



SOUTH KOREA SECURITY ANALYSIS REPORT

AI-Assisted Open Source Intelligence Assessment

Analysis Period: March 10, 2026 - March 17, 2026

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

South Korea Security Analysis Report: March 10-17, 2026

Executive Summary

During the period of March 10-17, 2026, South Korea's security landscape was dominated by heightened tensions on the Korean Peninsula and significant shifts in its alliance dynamics. North Korea conducted a major ballistic missile launch event on March 14, firing at least 10 missiles into the Sea of Japan, coinciding with ongoing joint US-South Korea military exercises. Concurrently, the United States began redeploying elements of its Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system from South Korea to the Middle East, prompting assurances from Seoul regarding its independent deterrence capabilities. These developments underscore South Korea's dual challenge of managing immediate North Korean threats while adapting to a broader regional security role envisioned by the US. Diplomatic engagements with Japan and India also focused on economic security and regional stability.

Key Security Developments

- North Korea Ballistic Missile Launches

On March 14, 2026, North Korea launched at least 10 ballistic missiles from its Sunan area towards the Sea of Japan, with projectiles traveling approximately 350 kilometers before landing in waters east of the Korean Peninsula. South Korea's National Security Office convened an emergency meeting to assess the impact and review response measures, while the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) stated that the precise type of projectiles was under detailed analysis by South Korea and the United States. North Korean state media later reported that leader Kim Jong Un observed a live-fire test of multiple rocket launch systems on March 14, which he claimed would expose enemies within a 420-kilometer (260-mile) striking range to "uneasiness" and demonstrate the "destructive power of tactical nuclear weapon." This event marked the third missile test by North Korea since the beginning of 2026.

- US-South Korea Freedom Shield Military Exercises

The annual Freedom Shield joint military exercises between the United States and South Korea commenced on March 9 and are scheduled to run through March 19,

2026. Approximately 18,000 South Korean troops are participating in these largely computer-simulated command-post exercises, which also include field training designed to strengthen allied operational coordination. North Korea has consistently denounced these drills as hostile acts and rehearsals for invasion, using them as a pretext for its own military demonstrations and weapons tests, as evidenced by the missile launches on March 14.

- Redeployment of US Missile Defense Assets

Reports emerged and were confirmed that the United States began relocating elements of its Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) missile defense system from South Korea to the Middle East in early March 2026, with potential redeployment of Patriot anti-missile systems as well. This move is attributed to escalating tensions with Iran and Washington's need to adjust its global missile defense posture. South Korean President Lee Jae-myung acknowledged the redeployment on March 10, expressing opposition but asserting that South Korea's defense spending and conventional capabilities far exceed those of North Korea, ensuring no hindrance to deterrence strategy.

- South Korea's Civil Defense Training Push

South Korea initiated a comprehensive civil defense training push in 2026, with local governments across the nation launching education programs and drills. From March 16 to March 27, 2026, Gyeonggi Province is conducting an ambitious three-week civil defense drill focused on air raid preparedness, emphasizing practical readiness and institutional responsibility. Gunpo City is also rolling out its 2026 Civil Defense Basic Training for first and second-year members from March 23 to April 10, covering subjects like first aid, fire preparedness, and CBRN response.

- Japan-Korea Finance Ministerial Dialogue

On March 14, 2026, the Tenth Japan-Korea Finance Ministerial Dialogue was held in Tokyo, Japan. Attended by Japan's Minister of Finance, Ms. KATAYAMA Satsuki, and Korea's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Economy, Mr. KOO Yun-cheol, the dialogue covered global and regional economies, economic security, and ways to strengthen bilateral and multilateral cooperation. Both ministers expressed serious concern over the recent sharp depreciation of the Korean won and the Japanese yen, reaffirming their commitment to closely monitor foreign exchange markets and take appropriate actions against excessive volatility.

- South Korea-India Foreign Ministers' Telephone Conversation

On March 10, 2026, South Korean Foreign Minister Cho Hyun held a telephone conversation with Indian External Affairs Minister Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar. The ministers discussed Korea-India relations, substantive cooperation, and the international situation, with a particular focus on the situation in the Middle East and its significant impact on global security and economy. They agreed to maintain close

communication on safety measures for their citizens in response to developments in the Middle East.

