

SOUTH KOREA SECURITY ANALYSIS REPORT

AI-Assisted Open Source Intelligence Assessment

Analysis Period: October 24, 2026 - October 31, 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.

Executive Summary

South Korea's security posture during the last week of October 2026 was characterized by a complex interplay of heightened tensions with North Korea, ongoing alliance adjustments with the United States, and evolving regional diplomatic engagements. Joint military exercises with the U.S. proceeded, reinforcing combined defense capabilities, even as a critical bilateral security dialogue was postponed due to disagreements over the transfer of wartime operational control. North Korea escalated provocations with missile launches and increased border fortifications, drawing firm condemnation from Seoul and its allies. Concurrently, South Korea navigated its role in broader regional security, considering deployments to the Strait of Hormuz while facing scrutiny over its deepening ties with China. Cybersecurity remained a significant domestic concern, with reports detailing persistent advanced persistent threat (APT) attacks and a surge in ransomware incidents.

Key Security Developments

- Military Activities and Exercises

South Korea and the United States commenced the Freedom Flag joint air drills on October 26, 2026, at Kunsan Air Base in Gunsan. These two-week exercises, involving fighter jets and other military aircraft from both nations, focus on strengthening air defense capabilities, operational coordination, and wartime readiness, including defensive counter-air and air interdiction missions. The drills are also designed to assess South Korea's ability to lead combined military operations, a key aspect of Seoul's efforts to assume wartime operational control (OPCON).

The Maritime Counter-Special Operations Forces Exercise (MCSOFEX) between the U.S. and Republic of Korea (ROK) navies successfully concluded on October 23, 2026, in waters surrounding Pyeongtaek. This multi-day exercise focused on enhancing tactical readiness and interoperability in maritime operations, including coastal counter-infiltration, air-to-surface targeting coordination, and tactical maneuvering.

South Korea's Army's Ground Operations Command conducted field training drills linked to counterfire warfare on October 24, 2026.

The large-scale Hoguk exercise, originally scheduled for mid-October, was postponed to November 17-21, 2026, to ensure a thorough military readiness posture during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit held in Gyeongju on October 31 and November 1.

- Defense Policy and Strategic Shifts

The annual Security Consultative Meeting (SCM) between South Korea and the U.S. was postponed to early 2027, a decision made during a meeting between South Korean Defense Minister Kang Shin-chul and U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth in Cebu, Philippines, on October 28, 2026. This postponement, the first in 28 years, stems from unresolved differences regarding the pace and conditions for the transfer of wartime operational control (OPCON) from Washington to Seoul. South Korea aims to regain OPCON by the end of President Lee Jae Myung's term in 2030.

South Korea's Defense Acquisition Program Administration (DAPA) announced on October 28, 2026, the successful conclusion of system development for the domestic Marine Attack Helicopter at Korea Aerospace Industries' Sacheon facility. This clears the way for serial manufacturing and procurement contracts in 2027, enhancing the ROK Marine Corps' capabilities.

Discussions between South Korean and U.S. defense chiefs on October 28, 2026, also touched upon Seoul's push to develop a nuclear-powered submarine program, with plans to build at least three 8,000-ton vessels by the late 2030s, a program reportedly backed by the Trump administration.

- Diplomatic Relations

The postponement of the SCM with the U.S. underscores ongoing negotiations and potential friction within the alliance, particularly concerning the OPCON transfer timeline. Despite the delay, a separate defense ministerial meeting is scheduled for December in Washington, D.C.

South Korea was notably excluded from a quadrilateral meeting on October 29, 2026, between the defense ministers of the U.S., Japan, Australia, and the Philippines, which focused on defending the "First Island Chain" (stretching from Japan to the Philippines). This exclusion has led to speculation that the U.S. may have gauged South Korea's willingness to join a more explicit anti-China coalition and found it passive.

On October 30, 2026, the foreign ministers of South Korea, the U.S., and Japan held a trilateral meeting in Atlanta, reaffirming their commitment to the complete denuclearization of North Korea and the full implementation of UN Security Council resolutions. They also emphasized the importance of maintaining peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait and agreed to cooperate in the Arctic Pacific region.

South Korea's National Security Adviser Wi Sung-lac stated on October 29, 2026, that Seoul is considering various options for deployment to the Strait of Hormuz, including sending a maritime patrol aircraft, while ruling out a combat deployment. This indicates South Korea's growing interest in contributing to global maritime security.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un reportedly visited China on October 24, 2026, crossing a newly opened bridge into the Chinese border city of Dandong. This visit, his first in a year, signals warming trade ties and an alignment between Pyongyang and Beijing against the United States.

A Republican chairman of a U.S. congressional committee on U.S.-China competition expressed "heightened vigilance" over warming South Korea-China relations in a letter dated October 1, 2026, citing concerns about risks to the United States and Seoul's perceived lack of support regarding a regional response to Chinese aggression against Taiwan.

- Security Incidents and Threats

North Korea launched approximately 10 short-range ballistic missiles into the sea off its east coast from the Wonsan area on October 29, 2026. South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) indicated these launches likely involved KN-25 multiple rocket launchers, which Pyongyang claims can carry tactical nuclear warheads. This marked the third round of ballistic missile launches by North Korea in October 2026.

Tensions along the inter-Korean border remained high. Following a landmine blast in the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) on September 21, which South Korea attributed to North Korea, Pyongyang denied responsibility and accused Seoul of provocation. North Korea deployed armored vehicles in the DMZ and threatened to activate anti-South Korean propaganda loudspeakers along the entire border by the end of October. South Korea's national security adviser, Wi Sung-lac, stated on October 30, 2026, that Seoul would respond firmly to protect its military border despite Pyongyang's claims of operating on its side of the line.

- Cybersecurity

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung ordered full security checks across the financial sector on October 4, 2026, following a series of data breaches that exposed customer and worker information at major banks. Investigators are examining whether AI tools assisted the attackers.

AhnLab's September 2026 report, published on October 30, 2026, highlighted persistent and precise Advanced Persistent Threat (APT) attacks targeting South Korea's government, defense, and research sectors. These attacks primarily use spear-phishing emails with malicious documents and leverage legitimate infrastructure for command and control.

Overall, South Korea experienced a 20% year-on-year increase in cybersecurity incidents in the first half of 2026, including a 77% surge in ransomware incidents.

- Defense Industry Developments

The successful conclusion of the Marine Attack Helicopter system development on October 28, 2026, by Korea Aerospace Industries marks a significant step for South

Korea's indigenous defense industry, moving the platform towards serial production.

Geopolitical Impact and Regional Dynamics

South Korea's security developments this week underscore its precarious position amidst escalating regional rivalries and the evolving dynamics of its alliances. The postponement of the Security Consultative Meeting (SCM) with the U.S. to early 2027, driven by disagreements over the pace of wartime operational control (OPCON) transfer, highlights a subtle but significant strain in the bedrock of the U.S.-ROK alliance. While both sides reaffirmed their commitment to the transfer, the delay suggests underlying complexities and potentially differing strategic priorities, which could be exploited by adversaries. This comes as the U.S. is also reportedly concerned about South Korea's warming ties with China, particularly Seoul's perceived neutrality on the Taiwan Strait issue.

North Korea's continued missile provocations, including the launch of approximately 10 short-range ballistic missiles on October 29, 2026, and increased border fortifications, directly challenge regional stability and necessitate a robust deterrence posture from South Korea and its allies. Pyongyang's reported deployment of armored vehicles in the DMZ and threats to resume propaganda broadcasts further exacerbate tensions, raising the risk of accidental clashes. The reported visit of Kim Jong Un to China, signaling warming trade ties and a united front against the U.S., indicates a strengthening of the Pyongyang-Beijing axis, potentially complicating denuclearization efforts and regional security dialogues.

South Korea's engagement in broader Indo-Pacific security is also evolving. Its consideration of deploying a maritime patrol aircraft to the Strait of Hormuz demonstrates a willingness to contribute to international maritime security, aligning with its role as a responsible global actor. However, its exclusion from the U.S.-led "First Island Chain" defense talks with Japan, Australia, and the Philippines raises questions about its commitment to a more overt anti-China coalition, potentially reflecting a desire to balance its economic interests with China against its security alliance with the U.S.. The trilateral meeting between the foreign ministers of South Korea, the U.S., and Japan, reaffirming denuclearization and Taiwan Strait stability, signals a continued commitment to collective security despite these nuanced diplomatic positions.

Military and Defense Analysis

South Korea's military posture remains focused on deterring North Korean aggression and enhancing its self-defense capabilities, while also navigating the complexities of its alliance with the United States. The Freedom Flag joint air drills with the U.S., which began on October 26, 2026, are crucial for maintaining interoperability and refining combined operational procedures, particularly as Seoul seeks to assume wartime operational control (OPCON). These exercises, involving advanced aircraft like the F-35A, F-15K, and KF-16 from South Korea, alongside U.S. F-16s and F-35Bs, demonstrate a commitment to a strong combined air defense. The ongoing discussions and postponement of the SCM, however, highlight that the OPCON transfer is a complex, conditions-based process, with both allies working to ensure South Korea possesses the full operational capability to lead combined forces.

In terms of modernization, the successful conclusion of development for the domestic Marine Attack Helicopter on October 28, 2026, signifies a tangible step towards bolstering the ROK Marine Corps' combat capabilities and reducing reliance on foreign acquisitions. Furthermore, South Korea's pursuit of a nuclear-powered submarine program, aiming for at least three 8,000-ton vessels by the late 2030s, represents a significant strategic shift towards enhanced underwater deterrence and power projection, backed by the U.S.. While the approval for the purchase of U.S. Standard Missile-6 (SM-6) systems occurred earlier in August 2026, their deployment on Jeongjo the Great-class Aegis destroyers, with the Dasan Jeong Yakyong scheduled to enter service in late 2026, will significantly strengthen the ROK Navy's ship-to-air, anti-ballistic, and anti-surface defense capabilities against North Korean threats. These modernization efforts, coupled with regular joint exercises, indicate a sustained commitment to developing a technologically advanced and self-reliant defense force, while maintaining a robust alliance framework.

Outlook and Forecast

Short-term trends (1-3 months): Tensions on the Korean Peninsula are likely to remain elevated, with North Korea expected to continue its pattern of missile provocations and border-related activities. The activation of anti-South Korean propaganda loudspeakers by North Korea, if it proceeds, will further escalate psychological warfare along the DMZ. The upcoming bilateral defense ministerial meeting between South Korea and the U.S. in December will be crucial for clarifying the path forward on the OPCON transfer, though a definitive timeline may still be elusive. Cybersecurity threats, particularly from APT groups targeting government and defense sectors, will persist, requiring continuous vigilance and enhanced defensive measures. South Korea will likely continue its diplomatic balancing act between the U.S. and China, especially as U.S. concerns about Seoul's stance on Taiwan remain.

Critical flashpoints and risk areas: The Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) remains a primary flashpoint, with North Korea's fortification efforts, alleged landmine incidents, and potential propaganda broadcasts increasing the risk of accidental or intentional clashes. The Yellow Sea could also see increased military activity or naval posturing, particularly if North Korea conducts further maritime provocations. The Strait of Hormuz could become a point of diplomatic and operational sensitivity if South Korea proceeds with a deployment, potentially drawing it into broader Middle Eastern security dynamics. Any significant shift in South Korea's posture regarding the Taiwan Strait could also trigger diplomatic repercussions with either the U.S. or China.

Indicators to monitor: Key indicators to monitor include the frequency and nature of North Korean missile launches and border activities, particularly any overt activation of propaganda loudspeakers. The outcome of the December U.S.-ROK defense ministerial meeting and any subsequent announcements regarding the OPCON transfer will be critical. Developments in North Korea-China relations, especially any further high-level engagements, will signal the strength of their alignment. Domestically, the effectiveness of South Korea's cybersecurity measures in response to recent financial sector hacks and ongoing APT attacks will be important to assess. Finally, South Korea's diplomatic statements and actions regarding regional security architectures, such as its engagement (or lack thereof) in U.S.-led initiatives, will provide insight into its strategic alignment.

Strategic recommendations: South Korea should prioritize strengthening its integrated air and missile defense capabilities against North Korean threats, leveraging ongoing joint exercises with the U.S.. Diplomatic efforts to de-escalate border tensions with North Korea, potentially through renewed military talks, are essential to prevent miscalculation. Simultaneously, Seoul must continue to engage constructively with the U.S. on the OPCON transfer, ensuring that the process is conditions-based and does not compromise readiness. To mitigate cybersecurity risks, significant investment in national cybersecurity infrastructure, threat intelligence sharing, and public-private partnerships is crucial, especially given the persistent APT threats and ransomware surge. In its broader foreign policy, South Korea should clearly articulate its strategic interests in regional security, balancing its alliance commitments with its economic ties, while carefully managing perceptions regarding its stance on sensitive issues like the Taiwan Strait.

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ANNEX: COLLECTED ARTICLES BY SOURCE

Source: Daily NK

• Trader loses all her medicine after defying police (2026-10-30 17:25)

A Chongjin medicine trader lost her entire stock in October 2026 after refusing a police officer's demand for free drugs, winning back her goods only by paying an even larger bribe. Her case shows how North Korea's crackdown on private trade feeds everyday corruption. A joint inspection team seized all of her medicine in early [⋯]

• Shock brigade thieves face public trial in Paekam (2026-10-30 14:35)

Three young laborers in North Korea's Ryanggang province faced a public trial in October 2026 for a monthslong theft spree targeting food, livestock and farm tools belonging to struggling local households. Yet the case has stirred sympathy among Paekam county residents, many of whom blame the state rather than the thieves. The trial took place [⋯]

• North Korean trucks still missing from New Yalu River Bridge (2026-10-30 13:53)

Chinese cargo trucks are rolling across the New Yalu River Bridge, but North Korean trucks have yet to join them. Two weeks after the crossing opened on Oct. 15, 2026, North Korean transport officials are still preparing their own vehicles for service, and some traders in China expect the North Korean trucks to start running [⋯]

• North Korean teachers ordered to cram English for language contest (2026-10-30 00:32)

Education authorities in North Korea's North Hamgyong province have ordered teachers to compete in a "multilingual contest" in 2026. Teachers in Chongjin say it is really an English contest that has them cramming vocabulary and conversation scripts, and complain the state keeps adding to their crushing workload while doing nothing to improve their pay and [⋯]

• North Korean women spend on leisure amid currency fears (2026-10-29 19:25)

Small groups of North Korean women with a little money to spare are embracing domestic tourism this fall. Leisure trips of this kind were once seen as a pastime reserved for the country's wealthiest traders, but now even women with regular jobs are carving out a day or two in autumn 2026 for outings. "More [⋯]

• North Korean rice prices top 50,000 won for first time (2026-10-29 17:17)

Rice prices in North Korean markets topped 50,000 North Korean won per kilogram for the first time in late October 2026. The record comes even as farms across the country bring in the

autumn harvest. Fears of a smaller rice crop appear to be driving North Korean households and traders to stockpile grain, pushing prices [⋯]

• Hamhung sellers push pricey “export” health supplements (2026-10-29 14:15)

Private sellers in Hamhung, North Korea, are aggressively pushing pricey health supplements on local people in 2026. They claim the products come from North Korean-Chinese joint ventures and are normally made for export. The pitch has caught plenty of attention, but only wealthy donju can afford products costing over 400,000 North Korean won. “Some individuals [⋯]

• North Korean journalists trade reporting for ideology drills (2026-10-28 14:28)

North Korea has launched a sweeping ideological campaign targeting its own journalists in October 2026, timed to the 80th anniversary of the Korean Journalists’ Union. Reporters must now set year-end loyalty pledges and speak at mandatory discussion sessions. In Ryanggang province, journalists at the provincial party newspaper say the sessions now eat up more time [⋯]

• 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 […]

Source: Hankyoreh

• 147 days of Olympic Park protests: From ballot shortage outrage to far-right rallying point (2026-10-30 12:02)

• Four years after disaster, Itaewon families ask the world to remember their loved ones (2026-10-30 12:02)

• US declines to clarify visa problems faced by Korean politicians (2026-10-30 12:02)

• Lee's posting spree is legitimizing anti-migrant sentiment in Korea, experts say (2026-10-30 12:02)

• Special counsel demands death penalty for Yoon in appeals trial on insurrection charges (2026-10-30 12:02)

• North Korea answers South's proposal for military talks by firing off ballistic missiles (2026-10-30 12:02)

• 'I've made peace with it': Upward income mobility for young Koreans hits record low (2026-10-30 12:02)

• Kim Jong-un may have used Dandong trip to relay stance on US talks to Beijing, says NIS (2026-10-30 12:02)

• In Korea, migrant children are caught between languages and left behind in both (2026-10-30 12:02)

• [Editorial] To become a leading nation, Korea must build self-reliance (2026-10-29 12:02)

• In an era of upheaval, global leadership will depend on cooperation, not military or economic power (2026-10-29 12:02)

• In a multiplex world, Korea must reduce US dependence, pursue pragmatism, says Acharya (2026-10-29 12:02)

• Blue House doubles down on Lee's plan to review 'special treatment' for multicultural families (2026-10-29 12:02)

• US denies visa to another senior Korean lawmaker from ruling Democratic Party (2026-10-29 12:02)

• [Guest essay] A general who talks too much, an ally who wants too much (2026-10-29 12:02)

• SK Hynix tops 100 tril. won in quarterly revenue, says memory shortage will last through 2030 (2026-10-29 12:02)

• Samsung’s semiconductor business breaks 100 trillion won in profit in Q3, a new record (2026-10-29 12:02)

• 4 years after losing loved ones, Itaewon families continue to fight lies and hate online (2026-10-28 12:02)

• Washington tells Seoul not to get ahead of itself on US-North Korea talks, says FM (2026-10-28 12:02)

• [Column] We go together — just not with Korea (2026-10-28 12:02)

• ‘Cannot be proud’: Boston Dynamics workers protest robot dog deal with ICE (2026-10-28 12:02)

• Korea expected to see 3.6%-4.0% GDP growth this year, buoyed by chip boom (2026-10-28 12:02)

• Lee under fire for saying foreign workers ‘don’t do much’ for Korea’s economy (2026-10-28 12:02)

• Special counsel begins inspection of June 3 ballots in Olympic Park (2026-10-28 12:02)

• 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)

Source: Korea Times

• Lee visits southeastern province to inspect pilot basic income scheme (2026-10-31 05:57)

President Lee Jae Myung visited a southeastern province Saturday to inspect a government pilot program providing a monthly basic income to residents in depopulated rural towns. Lee shared details of his unannounced trip to North Gyeongsang Province in a social media post, extending greetings to residents in Yeongyang and Cheongsong counties, located in the same province. The Lee government has introduced the basic income scheme to provide local residents with 150,000 won ($112) per month in gift vouchers. A total of 69 counties nationwide have been designated as population-declining regions, 17 of which are currently running the pilot program.

- Lee says multicultural family support resulting in 'reverse discrimination' cannot be justified (2026-10-31 05:57)

President Lee Jae Myung renewed his call Saturday for a review of multicultural family support programs, saying any preferential policy that can create reverse discrimination cannot be justified. Lee posted the comments on social media amid criticism after he suggested the need to revise the support programs for multicultural families in South Korea, such as priority access to low-cost public postpartum care centers. In an earlier posting on his X account, Lee questioned whether mothers from multicultural families and mothers recognized as persons of national merit deserve to be placed in the same category for reservations at government-funded postpartum care centers. The issue, which the liberal president brought forward after citing a post from a conservative online community site, has drawn backlash from the liberal bloc voicing concern that such a move amounts to inciting hatred in society. "While it is true that support for multicultural families is necessary, that cannot justify specific policies that are unreasonable or may result in reverse discrimination," Lee wrote on X. "Just b

- In super-aged Korea, social isolation leaves seniors searching for connection (2026-10-31 05:57)

Tucked away near the rear entrance of Seoul Station is a building bustling with older adults coming and going. Inside, dozens of white-haired visitors fill the space, some drinking cheap coffee while others watch television. Farther inside, two barbers cut the hair of older visitors. A narrow staircase leads down to a basement, where a small PC cafe with a row of computers and tables for "baduk" (go) and "janggi" (Korean chess) is located. Nearly every seat is occupied by an older person. “The door is always open and we don’t ask them to do anything, including pray,” said Woo Yeon-shik, a pastor who runs the center, Dream City, which also doubles as a church. Operating near Seoul Station since 2011, Dream City draws more than 300 older people each day from across the capital. For Woo, the space increasingly serves a purpose that goes beyond its original mission of helping homeless people: giving older people somewhere to go and someone to be around. That role has become more urgent as Korea, one of the world’s fastest-aging societies, grapples with high suicide rates and social i

- Fishing boat catches fire off west coast, all 22 rescued (2026-10-31 05:57)

INCHEON — A fishing boat caught fire off the West Sea island of Yeongheung on Saturday and all 22 people aboard were rescued, with two of them taken to a hospital for inhaling smoke,

officials said. The fire broke out on the 9.77-ton charter fishing boat in waters 0.9 nautical milesouth of the island at 6:51 a.m. After receiving a distress call from the boat, the Coast Guardsent patrol and rescue boats to the scene, put out the fire and rescued all aboard. Two of them,including the boat's skipper, were taken to a hospital for inhaling smoke. Two Coast Guardofficers also inhaled smoke and planned to receive medical treatment. The Coast Guard plans toinvestigate the exact cause of the fire and the extent of damage based on witness statementsthat sparks and smoke came from the boat's passenger cabin.

• No drug-related violations found in special crackdown on eve of Halloween (2026-10-31 05:57)

Police said Saturday they have found no drug-related violations during a joint crackdown the previous night on nightlife districts in Seoul on the eve of Halloween. Police carried out inspections at eight clubs in nightlife districts in Gangnam, Seocho and Yongsan on Friday night as part of a special drug crackdown that has been under way since August in cooperation with fire and municipality authorities. "Ahead of Halloween, we conducted crackdowns focusing on clubs, entertainment venues, and areas with high concentrations of foreigners, where large crowds are expected," a police official said. "We will continue to strengthen inspections and crackdown activities in vulnerable areas." Police urged the public to actively report drug-related crimes, saying they will guarantee the anonymity of informants and rewards will be provided.

• Ruling party lawmaker issued US visa, days after refusal (2026-10-31 05:57)

Rep. Jin Sung-joon of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea said Saturday he has been issued a U.S. visa for a trip to the U.S. Pacific Command, days after he said his application was rejected. Jin, who serves as chairman of the parliamentary defense committee, said in a Facebook post that he received the visa from the U.S. Embassy in Seoul and that it was fortunate the U.S. State Department has issued the official A-2 visa, albeit belatedly. The lawmaker said he will depart Sunday afternoon and hold discussions with the U.S Pacific commander and other U.S. military leaders about strengthening bilateral security cooperation and developing a future-oriented alliance. On Wednesday, Jin had said his U.S. visa application was rejected and shared on Facebook what appeared to be a document that showed his application was refused. Jin expressed strong regret, saying the rejection was difficult to understand, given that he had visited the U.S. command in 2014 as a member of the parliamentary committee. The exact reason for the denial was unclear, but some observers note that Jin's past conviction

• Once shunned, prisons become sought-after facilities for local communities (2026-10-30 23:57)

Prisons, once widely regarded as undesirable facilities, are now drawing competition from local governments seeking to revive shrinking communities and struggling economies. Seven municipal governments are competing to host four new correctional facilities as part of the Ministry of Justice’s first nationwide competitive bidding process for prison sites. The ministry launched a nationwide call for applications on Aug. 28, marking the first time it has used a

competitive bidding process to select sites for new correctional facilities. Previously, sites werechosen through consultations between the ministry and local governments. Under the newsystem, municipalities must seek residents' input and obtain approval from their local councilsbefore submitting bids. The four planned facilities will each have a capacity of 1,000 inmatesand employ around 250 staff members. Seven local governments have joined the race,including the counties of Yeongyang, Cheongsong, Yeongdeok and Uiseong in NorthGyeongsang Province, the city of Jecheon and Boeun County in North Chungcheong Provinceand Jeongse

- Korea expands benefits for retired working dogs to help them find forever homes (2026-10-30 23:57)

Korea is stepping up its efforts to help retired working dogs find forever homes by building a comprehensive, state-funded safety net designed to ease the steep financial burden on adoptive families. Under an expanded initiative led by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, the government is introducing direct medical subsidies, discounted veterinary care, and dedicated hospice facilities to ensure these canine public servants are cared for after their service ends. Roughly 1,100 working dogs currently serve across six government bodies, including the military, police, fire services, customs and quarantine inspection. Among them, the Animal and Plant Quarantine Agency alone operates approximately 70 specialized detector dogs at key international travel hubs. For years, private adoption for retired working dogs faced steep hurdles. Specialized breeds like beagles, Labradors, and Malinois typically retire around age 8 after six to eight years of active duty. Upon retirement, adoptive owners are left with high medical costs for joint issues, dental problems and chronic ailment

- 'Assume everything is being recorded': Korea's Gen Z rewrites the rules of office life (2026-10-30 17:57)

"Whenever you talk to an employee in their 20s, it's probably best to assume the entire conversation is being recorded." It is a warning increasingly shared among Korean managers in their 40s and 50s as they try to make sense of a generation of young employees whose workplace habits can seem baffling — and sometimes unsettling — to their bosses. Some older managers see low loyalty to the company and a lack of respect for senior colleagues. Gen Z workers, however, see something very different: a desire for clear communication, boundaries between work and private life and relationships based less on hierarchy. From recording conversations with bosses and avoiding unnecessary apologies to skipping team lunches and continuing to use honorific speech even with close colleagues, young Koreans are quietly rewriting some of the unwritten rules that have long governed the country's offices. Why record a conversation with your boss? For some middle managers, discovering that a young employee is recording a conversation without saying anything can be uncomfortable. Some even wonder whether the em

- Is it really just the autumn blues? (2026-10-30 17:57)

"I think the fall is getting to me." That's what a friend told me on the phone recently. "You're middle-aged now, and suddenly you're getting the autumn blues?" I said jokingly. He laughed awkwardly, then began telling me about his life lately. Seeing the darkening sky on his way home from work drains his energy. Once home, he lies on the couch and does nothing. Even after sleeping in on weekends, he doesn't feel refreshed. And after dinner, he finds himself reaching for bread and snacks. As I listened, I began to wonder whether it was really something that could simply be blamed on the season. In Korea, the expression "gaeul tada," literally "to be affected by autumn," carries a certain romanticism. It describes that wistful feeling that arrives with falling leaves, when even a familiar song can unexpectedly stir the emotions. But persistent sadness and lethargy, along with losing interest in hobbies once enjoyed, are a long way from romantic autumn melancholy. According to the U.S. National Institute of Mental Health, seasonal affective disorder (SAD) is a "type of depression characterize

- Call of Duty publisher apologizes for using real footage of Itaewon crowd crush (2026-10-30 12:02)

The makers behind the Call of Duty video game apologized Friday for using real footage of the deadly 2022 Seoul crowd crush in its latest installment of the game and agreed to remove the footage. A short clip showing a paramedic performing CPR on a crowd crush victim lying on the street appeared in the opening moments of Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 4. The footage was used to depict a scenario of civilian casualties during a fictional war with North Korea. "We deeply apologize to the victims and their bereaved families who must have suffered, as well as to everyone who we have caused concern," Activision Publishing Inc. said in a notice to local reporters. "The footage will be removed in our update set to be rolled out on Nov. 12." The publisher added it had no plans to evoke -tragic events, including the Itaewon crowd crush, when using news footage in its games, nor had it intended to ignore the pain caused by the accident. A total of 159 people were killed in a narrow alleyway in Seoul's night life district of Itaewon during Halloween festivities on Oct. 29, 2022. Bereaved families of

- Prosecutors indict independent lawmaker for alleged sexual harassment (2026-10-30 12:02)

Prosecutors on Friday indicted Rep. Jang Kyung-tae without physical detention over allegations that he sexually harassed a female aide of another lawmaker. Jang, an independent who left the ruling Democratic Party of Korea in March over the scandal, is accused of sexually harassing the aide at a restaurant in western Seoul in October 2024, according to the Seoul Southern District Prosecutors Office. The lawmaker also faces charges of partially exposing the aide's identity in violation of the sexual violence punishment law. The indictment comes after the aide filed a complaint with the police last year. A police committee, convened at the lawmaker's request, recommended in March that he be referred to prosecutors over the allegations. The prosecution said it decided to indict Jang, who has denied the sexual harassment allegations, after questioning those involved in the case and reviewing evidence, including video footage of the incident.

• Police to deploy 7,800 personnel nationwide for crowd safety during Halloween (2026-10-30 12:02)

Police will deploy around 7,800 personnel across the nation to manage crowds celebrating Halloween over the weekend, officials said Friday, as the country prepares for its fourth Halloween since the deadly 2022 Itaewon crowd crush. The National Police Agency (NPA) said it will operate a special safety management period from Friday to Sunday. During the period, riot police, regional patrol teams and detectives will be dispatched mainly to 28 key areas, including 14 locations in Seoul. The government is seeking to prevent any recurrence of the Oct. 29, 2022, tragedy in Itaewon, a popular nightlife district in Seoul, where 159 people died in a surge through a narrow alleyway. Police will split pedestrian traffic in narrow bottleneck areas and guide crowds to walk in a single direction, officials said. If crowd density rises dangerously, police will restrict incoming traffic from the perimeter to secure open space for people to disperse. Police said they will share real-time data with relevant agencies and dispatch officers immediately to scenes in case of crowd-related reports. Officers will

• Check-in system at Incheon airport restored after hourslong disruption (2026-10-30 12:02)

A check-in system malfunction that occurred at Incheon International Airport was fully resolved by Friday afternoon, the airport operator said, after causing major delays in passenger processing. The malfunction began at 4:30 a.m. in an airline network connecting ticketing systems at the country's main gateway, leading to intermittent connectivity issues for eight airlines at Terminal 1 and five airlines at Terminal 2, according to Incheon International Airport Corp. By the afternoon, ticketing was effectively halted at three airlines -- China Southern Airlines, China Eastern Airlines and Air China. The airport later said all three had resumed ticketing operations. Long lines of passengers formed at check-in counters, with some protesting that their airlines were not informing them of expected recovery times despite their approaching departures. As of 5 p.m., 38 flights had been delayed, leaving some 1,200 travelers stranded. The airport operator said the disruption appeared to have been caused by a glitch in the global network of American aviation service provider ARINC.

