profitability. The South Korean display maker said Thursday that operating profit reached 250.6 billion won ($189.3 million) in the July-September period, reversing a 107.7 billion won loss in the previous quarter. Revenue rose 12 percent from the second quarter to 6.28 trillion

• Cho Eun-hye wins Korea's first Asian Para Games fencing gold (2026-10-22 05:59)

South Korean wheelchair fencer Cho Eun-hye won the women's individual epee B title by a single point Tuesday, earning the country's first fencing gold medal since the Asian Para Games began in 2010. Cho, 41, captain and oldest member of the South Korean women's fencing team, defeated Thailand's Saysunee Jana 15-14 in the final at Inae Sports Center in Nagoya at the 2026 Aichi-Nagoya Asian Para Games. Cho, who won bronze medals in the individual sabre B and women's team epee events at the 2022 Ha

• 2010 Open champion Oosthuizen to leave LIV Golf (2026-10-22 05:59)

Louis Oosthuizen of South Africa, the 2010 British Open champion, has joined the growing list of players leaving LIV Golf. According to the BBC, Oosthuizen wrote on social media Wednesday that he would leave LIV Golf, calling it "one of the hardest decisions of my life." The 44-year-old won the 2010 Open Championship and finished runner-up five times across golf's four majors. He also reached a career-high No. 4 in the world rankings. "I still believe I have a few good years of competitive golf

• Uzbekistan, South Korea put people at center of ties (2026-10-22 05:58)

Uzbekistan and South Korea called for more educational and local exchanges on Wednesday, highlighting the role of students and communities in Uzbek-Korean ties. Speaking at a reception marking Uzbekistan’s Independence Day in Seoul, Uzbek Ambassador Alisher Abdusalomov said more than 107,000 Uzbek citizens live and work in South Korea, including 22,000 students. “At the end of the day, our partnership is really about people,” he said, describing Uzbek students as a “living bridge connecting our

• K-beauty stocks stumble as strong won squeezes profits (2026-10-22 05:49)

While K-beauty’s overseas sales have never been stronger, markets seem hesitant to reward its soaring figures, fearing a surging won will eat into its earnings. Cosmetics exports reached $11.1 billion in the first nine months of the year, up 31.1 percent and a record for the period, according to Korea’s Ministry of Food and Drug Safety, though shares of major K-beauty companies have lagged behind, weighed down by an earnings risk analysts say is already priced

in. APR, the sector’s bellwether wi

• Lee vows ‘no exceptions’ as Chinese boats face record bonds (2026-10-22 05:48)

President Lee Jae Myung on Thursday reaffirmed his administration's tough stance against illegal fishing by Chinese vessels in South Korean waters. Lee declared that there would be no exceptions to law enforcement, as authorities imposed record-high financial bonds on several seized boats. “In the Republic of Korea, the law is the law. No exceptions, under any circumstances,” Lee wrote on X, sharing a news report on Chinese fishing vessels facing the maximum bond of 1.5 billion won ($1.13 millio

• Korean government wins $127 million tax refund lawsuit against Lone Star (2026-10-22 05:48)

The South Korean government and Seoul won a lawsuit Thursday against US private equity firm Lone Star Funds over 168.2 billion won ($127 million) in tax refunds, after the Seoul High Court rejected Lone Star’s claims in a retrial ordered by the Supreme Court. The case involved nine Lone Star-affiliated entities, including Lone Star Funds, seeking the return of taxes imposed on their investments in Korea. The ruling dismissed claims for refunds that lower courts had previously ordered the central

• Bayern draws Arsenal 2-2 as Kim Min-jae plays first half (2026-10-22 05:46)

Bayern Munich drew 2-2 at home with English champion Arsenal in the third round of the UEFA Champions League league phase Wednesday, with South Korean defender Kim Min-jae playing only the first half. Kim made his second consecutive Champions League start but was replaced by Jonathan Tah at halftime with the score tied 1-1. Bayern entered the match at Allianz Arena in Munich without several key players. Michael Olise was suspended following a red card in the previous match, Joshua Kimmich was ab

• 'Eco-friendly' paper straws worse for environment than plastic: study (2026-10-22 05:43)

Paper straws have scored 6.33 times higher than conventional plastic straws in a government-commissioned study’s measure of carcinogenic impact through the course of manufacture, use and disposal. The report, commissioned by the Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment and disclosed Wednesday by Rep. Kim Wi-sang of the People Power Party, assessed the environmental impacts of four types of straws — conventional plastic straws, paper, biodegradable plastic and bio-based polyethylene (bio-PE).

• Homemakers, jobless youth could join National Pension system (2026-10-22 05:43)

Married homemakers and young adults without income could gain access to South Korea’s pension system under a proposal from the National Pension Service. In a report to the National Assembly’s Health and Welfare Committee for its annual audit, the NPS proposed bringing these groups into the system as local subscribers eligible for contribution-exempt status. Under current rules, people aged 18 to 59 are generally required to enroll in the National Pension. But

non-earning spouses and people aged

• Korea's best spots to curl up with a book this autumn (2026-10-22 05:42)

Autumn is the season for reading. Something about the cooler air, clear skies and longer evenings makes it an easy time to settle in with a book. Across the country, a handful of unique reading spaces offer a little more than the usual library or cafe might. These three pair books with a lotus pond view, an entire city built around publishing or a mountain trail looking over Seoul. Yeonhwajeong Library, Jeonju In the middle of the pond at Deokjin Park in Jeonju, sits a single-story hanok that do

• Zuellig Pharma expands cold chain capacity in Korea (2026-10-22 05:41)

Zuellig Pharma Korea said Thursday it had expanded its cold chain facilities at its hub in Anseong, Gyeonggi Province, as demand for refrigerated medicines rises, particularly during the flu vaccine season. According to the global healthcare logistics provider, the expansion bolstered the Anseong facility's total storage capacity by 4,000 pallets to 17,500 pallets across ambient and cold chain conditions, including space for 7,500 pallets of refrigerated medicines. The increased capacity is expe

• Hanwha Asset raises bet on US startup Impulse Space (2026-10-22 05:40)

Hanwha Asset Management has made an additional investment in US space transportation startup Impulse Space, joining a $308 million funding extension as it expands its portfolio of overseas deep-tech companies, the firm said Thursday. Founded in 2021 by Tom Mueller, a SpaceX founding member and former chief technology officer, Impulse Space develops spacecraft that transport satellites and cargo to their designated orbits after launch. Hanwha Asset participated through a project fund backed by fo

• Korea needs rules to match rise of digital money, experts say (2026-10-22 05:38)

Blockchain could let money move as easily as email, but Korea still has legal groundwork to lay before stablecoins and tokenized securities go mainstream, experts said Wednesday. The experts shared their views at a forum on the future of digital payments, hosted by Herald Media Group at the Ambassador Seoul Pullman hotel in central Seoul as part of its Global Business Forum. Japanese Ambassador to Korea Koichi Mizushima opened the evening by recognizing the warming ties between Seoul and Tokyo.

• Angels fire manager Kurt Suzuki after 100-loss season (2026-10-22 05:35)

The Los Angeles Angels have fired manager Kurt Suzuki after a poor season in Major League Baseball. The Angels announced Wednesday that Suzuki would step down as manager and that the club would begin searching for a new manager and coaching staff. Suzuki, a Japanese American born in Hawaii, took over as Angels manager last October but guided the team to a 62-100 record this season, the worst mark since the franchise was founded in 1961. The Angels finished last in the American League West for th

• 10 years ago, he beat AlphaGo. Now he's navigating ‘unemployed’ life in AI era (2026-10-22 05:33)

Many know Lee Se-dol as the Go grandmaster who scored the lone human victory against Google’s artificial intelligence system AlphaGo in a historic 2016 showdown. In the age of AI, Lee is officially unemployed. Turning professional at just 12 years old, Lee built one of the most decorated careers in Go history, capturing 14 major international titles. His five-game match against AlphaGo in March 2016 marked a watershed moment in global AI history and his victory in Game 4 remains legendary in com

• ‘No. 7’ or ‘that person’? Alleged references to captain Son Heung-min fuel talk of team rift (2026-10-22 05:32)

Controversy surrounding South Korea’s national soccer team has continued to grow after a lawmaker claimed some players refer to captain Son Heung-min as “No. 7” or “that person” rather than by name, suggesting tensions within the squad may run deeper than previously thought. During a parliamentary audit by the National Assembly's Culture, Sports and Tourism Committee on Wednesday, Rep. Jung Yeon-wook asked Lee Yong-soo, the acting chief of the Korea Football Association, who attended as a witnes

• Rwanda can be Korea’s AI entry point to Africa: minister (2026-10-22 05:31)

Rwanda is a strong market for the South Korean IT industry to seek expansion across the African continent, Yves Iradukunda, Rwanda's minister of state for ICT and innovation, said Wednesday. “We think Rwanda is a good entry point for Korean companies,” he said. “The goal is for those companies to expand into other African markets.” During his first visit to South Korea, Iradukunda met with Vice Minister of Science and ICT Ryu Je-myung to discuss artificial intelligence, digital infrastructure an

• Superrace finale set for Oct. 24-25 as battle for second heats up (2026-10-22 05:27)

The 2026 O-NE Superrace Championship, South Korea's premier motorsports series sponsored by CJ Logistics, will hold its final races of the season this weekend. Rounds 7 and 8 of the Toyota Gazoo Racing 6000 class, the championship's top category, will be held Oct. 24-25 at Everland Speedway in Yongin, Gyeonggi Province, as part of the season finale titled "Golden Moments." Lee Chang-wook of Kumho SLM clinched the drivers' championship after winning Round 6, raising his total to 159 points and op

• Vinicius Junior goes scoreless again for Real Madrid in Champions League. Drought extends to 9 games (2026-10-22 05:27)

MADRID (AP) -- Vinicius Junior's scoring slump continued in his return to the Real Madrid lineup in the Champions League. The Brazilian forward had an ineffective performance and couldn't find the net in Madrid's 4-1 win over Leipzig at home on Wednesday, reaching nine straight appearances without a goal for the Spanish club. "It's actually a very good thing that he's sad

because it means he really cares about the team and the fans," teammate Kylian Mbappé said. " He needs to stay calm and be pro

• Meta ordered to pay $25 billion penalty to New Mexico in data privacy case (2026-10-22 05:02)

A judge in New Mexico ordered Meta Platforms Wednesday to pay the state $25 billion after a jury found the company had misled consumers about the privacy of their data, hitting the company with one of the largest financial penalties in US history. The ruling came in a case stemming from allegations that Cambridge Analytica, a British political consulting firm involved in Donald Trump's 2016 presidential campaign, obtained data from millions of Facebook users without their consent. New Mexico h

• US states deciding control of Senate see boost in early voting: analysis (2026-10-22 04:58)

WASHINGTON (AP) — Voter turnout is soaring compared with the last midterm election in many of the states that are expected to decide control of the US Senate, according to an Associated Press analysis of early voting two weeks before Election Day. In Texas, early voting is up 74 percent compared with 2022. In Kansas it’ s more than doubled. Maine, North Carolina and Ohio also have seen increases of more than 30 percent in early in-person and mail voting compared with the same point in 2022. Democ

• US orders diplomats to depart Saudi Arabia amid Houthi strikes (2026-10-22 04:50)

The US State Department has ordered some diplomats and family members to depart from its missions in Saudi Arabia and plans to withdraw family members from a number of other US missions in the region, US officials told Reuters. The order came as attacks in Saudi Arabia killed at least one person and injured eight others at a civilian airport in Dammam and two people were killed in a drone attack on an oil field. State Department spokesperson Tommy Pigott said in a post on X that the departmen

• Israel's election may change its leader, but not Iran war policy (2026-10-22 04:48)

Israel's election next week may change its leader, but not its strategy: Iran will remain its chief adversary, military force will continue to be its preferred tool and Palestinian statehood a distant prospect, regional policymakers and analysts say. That is because the strategic assumptions underpinning Israeli policy were hardened by the Oct. 7, 2023, attacks on southern Israeli communities by Palestinian militant group Hamas and by the wars in Gaza, Lebanon and Iran. If anything, Israel coul

• Putin agrees to resume 3-way peace talks with Ukraine and US (2026-10-22 04:47)

Russian President Vladimir Putin has agreed to resume US-mediated peace talks with Ukraine as soon as next month, the Kremlin said Wednesday, after Putin met US envoy Steve Witkoffin Washington's latest push to stop Europe's bloodiest conflict since World War II. The negotiations in a grand imperial palace in St Petersburg, the ninth time that Witkoff has met

Putin in person, began with a goodwill gesture from Russia -- the release of Stephen Hubbard, a retired US school teacher held in Russia

- Paris hopefuls jockey to succeed Macron (2026-10-22 04:46)

Emmanuel Macron, a centrist, has entered the final stretch of his decadelong presidency as France faces a wave of intense protests, with little sign he can prevent a candidate from the political extremes from succeeding him. On the eve of a major protest planned for Oct. 17, he was photographed at a Celine Dion concert. Early Monday morning, with French cities still smoldering and littered with wreckage from the riots, Macron was flying abroad to secure a favorable fuel supply deal. Presidential

- Sissi says Egypt to 'defend Saudi territory' and will not attack Yemen (2026-10-22 04:45)

Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi said Wednesday that Cairo's proposed military support for Riyadh was to "defend Saudi territory, and does not include an attack on Yemen." At a government event titled Egypt Forum 2026, Sissi said "we are talking about defending the land and borders of the kingdom," he said in a speech. "The situation cannot bear any further instability in other countries, we want to restore the countries that have lost their stability," he added. Sissi on Saturday had as

- Posco Future M adopts Palantir AI platforms (2026-10-22 04:26)

Posco Future M has partnered with US software firm Palantir Technologies to accelerate its AI-driven transformation, targeting major gains in manufacturing productivity, product development and customer service. The battery materials maker said Wednesday it had signed an agreement to adopt Palantir's Foundry data analytics platform and Artificial Intelligence Platform (AIP). Foundry integrates data across business operations, while AIP combines enterprise data with generative AI to support AI-po

- Posts alleging foreign tourists skipped bus fares spur calls for multilingual guidance (2026-10-22 04:24)

Social media posts alleging that foreign passengers rode Seoul buses without paying after their transit cards showed insufficient balances have prompted calls for clearer multilingual fare guidance. One passenger claimed in a post Monday that four foreign women boarded a Seoul city bus after tapping cards that showed insufficient balances. The women then walked farther inside without paying, the post said. The driver did not intervene, according to the writer. The writer said they confronted the

- Nvidia taps Korean component makers for AI chips, robots (2026-10-22 04:22)

Samsung Electro-Mechanics and LG Innotek are expanding their ties with Nvidia, applying their expertise in semiconductor substrates and sensing technology to the US chipmaker's growing AI computing and robotics businesses. Samsung Electro-Mechanics announced a multiyear agreement Wednesday to supply advanced semiconductor substrates for Nvidia's AI processors

and networking chips, while LG Innotek said Thursday it was working with Nvidia to develop sensing systems for humanoid robots. The collab

• AI gave the hacker the tools, weak security opened the door: CrowdStrike (2026-10-22 02:51)

As South Korean banks pledge greater investment in artificial intelligence-powered cybersecurity following a series of breaches, the head of CrowdStrike's counter adversary operations says they must also address basic security weaknesses that allowed an inexperienced hacker to compromise financial institutions in the first place. Adam Meyers, senior vice president of counter adversary operations at the US cybersecurity firm, oversees the team that helped uncover how AI was used in the attacks. I

• From K-pop to community, Ian Eastwood reconnects with Korea's dance scene (2026-10-22 02:48)

When Ian Eastwood first worked with Taemin on his solo debut 12 years ago, he expected to spend several rehearsals teaching him the choreography for "Danger." Taemin learned everything he had prepared in the first session. Back in Korea this month, Eastwood was again impressed, this time by artists who had yet to debut. Teaching at entertainment labels, the American choreographer encountered trainees as young as 12 or 13 who could learn choreography, absorb corrections and incorporate staging wi

• Samsung SDI to sponsor Korea's Chemistry Olympiad team (2026-10-22 02:44)

Samsung SDI has signed an agreement to sponsor South Korea's national team at the International Chemistry Olympiad, expanding the Samsung Group's support for young science talent. The battery-maker signed the agreement Thursday with the Korea Foundation for the Advancement of Science and Creativity and the Korean Chemical Society at the Korea Science and Technology Center in southern Seoul. The ceremony was attended by Samsung SDI People Team head Kim Hoon-kyu, foundation Chairman Jung Woo-sung

• Aespa to mark 6th anniversary with fan meetups next month (2026-10-22 02:39)

Aespa will host fan meetings in Seoul on Nov. 28 and 29 in celebration of its sixth anniversary, the group's label SM Entertainment announced Thursday. It will be first such event since the four members invited fans to mark the third year since their debut. They had a fan meetup in Tokyo for three days in July, in time for the release of first EP in Japan, “Kiss n Tell.” In the meantime, the group of four concluded touring Asia and North America with a show on Oct. 11 in Vancouver, British Colom

• Seventeen’s Jeonghan, Joshua top Oricon chart with unit EP (2026-10-22 02:25)

Jeonghan and Joshua of Seventeen topped Oricon’s Daily Album Ranking with their first unit EP “Dreamscape,” Pledis Entertainment said Thursday. The mini album also debuted atop Line Music’s real-time albums chart and iTunes Top Albums Chart in six regions, including

Japan. The duo subunit, JXJ, sold more than 650,000 copies of the seven-track set on its releaseday, shattering the first-day sales record for a K-pop subunit. Jeonghan's first subunit withWonwoo set a first-week sales record for a

• JB Financial Group expands into Central Asia with Kyrgyz acquisition (2026-10-22 02:14)

JB Financial Group is expanding into Central Asia through an acquisition in Kyrgyzstan, seeking new growth opportunities beyond its established Southeast Asian markets. Its subsidiary JB Woori Capital has agreed to acquire a 100 percent stake in Epoke, the parent company of Kyrgyz financial firms Korky Credit and Korky Leasing. Woori expects to close the deal by year-end, pending regulatory approval and registration. The acquisition marks JB Financial's entry into Kyrgyzstan, a fast-growing mark

• Yonsei portal breach affects 10,000 students and faculty, including international students (2026-10-22 01:58)

The personal information of some 10,000 current and former students as well as faculty members was leaked following a cyberattack on Yonsei University's online portal system. In a notice issued Thursday, Yonsei University's Office of Information and Communications confirmed the breach. Compromised information included student and faculty identification numbers, names, affiliations, mobile phone numbers, email addresses and passwords. The university said it first became aware of the breach around

• Stormy weekend looms as Super Typhoon Champi moves north (2026-10-22 01:57)

With Typhoon Champi moving north from the western Pacific toward Japan, forecasters warned Thursday that Jeju Island and southern parts of South Korea could feel its effects, although the storm is not expected to make landfall on the Korean Peninsula. The Korea Meteorological Administration said that, as of 3 a.m., Champi was moving northwest at a speed of 20 kilometers per hour over waters about 750 kilometers south of Okinawa, Japan. The storm had a central atmospheric pressure of 915 hectopas

• Student suicides in Korea rise 26% in three years (2026-10-22 01:56)