- North Korea's Diplomatic Support for Iran

On March 10, 2026, an unnamed North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesperson issued a statement denouncing "violations of a country's political system and territorial integrity" and interference in its internal affairs, while expressing respect for the Iranian people's right to choose their supreme leader. This statement is interpreted as North Korea's backing of Iran following joint US-Israeli strikes, signaling Pyongyang's intention to draw closer to Russia, Iran's key partner, and aligning with a push for a multipolar world order.

Geopolitical Impact and Regional Dynamics

The period from March 10-17, 2026, highlighted the intricate and often volatile geopolitical dynamics surrounding South Korea. North Korea's launch of 10 ballistic missiles during the Freedom Shield exercises directly challenged regional stability and underscored Pyongyang's continued reliance on military provocations to protest joint drills and assert its capabilities. This pattern reinforces the persistent threat North Korea poses and necessitates a robust deterrence posture from South Korea and its allies. The ongoing US-South Korea alliance, particularly the Freedom Shield exercises, remains a critical pillar of regional security, despite North Korean condemnation.

The redeployment of US THAAD and potentially Patriot missile defense systems from South Korea to the Middle East introduces a new layer of complexity. While President Lee Jae-myung asserted South Korea's ability to deter North Korean threats independently, this move signals a broader shift in US strategic focus, as outlined in the 2026 National Defense Strategy (NDS). The NDS positions South Korea for a more expansive regional role beyond peninsula-focused deterrence, potentially as a security and defense production partner for US Indo-Pacific strategy. This shift could lead to increased friction with China, which views a broader South Korean role in regional competition as undermining its own diplomatic autonomy.

South Korea's diplomatic engagements with Japan and India during this period also reflect its efforts to navigate a complex geopolitical landscape. The Japan-Korea Finance Ministerial Dialogue underscored shared concerns over global economic risks, including geopolitical tensions, and the need for cooperation on economic security. The conversation with India's Foreign Minister highlighted mutual concerns regarding the Middle East, indicating South Korea's awareness of interconnected global security challenges and its efforts to coordinate responses with other regional powers. North Korea's explicit diplomatic support for Iran further complicates regional dynamics, suggesting a strengthening of an anti-US alignment that could have implications for

the Korean Peninsula.

Military and Defense Analysis

South Korea's military and defense posture during this period demonstrates a clear commitment to enhancing its capabilities for independent deterrence and future warfare. The approval of the 2026 defense budget at KRW 65.8642 trillion (approximately \$44.7 billion), a 7.5% increase from the previous year, is the highest annual growth rate since 2020, reflecting a strong commitment to national security. A significant portion of this budget is allocated to the "Three-Axis System"—comprising the Kill Chain (preemptive attack), Korea Air and Missile Defense (KAMD), and Korea Massive Punishment and Retaliation (KMPPR)—which is central to deterring North Korea's nuclear and WMD threats. Funding for this system will rise by over 20%, expediting the deployment of reconnaissance satellites, Aegis destroyers, and high-powered missiles.

Modernization programs are heavily focused on AI, drones, and advanced defense technologies. The "500,000 Drone Warriors" initiative is accelerating, with an increased budget for large-scale procurement of training drones and instructor programs. This aims to expand unmanned forces for high-risk missions, including attack drones and medium loitering munitions. Investment in defense R&D is also seeing a steep rise, up 19.4%, with new funding for a Defense Space Certification Center and increased budgets for military reconnaissance satellites and the Military Satellite Communication System-III. These developments align with President Lee Jae-myung's goal of achieving wartime operational control (OPCON) transition within his term, which requires South Korean forces to acquire command-and-control for combined defense forces.

The reported redeployment of some US missile defense assets, while a point of concern, has been met with assurances from President Lee that South Korea's own robust conventional capabilities are sufficient to maintain deterrence against North Korea. This highlights South Korea's growing confidence in its indigenous defense industry and its ability to develop and acquire advanced weapon systems. The country's ambition to build nuclear-powered, conventionally armed submarines, with US support, further underscores its long-term vision for strengthening naval capabilities to monitor maritime threats and bolster its naval-industrial base.