• Korea's medical AI advances, but clinical adoption remains slow (2026-10-30 12:02)

While artificial intelligence (AI) holds great potential to transform health care, its clinical adoption in Korea remains slow due to inadequate reimbursement and limited access to medical data, experts said. The remarks came during a symposium hosted by Eulji University Medical Center to mark its 70th anniversary, under the theme "Future Healthcare with AI," in Seoul. AI has already been transforming Korea's health care system. It has significantly improved public access to medical information, while helping physicians at primary and secondary health care institutions stay up to date with the latest medical research and developments. Despite these advances, AI adoption in clinical settings remains slow. While AI-based medical devices have gained regulatory approval in Korea, few are covered by national health insurance. Based on Ministry of Food and Drug Safety data, 549 AI medical devices have received regulatory approval until the first half of this year, but only 49 are covered by national

health insurance. "This is a global challenge. Regulatory approval does not necessarily mean a t

• Seoul expects substantive progress on OPCON transfer at early 2027 defense talks with US (2026-10-30 12:02)

National Security Adviser Wi Sung-lac said Friday that Seoul expects to make progress on the transfer of wartime operational control (OPCON) at defense talks with Washington early next year. Speaking at a press briefing at Cheong Wa Dae, Wi said the two countries plan to hold another defense ministers' meeting in Washington in December, followed by the annual Security Consultative Meeting (SCM) in early 2027. "We expect to make substantive progress on the OPCON transfer," Wi said. He said U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth reaffirmed Washington's commitment to the transfer during Wednesday's meeting with Defense Minister Kang Shin-chul in Cebu, Philippines. A senior presidential official said Washington was not opposed to the transfer itself, although the allies still needed to meet the agreed conditions. Wi also said the allies completed an assessment for full operational capability (FOC) verification during this year's Ulchi Freedom Shield exercise, as part of the conditions-based transfer process. The SCM, traditionally held in the fall, had been expected to take place late

• Court acquits PPP lawmaker over luxury gift to ex-first lady (2026-10-30 12:02)

A Seoul district court on Friday acquitted a lawmaker of the main opposition People Power Party (PPP) of anti-graft charges over a luxury bag gifted to former first lady Kim Keon Hee. The Seoul Central District Court found Rep. Kim Gi-hyeon not guilty of violating the anti-graft law over the Roger Vivier clutch bag his wife gave to the then first lady, wife of former President Yoon Suk Yeol, in March 2023. Special counsel Min Joong-ki's team had sought a one-year prison sentence for the lawmaker, accusing the couple of gifting the bag worth 2.67 million won ($2,000) in return for her support in his election as the PPP's leader earlier that month. The court, however, convicted the lawmaker's wife of the charges, sentencing her to a fine of 5 million won. Min's team had sought a six-month prison term for Kim's wife. The court rejected arguments by Kim's wife that the clutch bag was merely a customary gift, ruling that it constituted a violation of the anti-graft law given the former first lady's position. It also rejected the special counsel team's argument that the couple had conspired to

• Lee confers certificates of appointment on presidential inspector, others (2026-10-30 12:02)

President Lee Jae Myung on Friday conferred certificates of appointment on the presidential special inspector and others. Lee presented the documents at a ceremony to 10 high-level officials and leaders of government bodies, including Choi Kil-su, who took office a week earlier as a special inspector tasked with inspecting irregularities involving the president's spouse, close relatives and senior presidential officials, presidential spokesperson Kang Yu-jung said. The recipients included Ha Jung-woo, a former presidential secretary to Lee for artificial intelligence (AI) policy, who was newly appointed vice chairman of the presidential committee on national AI strategy. Lee chairs the committee. Ha left his former post to run for a

parliamentary seat in the June by-elections but failed to win the seat. During a subsequentmeeting with the recipients, Lee told Choi that the inspector has a lot to do and stressed theimportance of responding promptly at the initial stage of a problem and making preemptiveefforts to prevent any problems, according to Kang.

• More Korean workers rushing to paid AI classes (2026-10-30 12:02)

Lim, 40, a marketer at a large corporation, recently spent her Saturday and Sunday attending a class on Claude Code taught by a well-known instructor in Seoul’s Seocho District. Claude Code is an artificial intelligence (AI) coding agent developed by U.S.-based Anthropic. She learned how to set up a Claude Code environment, connect it to email, calendars and collaboration and document management tools, and automate repetitive tasks. The class had around a dozen office workers, and the atmosphere was “reminiscent of a high school senior classroom,” Lim said. During the two-day course, which ran for nine hours each day, participants reportedly stayed in their seats even during breaks. Lim paid 1 million won ($700) for the class. Despite the hefty price tag, she said the money was well spent. As she watched her colleagues become more proficient at using AI, she felt a fear of missing out or that she was falling behind. Lim is now applying what she learned at work. She uses AI not only to research marketing cases, compare materials and draft reports, but also to retrieve records of pa

• Fearing stalkers and violent exes, Korean women are hiring their own bodyguards (2026-10-30 06:02)

After a series of women in Korea were killed after experiencing stalking, assault and threats from former partners or husbands, some potential victims are turning to private bodyguards to protect themselves. They are paying substantial sums out of pocket amid concerns that public protection measures, including emergency smartwatches and restraining orders, may not be enough to keep an attacker away. The government also provides private security services to some crime victims, but funding has failed to keep pace with rapidly growing demand. A 29-year-old woman living in North Jeolla Province, identified only as A, hired a bodyguard for four days in mid-October because her former boyfriend, identified as B, was about to be released from prison. B had served six months in prison for fraud-related offenses, including taking out loans in A's name. Her fears soon became reality. On the second day of the security assignment, B showed up at A's apartment complex. The bodyguard stopped him, warned him not to return and sent him away. "When my ex-boyfriend showed up, I was so scared that I cried," A

• Paradise backs campaign to combat youth gambling addiction (2026-10-30 06:02)

As online gambling increasingly draws young people into its orbit, casino operator Paradise is putting its money behind a campaign urging teenagers to find a different kind of excitement — one built around their ambitions rather than bets. Paradise said Friday it had fully funded the production of a youth gambling prevention advertisement in partnership with the Korea Center on Gambling Problems, with the video set to debut on television and online platforms at the

end of October. Titled “I play a different game,” the campaign carries a message encouragingteenagers to turn away from online gambling and pursue a wider world of opportunities,dreams and personal potential. The advertisement aims to communicate the risks of gamblingin language and imagery tailored to younger audiences while raising public awareness of theissue. The initiative builds on a partnership established in September 2025, when Paradise andthe Korea Center on Gambling Problems signed a memorandum of understanding to jointlydevelop gambling prevention content for teenagers and expand counseling services tai

• Seoul converts underused section of subway station into sports lounge (2026-10-30 06:02)

Seoul has turned an underused underground subway concourse into a recreational hub where outdoor runners can change clothes and store gear before hitting nearby riverside trails, while park golf enthusiasts can play indoors regardless of the weather. The facility — the ninth in a municipal network curiously named "Fun Stations" — opened Friday on basement level 1 of Shinmokdong Station on Line 9, offering direct access to the adjacent Anyangcheon stream running paths. The facility, located near exits 1 and 2 on the station's basement level, features a 213-square-meter runner support area and a 228-square-meter indoor park golf center equipped with six screen-based hitting bays. The runner facilities include three changing rooms for men and women each, along with 14 lockers in each section, and are available free of charge. Lockers cost 3,000 won ($2.10) for four hours, while vending machines offer running essentials such as shower wipes and energy gels. The runner support area operates from 5:30 a.m. to 11 p.m., covering subway service hours. The indoor park golf center operates from 8

• Kookmin University researcher, student win Global Youth Award (2026-10-30 06:02)

A researcher and a student from Kookmin University have each received an award at the 2026 Sustainable Smart City Champions Session, the university said. The event was part of Smart Life Week 2026, co-hosted by the World Smart Sustainable Cities Organization (WeGO) and the Seoul Metropolitan Government at Coex in southern Seoul from Oct. 6-8. Ra Min-su, a researcher at the university’s Global Development Cooperation Institute, and Ji Ye-jun, a senior at the Kookmin International Business School, won the 2026 WeGO Global Youth Award on Oct. 7. Ji is also a student supporter of the university’s HUSS (Humanities and Social Sciences) Global Symbiosis Project. WeGO is an international organization that promotes smart and sustainable urban development through cooperation among local governments, businesses and other relevant organizations around the world. Through its Sustainable Smart City Champions program, launched in 2022, the organization provides educational programs and international exchange opportunities in smart cities, digital governance and sustainable development to nurture the

• Appellate sentencing in Yoon's high-stakes election law case to be broadcast live (2026-10-30 06:02)

Next week's sentencing hearing for former President Yoon Suk Yeol over election law violation charges will be broadcast live, court officials said Friday, a high-stakes ruling that could force the main opposition People Power Party (PPP) to return nearly $30 million in reimbursed election expenses. The Seoul High Court decided to allow broadcasters to air the sentencing scheduled for 2 p.m. Wednesday, officials said. Yoon was sentenced by a district court in July to a 18-month prison term, suspended for three years, for making false statements during the campaign ahead of the March 2022 presidential election that he ultimately won as the PPP's candidate. Yoon was charged with falsely claiming during a December 2021 press event that he had never introduced a lawyer to a former tax official, who is the older brother of former senior prosecutor Yoon Dae-jin, a close associate of Yoon from his time in the prosecution service. He also faces charges of lying in a January 2022 interview by claiming a party official had introduced him to shaman Jeon Seong-bae, while denying that he and his wife,

- Sejong University professor to co-organize int'l workshop on AI chip technologies in Athens (2026-10-30 06:02)

Park Gi-ho, a professor in the Department of Computer Sciences and Engineering at Sejong University, will co-organize the Eighth International Workshop on Domain Specific System Architecture in Athens, Greece, Sunday. The university said the workshop is part of the 59th IEEE/ACM International Symposium on Microarchitecture (MICRO 2026), which is scheduled to run from Oct. 31 to Nov. 4 in Athens. The workshop aims to share the latest research advances in artificial intelligence (AI) semiconductors and domain-specific system architecture and promote research collaboration among experts from academia and industry worldwide. Key topics will include systematic design methodologies for AI accelerators, programming environments for next-generation neural processing units and memory technologies for robotic foundation models. The workshop is co-organized by Park, professor Sim Jae-woong of Seoul National University and professor Kim Hye-soon of the Georgia Institute of Technology. The International Symposium on Microarchitecture is a conference with a 59-year history in computer systems and proce

- Seoul to take necessary measures based on 'clear principles' over DMZ: security adviser (2026-10-30 06:02)

South Korea will continue taking necessary measures based on clear principles in response to the recent mine blast in the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), the country's top security adviser said Friday, reiterating the government's focus on establishing peace that eliminates the need for fighting. National Security Adviser Wi Sung-lac made the remarks at a press briefing following the detonation of North Korean land mines inside the DMZ in September that wounded three South Korean soldiers, two of them seriously. "Our government will continue taking necessary measures in response to the DMZ mine blast incident based on clear principles," Wi said. "The government will focus its resources on creating peace that makes fighting unnecessary by consistently pursuing its policy of peaceful coexistence," he added. The security adviser said that, since the incident, Seoul has demanded an apology from North Korea, removed mines at

the accident site and ensured the military's readiness by test-firing a hypersonic missile. Seoulhas also proposed military talks with the North on several occasions to clear u

• Special counsel appeals Seoul mayor's acquittal in political funds case (2026-10-30 06:02)

A special counsel team said Friday it has appealed the acquittal of Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon in a political funds case linked to the 2021 mayoral by-election. Special counsel Min Joong-ki's team said it filed the appeal with the Seoul High Court earlier in the day, a week after the appellate court overturned a lower court ruling to acquit the mayor of violating the Political Funds Act. Oh had been indicted on charges of having a political supporter make payments totaling 33 million won ($24,700) for opinion polls he allegedly received on 10 occasions from self-proclaimed power broker Myung Tae-kyun ahead of the 2021 election. The lower court found him partially guilty of the charges and sentenced him to a 10 million-won fine, which, if finalized, would have stripped him of his mayoralty. But the appellate court reversed the conviction, ruling that the only direct evidence for the allegations was Myung's testimony, which it said could not be fully trusted. "Denying the credibility of Myung's testimony was unlawful, as it exceeded the bounds of the principle of free evaluation of evidence," t

• Sungkyunkwan University President Yoo reappointed for second term (2026-10-30 06:02)

Sungkyunkwan University President Yoo Ji-beom has been reappointed for a second four-year term. The university's board of trustees approved Yoo's reappointment at a meeting Thursday. His new term will run from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2030. The board credited Yoo with strengthening the university's research capabilities and global competitiveness, particularly through improvements in international university rankings. It also highlighted his vision for advancing institutional innovation in the artificial intelligence era. The university rose 19 places to 68th among 2,297 institutions worldwide in the 2027 Times Higher Education World University Rankings, released earlier this month. It ranked third in Korea and first among private universities, extending its streak of annual improvements in the rankings to four consecutive years. The university also ranked among the top five universities in education, research and graduate outcomes in The Korea Times University Rankings. Yoo graduated from Seoul National University with a degree in metallurgical engineering in 1982 and later earned a master

• Defense minister says Hegseth dismissed talk of alliance strains as 'fake news' (2026-10-30 06:02)

Defense Minister Kang Shin-chul said Friday that U.S. Secretary of War Pete Hegseth had dismissed recent speculation about strains in the Korea-U.S. alliance as “fake news” during their meeting earlier this week. Kang made the remarks to reporters as he arrived at the defense ministry in Seoul after attending the ASEAN Defense Ministers’ Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) in the Philippines. Asked whether the two sides had any disagreements, Kang said there were none. “Secretary Hegseth dismissed all the talk going around as ‘fake news,’” Kang said. “And I agree with him.” “I don’t believe such talk can shake the strength of the

Korea-U.S. alliance, nor should it," he added. Kang and Hegseth held their first face-to-facemeeting Wednesday in Cebu, Philippines, on the sidelines of ADMM-Plus. The meeting lastedabout 40 minutes, longer than the 15 minutes initially scheduled. Their talks came amidconcerns about the state of the alliance, including the postponement of the annual SecurityConsultative Meeting (SCM), differences over the timeline for transferring wartime operatio

- Newly designed buildings to supply 8% of electricity in Seoul (2026-10-30 06:02)

Newly approved buildings across the capital of Korea are expected to generate 3,811 gigawatt-hours of renewable energy annually, driven by city mandates requiring solar facades and geothermal heating in building designs. According to data released Friday by the Seoul Metropolitan Government, the projected clean energy output — stemming from architectural plans reviewed between 2022 and 2026 — will equal roughly 8 percent of the city's total electricity consumption once construction is complete. The output from these upcoming structures is 1.5 times the annual capacity of the Seoul Thermal Power Plant, the city's historic energy anchor, and represents 85 percent of all renewable energy capacity installed in the capital over the previous 17 years combined. The push comes as Korea works to expand its clean energy mix, where renewable sources currently account for around 9 to 11 percent of national power generation — leaving urban centers like Seoul, which relies heavily on power drawn from outside regions, under pressure to boost local self-sufficiency. The shift reflects a broade

- President Lee's approval rating falls back to 39%: poll (2026-10-30 06:02)

President Lee Jae Myung's approval rating has slipped to below 40 percent following a brief rebound last week, a poll showed Friday. The survey, conducted by Gallup Korea from Tuesday through Thursday on 1,000 people aged 18 and older, showed that positive assessments of Lee's performance fell 1 percentage point from a week earlier to 39 percent. Negative assessments also fell 1 percentage point to 49 percent. Lee's approval rating had remained below 40 percent in Gallup polls since early September, before rebounding to the 40 percent mark in the previous survey. Among those who positively assessed Lee's performance, 17 percent cited diplomacy, followed by economic and livelihood issues at 14 percent, and communication at 8 percent. Real estate policies and economic concerns were among the main reasons cited by those who disapproved of Lee's performance at 19 percent and 17 percent, respectively. Another 10 percent cited concerns over security and policies on North Korea. Support for the ruling Democratic Party of Korea fell 2 percentage points to 35 percent, slipping back to its lowest le

- Excessive cutting of support columns blamed for deadly Ulsan power plant collapse (2026-10-30 06:02)

The deadly collapse of a boiler tower at a power plant in Ulsan last November was caused by excessive cutting of support columns ahead of its planned demolition by explosives, according

to a probe result released Friday. The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport releasedthe findings of an investigation committee into the deadly accident at the Ulsan Thermal PowerPlant, about 300 kilometers southeast of Seoul. A 63.4-meter-tall boiler tower at Unit 5 of theplant collapsed during preparations for demolition, killing seven workers and injuring twoothers. Investigators found that too many support columns had been cut due to flawedstructural assessments, leaving them unable to support the weight of the upper structure. Toprevent similar accidents, the committee suggested stricter on-site inspections, new technicalstandards for demolition work and tighter oversight of high-risk demolition projects.

• President Lee extends deep condolences over death of veteran actor Choi Bool-am (2026-10-30 06:02)

President Lee Jae Myung on Friday extended "deep condolences" over the death of popular veteran actor Choi Bool-am, calling him the "father of our era." Choi died the previous day at the age of 87 at a hospital, where he was receiving treatment. Since beginning his television career in 1967, Choi had been known for his portrayals of paternal characters in popular TV series. "You will long remain in the hearts of people as a detective who safeguards justice and a loving father," Lee wrote on his X account, referring to the TV roles that made Choi widely loved. The president quoted Choi's remarks, "Becoming a good actor starts with becoming a good person," lauding the exemplary, heartwarming care Choi had shown for people and the world. " We will engrave in our hearts your will to look into the shadowy places of society and care for the wounds of neighbors," Lee noted. "We will remember you, who had stood by the people for a long time as the father of our era," he added, wishing him to rest in peace.

• Korea's indigenous KF-21 fighter jet conducts 1st formation flight with US aircraft (2026-10-30 06:02)

Korea's indigenous KF-21 fighter jet has made its first formation flight with U.S. aircraft over the West Sea, Seoul officials said Friday. The KF-21 Boramae, assigned to the 156th Fighter Squadron, 16th Fighter Wing, conducted the joint aerial formation flight with U.S. Air Force jets last Friday, according to military officials. The U.S. side deployed the U-2S Dragon Lady, a high-altitude reconnaissance aircraft, and the F-35 and F-16 fighter jets, whereas the Korean Air Force mobilized its F-35, F-15K and FA-50 fighter jets, along with the KF-21 Boramae. It marked the first time the KF-21 Boramae has flown in formation with U.S. air force assets. The formation flight came shortly before the allies launched their biannual combined air drills, dubbed Freedom Flag, on Monday, aimed at enhancing the joint interoperability of their forces. A Korean Air Force official explained that the flight was aimed at accumulating experience for the KF-21 ahead of the Freedom Flag drills. "The Friendship Flight demonstrated the combined interoperability and combat readiness of the U.S. Air Force and ROKA

• PM mourns actor Choi Bool-am's death (2026-10-30 06:02)

Prime Minister Han Seong-sook mourned the death of actor Choi Bool-am on Friday, saying his acting career was the history of Korea's culture and arts itself. Choi, widely thought of as the nation's father figure, died Thursday night at the age of 87. "The late actor's career was, in itself, a history of Korean culture and arts. We will forever cherish the emotion he brought to the nation," Han said in a message posted on the social platform X. Han also noted Choi's contributions to society, such as providing support for children from vulnerable backgrounds and those suffering from incurable diseases, as well as efforts to help locate missing children. " Together with the people, I will remember the way he warmed the hearts of the people," she said.

• Korea to open 1st Korean Cultural Center in Malaysia (2026-10-30 06:02)

Korea was set to open its first Korean Cultural Center in Malaysia with a ceremony Friday. The new center marks the 36th such facility worldwide and the fifth in Southeast Asia. Located across from Kuala Lumpur's Petronas Twin Towers, the biggest tourist attraction in Malaysia, the venue has a 100-seat performance hall, an exhibition room, a cinema, a library and classrooms, according to Seoul's culture ministry. The performance hall on the first floor is equipped with a large LED panel to showcase Korean cultural content and is lined with bookshelves on both sides so visitors can use the space to read and socialize when no shows are scheduled. First Vice Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism Kim Young-soo noted that Malaysia has a strong interest in Korean culture. "We expect the center will serve as a focal point for bringing fresh momentum across the overall Korean cultural industry in cooperation with many local organizations," he said.

• [WEEKENDER] Iranian physicist turns scientific journey into new life in Korea (2026-10-30 00:02)

In 2024, a team of physicists in Gwangju used an ultra-intense laser to demonstrate a phenomenon that could reshape our understanding of environments near neutron stars and black holes. The scientist who led the experiment, Mohammad Mirzaie, is now a Korean citizen — one of 30 foreigners granted nationality this year through a special program for outstanding talent. Mirzaie, an Iranian-born senior research fellow at the Institute for Basic Science (IBS), was approved for special naturalization in July in recognition of his contributions to basic science. He has lived in Korea since 2019 and as his children grew up here, what began as a research posting became a permanent home. "I wanted to take a step of becoming a Korean citizen and make a long-term commitment to the country where our family had established lives," he said in an interview with The Korea Times. The breakthrough that helped earn him citizenship was years in the making and far from a solo effort. Working with fellow physicists and laser experts, Mirzaie successfully demonstrated all-optical nonlinear Compton scattering

• [WEEKENDER] Beyond Korea: Foreign entrepreneurs turn Korean culture into business opportunities (2026-10-30 00:02)

The global popularity of Korean culture continues to grow, with K-pop, dramas, food and beauty products reaching audiences around the world. For some foreign nationals, that appeal goes beyond consumption. An increasing number of foreign entrepreneurs are turning their interest in Korean culture into business opportunities, finding new ways to bring the country's cultural assets to global markets. Yet starting a business in a foreign country comes with challenges, from unfamiliar administrative systems to differences in business culture. The Korea Times spoke with foreign entrepreneurs behind two businesses seeking to bring Korean culture to global markets, exploring the opportunities and challenges they have encountered along the way. Bringing K-dramas to European audiences French nationals Christophe Diez and Jeanne Dubresson are working to connect Korean content producers with overseas viewers through the streaming app Kyool. Diez's interest in Korea began in 2015, when he came across a Korean romantic comedy series while developing new stories. The project led him to explore Korean cul

• How Korea's special citizenship for outstanding foreign talent works (2026-10-30 00:02)

Korea offers a special route to citizenship for foreigners with exceptional achievements in fields ranging from science and technology to business, arts and sports. Since the system was introduced in 2011, a total of 458 people have acquired Korean citizenship through special naturalization or nationality restoration for outstanding talent, according to Ministry of Justice data obtained by The Korea Times. The figure includes 203 foreigners granted special naturalization and 255 former Korean nationals whose citizenship was restored as of October this year. The number of recipients reached 62 in 2023, 54 in 2024 and 51 last year. Another 30 acquired citizenship in the first 10 months of 2026. 2 pathways Special naturalization is available to foreigners whose abilities and achievements are considered likely to benefit Korea. Nationality restoration, meanwhile, allows former Korean citizens who acquired foreign nationality to regain Korean citizenship if they meet the same outstanding-talent criteria. Unlike naturalization applicants, recipients under the outstanding-talent system can retai

• [MORNING CALM TALES] Carving jack-o'-lanterns at an English academy and the 'Great Pumpkin Showdown' of 1991 (2026-10-30 00:02)

It was October 1991, and I was teaching English at ELS, a private English language institute in Seoul, when a rather unusual confrontation took place just outside my classroom. One of the institute’s cleaning women stopped at the classroom door and stared into the trash can. For a moment, she didn’t say anything. Then she looked at my students, looked at me and began speaking rapidly in Korean. I understood enough of what she was saying to know that it had nothing to do with cleaning. Her tone alone was enough to send chills down my spine. It was all over a pumpkin. Or, more precisely, what had once been inside it. I was nearing the end of my first year teaching English in Korea, and Halloween was still something of a novelty. Most of my students had never heard of trick-or-treating, carving a jack-o’-lantern or dressing up as witches, ghosts and monsters. For English teachers, that made the holiday a wonderful opportunity to introduce a little Western culture into the classroom while giving everyone a break from grammar drills and pronunciation exercises. As Halloween approached,

• Defense chief denounces N. Korea's missile launches at ASEAN defense forum (2026-10-29 12:02)

Defense Minister Kang Shin-chul on Thursday denounced North Korea's latest ballistic missile launches as a threat to security on the Korean Peninsula and in the region, as he was attending a regional defense ministers' meeting in the Philippines. Earlier in the day, North Korea fired around a dozen short-range ballistic missiles toward the East Sea from the Wonsan area. The North's missile launches came as Kang was meeting with the defense chiefs of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and its dialogue partners. "Today at this very moment, North Korea is threatening the Korean Peninsula and the regional security by firing a number of missiles," Kang said during a plenary session of the ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus). On the recent explosion caused by North Korean mines planted south of the Military Demarcation Line (MDL), Kang said the incident amounted to a "clear violation" of the Armistice Agreement that halted the 1950-53 Korean War and a "provocation." "It is difficult to check on the opponent's intentions when communication is ruptured, and mutual m

• Pokémon card craze draws even seniors to store 'open runs' (2026-10-29 12:02)

“I waited five hours from 8 a.m. just to get inside. They said the wait had gotten shorter, so I didn’t have to stay up all night…” At a Pokémon card shop in Seoul’s Yongsan District on the afternoon of Oct. 23, college student Park, 19, smiled awkwardly as he showed off a newly purchased box of cards. On the screen of a waiting-list registration machine beside him, a notice read, “151 groups waiting, estimated wait time: 181 minutes.” Some customers appeared startled by the long wait and turned away. The popularity of Pokémon cards, featuring characters from the Japanese manga and animation franchise “Pokémon,” shows little sign of waning. At the Yongsan store in I’Park Mall, the outdoor garden on the seventh floor, where customers wait to enter, is packed every morning with people hoping to buy cards. Although there are no exact figures, more than 100 buyers routinely lay out mats and cover themselves with blankets as they wait for the store to open. A security guard said some people even arrive at 9 p.m. the previous night to secure a spot. Most endure the cold

• Ex-UN chief urges green transition to drive growth, boost competitiveness (2026-10-29 12:02)

Ban Ki-moon, president and chair of the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), urged countries on Thursday to accelerate the shift toward a greener economy to secure long-term growth and strengthen their global competitiveness. Speaking at the Global Green Growth Week (GGGW) Summit, the former U.N. secretary-general identified technological innovation, large scale capital mobilization and stronger international cooperation as three priorities for turning green transition commitments into tangible, measurable results. “The green transition is an economic imperative, a strategic investment and an opportunity to create green jobs, strengthen energy security, improve public health and build more resilient societies,” Ban said in his welcoming remarks at the summit’s opening ceremony. “The countries that move decisively today will be better positioned to compete tomorrow.” Ban called for a substantial

increase in funding for the green transition, saying developing countries often struggle to turnviable projects into reality because they lack affordable financing and the expertise t

• Gov't to pursue criminal punishment, 3-year exam ban for CSAT cheaters using AI glasses (2026-10-29 12:02)

The education ministry said Thursday it will seek criminal prosecution of anyone caught cheating on the annual college entrance exam using artificial intelligence (AI) glasses, while disqualifying cheaters from the exam for three years, up from the current one year. The ministry announced these measures, pledging to deal sternly with cheating using AI glasses during the annual College Scholastic Ability Test (CSAT) as an act aimed at "intentionally and systematically obstructing the normal operation of national examinations." Cheaters using AI glasses will face criminal punishment on charges of obstruction of official duties by fraudulent means, the ministry said, adding it is also pushing to lengthen the exam ban for CSAT cheaters from one to three years. The ministry said it will actively recommend universities apply the same rules to their own entrance exams, where cases of cheating using AI glasses were recently caught. Starting with this year's CSAT scheduled for Nov. 19, one designated inspector will be assigned to each test site to check for AI glasses, according to the plan. The

• Husband who poured boiling water on Thai wife gets sentence reduction on appeal (2026-10-29 12:02)

A Korean man who was sentenced to three years and six months in prison for pouring boiling water on his sleeping Thai wife and causing severe burns has had his sentence reduced by six months on appeal. According to legal sources on Wednesday, the Uijeongbu District Court's Criminal Division 1, presided over by Judge Jeong Do-young, overturned the lower court's ruling and sentenced the man in his 40s to three years in prison at an appeal hearing on Oct. 22. The man had been indicted and detained on charges of aggravated injury. "The defendant reached a settlement with the victim under conditions including paying her 15 million won ($11,000), and the victim wishes the court to show leniency toward him," the appellate court said. "Considering all the sentencing factors presented during the proceedings, we find that the original sentence was too harsh and therefore unjust." The man was indicted on charges of pouring water boiled in an electric kettle over the face and neck of his Thai wife, identified as B, while she was sleeping at their home in Uijeongbu, Gyeonggi Province, on Dec. 3, 202

• Seongdong District opens one-stop service counter for foreign residents (2026-10-29 12:02)

In response to a growing international population, Seongdong District in eastern Seoul said Thursday that it has established a dedicated "Foreign Resident Service Desk" at the Yongdap-dong Community Service Center to streamline administrative procedures and eliminate language barriers for non-Korean residents. According to data from the Ministry of Data and Statistics, foreign residents in Korea reached a record high of 2.58 million in 2025, accounting for 5 percent of the total population. In Seongdong District, registered foreign

residents have jumped 41 percent over the past five years. Yongdap-dong has experienced aneven sharper surge of 70.8 percent, with its foreign population rising from 480 to 820 tocomprise 7.1 percent of the neighborhood's residents. This rapid demographic shift, driven byan influx of foreign workers and international students attending nearby Hanyang University,has created a surging demand for accessible public administration. To address these needs, thedistrict created a one-stop service counter staffed by experienced public servants proficient infore

• Yongsan opens English library for kids combining AI tech, interactive exhibits (2026-10-29 12:02)

A new children’s library in central Seoul is pairing English books with artificial intelligence (AI), interactive exhibits and cultural activities in an effort to make language learning feel less like a lesson and more like an adventure. Yongsan District said Thursday that Dongbinggo English Library for Children opened Wednesday on the first floor of Onnuri Youth Center in Dongbinggo Neighborhood Park, offering children a dedicated space for reading, language development and hands-on learning. The 389.74-square-meter facility includes a children’s reading room, program rooms and a waiting area for parents, along with a digital aquarium and interactive content designed to extend children’s experiences beyond the pages of books. About 80 people, including Yongsan District Mayor Kim Gyeong-dae and local residents, attended the opening ceremony, which featured a project briefing, congratulatory remarks, unveiling of the library sign and a tour of the facility. The library offers English-language books, along with programs tailored to different reading levels and activities intended to

• Gachon University president hosts 120 international students at traditional hanok (2026-10-29 12:02)

Gachon University President Lee Gil-ya invited about 120 international students from countries including China, Vietnam, Myanmar, Mongolia and Uzbekistan to Gachonjae, a traditional Korean house in Incheon, on Wednesday, the university said. The event, part of the university’s Gachon Global Leadership Program for international students, was organized to encourage the students and strengthen their sense of belonging to the school. The students first toured Gachon University Gil Medical Center, a memorial hall for Lee’s former obstetrics clinic and the Gachon Museum. Gachonjae is a “hanok,” or traditional Korean house, that Lee, founder of the Gachon Cultural Foundation, built with master carpenter Choi Ki-young for traditional etiquette education, tea culture programs and exhibitions on traditional medicine. Sharing her experience of studying abroad and Korea’s development, Lee told the students to have confidence in their countries’ futures. “Just as Korea, once poor, achieved its current development, your countries can create a better future if you believe and work hard,

• S. Korea, US stage tabletop drills on integrating conventional, nuclear capabilities against N. Korean threats (2026-10-29 12:02)

South Korea and the United States conducted a key tabletop military exercise to integrate conventional and nuclear capabilities in a bid to deter North Korean threats, officials said Thursday. The allies conducted the Iron Mace exercise at the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) headquarters in Seoul from Sept. 29 to Oct. 2, according to military officials. During the drills, the allies were believed to have discussed ways to strengthen Washington's extended deterrence against North Korean nuclear and missile threats, and joint planning for Seoul's conventional capabilities to support U.S. strategic operations in a contingency. Launched in August 2024, the Iron Mace exercise has been conducted behind closed doors under the liberal administration of President Lee Jae Myung in an apparent effort not to provoke North Korea. The allies have staged the tabletop exercise under the Nuclear Consultative Group guidelines adopted following summit talks between former President Yoon Suk Yeol and former U.S. President Joe Biden in April 2023. The drills came despite Seoul and Washington scaling down their co

• Cheong Wa Dae urges N. Korea to cease provocations following missile launch (2026-10-29 12:02)

The Office of National Security at the presidential office of Cheong Wa Dae held an emergency meeting Thursday and urged North Korea to cease provocations after Pyongyang fired a dozen short-range ballistic missiles toward the East Sea. The meeting was attended by officials from the defense ministry and the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) to analyze and assess the North's latest missile launch, according to Cheong Wa Dae. The office stressed the need to take all necessary measures in response to the latest launch, saying the latest provocation came only about two weeks after the North's previous launch on Oct. 12. The national security office also said the North's firing of the ballistic missiles is in violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions and urged Pyongyang to immediately halt such actions. The missiles were launched from the Wonsan area at around 12:30 p.m., according to the JCS.