The number of elementary, middle and high school students who died by suicide in Korea rose 25.8 percent between 2022 and 2025. Another 112 deaths were recorded in the first half of 2026. Education Ministry data disclosed Thursday by Rep. Suh Bum-soo of the People Power Party showed that the annual number rose from 194 in 2022 to 214 in 2023, 221 in 2024 and 244 in 2025. The total reached 985 for the period from 2022 to June 2026. Last year's deaths included 146 high school students, 92 middle s

• Le Sserafim's Sakura to sit out Paris show due to fever (2026-10-22 01:43)

Sakura of Le Sserafim will have to forgo participating in the Paris show slated for Thursday, agency Source Music announced on the day. She developed a sudden fever and saw a doctor on Wednesday, who ordered her to rest, the management company explained, apologizing to fans,

especially as the concert is the group's first in the French capital. Le Sserafim is in the middle of the European leg of “Pureflow,” which makes five stops in the region. Paris is the third stop, followed by Copenhagen, Den

• BTS ‘Swim’ music video cinches nomination from int’l film festival (2026-10-22 01:27)

BTS earned a nod from the 34th International Film Festival of the Art of Cinematography for its music video for “Swim,” Big Hit Music said Thursday. The visuals will compete for the best music video award against Harry Styles’ “American Girls,” Ariana Grande’s “Hate That I Made You Love Me” and Madonna’s “Confessions II.” The weeklong film event, established in 1993 and held in Poland, is one of the largest international film festivals dedicated to cinematography. “Swim” is the main track off BT

• Merck opens Korean chip materials plant to meet advanced memory demand (2026-10-22 01:27)

German science and technology company Merck opened a new semiconductor materials plant in South Korea on Thursday, expanding local production of molybdenum as chipmakers adopt the metal for increasingly advanced memory chips. The facility in Eumseong, North Chungcheong Province, will produce molybdenum dioxide dichloride, a chemical used to deposit ultrathin metal films during chip manufacturing. It will supply customers in Korea and elsewhere in Asia. Benjamin Hein, CEO of Merck's Electronics b

• BOK pauses rate hikes as inflation, debt concerns linger (2026-10-22 01:07)

The Bank of Korea held its key interest rate at 3 percent Thursday, pausing after two consecutive hikes as persistent inflation and financial stability risks complicated the policy outlook. The central bank raised rates by 25 basis points in both July and August before opting to stand pat this month. Inflation remains a key concern. Consumer prices rose 2.9 percent on-year in September, easing from 3.1 percent in August but remaining well above the BOK's 2 percent target. Higher oil prices, driv

• Vice budget minister calls Future Fund 'fiscal innovation' for future growth (2026-10-22 01:06)

South Korea's vice budget minister said Thursday the country's proposed Future Fund, set to launch next year with funding sources including windfall tax revenue from chipmakers, will serve as "fiscal innovation" paving the way for future growth. Vice Budget Minister Cho Yong-beom made the remark during a policy symposium on the Future Fund hosted in Seoul by the state-run Korea Institute of Public Finance, describing the fund as "a platform for strategic investment," according to the Ministry of

• BOK holds key rate steady at 3% after 2 consecutive rate hikes (2026-10-22 01:04)

The Bank of Korea kept its benchmark interest rate unchanged Thursday following two consecutive rate hikes to tame accelerating inflation amid protracting Middle East tensions and

robust exports. In a widely anticipated decision, the BOK's Monetary Policy Board held the key rate steady at 3 percent in its rate-setting meeting. The rate freeze came after the BOK raised the benchmark rate in its July and August meetings, citing "preemptive action" to curb mounting inflationary pressure and ensure

• Yankees owner blames players for lackluster season (2026-10-22 01:00)

Yankees owner Hal Steinbrenner blamed New York's players for the team's failure to win the World Series and defended manager Aaron Boone and general manager Brian Cashman, who is getting a new contract as he enters his 30th season in charge of baseball operations. "I thought Boone managed a good season, especially with the pitching staff," Steinbrenner said Wednesday. "The bottom line is the players didn't live up to their end of the bargain in the playoffs." New York has gone 17 seasons without

• Busan's 'Bukang-i' is back again. What now for the city's celebrity shark? (2026-10-22 00:51)

Bukang-i is back in the canal at Busan's North Port Waterfront Park on Thursday morning, having crossed a net barrier set up a day earlier to guide the shark back to the open sea. This marks the second time the female dusky shark, an endangered species, has slipped past a barrier and returned after authorities attempted to lead it out to sea. The shark's repeated returns have left authorities struggling to find a way to rescue the shark and return it to the outer sea amid signs of deteriorating

• Veterans minister to pay tribute to 2 late former presidents (2026-10-22 00:47)

Veterans Minister Kwon Oh-eul will visit the graves of two former presidents, including controversial former dictator Park Chung-hee, the veterans ministry said Thursday, following through on his pledge to honor past leaders regardless of political differences. Kwon was set to attend a memorial ceremony later in the day marking the 20th anniversary of the death of Choi Kyu-hah, the 10th president, from December 1979 to August 1980, at the Daejeon National Cemetery and pay his respects, according

• Seoul shares open lower amid persistent AI woes (2026-10-22 00:33)

South Korean shares opened lower Thursday, after the previous session's sharp gains as investors weighed concerns over the profitability of artificial intelligence infrastructure investments. After opening 1.14 percent lower, the benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index fell 24.68 points, or 0.46 percent, to 5,710.98 as of 9:15 a.m. Overnight, US stocks closed mixed as AI-related shares rebounded following SpaceX's quarterly results. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 0.69 percent, while t

• NK leader's sister warns of border countermeasures, loudspeakers to be ready within days (2026-10-22 00:14)

Kim Yo-jong, the powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, warned Thursday of "new counter means" along the inter-Korean border, adding propaganda loudspeaker broadcasts

against South Korea will be ready within days. Kim's warning came a day after she visited key locations along the southern border and threatened to take military action against what the North called South Korean troops' provocations against its border fortification work. "Our new counter means will get into the alert f

- [Lee Moon-won] Korea counts patents, but not patients (2026-10-21 20:30)

“Does this treatment really work?” It is the question I hear most often in my consulting room, and patients from abroad ask it most precisely. On what evidence? In how many people? Over how long? I do not avoid the question. I believe the path for Korean medicine to reach the world runs through it. Start with the numbers. The Korean Intellectual Property Office, now the Ministry of Intellectual Property, analyzed hair-loss patent filings made between 2002 and 2023 at the patent offices of Korea,

- [Wang Son-taek] Why we are disappointed by Brunson’s comments (2026-10-21 20:30)

Recent remarks by Gen. Xavier Brunson, commander of US Forces Korea, ROK-US Combined Forces Command, and the United Nations Command, have disappointed and frustrated South Koreans. His comments have raised questions not only about military arrangements but also about sovereignty, historical memory and mutual respect between allies. Such controversies risk eroding mutual trust and demand an accurate response. The first case concerns South Korea reclaiming wartime operational control from the Unit

- Constitutional Court allows Rep. Lee Jin-sook to attend parliamentary audit (2026-10-21 13:04)

The Constitutional Court on Wednesday granted an injunction partially suspending a decision led by the ruling Democratic Party to exclude an opposition lawmaker from a parliamentary audit, allowing her to attend a session scheduled for later this week. However, the court barred Rep. Lee Jin-sook of the main opposition People Power Party from speaking on matters directly related to herself during the audit of the broadcasting and communications watchdog set for Thursday. The injunction came after

- Police seek arrest warrant for man over Seoul arson attacks that injured 19 (2026-10-21 13:02)

Police said Wednesday they have sought a formal arrest warrant for a man on suspicion of arson resulting in injury after he set fires at two buildings in southern Seoul earlier this week, leaving 19 people injured. The suspect was taken into custody hours after setting fires at separate patent firms housed in the two buildings in Seoul's Gangnam district Tuesday. The incident left 19 people injured, including one who was rushed to a hospital in cardiac arrest. The suspect told investigators that

- Former Moon aide claims S. Korea-US alliance is 'curse' (2026-10-21 12:08)

Moon Chung-in, a former special adviser to former President Moon Jae-in, said that maintaining the status quo in the decades-long alliance between Seoul and Washington could eventually put South Korea between a rock and a hard place. "Looking ahead 20 to 30 years, (the alliance) could prove to be a curse, not a blessing," Moon said during a panel discussion with foreign policy experts held at Seoul National University in Gwanak-gu on Wednesday. Moon's remarks stem from his view that the United S

- Kim Yo-jong vows to resume loudspeaker broadcasts this month (2026-10-21 11:57)

Kim Yo-jong, the sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, said Wednesday that Pyongyang will resume loudspeaker broadcasts along the inter-Korean border this month. Kim's remarks were the latest from Pyongyang to up the pressure on Seoul, which has sought to make conciliatory gestures toward Pyongyang in an attempt to deescalate tensions. Kim, director of the General Affairs Department of the Workers' Party of Korea, said in a statement released Wednesday evening that propaganda loudspeakers d

- President uses Gemini to defend plans to invite prosecution chiefs to Cabinet meetings (2026-10-21 11:37)

President Lee Jae Myung turned to Google's artificial intelligence assistant Gemini to defend his plans to invite the chiefs of two newly established agencies to attend Cabinet meetings, a move that would flip a decadeslong convention. In a post on X on Wednesday titled "I asked Gemini," Lee wrote that calls to exclude the heads of the newly established Public Prosecution Office and Serious Crimes Investigation Agency from Cabinet meetings are "a sophistry that directly denies the president’s ad

- Stranded shark Bukang-i returns to sea after a month (2026-10-21 09:50)

A stranded shark nicknamed Bukang-i made her way out of an artificial waterway and into the open sea on Wednesday after more than a month in South Korea's port city of Busan. The female dusky shark, about 3.5 meters long, was guided out to sea after being found stranded in the artificial canal at Busan's North Port Waterfront Park on Sept. 18. Authorities launched the third attempt to lead her out of the canal on Wednesday morning. The operation ended in success about eight hours later at 5:50 p

- 18 actors shed 87 kilograms rehearsing for 'The Choir of Man' (2026-10-21 09:21)

Eighteen of the 19 actors in the Korean production of "The Choir of Man" lost a combined 87 kilograms during rehearsals, except for the 19th actor, to his own surprise, who gained 10, according to the production company. The numbers hint at what the show asks of its all-male cast. Besides acting, singing and dancing, they had to play instruments including the piano, guitar, banjo, ukulele, accordion and trumpet, many of which they learned for the show. Yet at the press call earlier this month fo

• Gangnam prostitution ring arranged over 2,800 meetings in just over 40 days (2026-10-21 09:03)

A prostitution ring operating in Seoul’s Gangnam-gu district is suspected of earning at least 574 million won ($434,000) through more than 2,800 arrangements over 44 days, police said Tuesday. Gangnam Police Station referred eight people to prosecutors without detention: three business operators, a manager, two women and two men suspected of involvement in prostitution. The three operators are suspected of arranging prostitution for commercial gain, an offense punishable by up to seven years in

• [단독] 트와이스 나연, 11월 솔로 컴백…2년 5개월 만에 신보 (2026-10-21 09:02)

그룹 트와이스 나연이 오는 11월 솔로 앨범을 발표한다. 2024년 6월 발매한 미니 2집 ‘Na’ 이후 약 2년 5개월 만의 솔로 앨범이다. 21일 가요계에 따르면 나연은 오는 11월 말 신보 발매를 목표로 솔로 컴백을 준비 중이다. 한 업계 관계자는 코리아헤럴드에 “나연의 솔로 컴백이 11월 셋째 주로 예정돼 있다”며 “아이돌의 활동 일정은 수시로 변경될 수 있어 정확한 날짜는 확정되지 않았지만, 현재로서는 11월 말 앨범 발매를 목표로 준비하고 있다”고 밝혔다. 소속사 JYP엔터테인먼트도 나연의 11월 솔로 컴백 준비 사실을 확인했다. 다만 구체적인 발매일은 아직 조율 중이다. JYP엔터테인먼트 관계자는 11월 말 컴백 일정과 관련해 코리아헤럴드에 “해당 시기를 목표로 솔로 컴백을 준비 중”이라고 밝혔다. 나연은 올해 5월 드라마 ‘품절남녀’의 OST ‘Love Is Enough’를 발표했지만, 2024년 6월 이후 별도의 솔로 앨범을 내놓지는 않았다. 새 앨범의 수록곡과 타이

• [Exclusive] Twice's Nayeon to return with new solo album in November (2026-10-21 08:58)

Nayeon of K-pop girl group Twice is preparing to release a new solo album in late November, her agency JYP Entertainment confirmed Wednesday, marking her first solo album in nearly two and a half years. "Nayeon's solo comeback is scheduled for the third week of November," an industry source told The Korea Herald on condition of anonymity. "As always, K-pop idol schedules are subject to frequent changes, so the exact comeback date remains uncertain. But as of now, the album is scheduled for relea

• Twice’s Dahyun to play disabled teen in upcoming film (2026-10-21 08:49)

Twice’s Dahyun will play the female lead in an upcoming high school romance, distributor Takeone Company said Wednesday. “Gureumi Gureumi” (an English title has not been announced) follows two high school students as they fall in love for the first time. Dahyun plays Gu-reum, a girl paralyzed from the waist down who has spent her whole life in a wheelchair. Co-star Cha Woo-min plays a promising swimmer who grows close to her during volunteer work. Choi Sun-min, who co-directed the JTBC series “K

• N. Korea threatens military retaliation, signals new firepower positions near border (2026-10-21 08:33)

North Korea is upping the tension along the inter-Korean border with talk of immediate military retaliation against any South Korean provocations and new firepower units taking up positions along the border. The warning came as senior North Korean party and military officials

inspected ongoing border fortifications, amid growing friction over disputed crossings of theMilitary Demarcation Line and a land mine explosion that injured three South Korean soldierslast month. According to the Korean

• Woman left elderly father to starve to death while living off his pension (2026-10-21 08:27)

A woman was sentenced to three years and six months in prison for abandoning her ailing father, who died of malnutrition, the Incheon District Court said Tuesday. The court found the 39-year-old guilty of abandonment resulting in the death of a lineal ascendant. Her father was 76. From June until his death on July 22, 2025, she failed to provide him with food or medical care, despite his physical weakness and need for treatment. He weighed just 34 kilograms and was 170 centimeters tall when he d

• 'Show Me the Money' rapper indicted over marijuana-infused gummies (2026-10-21 08:18)

A rapper who appeared on Mnet’s hip-hop audition program “Show Me the Money” was indicted without detention on charges of buying and using marijuana, the Suwon District Public Prosecution Office said Tuesday. The rapper, in his 40s, is accused of buying marijuana and marijuana-infused gummies from a dealer in his 30s at a club in Mapo-gu, western Seoul, in November 2025. Prosecutors also suspect he bought marijuana from a different dealer in August and used it several times. The investigation be

• Blackpink’s Lisa, Thai actor spark renewed dating rumors after Bangkok sighting (2026-10-21 08:13)

Dating rumors about Blackpink member Lisa and Thai actor Blue Pongtiwat have swept social media after the two were reportedly spotted together in Bangkok. Photos circulating online showed Lisa and Pongtiwat walking along Song Wat Road in Bangkok on Monday. The sighting also came days after the pair were reportedly seen dining together at a restaurant in Bangkok with Lisa’s family members on Oct. 15, further fueling speculation that their relationship may extend beyond friendship. Dating rumors s

• Alaska LNG project costs could far exceed estimates, report warns (2026-10-21 07:32)

A $44 billion-plus LNG project in Alaska that Washington is pressing South Korea to back could face sharply higher costs, a consulting report warns. The report, submitted to Alaska lawmakers in January, came under renewed scrutiny Wednesday as questions grow about the project’s financial viability and the risks it could pose to potential investors, including South Korea. Energy consultancy GaffneyCline, in a report for the Alaska Senate Resources Committee, found that cost estimates for the Alas

• Seoul stocks rebound over 3% on eased AI spending woes (2026-10-21 07:09)

South Korean stocks rebounded Wednesday, recovering from the previous session's steep losses as semiconductor shares rallied on easing concerns over artificial intelligence spending. The Korean won strengthened against the US dollar. The benchmark Korea Composite Stock

Price Index gained 182.92 points, or 3.29 percent, to close at 5,735.66 after rising as high as 5,816.43. The sharp rally prompted the Korea Exchange to activate a buy-side sidecar shortly before 11 a.m., temporarily suspending pr

• [Key Points] Lee Jae Myung's public outreach push: What's behind the shift? (2026-10-21 07:02)

Communication reset: President Lee Jae Myung is expanding social media engagement, press interactions and face-to-face meetings, acknowledging his administration has fallen short in explaining policies and addressing public concerns. Approval ratings slide: Lee's approval rating fell to 35.2 percent in an Oct. 12 Realmeter survey before recovering to 37.3 percent, amid controversies over judicial reforms, security and housing costs. Personal accountability: Lee admits he has become disconnected

• Why is President Lee reaching out to the public more than ever? (2026-10-21 06:50)

Governing is one thing. Making sure the public hears you — and feels heard — is another. More than 500 days into his presidency, Lee Jae Myung is redoubling his efforts to connect directly with the public — engaging more frequently on social media, meeting informally with reporters and seeking more opportunities to speak with citizens face to face. The renewed outreach comes as Lee presses ahead with ambitious reforms while acknowledging that his administration may not have done enough to explai

• Cooking up camaraderie (2026-10-21 06:36)

South Korean and US soldiers taste dishes at a friendship cooking competition hosted by the 2nd Infantry Division/ROK-US Combined Division at Camp Humphreys in Pyeongtaek, Gyeonggi Province, on Wednesday. The event gave troops from both armies a chance to share cooking techniques and sharpen their culinary skills. (Photos: Yonhap)

• Twice's Jihyo leaves JYP Entertainment, launches own agency Emithaus (2026-10-21 06:35)

Twice member Jihyo announced Wednesday that she has left JYP Entertainment after 21 years and established her own agency, Emithaus, while reaffirming that she will continue activities with the girl group. The announcement confirms reports that first surfaced in July that Jihyo was preparing to leave JYP Entertainment and establish her own agency. In a handwritten letter posted on Instagram, Jihyo said she had decided to conclude her longtime relationship with JYP, where she spent most of her chi

• 5 years on, Korea's anti-stalking law confronts the violence it was meant to stop (2026-10-21 06:33)

Three recent killings, one in Songpa-gu in Seoul, another on Jeju Island, and third in Jeonju, North Jeolla Province, have raised questions about the effectiveness of South Korea's anti-stalking law and its victim-protection system. In each case, police had received prior

reports about the suspect. “We cannot protect victims without taking measures againstperpetrators,” Song Ran-hee, a representative of the Korea Women’s Hotline, said at a pressconference in Seoul on Wednesday marking five yea

• Why Seoul’s biggest Imax screen pulled ‘The Odyssey’ while it was still selling out (2026-10-21 06:23)

For weeks, Kim Hyun-ah had been refreshing the booking page, waiting for a good seat to open up. The 30-year-old Seoul resident had been hoping since summer to catch Christopher Nolan’s box office sensation “The Odyssey” at CGV Yongsan, the flagship of Korea’s largest multiplex chain and home to Asia’s biggest Imax screen. Korea has no theater that can show the film in 70mm Imax format as the director intended. The Imax screen at Yongsan offers the closest thing to the original presentation, as