Outlook and Forecast

Short-term trends (1-3 months):

In the immediate future, tensions on the Korean Peninsula are likely to remain elevated, particularly as the US-South Korea Freedom Shield exercises conclude on March 19. North Korea is expected to continue its pattern of military demonstrations in response to these drills, potentially including further missile launches or other provocative actions. South Korea will maintain a heightened state of readiness, closely monitoring North Korean activities and coordinating with the US. The redeployment of US missile defense assets to the Middle East will continue to be a point of discussion, with South Korea likely to reiterate its self-reliant defense capabilities while seeking assurances regarding the alliance's overall strength. Diplomatic efforts will focus on managing these immediate security concerns and reinforcing regional partnerships.

Critical flashpoints and risk areas:

The primary flashpoint remains the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) and the waters surrounding the Korean Peninsula, where North Korean provocations could escalate rapidly. Any further significant missile tests by North Korea, especially those involving new or advanced capabilities, pose a direct risk to regional stability. The ongoing conflict in the Middle East and the US's shifting military posture could also create unforeseen vulnerabilities or miscalculations in the Indo-Pacific, potentially impacting the availability of US assets or altering deterrence calculations. Furthermore, the increasing alignment between North Korea, Russia, and Iran could embolden Pyongyang and complicate international efforts to de-escalate tensions.

Indicators to monitor:

Key indicators to monitor include the frequency and nature of North Korean military activities, particularly missile tests and statements from state media. The progress and outcomes of ongoing US-South Korea military cooperation, including any adjustments to future joint exercises, will be important. Developments in the Middle East, specifically regarding the US military presence and regional stability, should be closely watched for their potential ripple effects on the Korean Peninsula. Additionally, any shifts in diplomatic rhetoric or actions from China regarding the US-South Korea alliance and regional security will be crucial, as Beijing seeks to manage its own interests in the Indo-Pacific.

Strategic recommendations:

South Korea should continue to prioritize the robust implementation of its "Three-Axis System" and accelerate the development of its AI-enabled future force and drone capabilities to enhance independent deterrence. Diplomatic efforts should focus on strengthening trilateral security cooperation with the US and Japan, while also engaging China to manage potential friction arising from South Korea's expanding regional security role. Maintaining open lines of communication with North Korea, even amidst provocations, is essential to prevent miscalculation. Furthermore, South Korea should actively participate in multilateral dialogues on regional security and

economic stability, leveraging its growing defense industry and technological prowess to foster broader partnerships and contribute to a stable Indo-Pacific.

ANNEX: COLLECTED ARTICLES BY SOURCE

Source: Daily NK

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

North Korean authorities are conducting household inspections of wired broadcast equipment across multiple provinces following the conclusion of the ninth Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) congress, in what analysts see as a coordinated push to reinforce ideological control, a Daily NK

source said Monday. A source in South Hamgyong province told Daily NK that neighborhood [...]

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

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

Source: Hankyoreh

- [South Korean PM says Trump 'very intrigued' by proposal to improve US-North Korea ties](#) (2026-03-16 12:00)
- ['KPop Demon Hunters' wins big at Oscars with awards for animated feature, song](#) (2026-03-16 12:00)
- ['A team effort' : Trump calls on South Korea, others to police Hormuz Strait](#) (2026-03-16 12:00)
- [US call for backup in Strait of Hormuz could put allies like Korea in 'kill box'](#) (2026-03-16 12:00)
- [Why Korea may not be able to say no to Trump' s request for warships in Hormuz Strait](#) (2026-03-16 12:00)
- [North Korea claims to test nuclear-capable MRLS able to strike South Korea](#) (2026-03-16 12:00)
- [Return of the kings: BTS comeback turns Seoul thoroughfare into a stage](#) (2026-03-16 12:00)
- [US trade probes hit Korea' s already struggling steel, petrochemical sectors](#) (2026-03-16 12:00)
- [\[Column\] What do norms mean in times of war?](#) (2026-03-15 06:01)
- [Lee Se-dol' s advice for young job seekers worried about AI](#) (2026-03-13 12:01)
- [Iran sets terms for ending war, but US unlikely to acquiesce](#) (2026-03-13 12:01)