• Kookmin University wins grand prize in industry category at Korea Character Awards 2026 (2026-10-29 12:02)

Kookmin University’s character mascot, “Mr. Doctor,” won the grand prize in the industry category at the Korea Character Awards 2026, held Tuesday at the Korea Press Center in Seoul, the university said. The Korea Character Awards program recognizes outstanding characters developed by local governments, public institutions and companies nationwide, evaluating them on creativity, public appeal, commercial potential and practical application. The university said it has consistently communicated its educational philosophy and brand values through Mr. Doctor while expanding the character’s use with diverse content and community engagement programs. Mr. Doctor embodies the journey of an ordinary person who becomes a leading expert in their field through learning and perseverance. It also symbolizes the university community’s entrepreneurial spirit and willingness to take on new challenges. The character originated from a gold-colored sculpture approximately 3 meters tall installed at the university’s main gate in February 2019. It was designed by Stefano Giovannoni, a

world-renown

• PM says to foster 200 'frontier' bio, pharmaceutical firms by 2030 (2026-10-29 05:57)

Prime Minister Han Seong-sook said Thursday that the government will select 200 bio and pharmaceutical companies by 2030 and help them grow enough to compete on the global stage. Han made the remark at a national policy coordination meeting held at a Chong Kun Dang Pharmaceutical Corp. factory in the central city of Cheonan, stressing that Korea should identify and foster innovative firms armed with new technologies and ideas. She said 50 " frontier" companies will be selected every year by 2030 and the government will provide them with "support for research, development and investment at each stage of growth from the development of candidate substances to clinical trials and commercialization." The government plans to assign a dedicated director to each selected company to provide customized support for up to five years. It will also inject 150 billion won ($112 million) in policy financing over three years, comprising 60 billion won in investments through banks specializing in research and development (R&D) and 90 billion won in guarantees from the Korea Technology Finance Corporation.

• Incheon Global Campus aims to become engine of regional innovation (2026-10-29 05:57)

Students seeking degrees from prestigious universities overseas could head straight to their main campuses overseas. But Incheon Global Campus (IGC) is making a case for choosing Korea instead, offering access to the country's thriving high-tech industries alongside a world-class education. Located in the Incheon Free Economic Zone (IFEZ), IGC is seeking to turn its proximity to major biotechnology, semiconductor and other advanced technology companies into a competitive advantage, connecting international education with hands-on industry experience and career opportunities. "Simply having prestigious foreign universities in Incheon is no longer enough to prove our value," said Byun Ju-young, CEO of the Incheon Global Campus Foundation, during an interview with The Korea Times. "What matters now is whether their education and research capabilities can translate into technological innovation and job creation in the region." Established in 2012, IGC was designed to serve as a global education hub within the IFEZ, attracting foreign universities while nurturing talent for the region's strat

• Korea seeks 'top-down' approach with US for breakthrough in OPCON transfer (2026-10-29 05:57)

Korea will seek a "top-down" approach with the United States for a breakthrough in the wartime operational control (OPCON) transition, the defense ministry said Thursday, dismissing the view that a delay of the allies' annual security talks signals a setback in the transfer timeline. The allies announced Wednesday the Security Consultative Meeting (SCM), a key dialogue between their defense chiefs, has been pushed back to early next year, following bilateral talks between Defense Minister Kang Shin-chul and U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth in the Philippines earlier in the day. The ministry said Kang and Hegseth plan to meet again for another round of talks in Washington in December, viewed to be a rare move given that the SCM typically works "

bottom-up" — bringing the defense chiefs together to finalize agreements reached during priorworking-level consultations between their top military officers. "We intend to produce asuccessful outcome through a 'top-down' approach, whereby the defense chiefs present apolicy direction based on evaluations of military authorities of the two s

• Lee vows to leave no suspicions unresolved on 4th anniv. of Itaewon crowd crush (2026-10-29 05:57)

President Lee Jae Myung vowed Thursday to leave no suspicions unresolved regarding the deadly 2022 Itaewon crowd crush as he marked its fourth anniversary. Lee made the promise during a memorial event at Seoul's Gwanghwamun Square, which brought together some 1,000 people, including victims, bereaved family members and lawmakers. "I will make sure the people are never again sacrificed unjustly due to the state's absence and negligence," he said, alluding to the preceding administration of President Yoon Suk Yeol, which was in office at the time of the tragedy. "My administration is focusing the nation's capabilities on creating a country where everyone is safe," he added, citing new legislation aimed at better protecting people from disasters and accidents. Lee noted that under his administration the mandate of a special commission investigating the disaster has been extended until September 2027. "This is a promise to uncover the truth until not a single suspicion remains and ensure the truth leads to preventing a recurrence," he said. The tragedy happened on Oct. 29, 2022, during Hallowe

• Overseas Koreans can now renew military discharge cards at embassies (2026-10-29 05:57)

Overseas Koreans living abroad can now easily apply for the reissuance of their military discharge certificates at Korean diplomatic missions, including embassies and consulates, without appointing a proxy in Korea. The Military Manpower Administration (MMA) and the Overseas Koreans Agency (OKA) announced Thursday that the expanded consular service takes effect immediately. Previously, diplomatic missions provided military service certificates, but lacked a system to issue replacement discharge certificates. Consequently, Koreans residing overseas who lost or damaged their certificates had to designate a representative back home to handle the application process, causing significant inconvenience. To honor veterans and streamline administrative support, the MMA issues wallet-sized, card-style discharge certificates in both Korean and English. Under the new arrangement, the MMA updated the relevant legal framework and established an integrated network with the OKA’ s Consular Services 24 system. Overseas Koreans can now submit reissuance requests directly at local diplomatic missions, wh

• Cheong Wa Dae seeks fairer priority system for postpartum care centers (2026-10-29 05:57)

Cheong Wa Dae said Thursday it will consider revising the law to ensure greater fairness and rationality in prioritizing access to postpartum care centers. Postpartum care centers, where new mothers stay and recover after childbirth, are popular in South Korea. Those subsidized by local governments, in particular, face intense competition for reservations because they charge

relatively low fees. The issue drew media attention after President Lee Jae Myung shared anonline community post on his X account Wednesday, which questioned whether mothers frommulticultural families and mothers recognized as persons of national merit should be placed inthe same second-priority category for reservations at Seoul-style postpartum care centers. Leesaid the government would conduct an in-depth review, including consultations with localgovernments and possible legal amendments, to determine whether there is a compelling needto provide multicultural families with preferential treatment. In response, Cheong Wa Dae saidThursday it would consider revising the enforcement decree of the Mother and Chil

• K-water signs MOU with Austin to share AI water management technology (2026-10-29 05:57)

Korea Water Resources Corp. (K-water) signed a memorandum of understanding on Thursday with Austin, Texas, to cooperate on artificial intelligence (AI) water management, meeting with a delegation led by Michael Rogers, the city’s assistant city manager. The pact aims to share data-based smart water management solutions in response to the climate crisis and the growth of advanced industries, while strengthening a sustainable global water cooperation network. Key areas include sharing best practices and technologies, holding joint seminars to build smart water management capabilities, and identifying and implementing joint proof-of-concept projects for local application. Discussions began in January at CES 2026, when the Greater Austin Asian Chamber of Commerce expressed interest in K-water’s technologies. Following exchanges that included K-water’s August attendance at the Central Texas-Korea Summit, the Austin delegation’s Korea visit and the signing of the agreement have laid the groundwork for substantive cooperation. Austin Water, the city’s water utility, has recently shown

• Special counsel again seeks death penalty for ex-President Yoon over martial law declaration (2026-10-29 05:57)

A special counsel team on Thursday sought the death penalty for former President Yoon Suk Yeol during his appeal trial on insurrection charges stemming from his failed attempt to impose martial law. Special counsel Cho Eun-suk's team requested the sentence during proceedings at the Seoul High Court, eight months after a lower court sentenced Yoon to life imprisonment for staging a riot through his declaration of martial law on Dec. 3, 2024. The team had recommended capital punishment during the first-instance trial as well. "There is no reason to hesitate to hand down the death penalty," a member of the team said. "The strongest argument for objection to the death penalty is the possibility of a misjudgment just in case, but in this case, there is no room for that." Yoon declared martial law with the stated aim of eradicating anti-state forces, though the order was lifted six hours later by a vote by the National Assembly. During those six hours, troops were deployed to the National Assembly compound, which the lower court ruled in February was an attempt to paralyze parliament and arrest

• Lee's approval rating rises to 46%: poll (2026-10-29 05:57)

President Lee Jae Myung's approval rating rose to 46 percent this week, surpassing his disapproval rating for the first time in nearly two months, a biweekly poll showed Thursday. In a survey of 1,000 adults nationwide conducted Monday through Wednesday, positive assessments of Lee's job performance rose 2 percentage points from two weeks earlier, according to the National Barometer Survey (NBS). Negative assessments fell 5 percentage points to 44 percent. Lee's approval rating last exceeded his disapproval rating in late August, when positive assessments stood at 50 percent. It then fell to a record low of 43 percent for two consecutive surveys in mid-September and the first week of October, before rising to 44 percent in the previous poll. Support for the ruling Democratic Party rose 3 percentage points to 36 percent, while that of the main opposition People Power Party fell 3 percentage points to 25 percent. When asked whether Supreme Court Chief Justice Cho Hee-dae should be impeached, 34 percent of respondents supported his impeachment, while 45 percent opposed it. In recent weeks, so

- Seoul arson suspect referred to prosecution for attempted murder (2026-10-29 05:57)

Police referred the suspect in last week's arson fire at two buildings in southern Seoul to prosecutors Thursday, pressing additional charges of attempted murder after determining that the crime was premeditated with intent to kill random people. The suspect in his 70s, surnamed Lee, was taken into custody on Oct. 20 shortly after setting fires at two patent firms in two separate buildings in Seoul's Gangnam Ward. The blazes left 26 people injured, including a patent attorney, who suffered cardiac arrest. Lee claimed he had no intention of hurting anyone, but the Seoul Suseo Police Station sent the suspect to the Seoul Central District Prosecutors' Office on Thursday on charges of arson resulting in injuries and attempted murder, after concluding that the attack had been planned in advance with intent to cause the deaths of unspecified people According to police, Lee purchased two containers and two lighters between Sept. 24 and Oct. 5. He filled the two containers with gasoline he purchased on Oct. 19, indicating he had prepared tools for the crime. Police also viewed the cancellation o

- Special counsel team moves local election ballots to storage from handball arena (2026-10-28 23:57)

A special counsel team on Thursday began moving boxes of ballot papers to a storage facility after taking them out of a handball arena where they had been kept since June's local elections, as part of its investigation into ballot shortages on election day, officials said. Special counsel Lee Tae-han's team removed the ballot boxes from the Olympic Park Handball Gymnasium in southeastern Seoul after conducting an on-site inspection of the 2.47 million ballots for more than 12 hours until past midnight, according to the National Election Commission (NEC), the state election watchdog. Lee's team has been investigating an unprecedented shortage of ballots that occurred on the day of the June 3 local elections, which forced some people to turn back without casting their votes. All 2.47 million ballots, which had been cast in the southeastern Songpa Ward, were inspected by the special counsel team and placed in some 420 boxes, of which all but 13 were being taken to a storage facility managed by the NEC in the

capital area, a commission official said. The remaining 13 boxes were taken by the

• Innovation Wing provides equipment, workspace, guidance for hands-on projects (2026-10-28 23:57)

HONG KONG — Students were busy working on their projects when The Korea Times visited the Innovation Wing under the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Hong Kong (HKU) in early September. The space was filled with 3D printers, equipment and displays of projects developed by students. “This place is for experiential learning activities,” said Kevin Tien-Hsuan Wu, a lecturer at HKU’s Innovation Academy, who guided reporters around the facility on Sept. 2. “Students come here not just to do their homework, but to turn their ideas into prototypes.” The Innovation Wing gives students a place to put what they learn in class into practice. They can develop their own ideas or form groups with others who share their interests, with the university providing equipment, workspace and academic advice. “We encourage students to do hands-on work here,” Wu said. “They learn the knowledge in the classroom, and they actually build things here.” Students can use 3D printers to produce parts and prototypes and small jobs are supported as part of the service. Staff are on hand to h

• Grades matter less than motivation in AI era, HKU vice-president says (2026-10-28 23:57)

HONG KONG — When asked how artificial intelligence (AI) is changing higher education, Jay S. Siegel, vice president of the University of Hong Kong (HKU), began by challenging the premise of the question. “I don’t think that higher education is moving beyond content delivery and into critical thinking,” he said during an interview with The Korea Times on the university’s campus. Siegel, who also serves as pro-vice-chancellor for teaching and learning, argued that leading universities have always sought to develop independent thinkers. What concerns him more is whether universities place too much emphasis on grades and examinations rather than encouraging students to develop a lasting desire to learn. “Motivation is more important than assessment,” he said. Siegel believes examinations are valuable primarily because they encourage students to study, rather than because of the grades they produce. Preparing for a test requires students to read, think and engage with material, and that effort may matter more than the eventual score. A student who studies diligently but receives

• Prosecution not to appeal partial acquittal of ex-officials in 2019 deportation of N. Koreans (2026-10-28 12:02)

Prosecutors on Wednesday decided not to appeal the partial acquittals of three former government officials on charges related to the forced repatriation of two North Korean fishermen in 2019. Earlier this month, 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 also upheld the acquittal of former presidential chief of staff Noh Young-min, who had earlier been convicted over his involvement in the case. The appellate court acquitted Chung, Suh and Kim of charges of preparing false public documents. The Seoul High Prosecutors Office said it would not appeal

the partial acquittals. The prosecution said it made the decision based on the judgment thatthere is a low possibility of those acquittals being overturned. However, it will appeal Noh'sacquittal. 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

• Call of Duty game under fire for using real Itaewon crowd crush footage (2026-10-28 12:02)

The latest installment in the global Call of Duty game franchise drew condemnation from bereaved families and civic groups in South Korea after players discovered that it contained real footage from the 2022 Itaewon crowd crush. The game, Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 4, depicts a full-scale North Korean invasion of South Korea, and initially drew attention in South Korea for its realistic portrayal of the country. However, the reception turned hostile after viewers identified what appeared to be real footage of bystanders performing CPR during the Itaewon tragedy during a sequence showing civilian casualties from the fictional war. The crowd crush killed more than 150 people on Oct. 29, 2022, and Thursday marks its fourth anniversary. The council representing bereaved families and a coalition of civic groups supporting them issued a joint statement Wednesday, condemning the use of the footage and demanding its removal. “We cannot help but be appalled that the chaotic and desperate scenes of citizens performing CPR to save one another, with victims lying on the cold streets, were used un

• Appellate court reduces ex-PSS chief's sentence to 3 years (2026-10-28 12:02)

Park Jong-joon, former chief of the Presidential Security Service (PSS), was sentenced by an appellate court Wednesday to three years in prison for blocking investigators from executing a warrant to detain former President Yoon Suk Yeol last year. The sentence was reduced from the four years that a lower court handed down in July. Park and other former PSS officials were indicted for obstructing investigators' attempt to execute an arrest warrant for Yoon at the presidential residence in January 2025 over his imposition of martial law. The Seoul High Court said it reduced Park's sentence because he did not appear to have actively engaged in physical confrontations with officials seeking to execute the arrest warrant. It also said his resignation on Jan. 7 last year could be interpreted as an acknowledgment of responsibility for the resulting confusion and conflict. However, the high court upheld a five-year prison sentence for Kim Seong-hoon, former deputy chief of the PSS, saying he played a key role in organizing resistance to the execution of the warrant. It also sentenced Lee Kwang-wo

• '44 minutes before rescuers reached her': Families view footage of foreign Itaewon victims' last moments (2026-10-28 12:02)

Families of foreign victims of the 2022 Itaewon crowd crush watched second-by-second footage of their loved ones’ final moments and said the recordings showed too few police officers at the scene and a rescue response that came too late. “Yesterday was a difficult day for me. I watched my sister’s final moments, where she walked and how she died,” Damira Sherniyazova, who traveled from Kazakhstan, said during a press conference in Seoul

Wednesday. Her sister, Madina, was among the 26 foreign nationals killed in the crowd crushthat claimed 159 lives in a narrow Seoul alley four years ago. A total of 35 members of 18families across 10 countries arrived in Korea at the government’s invitation starting Friday tomark the fourth anniversary of the tragedy. During closed-door meetings with individualfamilies on Wednesday, the special investigation commission presented footage showing eachvictim’s movements prior to the disaster, their final moments and rescue attempts. Thefootage drew on some 1,000 videos the commission had collected, including CCTV andfirefighters’ body

• Korea-US annual security meeting pushed to early 2027 (2026-10-28 12:02)

Korea and the United States have agreed to hold their annual Security Consultative Meeting (SCM) in early 2027, pushing back the flagship alliance gathering that had been expected in October before slipping to November and then December, a delay that is likely to set back Seoul’s push to advance the transfer of wartime operational control (OPCON). Defense Minister Kang Shin-chul and U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth confirmed the postponement during their first face-to-face meeting Wednesday on the sidelines of a regional defense gathering in Cebu, Philippines. The two ministers also agreed to hold a bilateral defense meeting in Washington in December, ahead of the rescheduled SCM, reaffirming their commitment to strengthening defense cooperation and maintaining a strong combined defense posture. The meeting, initially scheduled to take 15 minutes, lasted about 40 minutes. Conducted with simultaneous interpretation, the extended talks allowed for in-depth discussion of alliance issues. Before departing for the Philippines, Kang said the SCM schedule might need to be discussed with W

• Lee's 'migrant workers don't contribute much' remarks fall short of embracing Korea's growing diversity (2026-10-28 12:02)

President Lee Jae Myung said Tuesday that migrant workers “don’t contribute much to the national economy” because they send their earnings home. When criticism followed his remarks at a Cabinet meeting, he focused on a word missing from a newspaper headline — “much.” But restoring that word does little to address the larger question of whether the president sees foreign workers as members of Korea's increasingly diverse society or mainly judges their worth by where they spend their wages. Lee made the remarks while instructing officials to consider wage subsidies to attract Korean workers to agriculture. “For national security reasons, we must sustain agriculture, forestry, livestock farming and fisheries,” he said. “Bringing in foreign workers doesn’t contribute much to the national economy because they send all their earnings home.” After The Hankyoreh, a local daily newspaper, reported migrant rights groups’ criticism, Lee demanded a correction and apology because its headline omitted “much.” The newspaper subsequently added the word. The president explained t

• Foreign resident population in Korea hits record 2.66 mil. as int'l student numbers surge (2026-10-28 12:02)

The number of foreign residents living in Korea rose for the fourth consecutive year in 2025 to reach a record high of 2.66 million, driven largely by a sharp increase in international students, government data showed Wednesday. According to the 2025 Foreign Resident Status report released by the Ministry of the Interior and Safety, foreign residents totaled 2,662,967 as of Nov. 1 last year. The figure represents a 3.1 percent increase, or 79,341 people, from 2,583,626 a year earlier, based on census data compiled by the National Data Agency. Foreign residents now account for 5.1 percent of Korea’s total population of 51,817,499 — the highest proportion on record. The ministry defines foreign residents as individuals residing in the country for more than 90 days who hold foreign nationality, have acquired Korean citizenship or were born in Korea to foreign-national or naturalized parents. By category, non-Korean nationals grew 3.2 percent to 2,109,057, while naturalized citizens increased 4.4 percent to 256,491. Korean-born children of foreign residents edged up 0.7 percent to 297,4

• Kookmin University professor named to World's Top 2% Scientists list for 6th straight year (2026-10-28 12:02)

Choi Sung-jin, a professor at Kookmin University’s School of Electrical Engineering, has been named to the 2026 World’s Top 2% Scientists list jointly released by Stanford University and Elsevier. The university said Choi has been included in the list for six consecutive years. The list identifies the top 2 percent of researchers in their respective fields based on a comprehensive analysis of research impact, including citation metrics and research output, using data from Elsevier’s Scopus database. The list covers two categories: “career-long,” which measures a researcher’s cumulative citation impact throughout their career, and “single-year,” which reflects citation impact in 2025. Choi was included in both categories in the 2026 edition. In applied physics, he ranks among the top 1.3 percent of researchers based on career-long impact and the top 0.9 percent based on single-year impact. He has also demonstrated sustained academic influence, with more than 25,000 citations and an h-index of 70 or higher, according to Google Scholar. The h-index measures research productivit

• US Silver Star Medal reissued to late S. Korean veteran of Korean War (2026-10-28 12:02)

A late South Korean veteran who was awarded the U.S. Silver Star Medal for his role in a Korean War battle in 1952 has recently been reissued the medal posthumously after it went missing decades ago, officials said Wednesday. Late Army Staff Sgt. Nam Woon-soo was given the U.S. honor, as well as the Chungmu Order of Military Merit from the South Korean government, in 1953 for playing a key role in the Battle of White Horse Hill in what is the current border town of Cheorwon, some 80 kilometers northeast of Seoul. During the battle, Nam crawled his way up to the entrance of the enemy's position and destroyed it, making a decisive contribution to neutralizing enemy firepower. It was one of the Korean War's most fiercely fought battles between the U.S.-backed South Korean forces and the communist troops from China. After the medal went missing somehow, Nam had expressed frustration and regret before his death in 1997. His bereaved family later asked the South Korean government to reissue the medal, but the request was denied on grounds that it was issued by the U.S. government. In February t

• Lee says nothing takes precedence over people's lives, safety (2026-10-28 12:02)

President Lee Jae Myung urged maximum government efforts to prevent safety-related accidents Wednesday, saying nothing should take precedence over protecting people's lives and safety. Lee made the remarks at the second plenary meeting of the presidential committee on life and safety as the Framework Act on Life and Safety is scheduled to take effect next Wednesday. The National Assembly passed the law on May 7, 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. The new law follows several high-profile deadly incidents in Korea, including the 2022 crowd crush in Seoul's Itaewon district, which left 159 people dead and nearly 200 others injured. Wednesday's meeting came a day before Korea marks the fourth anniversary of the Itaewon crowd crush. "There is no value that takes precedence over protecting people's lives and safety," Lee said, reiterating his government's commitment to public safety. The president stressed that the new law reflects the nati

• 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 defense minister's remarks are undermining the trust in the 73-year-old alliance," PPP chief spokesperson Park Choong-kwon said in a commentary. Rep. Park criticized Kang for pushing ahead with the OPCON transfer despite not having held any talks with U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth since taking office last month. He urged President Lee Jae Myung to immediately dismiss Kang, saying he is no longer qualified to serve as defense minister. Other lawmakers also denounced Kang's remarks, questioning his views on national security. "Is it not because the 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. The country's total fertility rate, the average number of children a woman is expected to have in her lifetime, rose 0.09 from a year earlier to 0.87 in August. The rate remains well below the 2.1 births per woman needed to maintain a stable population without immigration. The number of births 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 for the period since 2019. The recent rebound came amid a growing number of marriages, an increase in the population in their 30s and more positive attitudes toward having children. The number 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 placeswill 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 SecurityConsultative Meeting, as well as the approval of wartime operational plans. Retired Gen. PaulLaCamera, another former USFK commander, also expressed concerns about the futurecommand 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 airworthiness certification in August, guaranteeing the plane's suitability for safe flight. When deployed, the MAH 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 thehoarding ban on urea and urea solution, introduced in March, will expire at the end of thismonth. Restrictions imposed on medical syringes and needles, which have been in place sinceApril, will also be lifted, the ministry added. Urea is used to curb emissions in diesel vehiclesand make agricultural fertilizers. Under the bans, companies were prohibited from holdinginventories exceeding 200 percent of their average monthly sales last year for seven days orlonger for urea products and five days for medical supplies. "With domestic supplies remainingstable and no signs of hoarding or disruption to market order, the government will seek to endthe 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 of 16 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 country to 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 Seouldeported two North Korean fishermen back to North Korea after they were captured near theeastern maritime border. The fishermen had been accused of killing 16 fellow crew memberson their vessel. A lower court found all three former officials guilty but deferred theirsentencing. The appellate court sentenced Chung and Suh to 18 months in prison, suspendedfor three years, and Kim to a one-year prison term suspended for two years, ruling they violatedthe 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 andTourism Minister Chae Hwi-young said breaking the annual record more than two months earlyhas brought the government's ambitious year-end target of 23 million foreign visitors " withinreach." Visitor numbers rose across most major markets, including Chinese-speaking regions,Japan, Southeast Asia, Europe and the Americas. Growth is also spreading beyond Seoul, withmore 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 sportremains 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 anexclusive golf lesson from Ko on Oct. 20 and released a video that featured a woman who Jooclaimed is the golfer. Ko, a Korean-born New Zealand LPGA Hall of Fame member, denied anyinvolvement, saying she attended an official sponsor event that day. She warned of legal actionover false information and defamatory coverage. Cheong Wa Dae also dismissed Joo's accountas false and warned that media outlets could be held responsible for repeating his assertionswithout verifying the facts. Joo subsequently removed Ko's photograph from the video andacknowledged "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 to her 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 leader criticized the presidential office for characterizing media reports citing Joo's claims as the dissemination 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 of Seoul's push for the OPCON transition, citing an uncertain global security landscape, where even a military superpower, like the United States, faces challenges in the ongoing conflict with Iran. 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 you described?" "Because that is not the case, the OPCON transition must take place on a foundation of guaranteed trust," Kang said, advocating the OPCON road map to build a

combined 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,” Brunsonsaid. “It’s got to be training throughout the entirety of the year where we continue to shapeourselves to meet the objective set forward for us by our national command authorities.” Theallies hold Freedom Shield in March and Ulchi Freedom Shield in August, both large-scaleexercises 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 enlistglobal enforcement agencies in cracking down on intellectual property theft and drugtrafficking. Lee Jong-wook, head of the Korea Customs Service (KCS), will initiate the campaignon Oct. 29, during a high-level summit with his Japanese counterpart. The bilateral meetingmarks the starting line of an ambitious diplomatic expansion aimed at building real-timeinformation-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 Japanesecustoms authorities streamline application processing for Korean companies seeking borderenforcement 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 of Staff (JCS) spokesperson Capt. Jang Do-young said in a press briefing when asked for comment on the development. "While North Korea has mentioned new weapons systems in its recent statements, we believe that this cannot be considered as such," he said. Kim Yo-jong, the powerful 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 has swept across European nations, including France, Spain and Italy. "As large-scale protests have occurred recently in many European countries, social confusion and conflict have ensued," Lee said. "We should take the European situation as an example of what not to do." Lee said many experts pointed to high energy and living costs, a stagnant economy and accumulated inequality as factors gripping Europe, adding, "The biggest and most fundamental reason might

be 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 SongpaWard as protesters have blocked their removal amid calls for accountability and a rerun of theelections. The SMPA said it will deploy 48 riot police units, 150 police officers tasked withdialogue and mediation, and 300 detectives and investigators to the site following a requestfrom Lee's team to help maintain order during the inspection. The total size of the police forceis 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 COVID and

• 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 and baby boomers at 2.9 percent. Usage was higher among men at 11.6 percent than women at 9 percent, 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 if circumstances 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 single five-year presidency, which ends in June 2030. “Nevertheless, for the country as a whole, we have 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. Rather than limiting the visit to policy discussions, Seoul has designed the program to expose participants to the technology and operations behind its transit network, from traffic management to train manufacturing. The itinerary includes the Seoul Transport Operation and Information Service, known as TOPIS, Seoul Metro, the Shinbundang Line and the Ui-Sinseol Line, 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 on marriage, childbirth, child-rearing and caregiving. The group said the government's first National 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 federation said 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 called

on 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's Welfare Countermeasure Committee on Sunday, claiming Song pressed ahead with the survey without sufficient consultation from farmers, causing anxiety among them, according to the sources. The government launched the comprehensive nationwide survey earlier this year in an effort to determine the actual ownership of farmland and prevent it from being used as a speculative asset. Critics, however, have voiced concerns over the survey, arguing that it could

infringe 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 to the post tasked with inspecting corruption allegations involving the president's family and close relatives, as well as senior presidential aides. He is the first presidential special inspector appointed since late 2016, following the post's creation in 2014. "I will uphold political neutrality and independence in carrying out my duties to the end," Choi told reporters, adding he feels a heavy responsibility and will work to meet the public's expectations. Choi also pledged rigorous

inspections, 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 wouldhave been understandable, maybe even advisable, if he just quit. But Waller, also known asPinnacle TheHustler, decided to keep going. "I think the biggest reason I refused to close LitLounge was because I didn't want to look in the mirror and see someone who had given up. Butfor me, as long as I still believed in what I was building and I could still see a path forward, Iwasn'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, recentlywarned that North Korea had received Russian-made jamming equipment and had gainedexperience in moving troops and supplies over long distances through its involvement inRussia’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 electronicwarfare capabilities. “They didn’t have those jammers before. Those jammers were given tothem by the Russians,” he said. Brunson also pointed to interference affecting movement inKorean territorial waters, saying the jamming activity had not reached its full potential. Hisremarks 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 withlanguage barriers, particularly at crime scenes where interpreters are often difficult to secureon short notice. Foreign arrivals to Korea rose 21.5 percent year-on-year to 17.11 million in thefirst nine months of this year, up from 14.08 million in 2025, further increasing demand forpolice interpretation services. According to data submitted by the National Police Agency toRep. Park Ju-min of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea, police received 21,252 emergencycalls in foreign languages last year, nearly double the 10,348 recorded in 2024. The surge hascontinued this year, with 21,012 foreign-language calls recorded through August, nearlyequaling 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 cameto 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. JeonJin-sook of the ruling party. Insurance premium paid by foreign nationals totaled 2.54 trillionwon, while medical expenses covered by the NHIS stood at 1.52 trillion won. It marked the firsttime that the health insurance fiscal balance for foreigners posted a surplus topping 1 trillionwon. It also represented the consecutive surplus streak since 2017. But the fiscal balance forChinese nationals logged a deficit of 40.9 billion won last year, turning from a surplus of 5.5billion won in the previous year. In 2025, insurance premiums collected from Chinese peopletotaled 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 front door. “When the sun rises in summer, both inside and outside our house become an unbearable sauna. Sweat makes it impossible to keep my eyes open, so I flee to the village community center during the day. As soon as the sun comes up, I get so dizzy and develop such severe 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

Source: The Korea Herald

• Fall in full bloom with silver grass (2026-10-31 05:21)

A group of hikers walks through fields of silver grass in full bloom near the summit of Mount Mindungsan in Jeongseon, Gangwon Province, on Saturday, enjoying the picturesque scenery of late autumn. Tourist destinations across South Korea drew visitors seeking to enjoy the fall

foliage and crisp weather, as temperatures dipped from the previous day. On Saturday, Seoulreached around 15 degrees Celsius, while southern cities remained relatively mild at around 20degrees. Colder weather is forecas

• Lee calls for review of multicultural family benefits over reverse discrimination concerns (2026-10-31 05:06)