• AmCham hosts US envoy, military chief for security, economic talks (2026-10-21 06:22)

The American Chamber of Commerce in Korea brought together US Ambassador to South Korea Michelle Park Steel and US Forces Korea Commander Gen. Xavier T. Brunson on Wednesday to discuss strengthening the bilateral alliance through defense cooperation and economic security. The luncheon, held at Mondrian Seoul Itaewon to mark the United States' 250th anniversary, drew about 200 representatives from Korean and international businesses. In a discussion moderated by AmCham Chairman and CEO James Kim,

• China talks up EUV progress, but gap with ASML remains wide (2026-10-21 06:21)

China is touting a breakthrough in one of the semiconductor industry's toughest technologies: extreme ultraviolet lithography. But how close is it really to challenging global chipmaking leaders? Chinese startup Langdao Silex recently unveiled a prototype EUV light source built with what it claims are 90 percent domestically made components, promising commercialization within three to five years. Yet its reported performance falls far short of commercial requirements, and experts doubt China can

• South Korea rises to No. 17 in FIFA women's rankings (2026-10-21 06:19)

South Korea climbed to 17th in the FIFA women's world rankings, its highest position in 40 months, after winning bronze at the 2026 Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games. South Korea moved up two places from June in the latest rankings released by FIFA on Tuesday. It is the team's highest ranking since it was also 17th in June 2023. Among Asian Football Confederation members, South Korea ranks fourth behind Japan at No. 5, North Korea at No. 12 and Australia at No. 15. South Korea also moved ahead of China,

• [Key Points] Kim Jong-un death rumors: What fuels the speculation? (2026-10-21 06:18)

Fresh death claims: Unverified reports alleging Kim Jong-un died from a brain hemorrhage spread across international media after originating from a US-based Chinese dissident’s social media posts. Seoul rejects rumors: South Korean diplomatic and security officials said they had

no intelligence supporting the claims, dismissing them as unsubstantiated. Pyongyang's visual rebuttal: North Korean state media released photographs of Kim visiting a product exhibition with his wife and daughter, contr

• Kim Jong-un is 'dead' again: Why rumors about North Korean leaders never die (2026-10-21 06:14)

Rumors that North Korean leader Kim Jong-un died after suffering a brain hemorrhage have swept through social media and news outlets overseas in recent days, prompting South Korean officials to dismiss the claims as unsubstantiated, while Pyongyang released fresh photographs of its leader attending a public event. The latest round of speculation, which originated from an unverified social media post by US-based Chinese dissident Wanjun Xie, is the latest in a decades-long pattern of death rumors

• Were Korean authors' books used to train Claude? (2026-10-21 06:13)

Books by South Korean authors, including Nobel laureate Han Kang and Hwang Sok-yong, were among the works listed as eligible for compensation in a copyright settlement involving Anthropic, the US artificial intelligence company behind the chatbot Claude. The Literature Translation Institute of Korea said it had identified at least 21 English-language editions of books by Korean authors on a list of works eligible for compensation under the settlement. The institute has notified the authors conce

• 82 KOICA-NGO volunteers serve communities across 20 countries (2026-10-21 06:09)

From helping farmers improve crop production in Mongolia to providing rehabilitation services in Rwanda, South Korean volunteers are working alongside local communities across the globe to promote sustainable development, an umbrella group for nongovernmental organizations said Wednesday. This year, 82 volunteers have been dispatched to 43 project sites in 20 countries under the World Friends Korea KOICA-NGO Volunteer Program, a joint initiative between the country's foreign aid agency, Korea In

• Atletico draws Stuttgart 1-1 as Lee Kang-in stays on bench (2026-10-21 06:02)

Atletico Madrid drew Stuttgart 1-1 in the third round of the UEFA Champions League league phase Tuesday despite playing the final portion of the match with 10 men, while Lee Kang-in remained on the bench. The draw at MHP Arena in Stuttgart, Germany, left Atletico with one win, one draw and one loss. Stuttgart remained unbeaten at 2-1-0. Lee, who had started up front for Atletico in its first two league-phase matches, was named among the substitutes but did not enter the game. Stuttgart opened th

• Barcelona suffers first loss of season, falls 4-2 to PSG (2026-10-21 06:01)

Barcelona suffered its first defeat of the season Tuesday, losing 4-2 to Paris Saint-Germain in the third round of the UEFA Champions League league phase. Barcelona entered the match at Parc des Princes in Paris having won all 11 of its competitive matches this season — nine in La

Liga and two in the Champions League. PSG, meanwhile, extended its perfect ChampionsLeague start to three wins, scoring 14 goals and conceding five to move alone atop theleague-phase standings. The defending European

• Few foreign graduates take up Korea's care worker visa as gov't eyes robots, youth (2026-10-21 06:01)

The number of foreign nationals granted South Korea's visa for care workers has fallen far short of the annual quota, limiting the program's intended role in easing labor shortages at elderly care facilities, a lawmaker said. The limited uptake comes as the government prepares for a surge in demand for long-term care as the population ages and more older people require professional assistance with daily activities. As the government explores other ways to recruit and retain care workers, experts

• Nomura, JPMorgan bullish on Korean chips despite Kospi swings (2026-10-21 05:56)

Despite wild Kospi swings, brokerages are doubling down on Korean chip stocks, betting the AI-driven memory boom has much further to run. The benchmark index has seesawed in recent sessions, with chip heavyweights Samsung Electronics and SK hynix at the center of the turbulence as investors reassess the outlook for AI demand. On Thursday, the Kospi plunged 7.57 percent, triggering a 20-minute marketwide trading halt. But sentiment swung back Wednesday, when Samsung and SK hynix each surged more

• LIG D&A; hit with 2-year bidding ban over bribery case (2026-10-21 05:52)

LIG D&A faces a major setback to its domestic defense business after South Korea's arms procurement agency imposed a two-year bidding ban over alleged bribery, prompting the company to prepare a legal challenge. The Defense Acquisition Program Administration said Tuesday that its contract review committee had approved the maximum two-year suspension from government defense procurement bids under the State Contracts Act. The agency cited what it described as its largest bribery case on record, re

• MAMAs to feature 360-degree stage, largest-ever single-city artist lineup (2026-10-21 05:52)

The 2026 Mnet Asian Music Awards will introduce a 360-degree stage and its largest-ever lineup of performing artists in a single host city when the annual K-pop event returns in November. CJ ENM said Wednesday that this year's awards, set for Nov. 20-21 at Kyocera Dome Osaka, Japan, will be held under the theme "A Music Interstellar," with performances celebrating K-pop's generations and genres. The ceremony will feature K-pop stages spanning newly emerged acts such as Alpha Drive One, Cortis, H

• Suneung smart glasses rules draw criticism over burden on proctors (2026-10-21 05:51)

The Education Ministry's new smart-glasses rules for this year's College Scholastic Ability Test have drawn criticism from teachers, who say proctors lack clear standards and equipment

to identify the devices. The 44-page guidelines, distributed to schools ahead of the Nov. 19exam, devote about half a page to suspected smart glasses use. Before the test, proctors whosuspect a student is wearing smart devices are instructed to ask the student to remove themand place them on the desk for inspec

• Taihan names new CEO to drive US, Europe expansion (2026-10-21 05:41)

Taihan Cable & Solution has appointed Kim Jun-seok as its new CEO, as the Korean cable maker seeks to accelerate global expansion and strengthen its high-voltage direct current and submarine cable businesses. Kim played a key role in Hoban Group's acquisition of Taihan in 2021 and subsequently led corporate strategy and business expansion. Since 2023, he has served as executive vice president and head of the management division, overseeing operations, restructuring and investment. As CEO, Kim wi

• Seoul ranks fifth in global public transport survey (2026-10-21 05:38)

Seoul ranked fifth among cities worldwide for public transport in a survey by British city and travel magazine Time Out, with 91.1 percent of respondents in the capital rating its system positively. The city rose three places from eighth last year, when 84 percent of respondents positively rated its public transport, the Seoul Metropolitan Government said. Taipei, Taiwan, ranked first, followed by Singapore, Hong Kong and Edinburgh, Scotland. Time Out surveyed more than 24,000 people worldwide,

• LG Chem eyes 2029 trials for personalized cancer vaccine (2026-10-21 05:36)

LG Chem said Wednesday it aims to begin clinical development of a personalized mRNA cancer vaccine in 2029, leveraging artificial intelligence to accelerate drug discovery and identify patients most likely to benefit from treatment. The Korean chemical and pharmaceutical company unveiled its strategy Tuesday at the inaugural LG AI Bio Conference in Seoul, co-hosted with LG AI Research and US biotech venture capital firm Flagship Pioneering. LG Chem is developing AI models to identify biomarkers

• LG CEO touts efficient cooling for AI infrastructure (2026-10-21 05:32)

LG Electronics CEO Lyu Jae-cheol says that more efficient cooling could help AI data centers devote more of their limited electricity supply to computing, as the company expands its cooling infrastructure business. In a Forbes article published Monday, Lyu said increasingly powerful AI chips were putting pressure on data centers' electricity, water and space resources, making conventional measures of energy efficiency insufficient. One widely used measure, power usage effectiveness, compares a d

• Arson suspect admits setting fires at patent firms where he threatened staff in 2022 (2026-10-21 05:30)

A 77-year-old man suspected of setting fires at two buildings housing patent firms in Seoul has largely admitted to the allegations, saying he wanted to frighten the firms and publicize his

claim that they had cheated him, police said Wednesday. Police said they planned to seek anarrest warrant on suspicion of arson resulting in injury after a second round of questioning. Theman told investigators he believed the firms had defrauded him by issuing false patentregistration certificates, police

• Quantum Aero targets global market with sovereign AI platform (2026-10-21 05:27)

Defense startup Quantum Aero is looking to take its autonomous flight technology beyond the battlefield and into the global market after being selected as a 2026 Hi-Seoul company, a designation for promising small and medium-sized enterprises in Seoul. The Hi-Seoul program, jointly operated by the Seoul Metropolitan Government and the Seoul Business Agency, evaluates companies based on growth potential, profitability, stability, productivity and global capabilities. The program began with 11 com

• Chinese AI powers half of Korea's new models: study (2026-10-21 05:26)

Nearly half of the artificial intelligence models released by South Korean developers this year were built on Chinese technology, led overwhelmingly by Alibaba's Qwen, according to a new study that raises questions about the country's efforts to develop its own AI models. The report, released Friday by private think tank Rockbridge Network Korea and authored by Hanyang University business professor Choi Seong-jin, examined how Chinese AI is being used in Korea through developer activity, app usa

• [단독] 홍콩 스타벅스서 한국인 성 ‘김’이 ‘김치’로…스타벅스 사과 (2026-10-21 05:03)

홍콩국제공항 스타벅스 매장에서 한국인 고객의 성 "김"을 "김치"로 표기하는 일이 발생했다. 김 씨의 제보에 따르면 사건은 지난 11일 오후 9시 38분께 홍콩국제공항 출국장 서쪽 홀 61번 게이트 인근 매장에서 발생했다. 김 씨는 아내와 함께 서울행 항공편에 탑승하기 전 음료를 주문하면서 이름을 묻는 직원에게 성인 "김"이라고 답했다. 음료가 준비되자 다른 직원이 "김"이라고 호명해 김 씨는 음료를 건네받고 이동했다. 김 씨는 당시 직원 두 명이 화면을 보며 서로 웃는 모습을 목격했지만 당시에는 다른 이유로 웃는 것으로 생각했다고 전했다. 약 한 시간 뒤 김 씨는 음료 컵에 "김치"라고 적힌 것을 발견하고 매장을 다시 찾아 경위를 물었다. 주문을 받은 직원은 이름을 잘못 입력했다며 사과했다고 김 씨는 전했다. 그러나 김 씨는 "김"과 "김치"의 발음이 다른 만큼 단순 실수라는 설명을 납득하기 어렵다며 현장 관리자를 불러줄 것을 요청했고, 관리자는 직원이 "김"을 입력한 뒤 화면을

• For Law Firm YK, going global means getting local (2026-10-21 05:03)

Law Firm YK seeks to use its nationwide network as a base for overseas growth, pairing its domestic reach with local legal expertise to support Korean companies entering unfamiliar markets. The firm, which ranked seventh among Korean law firms by revenue in 2025, plans to expand its overseas network from three offices to 30 within three years. It currently operates offices in Dubai and Abu Dhabi in the UAE, and in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. “When expanding a business abroad, people naturally worry ab

• Musk calls Tesla-SpaceX merger 'good idea' (2026-10-21 04:51)

Elon Musk said Tuesday that a merger of his two companies SpaceX and Tesla would be "a good idea" and that they had formed special committees to discuss a union, sending shares of the space and technology company up 4.9 percent in extended trading. The company earlier posted its first profit as a public company and Musk said it was tracking an annual revenue run rate of up to $1 trillion. Musk has in the past tantalized shareholders with the idea, citing growing overlap between the companies. S

• Zelenskyy, US hail 'productive' talks to end Trump feud (2026-10-21 04:49)

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and the US hailed "very productive" talks in Oslo on Tuesday amid efforts to draw a line under a bitter feud between Kyiv's leader and US President Donald Trump over the war with Russia. After talks with Trump's envoys in the Norwegian capital, Zelenskyy thanked Washington for the resumption of US intelligence of looming Russian strikes on civilian targets and energy plants. Trump's special envoy Steve Witkoff was due to head from Oslo to Russia for talks

• French PM vows 'massive' police deployment for new demonstrations (2026-10-21 04:48)

French Prime Minister Sebastien Lecornu Tuesday vowed a "massive" police presence at fresh protests called for the coming weekend, as he faced criticism over the handling of recent street violence. The Eurozone's second-largest economy was rocked on Saturday by some of its worst rioting in recent years, just six months before voters head to the polls to elect a successor to President Emmanuel Macron. Facing angry lawmakers in parliament, Lecornu acknowledged that the security response had fallen

• ‘Words alone won’t restore trust’: Lee calls for bold police reform (2026-10-21 04:47)

President Lee Jae Myung called for police reforms after a series of violent crimes raised questions about police capabilities as they assume greater investigative powers under an overhaul of the criminal justice system. Speaking at a ceremony marking National Police Day in Seoul, Lee stressed that the police force must confront shortcomings in its response to violent crimes and demonstrate tangible improvements to regain public trust. “Public trust cannot be restored through words alone,” Lee sa

• From grandma's closet to Gen Z cool, binyeo hairpins are back in style (2026-10-21 04:40)

No longer just for grandmothers, the binyeo, a long, slender hair ornament used to secure hair in a bun, is enjoying a resurgence as younger generations embrace the centuries-old accessory as a modern fashion statement, news reports said Wednesday. Accessory shops at Seoul’s Dongdaemun Market have recently drawn shoppers in their 20s and 30s, as well as foreign tourists, eager to get their hands on the traditional hairpins. Many customers come after discovering binyeo through social media posts,

• Korea Herald photographer wins photojournalism award (2026-10-21 04:35)

Yoon Chang-bin, a photographer for The Korea Herald, has won an award from the Korea Press Photographers' Association for his portrait of Korean American stand-up comedian Danny Cho. The association announced Tuesday that Yoon received an excellence award in the portrait category of its 284th Photo of the Month Awards, part of the third-quarter selections covering the 283rd through 285th editions. The award-winning photograph accompanied The Korea Herald's Aug. 20 interview with Cho, titled "The

- Samsung Bioepis' first ADC candidate wins FDA Fast Track (2026-10-21 04:12)

Samsung Bioepis said Wednesday that its first antibody-drug conjugate, or ADC, candidate has been designated a Fast Track drug by the US Food and Drug Administration. According to Samsung Bioepis, SBE303 is designed to target Nectin-4, a protein overexpressed on tumor cells. The candidate is being developed as a treatment for patients with locally advanced or metastatic urothelial cancer who have previously received a Nectin-4-targeted therapy. The FDA's Fast Track designation is intended to exp

- [Exclusive] Starbucks Hong Kong staff labels Korean customer ‘Kim’ as ‘Kimchi’ (2026-10-21 04:06)

A South Korean customer who ordered coffee under his surname, Kim, at a Starbucks location at Hong Kong International Airport on the evening of Oct. 11 was taken aback when he discovered that his drinks had been labeled “Kimchi.” Kim, 38, had stopped at the store before boarding a flight to Seoul with his wife. When his order was called out as “Kim,” he collected the drinks without checking the labels. It was only while waiting to board that he noticed the name printed on the cups. Baffled by th

- Blackpink’s Lisa puts a K-pop spin on PlayStation (2026-10-21 03:29)

Blackpink's Lisa is giving PlayStation's signature controller a personal makeover. The DualSense Wireless Controller — Lisa Limited Edition, a special version of Sony's PlayStation 5 controller, will be released on Oct. 30. Preorders open Oct. 2 in Korea, with a suggested retail price of 129,000 won ($97). According to PlayStation, Lisa was closely involved in the controller's design from the earliest stages of development, with particular attention paid to incorporating elements of personal sig

- BTS regains on Billboard 200 in 30th frame (2026-10-21 03:01)

The fifth full album from BTS now sits at No. 41 on Billboard 200, climbing up two rungs from the previous week, in its 30th week on the main albums chart. “Arirang” made a chart-topping debut on the chart in April and stayed atop the ranking for three consecutive weeks. Lead single “Swim” ranked No. 26 and No. 9 on the Global 200 and Global Excl. US charts, respectively. The septet has stayed strong on Billboard charts partly due to its ongoing world tour in support of the album, which surpasse

- National museum chief offers resignation (2026-10-21 02:52)

You Hong-june, director of the National Museum of Korea, announced his resignation on Wednesday following the controversy over his recommendation to include a scroll from his private collection in the museum's recent exhibition, "The Korean Table: Food, Nature and Life." The artifact, known as “Ilbansigukeun," drew scrutiny after it emerged that You had recommended it for display. The calligraphy piece has also been the center of controversy after it was revealed to be written by a pro-Japanese

• Busan to make third attempt to guide Bukang-i back to sea (2026-10-21 02:47)

Busan authorities will make a third attempt Wednesday afternoon to guide a shark out of a canal at North Port Waterfront Park as concerns grow over its health. The operation follows reports that Bukang-i has not been eating and has shown signs of injury and unusual behavior. Temperatures are also expected to fall sharply from Thursday, raising concerns that colder water could further weaken the shark. In footage shared by canal visitors, the shark's right pectoral fin appears damaged, and report

• 6-year-old Kyrgyz boy mauled by dogs returns home after surgery in Korea (2026-10-21 02:46)

A 6-year-old Kyrgyz boy who lost about 80 percent of his scalp after being mauled by three large dogs has returned home after receiving reconstructive surgery in South Korea, Asan Medical Center said Wednesday. The boy, identified by his first name Umar, was on his way home in April when he lost his balance and fell into a neighbor’s yard, where three large dogs attacked him. The attack tore away much of his scalp, leaving his skull exposed. He also suffered a skull fracture. A police officer on