- [Iran's new supreme leader vows to keep Strait of Hormuz closed in first public address](#) (2026-03-13 12:01)
- [\[Column\] The megalomaniac dictator with tariffs in one hand, missiles in the other](#) (2026-03-13 12:01)
- [Korean legislature passes US investment bill, but loophole for waiving safeguards sparks backlash](#) (2026-03-13 12:01)
- [\[Editorial\] Korea can't let US trade probes strong-arm it into concessions](#) (2026-03-13 12:01)
- [Korea named as target of new Section 301 probe by US](#) (2026-03-12 12:01)
- [How much is the US willing to risk for the Strait of Hormuz?](#) (2026-03-12 12:01)
- [US Democrats say Trump's investment pressure has 'deeply unsettled' alliance with Seoul](#) (2026-03-12 12:01)
- [\[Editorial\] No greater sign that South Korea must prioritize building its own defense abilities](#) (2026-03-12 12:01)
- [Blue House reviewing plan to revive abolished open-eligibility bar exam](#) (2026-03-12 12:01)
- [US may seek exit from Iran war by moving the goalposts of victory](#) (2026-03-12 12:01)
- [\[Column\] Misconceptions about America's war with Iran](#) (2026-03-12 12:01)
- ['Made in USA' : Scraps of missile that killed Iranian children point to US responsibility](#) (2026-03-12 12:01)
- [Strait of Hormuz bottleneck could become 'death valley' for US military](#) (2026-03-11 12:01)
- [\[Exclusive\] Scholars behind Nobel nomination call Korea's 'Revolution of Light' a beacon of democratic resilience](#) (2026-03-11 12:01)
- [Top Iranian security official threatens Trump with 'elimination'](#) (2026-03-11 12:01)

- [South Korea's Lee acknowledges US is shifting military assets to Middle East](#) (2026-03-11 12:01)
- [\[News analysis\] Air defense pullout signals new era of US strategic flexibility in Korea](#) (2026-03-11 12:01)
- [South Korea logs per capita GNI of \\$36,855 for 2025, dampened by weak won](#) (2026-03-11 12:01)
- [Extended crisis in Mideast may send shockwaves through Korea's economy, key sectors](#) (2026-03-11 12:01)
- [Korea's Democrats expect a landslide in June elections — that overconfidence could hurt them](#) (2026-03-10 12:01)
- [\[Interview\] Abandoning reunification is survival strategy for North Korea, expert says](#) (2026-03-10 12:01)
- [Party that gave rise to Yoon Suk-yeol distances itself from disgraced former president](#) (2026-03-10 12:01)
- [PPP's Jang formally agrees to cut ties with Yoon amid dismal poll numbers, looming election](#) (2026-03-10 12:01)
- [65% of Korean men say gender equality has gone 'far enough' ; only 42% of women agree](#) (2026-03-10 12:01)
- [Coupang investors insinuate that US is planning Section 301 probe into Korea](#) (2026-03-10 12:01)
- ['Everything they have is gone' : Trump says war with Iran will be over 'very soon'](#) (2026-03-10 12:01)

Source: Korea Times

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

The Cabinet on Tuesday endorsed a special law to facilitate Korea's \$350 billion investment pledge to the United States, paving the way for implementation of the commitment under a bilateral trade deal reached last year. The approval came five days after the bill passed the

National Assembly with bipartisan support, giving legal backing to a memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed between Seoul and Washington in November. The law will take effect three months after it is promulgated. At the core of the legislation is the creation of a joint corporation to carry out Seoul's \$350 billion investment commitment, along with a strategic investment fund to be set up under the entity. Under the plan, \$150 billion will be allocated to the shipbuilding sector, while the remaining \$200 billion will go to projects that support the economic and national security interests of both countries. The corporation will have capital of 2 trillion won (\$1.34 billion), fully funded by the Korean government. Details such as the timing and method of funding will be set by presidential decree. The passage comes as

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The leader of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) said Tuesday the party plans to put prosecution reform bills centered on separating investigative and indictment powers to a vote at the National Assembly plenary session this week. Rep. Jung Chung-rae said the DPK, which holds a majority in the National Assembly, will push to bring the key prosecution reform bills to the floor during a plenary session on Thursday. The bills are follow-up measures to a government reorganization law that will abolish the existing prosecution service structure in October and outline the framework for launching new investigative and indictment agencies in the same month. "The party, the government and Cheong Wa Dae reached a compromise through close consultations," Jung said during a press briefing. "Provisions that had raised strong public concerns were either removed or revised." Jung said the bills aim to fully separate prosecutors' investigative and indictment powers, stripping prosecutors under the proposed indictment agency of their authority to direct police investigations or interfere in ongoing