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung said Saturday that the country should continue supporting multicultural families but must correct policies that are unreasonable or result in reverse discrimination. “Support for multicultural families is necessary, but that does not justify specific policies that are unreasonable or lead to reverse discrimination,” Lee wrote on X, formerly Twitter. “Just because a general principle is right does not mean every specific policy based on it is also right,” he a

• Ruling party lawmaker issued US visa, days after refusal (2026-10-31 03:20)

Rep. Jin Sung-joon of the ruling Democratic Party said Saturday he has been issued a US visa for a trip to the US Pacific Command, days after he said his application was rejected. Jin, who serves as chairman of the parliamentary defense committee, said in a Facebook post that he received the visa from the US Embassy in Seoul and that it was fortunate the US State Department has issued the official A-2 visa, albeit belatedly. The lawmaker said he will depart Sunday afternoon and hold discussions

• Fishing boat catches fire off west coast, all 22 rescued (2026-10-31 03:08)

A fishing boat caught fire off the Yellow Sea island of Yeongheung on Saturday and all 22 people aboard were rescued, with two of them taken to a hospital for inhaling smoke, officials said. The fire broke out on the 9.77-ton charter fishing boat in waters 0.9 nautical mile south of the island at 6:51 a.m. After receiving a distress call from the boat, the Coast Guard sent patrol and rescue boats to the scene, put out the fire and rescued all aboard. Two of them, including the boat's skipper, we

• Hanwha wins first US Navy shipbuilding contract in $269 million deal (2026-10-31 03:03)

Hanwha Defense USA, the US subsidiary of Hanwha Aerospace, has secured a $269 million deal to construct a medium landing ship for the US Navy and Marine Corps at its Philly shipyard, marking a major step in South Korean defense group's push into the American naval shipbuilding market. The company said Friday it was selected by US maritime services company Tote Services to build one medium landing ship, or LSM, with options for three additional vessels. The contract marks Hanwha Group’s first ord

• No drug-related violations found in special crackdown on eve of Halloween (2026-10-31 02:16)

Police said Saturday they have found no drug-related violations during a joint crackdown the previous night on nightlife districts in Seoul on the eve of Halloween. Police carried out

inspections at eight clubs in nightlife districts in Gangnam, Seocho and Yongsan on Friday night as part of a special drug crackdown that has been under way since August in cooperation with fire and municipality authorities. "Ahead of Halloween, we conducted crackdowns focusing on clubs, entertainment venues, and a

• N. Korean hackers blamed for record $6.3b Binance cryptocurrency theft: US firm (2026-10-31 01:59)

North Korean hackers purportedly stole an estimated $6.36 billion in cryptocurrency from Binance, the world's largest cryptocurrency exchange, in what would be the biggest cryptocurrency theft on record, according to a US blockchain intelligence firm. TRM Labs said Thursday's attack against Binance was most likely carried out by TraderTraitor, a North Korean hacking group, which stole digital assets from Binance across 10 blockchain networks. Most of the funds were taken in about 20 minutes, it

• S. Korea, US, Japan reaffirm NK denuclearization goal, bolster economic ties (2026-10-31 01:50)

The top diplomats of South Korea, the US and Japan reaffirmed their commitment to the complete denuclearization of North Korea and the full implementation of UN Security Council resolutions during trilateral talks on Friday. South Korean Foreign Minister Cho Hyun met with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi on the sidelines of the Group of 20 meeting in Atlanta, US, according to the countries' foreign ministries. The talks marked their first trilater

• Zero sugar, zero margins: The strategy behind Zerostore's rise (2026-10-31 00:00)

For Pyeon Young-min, a 30-year-old co-founder and CEO of unstaffed convenience store chain Zerostore featuring zero- to low-sugar products, the brand's rapid rise has been more about building a franchise model around consumers and store owners than riding the "zero" food trend over the past few years. "Our strategy was to prioritize price advantages, product selection and franchisee profitability from the outset, even if that meant giving up much of the headquarters' distribution margin," Pyeon

• Curious about your future? This exhibition offers a buffet of fortune readings (2026-10-30 12:16)

From traditional Korean saju and face reading to tarot cards and even pet fortune-telling, an exhibition in Seoul is offering visitors a chance to explore a wide range of ways to glimpse their future. The second edition of Fortune Adventure opened Thursday at the aT Center in Yangjae, southern Seoul, bringing together more than 200 consultation booths covering at least 13 types of fortune-telling. The four-day event runs through Sunday. For 12,000 won ($8.40), visitors can book a 10-minute readi

• Special counsel asks election watchdog to keep ballot boxes intact for possible review (2026-10-30 11:38)

A special counsel team on Friday asked the National Election Commission (NEC) to keep intact the 420 ballot boxes that drew no objections during its inspection at a Seoul handball arena, saying it may need to examine them again. The boxes had sat in the Olympic Park Handball Gymnasium in southeastern Seoul since the June 3 local elections. Special counsel Lee Tae-han's team carried them out Thursday after reviewing all 2.47 million ballots cast in the southeastern Songpa Ward. The team has been

• Samsung takes over display unit’s China stake to bolster LCD ties (2026-10-30 09:54)

Samsung Electronics will acquire Samsung Display’s entire stake in Chinese panel maker TCL CSOT, bolstering LCD supply ties for its TV business as the display subsidiary focuses on high-end OLED panels. Samsung Electronics said in a regulatory filing on Friday that it would buy the 10.16 percent stake for about 1.27 trillion won ($950 million). It cited “strengthening strategic cooperation” as the purpose of the acquisition. Samsung Display acquired the shares as part of the sale of its Suzhou L

• Lee says ‘fairness’ must guide support for multicultural families (2026-10-30 09:35)

President Lee Jae Myung on Friday stressed that fairness must guide policies supporting multicultural families, calling for a review of preferential benefits while emphasizing the need to strengthen support that addresses their specific disadvantages. It is the third consecutive day Lee has publicly raised concerns about preferential treatment for multicultural families, drawing criticism from political opponents who warn that questioning such benefits could fuel discrimination. "Fairness is a c

• Kia posts record Q3 revenue on ecofriendly vehicle expansion (2026-10-30 08:51)

Kia posted a record third quarter sales revenue this year, driven primarily by aggressive sales of ecofriendly vehicles, expanding its market presence in key global markets, including the US, despite the downturn in industry demand. In a quarterly earnings release on Friday, Kia said in the July-September period, its revenue rose 10.1 percent to 31.6 trillion won ($23.69 billion). It marked the highest third-quarter figure on record. The increase was largely driven by rising sales of hybrid elec

• Late Canadian Army officer named Korean War hero of Nov. (2026-10-30 08:49)

The veterans ministry on Friday named a late Canadian Army officer as hero of the month for November for his role in leading a key battle to victory during the 1950-53 Korean War. Lt. Col. James Stone, who served as the commander of the 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, played a critical role in leading the battle in Gapyeong, about 55 kilometers northeast of Seoul, to victory in April 1951. During the battle, which took place at the height of the three-year conflict, t

• Posco Future M to supply 720,000 tons of battery materials to LG Energy Solution (2026-10-30 08:45)

Posco Future M has signed an agreement with LG Energy Solution to supply 720,000 metric tons of battery materials over seven years starting in 2027, expanding their partnership to include lithium iron phosphate cathodes and synthetic graphite anodes for the first time. The South Korean battery materials maker said it signed a memorandum of understanding with battery maker LG Energy Solution to strengthen cooperation on battery materials and jointly respond to shifting market conditions and globa

• [Gadget Review] Xreal Aura: Lighter than Galaxy XR, but still tethered (2026-10-30 08:43)

I pinched my thumb and index finger together in midair. A floating window opened; another gesture moved it aside. There was no monitor in sight, yet I was rearranging displays as if using a computer from a science-fiction film. Switching glasses, I watched waves roll across a 3D seascape. A concert clip gave the scene unexpected depth. The two demos served different purposes at a showcase by Chinese extended reality device maker Xreal in Seoul's Hongdae district Friday. The Xreal's next-generati

• Prosecutors indict independent lawmaker for alleged sexual harassment (2026-10-30 08:41)

Prosecutors on Friday indicted Rep. Jang Kyung-tae without physical detention over allegations that he sexually harassed a female aide of another lawmaker. Jang, an independent who left the ruling Democratic Party in March over the scandal, is accused of sexually harassing the aide at a restaurant in western Seoul in October 2024, according to the Seoul Southern District Prosecutors Office. The lawmaker also faces charges of partially exposing the aide's identity in violation of the sexual viole

• Facing KBO postseason elimination, Tigers move up sluggers in new-look lineup (2026-10-30 08:36)

On the brink of elimination from the South Korean baseball postseason, the Kia Tigers put together a much different lineup Friday than the ones from their earlier games. The Tigers are trailing the Samsung Lions 2-1 in the best-of-five series in the Korea Baseball Organization, having dropped two straight games after winning the first game Monday. The winner of this series will advance to the Korean Series starting next week. Manager Lee Bum-ho moved up his top three sluggers a spot each -- with

• S. Korea, US, Japan foreign ministers to meet amid signs of strain in Seoul-Washington ties (2026-10-30 08:35)

South Korean Foreign Minister Cho Hyun will meet US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi in Atlanta on Friday, as Seoul seeks to manage a series of sensitive issues in its alliance with Washington. The three-way meeting, to be held on the sidelines of the Group of 20 foreign ministers' gathering, comes a little more than a month

after the ministers met during the UN General Assembly in New York. They are expected todiscuss North Korea’s recent ballistic

• What’s brewing in Seoul's herbal medicine market? (2026-10-30 08:33)

The scent of medicinal herbs filled Yangnyeongjungang-ro on Friday, as vendors and booths offering traditional Korean medicine experiences welcomed visitors to the World K-Medicine Culture Festival 2026 in Dongdaemun-gu, northeastern Seoul. “We wanted to experience the medicine market out of curiosity and get an idea of life in Korea,” said Angela, a Belgian visitor who declined to give her surname. She was visiting Seoul for the first time with her husband and three children. “This is so amazin

• Lee Chang-dong's short film 'Heartbeat' to release on Netflix (2026-10-30 08:28)

South Korean auteur Lee Chang-dong's short film "Heartbeat" will be released on Netflix next week, days ahead of Lee's Venice-winning film "Possible Love," the streaming platform said Friday. The 2022 film centers around a young boy whose mother lives with depression and a father who stages labor strikes atop a tower crane. It is Lee's first short film. The 28-minute film, which premiered at the 23rd Jeonju International Film Festival without theatrical release, stars actors Jeon Do-yeon and Sul

• Korea, US near deal on military facility relocations, including Gwangju: Cheong Wa Dae (2026-10-30 08:08)

South Korea and the United States are close to finalizing a comprehensive agreement on relocating US military facilities at several air bases, including Gwangju, national security adviser Wi Sung-lac said Friday. The agreement could help pave the way for the relocation of US military facilities at Gwangju Air Base, a key issue in plans to develop a semiconductor manufacturing cluster in the southwestern Honam region, one of three "megaprojects" pursued by the Lee Jae Myung administration. Wi str

• KRX eyes tiered system for Kosdaq (2026-10-30 07:45)

The Korea Exchange seeks to introduce a tiered system for the Kosdaq, drawing on Nasdaq's model to distinguish high-quality companies. The system could launch in the second half of next year at the earliest, pending companies' annual results. The KRX is considering dividing Kosdaq-listed firms into upper and lower tiers, financial industry sources said Friday. The upper tier, tentatively named the "Select Segment," would include companies meeting quantitative criteria, including financial perfor

• Korea to invite Mongolian medical professionals for training (2026-10-30 07:43)

South Korea will provide training for Mongolian medical professionals from next week as part of a bilateral project to strengthen Mongolia’s healthcare system. The Ministry of Health and Welfare said Friday that the program will support Mongolia’s goal of training 1,000 doctors and other healthcare workers. The initiative follows a training agreement signed by the two

countries in March. Under the pilot program, six Mongolian medical professionals will train atmedical facilities in South Korea

• Korean horror novel secures 6-figure rights deals in 11 countries (2026-10-30 07:39)

Jeon Gun-woo's occult mystery novel "You Must Not Hear This," published in April, has secured translation rights deals in 11 countries, including the US and several European markets, the Korean publisher Rabbit Hole said. The deals cover the United States, Italy, France, Spain, Germany and Japan, among other countries. The total advances for the rights sold so far have exceeded 300 million won ($225,000). The worldwide English-language rights deal followed a preemptive offer from Evil Twin, a ho

• For half a century, Choi Bul-am was the everyman of Korean television (2026-10-30 07:28)

It is not common for an actor to serve as a touchstone for his country through decades of change. Choi Bul-am was one of the few who did. From the days of black-and-white broadcasts to the streaming era, Choi, who died Thursday at 87, played tough men with soft hearts in whom South Korean viewers saw themselves and their own fathers. His unhurried way of talking and head-thrown-back laugh were so well known across the country that they made for a running gag in their own right. Choi started out

• Police to deploy 7,800 personnel nationwide for crowd safety during Halloween (2026-10-30 07:24)

Police will deploy around 7,800 personnel across the nation to manage crowds celebrating Halloween over the weekend, officials said Friday, as the country prepares for its fourth Halloween since the deadly 2022 Itaewon crowd crush. The National Police Agency (NPA) said it will operate a special safety management period from Friday to Sunday. During the period, riot police, regional patrol teams and detectives will be dispatched mainly to 28 key areas, including 14 locations in Seoul. The governm

• N. Korea slams S. Korea, US' Freedom Flag air drills, vows to deter with force (2026-10-30 07:22)

North Korea on Friday denounced the ongoing combined air drills between South Korea and the United States, vowing to "thoroughly" deter the allies' exercise with force, Pyongyang's state media reported. A spokesperson at North Korea's defense ministry issued the statement as Seoul and Washington launched the biannual Freedom Flag exercise on Monday for a two-week run. "The US and the ROK military warmongers launched the provocative large-scale joint air drill Freedom Flag against our state on Oc

• Swiss foreign minister arrives in Pyongyang as Bern reopens diplomatic office (2026-10-30 07:18)

Swiss Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis arrived in Pyongyang on Thursday for talks with North Korean officials and the formal reopening of Switzerland’s diplomatic office there. North

Korea’s state-run Korean Central News Agency confirmed Cassis’ arrival Friday, saying heand his delegation were greeted at Pyongyang International Airport by Foreign Ministry officials,North Korea’s ambassador to Switzerland and the head of Switzerland’s diplomatic office inthe North. KCNA did not elaborate on the

• Seoul shares dip over 3% on tech sell-off amid AI concerns (2026-10-30 07:16)

South Korean shares dropped by more than 3 percent Friday, dragged down by a sell-off in semiconductor stocks amid lingering concerns over the sustainability of artificial intelligence investments. The Korean won strengthened against the US dollar. The benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index lost 206.92 points, or 3.48 percent, to close at 5,730.74, after falling as low as 5,599.42. After opening nearly 3 percent lower, the KOSPI extended its losses, prompting the Korea Exchange to activate

• Water ghost, two sisters and the long work of grief (2026-10-30 07:00)

A drowned girl returns from the dead. The rain will not stop. And something hungry is stalking a quiet California town. In Yun Ji-hyun's young adult gothic novel "And the River Drags Her Down," a teenage girl, Soojin, breaks the oldest rule of her family's ancestral magic to bring back her older sister, Mirae, who was found drowned in a river. At first, the resurrection feels like a miracle. The sisters slip back into their old rhythms, stealing late-night moments together. But Mirae soon grows

• MBK's planned Golfzon County sale triggers dispute over deal terms (2026-10-30 06:47)

MBK Partners' plan to sell Golfzon County, a golf course operator and reservation platform, has sparked a dispute with second-largest shareholder Golfzon Holdings, which is challenging MBK's right to sell the business. On Tuesday, MBK signed a share purchase agreement with a consortium of The Sienna Group and Ciel Asset Management to sell its controlling stake in Golfzon County, valuing the company at about 1.8 trillion won ($1.35 billion). But the deal would also involve Golfzon selling its own

• Hyundai puts parking robots in driver's seat (2026-10-30 06:28)

Hyundai Motor Group's car-parking robots demonstrated Thursday how vehicles can be moved and rearranged in parking spaces without human intervention. The technology was demonstrated through a pilot project led by a consortium of Hyundai Motor, Hyundai WIA and Hyundai Engineering & Construction. It marks the first project in Korea to deploy parking robots across more than 50 parking spaces at an actual residential complex. Using the robots, residents can request vehicle transfers through wall-mou

• Incheon Airport check-in systems resume after 35 flights delayed (2026-10-30 06:25)

Ticketing and check-in services resumed at Incheon Airport on Friday evening, following a major network disruption that effectively halted operations for three Chinese carriers and caused significant passenger delays throughout the day. After their regular ticketing systems came to a

near-standstill by the afternoon, China Southern Airlines, China Eastern Airlines, and Air Chinawere able to restart operations around 5:20 p.m., according to the Incheon InternationalAirport Corporation. The disr

• Hyosung, Siemens partner on digital power grid and AI data center solutions (2026-10-30 06:25)

Hyosung Heavy Industries is partnering with Germany's Siemens to develop digital power infrastructure and AI data center solutions. The company signed a Global Strategic Partnership Agreement with Siemens on Friday. The signing ceremony was attended by Industry Minister Kim Jung-kwan, German State Secretary Stefan Rouenhoff, Hyosung Heavy Industries CEO Woo Tae-hee and Siemens Korea CEO Chung Ha-joong. Under the agreement, the two companies will pursue cooperation in digital asset management, di

• Seoul seeks ‘way out’ of Ukraine dispute, denies tilt toward Russia (2026-10-30 06:25)

Seoul is seeking a way out of its diplomatic dispute with Kyiv over the disclosure of the transfer of two North Korean prisoners of war, stressing that its engagement with Russia remains within the international sanctions framework. A senior presidential official said discussions were continuing with Ukraine, signaling Seoul's desire to resolve a dispute that has strained relations between the two countries. "We do not believe it is desirable for this issue to drag on. We are holding discussions

• Seoul weighs expanding overseas naval unit’s mission toward Hormuz (2026-10-30 06:24)

South Korea is weighing an expanded role for its Cheonghae naval unit, currently deployed overseas, to contribute to international efforts to restore freedom of navigation through the Strait of Hormuz, according to Cheong Wa Dae. National security adviser Wi Sung-lac said the government was “continuing to explore ways to play a necessary role and make contributions to protect our citizens and safeguard our economic interests.” “Specifically, we are carefully considering ways to expand and streng

• ‘Call of Duty’ publisher apologizes, says will remove Itaewon crowd crush footage (2026-10-30 06:18)

US publisher Activision has formally apologized for using footage from the 2022 Itaewon crowd crush in its latest “Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 4” and said it will remove the footage entirely, according to MBC on Friday. In a statement sent to the Korean TV channel, Activision said the problematic footage would be completely removed through a game update scheduled for release on Nov. 12. “We offer our deepest condolences and sincere apologies to the bereaved families, victims and everyone who ha

• Court acquits PPP lawmaker over luxury gift to ex-first lady (2026-10-30 06:18)

A Seoul district court on Friday acquitted a lawmaker of the main opposition People Power Party of anti-graft charges over a luxury bag gifted to former first lady Kim Keon Hee. The Seoul

Central District Court found Rep. Kim Gi-hyeon not guilty of violating the anti-graft law over the Roger Vivier clutch bag his wife gave to the then first lady in March 2023. Special counsel Min Joong-ki's team had sought a one-year prison sentence for the lawmaker, accusing the couple of gifting the bag in ret

• Samsung co-CEOs urge tech recovery, cost discipline ahead of 57th anniversary (2026-10-30 06:14)

Samsung Electronics' co-CEOs struck a cautious tone Friday ahead of the tech giant's 57th anniversary. Jun Young-hyun, head of the device solutions division, warned that record profits do not mean a full recovery in technological competitiveness, while Roh Tae-moon, who leads the device eXperience division, called for tighter cost controls. The two delivered separate anniversary messages to employees as the company prepares to mark the occasion Sunday without a formal ceremony. Their remarks cam

• Boynextdoor to launch 1st N. American tour (2026-10-30 06:11)

K-pop group Boynextdoor will kick off its first-ever North American tour Friday (US time) with a show in Dallas, the group's agency, Koz Entertainment, said. Following the Dallas concert, the sextet is scheduled to perform in Florida, Chicago, New York, Toronto, Vancouver, Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Mexico City through Nov. 24. "Every visit to the United States has given us meaningful memories and positive inspiration, so we are excited for this trip too," the group said in a releas

• India bets on Korean shipbuilding ties for top-five push by 2047 (2026-10-30 06:09)

India is turning to South Korean investment and technology to help build one of the world’s top five shipbuilding industries by 2047, Indian Ports, Shipping and Waterways Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said. The initiative followed talks between Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and South Korean President Lee Jae Myung during Lee’s state visit to New Delhi on April 20. During a four-day visit to South Korea, Sonowal told The Korea Herald that partners developing a proposed shipyard in Thoothukudi

• Lee confers certificates of appointment on presidential inspector, others (2026-10-30 06:06)

President Lee Jae Myung on Friday conferred certificates of appointment on the presidential special inspector and others. Lee presented the documents at a ceremony to 10 high-level officials and leaders of government bodies, including Choi Kil-su, who took office a week earlier as a special inspector tasked with inspecting irregularities involving the president's spouse, close relatives and senior presidential officials, presidential spokesperson Kang Yu-jung said. The recipients included Ha Jun

• Koo Kyo-hwan, Kim Yoon-seok reunite in mystery thriller 'White Blast' (2026-10-30 06:03)

Actors Koo Kyo-hwan and Kim Yoon-seok are set to appear as a young rail worker and a retiring station master in the upcoming Korean film "White Blast," marking their reunion five years since the 2021 action thriller "Escape from Mogadishu." Set in a rural train station just days before Christmas, the film follows veteran station master Gap-soo (Kim), as he welcomes his young successor Hyun-taek (Koo), who arrives late due to a snow storm. On Hyun-taek's first day of work, the two unexpectedly ru

- More foreign tourists return to Korea: report (2026-10-30 05:49)

More foreign tourists are returning to Korea, according to a report published Thursday by Seoul-based travel platform CreaTrip. CreaTrip said around 14.5 percent of its foreign customers who had used the platform during an earlier visit to Korea returned for another visit over the past two years, meaning one in seven customers were repeat visitors. The data covers reservations made from January to September this year, with the figure up 3.5 percentage points from the same period last year. Retur

- Fetus found at wastewater plant traced to woman who unknowingly flushed it after miscarriage, police say (2026-10-30 05:29)

Police on Friday said they had closed an investigation into fetal remains discovered at a wastewater treatment plant in Asan, South Chungcheong Province, after an autopsy confirmed the fetus had died before birth and found no evidence of a crime. The remains were found at the plant on Sept. 28, according to Asan Police Station. The fetus was estimated to be around 16 weeks into gestation, measuring about 20 centimeters long and weighing just 110 grams. Authorities identified the mother through D

- One cake, many birthdays (2026-10-30 05:15)

Busy schedules leave less time for gatherings, but some groups of friends are finding ways to celebrate multiple birthdays at once without giving up the personal touch of an individual celebration. Joint birthday cakes are gaining attention online as an "efficient" way among friends who are seeking a more convenient and enjoyable way to mark their special occasions. The celebrations bring together friends whose birthdays fall in the same month, as well as those born in different months who choos

- LS Cable to invest $262m in rare earth magnet plant (2026-10-30 04:49)

LS Cable & System will invest 350 billion won ($262 million) to build a rare earth magnet plant in Gumi, North Gyeongsang Province, forming part of the company's supply chain for defense, robotics and electric vehicles. The company said Thursday that its subsidiary Korea Motion Works signed a memorandum of understanding with North Gyeongsang Province and Gumi City to build the plant. The signing ceremony was attended by local lawmakers Koo Ja-geun and Kang Myung-gu, Governor Lee Cheol-woo and Gu

- Hyundai accelerates AI data center push with new Saemangeum office (2026-10-30 04:48)

Hyundai Motor Group is accelerating its AI data center project in Korea — a key driver for its physical AI capabilities — with the HMG Saemangeum Office in Gunsan, North Jeolla Province, set to spearhead the initiative. The company said Friday it held a signboard unveiling ceremony for the Saemangeum office, attended by key figures, including Shin Seung-kyu, vice president of Hyundai Motor Group' Robotics and Hydrogen Project Management Office, Gunsan Mayor Kim Jae-jun and Saemangeum Development

• Family members account for 40% of disability abuse cases (2026-10-30 04:32)

Reports of abuse against people with disabilities in Korea reached 6,608 in 2025, up 9.6 percent from the previous year, according to government data released Friday. The Ministry of Health and Welfare’s 2025 report on abuse against people with disabilities showed that 3,375 reports, just over half the total, were classified as suspected abuse. The number of confirmed abuse cases reached 1,505, up about 4 percent from the previous year. Among reports classified as suspected abuse, just over a qu

• Court acquits ex-generals accused of planning martial law at burger joint (2026-10-30 04:28)

A Seoul court on Friday acquitted two former generals accused of involvement in martial law planning at a fast-food restaurant hours before former President Yoon Suk Yeol's declaration in late 2024. The Seoul Central District Court found Koo Sam-hoe, former commander of the 2nd Armored Brigade, and Bang Jeong-hwan, former head of the defense ministry's defense innovation planning, not guilty of playing key roles in an insurrection in connection with Yoon's failed martial law bid. The court ruled

• Kim Jong-un spotlights drones, defense AI in North Korean weapons display (2026-10-30 04:26)

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un urged the country’s scientists to accelerate development of military artificial intelligence and unmanned aircraft technology, as Pyongyang showcased drones and held demonstrations involving cruise missiles and a 600-millimeter multiple rocket launcher, the North's state media reported Friday. The exhibition, titled “Unmanned Aeronautical Technology Development-2026,” was held Thursday, according to the Korean Central News Agency. It featured strategic, operationa

• Lee's approval rating falls back to 39%: poll (2026-10-30 04:24)

President Lee Jae Myung's approval rating has slipped to below 40 percent following a brief rebound last week, a poll showed Friday. The survey, conducted by Gallup Korea from Tuesday through Thursday on 1,000 people aged 18 and older, showed that positive assessments of Lee's performance fell 1 percentage point from a week earlier to 39 percent. Negative assessments also fell 1 percentage point to 49 percent. Lee's approval rating had remained below 40 percent in Gallup polls since early Septem

• Special counsel appeals Seoul mayor's acquittal in political funds case (2026-10-30 04:18)

A special counsel team said Friday it has appealed the acquittal of Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon in a political funds case linked to the 2021 mayoral by-election. Special counsel Min Joong-ki's team said it filed the appeal with the Seoul High Court earlier in the day, a week after the appellate court overturned a lower court ruling to acquit the mayor of violating the Political Funds Act. Oh had been indicted on charges of having a political supporter make payments totaling 33 million won (US$24,700)

• Appellate sentencing in Yoon's high-stakes election law case to be broadcast live (2026-10-30 03:58)

Next week's sentencing hearing for former President Yoon Suk Yeol over election law violation charges will be broadcast live, court officials said Friday, a high-stakes ruling that could force the main opposition People Power Party to return nearly $30 million in reimbursed election expenses. The Seoul High Court decided to allow broadcasters to air the sentencing scheduled for 2 p.m. Wednesday, officials said. Yoon was sentenced by a district court in July to a 18-month prison term, suspended f

• Steamed perilla leaves with anchovies (2026-10-30 03:56)

The fragrant aroma of perilla leaves combined with the rich umami of dried anchovies makes this a delicious Korean side dish. The sauce combines soy sauce, fish sauce, perilla oil and kelp broth for a flavorful yet mild seasoning. Onions and Korean chili peppers add natural sweetness and a refreshing kick, while gently braising the perilla leaves makes them soft and tender. This dish can be prepared ahead of time and stored for several days, making it a convenient side dish that pairs perfectly

• Yuhan, Boehringer Ingelheim expand parternship for broader healthcare collaboration (2026-10-30 03:49)

Yuhan and Boehringer Ingelheim are expanding their 16-year partnership beyond pharmaceutical sales into broader healthcare innovation and the development of a sustainable healthcare ecosystem in Korea. According to Yuhan on Friday, the two companies signed a memorandum of understanding the previous day to explore joint initiatives in digital healthcare, patient support programs, disease awareness, early diagnosis, medical education and scientific exchange, and efforts to improve patient access t

• GC Biopharma, Hanmi Pharm strike $475m Fabry disease drug deal with BioMarin (2026-10-30 03:49)

GC Biopharma and Hanmi Pharmaceutical announced on Friday that they have signed an exclusive licensing-out agreement with US biotech company BioMarin Pharmaceutical for their jointly developed experimental treatment for Fabry disease in a deal worth up to $475 million. Under the agreement, BioMarin will oversee the candidate's global development and commercialization while GC Biopharma and Hanmi Pharm will retain responsibility for

regulatory approval and commercialization in Korea. The deal inc

• Centuries-old miniature temple set to become national treasure (2026-10-30 03:29)

The Portable Shrine of Gilt-bronze Buddhas at Cheoneunsa Temple in Gurye, South Jeolla Province, the largest surviving Buddhist "bulgam" of its kind, is set to be designated a National Treasure, according to the Korea Heritage Service on Friday. A bulgam is a miniature structure made of materials such as wood, stone or metal to house Buddhist statues. The shrine stands just 43.3 centimeters tall on a square base and has a hip-and-gable roof, with doors at the front. The doors' exteriors are deco

• Ive teams up with Tiger JK for ‘Looks Can Kill’ remix (2026-10-30 03:11)

Ive surprised fans with news of an upcoming remix release of “Looks Can Kill,” announced Friday through agency Starship Entertainment. The group worked with Korean hip-hop musician Tiger JK and French producer Alawn, who has over 40 Billboard No. 1s credited to his name. “Looks Can Kill” is the title track of the group’s fifth EP; Rei wrote the lyrics and rap. The electronic pop number was unveiled one week ahead of the full album, which was released on Monday. The six-track set has sold over 70

• Smart glasses pose new threat to Korea's college entrance exam (2026-10-30 02:53)

South Korea’s Education Ministry plans to step up enforcement against students using smart glasses to cheat on the country’s annual college entrance exam, including by filing criminal complaints or requesting investigations. The ministry said Thursday it is also considering extending the ban on repeat test-takers caught cheating, from one year to up to three years. It will urge universities to adopt similarly strict penalties for their own admissions tests this year. Authorities will assign one

• AmCham holds seminar on Korea's revised privacy law (2026-10-30 02:44)

The American Chamber of Commerce in Korea held a seminar Thursday in partnership with local law firm Bae, Kim & Lee LLC to discuss the growing importance of personal data protection in corporate strategy and risk management. “Korea’s 2026 PIPA: What Global Companies Need to Know” examined key changes in the Personal Information Protection Act, which took effect on Sept. 11, as well as recent regulatory enforcement trends. The event was held at Bae, Kim & Lee’s Seoul office. “The growing movement

• Global capital shifts into Korea's mobility sector (2026-10-30 02:31)

Offshore capital giants are eyeing South Korea's mobility service providers, betting on the industry’s growth potential and the value of data accumulated by mobility platforms. According to industry sources Friday, Goldman Sachs is in talks with SK Square to acquire T Map Mobility, operator of the country's leading navigation service T Map with more than 15 million monthly active users. SK Square, the largest shareholder of T Map Mobility, holds a 63.23 percent stake in the company. Goldman Sach

• Coupang to build $31mln smart logistics center in Busan (2026-10-30 02:30)