• What’s brewing behind Mega Coffee’s deal rush? (2026-10-21 02:45)

In Korea’s food and beverage deal market these days, the most persistent bidder sells cheap coffee. Mega MGC Coffee, the country’s largest coffee chain with 4,500 bright-yellow storefronts, no longer seems content merely selling Americanos. It now harbors an appetite for a larger share of the retail landscape. "With a nationwide franchise logistics network and strong cash generation, Mega Coffee has emerged as a key strategic investor in F&B deals," one industry official said. The hunt began in

• Kang Daniel releases new single while enlisted (2026-10-21 02:41)

Kang Daniel dropped his new single “Blue” across online platforms on Wednesday, his agency Aera announced. He participated in writing the lyrics and melody of the R&B tune portraying the subtle emotions of being hesitant while also drawn to someone. The musician worked on the single before enlisting in the Army in February last year. His mandatory military service ends in August 2027. Earlier this month, a video clip featuring singers and actors dancing together, including Kang, Seventeen’s Wooz

• Alpha Drive One to promote follow-up track from 2nd EP (2026-10-21 02:38)

Alpha Drive One announced Wednesday that it will promote “Talk to Me,” a B-side from its second EP “Unbreakable: Beast,” through its agency WakeOne Entertainment. The news came with a poster and teaser photographs for the follow-up track, which will drop as a single on Thursday. “Talk to me” is off the group's August mini album, which sold over 1 million copies — as did its debut album “Euphoria." Its main track, “Born Dire,” earned the group two trophies from domestic television music chart sho

• Jung-gu residents fear UNESCO listing could delay redevelopment (2026-10-21 02:38)

Jung-gu, central Seoul, has submitted an objection to the UNESCO World Heritage nomination of the Capital Fortifications of Hanyang, bearing signatures from more than 3,500 residents who fear the listing could delay redevelopment and limit property rights. The district sent the signed statement to the Seoul Metropolitan Government on Oct. 13 and to the Korea Heritage Service, UNESCO and the International Council on Monuments and Sites on Oct. 20, it said Wednesday. The nomination, submitted in J

• Iran security chief rejects moving enriched uranium out of country (2026-10-21 02:27)

Iran's security chief Mohsen Rezaei on Tuesday told the visiting Pakistani Army chief Asim Munir that Tehran would not allow nuclear material to leave the country, according to state TV. "Not even a tiny bit of enriched nuclear material will leave Iran; such materials constitute a major asset and national wealth for the Iranian people, intended for use within the country," said Rezaei, Iran's secretary of the Supreme National Security Council. "There will be no negotiations until America takes s

• Cosmax Group expands microbiome research with Mass General Brigham (2026-10-21 02:27)

Cosmax Group has expanded its microbiome research partnership with Mass General Brigham, a network of Harvard Medical School-affiliated teaching hospitals, as the Korean cosmetics company pushes beyond beauty products into health supplements and drug development. The two sides signed an agreement Oct. 13 at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston to launch the second phase of their joint VIVA Project. Cosmax Group Chairman Lee Kyung-soo and MGB Chief Development Officer Mike McNally attended. R

• Trump administration has revoked over 300,000 visas (2026-10-21 02:26)

US President Donald Trump's administration has revoked over 300,000 US visas during his second term, the State Department said Tuesday as the federal government continues its sweeping immigration crackdown. The number showed an acceleration in the pace of visa revocations in recent weeks. In an update issued on Aug. 10, the State Department had put the number of visa revocations since Trump's current term began in January 2025 at over 175,000. Trump says his immigration crackdown and deporta

• TheBorn Korea's Texas BBQ outlet sees 70% sales growth since opening (2026-10-21 02:22)

South Korean restaurant operator TheBorn Korea said Wednesday that average monthly sales at its Saemaeul Sikdang outlet in Carrollton, Texas, have risen about 70 percent since 2023. Known for its briquette-grilled bulgogi and seven-minute kimchi stew, Saemaeul Sikdang operates in the US, Thailand and Mongolia. TheBorn Korea attributed its growth to locally tailored strategies and rising global interest in Korean food. In the US, the company pointed to growing demand for Korean-style tabletop gri

- DP issues warnings against Gyeonggi governor, lawmaker over remarks seen as disparaging firefighters (2026-10-21 02:15)

The ruling Democratic Party decided Wednesday to issue warnings against Gyeonggi Province Gov. Choo Mi-ae and one of its lawmakers over controversial remarks deemed insulting to firefighters. Choo came under fire after describing the firefighting service as the biggest " headache" and "fiscal drain" for local governments during a parliamentary audit last Tuesday. " (The warnings) are intended to urge those involved to seriously reflect on themselves and prevent similar incidents from recurring," D

- FTC chief acknowledges role of conglomerates in economic growth (2026-10-21 02:09)

The chief of South Korea's antitrust watchdog on Wednesday acknowledged conglomerates' contributions to the country's economic growth during a parliamentary audit, amid criticism of his earlier claim that chaebol have exploited the country. "I am not denying the role of conglomerates in South Korea's economic growth and development," Ju Biung-ghi, head of the Fair Trade Commission, said during a parliamentary audit at the National Assembly. Ju's remarks came in response to criticism from opposit

- National museum chief offers to resign over misattributed work from private collection (2026-10-21 02:01)

You Hong-june, director of the National Museum of Korea, offered to resign Wednesday amid a controversy over the museum's display of a misattributed calligraphic work from his private collection. He came under fire after the piece was wrongly introduced as the work of a Korean independence activist before later being found to have been written by a prominent pro-Japanese collaborator during Japan's 1910-45 colonial rule of Korea. The museum removed the item from its ongoing special exhibition fo

- [Treasures From National Museum of Korea] Sarira Reliquaries from the Five-story Brick Pagoda of Songnimsa Temple (2026-10-21 01:47)

Period: Unified Silla period Provenance: Chilgok-gun, North Gyeongsang Province Materials: Metal, gilt-bronze Dimensions: H. 22.3 cm Designation: Treasure 325-1,2,3 Discovered in 1959 during repair work for the Five-story Brick Pagoda in Songnimsa Temple in Chilgok-gun, North Gyeongsang Province, this pavilion-shaped miniature stupa is one of the sarira reliquaries. A sarira reliquary is an ornate container used in Buddhism to enshrine bead-like objects found in the cremated ashes of the Buddha

• Veteran Tigers slugger appreciates chance to play with superstar teammate (2026-10-21 01:45)

It is not often that a baseball player hits two home runs in a key postseason game and still gets upstaged by a teammate, but that is exactly what happened to Kia Tigers slugger Na Sung-bum this week. The Tigers pummeled the LG Twins 13-1 in Game 3 of their best-of-five series in the Korea Baseball Organization postseason Tuesday night at Jamsil Baseball Stadium in Seoul, with Na contributing two solo home runs that, by the end of the night, became a footnote to the latest heroic feat authored b

• A2O Lite nabs 1st trophy on music show seven days after debut (2026-10-21 01:45)

A2O Entertainment's rookie girl group A2O Lite placed first on the television music chart program "The Show" on Tuesday with its debut song “Neon." The single was released digitally on Oct. 13, marking the return of star producer and SM founder Lee Sooman and the launch of the group’s music career. “Neon” climbed to the No. 1 spot on Melon’s Top 100 in just over 24 hours — the fastest time for a debut song since the chart restructured in 2021 — and maintained the spot for six consecutive days. A

• LeBron James opens 24th NBA season hoping for his own banner night with the Philadelphia 76ers (2026-10-21 01:22)

NEW YORK (AP) -- The first basket of LeBron James' career with the Philadelphia 76ers was a simple one. He took a feed from Joel Embiid in the paint and went up strong for an uncontested right-handed layup. Just two points. Just one bucket of what the Sixers expect to be many, many more over the next two seasons as James opened his record 24th NBA season on a milestone night in New York. Embiid appeared to wonder during the national anthem where the Knicks' championship banner was hanging in the

• Infantino set to take FIFA reelection campaign to Japan to court Asian soccer federations (2026-10-21 01:22)

TOKYO (AP) -- Gianni Infantino's campaign for reelection as FIFA president is set to move this week to Japan and a meeting scheduled for Wednesday with the Asian Football Confederation. This comes after Infantino apologized last week in Zurich, Switzerland, to FIFA's 37-member ruling council -- which he chairs -- for "mistakes" he made in assembling a now-scrapped $4.2 billion sell-off plan for the World Cup. The council is FIFA's main decision-making body, with officials from around the world.

• Confirmation report for special inspector nominee to be adopted after 10-year vacancy (2026-10-21 00:50)

A parliamentary committee is set to adopt a confirmation hearing report this week for a special inspector nominee tasked with investigating corruption allegations involving the president's family and senior aides, officials said Wednesday, paving the way for an end to a 10-year

vacancy. The report for Choi Kil-su is scheduled to be adopted by the parliamentary legislation and judiciary committee on Thursday, about a month after his confirmation hearing was held. Choi, a former senior prosecutor,

• Seoul shares open sharply higher ahead of Meta earnings amid AI woes (2026-10-21 00:43)

Seoul shares opened sharply higher Wednesday ahead of Meta Platforms' earnings results, as investors weighed concerns over profitability from artificial intelligence infrastructure. After opening 2.05 percent higher, the benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index extended gains, trading up 158.88 points, or 2.86 percent, to 5,711.62 as of 9:15 a.m. The main index rebounded from a nearly 4 percent dip the previous session. Overnight, US stocks closed mixed, with the Dow Jones Industrial Average

• Producer prices up for 2nd month in Sept. on higher prices of agricultural goods (2026-10-21 00:40)

Producer prices rose for the second consecutive month in September driven by higher prices of agricultural goods during the Chuseok season, central bank data showed Wednesday. The producer price index, a key gauge of future consumer inflation, increased 0.2 percent last month from a month earlier, following a 0.1 percent on-month gain in August, according to the preliminary data from the Bank of Korea. In July, the index fell for the first time since August 2025. From a year earlier, producer pr

Source: Yonhap

• U.S. Silver Star Medal reissued to late S. Korean veteran of Korean War (2026-10-28 06:00)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- A late South Korean veteran who was awarded the U.S. ...

• Families of foreign victims demand answers, accountability for 2022 Itaewon disaster (2026-10-28 06:00)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- Family members of foreign victims of the deadly 2022 ...

• (LEAD) LG Electronics Q3 net profit up 53.7 pct on new businesses (2026-10-28 05:53)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- LG Electronics Inc. said Wednesday its third-quarter ...

• (LEAD) HD KSOE Q3 net profit down 11.4 pct to 777 bln won (2026-10-28 05:34)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- HD Korea Shipbuilding & Offshore Engineering (KSO...

• Presidential office to hold emergency meeting over financial-sector hacking attacks (2026-10-28 05:19)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- The presidential office was set to hold an emergency ...

• Today in Korean history (2026-10-28 05:00)

Oct. 29

• (4th LD) SK hynix logs record profit in Q3 on AI chip supercycle (2026-10-28 04:43)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- SK hynix Inc. said Wednesday its revenue and operatin...

• PPP slams defense minister over remarks on trusting U.S. forces in event of war with N. Korea (2026-10-28 04:37)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- The main opposition People Power Party (PPP) on Wedne...

• Yonhap News Summary (2026-10-28 04:30)

The following is the first summary of major stories moved by Yonhap News Agency ...

• PM pledges S. Korea will take lead in climate crisis response (2026-10-28 04:27)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- South Korea will be at the forefront of efforts to co...

• (LEAD) Samsung Electro-Mechanics logs record profit in Q3 on AI boom (2026-10-28 03:47)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Electro-Mechanics Co., an electronic componen...

• Ex-justice minister, special counsel appeal martial law-related ruling (2026-10-28 03:09)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- Former Justice Minister Park Sung-jae and special cou...

• Births up 13 pct in Aug. to highest in 7 years (2026-10-28 03:00)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- The number of babies born in South Korea shot up 13 p...

• Foreign currency deposits rise to fresh record high in Sept. (2026-10-28 03:00)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- Foreign currency deposits in South Korea rose to a fr...

• Population mobility down 10 pct in Sept. to lowest level in 53 yrs (2026-10-28 03:00)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- The number of South Koreans who moved to new residenc...

• Seoul stocks up nearly 6 pct Wed. morning on SK hynix earnings (2026-10-28 02:28)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks surged nearly 6 percent late Wedn...

• Lee to hold meeting on national safety (2026-10-28 01:56)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung was set to hold a government ...

• Gov't to require firms to deposit severance funds with financial institutions (2026-10-28 01:51)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- South Korea will push to make it mandatory for busine...

• Former USFK commanders raise concerns over command structure after OPCON transfer (2026-10-28 01:44)

WASHINGTON, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- Two former U.S. Forces Korea (USFK) commanders o...

• Ex-U.N. chief Ban-led foundation to hold high-level climate dialogue this week (2026-10-28 01:36)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- A foundation led by former U.N. Secretary-General Ban...

• (3rd LD) SK hynix logs record profit in Q3 on AI chip supercycle (2026-10-28 01:34)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- SK hynix Inc. said Wednesday its revenue and operatin...

• Virtual idol group Plave hits No. 31 on Billboard 200 (2026-10-28 01:31)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- South Korean virtual idol group Plave has achieved it...

• State arms agency completes development of homegrown Marine attack helicopter (2026-10-28 01:29)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- South Korea has completed the development of a homegr...

• (2nd LD) Special counsel launches inspection of local election ballots stored at Seoul handball arena (2026-10-28 01:28)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- A special counsel team on Wednesday launched an inspe...

• NC Dinos reunite with veteran outfielder Son Ah-seop (2026-10-28 01:15)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- The NC Dinos announced Wednesday they have reunited w...

• (LEAD) South Korean financial firms confirm data breach of customer data (2026-10-28 01:12)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- Daishin Securities, Mirae Asset Global Investments an...

• (LEAD) Special counsel launches inspection of local election ballots stored at Seoul handball arena (2026-10-28 01:02)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- A special counsel team on Wednesday launched an inspe...

• Gov't to lift hoarding bans on urea, medical goods as supplies stabilize (2026-10-28 01:00)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- South Korea will lift bans on hoarding urea, urea sol...

• KRX activates buy-side sidecar for KOSPI on sharp rise (2026-10-28 00:57)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's bourse operator on Wednesday activated ...

• (URGENT) KRX activates buy-side sidecar for KOSPI on sharp rise (2026-10-28 00:55)

(END)

• Ruling party, gov't fail to agree on delay of cryptocurrency tax (2026-10-28 00:48)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- The ruling Democratic Party (DP) and the government f...

• (LEAD) Seoul stocks open sharply higher on revived AI optimism, SK hynix earnings (2026-10-28 00:21)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks opened sharply higher Wednesday, ...

• Lee warns against 'irresponsible extremism' jeopardizing reforms (2026-10-28 00:21)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Wednesday warned against "...

• (2nd LD) SK hynix logs record profit in Q3 on AI chip supercycle (2026-10-28 00:16)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- SK hynix Inc. said Wednesday its revenue and operatin...

• Personal data of some 38,000 customers at Daishin Securities leaked (2026-10-28 00:16)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- Personal information of 38,490 customers has been lea...

• Right-handers going toe-to-toe in pivotal KBO postseason game (2026-10-28 00:08)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- With their best-of-five series in the South Korean ba...

• Seoul stocks open sharply higher on revived AI optimism, SK hynix earnings (2026-10-28 00:02)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks opened sharply higher Wednesday, ...

• (URGENT) Seoul stocks open sharply higher on revived AI optimism, SK hynix earnings (2026-10-28 00:01)

(END)

• Gov't to carry out large-scale inspections into IT infrastructures amid recent hacking attacks (2026-10-28 00:01)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- The government is set to carry out large-scale vulner...

• (LEAD) SK hynix logs record profit in Q3 on AI chip supercycle (2026-10-27 23:50)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- SK hynix Inc. said Wednesday its revenue and operatin...

• Special counsel launches inspection of local election ballots stored at Seoul handball arena (2026-10-27 23:43)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- A special counsel team on Wednesday launched an inspe...

• (URGENT) SK hynix announces additional 60 tln-won shareholder returns (2026-10-27 23:34)

(END)

• (URGENT) Special counsel team begins inspection of ballot papers at Olympic Park handball arena (2026-10-27 23:27)

(END)

• N. Korea's Kim calls for combat readiness at photo session with army company leaders (2026-10-27 23:19)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has urged company com...

• (EDITORIAL from Korea JoongAng Daily on Oct. 28) (2026-10-27 22:07)

Kim Min-seok, left, chairman of the Democratic Party, speaks with fellow party l...

• (EDITORIAL from Korea Times on Oct. 28) (2026-10-27 22:07)

Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon saw the clouds that loomed over his political career all ...

• (EDITORIAL from Korea Herald on Oct. 28) (2026-10-27 22:07)

The government can announce a cyber threat in seconds. It may take days to find ...

• Top headlines in major S. Korean newspapers (2026-10-27 22:07)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- The following are the top headlines in major South Ko...

• Tigers pitcher Naile ready to move on after errant pitch hits opponent (2026-10-27 22:00)

DAEGU, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- It was a pitch that got away.

• Fire at shantytown in southern Seoul extinguished after nearly 13 hours; 1 injured (2026-10-27 20:10)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- A fire that broke out at a shantytown in Seoul's sout...

• U.S. stresses conditions for wartime OPCON transfer amid S. Korea's push to set target year (2026-10-27 19:36)

WASHINGTON, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- The U.S. administration has reiterated that it i...

• Hanwha Defense USA to take control of Philly Shipyard in internal restructuring (2026-10-27 18:36)

WASHINGTON, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- Hanwha Defense USA (HDUSA) said Tuesday it will ...

• China unlikely to mediate potential Trump-Kim summit: U.S. experts (2026-10-27 18:10)

WASHINGTON, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- China is unlikely to mediate a potential summit ...

• (3rd LD) Main blaze of shantytown fire in southern Seoul contained; no casualties reported (2026-10-27 14:45)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- Firefighters on Tuesday put out the main blaze after ...

• Lions veteran rejoices over outfield assist, big homer in KBO postseason win (2026-10-27 14:30)

DAEGU, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- At 42 years, 10 months and 11 days, Samsung Lions sta...

• (LEAD) Lions ace Jurado tames Tigers for 1st career KBO postseason win (2026-10-27 13:48)

DAEGU, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- For all of his regular-season accomplishments in Sout...

• (2nd LD) Fire at shantytown in southern Seoul spreads amid strong winds; no casualties reported (2026-10-27 13:45)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- A fire broke out at a shantytown in Seoul's posh sout...

• (LEAD) Lions beat Tigers to even up KBO postseason series (2026-10-27 13:20)

DAEGU, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- The Samsung Lions launched two home runs to beat up o...

• Lions ace Jurado tames Tigers for 1st career KBO postseason win (2026-10-27 13:12)

DAEGU, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- For all of his regular-season accomplishments in Sout...

• Lions slugger Diaz enjoys another big postseason moment with key home run (2026-10-27 13:06)

DAEGU, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- Having been among the best postseason performers in S...

• Lions beat Tigers to even up KBO postseason series (2026-10-27 13:01)

DAEGU, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- The Samsung Lions launched two home runs to beat up o...