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

Korean and U.S. Army troops conducted joint drills in a desert in California earlier this month to enhance their combat capabilities and interoperability, the South's Army said Tuesday. Some

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

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

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

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

President Lee Jae Myung on Monday called for a measured and strategic approach to the ongoing prosecution reform to ensure it achieves its intended purpose, responding to hard-line calls within the ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) for sweeping changes to the prosecution system. Lee made the remarks on his social media account on X, as some hardliners in the DPK have been pushing for far-reaching reforms aimed at sharply curbing prosecutorial powers. Their proposals include renaming the prosecutor general as the "chief of the indictment agency" in line with plans to transform the prosecution service into a body focused solely on indictments. "The separation of investigation and prosecution, as well as the exclusion of the prosecution from investigative authority, has already been confirmed as a national policy task and is irreversible," Lee wrote. "It is difficult to understand why the title of prosecutor general should be changed to 'chief of the indictment agency,' which could leave room for controversy over its constitutionality." Under a government reorganization bill passed by

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

naval unit, currently operating in the Gulf of Aden for anti-piracy operations, to the Strait of Hormuz would require parliamentary approval, stressing that it would ef

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

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

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

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

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

Japan has one of the oldest punk scenes in the world, dating back to the 1970s — certainly one of the first outside of the West, and probably the first in Asia. The Japanese punk scene has many close ties with neighboring Korea's own scene, which is much smaller and about 20 years younger, having started in the early 1990s. "Since Japan is the closest country to us and the cultures are similar, we've been performing with Japanese bands quite often for a long time," said Park Byung-sun, guitarist of the Korean band Pogo Attack. Park said he and his friends in the Korean scene have been collaborating with punk bands in Japan every year going back to about 2003. Now in his 40s, he mentioned that he lived in Tokyo for two years before

turning 30, during which time he played in the Japanese band 00 Squad. This month, Korea is seeing an unusually high number of Japanese bands visiting, with three acts coming here for two separate tours over the next couple weeks. Yasumasa Okise remembers his first visit to Korea, during the 1988 Summer Olympics. “I was still a boy, but I remember th

- [Korean language classes fill up as students from migrant backgrounds increase](#)

(2026-03-15 11:57)

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

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

With the June 3 local elections approaching, debate has resurfaced over voting rights for foreign residents as Korea's foreign population continues to grow. It has been two decades since the government allowed certain long-term foreign residents to vote in local elections, but critics argue that the current rules violate the principles of reciprocity and international fairness. The government first granted voting rights to foreign permanent residents in local elections in 2006 during the Roh Moo-hyun administration. At that time, the number of eligible foreign voters stood at just 6,726, but the figure has grown steadily — rising to 12,878 in 2010, 48,428 in 2014, 106,205 in 2018 and 127,623 in 2022. Under the current Public Official Election Act, foreign residents who have obtained permanent residency are allowed to vote in elections for local government leaders and local council members after three years of holding an F-5 visa. According to the Ministry of Justice, Korea had more than 1.6 million registered foreign residents as of December last year, including 220,788 permanent resi

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

(2026-03-15 11:57)

People in their 40s recorded the highest levels of stress in daily life among adults, marking a shift away from younger generations as economic pressures and workplace competition weigh more heavily on middle-aged Koreans. This generational shift reflects a broader socioeconomic reality, as the anxieties of midlife — compounded by stagnant wages and rising household debt — have eclipsed the pressures once felt mainly by younger Koreans entering the workforce.