Coupang Logistics Service, a delivery service provider under retail giant Coupang, will invest approximately 42 billion won ($31 million) to build an AI-powered smart logistics center in Busan. CLS signed a memorandum of understanding with Busan Metropolitan City on Thursday to establish the facility in the port city. The agreement was signed at an investment promotion event for companies based outside the capital region. Under the MOU, CLS will create approximately 670 direct and indirect jobs,

• YouTuber Kagwang’s channel removed amid allegations of abusing Thai woman with disability (2026-10-30 02:25)

YouTube has removed the channel of South Korean creator Kagwang, who had about 470,000 subscribers, amid allegations that he abused and financially exploited a woman believed to have an intellectual disability during a livestream in Thailand. A notice uploaded to the channel on Friday said the streaming platform removed it for violating its community guidelines, and its videos were no longer available. It was not immediately clear whether the removal was linked to the abuse allegations. The alle

• Lee extends deep condolences over death of veteran actor Choi Bool-am (2026-10-30 02:24)

President Lee Jae Myung on Friday extended "deep condolences" over the death of popular veteran actor Choi Bool-am, calling him the "father of our era." Choi died the previous day at the age of 87 at a hospital, where he was receiving treatment. Since beginning his television career in 1967, Choi had been known for his portrayals of paternal characters in popular TV series. "You will long remain in the hearts of people as a detective who safeguards justice and a loving father," Lee wrote on his

• PUBG live-action series in the works at Netflix (2026-10-30 02:21)

A live-action series based on PUBG, the hit battle royale video game, is being developed with Donald Glover set to write, direct and star in the project. Krafton, the South Korean game developer behind the global gaming franchise, is teaming up with Netflix to produce the series. Glover, best known for creating and starring in the television series "Atlanta," for which he won Emmy and Golden Globe awards, will also serve as an executive producer. PUBG is a player-versus-player shooter in which u

• KITA seeks to expand Korean consumer goods presence in Middle East, North Africa (2026-10-30 02:12)

The Korea International Trade Association wrapped up a four-day trade mission to the United Arab Emirates and Morocco this week, aiming to help Korean consumer goods companies broaden their reach in the Middle East and North Africa. Led by KITA Executive Vice Chair Lee In-ho, the mission traveled to the UAE and Morocco from Monday to Thursday, bringing

together eight Korean companies in cosmetics, medical supplies and food products to seekexport opportunities and build stronger ties with local

• Japanese scholar sees little chance of 'meaningful' Kim-Trump summit this year (2026-10-30 02:09)

A summit between North Korea and the United States is likely to be difficult within this year, a leading Japanese scholar has said, doubting that either side is ready for a meeting that leads to any "meaningful" negotiations. Junya Nishino, a professor of political science at Tokyo's Keio University, made the remarks in a meeting with Korean reporters in Tokyo on Oct. 22, as US President Donald Trump has expressed interest in meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un this year. "I think a sum

• Mamamoo’s Solar to drop solo single (2026-10-30 01:54)

Solar of Mamamoo will release a solo single on Nov. 12, RBW Entertainment announced Thursday. “To My 20s” will feature singer and songwriter Harim, who will play the harmonica. The upcoming single will mark Solar's first solo release in over 1 1/2 years, after her second single album, “Want.” Between the two efforts, she released a song in China. Mamamoo is slated to visit Taipei in late November for the final show of its tour, “4Ward.” An encore gig is planned for Seoul in early January, accord

• SK reshuffles energy chiefs, names SK hynix development head to new US role (2026-10-30 01:41)

SK Group nominated new leaders for its energy businesses Friday, while chipmaking affiliate SK hynix assigned its development chief to a new US-based organization focused on major technology customers and research. The 2027 appointments retain key affiliate CEOs as the conglomerate seeks to complete its portfolio restructuring, strengthen finances and invest in AI and advanced technology. President Cheong Seung-il, a power and energy specialist, was nominated as SK Innovation’s next CEO. SK said

• Blackpink receives highest Korean culture merit, 1st for K-pop girl group (2026-10-30 01:34)

Blackpink became the first K-pop girl group to receive the Okgwan Order of Culture Merit, YG Entertainment announced Friday. The group was honored at the 17th Korea Popular Culture and Arts Awards, held in Seoul on Thursday. Organized by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, it marks the highest government recognition for cultural achievements in Korea. The four members expressed their appreciation through the label, thanking everyone and their fans, promising to continue striving to cons

• Yanolja Go Global to attend World Travel Market London 2026 (2026-10-30 01:32)

Yanolja Go Global, the business-to-business unit of South Korean travel platform operator Yanolja Group, will participate in World Travel Market London 2026, a major international travel

industry trade show. YGG plans to meet industry representatives, seek new clients and explore potential business partnerships at the event, which brings together travel agencies, hotels, tourism boards and travel technology companies. This year's event runs Tuesday to Thursday. YGG will showcase its travel indus

• S. Korea's indigenous KF-21 fighter jet conducts 1st formation flight with US aircraft (2026-10-30 01:32)

South Korea's indigenous KF-21 fighter jet has made its first formation flight with US aircraft over the Yellow Sea, Seoul officials said Friday. The KF-21 Boramae, assigned to the 156th Fighter Squadron, 16th Fighter Wing, conducted the joint aerial formation flight with US Air Force jets last Friday, according to military officials. The US side deployed the U-2S Dragon Lady, a high-altitude reconnaissance aircraft, and the F-35 and F-16 fighter jets, whereas the South Korean Air Force mobilize

• Hegseth calls talk of shaky S. Korea-US alliance 'fake news:' Seoul's defense minister (2026-10-30 01:28)

US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth brushed off concerns over a perceived growing rift in the South Korea-US alliance as "fake news," Defense Minister Kang Shin-chul said Friday after a bilateral meeting with his US counterpart earlier this week. Kang said the secretary made the comment when the minister brought up South Korean media reports citing alliance friction over key bilateral issues, including an apparent gap in advancing the wartime operational control transition from Washington to Seoul

• Foreigners again sell Korean stocks in Sept. (2026-10-30 01:27)

Foreign investors again turned to net sellers of Korean stocks last month after snapping seven months of sell-offs in August amid extended geopolitical risks and woes over artificial intelligence (AI) profitability, data showed Friday. Offshore investors offloaded a net 19.11 trillion won ($14.25 billion) worth of local stocks last month, compared with a net purchase of 344 billion won the previous month, according to the data from the Financial Supervisory Service (FSS). Following their net sel

• Lions infielder Ryu Ji-hyuk savors 1st postseason homer vs. ex-team: 'It was incredible' (2026-10-30 01:26)

Samsung Lions infielder Ryu Ji-hyuk will never be mistaken for a power hitter. In 1,221 regular-season games over 15 years in the Korea Baseball Organization (KBO), Ryu has hit just 23 home runs. And in 38 postseason games before Thursday night, Ryu had zero homers. Ryu's breakthrough dinger came at an opportune time for his club. His two-run home run off Kia Tigers starter Keisho Shirakawa gave the Lions a 4-3 lead in the top of the fifth in Game 3 of the second round in the KBO postseason. Alt

• Nvidia to make $1 billion investment in Naver next week (2026-10-30 01:16)

Nvidia Corp. is scheduled to fulfill its $1 billion investment in Naver Corp. next Friday, according to the portal giant's regulatory filing Friday, a move set to make the U.S. chip giant the third-largest shareholder of the South Korean IT firm. The completion of the capital increase comes as Naver was able to secure at least $9 billion in computing infrastructure, the filing said. Naver will fix the number of common shares to be acquired by Nvidia via a rights offering on Tuesday. Currently, S

• KRX activates sell-side sidecar for KOSPI on sharp fall (2026-10-30 01:14)

South Korea's bourse operator on Friday activated a sell-side sidecar for the benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index as the stock index plunged. Program trading for the KOSPI-listed shares was suspended for five minutes at 10:04 a.m., according to the Korea Exchange. After opening 2.99 percent lower, the KOSPI fell 277.75 points, or 4.68 percent, to 5,661.7 as of 10:06 a.m. The index came under downward pressure following overnight losses on Wall Street, as renewed concerns over the sustain

• NewJeans generates 100m streams with ‘Zero’ (2026-10-30 01:14)

“Zero” by NewJeans passed 100 million plays on Spotify Tuesday, according to agency Ador on Thursday. The 2023 single is the group’s 17th song to reach that milestone on the platform. “Zero” was released as a campaign song for Coca-Cola, whose global music project invited the then-quintet to create the catchy single. Meanwhile, four members shared pictures on Friday to celebrate the fourth year of their official fandom community, Bunnies. NewJeans has suspended activities for nearly two years an

• Seoul stocks open lower on Wall Street losses, AI concerns (2026-10-30 00:42)

South Korean stocks opened lower Friday, tracking overnight losses on Wall Street, as renewed concerns over the sustainability of the artificial intelligence boom weighed on investor sentiment. After opening 2.99 percent lower, the benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index extended its earlier losses to trade lower 228.43 points, or 3.85 percent, to 5,709.23 as of 9:15 a.m. The index fell 1.24 percent in the previous session on profit-taking in heavyweight chip stocks, despite Samsung Electron

• S. Korea to open 1st Korean Cultural Center in Malaysia (2026-10-30 00:41)

South Korea was set to open its first Korean Cultural Center in Malaysia with a ceremony Friday. The new center marks the 36th such facility worldwide and the fifth in Southeast Asia. Located across from Kuala Lumpur's Petronas Twin Towers, the biggest tourist attraction in Malaysia, the venue has a 100-seat performance hall, an exhibition room, a cinema, a library and classrooms, according to Seoul's culture ministry. The performance hall on the first floor is equipped with a large LED panel to

• Seoul stocks open lower on Wall Street losses, AI concerns (2026-10-30 00:07)

South Korean stocks opened lower Friday, tracking overnight losses on Wall Street, as renewed concerns over the sustainability of the artificial intelligence (AI) boom weighed on investor sentiment. After opening 2.99 percent lower, the benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index (KOSPI) extended its earlier losses to trade lower 228.43 points, or 3.85 percent, to 5,709.23 as of 9:15 a.m. The index fell 1.24 percent in the previous session on profit-taking in heavyweight chip stocks, despite Sam

• Sept. industrial output growth hits 15-yr high on chips; retail sales, investment also up (2026-10-30 00:00)

South Korea's industrial output expanded in September from a month earlier at the fastest pace in more than 15 years, led by chips, data showed Friday, with retail sales and facility investment also gaining ground. Industrial production rose 3 percent on-month in September, according to data from the Ministry of Data and Statistics. It marked the sharpest gain since the 3.4 percent increase posted in March 2011. It also marked the first time since June that the three major indicators increased s

• Movies in theaters this week (2026-10-30 00:00)

“Heart of the Beast” (US) Opened Oct. 28 Thriller/Adventure Directed by David Ayer A retired soldier (Brad Pitt) and his dog try to survive in the Alaskan wilderness after a plane crash. “Ugly Duckling Ms. Maeng” (South Korea) Opened Oct. 28 Comedy Directed by Lee Yong-jae A teacher at a rural school (Lee Sun-bin) is mistakenly selected to help write Korea’s competitive college entrance exam. “Paradise Lost” (South Korea) Opened Oct. 21 Thriller Directed by Yeon Sang-ho When a boy who went missi

• North Korea displays drones, missiles as Kim Jong-un urges AI weapons push (2026-10-29 23:58)

North Korea has test-fired attack drones, missiles and a multiple rocket launcher at a weapons demonstration, state media reported Friday, as leader Kim Jong-un called for faster development of drone and AI technology for military use. The event came a day after Seoul said Pyongyang had fired 'around a dozen' short-range ballistic missiles off its east coast, though it was not immediately clear whether the launches were linked to the demonstration. At the event, Kim stressed the "aim to seize th

• US bill seeks to ease transfer of American munitions to Ukraine via S. Korea, allies (2026-10-29 23:36)

A bipartisan group of US lawmakers has introduced legislation that would streamline the transfer of certain US-origin munitions to Ukraine through South Korea and other American allies, congressional records showed Thursday. The House bill, introduced Monday by Rep. William Keating and five other lawmakers, would amend the Arms Export Control Act to establish a preapproval mechanism for third-party transfers of specified defense articles originally sold by the United States. Under the proposed l

• Beloved S. Korean TV icon Choi Bool-am dies at 87 (2026-10-29 22:05)

South Korean actor Choi Bool-am, widely known as the nation's father figure for his portrayals of paternal characters in popular television dramas, has died, his family said Friday. He was 87. Choi, whose real name was Choi Young-han, died at around 10 p.m. Thursday while receiving treatment at a hospital in western Seoul, according to his family. The actor had experienced difficulties walking after undergoing surgery for a herniated disc in March last year, prompting him to step down as host of

• [Robert J. Fouser] Japan in watch-and-wait mode (2026-10-29 20:30)

This year, I spent three weeks in Japan, my longest visit to the country in 10 years. I had plenty of time to talk with people to get a sense of where things stand in late 2026. I also spent time visiting bookshops and consuming news from various outlets across the country. The theme running through these conversations and observations is disquiet about the future mixed with guarded optimism. Three topics came up most frequently: geopolitics, artificial intelligence and foreigners. First, geopol

• S. Korean defense chief agrees to expand defense cooperation with Singapore, Vietnam (2026-10-29 13:18)

South Korean Defense Minister Kang Shin-chul on Thursday met with his Singaporean and Vietnamese counterparts to discuss ways to expand defense cooperation with the two countries, his ministry said. Kang met with Singapore's Defense Minister Chan Chun Sing on the sidelines of an extended defense ministers' meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in the Philippines, according to the ministry. During the talks, the two sides positively assessed their efforts to expand coopera

• Spy chief upholds Seoul's controversial repatriation of North Korean fishermen (2026-10-29 13:15)

National Intelligence Service Director Lee Jong-seok said Thursday that two North Korean fishermen accused of killing 16 fellow crew members should have been returned to North Korea, offering his personal assessment of the 2019 forced-repatriation case that remains politically and legally contentious. Lee made the remarks during a closed-door parliamentary audit of the National Assembly’s Intelligence Committee at the NIS headquarters in Seoul, according to Reps. Yoon Kun-young of the Democratic

• Jeju police identify suspect in ex-partner’s killing, stalking case (2026-10-29 12:54)

Jeju police on Thursday publicly identified a 61-year-old man accused of fatally stabbing his former partner after an investigation found he had allegedly stalked and threatened her over an extended period. The Jeju Provincial Police Agency released the name and photograph of Kang Seong-eun on its website. The disclosure will remain posted until Nov. 30. Kang was referred to prosecutors in detention this week on charges including retaliatory murder, aggravated

attempted abduction and confinement

• N. Korea builds ‘military leader' narrative around Kim Ju-ae: spy agency (2026-10-29 12:31)

South Korea’s National Intelligence Service said Thursday that North Korean leader Kim Jong-un’s daughter, Ju-ae, is further consolidating her status as his designated successor, with Pyongyang increasingly portraying her as a future military leader, including through appearances suggesting her involvement in nuclear and missile-related affairs. Thursday's assessment marks a rare official South Korean confirmation that Kim’s daughter is named Kim Ju-ae, a name North Korean state media have never

• Korea, Germany forge ‘enhanced strategic partnership’ as global risks mount (2026-10-29 09:46)

South Korea and Germany agreed to elevate their ties to an "enhanced strategic partnership," pledging to expand the scope of cooperation to advanced industries and future growth sectors while strengthening defense and security ties. President Lee Jae Myung and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz outlined the expanded partnership in a joint statement issued after their summit at Cheong Wa Dae in Seoul on Thursday. The two leaders noted that their meeting came "at a time of increased strategic conver

• Multicultural families struggle to see the perks under fire (2026-10-29 09:16)

For some marriage migrants in Korea, President Lee Jae Myung’s recent warnings about excessive benefits for multicultural families bear little resemblance to the lives they have led. Lee has posted several messages on X since Wednesday questioning whether certain benefits for such families go too far. Members of such families and their advocates say the debate risks obscuring the difficulties they continue to face while fueling hostility toward migrants. “Even after raising my children until the

• Korea's battery rebound yet to reach suppliers: KBIA chief (2026-10-29 08:55)

South Korea's battery industry is showing early signs of recovery as stalled electric vehicle projects resume and growing demand for energy storage systems helps offset a slowdown in the US EV market, a leading industry executive said Thursday. Eom Ki-cheon, chairman of the Korea Battery Industry Association and CEO of Posco Future M, said global EV projects began restarting late last year, raising hopes of a gradual rebound across the battery supply chain. Speaking to reporters ahead of Korea B

• Seoul, US making progress on OPCON transfer talks despite concerns over delay: security chief (2026-10-29 08:39)

South Korea and the United States are making progress in discussions of wartime operational control, National Security Adviser Wi Sung-lac said Thursday, amid concerns the postponement of a bilateral defense meeting and revised US military requirements could delay the transition.

Speaking during a parliamentary audit of the presidential office by the National AssemblySteering Committee, Wi said Seoul had been consulting with Washington with the goal ofcompleting the OPCON transfer within Presi

• Tigers captain calls for early offense in pivotal KBO postseason game (2026-10-29 08:35)

With his Kia Tigers gearing up for a pivotal game in the ongoing Korea Baseball Organization (KBO) postseason series, captain Na Sung-bum said Thursday he hoped for some early offense against the Samsung Lions. The teams split the first two games of this best-of-five battle at the Lions' home in the southeastern city of Daegu. The series has now moved to Gwangju-Kia Champions Field in the southwestern city of Gwangju, where the Tigers will try to win two straight games and close out the series.

• Samsung SDS targets Asia-first Nvidia Vera Rubin cloud launch (2026-10-29 08:30)

Samsung SDS is seeking to become Asia's first cloud provider to offer Nvidia's next-generation Vera Rubin GPUs in March 2027, accelerating its push into AI infrastructure as demand for computing power surges. CEO Lee Joon-hee unveiled the plan Thursday during the company's third-quarter earnings call, outlining a phased expansion of its GPU-as-a-service business, starting with Nvidia's B300 chips later this year. "Following our selection by the Ministry of Science and ICT to build and operate GP

• Can't answer it all, but South Korean Army AI cuts paperwork, boosts training (2026-10-29 08:25)

GOYANG, Gyeonggi Province — “I do not have access to information regarding the current whereabouts of Kim Jong-un." This was Arvis's response to the prompt “Tell me the whereabouts of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un.” Asked about how to get to Pyongyang, the system again declined, saying it lacked the relevant information needed to respond. Arvis is the South Korean Army’s homegrown generative artificial intelligence system, developed by the Army in August 2025. It entered service in 2026 and wa

• Dubujorim, seared tofu braised in soy sauce (2026-10-29 08:20)

By Korean Food Promotion Institute Dubujorim is one of the most familiar side dishes on a Korean table. It is the kind of banchan that appears alongside a bowl of rice when little else is in the refrigerator. The name combines "dubu," or tofu, with "jorim," a cooking method in which ingredients simmer in a soy-based sauce until the liquid reduces and is absorbed. The same technique is used for potatoes, black beans, lotus root and fish such as mackerel and hairtail. What sets this dish apart is

• [Contribution] From Seongsu to Jeju, Korean design is making its case (2026-10-29 08:17)

By Eleni Stefania Kalapoda On Oct. 22, at a ceremony in Eindhoven in the Netherlands during Dutch Design Week, Korea left the FRAME Awards 2026 with two of its most coveted titles. Mongtan Aewol, a restaurant on Jeju Island’s western shore designed by the Seoul studio

Beodd, was named restaurant of the year with a score of 9.38, the highest for any spatial winnerthis year. Burdifilek’s Cosmetics Floor at Hyundai Jungdong in Bucheon, Gyeonggi Province,was named multibrand store of the year. Bes

• Halloween in Seoul: What to know before heading out (2026-10-29 08:10)

Visitors heading to Seoul’s popular nightlife districts for Halloween this weekend may face road closures and subway trains skipping crowded stations as authorities step up crowd safety measures. Seoul’s special safety measures run from Oct. 23, with heightened monitoring from Friday through Sunday. Authorities are monitoring crowd conditions across 14 areas using AI-equipped surveillance cameras and real-time city data. Here is what to know before heading out. Eight areas have been designated f

• Hundreds of customers' personal information at Bithumb leaked in hacks (2026-10-29 08:05)

Personal information of hundreds of customers at cryptocurrency exchange Bithumb has been leaked in a recent cyberattack, industry sources said Thursday. Bithumb reported a data breach in its in-house mobile system on Wednesday, but the incident was initially believed to have affected only its employees. After analyzing the scope of the data leak, Bithumb found that personal information of hundreds of customers has also been exposed, according to the sources. Three financial firms -- Daishin Sec

• How cast of '100 Days of Deception' trained for multilingual roles (2026-10-29 08:02)

TvN’s latest K-drama juggernaut "100 Days of Deception" is fast becoming the season's breakout standout. Headlined by Hallyu heavyweights Kim You-jung and GOT7’s Park Jin-young, the historical thriller achieved a series-high rating with its Sunday episode, hitting a 9.9 percent nationwide average and dominating its timeslot across all broadcast and cable networks. Set against the backdrop of the Japanese colonial era, the espionage drama centers on Lee Ga-kyung (Kim), a street-smart thief presse

• Kids from wealthier families read more at libraries: study (2026-10-29 07:58)

Children and teenagers from better-off households read more library books and begin using librbaries earlier than those from less affluent families, according to a report by the Korea Institute of Child Care and Education. Monthly reading through libraries averaged 11.8 books among those in the highest household income category, compared with 6.4 in the middle category and 4.7 in the lowest — a roughly 2.5-fold gap between the top and bottom groups. The government-affiliated institute drew on th

• Katseye to hold first solo concert in Korea (2026-10-29 07:55)

Katseye will hold its first stand-alone concert in South Korea in February, as the group expands its “The Wildworld Tour” across Asia and Oceania. Katseye announced Thursday that it will perform at the Kspo Dome in southern Seoul on Feb. 4, marking the group’s first solo concert

in Korea since debuting in 2024. The Seoul stop forms part of an 11-city Asia-Oceania legrunning from January through March 2027, following the group’s ongoing tour across Europeand North America. The newly announced l

• Tigers manager counting on left-handed relievers to bounce back (2026-10-29 07:53)

Kia Tigers manager Lee Bum-ho said Thursday he was counting on his two key left-handed relievers to regain their form in the ongoing South Korean baseball postseason series against the Samsung Lions. With the Lions doling out a left-heavy lineup in the Korea Baseball Organization (KBO) postseason, led by the 100-RBI trio of Koo Ja-wook, Lewin Diaz and Choi Hyoung-woo, the Tigers have precious few southpaw options to deal with them in high-leverage spots in late innings. Lee Eui-lee pitched 1 1/3

• Seoul shares down 1.24% as Samsung disappoints on shareholder returns (2026-10-29 07:52)

South Korean shares dropped 1.24 percent Thursday following Samsung Electronics' third-quarter earnings that slightly missed expectations and disappointed investors by providing no updates on its shareholder-return plan. The Korean won gained ground against the US dollar. The benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index lost 74.78 points to close at 5,937.66, after rising as high as 6,100.11 On Wednesday, the KOSPI surged by more than 6 percent, led by a rally in chipmakers after SK hynix reporte

• Boditech Med partners with Brazil's Biosys for local diagnostics production (2026-10-29 07:38)

Boditech Med, a South Korean in vitro diagnostics manufacturer, has signed an agreement with Brazilian diagnostics firm Biosys to establish a local production base, aiming to cut costs and expand its presence in South America, the company said Thursday. The deal extends the companies’ existing distribution partnership into manufacturing, as Boditech seeks to strengthen price competitiveness and improve supply efficiency in Brazil. The initiative comes as the diagnostics market adjusts following

• Seoraksan sees first snow (2026-10-29 07:35)

The season’s first snow fell on the upper slopes of Seoraksan Thursday as temperatures dropped below freezing across parts of Gangwon Province. Snow began falling at around 11:40 a.m. in areas including Daecheongbong, the mountain’s highest peak, according to the Seoraksan National Park Office. No accumulation had been recorded as of 12:40 p.m. The temperature at Jungcheong shelter fell to minus 2.5 degrees Celsius. The snowfall came nine days later than last year’s first snow and 10 days later

• KHNP-Daewoo deal derailed on W25tr Czech nuclear project (2026-10-29 07:32)

Korea Hydro & Nuclear Power has broken off construction contract talks with a Daewoo Engineering & Construction-led consortium for its $18.6 billion Czech nuclear project, exposing

a major rift within the South Korean team behind one of the country's largest overseas nuclear deals. The state-run nuclear operator said Thursday it would move to terminate its cooperation agreement with the consortium, which includes Doosan Enerbility, and launch a new bidding process to find a replacement contracto

• E-Mart expands Mongolia footprint with seventh store (2026-10-29 07:32)

E-Mart opened its seventh store in Mongolia on Thursday at UG Arena in Ulaanbaatar. It plans to open an eighth store at Ulaanbaatar Department Store in November and expand its No Brand specialty store network to seven locations by year-end, further growing its presence in the Mongolian retail market. The 3,272-square-meter store is E-Mart's third mid-sized outlet in Mongolia since its market entry in 2016. Located on the first floor of UG Arena, it targets nearby residents and office workers as

• SK Bioscience joins $99m BDBV vaccine development project (2026-10-29 07:32)

SK Bioscience said Thursday it will join a Bundibugyo virus vaccine development project backed by up to $99 million from the US Department of Health and Human Services' Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority. The initiative, involving nonprofit research organizations IAVI and Hilleman Laboratories, has received $36 million in initial funding. The project addresses BDBV outbreaks in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and other areas. With no BDBV-specific vaccine or treatment av

• N. Korea appears to test propaganda loudspeakers along border (2026-10-29 07:28)

North Korea appears to have conducted a test broadcast of its propaganda loudspeakers in areas along the inter-Korean border Thursday, a week after North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's sister issued a warning. Residents in the South Korean border city of Paju said that loudspeaker broadcasts from North Korea began at 6 a.m., adding the volume was relatively low, but the sounds were audible from the early morning. "At 6:30 a.m., I heard music for a brief moment, followed by faint sounds resembling g

• Coex expands Vietnam trade shows with 147 exhibitors (2026-10-29 07:25)

South Korean convention and exhibition organizer Coex opened two international trade shows in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, on Thursday, bringing together 147 companies from 10 countries to explore business opportunities in the country's franchise and coffee markets. The Vietnam International Franchise Show 2026 and Coffee Expo Vietnam 2026 are being held simultaneously through Saturday at the Saigon Exhibition & Convention Center, featuring a combined 430 booths. The franchise exhibition brings to

• Temporary men's football coach stresses need to focus on controllables amid controversy (2026-10-29 07:08)

With the men's national football team under intense scrutiny due to a controversy surrounding apparent discord among key players, Robert Moreno, the squad's temporary head coach,

insisted on the need to focus on the controllables Thursday. Moreno announced a 26-man squad for friendlies against Saudi Arabia and Qatar scheduled for November. Rather than those upcoming matches, his press conference at Korea Football Park in Cheonan, some 80 kilometers south of Seoul, was instead dominated by questi

• Hyundai Motor Q3 profit rises 5.5% despite sales slump (2026-10-29 06:46)

Hyundai Motor on Thursday said its third-quarter operating profit climbed 5.5 percent from a year ago, driven by strong hybrid sales and favorable exchange rates, even as labor strikes and weakening global demand weighed on vehicle sales and revenue. South Korea’s largest carmaker posted an operating profit of 2.7 trillion won ($2.02 billion) for the July-September period, up from about 2.54 trillion won a year earlier, according to a regulatory filing. Revenue fell 3.4 percent on-year to 45.11

• Actor Yoon Dae-yeol shut off gas valves after Incheon explosion, preventing further damage (2026-10-29 06:44)

Police revealed Thursday that the person who helped prevent further damage by closing the valves on two gas cylinders after an explosion at an Incheon restaurant was actor Yoon Dae-yeol The Incheon Seobu Police Station said the 48-year-old was walking near a building in Majeon-dong around 8:45 a.m. on Tuesday when the explosion occurred. He immediately rushed over, shut off the valves on two liquefied petroleum gas cylinders outside the restaurant and called police. “I knew where the gas cylinde

• Cheong Wa Dae urges N. Korea to cease provocations following missile launch (2026-10-29 06:44)

The Office of National Security at the presidential office of Cheong Wa Dae held an emergency meeting Thursday and urged North Korea to cease provocations after Pyongyang fired a dozen short-range ballistic missiles toward the East Sea. The meeting was attended by officials from the defense ministry and the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) to analyze and assess the North's latest missile launch, according to Cheong Wa Dae. The office stressed the need to take all necessary measures in response to the

• NK leader may have discussed potential talks with US during China visit (2026-10-29 06:39)

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un may have conveyed Pyongyang's position on potential talks with the United States during his recent visit to China, Seoul's spy agency told lawmakers Thursday. The National Intelligence Service (NIS) made the assessment during a closed-door parliamentary intelligence committee audit, according to Rep. Youn Kun-young of the ruling Democratic Party and Rep. Yoo Yeong-ha of the main opposition People Power Party. The NIS also said Kim may have had a purpose for his vi

• Korean traditional art comes to Tuscany's sculpture town (2026-10-29 06:35)

A showcase of Korean traditional art and music took place in Pietrasanta, a town in Italy's Tuscany region known for its marble studios and galleries. Now in its second year, the 2026 K-Art & Culture Festival was organized by Kim Kyung-su and Seok Tae-jin of Gallery Ilbaekheon and Geulssi21. Local partner Marble Studio Stagetti hosted the event, which ran Oct. 5 to 16, with support from the town government. The program centered on Korea's traditional art forms: calligraphy, the folk painting kno

• KB Financial retains profit crown with record W5.79tr earnings (2026-10-29 06:35)

KB Financial Group posted record earnings for the first nine months of 2026, retaining its lead over domestic banking rivals as surging fee income from securities trading and investment products boosted profits. The group said Thursday its cumulative net profit rose 13.1 percent on-year to an all-time high of 5.79 trillion won ($4.33 billion) for the January-September period. Third-quarter net profit, however, slipped 4.3 percent from the previous quarter's record to 1.91 trillion won as weaker

• Doosan Enerbility wins SMR supply deal from US firm NuScale Power (2026-10-29 06:30)

Doosan Enerbility Co. said Thursday it has secured a contract from US-based small modular reactor (SMR) developer NuScale Power to supply a key reactor component, expanding their cooperation into commercial reactor equipment production. The South Korean power plant equipment maker said the deal covers production of the first upper reactor pressure vessel (URPV) module for NuScale's SMR project. The URPV forms the upper section of the reactor pressure vessel, which contains high-temperature, high

• S. Korea eyes virtuous cycle via green economic growth (2026-10-29 06:26)

The South Korean government aims to foster a virtuous cycle in which carbon neutrality drives economic growth and job creation through its green transformation initiative, the finance minister said Thursday. "Climate change is already posing a serious threat to our lives and our economies as evidenced by record-breaking heat waves, droughts and floods," Finance Minister Lee Hyoung-il said in a congratulatory message during the Global Green Growth Week Summit held in Seoul, hosted by the Global G

• Gay nightlife moves deeper into Jongno's alleys (2026-10-29 06:21)

Outdoor food stalls spill into an alley in Jongno, Seoul, where locals and tourists grill meat and drink soju late into the evening. Less than two meters away, the bars on the other side of the alley give off a different vibe: no outdoor seating, their doors firmly shut. The bars aren't closed. They are gay bars. For decades, the alley has served as a gathering place for gay men looking to meet new people, share drinks, and find a sense of community. But the area of Jongno-3-ga has grown into an

• Shinsegae expands Busan foothold with Lotte deal (2026-10-29 06:21)