• (2nd LD) Top court issues additional arrest warrant for jailed ex-first lady (2026-10-27 10:33)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- The Supreme Court on Tuesday issued a new arrest warr...

• 3 ex-officials appeal to top court over 2019 deportation of N. Koreans (2026-10-27 09:37)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- Three former government officials Tuesday appealed an...

• (LEAD) No casualties reported in shanty town fire in southern Seoul (2026-10-27 09:32)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- A fire broke out at a shantytown in Seoul's posh sout...

• (LEAD) Defense chiefs of S. Korea, U.S. to hold talks in Philippines ahead of ASEAN meeting (2026-10-27 08:46)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- Defense Minister Kang Shin-chul and U.S. Defense Secr...

• Tigers manager not surprised by opponent's lineup changes in KBO postseason (2026-10-27 08:35)

DAEGU, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- Kia Tigers manager Lee Bum-ho said Tuesday he was not...

• Veteran starter embracing unfamiliar relief role in KBO postseason (2026-10-27 08:20)

DAEGU, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- It has been five years since Samsung Lions pitcher Wo...

• Instant photo kiosk featuring President Lee set to open at presidential house annex (2026-10-27 08:16)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- An instant four-cut photo kiosk will open at an annex...

• Foreign tourist arrivals in S. Korea estimated to have set annual record early (2026-10-27 08:06)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- Foreign tourist arrivals in South Korea this year are...

• (LEAD) Nuclear watchdog approves 10-yr lifespan extension for Kori units 3, 4 (2026-10-27 08:06)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- The country's nuclear watchdog decided Tuesday to ext...

• Yonhap News Summary (2026-10-27 08:03)

The following is the second summary of major stories moved by Yonhap News Agency...

• S. Korea hosts G20 global financial stability conference in Seoul (2026-10-27 08:00)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's finance ministry on Tuesday hosted a gl...

• Fire breaks out at shanty town in southern Seoul; no injuries reported (2026-10-27 07:47)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- A fire broke out at a shanty town in Seoul's posh sou...

• (2nd LD) Seoul shares surge 3 pct on renewed AI optimism, easing oil prices (2026-10-27 07:42)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- Seoul shares closed higher Tuesday, led by gains in t...

• S. Korea withdraws 8 diplomatic personnel from Ukraine: FM Cho (2026-10-27 07:38)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- Foreign Minister Cho Hyun said Tuesday that South Kor...

• Veteran hitter returns as Lions manager makes lineup changes after KBO postseason loss (2026-10-27 07:33)

DAEGU, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Lions manager Park Jin-man made notable chang...

• (URGENT) Nuclear safety watchdog approves 10-yr life extension for Kori units 3, 4 reactors (2026-10-27 07:33)

(END)

• S. Korean won inches down against U.S. dollar ahead of Fed meeting (2026-10-27 07:32)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean won edged down against the U.S. doll...

• Ruling party decides to seek parliamentary probe into Supreme Court chief amid impeachment calls (2026-10-27 07:30)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- The ruling Democratic Party (DP) said Tuesday it has ...

• (LEAD) LG Innotek Q3 net down 25.8 pct on fluctuating exchange rate (2026-10-27 07:19)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- LG Innotek Co., an electronic components manufacturer...

• Kim's China trip may have been more than economic event: unification minister (2026-10-27 07:02)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- Unification Minister Chung Dong-young said Tuesday th...

• Marine Corps commander to visit Thailand for talks on defense cooperation (2026-10-27 06:57)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- The commander of South Korea's Marine Corps will visi...

• (LEAD) HD Hyundai Electric net income down 3.6 pct in Q3 (2026-10-27 06:57)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- HD Hyundai Electric Co., a South Korean electrical eq...

• Woman sentenced to 10-month prison term for spitting at police officer at election rally (2026-10-27 06:57)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- A court on Tuesday sentenced a woman to 10 months in ...

• (LEAD) Top court holds hearing on new arrest warrant for jailed ex-first lady (2026-10-27 06:53)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- The Supreme Court convened a hearing Tuesday to decid...

• (LEAD) Seoul shares surge 3 pct on renewed AI optimism, easing oil prices (2026-10-27 06:46)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- Seoul shares closed higher Tuesday, led by gains in t...

• Seoul shares surge 3 pct on renewed AI optimism, easing oil prices (2026-10-27 06:35)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- Seoul shares closed higher Tuesday, led by gains in t...

• (URGENT) Seoul shares surge over 3 pct on renewed AI optimism, easing oil prices (2026-10-27 06:34)

(END)

• PPP urges Cheong Wa Dae to clarify first lady's golf allegations (2026-10-27 06:32)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- The main opposition People Power Party (PPP) on Tuesd...

• (LEAD) Hanwha Systems Q3 net plunges 97.5 pct on U.S. shipyard-related losses (2026-10-27 06:30)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- Hanwha Systems Co., the defense solutions arm of Hanw...

• Special panel seeks to question ex-President Yoon over 2022 crowd crush (2026-10-27 06:27)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- A special commission investigating the deadly 2022 It...

• Samsung Electronics chief to visit robotics R&D; center on 4th anniversary of inauguration (2026-10-27 06:19)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Electronics Co. Chairman Lee Jae-yong is set ...

• (LEAD) Hanwha Ocean's Q3 net falls 46 pct despite strong operating earnings (2026-10-27 06:03)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- South Korean shipbuilder Hanwha Ocean Co. said Tuesda...

• (LEAD) FM Cho says to meet Rubio this week, raise DP lawmaker's visa delay (2026-10-27 05:59)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- Foreign Minister Cho Hyun said Tuesday he plans to me...

• (LEAD) FTC to slap 20 bln-won fine on Samsung Electronics for misleading gaming ads (2026-10-27 05:58)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's antitrust watchdog said Tuesday it has ...

• Citing need for rest, badminton star An Se-young noncommittal about S. Korea tournament (2026-10-27 05:51)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- South Korean badminton fans may be robbed of their ch...

• FM Cho says lodged complaint to U.S. envoy over USFK chief's remarks on inter-Korean border (2026-10-27 05:48)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- Foreign Minister Cho Hyun said Tuesday he lodged a co...

• (LEAD) GNI per capita 'almost certain' to reach US$40,000 in 2026: finance ministry (2026-10-27 05:42)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- South Korea is "almost certain" to reach a gross nati...

• IDB chief economist stresses 'stabilization' efforts to address AI cycle (2026-10-27 05:24)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- The chief economist of the Inter-American Development...

• (LEAD) Shinhan Financial Group Q3 net profit up 10.9 pct on rising interest income (2026-10-27 05:17)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- Shinhan Financial Group Co. said Tuesday its net inco...

• Defense ministry says Kang's 'U.S. trust' remarks meant to counter lawmaker's OPCON transfer doubts (2026-10-27 05:11)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- Defense Minister Kang Shin-chul's recent remarks on U...

• Ruling party lawmaker expresses deep regret over U.S. visa delay (2026-10-27 05:11)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- Rep. Jung Chung-rae of the ruling Democratic Party cr...

• Today in Korean history (2026-10-27 05:00)

Oct. 28

• Nuclear watchdog set to decide on 10-yr lifespan extension for Kori units 3, 4 (2026-10-27 04:47)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- The country's nuclear watchdog was set to decide Tues...

• Yonhap News Summary (2026-10-27 04:30)

The following is the first summary of major stories moved by Yonhap News Agency ...

• FM Cho says to meet Rubio this week, raise visa issue involving DP lawmaker (2026-10-27 03:48)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- Foreign Minister Cho Hyun said Tuesday he plans to me...

• International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Power kicks off in S. Korea (2026-10-27 03:40)

INCHEON, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- A quadrennial, high-level policy event organized by...

• N. Korean artillery deployed along western border not seen as new weapon system: S. Korean military (2026-10-27 03:08)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- North Korean artillery deployed along the western fro...

• Tax revenue estimates go off mark due to outdated forecast models: state auditor (2026-10-27 03:00)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- Differences between the government's tax revenue esti...

• FTC to slap 20 bln-won fine on Samsung Electronics for misleading gaming ads (2026-10-27 03:00)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's antitrust watchdog said Tuesday it has ...

• (LEAD) Supreme Court finalizes 3-yr prison term for ex-commander over Marine's death (2026-10-27 02:58)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- The Supreme Court on Tuesday finalized a three-year p...

• LG Energy signs MOU to supply ESS to Israeli firm (2026-10-27 02:51)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- LG Energy Solution Ltd. (LGES), South Korea's leading...

• (LEAD) Lee says S. Korea should learn from European protests to sustain growth (2026-10-27 02:44)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung said Tuesday that South Korea...

• S. Korea sees possibility of N. Korea-U.S. dialogue discussions during Kim Jong-un's China visit (2026-10-27 02:42)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- Foreign Minister Cho Hyun said Tuesday he sees the po...

• SCIA chief attends Cabinet meeting for 2nd time amid controversy (2026-10-27 02:29)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- Kim Ji-yong, the inaugural chief of the Serious Crime...

• (LEAD) Special counsel searches Seoul handball arena in ballot shortage probe (2026-10-27 02:29)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- A special counsel team on Tuesday searched a handball...

• Seoul stocks trade nearly 4 pct higher Tues. morning on renewed AI optimism (2026-10-27 02:28)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks traded higher late Tuesday mornin...

• Supreme Court finalizes 3-yr prison term for ex-commander over Marine's death (2026-10-27 02:21)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- The Supreme Court on Tuesday finalized a three-year p...

• Lee says S. Korea should learn from European protests to sustain growth (2026-10-27 02:21)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung said Tuesday that South Korea...

• GNI per capita 'almost certain' to reach US$40,000 in 2026: finance ministry (2026-10-27 02:00)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- South Korea is "almost certain" to reach a gross nati...

• Bears bring back Japanese pitcher Takada for 2nd KBO season (2026-10-27 01:49)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- The Doosan Bears announced Tuesday they will bring ba...

• Special counsel searches Seoul handball arena in ballot shortage probe (2026-10-27 01:49)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- A special counsel team on Tuesday searched a handball...

• (2nd LD) S. Korea's GDP expands 1 pct in Q3 on strong exports, investment: BOK (2026-10-27 01:31)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- Strong semiconductor-led exports and investment drove...

• KRX activates buy-side sidecar for KOSPI on sharp rise (2026-10-27 01:28)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's bourse operator on Tuesday activated a ...

• Defense chiefs of S. Korea, U.S. to hold talks in Philippines ahead of ASEAN meeting (2026-10-27 01:24)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- Defense Minister Kang Shin-chul and U.S. Defense Secr...

• (URGENT) Bourse operator issues buy-side sidecar for KOSPI on sharp hike (2026-10-27 01:17)

(END)

• N. Korea opens annual trade fair amid sanctions (2026-10-27 01:01)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- North Korea has opened its autumn trade fair in Pyong...

• Taihan Cable's unit wins cable system order in Germany (2026-10-27 00:50)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- Taihan Cable & Solution Co., South Korea's second...

• 48 riot police units to be deployed during inspection of local election ballots (2026-10-27 00:45)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- Forty-eight riot police units will be deployed to mai...

• Top court to hold hearing on new arrest warrant for jailed ex-first lady (2026-10-27 00:38)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- The Supreme Court was scheduled to hold a hearing Tue...

• (LEAD) Seoul stocks open higher on Wall Street gains, renewed AI optimism (2026-10-27 00:23)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks opened higher Tuesday, tracking o...

• Contest for AI films, videos to take place in Seoul (2026-10-27 00:20)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- A contest dedicated to films and videos made with gen...

- With military service on horizon, pitcher hoping to leave Tigers on positive note (2026-10-27 00:20)

DAEGU, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- Over the past three seasons, Kia Tigers reliever Jung...

- Court temporarily suspends 2-yr bidding ban on LIG D&A; (2026-10-27 00:04)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- LIG Defense & Aerospace Co. (LIG D&A) said Tu...

- Seoul stocks open higher on Wall Street gains, renewed AI optimism (2026-10-27 00:04)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks opened higher Tuesday, tracking o...

- (URGENT) Seoul stocks open higher on Wall Street gains, renewed AI optimism (2026-10-27 00:01)

(END)

- BLACKPINK's Jisoo to release 2nd prerelease single 'Addicted' (2026-10-26 23:46)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- Jisoo of K-pop girl group BLACKPINK will release "Add...

- (LEAD) S. Korea's GDP expands 1 pct in Q3 on strong exports, investment: BOK (2026-10-26 23:20)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean economy grew 1 percent in the third ...

- N. Korea's Kim vows to deepen ties with Vietnam in reply to its leader Lam (2026-10-26 23:09)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has pledged to deepen...

- S. Korea's GDP expands 1 pct in Q3 on strong exports, investment: BOK (2026-10-26 23:00)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean economy grew 1 percent in the third ...

- (URGENT) S. Korea's GDP expands 1 pct in Q3 on strong exports, investment: BOK (2026-10-26 23:00)

(END)

- (EDITORIAL from Korea JoongAng Daily on Oct. 27) (2026-10-26 22:16)

The Democratic Party (DP) has formally announced plans to pursue a parliamentary...

- (EDITORIAL from Korea Times on Oct. 27) (2026-10-26 22:16)

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's surprise day trip to the Chinese border city o...

- (EDITORIAL from Korea Herald on Oct. 27) (2026-10-26 22:16)

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's visit to Dandong, China, on Saturday was osten...

• Top headlines in major S. Korean newspapers (2026-10-26 22:10)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- The following are the top headlines in major South Ko...

• Corporate direct financing up in Sept. on increased debt sales (2026-10-26 21:00)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- Corporate direct financing rose in September due to a...

• Consumer sentiment drops in Oct. on stock market correction, Mideast tensions (2026-10-26 21:00)

SEOUL, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- Consumer sentiment fell in October due mainly to a st...

• U.S. bill names N. Korea, Iran among countries of concern in AI cybersecurity initiative (2026-10-26 20:55)

WASHINGTON, Oct. 26 (Yonhap) -- U.S. lawmakers have introduced a bill aimed at s...

• Football fan spotted shouting racist remark toward Son Heung-min after MLS match: report (2026-10-26 19:44)

WASHINGTON, Oct. 26 (Yonhap) -- An apparent supporter of Los Angeles Football Cl...

• Rubio to host G20 foreign ministers' meeting in Atlanta (2026-10-26 17:22)

WASHINGTON, Oct. 26 (Yonhap) -- U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio will host a ...

• USFK chief highlights importance of logistics solutions for sustainment capabilities (2026-10-26 16:19)

WASHINGTON, Oct. 26 (Yonhap) -- U.S. Forces Korea (USFK) Commander Gen. Xavier B...

• HRW urges S. Korea to ease restrictions on proposed abortion pill rules (2026-10-26 14:40)

WASHINGTON, Oct. 26 (Yonhap) -- Human Rights Watch (HRW) has urged South Korea t...

• (LEAD) Tigers manager credits bullpen in crucial road win in KBO postseason (2026-10-26 14:13)

DAEGU, Oct. 26 (Yonhap) -- Following a road postseason victory in which his line...

• (LEAD) Once candidate to be cut, Castro comes up big for Tigers in KBO postseason win (2026-10-26 14:07)

DAEGU, Oct. 26 (Yonhap) -- About four months ago, the Kia Tigers considered cutt...

• Tigers manager credits bullpen in crucial road win in KBO postseason (2026-10-26 14:04)

DAEGU, Oct. 26 (Yonhap) -- Following a road postseason victory in which his line...

• (LEAD) Tigers defeat Lions in KBO postseason series opener (2026-10-26 13:22)

DAEGU, Oct. 26 (Yonhap) -- Cleanup Harold Castro homered and knocked in three ru...

• Foreign-born starters to duel in 2nd game of KBO postseason series (2026-10-26 13:13)

DAEGU, Oct. 26 (Yonhap) -- Two foreign-born starting pitchers will go toe-to-toe...

• Once candidate to be cut, Castro comes up big for Tigers in KBO postseason win (2026-10-26 13:07)

DAEGU, Oct. 26 (Yonhap) -- About four months ago, the Kia Tigers considered cutt...

• Tigers defeat Lions in KBO postseason series opener (2026-10-26 12:57)

DAEGU, Oct. 26 (Yonhap) -- Cleanup Harold Castro homered and knocked in three ru...

• KB Kookmin Bank finds 2,091 more people affected by data leak (2026-10-26 09:43)

SEOUL, Oct. 26 (Yonhap) -- KB Kookmin Bank said Monday an additional 2,091 peopl...

• Tigers manager sees superstar slugger enjoying KBO postseason limelight (2026-10-26 08:40)

DAEGU, Oct. 26 (Yonhap) -- Being put on a pedestal by adoring fans and media as ...

• Outlier game behind him, Tigers starter Oller confident ahead of postseason start vs. Lions (2026-10-26 08:29)

DAEGU, Oct. 26 (Yonhap) -- Kia Tigers pitcher Adam Oller said Monday he feels "v...

• Yonhap News Summary (2026-10-26 08:05)

The following is the second summary of major stories moved by Yonhap News Agency...

• S. Korea, U.S. closely coordinating on setting target year for OPCON transfer: defense chief (2026-10-26 08:04)

SEOUL, Oct. 26 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and the United States are closely coordin...

• (LEAD) Lee says CPTPP entry unavoidable; membership during his term unlikely (2026-10-26 08:03)

SEOUL, Oct. 26 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung said Monday that South Korea'...

• 5-yr term sought for ex-vice minister over presidential residence relocation (2026-10-26 07:53)

SEOUL, Oct. 26 (Yonhap) -- Special counsel Min Joong-ki's team on Monday request...

• Lions manager acknowledges rest advantage over KBO postseason foe gone after rainout (2026-10-26 07:43)

DAEGU, Oct. 26 (Yonhap) -- The Samsung Lions last played a competitive game two ...

• LIG D&A; CEO denies company's involvement in bribery allegations (2026-10-26 07:41)

SEOUL, Oct. 26 (Yonhap) -- The chief of South Korean defense company LIG Defense...

• (2nd LEAD) Seoul shares dip over 1 pct ahead of earnings reports, Fed decision (2026-10-26 07:33)

SEOUL, Oct. 26 (Yonhap) -- Seoul shares ended lower Monday, tracking losses on W...

• Lee meets with ex-parliamentary speaker, stresses national unity (2026-10-26 07:33)

SEOUL, Oct. 26 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung met with former National Asse...

• Back from injury, Lions captain willing to do whatever it takes to win in KBO postseason (2026-10-26 07:14)

DAEGU, Oct. 26 (Yonhap) -- With his club about to embark on their postseason jou...

• (LEAD) Woman in military custody over unauthorized entry into restricted front-line border area (2026-10-26 07:04)

SEOUL, Oct. 26 (Yonhap) -- South Korean authorities are questioning a woman in h...

• Lee congratulates Lula on his reelection as president (2026-10-26 06:56)

SEOUL, Oct. 26 (Yonhap) -- South Korean President Lee Jae Myung on Monday congra...

• Galaxy Corp. opens robot performance arena in Dubai (2026-10-26 06:55)

SEOUL, Oct. 26 (Yonhap) -- South Korean entertainment technology startup Galaxy ...