According to 2024 data from the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency on Sunday, from an annual survey of about 10,000 people, 25.9 percent of respondents age 19 and older said they feel “very much” or “much” stress in daily life — a level similar to the 25.5 percent recorded in 2014. Among age groups, people in their 40s recorded the highest stress rate at 35.1 percent — more than eight percentage points higher than in 2014. Those in their 30s followed at 34.7 percent, while adults ages 19 to 29 recorded 30.3 percent. In the 2014 survey, people in their 30s had reported the highest stress level at 34 percent,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“We weren’t even shaken during COVID. It somehow just passed us by,” said Joo Jung-hee, an 80-year-old restaurant owner. “That’s because of the factory workers.” Running a small restaurant in Ulsan, a city whose economy revolves around six major Hyundai Motor factories, Joo has rarely worried about sales. Even with pain-relief patches on hands darkened by age spots, she still smiles at the sight of customers streaming in each day, sometimes swallowing a handful of painkillers before returning to work. Inside the modest 82-square-meter restaurant, ten steel tables fill quickly at lunchtime. Factory workers tired of cafeteria food come for Joo’s pollack stew or ft tofu up, and the place turns into mething like a neighborhood living room. Over the years serving out food, she now knows when the next seasonal promotion is. Restaurants nearby have changed owners several times in the past year alone. But Joo has held on to her spot, which sits directly across from the factory gates for three decades. For her, Ulsan was the city that made it possible to raise three sons. She arrived

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

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

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

Internal turmoil within the main opposition People Power Party (PPP) is intensifying ahead of the June 3 local elections, as the chief of its nomination committee suddenly quit and the confrontation between party leader Jang Dong-hyeok and Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon is escalating. While the party is still dealing with internal disputes surrounding its ties with ousted former President Yoon Suk Yeol, fresh turbulence is threatening to disrupt preparations for the key

elections. Lee Jung-hyun, who had been overseeing the party's nomination process for the upcoming elections, announced his resignation Friday, saying he could no longer carry out the vision he sought to pursue during the selection process. "In the course of this nomination process, I strongly felt the need for change and reform, and I have tried to do my best in the role entrusted to me," Lee said in a statement. "However, as I respected various opinions, I concluded that it had become difficult to push forward the direction I had envisioned. Taking full responsibility, I will step down from my position as chairman of th

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

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

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

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

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

Police said Friday that they will deploy maximum security measures for K-pop group BTS' concert at Gwanghwamun Square on March 21, citing the possibility of a terror attack amid

intensifying tensions in the Middle East and worsening global security conditions. In a press release, the Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency said it will mobilize all resources to counterterrorism risks in and around the venue near City Hall in central Seoul, with over 200,000 fans expected to crowd the area for the concert. It also pledged a tough response to hoax threats. “If a bomb threat is reported on the day of the event, it could cause major disruptions,” the police said. “Anyone who causes delays or wastes police resources by making bomb threats will be subject to arrest and a full investigation until they are apprehended.” Police buses and water-filled barricades will be placed on surrounding roads to block access to the venue as part of the safety measures. Metal detectors will also be set up at 30 entrance points. Police asked visitors to pack light, saying that screening procedures could cau

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

under

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

President Lee Jae Myung on Friday called for close monitoring of local gas stations to ensure compliance with a fuel price cap, as the government implemented the price ceiling to help ease burdens for consumers. "(The government) decided to set a ceiling on supply prices to curb fluctuating fuel costs stemming from uncertainty in the international situation," Lee wrote on X. Lee urged public participation to prevent potential profiteering by actively reporting cases of violations. "Public monitoring and participation are needed to prevent some companies from profiteering during this period of instability or taking unfair profits," he said. "If you find gas stations violating the (oil price cap) system, please report the cases to me without delay." It marks the first time since 1997 that Korea has enforced a price ceiling system under a provision in the Petroleum Business Act, which allows the industry minister to set a maximum sales price when oil prices fluctuate sharply and threaten economic stability.

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

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

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

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

the Ministry of Science and ICT will develop AI agents capable of managing or operating industrial processes, while also advancing AI inte

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

Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon said Thursday he did not register for the main opposition People Power Party (PPP)'s candidacy for the June local elections within the extended deadline, expressing dissatisfaction with the party leadership's lack of effort to clearly sever ties with ousted President Yoon Suk Yeol. The fourth-term mayor did not submit his registration for the Seoul mayoral race by the deadline set by the PPP — which had been extended from the original cutoff on Sunday — citing concerns over PPP leader Jang Dong-hyeok's vague stance on calls from within the party to distance itself from Yoon. The former president is currently jailed on insurrection charges related to his failed martial law bid in December 2024. "I regret to say that I was unable to apply for the party primary or candidacy registration ahead of the local elections today," Oh told reporters after an event held in central Seoul. His decision comes as the conservative party continues to struggle to regain public support amid a prolonged internal rift triggered by Yoon's short-lived martial law declaration. In an appa