Shinsegae Department Store is acquiring rival Lotte Department Store's Centum City branch in Busan, seeking to consolidate its dominance in the city's retail market and transform the district into a major shopping, tourism and entertainment destination. The retailer plans to integrate the Lotte property with its existing Shinsegae Centum City complex to create a sprawling commercial hub dubbed "Shinsegae Town." Opened in 2009, Shinsegae Centum City has become one of Korea's most successful depar

- S. Korea, US stage tabletop drills on integrating conventional, nuclear capabilities against N. Korean threats (2026-10-29 06:19)

South Korea and the United States conducted a key tabletop military exercise to integrate conventional and nuclear capabilities in a bid to deter North Korean threats, officials said Thursday. The allies conducted the Iron Mace exercise at the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) headquarters in Seoul from Sept. 29 to Oct. 2, according to military officials. During the drills, the allies were believed to have discussed ways to strengthen Washington's extended deterrence against North Korean nuclear and m

- Korea's chip boom catches US Fed chair's eye (2026-10-29 06:18)

As the US Federal Reserve held its key interest rate steady, Chair Kevin Warsh pointed to South Korea's importance in the global technology supply chain as a reason for tracking its economy. " I would say I pay probably more attention to the Korean economy than you might think because when I am looking at the feedstocks effectively for this new surge in technology, a lot of it is coming from Japan and Korea, some from Singapore," Warsh said at a press conference Wednesday after the Fed announced

- 2026 MAMAs bet on big collabs, citywide fan festival (2026-10-29 06:18)

The 2026 Mnet Asian Music Awards is expanding on and off the stage, with cross-generational collaborations pairing Big Bang with Korean animation character Dooly, Enhypen with the “Dune” franchise and veteran duo Panic with a younger generation of K-pop artists. CJ ENM unveiled details of the two-day awards show during a press conference in southern Seoul on Thursday, outlining plans to turn this year’s event into a broader music festival beyond Kyocera Dome Osaka, where the ceremony will be hel

- Bayern routs Magdeburg 6-1 to reach German Cup round of 16 (2026-10-29 06:13)

Bayern Munich cruised into the round of 16 of the German Cup with a 6-1 win over second-division Magdeburg, while South Korea defender Kim Min-jae remained on the bench after returning from injury. The Bundesliga powerhouse beat Magdeburg at Allianz Arena in Munich on Wednesday in the round of 32 of the 2026-27 DFB-Pokal. Michael Olise opened the scoring in the 10th minute, but Magdeburg equalized five minutes later through Mateusz Zukowski. Bayern regained the lead in the 21st minute through Is

- Parties clash over stalled N. Korean human rights foundation (2026-10-29 06:12)

Rival parties clashed Thursday over the decadelong delay in establishing a foundation tasked with addressing North Korean human rights abuses. During a parliamentary audit of the National Human Rights Commission of Korea, lawmakers from the main opposition People Power Party criticized the Democratic Party of Korea for failing to nominate board members to the North Korean Human Rights Foundation, and thus preventing its launch. The foundation mandated under the North Korean Human Rights Act, whi

• Seoul's record 2027 budget bets big on AI and housing (2026-10-29 06:09)

Seoul unveiled a record 55.7 trillion won ($41.8 billion) budget proposal for 2027 on Thursday, prioritizing AI access for young people and housing support through public rental homes and rent subsidies. “With the job market and workplace changing at lightning speed, even a delay of a few months could make a decisive difference,” Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon told reporters. The city allocated 26.6 billion won to provide generative AI subscriptions and tailored training for 500,000 young residents, rev

• Players at center of friction controversy called up for men's football friendlies (2026-10-29 06:07)

All principal figures caught in the controversy surrounding apparent friction on the men's national football team were selected for the upcoming friendly matches Thursday. Robert Moreno, temporary head coach for the Taegeuk Warriors, named his 26-man squad for matches against Saudi Arabia on Nov. 13 and Qatar on Nov. 17 -- both set to take place in Doha. The list included defender Kim Min-jae, midfielder Hwang In-beom and winger Hwang Hee-chan. This trio reportedly told their teammates they want

• AI data center boom powers Samsung SDI's profit comeback (2026-10-29 06:05)

Samsung SDI returned to an operating profit in the third quarter, driven by robust demand for energy storage systems and backup batteries amid the rapid expansion of artificial intelligence data centers. The South Korean battery maker posted an operating profit of 407.8 billion won ($305 million) for the July-September period, reversing a loss of 591.3 billion won a year earlier, according to a regulatory filing. Revenue jumped 52.6 percent on-year to 4.69 trillion won. The company’s profit doub

• SK Innovation's profit surges sixfold on strong oil, lubricants margins (2026-10-29 06:04)

SK Innovation posted record operating profit in the third quarter, fueled by soaring refining margins amid Middle East tensions and an unprecedented earnings surge at its lubricants business. The South Korean energy giant said Thursday its quarterly operating profit jumped 532.5 percent on-year to 3.07 trillion won ($2.3 billion) in the July-September period, while revenue climbed 39.7 percent to 28.77 trillion won. The standout performer was lubricants subsidiary SK Enmove, which generated a re

• Fan denies racist taunt at Son, explains he shouted 'mijo' (2026-10-29 06:00)

A spectator accused of directing a racist remark at South Korea captain Son Heung-min during an MLS match has denied the allegation, saying he shouted "mijo," not "ni hao." The fan posted a lengthy explanation Tuesday on LAFC Fans, an official online communication channel for Los Angeles FC supporters, insisting that claims he had used the Chinese greeting "ni hao" toward Son were false. The New York Post had earlier reported that video from LAFC's 2-2 draw with the LA Galaxy at BMO Stadium on S

- KHNP ends talks with consortium on Czech nuclear plant construction contract (2026-10-29 05:50)

Korea Hydro & Nuclear Power Co. (KHNP), South Korea's state-run nuclear power operator, said Thursday it has ended negotiations with a local consortium on a construction contract for a nuclear power plant project in the Czech Republic after the two sides failed to agree on key terms. "The company has decided to terminate negotiations with a consortium comprising Daewoo Engineering & Construction Co. and Doosan Enerbility Co. for the Dukovany nuclear power plant project. The breakdown is due to d

- Merck bets $334m on Korea as Asia-Pacific biopharma hub (2026-10-29 05:48)

German science and technology company Merck has opened a $334 million bioprocessing plant in Daejeon, its largest life science investment in Asia-Pacific, as it seeks to bring production closer to regional drugmakers. The company said Thursday that the 44,500-square-meter facility in Dungok, Daejeon, will manufacture critical materials used in the development and production of biologic medicines, strengthening supply chains for drugmakers across the region. The plant will produce dry powder and

- Next Ukraine talks depends on Middle East: Kremlin aide (2026-10-29 05:46)

The timing of the next round of three-way talks on a settlement of the Ukraine conflict is linked to the conflict in the Middle East, Kremlin foreign policy aide Yuri Ushakov was quoted as saying Wednesday, casting doubt on whether the talks will take place next month as initially proposed. Ushakov, quoted by Russian news agencies, said Moscow had not yet proposed a specific date for the talks. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Wednesday he hoped that a meeting would take place in

- MAMA Awards to expand beyond stage with fan festival, cross-genre collaborations (2026-10-29 05:44)

The MAMA Awards, one of K-pop's biggest year-end music events, will step outside its traditional in-venue ceremony format this year by launching a fan festival across its host city of Osaka and featuring collaboration stages with contemporary art, film and animation, organizers said Thursday. This year's edition will be held on Nov. 20 and 21 at Kyocera Dome Osaka in Japan under the concept "A Music Interstellar," they added. Regarding this year's theme, Yoon Shin-hye, head of CJ ENM's music cab

• US warns allies to prepare for possible Iran strikes (2026-10-29 05:43)

US officials have told several Middle East countries and regional allies to be prepared for potential renewed military action against Iran after next week's midterm elections in the US — as well as the possibility that Iran will attempt to retaliate against them, according to two diplomats briefed on the matter. Both of the diplomats spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to comment about the sensitive warnings conveyed by US diplomats and defense officials. US Pres

• Mirae Asset buys Japanese brokerage to break into retail market (2026-10-29 05:43)

Mirae Asset Securities is set to enter Japan's retail brokerage market through the acquisition of Sanko Securities, a Japanese brokerage owned by Okasan Securities Group, as the Korean financial firm expands its overseas business. Mirae Asset Securities said Thursday its board had approved the acquisition of Sanko through its US subsidiary, Mirae Asset Securities Holdings, for an estimated 47.6 billion won ($35.6 million). The company will inject 12 billion yen ($76.1 million) into the US subsid

• Korea plans to require firms to hold retirement funds externally by 2030 (2026-10-29 05:41)

South Korea plans to require all employers to keep funds for workers' retirement benefits outside their businesses by 2030, seeking to reduce the risk of employees leaving their jobs without being paid. "We must develop retirement pensions worth more than 500 trillion won ($373.9 billion) into a genuine retirement income security system," Labor Minister Kim Young-hoon said Thursday. The government unveiled the proposal after a policy meeting with ruling party lawmakers at the National Assembly.

• Prosecutors again seek death penalty for former President Yoon (2026-10-29 05:41)

Former President Yoon Suk Yeol again faced a demand for the death penalty Thursday as special prosecutors argued that his life sentence for leading an insurrection was too lenient. Special counsel Cho Eun-suk's team had also sought the death penalty at his first trial, but the court sentenced him to life imprisonment in February. At the Seoul High Court, the team said there was "no reason to hesitate to impose the death penalty" over Yoon's Dec. 3, 2024, martial law declaration. Special prosecut

• A trip to the Rockies via Tim Hortons' first global flagship (2026-10-29 05:40)

A red canoe rests by a lake, a wooden bridge leads to the door and cabin booths fill the wood-paneled interior. What appears to be a Rocky Mountain resort is, in fact, Tim Hortons' first international flagship, in Seoul's Seongsu-dong. Banff Town Seongsu, slated to open Tuesday, recreates its namesake, a mountain resort town long beloved by Korean travelers, to make the brand's presence in Korea more Canadian than ever, down to the props shipped from Canada. "We've opened many stores to meet cus

• Netanyahu and rival face postelection choices (2026-10-29 05:38)

Israelis braced for perhaps weeks of political uncertainty Wednesday after an election that has challenged Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ' s grip on power and raised the almost unthinkable possibility of some Jewish and Arab parties teaming up in an effort to unseat him. Final election results could come this week, though no clear winner is expected to emerge. Arab-led parties made a historic showing, but it' s not clear if the other opponents of Netanyahu's far-right government would form a c

• Spain reckons with deadly train crash ahead of election (2026-10-29 05:36)

Spain's second high-speed rail disaster this year, a crash in which one train struck another from behind, killing 68 people, has raised fresh concerns about the safety of the country's rail network. Spain' s network of high-speed rail has been considered one of the nation' s crowning achievements. It ranks second to China in track mileage in the world. Until this year, it had not endured a deadly crash since coming into service over three decades ago. The collision Wednesday that turned a sleepy s

• Kolmar Korea makes skincare needles that melt away (2026-10-29 05:36)

Kolmar Korea has developed what it says is South Korea's first dissolvable hyaluronic acid skincare powder, offering a potentially gentler alternative to conventional spicules used to enhance ingredient absorption. The cosmetics manufacturer said Thursday it had secured a patent for the technology, which turns hyaluronic acid, a widely used moisturizing ingredient, into microscopic needle-shaped crystals that dissolve upon contact with moisture. Conventional spicules, typically derived from mari

• Trump in Ohio and Obama in Georgia make closing stretch appeals to midterm voters in pivotal states (2026-10-29 05:35)

Georgia Democrats rallied with former US President Barack Obama Wednesday night, at the same time US President Donald Trump was in Ohio attempting to energize his base, as both parties began crystallizing their closing messages ahead of next week's midterm elections. Trump has been on a weekslong sprint around the country, doing 20-plus rallies this month alone while packing upcoming days with more travel. But as Americans confront record fuel prices, rising costs and an unpopular war in Iran, t

• HanmiGlobal to explore Tumen River's role in Arctic trade (2026-10-29 05:35)

HanmiGlobal, a South Korean construction project management firm, will host a seminar in Seoul on Nov. 5 to explore infrastructure development and economic cooperation along the Tumen River, which marks the border between North Korea and China, and between North Korea and Russia at its lower end. The event, jointly organized by HanmiGlobal's Institute of Unified Korea Construction Strategy and the Korean Association of North Korean Studies, will examine how emerging Arctic shipping routes and re

• [단독] JYP 지분 인수 예고한 넥스록 "지난주 JYP에 알렸다" (2026-10-29 05:35)

일본계 투자그룹 넥스록이 JYP엔터테인먼트와의 협상 계획을 사전에 통보했다고 밝혔다. 넥스록은 29일 코리아헤럴드를 통해 “10월 21일 이메일을 통해 JYP에 향후 협상 계획을 알렸다”고 말했다. 이어 “단순한 관심 표명 보도자료에 이처럼 면밀한 검증이 뒤따를 것으로 예상하지 못했다”면서 “이와 관련해 JYP와 금융감독원 양측에 연락해 모든 사항을 명확히 설명했다”고 덧붙였다. 금감원은 지난 27일 넥스록과 SVCV의 공개매수 발표 이후 주가가 급등하자 불공정거래 가능성을 살피기 위해 양측을 면밀히 모니터링하고 있다고 밝혔다. 앞서 넥스록과 SVCV는 26일 보도자료를 통해 JYP엔터테인먼트 발행주식의 25~50%를 공개매수하는 방안을 검토하고 있다고 밝혔다. 공개매수 개시 목표일은 11월 20일이며, 기준주가에 30%의 프리미엄을 더한 수준으로 매수가격을 검토하고 있다고 설명했다. 양사는 공개매수에 앞서 JYP엔터테인먼트에 법적 구속력이 없는 인수 제안서를 비공개로 제출하고 약

• US and Japan, long alarmed by China's aggression, agree to establish missile-production facility (2026-10-29 05:34)

The United States and Japan have agreed to establish a Japanese facility for the joint production of advanced medium-range air-to-air missiles, the Japanese defense chief said late Wednesday. It is the latest move by the allies, which have repeatedly expressed alarm over China’s growing aggression in Asia. Japanese Defense Minister Shinjiro Koizumi made the announcement in a news conference Wednesday night in the central province of Cebu, where he met US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth on the sid

• Neymar handed two-game ban for covering mouth during on-field argument (2026-10-29 05:33)

Brazilian soccer star Neymar of Santos has been handed an additional two-game suspension for violating the so-called "Vinicius rule." The Associated Press and Reuters reported Wednesday that Neymar was punished for covering his mouth while arguing with an opposing player during a Brazilian league match. Neymar, 34, was sent off during Santos' 1-1 home draw with Bahia on Saturday after getting into an argument with midfielder Rodrigo Nestor shortly before halftime, with Santos trailing 1-0. Durin

• Nexroc says it alerted JYP before takeover announcement (2026-10-29 05:33)

Japanese investment group Nexroc said Thursday it had notified JYP Entertainment of its planned takeover talks before publicly announcing a potential tender offer, pushing back against concerns raised by South Korea's financial watchdog. "JYP was informed via email on October 21st about the upcoming negotiations," Nexroc told The Korea Herald. "We did not expect such scrutiny from a simple expression of interest press announcement," the company said, adding that it had contacted both JYP and the

• Apple shows pricey touchscreen laptops, a first for the iPhone maker (2026-10-29 05:31)

Apple CEO John Ternus unveiled the company's first touchscreen MacBooks Wednesday, abandoning a long-held aversion to the technology as it caps a burst of product launches ahead

of the holiday shopping season. On stage at an Apple event in Los Angeles, Ternus showed a MacBook Pro model with an organic light-emitting diode display, playing up the display's contrast, sharpness and brightness in front of an audience of content creators and creative professionals. He also said the company would re

• LS Cable unit wins W120b US AI data center cable deal (2026-10-29 05:30)

Gaon Cable, a subsidiary of LS Cable & System, has secured a 120 billion won ($90 million) cable supply deal with a global cloud provider in the US, capitalizing on surging demand for power infrastructure driven by the AI data center boom. The company said Wednesday that its US manufacturing subsidiary, LSCUS, will supply medium-voltage power distribution cables for multiple AI data center projects across the US from October through the first half of 2027. The deal marks the largest single-custo

• Business leaders urged to embrace AI, rethink old strategies (2026-10-29 05:28)

Companies that want to survive the artificial intelligence shake-up need more than new tools: They need leaders willing to use them and rethink strategies that once worked, speakers at this week's Global Business Forum said Wednesday. The fifth weekly session of the forum's 10th edition, organized by The Korea Herald and Herald Business, was held in Seoul under the theme " Connecting People and Technology, Opening New Possibilities." Sheikh Saleh Alsharqi, counselor and head of economic affairs a

• PM says to foster 200 'frontier' bio, pharmaceutical firms by 2030 (2026-10-29 05:28)

Prime Minister Han Seong-sook said Thursday that the government will select 200 bio and pharmaceutical companies by 2030 and help them grow enough to compete on the global stage. Han made the remark at a national policy coordination meeting held at a Chong Kun Dang Pharmaceutical Corp. factory in the central city of Cheonan, stressing that South Korea should identify and foster innovative firms armed with new technologies and ideas. She said 50 " frontier" companies will be selected every year by

• Samsung fires back in AI chip race with record W107tr profit (2026-10-29 05:18)

Samsung Electronics' revenue from its sixth-generation high-bandwidth memory chips (HBM4) more than tripled in the third quarter, and its planned HBM supply for 2027 had already sold out. During its third-quarter earnings call Thursday, where the chipmaker outlined record capital spending of 84.4 trillion won ($63.2 billion), Samsung said HBM4 accounted for about 60 percent of its total HBM revenue, helping it meet its market share target ahead of schedule. " Negotiations for our 2027 HBM supply

• N. Korea fires nearly dozen ballistic missiles after S. Korea's dialogue offer (2026-10-29 05:17)

North Korea fired about a dozen short-range ballistic missiles toward the East Sea on Thursday, the South Korean military said, in an apparent cold rebuff to Seoul's offer for talks aimed at

easing border tensions sparked by a recent land mine blast. The missiles were launched from the Wonsan area on the North's east coast at around 12:30 p.m. and flew about 250 kilometers, the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said, adding that further analysis of other specifications was under way with coordination

• Son, '96-line' players all named to South Korea squad for November friendlies (2026-10-29 05:15)

Kim Min-jae of Bayern Munich, Hwang Hee-chan of Schalke and Hwang In-beom of Porto, who were involved in a recent retirement controversy, have all been named to South Korea's squad for the November friendlies along with captain Son Heung-min of LAFC. Head coach Robert Moreno announced a 26-man roster Wednesday at Korea Football Park in Cheonan for the national team's November friendlies in the Middle East. The squad includes key players Son, Kim, Hwang Hee-chan and Hwang In-beom, the latter thre

• Back-to-back failures of ruling party lawmakers' US entry sparks debate (2026-10-29 05:03)

Repeated difficulties for ruling Democratic Party of Korea lawmakers in obtaining US visas are sparking debate over the state of the Seoul-Washington alliance, and questions over US immigration's treatment of South Korean politicians carrying out official duties. On Wednesday, Rep. Jin Sung-joon, chair of the parliamentary National Defense Committee, revealed that his US visa application has been put on hold. Jin is the second Democratic Party lawmaker to experience such an issue recently, follo

• Watchdog to fine Celltrion 630m over unfair subcontracting practices (2026-10-29 04:59)

South Korea's antitrust watchdog said Thursday it will impose a 630 million-won ($469,000) fine on Celltrion Inc., a biotechnology firm, for unfairly canceling orders and failing to provide a subcontractor with required documents on time. The Fair Trade Commission (FTC) said it will also issue a corrective order against the company over violations related to COVID-19 test kits with a local subcontractor. Of the total fine, 590 million won will be imposed for unfair order cancellations and 40 mil

• S. Korea-US defense chiefs to meet in December as SCM delayed to 2027 (2026-10-29 04:59)

South Korea-US defense talks will be held in Washington next month, but the annual Security Consultative Meeting, where the allies were expected to discuss key issues, has been postponed. The agreement came as Defense Minister Kang Shin-chul met US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth for the first time on the sidelines of the 13th ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting-Plus in the Philippines on Wednesday, according to Seoul's Defense Ministry. At the meeting, Hegseth reaffirmed Washington's commitment to

• Cheong Wa Dae seeks fairer priority system for postpartum care centers (2026-10-29 04:51)

Cheong Wa Dae said Thursday it will consider revising the law to ensure greater fairness and rationality in prioritizing access to postpartum care centers. Postpartum care centers, where new mothers stay and recover after childbirth, are popular in South Korea. Those subsidized by local governments, in particular, face intense competition for reservations because they charge relatively low fees. The issue drew media attention after President Lee Jae Myung shared an online community post on his X

• Lee, Merz seek stronger supply chain, high-tech ties amid global volatility (2026-10-29 04:47)

Securing critical supply chains in key industries and expanding high-tech cooperation sit high on the agenda as President Lee Jae Myung and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz pursue stronger South Korea-Germany relations, according to Seoul. Lee is scheduled to host Merz at Cheong Wa Dae in Seoul on Thursday afternoon, with renewable energy, power grids and defense also among the areas of potential cooperation. The two manufacturing powerhouses face growing pressure to diversify supply chains and

• Germany, S. Korea can’ t replace US or China but can bolster stability: envoy (2026-10-29 04:38)

Germany and South Korea can bolster economic and security stability through closer cooperation as middle powers amid conflicts in Europe and the Middle East, German Ambassador Georg Schmidt said, while cautioning that neither can replace the United States or China. Speaking with The Korea Herald on Wednesday ahead of German Chancellor Friedrich Merz’ s summit with President Lee Jae Myung in Seoul, Schmidt pointed to industrial partnerships, technological cooperation and political coordination as

• Brewers win first World Series of franchise (2026-10-29 04:27)

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (AP) -- The small-ball Milwaukee Brewers, playing in the smallest market in the majors, are World Series champions for the first time. Young ace Jacob Misiorowski threw 5 2/3 scoreless innings, rookie Cooper Pratt had two hits and two RBIs, and the Brewers beat the Tampa Bay Rays 4-1 in Game 5 on Wednesday night, setting off a long-awaited celebration among thousands of Milwaukee fans at Tropicana Field. "It's the best feeling ever. All of our fans are here. I know the ci

• Lee's approval rating rises to 46%: poll (2026-10-29 04:16)

President Lee Jae Myung's approval rating rose to 46 percent this week, surpassing his disapproval rating for the first time in nearly two months, a biweekly poll showed Thursday. In a survey of 1,000 adults conducted Monday through Wednesday, positive assessments of Lee's job performance rose 2 percentage points from two weeks earlier, according to the National Barometer Survey. Negative assessments fell 5 percentage points to 44 percent. Lee's approval rating last exceeded his disapproval rati

• N. Korea launches SRBMs toward East Sea (2026-10-29 04:14)

North Korea launched more than 10 short-range ballistic missiles toward the East Sea on Thursday, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said. The military said it detected the missiles being launched from the Wonsan area at around 12:30 p.m. The flight distances were not immediately disclosed. "Our military has strengthened surveillance and vigilance in preparation for possible additional launches," the JCS said, adding that South Korea, the United States and Japan were closely sharing information

• Special counsel again seeks death penalty for ex-President Yoon over martial law declaration (2026-10-29 04:14)

A special counsel team on Thursday sought the death penalty for former President Yoon Suk Yeol during his appeal trial on insurrection charges stemming from his failed attempt to impose martial law. Special counsel Cho Eun-suk's team requested the sentence during proceedings at the Seoul High Court, eight months after a lower court sentenced Yoon to life imprisonment for staging a riot through his declaration of martial law on Dec. 3, 2024. "There is no reason to hesitate to hand down the death

• Lee vows to leave no suspicions unresolved on 4th anniv. of Itaewon crowd crush (2026-10-29 04:12)

President Lee Jae Myung vowed Thursday to leave no suspicions unresolved regarding the deadly 2022 Itaewon crowd crush as he marked its fourth anniversary. Lee made the promise during a memorial event at Seoul's Gwanghwamun Square, which brought together some 1,000 people, including victims, bereaved family members and lawmakers. "I will make sure the people are never again sacrificed unjustly due to the state's absence and negligence," he said, alluding to the preceding administration of Presid

• FM Cho leaves for US for G20 meeting, talks with Rubio (2026-10-29 04:07)

Foreign Minister Cho Hyun departed for the United States on Thursday to attend a Group of 20 foeign ministers' meeting and hold talks with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on key bilateral issues, officials said. Cho is scheduled to visit Atlanta through Monday to attend the two-day G20 gathering, where participating countries will discuss ways to jointly address geopolitical crises, energy and food security, supply chains, and other global challenges, according to Seoul's foreign ministry. Sou

• Seoul arson suspect referred to prosecution for attempted murder (2026-10-29 04:04)

Police referred the suspect in last week's arson fire at two buildings in southern Seoul to prosecutors Thursday, pressing additional charges of attempted murder after determining that the crime was premeditated with intent to kill random people. The suspect in his 70s, surnamed Lee, was taken into custody on Oct. 20 shortly after setting fires at two patent firms in two separate buildings in Seoul's Gangnam Ward. The blazes left 26 people injured, including a patent attorney, who suffered cardi

• Mirae Asset to acquire Japanese brokerage Sanko (2026-10-29 04:03)

Mirae Asset Securities Co., a major South Korean securities firm, said Thursday it will acquire the Japanese brokerage Sanko Securities Co., in a drive to expand its presence in the Japanese financial sector. In a regulatory filing, Mirae Asset said its board has approved a plan to buy a 100-percent stake in Sanko Securities. The stake will be purchased by the company's US affiliate, Mirae Asset Securities Holdings, according to the filing. Mirae Asset said the acquisition was worth some 47.6 bi

• Lee offers condolences over deadly train crash in Spain (2026-10-29 03:58)

President Lee Jae Myung on Thursday offered his condolences over a train crash in Spain that killed at least 68 people. Lee wrote on social media platform X that he feels "deep sadness" that the collision on Wednesday led to many casualties, including several injured South Koreans. "I pray for the souls of those who lost their lives and extend my deep condolences and sympathies to the bereaved families and the people of Spain amid their great sadness," he wrote. "I also sincerely wish for the qu

• This Instagram doctor works to make trust go viral (2026-10-29 03:50)

Jeff Yoo approaches fellow doctors on the street with a camera, inviting them to share perspectives that patients may rarely hear in a consultation room. The emergency physician has built an Instagram following of around 1.2 million in 16 months. He hopes those conversations can also reach people who no longer trust doctors, an audience he worries his profession is losing. “I’m not going to throw away my credibility just for views and follows on a social media application,” Yoo said in an interv

• Six North Koreans killed in train collision in Russia’s Far East (2026-10-29 03:03)

Six North Korean nationals were killed, and another was seriously injured when a train struck their van at a railway crossing in Russia’s Far East, according to Russian media reports citing sources familiar with the case. The crash occurred Sunday in the Jewish Autonomous Region after the van reportedly ignored a stop signal and entered a railway crossing. Russia’s state-run RIA Novosti news agency identified all seven victims as North Korean nationals, citing law enforcement sources. It was not

• Truck protest over Seventeen's backup dancers sparks debate (2026-10-29 02:25)

Despite the growing recognition of backup dancers in South Korea, fueled in part by popular dance competition shows, some K-pop fans still want them to step back into the shadows. Protest trucks have recently appeared outside Hybe's headquarters in Yongsan-gu, Seoul, sent by fans of K-pop boy group Seventeen who accuse backup dancers of upstaging the group's members, news reports said Thursday. Photos and videos circulating on social media show the trucks displaying messages demanding that the a

• Shin Hae-chul, Yoo Jae-suk, Blackpink to receive Korea's top pop culture honors (2026-10-29 02:10)

All four members of Blackpink, comedian and TV host Yoo Jae-suk and the late rock musician Shin Hae-chul are among this year's recipients of the Order of Cultural Merit, the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism said Thursday. Shin, who died in 2014, will posthumously receive the Eungwan Order, the second of the Order of Cultural Merit's five grades. He won the 1988 MBC College Song Festival and went on to lead the band N.EX.T, and he is credited with bringing Korean rock into the mainstream.