• (LEAD) Seoul shares dip over 1 pct ahead of earnings reports, Fed decision (2026-10-26 06:55)

SEOUL, Oct. 26 (Yonhap) -- Seoul shares ended lower Monday, tracking losses on W...

• Lee says aware of farmers' concerns over CPTPP membership, vows to prevent unfair damage (2026-10-26 06:41)

SEOUL, Oct. 26 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Monday acknowledged concer...

• FM Cho to visit U.S. for G20 foreign ministers' meeting this week (2026-10-26 06:38)

SEOUL, Oct. 26 (Yonhap) -- Foreign Minister Cho Hyun plans to visit the United S...

• Seoul shares dip over 1 pct ahead of earnings reports, Fed decision (2026-10-26 06:36)

SEOUL, Oct. 26 (Yonhap) -- Seoul shares ended lower Monday, tracking losses on W...

• (URGENT) Seoul shares dip over 1 pct ahead of earnings reports, Fed decision (2026-10-26 06:33)

(END)

• Cybercrime ring busted over AI-powered data theft targeting hospitals, businesses (2026-10-26 05:49)

SEOUL, Oct. 26 (Yonhap) -- Police have busted a cybercrime ring that allegedly s...

• Enhypen to release new EP 'The Sin: Parallel World' in Nov. (2026-10-26 05:42)

SEOUL, Oct. 26 (Yonhap) -- K-pop boy group Enhypen will release its new EP, "The...

• Samsung aims to cut chip material development time using AI (2026-10-26 05:29)

SEOUL, Oct. 26 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Electronics Co. said Monday it aims to use ar...

• Budget ministry to start early review of 2028 spending cuts (2026-10-26 05:03)

SEOUL, Oct. 26 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's budget ministry said Monday it will beg...

• TWICE's Nayeon to drop new solo album 'NA-sty' (2026-10-26 05:00)

SEOUL, Oct. 26 (Yonhap) -- Nayeon, a member of K-pop girl group TWICE, will rele...

• Today in Korean history (2026-10-26 05:00)

Oct. 27

• Yonhap News Summary (2026-10-26 04:30)

The following is the first summary of major stories moved by Yonhap News Agency ...

• Unification ministry hopes Kim's Dandong trip revives dialogue (2026-10-26 03:03)

SEOUL, Oct. 26 (Yonhap) -- The unification ministry said Monday it hopes North K...

• Banks expected to maintain tight lending standards in Q4: BOK survey (2026-10-26 03:00)

SEOUL, Oct. 26 (Yonhap) -- South Korean banks are expected to maintain tight len...

• People with migrant background take up 5.4 pct of S. Korean population in 2025 (2026-10-26 03:00)

SEOUL, Oct. 26 (Yonhap) -- The ratio of people with migrant backgrounds living i...

• Hyundai's fuel cell vehicle sales in S. Korea top 50,000 units (2026-10-26 02:45)

SEOUL, Oct. 26 (Yonhap) -- Hyundai Motor Co. said Monday its cumulative sales of...

• Woman in military custody over unauthorized entry into restricted front-line border area (2026-10-26 02:36)

SEOUL, Oct. 26 (Yonhap) -- South Korean authorities are questioning a woman in h...

• Civil group files police complaint against agriculture minister over farmland survey (2026-10-26 02:32)

SEOUL, Oct. 26 (Yonhap) -- A civic group has filed a complaint with police again...

• Seoul stocks extend losses Mon. morning ahead of earnings reports, Fed decision (2026-10-26 02:30)

SEOUL, Oct. 26 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks traded lower late Monday morning ...

• Drug suspect repatriated from Ghana after 22 yrs on the run (2026-10-26 02:23)

SEOUL, Oct. 26 (Yonhap) -- A man in his 80s, suspected of transporting more than...

• Lotte Giants name title-winning skipper as new manager (2026-10-26 02:11)

DAEGU, Oct. 26 (Yonhap) -- The Lotte Giants announced a former championship-winn...

• S. Korea-U.S. investment firm gets credit ratings with stable outlooks (2026-10-26 02:02)

SEOUL, Oct. 26 (Yonhap) -- Global credit rating agencies have assigned ratings i...

• POSCO union warns of 'indefinite' walkout after wage talks collapse (2026-10-26 01:48)

SEOUL, Oct. 26 (Yonhap) -- Unionized workers at South Korean steelmaker POSCO wi...

• N. Korean officials pay tribute to fallen Chinese soldiers at Friendship Tower (2026-10-26 01:39)

SEOUL, Oct. 26 (Yonhap) -- North Korean officials have paid tribute at the Frien...

• Presidential special inspector vows political neutrality, independence (2026-10-26 01:37)

SEOUL, Oct. 26 (Yonhap) -- The new presidential special inspector, Choi Kil-su, ...

• Special counsel to inspect 2.5 mln ballots in local elections shortage probe (2026-10-26 01:25)

SEOUL, Oct. 26 (Yonhap) -- A special counsel team said Monday it plans to examin...

• Late French Korean War veteran to be buried at U.N. cemetery in Busan (2026-10-26 01:21)

SEOUL, Oct. 26 (Yonhap) -- The remains of a late French veteran who fought in th...

• S. Korea, U.S. kick off combined air drills this week (2026-10-26 01:10)

SEOUL, Oct. 26 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and the United States kicked off their co...

• Tigers catcher hoping to recapture KBO postseason glory of 2024 (2026-10-26 00:34)

DAEGU, Oct. 26 (Yonhap) -- Two years ago Monday, Kia Tigers catcher Kim Tae-gun ...

• (LEAD) Seoul stocks open lower ahead of earnings reports, Fed decision (2026-10-26 00:24)

SEOUL, Oct. 26 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks opened lower Monday as investors ...

• Samsung SDI's unit to supply ESS solutions to U.S. firm (2026-10-26 00:24)

SEOUL, Oct. 26 (Yonhap) -- Samsung SDI Co., a major South Korean battery maker, ...

• Seoul stocks open lower ahead of earnings reports, Fed decision (2026-10-26 00:03)

SEOUL, Oct. 26 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks opened lower Monday as investors ...

• (URGENT) Seoul stocks open lower ahead of earnings reports, Fed decision (2026-10-26 00:01)

(END)

• Lee's approval rating falls to 35.3 pct after rebound: poll (2026-10-25 23:52)

SEOUL, Oct. 26 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung's approval rating fell to 35....

• Korean won's nominal effective rate rises to 2-yr high (2026-10-25 23:51)

SEOUL, Oct. 26 (Yonhap) -- The Korean won's nominal effective exchange rate rose...

• N. Korea sends letter to UNSC calling DMZ mine blast S. Korean fabrication (2026-10-25 23:19)

SEOUL, Oct. 26 (Yonhap) -- North Korea has sent a letter to the president of the...

• (EDITORIAL from Korea JoongAng Daily on Oct. 26) (2026-10-25 22:06)

Calls within the ruling Democratic Party (DP) to impeach Chief Justice Jo Hee-de...

• (EDITORIAL from Korea Times on Oct. 26) (2026-10-25 22:06)

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's surprise visit to China is a reminder that the...

• (EDITORIAL from Korea Herald on Oct. 26) (2026-10-25 22:06)

South Korea's planned levy on cryptocurrency income is due to begin on Jan. 1 af...

• Top headlines in major S. Korean newspapers (2026-10-25 22:06)

SEOUL, Oct. 26 (Yonhap) -- The following are the top headlines in major South Ko...

• (3rd LD) N.K. leader vows to advance ties with China during surprise Dandong visit (2026-10-25 10:30)

SEOUL, Oct. 25 (Yonhap) -- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has visited China and...

• Lee says S. Korea emerging as global economic leader on record current account surplus (2026-10-25 10:16)

SEOUL, Oct. 25 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung said Sunday that South Korea ...

• 2 S. Koreans finish as runners-up at LPGA event on home soil (2026-10-25 07:27)

HAENAM, South Korea, Oct. 25 (Yonhap) -- Two South Korean players tied for secon...

• Osong beauty expo draws nearly US$100 mln in export deals (2026-10-25 06:23)

SEOUL, Oct. 25 (Yonhap) -- A cosmetics and beauty expo in South Korea's central ...

• More Korean middle school students experience feelings of depression: data (2026-10-25 06:20)

SEOUL, Oct. 25 (Yonhap) -- The proportion of Korean middle school students who e...

• Lions veteran happy to cede spotlight to younger teammates (2026-10-25 06:13)

DAEGU, Oct. 25 (Yonhap) -- Even at the advanced age of 42, Samsung Lions veteran...

• Footage released of huge S. Korean national flag on Dokdo Island (2026-10-25 05:42)

SEOUL, Oct. 25 (Yonhap) -- Promotional footage of a huge national flag of South ...

• Tigers slugger trying not to get caught up in numbers amid postseason surge (2026-10-25 05:19)

DAEGU, Oct. 25 (Yonhap) -- Kia Tigers slugger Kim Do-yeong claimed Sunday he nev...

• Corporate watchdog chief calls for tougher penalties for obstructing investigations (2026-10-25 05:08)

SEOUL, Oct. 25 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's antitrust chief on Sunday called for to...

• Tigers manager predicts low-scoring KBO postseason battle vs. Lions (2026-10-25 05:05)

DAEGU, Oct. 25 (Yonhap) -- With some of the league's top pitchers locked and loa...

• (2nd LD) N.K. leader vows to advance ties with China during surprise Dandong visit (2026-10-25 05:03)

SEOUL, Oct. 25 (Yonhap) -- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has visited China and...

• Today in Korean history (2026-10-25 05:00)

Oct. 26

• S. Korea to expand int'l flights in winter season (2026-10-25 04:46)

SEOUL, Oct. 25 (Yonhap) -- South Korea will increase international passenger fli...

• Lions reliever eager for shot at revenge in KBO postseason (2026-10-25 03:42)

DAEGU, Oct. 25 (Yonhap) -- Two years after his Samsung Lions lost to the Kia Tig...

• KBO postseason game rained out (2026-10-25 03:30)

DAEGU, Oct. 25 (Yonhap) -- A South Korean baseball postseason game scheduled for...

• Lions manager to lean on breakout pitcher as new closer in KBO postseason (2026-10-25 03:13)

DAEGU, Oct. 25 (Yonhap) -- With his top closer out with an injury for the South ...

• Nat'l health insurance fiscal balance for foreigners tops 1 tln won in surplus last year (2026-10-25 03:03)

SEOUL, Oct. 25 (Yonhap) -- The fiscal balance of South Korea's national health i...

• Hyundai Motor, Kia's combined China sales fall below 10,000 units in Sept. (2026-10-25 02:02)

SEOUL, Oct. 25 (Yonhap) -- Hyundai Motor Co. and Kia Corp.'s combined retail sal...

• Incidents involving S. Koreans in 10 nations under travel advisory rise 50 pct: data (2026-10-25 01:57)

SEOUL, Oct. 25 (Yonhap) -- The number of accidents and incidents involving South...

• Tving tops new streaming app installations in Sept. (2026-10-25 01:35)

SEOUL, Oct. 25 (Yonhap) -- New installations of Tving's mobile app rose for the ...

• Foreign cruise ship visitors to S. Korea near 1.3 mln in Jan.-Aug. period (2026-10-25 01:24)

SEOUL, Oct. 25 (Yonhap) -- The number of foreign visitors arriving in South Kore...

• Samsung Electronics, SK hynix set to report Q3 earnings this week (2026-10-25 01:09)

SEOUL, Oct. 25 (Yonhap) -- South Korean chipmakers Samsung Electronics Co. and S...

• Lee mulls picking justice minister nominee from 2 prosecutor-turned-lawmakers (2026-10-25 01:06)

SEOUL, Oct. 25 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung is mulling over selecting a j...

• S. Korea's temporary jobs fall to 31-year Q3 low (2026-10-25 00:50)

SEOUL, Oct. 25 (Yonhap) -- The number of temporary and daily workers in South Ko...

• S. Korea's Q2 current account surplus ranks 2nd on robust chip exports (2026-10-25 00:32)

SEOUL, Oct. 25 (Yonhap) -- South Korea posted the second-largest current account...

• (News Focus) What's next for Trump's Korea policy after U.S. midterms? Experts assess alliance friction, N.K. diplomacy (2026-10-25 00:30)

WASHINGTON, Oct. 24 (Yonhap) -- The upcoming U.S. midterm elections are unlikely...

• (LEAD) N.K. leader vows to advance ties with China during surprise Dandong visit (2026-10-25 00:11)

SEOUL, Oct. 25 (Yonhap) -- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has visited China and...

• N. Korea reports leader Kim's surprise visit to China (2026-10-24 22:14)

SEOUL, Oct. 25 (Yonhap) -- North Korea on Sunday confirmed leader Kim Jong-un's ...

• (URGENT) N. Korea confirms leader Kim's Saturday visit to China (2026-10-24 21:49)

(END)

• (5th LD) N. Korean leader Kim Jong-un visits China, meets senior official amid ties push (2026-10-24 12:26)

SEOUL, Oct. 24 (Yonhap) -- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un visited China on Satu...

• (URGENT) N. Korean leader Kim Jong-un leaves Dandong, seen off by China's top political adviser: Xinhua (2026-10-24 11:22)

(END)

• With LPGA title on home soil in sight, Ryu Hae-ran ready to have fun (2026-10-24 09:55)

SEOUL, Oct. 24 (Yonhap) -- Playing through windy and rainy conditions on the sou...

• (4th LD) N. Korea's Kim arrives in China's Dandong via newly opened bridge (2026-10-24 09:51)

SEOUL, Oct. 24 (Yonhap) -- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has arrived in China'...

• FC Seoul boss Kim Gi-dong happy to deliver on championship promise (2026-10-24 09:08)

SEOUL, Oct. 24 (Yonhap) -- When Kim Gi-dong took the helm for FC Seoul before th...

• (3rd LD) N. Korea's Kim arrives in China's Dandong via newly opened bridge (2026-10-24 08:42)

SEOUL, Oct. 24 (Yonhap) -- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has arrived in China'...

• (LEAD) FC Seoul crowned K League 1 champions (2026-10-24 08:16)

SEOUL, Oct. 24 (Yonhap) -- FC Seoul captured their first South Korean football t...

• Ryu Hae-ran builds 4-shot lead at LPGA event in S. Korea (2026-10-24 08:12)

SEOUL, Oct. 24 (Yonhap) -- Hometown favorite Ryu Hae-ran is taking a four-stroke...

• KBO saves leader out for Lions' postseason series due to injury (2026-10-24 07:58)

SEOUL, Oct. 24 (Yonhap) -- The Samsung Lions announced Saturday their All-Star c...

• (2nd LD) N. Korea's Kim arrives in China's Dandong via newly opened bridge (2026-10-24 07:41)

SEOUL, Oct. 24 (Yonhap) -- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has arrived in China'...

• (URGENT) N. Korea's Kim appears to be planning to return home Saturday after visiting China's Dandong: ruling party source (2026-10-24 07:39)

fairydust@yna.co.kr (END)

• FC Seoul crowned K League 1 champions (2026-10-24 07:06)

SEOUL, Oct. 24 (Yonhap) -- FC Seoul captured their first South Korean football t...

• (LEAD) N. Korea's Kim arrives in China's Dandong via newly opened bridge: gov't source (2026-10-24 06:34)

SEOUL, Oct. 24 (Yonhap) -- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has arrived in China'...

• N. Korea's Kim arrives in China's Dandong via newly opened bridge: gov't source (2026-10-24 06:17)

SEOUL, Oct. 24 (Yonhap) -- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has arrived in China'...

• (URGENT) N. Korea's Kim arrives in China's border city of Dandong via newly opened bridge (2026-10-24 06:03)

fairydust@yna.co.kr (END)

• Today in Korean history (2026-10-24 05:00)

Oct. 25

• Investor deposits at brokerages plunge on stock market volatility (2026-10-24 04:11)

SEOUL, Oct. 24 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stock investors' deposits at securities ...

• Wage talks between POSCO, unionized workers break down (2026-10-24 01:46)

POHANG, South Korea, Oct. 24 (Yonhap) -- Wage negotiations between POSCO Co. and...

• American aces to face each other in KBO postseason series opener (2026-10-24 01:25)

SEOUL, Oct. 24 (Yonhap) -- The Samsung Lions will send their American right-hand...

• Top headlines in major S. Korean newspapers (2026-10-24 00:33)

SEOUL, Oct. 24 (Yonhap) -- The following are the top headlines in major South Ko...

• N. Korea's Kim calls for 'strongest army' in speech for military meeting in Pyongyang (2026-10-24 00:18)

SEOUL, Oct. 24 (Yonhap) -- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has called for the re...

• U.S. Army activates air defense battalion in Guam amid N. Korean, Chinese missile threats: report (2026-10-23 18:54)

WASHINGTON, Oct. 23 (Yonhap) -- The U.S. Army has activated an air defense batta...

• U.N. official thanks S. Korea for helicopter donation to Kenya for peacekeeping operations (2026-10-23 16:34)

WASHINGTON, Oct. 23 (Yonhap) -- A senior United Nations official expressed grati...

• Melania Trump secures localized Russia-Ukraine ceasefire for humanitarian aid: White House (2026-10-23 16:15)

WASHINGTON, Oct. 23 (Yonhap) -- U.S. First Lady Melania Trump has secured an agr...

• U.S. Treasury Department proposes expanding tech investment restrictions to N. Korea (2026-10-23 16:15)

WASHINGTON, Oct. 23 (Yonhap) -- The U.S. Treasury Department has proposed expand...

• German Chancellor Merz to visit S. Korea next week for summit with Lee (2026-10-23 12:41)

SEOUL, Oct. 23 (Yonhap) -- German Chancellor Friedrich Merz will make an officia...

• (LEAD) Lee calls for closer S. Korea-Japan supply chain cooperation at meeting with Japanese biz delegation (2026-10-23 12:04)

SEOUL, Oct. 23 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Friday called for closer e...

• S. Korea donates 8 retired military helicopters to Kenya (2026-10-23 10:41)

SEOUL, Oct. 23 (Yonhap) -- South Korea has donated eight decommissioned military...

• Spy agency said to assess that social media rumors of N. Korean leader's death are false (2026-10-23 09:37)

SEOUL, Oct. 23 (Yonhap) -- The spy agency on Friday reported to a parliamentary ...

• 36-hole leader Ryu Hae-ran 'happy' with state of game at LPGA event: 'Everything is good for me.' (2026-10-23 08:30)

SEOUL, Oct. 23 (Yonhap) -- After grabbing the lead at the halfway mark of the LP...

• Key developments on North Korea this week (2026-10-23 08:16)

SEOUL, Oct. 23 (Yonhap) -- The following are key developments regarding North Ko...

• Summary of domestic news in North Korea this week (2026-10-23 08:16)

SEOUL, Oct. 23 (Yonhap) -- The following is a summary of domestic news in North ...

• Summary of inter-Korean news this week (2026-10-23 08:16)

SEOUL, Oct. 23 (Yonhap) -- The following is a summary of inter-Korean news this ...

• Summary of external news of North Korea this week (2026-10-23 08:15)

SEOUL, Oct. 23 (Yonhap) -- The following is a summary of external news on North ...

• Yonhap News Summary (2026-10-23 08:00)

The following is the second summary of major stories moved by Yonhap News Agency...

• (News Focus) Acquittal puts Seoul mayor on path to potential presidential run (2026-10-23 07:57)

SEOUL, Oct. 23 (Yonhap) -- Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon was placed firmly on the path ...

• (2nd LD) S. Korea proposes military talks with N. Korea to ease tensions along border (2026-10-23 07:45)

SEOUL, Oct. 23 (Yonhap) -- South Korea renewed its offer Friday to hold military...

• (LEAD) Main opposition hails Seoul mayor's acquittal in political funds trial; ruling party calls for appeal (2026-10-23 07:42)

SEOUL, Oct. 23 (Yonhap) -- The main opposition People Power Party (PPP) on Frida...

• (2nd LD) Seoul stocks end tad higher on bargain hunting (2026-10-23 07:39)

SEOUL, Oct. 23 (Yonhap) -- South Korean shares closed slightly higher Friday aft...

• BOK chief signals hawkish stance amid outlook for higher growth, rates (2026-10-23 07:26)

SEOUL, Oct. 23 (Yonhap) -- Bank of Korea (BOK) Gov. Shin Hyun-song said Friday t...

• Justin Bieber makes surprise visit to S. Korea after 13 years (2026-10-23 07:17)

SEOUL, Oct. 23 (Yonhap) -- Canadian pop star Justin Bieber made an unannounced v...

• (LEAD) Woori Financial Q3 net falls 16 pct on one-time factor (2026-10-23 07:08)

SEOUL, Oct. 23 (Yonhap) -- Woori Financial Group Inc. on Friday reported a decli...

• Ryu Hae-ran seizes 36-hole lead at LPGA event in S. Korea (2026-10-23 07:07)

SEOUL, Oct. 23 (Yonhap) -- Ryu Hae-ran soared to the top of the leaderboard at t...

• (LEAD) Seoul stocks end tad higher on bargain hunting (2026-10-23 06:59)

SEOUL, Oct. 23 (Yonhap) -- South Korean shares closed slightly higher Friday aft...

• (LEAD) Special counsel says deceased NEC official's note cites no coercion (2026-10-23 06:56)

SEOUL, Oct. 23 (Yonhap) -- A National Election Commission (NEC) official, who wa...

• Army's Ground Operations Command stages field training drills linked to counterfire warfare (2026-10-23 06:53)

SEOUL, Oct. 23 (Yonhap) -- The Army's Ground Operations Command (GOC) has conduc...

• (3rd LD) Appeals court acquits Seoul mayor of political funds law violation (2026-10-23 06:53)

SEOUL, Oct. 23 (Yonhap) -- An appeals court on Friday overturned a lower court r...

• Lee urges reform of outdated regulations hampering growth of advanced industries (2026-10-23 06:52)

SEOUL, Oct. 23 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Friday urged prompt and bo...

• (LEAD) S. Korea proposes military talks with N. Korea to resolve border location issue (2026-10-23 06:50)

SEOUL, Oct. 23 (Yonhap) -- South Korea renewed its offer Friday to hold military...

• BLACKPINK's Lisa drops 1st solo EP 'Press Play' (2026-10-23 06:50)

SEOUL, Oct. 23 (Yonhap) -- Lisa of K-pop girl group BLACKPINK returned to the mu...

• Seoul stocks end tad higher on bargain hunting (2026-10-23 06:36)

SEOUL, Oct. 23 (Yonhap) -- South Korean shares closed slightly higher Friday aft...

• (URGENT) Seoul stocks end tad higher on bargain hunting (2026-10-23 06:34)

(END)

• Science minister vows to come up with pan-ministerial measures to regulate smart glasses (2026-10-23 06:30)

SEOUL, Oct. 23 (Yonhap) -- Science Minister Bae Kyung-hoon said Friday his minis...

• (LEAD) Hana Financial Q3 net up 7.9 pct on rise in interest, non-interest income (2026-10-23 06:28)

SEOUL, Oct. 23 (Yonhap) -- Hana Financial Group Inc. on Friday reported a rise i...

• Main opposition welcomes Seoul mayor's acquittal in political funds trial (2026-10-23 06:12)

SEOUL, Oct. 23 (Yonhap) -- The main opposition People Power Party (PPP) on Frida...

• Seoul police step up crowd safety measures for Halloween (2026-10-23 06:03)

SEOUL, Oct. 23 (Yonhap) -- Police will step up crowd safety measures in major ni...

• (2nd LD) Appeals court acquits Seoul mayor of political funds law violation (2026-10-23 05:59)

SEOUL, Oct. 23 (Yonhap) -- An appeals court on Friday overturned a lower court r...

• Culture ministry to audit ex-museum chief over misattributed calligraphy (2026-10-23 05:48)

SEOUL, Oct. 23 (Yonhap) -- The culture minister said Friday his ministry will co...

• S. Korea proposes military talks with N. Korea to resolve border line issue (2026-10-23 05:32)

SEOUL, Oct. 23 (Yonhap) -- South Korea renewed its offer Friday to hold military...

• (LEAD) Appeals court acquits Seoul mayor in political funds trial (2026-10-23 05:27)

SEOUL, Oct. 23 (Yonhap) -- An appeals court on Friday acquitted Seoul Mayor Oh S...

• Lee appoints special inspector to probe corruption involving first family, aides (2026-10-23 05:23)

SEOUL, Oct. 23 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Friday appointed a former ...

• (URGENT) Appeals court acquits Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon in political funds trial (2026-10-23 05:18)

(END)

• (URGENT) S. Korea says inter-Korean talks needed to clarify MDL, resume military hotline (2026-10-23 05:10)

(END)

• (URGENT) S. Korea says 3-way MDL talks involving U.N. Command also possible (2026-10-23 05:10)

(END)

• (URGENT) S. Korea renews call for high-level military talks with N. Korea over MDL (2026-10-23 05:04)

(END)

• Today in Korean history (2026-10-23 05:00)

Oct. 24

• Arrest warrant sought for woman accused of killing own mother (2026-10-23 04:56)

SEOUL, Oct. 23 (Yonhap) -- Police said Friday they have sought an arrest warrant...

• Yonhap News Summary (2026-10-23 04:32)

The following is the first summary of major stories moved by Yonhap News Agency ...

• Military academy merger plan delayed amid ongoing deliberations: official (2026-10-23 04:03)

SEOUL, Oct. 23 (Yonhap) -- A detailed road map for the planned integration of mi...

• Special counsel says deceased NEC official's note cites no coercion (2026-10-23 03:26)

SEOUL, Oct. 23 (Yonhap) -- A National Election Commission (NEC) official, who wa...

• Bereaved family members denounce labor inspection results on Coupang (2026-10-23 03:02)

SEOUL, Oct. 23 (Yonhap) -- Bereaved family members of industrial accident victim...

• Number of laying hens raised at local farms up in Q3 (2026-10-23 03:00)

SEOUL, Oct. 23 (Yonhap) -- The number of laying hens raised in South Korea incre...

• Over 80 production houses, 95,000 people in S. Korea involved in Netflix content over past 10 yrs (2026-10-23 02:49)

SEOUL, Oct. 23 (Yonhap) -- Netflix has worked with over 80 South Korean producti...

• Seoul stocks trade sharply lower Fri. morning on profit-taking (2026-10-23 02:34)

SEOUL, Oct. 23 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks traded sharply lower late Friday ...

• Lee calls for proactive prevention of violent crimes to build 'supersafe' society (2026-10-23 02:05)

SEOUL, Oct. 23 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Friday called for proactiv...

• Lee's approval rating hits 40 pct for 1st time since early Sept.: poll (2026-10-23 01:51)

SEOUL, Oct. 23 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung's approval rating rose to 40 ...

• HD Hyundai, Kiewit to form JV to build shipyard in U.S. (2026-10-23 01:27)

SEOUL, Oct. 23 (Yonhap) -- South Korean shipbuilding giant HD Hyundai Co. said F...

• Lee set to meet with chief of Japanese business association (2026-10-23 01:08)

SEOUL, Oct. 23 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung was set to meet with the chai...

• Hyundai Motor supplies 11 electric buses to Indonesia's Bali (2026-10-23 00:28)

SEOUL, Oct. 23 (Yonhap) -- Hyundai Motor Co. said Friday it has supplied 11 Coun...

• N. Korea likely planted 960,000 land mines along inter-Korean border since 2024: lawmakers (2026-10-23 00:24)

SEOUL, Oct. 23 (Yonhap) -- North Korea has planted an estimated 960,000 land min...

• (LEAD) Seoul shares open sharply lower amid persistent AI woes, rising oil prices (2026-10-23 00:19)

SEOUL, Oct. 23 (Yonhap) -- South Korean shares opened sharply lower Friday, weig...

• Seoul shares open sharply lower amid persistent AI woes, rising oil prices (2026-10-23 00:03)

SEOUL, Oct. 23 (Yonhap) -- South Korean shares opened sharply lower Friday, weig...

• (URGENT) Seoul shares open sharply lower amid persistent AI woes, rising oil prices (2026-10-23 00:01)

(END)

• Appeals court to rule on Seoul mayor's high-stakes political funds trial (2026-10-23 00:01)

SEOUL, Oct. 23 (Yonhap) -- An appeals court was set to rule Friday on Seoul Mayo...

• (LEAD) SK hynix halts review of Solidigm U.S. IPO (2026-10-22 23:44)

SEOUL, Oct. 23 (Yonhap) -- SK hynix Inc. said Friday it has decided to suspend p...

• SK hynix halts review of Solidigm U.S. IPO (2026-10-22 23:16)

SEOUL, Oct. 23 (Yonhap) -- SK hynix Inc. said Friday it has decided to suspend p...

• (EDITORIAL from Korea JoongAng Daily on Oct. 23) (2026-10-22 22:07)

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's sister, Kim Yo-jong, on Thursday denounced the...

• (EDITORIAL from Korea Times on Oct. 23) (2026-10-22 22:06)

The despair and anger of France's youth have spilled out onto the streets, expos...

• (EDITORIAL from Korea Herald on Oct. 23) (2026-10-22 22:06)

A labor market can add jobs while closing off the kind of work that allows peopl...

• Old KBO rivals to duel for ticket to championship series (2026-10-22 22:00)

SEOUL, Oct. 23 (Yonhap) -- Two clubs with a long history of heated rivalry will ...

• Top headlines in major S. Korean newspapers (2026-10-22 21:58)

SEOUL, Oct. 23 (Yonhap) -- The following are the top headlines in major South Ko...

• Trump-Kim summit unlikely in near future amid N. Korean demands: U.S. experts (2026-10-22 21:03)

WASHINGTON, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- The prospects of a summit between U.S. President...

• Delinquency ratio on bank loans up for 2nd month in Aug. (2026-10-22 21:00)

SEOUL, Oct. 23 (Yonhap) -- The delinquency ratio on loans extended by banks rose...

• S. Korea sends letter to UNSC urging N. Korea to take responsibility for DMZ mine blasts (2026-10-22 19:46)

WASHINGTON, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- South Korea has sent a letter to the president o...

• U.S. envoy highlights shipbuilding cooperation with S. Korea in visit to Samsung Heavy's Geoje shipyard (2026-10-22 18:11)

WASHINGTON, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- U.S. Ambassador to South Korea Michelle Steel on...

• Court issues arrest warrant for suspect in patent firm arson attacks (2026-10-22 12:08)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- A Seoul court on Thursday issued an arrest warrant fo...

• S. Korea, U.S. hold combined river-crossing drills (2026-10-22 11:15)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and the United States on Thursday held jo...

• Pope invites youth to Seoul for 'pilgrimage of faith, friendship and hope' (2026-10-22 10:00)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- Pope Leo XIV on Thursday encouraged young Catholics t...

• S. Korea to take on Saudi Arabia, Qatar in Nov. football friendlies (2026-10-22 09:21)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- South Korea will face Saudi Arabia and Qatar in two m...

• (2nd LD) S. Korea to send letter to UNSC urging N. Korea to take responsibility for DMZ mine blast (2026-10-22 08:31)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- South Korea plans to send a letter to the president o...

• (LEAD) World No. 3 Ryu Hae-ran 1 shot off opening-round lead at LPGA event in S. Korea (2026-10-22 08:31)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- World No. 3 Ryu Hae-ran put herself in early contenti...

• 34 student activists convicted of illegal entry into presidential compound, U.S. base (2026-10-22 08:19)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- A court on Thursday found 34 student activists guilty...

• Yonhap News Summary (2026-10-22 08:03)

The following is the second summary of major stories moved by Yonhap News Agency...

• (LEAD) Lee says rebound in potential growth rates should lead to balanced growth (2026-10-22 08:00)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung said Thursday that the recent...

• World No. 3 Ryu Hae-ran 1 shot off opening-round lead at LPGA event in S. Korea (2026-10-22 07:58)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- World No. 3 Ryu Hae-ran put herself in early contenti...

• (LEAD) S. Korea raises cybersecurity alert level as PHP flaw sparks global security concerns (2026-10-22 07:55)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's science ministry on Thursday raised the...

• Lee says rebound in potential growth rates should lead to balanced growth (2026-10-22 07:46)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung said Thursday that the recent...

• Parliamentary committee adopts confirmation report for special inspector nominee (2026-10-22 07:38)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- A parliamentary committee adopted a confirmation hear...

• Labor ministry to fine Coupang, logistics units 1.96 bln won for workplace violations (2026-10-22 07:37)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- The labor ministry said Thursday it plans to fine e-c...

• (2nd LD) Seoul stocks slide over 3 pct on profit-taking amid persistent AI woes (2026-10-22 07:36)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- South Korean shares plunged more than 3 percent Thurs...

• UNC deputy commander notes need for 'careful, transparent' approach following DMZ mine blast (2026-10-22 07:33)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- The deputy commander of the U.S.-led United Nations C...

• Constitutional Court says heavier penalty for parricide constitutional (2026-10-22 07:32)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- The Constitutional Court on Thursday ruled constituti...

• S. Korean won strengthens against U.S. dollar after BOK holds key rate (2026-10-22 07:25)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean won strengthened against the U.S. do...

• 5 penny stocks face delisting under tougher rules (2026-10-22 07:11)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- Five listed firms face delisting as their stock price...

• (LEAD) S. Korea to send letter to UNSC urging N. Korea to take responsibility for DMZ mine blast (2026-10-22 07:08)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- South Korea plans to send a letter to the president o...

• (LEAD) Seoul stocks slide over 3 pct on profit-taking amid persistent AI woes (2026-10-22 07:07)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- South Korean shares plunged more than 3 percent Thurs...

• 6 more election offices entered false voter turnout data: special counsel (2026-10-22 06:50)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- A special counsel team said Thursday that six additio...

• PPP urges gov't to resume loudspeaker broadcasts against N. Korea's mine blast (2026-10-22 06:43)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- The main opposition People Power Party (PPP) on Thurs...

• (2nd LD) Samsung E&A; Q3 net rises 37.7 pct on project growth, improved profitability (2026-10-22 06:42)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- Samsung E&A Co., the engineering and construction...

• Seoul stocks slide over 3 pct on profit-taking amid persistent AI woes (2026-10-22 06:35)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- South Korean shares plunged more than 3 percent Thurs...

• (URGENT) Seoul stocks slid over 3 pct on profit-taking amid persistent AI woes (2026-10-22 06:33)

(END)

• Hyundai, Kia's Sept. sales fall 1.7 pct in September amid model shortage (2026-10-22 06:21)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- Combined vehicle sales by South Korea's leading autom...

• Strong chip exports expected to spill over into private consumption from next year: BOK report (2026-10-22 06:17)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's semiconductor export boom, driven by gl...

• S. Korea to send letter to UNSC urging N. Korea to apologize for DMZ mine blast (2026-10-22 05:59)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- South Korea plans to send a letter to the president o...

• (LEAD) LG Display swings to profit in Q3 on strong S. Korean won (2026-10-22 05:52)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- LG Display Co. said Thursday its third-quarter net pr...

• S. Korea raises cybersecurity alert level as computer language flaw sparks global security concerns (2026-10-22 05:50)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's science ministry on Thursday raised the...

• (Movie Review) 'Journey There' tenderly portrays bonds born of music, grief (2026-10-22 05:47)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- In the Korean film "Journey There," a grand piano bri...

• Ex-officials defend 2019 repatriation of N.K. fishermen as criminal deportation (2026-10-22 05:46)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- Three former officials convicted of forcibly repatria...

• K-beauty firms to seek export deals at Cheongju expo (2026-10-22 05:46)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- South Korean cosmetics and other beauty product compa...

• (URGENT) S. Korea to send letter to U.N. Security Council over N. Korean mine blast: foreign ministry (2026-10-22 05:44)

(END)

• Kim Jong-soo elected to lead Korean Catholic bishops' conference (2026-10-22 05:29)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- The Catholic Bishops' Conference of Korea (CBCK) anno...

• (LEAD) S. Korea urges N. Korea to stop border escalation acts amid Pyongyang's loudspeaker threat (2026-10-22 05:29)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- The unification ministry on Thursday called on North ...

• (LEAD) Presidential office denies investigation chief's Cabinet meeting attendance compromises impartiality (2026-10-22 05:27)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- The presidential office on Thursday refuted media cri...

• (LEAD) Young Poong loses shareholder derivative suit against Korea Zinc (2026-10-22 05:07)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- A Seoul court on Thursday ruled against Young Poong C...

• Today in Korean history (2026-10-22 05:00)

Oct. 23

• Yonhap News Summary (2026-10-22 04:30)

The following is the first summary of major stories moved by Yonhap News Agency ...

• (3rd LD) BOK holds rate at 3 pct after 2 straight hikes, signals continued tightening (2026-10-22 04:08)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- The Bank of Korea (BOK) kept its benchmark interest r...

• Court rules against Lone Star in 168 bln-won tax case (2026-10-22 03:23)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- An appeals court on Thursday ruled against U.S. priva...

• Presidential office denies investigation chief's Cabinet meeting attendance compromises impartiality (2026-10-22 03:22)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- The presidential office on Thursday refuted media cri...

• (2nd LD) N.K. leader's sister warns of border countermeasures, loudspeakers to be ready within days (2026-10-22 03:11)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- Kim Yo-jong, the powerful sister of North Korean lead...

• (URGENT) BOK expects inflation to approach target level in 2028: Gov. Shin (2026-10-22 03:09)

(END)

• (URGENT) Recent stock market correction weighs on consumption: BOK Gov. Shin (2026-10-22 02:56)

(END)

• (URGENT) Investment-focused fiscal spending compatible with monetary tightening: BOK Gov. Shin (2026-10-22 02:51)

(END)

• S. Korea urges N. Korea to stop border escalation acts amid Pyongyang's loudspeaker threat (2026-10-22 02:35)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- The unification ministry on Thursday called on North ...

• (URGENT) Strengthening won likely helps boost consumption in S. Korea: BOK Gov. Shin (2026-10-22 02:33)

(END)

• Seoul stocks sharply down late Thurs. morning amid AI concerns (2026-10-22 02:30)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- Seoul stocks were trading sharply lower late Thursday...