• Samsung Electronics posts record profit in Q3 on AI chip supercycle (2026-10-29 02:08)

Samsung Electronics Co. said Thursday its third-quarter net profit jumped more than sixfold from a year earlier as strong demand for artificial intelligence-related semiconductors boosted earnings. Net profit for the July-September period came to 75.13 trillion won ($56.2 billion), up 514.6 percent from 12.22 trillion won a year earlier, the world's largest memory chipmaker said in a regulatory filing. Operating profit surged 783.1 percent on-year to 107.44 trillion won, while revenue rose 126.9

• Govt. to designate new housing zones for over 76,000 homes near Seoul (2026-10-29 01:46)

The government plans to designate six new public housing zones in Gyeonggi Province, surrounding Seoul, to build more than 76,700 homes as part of efforts to boost the housing supply, the land ministry said Thursday. The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport announced the six candidate sites as a follow-up to its August plan to supply 100,000 new homes. The proposed sites are located in Gimpo, Guri, Hanam, Uijeongbu and Goyang in Gyeonggi Province, all within 5 kilometers of Seoul's bou

• Apple, Google challenge Korea's W63.7b app store penalties (2026-10-29 01:44)

Apple has rejected South Korea's decision to fine it 20.81 billion won ($15.6 million) over its App Store payment practices, maintaining that its policies comply with Korean law and saying it is reviewing its options. Google also objected to Wednesday's ruling, which imposed a combined 63.71 billion won in penalties on the two US tech giants for effectively forcing developers to use their own payment systems and unfairly delaying app reviews. "We respectfully disagree with today's decision and b

• And2ble returns with more mature sound on first comeback (2026-10-29 01:30)

Five months since debuting, rookie boy group And2ble is trading the high-energy intensity of its first release for a more restrained and mature approach. The five-member group — Zhang Hao, Yoo Seungeon, Ricky, Kim Gyuvin and Han Yujin — released its second EP, “Sequence 02: Attraction,” Tuesday, on the heels of the group's debut with “Sequence 01: Curiosity” in May. “If our previous album focused on curiosity toward a world we were encountering for the first time, this time, we wanted to focus o

• S. Korea to closely monitor impact of upcoming US midterm elections (2026-10-29 01:28)

South Korean financial authorities said Thursday they will closely monitor the impact of the US midterm elections on financial markets and take immediate countermeasures if necessary in the event of sharp market fluctuations. Finance Minister Lee Hyoung-il held discussions on the issue with Bank of Korea Gov. Shin Hyun-song, Financial Services Commission Chairman Lee Eog-weon and Financial Supervisory Service Gov. Lee Chan-jin after the US Federal Reserve held its benchmark interest rate steady

• Hana Financial brings AI, VR job training to students with disabilities (2026-10-29 00:02)

Hana Financial Group has opened a digital vocational training classroom for students with developmental disabilities in southern Seoul, offering hands-on experience through robotics and virtual reality, the company said Wednesday. Opened Tuesday at Miral School in Gangnam-gu, the classroom simulates real-world workplaces, allowing students to practice taking orders, processing payments and serving customers in restaurants and cafes. The facility is equipped with a voice-enabled humanoid robot, v

• [Contribution] From Zeitenwende to strategic industrial partnership: A new chapter in Germany-Korea defense cooperation (2026-10-29 00:00)

For decades, Germany and South Korea have built a strong relationship through trade, investment, technological exchange and the shared historical experience of national division. Today, that relationship has acquired a more consequential strategic dimension. As Europe confronts its most serious security crisis since the end of the Cold War, South Korea has emerged as an important partner in rebuilding European defense industrial capacity. For Germany and Korea, this presents an opportunity to tu

• US sanctions North Korean network accused of defrauding businesses (2026-10-28 23:25)

The United States imposed sanctions on Wednesday to target what the Treasury Department said were North Korean government-run schemes that use IT workers to defraud US businesses and generate revenue for Pyongyang's weapons programs. The Treasury Department said the schemes involve North Korean IT workers fraudulently gaining employment with companies in the United States and elsewhere, and Pyongyang taking most of the workers' wages to fund its weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missi

• Ballot boxes finally removed from Handball arena after 4 months (2026-10-28 23:20)

A special counsel team on Thursday completed moving boxes of ballot papers to a storage facility after taking them out of a handball arena where they had been kept since June's local elections, as part of its investigation into ballot shortages on election day, officials said. Special counsel Lee Tae-han's team removed the ballot boxes from the Olympic Park Handball Gymnasium in southeastern Seoul after conducting an on-site inspection of the 2.47 million ballots for more than 12 hours until pas

• [Dambisa Moyo] The specter of AI-led slowdown (2026-10-28 20:30)

Today’s economic growth depends heavily on AI investment and fiscal spending. The International Monetary Fund estimates that artificial intelligence could add up to half a percentage point to annual global growth over the next decade, raising the average rate from 3 percent to 3.5 percent. In the United States alone, Big Tech firms are projected to spend $650 billion on AI infrastructure in 2026, from data-center construction to equipment purchases. According to JPMorgan, AI-related investment h

• [Wang Son-taek] Why did Kim Jong-un visit Dandong? (2026-10-28 20:30)

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's surprise visit to Dandong, China, last week generated conflicting interpretations. Some analysts linked it to a possible North Korea-US summit; others interpreted Chinese President Xi Jinping's absence as evidence of friction between Pyongyang and Beijing. Unfortunately, Kim's determination to expand economic cooperation with China received insufficient attention. Understanding Kim's diplomacy requires examining his objectives and calculations rather than relyin

• Korea, Turkey unearth Hellenistic-era mosaic (2026-10-28 15:00)

A mosaic dating to the Hellenistic period has been unearthed at the Kultepe archaeological site in Kayseri, central Turkey. The 2.6-square-meter section of mosaic is the first discovery of remains from the Hellenistic period, from 323 to 30 BC, since excavations began at the site in 1948. The excavation is being conducted jointly by Korea's National Research Institute of Cultural Heritage, under the Korea Heritage Service, Turkey's Ministry of Culture and Tourism, and Ankara University. Kultepe

• Families demand removal of alleged Itaewon disaster footage appears in Call of Duty (2026-10-28 12:28)

Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 4, a bestselling first-person shooter video game, is receiving backlash for allegedly using footage from the 2022 Itaewon crowd crush in a cinematic sequence, prompting bereaved families and a civic coalition to demand its removal. The controversial clip, which lasts about three seconds, shows paramedics performing CPR on a person who has collapsed. The Families of the Itaewon Disaster and the Citizens' Countermeasures Meeting for the Itaewon Disaster said using foot

• 'This is my home': Guryong fire reignites dispute over residents’ housing rights (2026-10-28 11:52)

In the Gaepo Middle School gymnasium, 38 people from 29 households were staying in an emergency shelter Wednesday after a fire swept through nearby Guryong Village, Seoul's last shantytown. Another 50 people from 24 households took refuge at Guryong Middle School, while others were staying with acquaintances or at nearby lodging facilities arranged by the district office. The blaze affected 107 residents from 77 households before firefighters extinguished it early Wednesday, nearly 13 hours afte

• On this day in Korea - October 29, 2022 : Itaewon crowd crush (2026-10-28 09:15)

A devastating crowd crush unfolded within Itaewon, Seoul, amid crowded late-night Halloween festivities, resulting in 159 deaths and 195 injuries. As South Korea's deadliest modern crowd disaster, the tragedy triggered intense nationwide mourning, fierce public scrutiny, and a sweeping reevaluation of governmental safety regulations, emergency response systems and crowd management. Urban planners and public officials were pushed to implement stricter safety regulations across dense gatherings to

• Lee sets sights on reviewing preferential benefits for multicultural families (2026-10-28 09:01)

President Lee Jae Myung said Wednesday that his administration will closely examine local governments' benefits for multicultural families that go beyond ensuring equal opportunities and support. “Policies that give preferential treatment to multicultural families in Seoul and other local jurisdictions have become an issue,” Lee wrote on X, formerly Twitter. Multicultural families are defined as households formed by a Korean national and an individual from a different cultural background. “We wi

• S. Korea accepts int'l arbitration in favor of Elliott in Samsung merger case (2026-10-28 08:49)

South Korea will accept an international arbitration ruling in favor of US hedge fund Elliott Investment Management over the 2015 merger of two Samsung affiliates, the justice ministry said Wednesday. The ministry decided not to file a suit seeking a cancellation of last month's ruling, which ordered South Korea to pay about 153 billion won ($114 million) in damages plus interest to Elliott. Elliott originally filed the case in 2018, seeking compensation over losses from the controversial merger

• North Korean artillery spotted from Starbucks? Viral images suspected to be fakes (2026-10-28 08:42)

AI-manipulated images and videos making North Korean artillery appear to be just outside a Starbucks in Gimpo, Gyeonggi Province, have been circulating on social media, according to a report by NK News. The US-based outlet, which specializes in coverage concerning North Korea, reported Wednesday that the footage appears to have been created by altering real photos published by South Korean news outlets, including Yonhap News Agency. The original images showed North Korea’s 122 mm self-propelled

• No cash, no cards: Woori, Samsung take mobile payments to China, beyond (2026-10-28 08:41)

Woori Bank and Samsung Electronics have removed another layer from mobile payments: travelers no longer need cash, a card or even a separately issued mobile card. "No card, no cash, no (additional) app," Woori Bank CEO Jung Jin-wan said Wednesday at a press briefing on

the overseas expansion of Samsung Wallet Money. By "no app," Jung meant users do not need a separate banking or payment app beyond Samsung Wallet. Samsung Wallet Money, a prepaid payment service launched by Woori and Samsung Elect

• Google, Apple hit with W63.7b fine in Korea's app store crackdown (2026-10-28 08:40)

South Korea's media regulator on Wednesday fined Google and Apple a combined 63.71 billion won ($47.6 million) for effectively forcing app developers to use their in-app payment systems and unfairly delaying app reviews, issuing its first sanctions under a 2021 law banning such practices. The Korea Media and Communications Commission imposed fines of 42.9 billion won on Google and 20.81 billion won on Apple, ending a regulatory process that had dragged on for more than three years since the pena

• Finance minister hopes for Bloomberg review of S. Korea's market status (2026-10-28 08:39)

South Korea's finance minister has said the country's classification as an emerging market in a Bloomberg bond index should be reviewed, citing its improved market access for foreign investors, the finance ministry said Wednesday. Finance Minister Lee Hyoung-il made the remarks during a meeting with Bing Li, head of Asia-Pacific at Bloomberg L.P., to discuss ways to cooperate on the development of South Korea's financial market. During the meeting, Lee said a review was needed to determine wheth

• S. Korean won sharply weakens against US dollar (2026-10-28 08:36)

The South Korean won sharply weakened against the US dollar Wednesday, as foreigners appeared to have purchased dollar futures and covered dollar-short positions. The won was quoted at 1,337.7 won per dollar at 3:30 p.m., down 14 won from the close of the previous stock trading session. At one point in afternoon trading, the won dropped to a low of 1,342.3 won per dollar. Although the US Federal Reserve is expected to leave its key policy rate unchanged this week, traders have been monitoring wh

• Communications watchdog fines Google, Apple over in-app payment policies (2026-10-28 08:35)

South Korea's broadcasting and telecommunications regulator said Wednesday it will impose a combined 63.7 billion won ($45 million) worth of fines on Google and Apple for restricting app developers' payment options through their in-app policies. The Korea Media and Communications Commission approved fines of 42.9 billion won for Google and 20.81 billion won for Apple for violating the Telecommunications Business Act over their app store payment policies. The commission said it will also issue co

• Man charged with 211 defamatory posts about 'comfort women' (2026-10-28 08:30)

A man in his 20s has been referred to prosecutors for allegedly spreading false information online about victims of Japan’s wartime sexual slavery, in the first such case under a new law,

police said Wednesday. The Gyeongnam Provincial Police Agency said the man was referredwithout detention on suspicion of posting 211 messages on online forums in July thatdisparaged the victims and distorted accounts of their suffering. He reportedly told police hehad posted the material to get attention. Po

• Seoul shares soar over 6% on revived AI optimism, SK hynix earnings (2026-10-28 08:27)

Seoul shares surged by more than 6 percent Wednesday, led by a rally in chipmakers after SK hynix reported record quarterly earnings and announced additional shareholder returns. The Korean won weakened against the US dollar. The benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index gained 374.1 points, or 6.63 percent, to close at 6,012.44, after rising as high as 6,032.28. As the market rallied on tech gains, the Korea Exchange activated a buy-side sidecar shortly before 11 a.m., suspending program trad

• Korea plans national games museum (2026-10-28 08:27)

Korea is moving to establish a national games museum to recognize video games as cultural heritage, the Korea Creative Content Agency said Wednesday. The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism and KOCCA are jointly pursuing the tentatively named Museum of Korean Games, which will systematically document and preserve the history and cultural value of games. The museum will serve as a space to research, collect, and preserve artifacts and materials tracing the development of Korean games. It will

• Who's who at APK 2026: Global CEOs gather in Seoul (2026-10-28 08:23)

By Business & Finance Desk Some of Germany's most influential corporate leaders head to Seoul this week for the Asia-Pacific Conference of German Business 2026, bringing together executives across manufacturing, logistics, finance, pharmaceuticals and defense. Running Oct. 29 to 31, the conference comes as German businesses reassess their strategies in Asia amid geopolitical tensions, shifting trade policies and intensifying competition in advanced technologies. Hosting the gathering offers Sout

• Korea to pilot group tourist visas for Mongolian nationals (2026-10-28 08:20)

South Korea will launch a one-year pilot program Friday offering group tourist visas to Mongolian nationals, the Justice Ministry said Wednesday. The C-3-2 visas will be available to groups of at least five tourists whose trips are arranged by one of seven travel agencies designated by the Korean Embassy in Ulaanbaatar. Visa holders can stay for up to 15 days for tourism. The pilot will primarily target corporate incentive trips, training-related group tours and school excursions. Mongolia will

• US philanthropist gets new life after liver transplant in Seoul (2026-10-28 08:12)

A 69-year-old Peruvian American philanthropist with cirrhosis has recovered after receiving a liver transplant from his daughter in Seoul, giving him a chance to resume his charity work in his native Peru. Asan Medical Center said Wednesday that Marco Antonio Quiroz underwent the

transplant on Aug. 14, receiving part of the liver of his 30-year-old daughter, Kimberly LuciaQuiroz. As his condition worsened, a transplant became his only remaining treatment option,according to the hospital. But h

• Early winter chill grips Korea (2026-10-28 08:10)

Winter arrived seemingly overnight in South Korea on Wednesday, with morning temperatures plunging below freezing in many inland regions. According to the Korea Meteorological Administration, a cold air mass moving south overnight sent temperatures down to minus 3.6 degrees Celsius in Daegwallyeong, Gangwon Province, and minus 2.5 C in Paju, Gyeonggi Province. In Seoul, the morning low fell to 4.3 C, marking the lowest temperature so far this fall. Frost and ice were also observed in parts of th

• Seoul shares soar over 6% on revived AI optimism, SK hynix earnings (2026-10-28 08:08)

Seoul shares surged by more than 6 percent Wednesday, led by a rally in chipmakers after SK hynix reported record quarterly earnings and announced additional shareholder returns. The Korean won weakened against the US dollar. The benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index gained 374.1 points, or 6.63 percent, to close at 6,012.44, after rising as high as 6,032.28. As the market rallied on tech gains, the Korea Exchange activated a buy-side sidecar shortly before 11 a.m., suspending program trad

• Inside fire-hit Guryong Village’ s uncertain future (2026-10-28 07:30)

A major fire swept through a cluster of makeshift homes in Gangnam-gu, Seoul, on Tuesday, bringing renewed attention to Guryong Village and its long-planned redevelopment. Most residents have moved out since the village was designated for redevelopment in 2016, but about 140 households remain. The blaze affected 107 residents from 77 households before firefighters extinguished it early Wednesday, nearly 13 hours after it began. One woman suffered a minor leg injury. Authorities arranged temporar

• OCI posts record nine-month operating profit since 2023 spin-off (2026-10-28 07:07)

OCI reported third-quarter revenue of 599.1 billion won ($451 million) and operating profit of 30.3 billion won Tuesday, supported by stronger semiconductor materials sales and higher carbon black prices. Its cumulative operating profit for the first nine months of the year reached its highest level since the company's 2023 spin-off. Revenue rose 12 percent from the previous quarter, driven by increased sales of semiconductor materials and pitch, as well as higher carbon black prices. Operating

• HD Korea Shipbuilding's Q3 profit jumps 37% on high-value ship orders (2026-10-28 06:50)

HD Korea Shipbuilding & Offshore Engineering, the intermediate holding company for HD Hyundai’ s shipbuilding businesses, said Wednesday its third-quarter operating profit rose 37.3 percent from a year earlier, driven by higher ship prices and strong earnings from its engine and offshore businesses. For the July-September period, HD KSOE posted an operating profit of

1.45 trillion won ($1.08 billion), while revenue rose 9.3 percent on-year to 8.29 trillion won, the company said in a regulatory fi

• JYP takeover plan raises funding doubts, draws FSS scrutiny (2026-10-28 06:37)

A Japanese investment group's surprise plan to acquire up to half of JYP Entertainment has raised doubts over its financial capacity and credibility, prompting South Korea's financial watchdog to scrutinize the announcement amid concerns over potential investor losses. The Financial Supervisory Service said Wednesday it was closely monitoring The Nexroc Group and SVCV for possible unfair trading following an unusual tender offer announcement that sent JYP shares sharply higher. "We are closely m

• NBA hit by early-season injury wave as Edwards, Leonard and Jackson sidelined (2026-10-28 06:26)

A growing number of early-season injuries is already reshaping several NBA teams, with Anthony Edwards, Kawhi Leonard and Jaren Jackson Jr. all facing extended absences. Leonard, who returned to the Toronto Raptors before the season, is expected to miss several weeks because of swelling in his left knee. ESPN reported that an MRI found no structural damage. The two-time NBA champion was averaging 19.5 points, 7.5 rebounds and 3.5 steals through two games after signing a two-year, $115 million de

• Four years on, foreign victims’ families return to Itaewon for answers (2026-10-28 06:24)

For Rached Rached, Seoul is a place associated with a tragedy he said “never should have happened.” His daughter, Grace Rached, was killed in the Itaewon crowd crush on Oct. 29, 2022. The 23-year-old Australian was among the 159 people killed in the disaster. She had been traveling in Korea with friends on the Saturday night before Halloween. “Even after four years, nothing has gotten better. It still feels hard and painful,” Rached told The Korea Herald. “It’s still very hard. It’s sleepless, a

• Mercedes-Benz Korea touts 20-year service edge over EV newcomers (2026-10-28 06:23)

YONGIN, Gyeonggi Province — Emerging automakers, particularly Chinese electric vehicle brands, are rapidly expanding their presence in South Korea. But Mercedes-Benz Korea bets on its two decades of technician training and rigorous German certification standards to defend its position in the market. Establishing retail networks may be relatively straightforward, but building a reliable after-sales service infrastructure is a far greater challenge for newcomers. At the HS Hyosung The Class Jukjeo

• Inmate-made crafts offer glimpse of life behind bars (2026-10-28 06:17)

An intricately carved wooden table from Gongju Correctional Institution is among hundreds of works on display at Seoul Grand Park this week, offering visitors a glimpse of skills developed behind bars. The "Correctional Institution Art Exhibition" opened Wednesday at the park’s outdoor plaza in Gwacheon, Gyeonggi Province, and runs through Sunday. It features furniture,

pottery, traditional Korean paper crafts, paintings and calligraphy. The opening coincided with a ceremony marking the 81st Cor

- ‘We must reduce preventable deaths,’ Lee urges on eve of Itaewon anniversary (2026-10-28 06:06)

President Lee Jae Myung urged the government on Wednesday to act faster to prevent avoidable deaths, on the eve of the fourth anniversary of the Itaewon tragedy that claimed 159 lives. Lee made the remarks while chairing a national safety meeting at Cheong Wa Dae in Seoul, his first time presiding over a plenary session of the Presidential Committee on Life and Safety since its launch in July. "Both before and after the tragedy, there have been many deaths that could have been prevented and many

- GOT7 leader Jay B seeks musical experimentation with ‘Chptr. 1’ (2026-10-28 06:04)

Jay B's third physical single “Chptr. 1,” released Tuesday, kicks off a new series through which the GOT7 leader hopes to give himself more room to wander beyond the R&B-heavy music that built his solo career. “It’s both a new beginning and something of a side story,” Jay B said during a round interview with press at Mapo-gu, western Seoul, Tuesday. “My music has definitely been more R&B-based in the past, but R&B isn’t the only kind of music I listen to, so I wanted to take this chance to explo

- Could Xi broker a Trump-Kim summit? Seoul sees opening, US experts skeptical (2026-10-28 06:02)

South Korean and US watchers are diverging on the possibility of Beijing playing a role in reviving US-North Korea talks, as speculation rises following North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's surprise visit to China. Kim made an unannounced, one-day visit to the Chinese border city of Dandong on Saturday, meeting Wang Huning, chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, and touring the New Yalu River Bridge and a local automobile factory. Although Kim did not meet Chinese Presi

- 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

• [팟캐스트] (824) ‘닥터X’ 5·18 소재 활용 논란.. CP는 ‘두려움 없다’ (2026-10-28 05:49)

진행자: 박준희, Chelsea Proctor Breakout K-drama ‘Doctor X’ faces calls to halt broadcast over Gwangju episode 기사 요약: 최근 큰 인기를 끌고 있는 드라마 ‘닥터X: 하얀 마피아의 시대’가 5·18 민주화운동을 소재로 다루자, 일부에선 방영 중단을 요구하는 국회 청원까지 제기됐다. [1] 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. petition: 청원 breakout: 급부상, 돌풍 (breakout star, breakout hit) take (a sho

• 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 becamethe first to be certified diamond in the US, for 10 million units, and has spent more than 500weeks on the Billboard 200. Now the show is coming to Korea for the first time, as the first stopon 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 percent from a year earlier, while operating profit surged 165 percent to 691 billion won. Revenue rose 9 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 top contenders to carry the Republican Party into its post-Trump era in the 2028 election. But while Vance has been crisscrossing the country in recent weeks to rally support ahead of the Nov. 3 polls, 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 dauntingreality. 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 a company 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 energy security 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 of Oceans and Fisheries submitted to Rep. Lee Seong-gwon of the People Power Party, a member of 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 JeonEun-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 168personnel 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 strengtheningSamsung’ s technological lead and pursuing growth in robotics, automotive electronics andartificial intelligence-powered manufacturing as the memory business rebounds. Noanniversary 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 theYouTube 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 taxpayersapproximately 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 gustsexceeded 64 kph. The 72 players had been preparing for the fourth round but were unable tostart, and tournament officials eventually decided to cancel the round and reduce the event to54 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 electionapproaching, 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 difference amounted 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, incidentsinvolving 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 briefclashes with police in both Rome and Turin. In Milan, thousands of young people marched thestreets 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

Source: Yonhap

• Lee visits southeastern province to inspect pilot basic income scheme (2026-10-31 05:09)

SEOUL, Oct. 31 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung visited a southeastern provin...

• Today in Korean history (2026-10-31 05:00)

Nov. 1

• Lee says multicultural family support resulting in 'reverse discrimination' cannot be justified (2026-10-31 03:27)

SEOUL, Oct. 31 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung renewed his call Saturday for...

• Fishing boat catches fire off west coast, all 22 rescued (2026-10-31 01:52)

INCHEON, Oct. 31 (Yonhap) -- A fishing boat caught fire off the Yellow Sea islan...

• N. Korea slams multination statement backing anti-Pyongyang sanctions as 'strategic failure' (2026-10-31 01:38)

SEOUL, Oct. 31 (Yonhap) -- North Korea blasted Saturday a joint statement recent...

• No drug-related violations found in special crackdown on eve of Halloween (2026-10-31 01:20)

SEOUL, Oct. 31 (Yonhap) -- Police said Saturday they have found no drug-related ...

• Ruling party lawmaker issued U.S. visa, days after refusal (2026-10-31 00:54)

SEOUL, Oct. 31 (Yonhap) -- Rep. Jin Sung-joon of the ruling Democratic Party (DP...

• N. Korea reports on Swiss FM's visit following opening of diplomatic office (2026-10-31 00:33)

SEOUL, Oct. 31 (Yonhap) -- North Korean Foreign Minister Choe Son-hui met one-on...

• Right-handers squaring off again with KBO championship series berth at stake (2026-10-31 00:21)

SEOUL, Oct. 31 (Yonhap) -- The two right-handed pitchers that went toe-to-toe ea...

• (2nd LD) S. Korean, U.S., Japanese FMs reaffirm 'resolute commitment' to complete denuclearization of N. Korea (2026-10-31 00:02)

WASHINGTON, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- The top diplomats of South Korea, the United Sta...

• Top headlines in major S. Korean newspapers (2026-10-30 23:58)

SEOUL, Oct. 31 (Yonhap) -- The following are the top headlines in major South Ko...

• (LEAD) S. Korean, U.S., Japanese FMs reaffirm 'resolute commitment' to complete denuclearization of N. Korea (2026-10-30 23:39)

WASHINGTON, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- The top diplomats of South Korea, the United Sta...

• S. Korean, U.S., Japanese FMs reaffirm 'resolute commitment' to complete denuclearization of N. Korea (2026-10-30 23:32)

WASHINGTON, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- The top diplomats of South Korea, the United Sta...

• (URGENT) S. Korean, U.S., Japanese FMs reaffirm 'resolute commitment' to complete denuclearization of N. Korea (2026-10-30 23:23)

(END)

• (2nd LD) N. Korean hackers blamed for record US$6.36 bln Binance cryptocurrency theft: U.S. firm (2026-10-30 21:13)

WASHINGTON, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- North Korean hackers purportedly stole an estima...

• S. Korean envoy to U.S. vows support for bilateral investment at Hyundai's Alabama plant (2026-10-30 19:33)

WASHINGTON, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- South Korean Ambassador to the United States Kan...

• (LEAD) N. Korean hackers blamed for record US$6.36 bln Binance cryptocurrency theft: U.S. firm (2026-10-30 18:35)

WASHINGTON, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- North Korean hackers purportedly stole an estima...

• Hanwha Defense USA wins US$269 mln U.S. Navy shipbuilding contract (2026-10-30 16:40)

WASHINGTON, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- Hanwha Defense USA (HDUSA), a subsidiary of Sout...

• N. Korean hackers blamed for record US$6.36 bln Binance cryptocurrency theft: U.S. firm (2026-10-30 16:01)

WASHINGTON, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- North Korean hackers purportedly stole an estima...

• Swiss FM briefs Seoul on Pyongyang trip after reopening diplomatic office (2026-10-30 14:06)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- Swiss Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis on Friday share...

• Designated hitter delivers clutch knocks to keep Tigers alive in KBO postseason (2026-10-30 13:40)

GWANGJU, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- With two of the biggest hits of his career, Kia Tig...

• Tigers manager says likely sticking to same lineup after staying alive in KBO postseason (2026-10-30 13:30)

GWANGJU, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- After his team stayed alive in the Korea Baseball O...

• (LEAD) Tigers beat Lions to stave off KBO postseason elimination (2026-10-30 12:57)

GWANGJU, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- The Kia Tigers rallied past the Samsung Lions 4-2 t...

• Tigers beat Lions to stave off KBO postseason elimination (2026-10-30 12:39)

GWANGJU, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- The Kia Tigers rallied past the Samsung Lions 4-2 t...

• Special counsel asks election watchdog to keep ballot boxes intact for possible review (2026-10-30 09:58)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- A special counsel team on Friday asked the National E...

• (LEAD) Check-in system at Incheon airport restored after hourslong disruption (2026-10-30 09:03)

INCHEON, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- A check-in system malfunction that occurred at Inch...

• (Yonhap Interview) S. Korea, U.S. can make 'great' progress in SMRs: State Department official (2026-10-30 08:38)

INCHEON, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and the United States have complementar...

• Facing KBO postseason elimination, Tigers move up sluggers in new-look lineup (2026-10-30 08:31)

GWANGJU, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- On the brink of elimination from the South Korean b...

• (3rd LD) Seoul to continue taking necessary measures based on 'clear principles' over DMZ blast: Wi (2026-10-30 08:16)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- South Korea will continue taking necessary measures b...

• (3rd LD) Choi Bool-am, beloved S. Korean actor for nearly 7 decades, dies at 87 (2026-10-30 08:11)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- South Korean actor Choi Bool-am, widely known as the ...

• Call of Duty publisher apologizes for using real footage of Itaewon crowd crush (2026-10-30 08:00)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- The makers behind the Call of Duty video game apologi...

• Lee Chang-dong's short film 'Heartbeat' to release on Netflix (2026-10-30 08:00)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- South Korean auteur Lee Chang-dong's short film "Hear...

• Yonhap News Summary (2026-10-30 07:59)

The following is the second summary of major stories moved by Yonhap News Agency...

• S. Korean won strengthens against U.S. dollar (2026-10-30 07:49)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean won strengthened against the U.S. do...

• Samsung Electro-Mechanics wins 879.3 bln-won AI server capacitor supply deal (2026-10-30 07:48)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Electro-Mechanics Co. said Friday it has sign...

• (2nd LD) Seoul to continue taking necessary measures based on 'clear principles' over DMZ blast: Wi (2026-10-30 07:46)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- South Korea will continue taking necessary measures b...

• SK Group retains SK hynix chief, reshuffles energy unit leadership (2026-10-30 07:45)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- SK Group, a South Korean conglomerate with business r...

• (2nd LD) Seoul shares dip over 3 pct on tech sell-off amid AI concerns (2026-10-30 07:37)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- South Korean shares dropped by more than 3 percent Fr...

• Prosecutors indict independent lawmaker for alleged sexual harassment (2026-10-30 07:33)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- Prosecutors on Friday indicted Rep. Jang Kyung-tae wi...

• Key developments on North Korea this week (2026-10-30 07:32)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- The following are key developments regarding North Ko...

• Summary of inter-Korean news this week (2026-10-30 07:32)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- The following is a summary of inter-Korean news this ...

• Summary of domestic news in North Korea this week (2026-10-30 07:32)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- The following is a summary of domestic news in North ...

• Summary of external news of North Korea this week (2026-10-30 07:32)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- The following is a summary of external news on North ...

• Late Canadian Army officer named Korean War hero of Nov. (2026-10-30 07:24)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- The veterans ministry on Friday named a late Canadian...

• N. Korea slams S. Korea, U.S.' Freedom Flag air drills, vows to deter with force (2026-10-30 07:04)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- North Korea on Friday denounced the ongoing combined ...

• Police to deploy 7,800 personnel nationwide for crowd safety during Halloween (2026-10-30 07:01)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- Police will deploy around 7,800 personnel across the ...

• Marine Corps commanders of S. Korea, Thailand discuss cooperation in drills, exchanges (2026-10-30 07:01)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- The top commanders of the South Korean and Thai Marin...

• Check-in system malfunction at Incheon airport causes major delays (2026-10-30 06:56)

INCHEON, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- A check-in system malfunction occurred at Incheon I...

• (LEAD) Court acquits PPP lawmaker over luxury gift to ex-first lady (2026-10-30 06:53)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- A Seoul district court on Friday acquitted a lawmaker...

• (LEAD) Seoul shares dip over 3 pct on tech sell-off amid AI concerns (2026-10-30 06:52)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- South Korean shares dropped by more than 3 percent Fr...

• Seoul shares dip over 3 pct on tech sell-off amid AI concerns (2026-10-30 06:37)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- South Korean shares dropped by more than 3 percent Fr...

• Hanwha Systems wins SAR microsatellite constellation project (2026-10-30 06:34)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- Hanwha Systems Co. has won a contract to develop synt...

• (URGENT) Seoul shares dip over 3 pct on tech selloff amid AI concerns (2026-10-30 06:34)

(END)

• Court acquits PPP lawmaker over luxury gift to ex-first lady (2026-10-30 06:11)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- A Seoul district court on Friday acquitted a lawmaker...

• (LEAD) Lee extends deep condolences over death of veteran actor Choi Bool-am (2026-10-30 06:10)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Friday extended "deep cond...

• (LEAD) Hyundai Steel Q3 net surges on higher prices, high-end products (2026-10-30 06:08)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- Hyundai Steel Co., South Korea's second-largest steel...

• Boynextdoor to launch 1st N. American tour (2026-10-30 06:01)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- K-pop group Boynextdoor will kick off its first-ever ...

• Lee confers certificates of appointment on presidential inspector, others (2026-10-30 06:01)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Friday conferred certifica...

• (URGENT) Court acquits Rep. Kim Gi-hyeon of PPP over luxury gift to ex-first lady (2026-10-30 05:59)

(END)

• Top diplomats of S. Korea, Indonesia agree to strengthen strategic communication (2026-10-30 05:45)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- Foreign Minister Cho Hyun met with his Indonesian cou...

• (LEAD) Kia's Q3 net profit falls 9.6 pct on unfavorable foreign exchange movements (2026-10-30 05:41)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- Kia Corp. said Friday its third-quarter net profit fe...

• S. Korea, U.S., Japan discuss N. Korea's latest missile launches by phone (2026-10-30 05:36)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- Senior diplomats from South Korea, the United States ...

• Swiss foreign minister visits N. Korea amid opening of 1st diplomatic office (2026-10-30 05:30)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- Swiss Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis has arrived in ...

• Koo Kyo-hwan, Kim Yoon-seok reunite in mystery thriller 'White Blast' (2026-10-30 05:29)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- Actors Koo Kyo-hwan and Kim Yoon-seok are set to appe...

• PM calls for greater cooperation with Germany in battery, semiconductor, AI sectors (2026-10-30 05:20)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- Prime Minister Han Seong-sook called for greater coop...

• Late actor Choi Bool-am fondly remembered as father figure (2026-10-30 05:17)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- The public and fellow actors on Friday shared their g...

• Today in Korean history (2026-10-30 05:00)

Oct. 31

• (LEAD) Hyundai E&C; Q3 net profit down 31.6 pct to 46.4 bln won (2026-10-30 04:46)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- Hyundai Engineering & Construction Co., part of H...

• Yonhap News Summary (2026-10-30 04:30)

The following is the first summary of major stories moved by Yonhap News Agency ...

• (LEAD) Seoul to continue taking necessary measures based on 'clear principles' over DMZ blast: Wi (2026-10-30 03:15)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- South Korea will continue taking necessary measures b...

• Appellate sentencing in Yoon's high-stakes election law case to be broadcast live (2026-10-30 03:05)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- Next week's sentencing hearing for former President Y...

• Daily FX turnover hits new high in Q3: BOK (2026-10-30 03:00)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- Daily foreign exchange (FX) trading by banks in South...

• S. Korea, Canada hold 5th joint committee meeting on science, technology, innovation (2026-10-30 02:57)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and Canada held the fifth meeting of thei...

• Court acquits ex-generals accused of planning martial law at burger joint (2026-10-30 02:54)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- A Seoul court on Friday acquitted two former generals...

• (LEAD) LG CNS Q3 operating profit up 15 pct led by AI, cloud biz growth (2026-10-30 02:53)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- LG CNS Co., the information technology affiliate of L...

• Seoul to continue taking necessary measures based on 'clear principles' over DMZ: Wi (2026-10-30 02:41)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- South Korea will continue taking necessary measures b...

• (URGENT) Seoul to continue support for Ukraine despite recent diplomatic row: security adviser (2026-10-30 02:40)

(END)

• (URGENT) Seoul expects tangible outcome on OPCON transition from Dec. talks of defense chiefs: Wi (2026-10-30 02:40)

(END)

• (URGENT) Seoul will not get involved in war, make contribution in Hormuz if necessary: Wi (2026-10-30 02:39)

(END)

• (URGENT) Seoul will continue taking necessary measures based on 'clear principles' over DMZ mine blast: Wi (2026-10-30 02:39)

(END)

• Special counsel appeals Seoul mayor's acquittal in political funds case (2026-10-30 02:36)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- A special counsel team said Friday it has appealed th...

• Seoul stocks down over 5 pct late Fri. morning on tech losses amid AI concerns (2026-10-30 02:30)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks sank more than 5 percent late Fri...

• (LEAD) Top diplomats of S. Korea, U.S., Japan to discuss N. Korea, trilateral cooperation (2026-10-30 02:25)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- The top diplomats of South Korea, the United States a...

• Hyundai Motor Group to establish two SPCs for AI data center project (2026-10-30 02:15)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- Hyundai Motor Group said Friday it plans to establish...

- (LEAD) N. Korea showcases 'Sniper' rocket launcher in weapons demonstration (2026-10-30 02:12)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- North Korea has fired a 600-millimeter "ultra-precisi...

- Lee's approval rating falls back to 39 pct: poll (2026-10-30 02:02)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung's approval rating has slipped...

- Japanese scholar sees little chance of 'meaningful' Kim-Trump summit this year (2026-10-30 02:00)

TOKYO/SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap-Join Press Corps) -- A summit between North Korea a...

- Tax revenue up 26.4 tln won in Sept. amid chip supercycle (2026-10-30 02:00)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's tax revenue rose by 26.4 trillion won (...

- Excessive cutting of support columns blamed for deadly Ulsan power plant collapse (2026-10-30 01:58)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- The deadly collapse of a boiler tower at a power plan...

- Funds' net asset value declines 5.1 pct in Q3 amid stock market volatility (2026-10-30 01:33)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- The value of South Korea's investment funds fell 5.1 ...

- Lee extends deep condolences over death of veteran actor Choi Bool-am (2026-10-30 01:29)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Friday extended "deep cond...

- (LEAD) Hyundai Mobis Q3 net fall 35.7 pct on lower FX gains (2026-10-30 01:29)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- Hyundai Mobis Co., the auto parts affiliate of Hyunda...

- S. Korea's indigenous KF-21 fighter jet conducts 1st formation flight with U.S. aircraft (2026-10-30 01:28)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's indigenous KF-21 fighter jet has made i...

- PM mourns actor Choi Bool-am's death (2026-10-30 01:11)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- Prime Minister Han Seong-sook mourned the death of ac...

- KRX activates sell-side sidecar for KOSPI on sharp fall (2026-10-30 01:10)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's bourse operator on Friday activated a s...

• (URGENT) KRX activates sell-side sidecar for KOSPI on sharp decline (2026-10-30 01:06)

(END)

• Hegseth calls talk of shaky S. Korea-U.S. alliance 'fake news:' Seoul's defense minister (2026-10-30 00:56)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth brushed off conce...

• Nvidia to make US$1 billion investment in Naver next week (2026-10-30 00:55)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- Nvidia Corp. is scheduled to fulfill its US$1 billion...

• (2nd LD) Sept. industrial output growth hits 15-yr high on chips; retail sales, investment also up (2026-10-30 00:28)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's industrial output expanded in September...

• (LEAD) Seoul stocks open lower on Wall Street losses, AI concerns (2026-10-30 00:26)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks opened lower Friday, tracking ove...

• (2nd LD) Choi Bool-am, beloved S. Korean actor for nearly 7 decades, dies at 87 (2026-10-30 00:24)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- South Korean actor Choi Bool-am, widely known as the ...

• S. Korea to open 1st Korean Cultural Center in Malaysia (2026-10-30 00:05)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- South Korea was set to open its first Korean Cultural...

• Seoul stocks open lower on Wall Street losses, AI concerns (2026-10-30 00:03)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks opened lower Friday, tracking ove...

• (URGENT) Seoul stocks open lower on Wall Street losses, AI concerns (2026-10-30 00:01)

(END)

• Top diplomats of S. Korea, U.S., Japan to discuss N. Korea, trilateral cooperation (2026-10-30 00:00)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- The top diplomats of South Korea, the United States a...

• Lions infielder Ryu Ji-hyuk savors 1st postseason homer vs. ex-team: 'It was incredible' (2026-10-29 23:37)

GWANGJU, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Lions infielder Ryu Ji-hyuk will never be m...

• (LEAD) Sept. industrial output growth hits 15-yr high on chips; retail sales, investment also up (2026-10-29 23:18)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's industrial output expanded in September...

• (LEAD) Beloved S. Korean TV icon Choi Bool-am dies at 87 (2026-10-29 23:07)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- South Korean actor Choi Bool-am, widely known as the ...

• Industrial output up in Sept. on chips; retail sales, facility investment also gain ground (2026-10-29 23:00)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's industrial output expanded in September...

• (URGENT) Industrial output, retail sales, facility investment up in Sept. (2026-10-29 23:00)

(END)

• N. Korea reports weapons demonstration featuring cruise missiles, rocket launchers, drones (2026-10-29 22:06)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- North Korea has staged a weapons demonstration featur...

• (EDITORIAL from Korea JoongAng Daily on Oct. 30) (2026-10-29 22:00)

The first meeting between Defense Minister Kang Shin-chul and his U.S. counterpa...

• (EDITORIAL from Korea Times on Oct. 30) (2026-10-29 22:00)

Wounds remain fresh even four years after the deadly crowd crush in central Seou...

• (EDITORIAL from Korea Herald on Oct. 30) (2026-10-29 21:59)

A nation can grow rich on paper even as its people feel poorer. South Korea's la...

• Top headlines in major S. Korean newspapers (2026-10-29 21:59)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- The following are the top headlines in major South Ko...

• Foreigners again sell Korean stocks in Sept. (2026-10-29 21:00)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- Foreign investors again turned to net sellers of Kore...

• U.S. PACOM says no immediate threat from N. Korea's latest missile launches (2026-10-29 20:18)

WASHINGTON, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- U.S. Pacific Command (PACOM) said Thursday that ...

• U.S. bill seeks to ease transfer of American munitions to Ukraine via S. Korea, allies (2026-10-29 19:44)

WASHINGTON, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- A bipartisan group of U.S. lawmakers has introdu...

• Beloved S. Korean TV icon Choi Bool-am dies at 87 (2026-10-29 18:10)

SEOUL, Oct. 30 (Yonhap) -- South Korean actor Choi Bool-am, widely known as the ...

• Lions manager gives kudos to bullpen after narrow KBO postseason win (2026-10-29 14:24)

GWANGJU, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- In a postseason victory in which his team pounded o...

• (LEAD) Dream postseason continues for Lions outfielder with clutch hit (2026-10-29 14:14)

GWANGJU, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- A dream postseason continued Thursday night for Sam...

• S. Korean Navy training ship makes first-ever port call at U.S. naval base in Florida (2026-10-29 14:12)

WASHINGTON, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- A South Korean Navy training ship has made its f...

• Rematch of opener set for starting pitchers in KBO postseason elimination game (2026-10-29 14:04)

GWANGJU, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- With one club looking to advance and the other tryi...

• Lee, Saudi crown prince agree to strengthen cooperation amid Mideast war in phone talks (2026-10-29 13:46)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung and Saudi Crown Prince Mohamm...

• (LEAD) Lions edge out Tigers, on verge of taking KBO postseason series (2026-10-29 13:44)

GWANGJU, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- The Samsung Lions blasted two home runs and scored ...

• Dream postseason continues for Lions outfielder with clutch hit (2026-10-29 13:32)

GWANGJU, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- A dream postseason continued Thursday night for Sam...

• Lions edge out Tigers, on verge of taking KBO postseason series (2026-10-29 13:24)

GWANGJU, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- The Samsung Lions blasted two home runs and scored ...

• (3rd LD) Lee says S. Korea-Germany cooperation more important than ever (2026-10-29 13:07)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung said cooperation between Sout...

• U.S. stresses 'America first' visa policy amid visa refusal claim by S. Korean lawmaker (2026-10-29 13:02)

WASHINGTON, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- The U.S. State Department said Thursday that Pre...

• S. Korean defense chief agrees to expand defense cooperation with Singapore, Vietnam (2026-10-29 12:53)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- South Korean Defense Minister Kang Shin-chul on Thurs...

• (LEAD) S. Korea, Germany heighten ties, boost defense cooperation (2026-10-29 11:10)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and Germany agreed Thursday to upgrade th...

• (2nd LD) N. Korea appears to test propaganda loudspeakers along border (2026-10-29 11:00)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- North Korea appears to have conducted a test broadcas...

• Lee vows to strengthen S. Korea-U.S. alliance in ceremony marking Korean War battle (2026-10-29 10:45)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung vowed Thursday to strengthen ...

• (2nd LD) N.K. leader may have discussed potential talks with U.S. during China visit: spy agency (2026-10-29 10:33)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un may have conveyed Pyo...

• (2nd LD) Lee says S. Korea-Germany cooperation more important than ever (2026-10-29 10:02)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung said cooperation between Sout...

• S. Korea, Germany heighten ties, boost defense cooperation (2026-10-29 09:50)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and Germany agreed Thursday to upgrade th...

• Lions starter Paddack says unlikely to pitch on short rest during postseason (2026-10-29 09:38)

GWANGJU, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Lions starter Chris Paddack acknowledged Th...

• (LEAD) Amorepacific Q3 net falls 14.3 pct on non-operating costs (2026-10-29 09:29)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- Amorepacific Corp., South Korea's leading cosmetics c...

• Defense chief denounces N. Korea's missile launches at ASEAN defense forum (2026-10-29 08:59)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- Defense Minister Kang Shin-chul on Thursday denounced...

• (LEAD) N. Korea appears to test propaganda loudspeakers along border (2026-10-29 08:48)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- North Korea appears to have conducted a test broadcas...

• Lions manager keeps faith in veteran outfielder despite questions on defense (2026-10-29 08:43)

GWANGJU, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Lions manager Park Jin-man said Thursday he...

• Tigers captain calls for early offense in pivotal KBO postseason game (2026-10-29 08:09)

GWANGJU, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- With his Kia Tigers gearing up for a pivotal game i...

• (LEAD) Watchdog to fine Celltrion 630 mln won over unfair subcontracting practices (2026-10-29 08:03)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's antitrust watchdog said Thursday it wil...

• (2nd LD) KHNP ends talks with consortium on Czech nuclear plant construction contract (2026-10-29 08:01)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- Korea Hydro & Nuclear Power Co. (KHNP), South Kor...

• Yonhap News Summary (2026-10-29 08:00)

The following is the second summary of major stories moved by Yonhap News Agency...

• Hundreds of customers' personal information at Bithumb leaked in hacks (2026-10-29 07:52)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- Personal information of hundreds of customers at cryp...

• Tigers manager counting on left-handed relievers to bounce back (2026-10-29 07:42)

GWANGJU, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- Kia Tigers manager Lee Bum-ho said Thursday he was ...

• (LEAD) Seoul mulling co-sponsoring U.N. resolution on N. Korean human rights (2026-10-29 07:40)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- The unification ministry is in talks with relevant go...

• (LEAD) N.K. leader may have discussed potential talks with U.S. during China visit: spy agency (2026-10-29 07:37)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un may have conveyed Pyo...

• (2nd LD) Seoul shares down 1.24 pct as Samsung disappoints on shareholder returns (2026-10-29 07:34)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- South Korean shares dropped 1.24 percent Thursday fol...

• U.S. official says Washington sees scope for nuclear fuel-cycle cooperation with S. Korea (2026-10-29 07:34)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- The United States sees potential for nuclear fuel-cyc...

• (LEAD) Doosan Enerbility swings to black in Q3 on solid energy biz (2026-10-29 07:34)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- South Korean power plant equipment maker Doosan Enerb...

• Lotte reshuffles biz portfolio with Busan store sale to Shinsegae (2026-10-29 07:32)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- Lotte Shopping Co., a retail affiliate of South Korea...

• S. Korean won gains slightly against U.S. dollar after Fed holds rates (2026-10-29 07:30)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean won gained slightly against the U.S....

- N. Korea appears to test propaganda loudspeakers along border (2026-10-29 07:21)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- North Korea appears to have conducted a test broadcas...

- (LEAD) Seoul shares down 1.24 pct as Samsung disappoints on shareholder returns (2026-10-29 07:21)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- South Korean shares dropped 1.24 percent Thursday fol...

- (3rd LD) N. Korea fires nearly dozen ballistic missiles after S. Korea's dialogue offer (2026-10-29 07:13)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- North Korea fired about a dozen short-range ballistic...

- (LEAD) Hanwha Aerospace swings to Q3 net loss due to delayed weapons deliveries (2026-10-29 07:02)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- South Korean defense firm Hanwha Aerospace Co. said T...

- Gov't to pursue criminal punishment, 3-yr exam ban for CSAT cheaters using AI glasses (2026-10-29 06:54)

SEJONG, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- The education ministry said Thursday it will seek cr...

- Temporary men's football coach stresses need to focus on controllables amid controversy (2026-10-29 06:47)

CHEONAN, South Korea, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- With the men's national football team ...

- Yonhap trail run invites participants to explore UNESCO site (2026-10-29 06:42)

HANAM, South Korea, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- An international trail run event set to ...

- Seoul shares down 1.24 pct on weaker-than-expected Samsung earnings (2026-10-29 06:33)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- South Korean shares dropped 1.24 percent Thursday, re...

- (URGENT) Seoul shares down 1.24 pct on weaker-than-expected Samsung earnings (2026-10-29 06:31)

(END)

- N.K. leader may have discussed potential talks with U.S. during China visit: spy agency (2026-10-29 06:29)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un may have conveyed Pyo...

• (LEAD) Players at center of friction controversy called up for men's football friendlies (2026-10-29 06:12)

CHEONAN, South Korea, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- All principal figures caught in the co...

• (LEAD) Hanwha Solutions Q3 net surges on robust solar module sales (2026-10-29 06:07)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- Hanwha Solutions Corp., the energy solutions arm of S...

• S. Korea eyes virtuous cycle via green economic growth: finance minister (2026-10-29 06:00)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean government aims to foster a virtuous...

• (2nd LD) N. Korea fires nearly dozen ballistic missiles after S. Korea's dialogue offer (2026-10-29 05:53)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- North Korea fired about a dozen short-range ballistic...

• Doosan Enerbility wins SMR supply deal from U.S. firm NuScale Power (2026-10-29 05:52)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- Doosan Enerbility Co. said Thursday it has secured a ...

• Cheong Wa Dae urges N. Korea to cease provocations following missile launch (2026-10-29 05:50)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- The Office of National Security at the presidential o...

• Players at center of friction controversy called up for men's football friendlies (2026-10-29 05:48)

CHEONAN, South Korea, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- All principal figures caught in the co...

• S. Korea, U.S. stage tabletop drills on integrating conventional, nuclear capabilities against N. Korean threats (2026-10-29 05:40)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and the United States conducted a key tab...

• (2nd LD) Hyundai Motor Q3 net falls 24.2 pct on production disruptions, weak demand (2026-10-29 05:40)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- Hyundai Motor Co., South Korea's leading automaker, s...

• (URGENT) N. Korea's missiles flew around 250 km: S. Korean military (2026-10-29 05:36)

(END)

• (URGENT) Presidential office holds emergency meeting on N. Korea's missile launch (2026-10-29 05:33)

(END)

• (2nd LD) Special counsel again seeks death penalty for ex-President Yoon over martial law declaration (2026-10-29 05:32)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- A special counsel team on Thursday sought the death p...

• MAMA Awards to expand beyond stage with fan festival, cross-genre collaborations (2026-10-29 05:27)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- The MAMA Awards, one of K-pop's biggest year-end musi...

• PM says to foster 200 'frontier' bio, pharmaceutical firms by 2030 (2026-10-29 05:16)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- Prime Minister Han Seong-sook said Thursday that the ...

• (LEAD) Samsung Heavy Industries Q3 net profit more than triples on high-value-added ships (2026-10-29 05:08)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- South Korean shipbuilder Samsung Heavy Industries Co....

• Today in Korean history (2026-10-29 05:00)

Oct. 30

• (LEAD) Hyundai Motor Q3 net falls 24.2 pct on production disruptions, weak demand (2026-10-29 04:54)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- Hyundai Motor Co. said Thursday its third-quarter net...

• (LEAD) KHNP ends talks with consortium on Czech nuclear plant construction contract (2026-10-29 04:50)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- Korea Hydro & Nuclear Power Co. (KHNP), South Kor...

• Seoul mulling co-sponsoring U.N. resolution on N. Korean human rights (2026-10-29 04:44)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- The unification ministry is in talks with relevant go...

• (LEAD) N. Korea fires around dozen short-range ballistic missiles toward East Sea: JCS (2026-10-29 04:33)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- North Korea fired around a dozen short-range ballisti...

• Yonhap News Summary (2026-10-29 04:30)

The following is the first summary of major stories moved by Yonhap News Agency ...

• (URGENT) N. Korea fires around dozen short-range ballistic missiles from Wonsan area: S. Korean military (2026-10-29 04:17)

(END)

• S. Korea seeks 'top-down' approach with U.S. for breakthrough in OPCON transfer (2026-10-29 04:06)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- South Korea will seek a "top-down" approach with the ...

• Lee vows to leave no suspicions unresolved on 4th anniv. of Itaewon crowd crush (2026-10-29 04:06)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung vowed Thursday to leave no su...

• (LEAD) Special counsel again seeks death penalty for ex-President Yoon over martial law declaration (2026-10-29 03:46)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- A special counsel team on Thursday sought the death p...

• N. Korea fires unidentified projectile toward East Sea: JCS (2026-10-29 03:45)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- North Korea fired an unidentified projectile toward t...

• (URGENT) N. Korea fires unidentified projectile toward East Sea: S. Korean military (2026-10-29 03:39)

(END)

• Special counsel again seeks death penalty for ex-President Yoon over martial law declaration (2026-10-29 03:09)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- A special counsel team on Thursday sought the death p...

• (3rd LD) Samsung Electronics posts record profit in Q3, with memory biz on roll amid AI supercycle (2026-10-29 03:08)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Electronics Co. said Thursday its third-quart...

• (URGENT) Special counsel again seeks death penalty for ex-President Yoon over martial law declaration (2026-10-29 03:08)

(END)

• Banks' household mortgage lending rates up for 5th month in Sept. (2026-10-29 03:00)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- Banks' household mortgage loan rates rose for the fif...

• Watchdog to fine Celltrion 630 mln won over unfair subcontracting practices (2026-10-29 03:00)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's antitrust watchdog said Thursday it wil...

• Cheong Wa Dae seeks fairer priority system for postpartum care centers (2026-10-29 02:50)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- Cheong Wa Dae said Thursday it will consider revising...

• Lee's approval rating rises to 46 pct: poll (2026-10-29 02:47)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung's approval rating rose to 46 ...

• FM Cho leaves for U.S. for G20 meeting, talks with Rubio (2026-10-29 02:45)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- Foreign Minister Cho Hyun departed for the United Sta...

• Seoul stocks down 3 pct late Thurs. morning after weaker-than-expected Samsung earnings (2026-10-29 02:31)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks traded 3 percent lower late Thurs...

• Seoul arson suspect referred to prosecution for attempted murder (2026-10-29 02:21)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- Police referred the suspect in last week's arson fire...

• (LEAD) SK Innovation shifts to Q3 profit on lubricants, stronger refining margins (2026-10-29 02:19)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- SK Innovation Co., South Korea's major energy company...

• (LEAD) Mirae Asset to acquire Japanese brokerage Sanko (2026-10-29 02:15)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- Mirae Asset Securities Co., a major South Korean secu...

• Mirae Asset to acquire Japanese brokerage Sanko (2026-10-29 02:02)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- Mirae Asset Securities Co., a major South Korean secu...

• (LEAD) Lee set to hold summit with German chancellor on economic cooperation (2026-10-29 01:54)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung was set Thursday to hold a su...

• (2nd LD) Samsung Electronics posts record profit in Q3 on AI chip supercycle (2026-10-29 01:48)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Electronics Co. said Thursday its third-quart...

• Gaon Cable wins 120 bln-won cable order in U.S. (2026-10-29 01:46)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- Gaon Cable Co., a South Korean power cable maker, sai...

• KHNP ends talks with consortium on Czech nuclear plant construction contract (2026-10-29 01:37)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- Korea Hydro & Nuclear Power Co. (KHNP), South Kor...

• Lee offers condolences over deadly train crash in Spain (2026-10-29 01:36)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Thursday offered his condo...

• Gov't to designate new housing zones for over 76,000 homes near Seoul (2026-10-29 01:17)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- The government plans to designate six new public hous...

• S. Korea to closely monitor impact of upcoming U.S. midterm elections (2026-10-29 01:16)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- South Korean financial authorities said Thursday they...

• Rights commission calls for leniency for ex-Coupang workers indicted in 'blacklist' case (2026-10-29 01:16)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- The Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission has a...

• (LEAD) Samsung Electronics posts record profit in Q3 on AI chip supercycle (2026-10-29 01:08)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Electronics Co. said Thursday its third-quart...

• Hong Jin-hwon awarded Korean Artist Prize 2026 (2026-10-29 01:07)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- The National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (M...

• (LEAD) Special counsel team removes local election ballots from handball arena (2026-10-29 01:03)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- A special counsel team on Thursday moved boxes of bal...

• Hyundai Motor to invest US$450 mln to expand Alabama plant (2026-10-29 01:00)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- Hyundai Motor Co.'s U.S. manufacturing subsidiary has...

• S. Korea to conditionally ease diesel export restrictions amid stable crude supplies (2026-10-29 01:00)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- South Korea will ease export restrictions currently i...

• Transactions of repo loans rise 3.16 pct in Q3 (2026-10-29 00:58)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- Transactions of repurchase agreement (RP) loans among...

• (LEAD) Samsung SDI Q3 net profit jumps to 342.2 bln won on ESS deals (2026-10-29 00:47)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- Samsung SDI Co., a major South Korean battery manufac...

• N. Korea promotes Sinuiju's night view after opening bridge to China (2026-10-29 00:44)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- North Korea has begun promoting the new night look of...

• 2 S. Koreans injured in deadly train collision in Spain (2026-10-29 00:29)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- Two South Korean nationals were among hundreds of peo...

• (LEAD) Seoul stocks open tad higher as Fed holds rates ahead of Samsung earnings report (2026-10-29 00:20)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks opened slightly higher Thursday, ...

• Late singer Shin Hae-chul, BLACKPINK among 10 to receive cultural merit (2026-10-29 00:08)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- The late singer Shin Hae-chul, comedian Yoo Jae-suk, ...

• Seoul stocks open tad higher as Fed holds rates ahead of Samsung earnings report (2026-10-29 00:05)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks opened slightly higher Thursday, ...

• (URGENT) Seoul stocks open tad higher as Fed freezes rates ahead of Samsung earnings (2026-10-29 00:01)

(END)

• Lee set to hold summit with German chancellor on economic cooperation (2026-10-28 23:42)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung was set Thursday to hold a su...

• S. Korea, Turkey unearth Hellenistic-era mosaic remains (2026-10-28 23:37)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- A joint South Korean-Turkish excavation team has unea...

• Special counsel team moves local election ballots to storage from handball arena (2026-10-28 23:15)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- A special counsel team on Thursday began moving boxes...

• (3rd LD) Fed holds key interest rate steady; Warsh says inflation 'too high' (2026-10-28 22:01)

WASHINGTON, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- The U.S. Federal Reserve on Wednesday held its b...

• (EDITORIAL from Korea JoongAng Daily on Oct. 29) (2026-10-28 21:58)

A series of hacking incidents at Daishin Securities, Mirae Asset Global Investme...

• (EDITORIAL from Korea Times on Oct. 29) (2026-10-28 21:57)

President Lee Jae Myung tried in vain to appease disgruntled farmers who remain ...

• (EDITORIAL from Korea Herald on Oct. 29) (2026-10-28 21:57)

The ruling Democratic Party of Korea decided at a meeting of its lawmakers on Tu...

• Top headlines in major S. Korean newspapers (2026-10-28 21:57)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- The following are the top headlines in major South Ko...

• S. Korea, U.S., partners reaffirm N. Korea denuclearization goal, back sanctions enforcement (2026-10-28 21:28)

WASHINGTON, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- South Korea, the United States and other like-mi...

• ABS issuance falls 5.7 pct in Q3 (2026-10-28 21:00)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- The issuance of asset-backed securities (ABS) in Sout...

• Biz sentiment rises to over 4-yr high in Oct. on improved outlook: BOK (2026-10-28 21:00)

SEOUL, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's business sentiment rose to a more than ...

• (2nd LD) Fed holds key interest rate steady; Warsh says inflation 'too high' (2026-10-28 20:29)

WASHINGTON, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- The U.S. Federal Reserve on Wednesday held its b...

• (LEAD) Fed holds key interest rate steady after last month's quarter-point hike (2026-10-28 18:34)

WASHINGTON, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- The U.S. Federal Reserve on Wednesday held its b...

• U.S. sanctions 10 individuals, entity over N. Korean IT worker fraud schemes (2026-10-28 18:03)

WASHINGTON, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- The United States on Wednesday imposed sanctions...

• Fed holds key interest rate steady after last month's quarter-point hike (2026-10-28 18:02)

WASHINGTON, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- The U.S. Federal Reserve on Wednesday held its b...

• (URGENT) Fed holds key interest rate steady after last month's quarter-point hike (2026-10-28 18:01)

(END)

• Ruling party lawmaker voices regret over U.S. visa rejection (2026-10-28 14:41)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- Rep. Jin Sung-joon of the ruling Democratic Party (DP...

• 6 S. Koreans suffer minor injuries in Spain train crash (2026-10-28 12:36)

LONDON, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- Six South Koreans have been confirmed to have sustai...

• Defense chiefs of S. Korea, Japan reaffirm 3-way coordination with U.S. amid N.K. threats (2026-10-28 11:50)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- The defense ministers of South Korea and Japan reaffi...

• (3rd LD) Inspection of local election ballots stored at Seoul stadium ongoing for 7 hours (2026-10-28 11:43)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- A special counsel team on Wednesday launched an inspe...

• (3rd LD) S. Korea, U.S. agree to postpone key bilateral security dialogue to early next year: Seoul (2026-10-28 11:25)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and the United States have agreed to post...

• Prosecution not to appeal partial acquittal of ex-officials in 2019 deportation of N. Koreans (2026-10-28 11:25)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- Prosecutors on Wednesday decided not to appeal the pa...

• (2nd LD) S. Korea, U.S. agree to postpone key bilateral security dialogue to early next year: Seoul (2026-10-28 10:43)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and the United States have agreed to hold...

• (LEAD) S. Korea, U.S. agree to postpone key bilateral security dialogue to early next year: Seoul (2026-10-28 09:58)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and the United States have agreed to hold...

• (URGENT) Defense chiefs of S. Korea, U.S. to meet for bilateral talks in Washington next month: Seoul (2026-10-28 09:36)

(END)

• (URGENT) Defense chiefs of S. Korea, U.S. to hold key bilateral security dialogue early next year: Seoul (2026-10-28 09:35)

(END)

• HD Hyundai says discussing potential order volume with U.S. Navy (2026-10-28 08:58)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- South Korean shipbuilding giant HD Hyundai Co. said W...

• (2nd LD) Communications watchdog fines Google, Apple over in-app payment policies (2026-10-28 08:45)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's broadcasting and telecommunications reg...

• Lotte Giants hire ex-manager as bench coach (2026-10-28 08:38)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- The Lotte Giants on Wednesday brought back their form...

• LG Chem to sell 2.5 tln-won stake in battery unit to boost shareholder value (2026-10-28 08:21)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- LG Chem Ltd., South Korea's leading chemical company,...

- (LEAD) Communications watchdog fines Google, Apple over in-app payment policies (2026-10-28 08:13)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's broadcasting and telecommunications reg...

- (LEAD) Samsung C&T; Q3 net falls 9.5 pct on FX losses (2026-10-28 08:07)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- Samsung C&T Corp., the construction and trading a...

- (LEAD) Presidential office holds emergency meeting over financial-sector hacking attacks (2026-10-28 08:06)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- The presidential office convened an emergency meeting...

- Yonhap News Summary (2026-10-28 08:04)

The following is the second summary of major stories moved by Yonhap News Agency...

- Finance minister hopes for Bloomberg review of S. Korea's market status (2026-10-28 08:00)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's finance minister has said the country's...

- Communications watchdog fines Google, Apple over in-app payment policies (2026-10-28 07:51)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's broadcasting and telecommunications reg...

- (2nd LD) Seoul shares soar over 6 pct on revived AI optimism, SK hynix earnings (2026-10-28 07:44)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- Seoul shares surged by more than 6 percent Wednesday,...

- Appellate court reduces ex-PSS chief's sentence to 3 years (2026-10-28 07:41)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- Park Jong-joon, former chief of the Presidential Secu...

- S. Korean won sharply weakens against U.S. dollar (2026-10-28 07:35)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean won sharply weakened against the U.S...

- (URGENT) Communications watchdog fines Google, Apple over in-app payment policies (2026-10-28 07:33)

(END)

- (LEAD) HD Hyundai Q3 net profit up 40 pct to 1.38 tln won (2026-10-28 07:12)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- HD Hyundai Co., the holding company of South Korea's ...

• S. Korea accepts int'l arbitration in favor of Elliott in Samsung merger case (2026-10-28 06:53)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- South Korea will accept an international arbitration ...

• (LEAD) Seoul shares soar over 6 pct on revived AI optimism, SK hynix earnings (2026-10-28 06:49)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- Seoul shares surged by more than 6 percent Wednesday,...

• Seoul shares soar over 6 pct on revived AI optimism, SK hynix earnings (2026-10-28 06:35)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- Seoul shares surged by more than 6 percent Wednesday,...

• (LEAD) Seoul shares soar over 6 pct on revived AI optimism, SK hynix earnings (2026-10-28 06:33)

(END)

• S. Korea bets on regional tourism to attract more foreign visitors (2026-10-28 06:27)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- South Korea will invest hundreds of millions of dolla...

• DP launches advisory body on foreign affairs, inter-Korean ties (2026-10-28 06:17)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- The ruling Democratic Party (DP) on Wednesday launche...

• (LEAD) Lee says nothing takes precedence over people's lives, safety (2026-10-28 06:16)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung urged maximum government effo...

• Unification minister urges N. Korea to join talks on inter-Korean border (2026-10-28 06:10)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- Unification Minister Chung Dong-young on Wednesday ur...

• Defense chiefs of S. Korea, U.S. hold talks on OPCON transfer, alliance (2026-10-28 06:03)

SEOUL, Oct. 28 (Yonhap) -- The defense chiefs of South Korea and the United Stat...

• 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...