• (URGENT) BOK Gov. Shin Hyun-song stresses need for monetary tightening (2026-10-22 02:27)

(END)

• (URGENT) Earlier back-to-back rate hikes give BOK time to assess conditions: Gov. Shin (2026-10-22 02:25)

(END)

• Young Poong loses shareholder derivative suit against Korea Zinc (2026-10-22 02:17)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- A court on Thursday ruled against Young Poong Corp. i...

• Foreign tourist arrivals in S. Korea on track to exceed last year's total (2026-10-22 02:12)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- Foreign tourist arrivals in South Korea surpassed 17 ...

• Incheon stabbing suspect tests negative for psychopathy (2026-10-22 02:09)

INCHEON, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- The suspect behind last week's stabbing spree in In...

• Marine Corps commands hold joint drills on western border islands (2026-10-22 02:06)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- Two Marine Corps commands are conducting joint regula...

• Nat'l train run chief says Yonhap's trail run event will further boost sport (2026-10-22 01:53)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- The head of the national trail run governing body bel...

• (2nd LD) BOK holds key rate steady at 3 pct after 2 consecutive rate hikes (2026-10-22 01:52)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- The Bank of Korea (BOK) kept its benchmark interest r...

• Full text of BOK statement on monetary policy decision in Oct. (2026-10-22 01:38)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- The following is the full text of a statement by the ...

• (URGENT) BOK says rate freeze decision was unanimous (2026-10-22 01:36)

(END)

• Champion, last-place team set to be determined on same weekend in K League football (2026-10-22 01:28)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- Both the champion and the last-place club could be de...

• Yonsei Univ. portal hack leaks data of 10,000 students, graduates (2026-10-22 01:27)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- Personal information belonging to about 10,000 Yonsei...

• (LEAD) Samsung E&A; Q3 net rises 37.7 pct on project growth, improved profitability (2026-10-22 01:24)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- Samsung E&A Co., the engineering and construction...

• New Netflix series starring Song Hye-kyo, Gong Yoo to premiere in Dec. (2026-10-22 01:24)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- "Tantara," a new Netflix original Korean series starr...

• (LEAD) BOK holds key rate steady at 3 pct after 2 consecutive rate hikes (2026-10-22 01:21)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- The Bank of Korea (BOK) kept its benchmark interest r...

• Busan shark returns to canal after brief exit (2026-10-22 01:11)

BUSAN, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- Bukang-i the shark, which was guided out of a canal i...

• S. Korean, U.S. air forces to bolster autonomous combat platform cooperation (2026-10-22 01:10)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- The air forces of South Korea and the United States w...

• Lee Soo-man-produced boy group to release debut album 'Superstar' next month (2026-10-22 01:01)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- A2O Soul, a rookie boy group produced by former SM En...

• FTC to collect public opinion on draft guidelines against 'AI washing' (2026-10-22 01:00)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's antitrust watchdog said Thursday it has...

• Vice budget minister calls Future Fund 'fiscal innovation' for future growth (2026-10-22 01:00)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's vice budget minister said Thursday the ...

• BOK holds key rate steady at 3 pct after 2 consecutive rate hikes (2026-10-22 00:51)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- The Bank of Korea (BOK) kept its benchmark interest r...

• (URGENT) BOK holds key rate steady at 3 pct after 2 consecutive rate hikes (2026-10-22 00:50)

(END)

• Xi reaffirms commitment to strengthening ties with N. Korea in reply to Kim Jong-un's letter (2026-10-22 00:41)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- Chinese President Xi Jinping has reaffirmed Beijing's...

• Veterans minister to pay tribute to 2 late former presidents (2026-10-22 00:35)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- Veterans Minister Kwon Oh-eul will visit the graves o...

• (LEAD) Seoul shares open lower amid persistent AI woes (2026-10-22 00:26)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- South Korean shares opened lower Thursday, after the ...

• Insurance sector growth forecast to slow sharply in 2027: report (2026-10-22 00:16)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- South Korean insurance firms are expected to log slow...

• Seoul shares open lower amid persistent AI woes (2026-10-22 00:04)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- South Korean shares opened lower Thursday, after the ...

• (LEAD) N.K. leader's sister warns of border countermeasures, loudspeakers to be ready within days (2026-10-22 00:02)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- Kim Yo-jong, the powerful sister of North Korean lead...

• (URGENT) Seoul shares open lower amid persistent AI woes (2026-10-22 00:02)

(END)

• (EDITORIAL from Korea JoongAng Daily on Oct. 22) (2026-10-21 22:04)

The ruling Democratic Party (DP) plans to introduce two conflicting bills suppor...

• (EDITORIAL from The Korea Times on Oct. 22) (2026-10-21 22:03)

Power is many things. It works best when used in a spirit of service to the publ...

• (EDITORIAL from The Korea Herald on Oct. 22) (2026-10-21 22:02)

A rising market can flatter almost any investment strategy. South Korea's recent...

• Top headlines in major S. Korean newspapers (2026-10-21 22:02)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- The following are the top headlines in major South Ko...

• N.K. leader's sister warns of 'new counter means' at border with S. Korea (2026-10-21 21:46)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- Kim Yo-jong, the powerful sister of North Korean lead...

• (URGENT) N.K. leader's sister says loudspeakers against S. Korea "will be on standby" in " matter of days" (2026-10-21 21:15)

(END)

• (Yonhap Interview) Cuba seeks closer ties with S. Korea amid prolonged U.S. embargo: envoy (2026-10-21 21:00)

SEOUL, Oct. 22 (Yonhap) -- Cuba is seeking to deepen economic ties with South Ko...

• S. Korea, U.S. conclude multinational maritime mine warfare exercise off Busan (2026-10-21 20:25)

WASHINGTON, Oct. 21 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and the United States have concluded...

• U.S. 8th Army chief stresses readiness for threats beyond Korean Peninsula: report (2026-10-21 19:22)

WASHINGTON, Oct. 21 (Yonhap) -- The commander of the U.S. Eighth Army in South K...

• Nvidia adds Samsung Electro-Mechanics to substrate supply chain, plans capacity expansion in S. Korea (2026-10-21 15:53)

WASHINGTON, Oct. 21 (Yonhap) -- U.S. chip giant Nvidia Corp. said Wednesday that...

• (LEAD) Lee meets with WHO chief to discuss cooperation in healthcare (2026-10-21 13:19)

SEOUL, Oct. 21 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung met with World Health Organiz...

• Constitutional Court allows Rep. Lee Jin-sook to attend parliamentary audit (2026-10-21 13:02)

SEOUL, Oct. 21 (Yonhap) -- The Constitutional Court on Wednesday granted an inju...

• (LEAD) Police seek arrest warrant for man over Seoul arson attacks that injured 19 (2026-10-21 12:33)

SEOUL, Oct. 21 (Yonhap) -- Police said Wednesday they have sought a formal arres...

• (2nd LD) N. Korea to resume propaganda loudspeaker broadcasts toward S. Korea: N.K. leader's sister (2026-10-21 11:44)

SEOUL, Oct. 21 (Yonhap) -- Kim Yo-jong, North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's powerf...

• (URGENT) N. Korea to resume propaganda loudspeaker broadcasts toward S. Korea: N.K. leader's sister (2026-10-21 10:33)

(END)

• (LEAD) Busan authorities guide shark out of canal on third attempt (2026-10-21 10:09)

BUSAN, Oct. 21 (Yonhap) -- Authorities in the southeastern port city of Busan su...

• (3rd LD) National museum chief resigns over misattributed work from private collection (2026-10-21 10:00)

SEOUL, Oct. 21 (Yonhap) -- You Hong-june, director of the National Museum of Kor...

• Top U.S. envoy cites 'turbulence' in S. Korea-U.S. alliance amid rift in security, trade priorities (2026-10-21 08:24)

SEOUL, Oct. 21 (Yonhap) -- The top U.S. envoy to South Korea on Wednesday descri...

• Yonhap News Summary (2026-10-21 08:22)

The following is the second summary of major stories moved by Yonhap News Agency...

• (LEAD) Appeals court slashes ex-justice minister's sentence to 9 yrs over martial law role (2026-10-21 08:02)

SEOUL, Oct. 21 (Yonhap) -- An appellate court on Wednesday significantly reduced...

• (LEAD) N.K. leader's sister, military marshal inspect border fortification site, warn of ' overwhelming' responses (2026-10-21 07:57)

SEOUL, Oct. 21 (Yonhap) -- Kim Yo-jong, the powerful sister of North Korean lead...

• Prosecutors seek 5-yr prison term for pastor over courthouse riot (2026-10-21 07:54)

SEOUL, Oct. 21 (Yonhap) -- Prosecutors on Wednesday requested a five-year prison...

• Players predict wind will be key factor in LPGA event at S. Korean seaside course (2026-10-21 07:50)

SEOUL, Oct. 21 (Yonhap) -- As the LPGA Tour makes its second straight South Kore...

• (2nd LD) Seoul stocks rebound over 3 pct on eased AI spending woes (2026-10-21 07:41)

SEOUL, Oct. 21 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks rebounded Wednesday, recovering f...

• (LEAD) Samsung Biologics Q3 net income down over 20 pct (2026-10-21 07:38)

(ATTN: CHANGES headline; ADDS additional info at bottom, photo)

• (LEAD) Election official found dead after special counsel questioning (2026-10-21 07:24)

SEOUL, Oct. 21 (Yonhap) -- A National Election Commission (NEC) official was fou...

• S. Korean won extends gains against U.S. dollar on strong exports (2026-10-21 07:13)

SEOUL, Oct. 21 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean won extended its gains to hit a fres...

• Lee says AI should be used to bridge healthcare gaps worldwide (2026-10-21 07:03)

SEOUL, Oct. 21 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung said Wednesday that artificia...

• N.K. leader's sister, military marshal inspect border fortification site (2026-10-21 07:01)

SEOUL, Oct. 21 (Yonhap) -- Kim Yo-jong, North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's powerf...

• Seoul eyes long-term digital infrastructure projects via sovereign wealth fund (2026-10-21 07:00)

SEJONG, Oct. 21 (Yonhap) -- South Korea plans to provide patient capital for lon...

• Election official found dead after special counsel questioning (2026-10-21 06:56)

SEOUL, Oct. 21 (Yonhap) -- A National Election Commission (NEC) official was fou...

• Appeals court reduces ex-justice minister's sentence to 9 yrs over martial law role (2026-10-21 06:55)

SEOUL, Oct. 21 (Yonhap) -- An appellate court on Wednesday reduced former Justic...

• Court sentences 3 ex-officials to suspended prison terms over 2019 deportation of N. Koreans (2026-10-21 06:54)

SEOUL, Oct. 21 (Yonhap) -- An appellate court on Wednesday handed down suspended...

• (LEAD) Seoul stocks rebound over 3 pct on eased AI spending woes (2026-10-21 06:47)

SEOUL, Oct. 21 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks rebounded Wednesday, recovering f...

• Budget minister vows to review vulnerabilities in funding for firefighters (2026-10-21 06:44)

SEJONG, Oct. 21 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's budget minister on Wednesday vowed to ...

• DP considering parliamentary probe into Supreme Court chief amid impeachment calls (2026-10-21 06:44)

SEOUL, Oct. 21 (Yonhap) -- The ruling Democratic Party (DP) said Wednesday it is...

• (URGENT) Appeals court sentences ex-justice minister to 9 yrs in prison over martial law role (2026-10-21 06:43)

(END)

• (URGENT) N.K. leader's sister, senior military official inspect site of border fortification work: KCNA (2026-10-21 06:35)

(END)

• Seoul stocks rebound over 3 pct on eased AI spending woes (2026-10-21 06:34)

SEOUL, Oct. 21 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks rebounded Wednesday, recovering f...

• (URGENT) Seoul stocks rebound over 3 pct on eased AI spending woes (2026-10-21 06:32)

(END)

• Hyundai Mobis to strengthen partnerships to build automotive chip ecosystem (2026-10-21 06:10)

SEOUL, Oct. 21 (Yonhap) -- Hyundai Mobis Co., a Hyundai Motor affiliate, said We...

• Lee says will increase engagement through live broadcasts, social media (2026-10-21 05:54)

SEOUL, Oct. 21 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung said Wednesday he will increa...

• Apple to make Siri AI available in S. Korea this month: sources (2026-10-21 05:50)

SEOUL, Oct. 21 (Yonhap) -- South Korean customers will be able to use Apple Inc....

• USFK commander calls for more frequent combined drills with S. Korea throughout year (2026-10-21 05:47)

SEOUL, Oct. 21 (Yonhap) -- The top U.S. military commander in South Korea called...

• Hanwha-Anthropic exhibition explores AI, human values through art (2026-10-21 05:36)

SEOUL, Oct. 21 (Yonhap) -- An exhibition exploring questions of how artificial i...

• Seoul to host Short Track World Tour event in Nov. (2026-10-21 05:17)

SEOUL, Oct. 21 (Yonhap) -- The national skating federation announced Wednesday t...

• Korean Air tests UAM operations on island routes off Incheon (2026-10-21 05:05)

SEOUL, Oct. 21 (Yonhap) -- Korean Air Co. said Wednesday it has successfully tes...

• TWICE's Jihyo leaves JYP after 21 yrs to launch own agency (2026-10-21 05:02)

SEOUL, Oct. 21 (Yonhap) -- Jihyo, a member of K-pop girl group TWICE, said Wedne...

• Today in Korean history (2026-10-21 05:00)

Oct. 22

• (LEAD) Home of ex-election watchdog chief raided over improper overseas trips (2026-10-21 04:43)

SEOUL, Oct. 21 (Yonhap) -- A special counsel team on Wednesday raided the home o...

• Appeals court reduces ex-special counsel's sentence to 6 yrs in bribery case (2026-10-21 04:40)

SEOUL, Oct. 21 (Yonhap) -- An appellate court on Wednesday reduced former specia...

• Yonhap News Summary (2026-10-21 04:30)

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• Home of ex-election watchdog chief raided over improper overseas trip (2026-10-21 03:12)

SEOUL, Oct. 21 (Yonhap) -- A special counsel team on Wednesday raided the home o...

• Corporate profits, debts improve in 2025: BOK (2026-10-21 03:00)

SEOUL, Oct. 21 (Yonhap) -- South Korean companies' profitability and debts impro...

• Share of non-regular workers hits highest level since 2003 in Aug.: data (2026-10-21 03:00)

SEJONG, Oct. 21 (Yonhap) -- The proportion of non-regular workers among South Ko...

• (URGENT) Special counsel raids home of former NEC chief over alleged illicit overseas trip (2026-10-21 02:59)

(END)

• PPP slams diplomat withdrawal from Ukraine as 'emotional response' (2026-10-21 02:38)

SEOUL, Oct. 21 (Yonhap) -- The main opposition People Power Party (PPP) on Wedne...

• (2nd LD) National museum chief offers to resign over misattributed work from private collection (2026-10-21 02:35)

SEOUL, Oct. 21 (Yonhap) -- You Hong-june, director of the National Museum of Kor...

• (2nd LD) Lee urges 'aggressive' police reform to address wrongful practices, systems (2026-10-21 02:33)

SEOUL, Oct. 21 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Wednesday urged the police...

• Seoul shares extend gains late Wed. morning on tech rebound (2026-10-21 02:31)

SEOUL, Oct. 21 (Yonhap) -- Seoul shares extended gains late Wednesday morning, l...

• 'Smart camp' system built at Hanbit Unit in South Sudan (2026-10-21 02:27)

SEOUL, Oct. 21 (Yonhap) -- The Army said Wednesday it has built a "smart camp" s...

• (LEAD) National museum chief offers to resign over misattributed work from private collection (2026-10-21 02:14)

SEOUL, Oct. 21 (Yonhap) -- You Hong-june, director of the National Museum of Kor...

• (LEAD) Lee urges 'aggressive' police reform to address wrongful practices, systems (2026-10-21 02:09)

SEOUL, Oct. 21 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Wednesday urged the police...

• KRX activates buy-side sidecar for KOSPI on sharp rise (2026-10-21 02:08)

SEOUL, Oct. 21 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's bourse operator on Wednesday activated ...

• DP issues warnings against Gyeonggi governor, lawmaker over remarks seen as disparaging firefighters (2026-10-21 01:58)

SEOUL, Oct. 21 (Yonhap) -- The ruling Democratic Party (DP) decided Wednesday to...

• (URGENT) Bourse operator issues buy-side sidecar for KOSPI on sharp rebound (2026-10-21 01:57)

(END)

• FTC chief acknowledges role of conglomerates in economic growth (2026-10-21 01:56)

SEJONG, Oct. 21 (Yonhap) -- The chief of South Korea's antitrust watchdog on Wed...

• National museum chief offers to resign over misattributed work from private collection (2026-10-21 01:54)

SEOUL, Oct. 21 (Yonhap) -- You Hong-june, director of the National Museum of Kor...

• Arson suspect admits to planning, setting fires at 2 buildings in southern Seoul: police (2026-10-21 01:53)

SEOUL, Oct. 21 (Yonhap) -- A man suspected of setting fires at two buildings in ...

• Lee urges 'aggressive' police reform to address wrongful practices, systems (2026-10-21 01:32)

SEOUL, Oct. 21 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Wednesday urged the police...

• (URGENT) Lee stresses need for system to independently vet police investigations (2026-10-21 01:31)

(END)

• (URGENT) Lee urges 'aggressive' police reform to address wrongful practices, systems (2026-10-21 01:28)

(END)

• Veteran Tigers slugger appreciates chance to play with superstar teammate (2026-10-21 01:19)

SEOUL, Oct. 21 (Yonhap) -- It is not often that a baseball player hits two home ...

• 'Dracula' featuring Jennie ties its peak on Billboard Hot 100 (2026-10-21 01:10)

SEOUL, Oct. 21 (Yonhap) -- "Dracula," a collaborative single between Jennie of K...

• Lee to meet with WHO chief to discuss cooperation in healthcare (2026-10-21 00:52)

SEOUL, Oct. 21 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung was set to meet with World He...

• (LEAD) Seoul shares open sharply higher ahead of Meta earnings amid AI woes (2026-10-21 00:24)

SEOUL, Oct. 21 (Yonhap) -- Seoul shares opened sharply higher Wednesday ahead of...

• (LEAD) Exports double in 1st 20 days of October on robust chip shipments (2026-10-21 00:23)

SEJONG, Oct. 21 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's exports more than doubled during the f...

• Busan to launch 3rd attempt to guide canal-trapped shark back to sea (2026-10-21 00:20)

BUSAN, Oct. 21 (Yonhap) -- Authorities in the southeastern port city of Busan we...

• Confirmation report for special inspector nominee to be adopted after 10-year vacancy (2026-10-21 00:05)

SEOUL, Oct. 21 (Yonhap) -- A parliamentary committee is set to adopt a confirmat...

• Exports double in 1st 20 days of October (2026-10-21 00:04)

SEJONG, Oct. 21 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's exports more than doubled during the f...

• Seoul shares open sharply higher ahead of Meta earnings amid AI woes (2026-10-21 00:03)

SEOUL, Oct. 21 (Yonhap) -- Seoul shares opened sharply higher Wednesday ahead of...

• (URGENT) Seoul shares open sharply higher ahead of Meta earnings amid AI woes (2026-10-21 00:01)

(END)