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

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

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

President Lee Jae Myung on Thursday ordered a thorough investigation into the recent discovery of additional remains of victims of the Jeju Air plane crash in late 2024, voicing regret over their belated recovery. Last month, authorities discovered nine pieces of remains presumed to belong to the victims in a reexamination of the wreckage site, prompting the victims' families to protest outside the presidential office this week to condemn the disaster recovery process. Lee instructed a "thorough" probe to determine why the remains were not found in the early stages of the recovery process and why they were left at the site for more than a year, according to Lee Kyu-yeon, the presidential secretary for public relations. He also

called for "severely reprimanding" those responsible and to swiftly carry out the ongoing investigation into the crash, the presidential aide said in a briefing. "Looking back, there were clear shortcomings. (We) will identify those responsible and make sure that this does not happen ever again," the aide said. The Jeju Air crash on Dec. 29, 2024, killed 179 passengers.

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

Incumbent Gyeonggi Gov. Kim Dong-yeon and six-term lawmaker Choo Mi-ae of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) on Thursday declared their bids for the June 3 Gyeonggi gubernatorial election. Kim, who is seeking reelection, vowed to work "on the ground" and in line with President Lee Jae Myung's vision during a press conference in Anyang Station, Gyeonggi Province. "My utmost priority is making the Lee Jae Myung administration a successful one," he said, pledging to construct around 800,000 housing units and attract 200 trillion won in investment during his term. Earlier in the day, Choo also announced her bid, vowing to make Gyeonggi Province a province where its residents can take pride in, while promoting AI-driven governance and youth job creation. The Gyeonggi Province governor race is shaping up as a five-way contest with the entries of Kim and Choo, who are widely seen as front-runners in the upcoming election. The DPK plans to hold a preliminary primary from March 21-22 to narrow the field to three candidates before holding the final primary from April 5-7.

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

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

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

The National Assembly passed a special bill on Korea's investments in the United States Thursday, establishing a legal framework to manage \$350 billion worth of investment projects agreed upon by the two countries. Lawmakers passed the legislation after reaching a bipartisan agreement during a plenary session. Of the 242 lawmakers participating in the session, 226 voted for it and eight opposed, with another eight abstaining. The bill was passed around three months after the two countries signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on the

investment and tariff issues, and about six weeks after U.S. President Donald Trump threatened to raise tariffs on Korean goods from 15 percent to 25 percent, citing "delays" in the legislation process. President Lee Jae Myung welcomed the passage of the bill. "The bill's passage is a meaningful example showing that there are no partisan divides when it comes to national priorities," he wrote in a post on X. "It establishes the legal and institutional foundation needed to implement the Korea-U.S. tariff agreement." Lee added that the government

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

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

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

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

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

Soonchunhyang University announced Thursday that it will establish a new college dedicated exclusively to international students as part of a broader overhaul of its education system to

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Supreme Court on Thursday finalized a ruling stripping Rep. Yang Moon-seok of his parliamentary seat after convicting him of fraud. Yang of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea had been sentenced by a lower court to 18 months in prison, suspended for three years, for taking out a fraudulent loan in 2021. The top court upheld the ruling. By law, members of the National Assembly are stripped of their seats if a criminal punishment of at least a prison term, including suspended ones, is finalized. The Supreme Court's decision came on the same day a revised law took effect, allowing petitions to be filed with the Constitutional Court to review finalized rulings. Yang wrote on Facebook after the ruling that if it appears to have "overlooked the basic rights" of his family, he will consult his lawyers and "receive the judgment of the Constitutional Court." Yang and his wife, surnamed Seo, were indicted in 2024 on charges of fraud for allegedly taking out a 1.1 billion-won (\$744,000) loan from a credit union under the false pretext of business operation funds for their college student child

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

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

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

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

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

Veteran musical theater actor Nam Kyung-joo is facing charges of sexual assault after police referred his case to prosecutors. The Seoul Bangbae Police Station announced Wednesday that it referred Nam to the Seoul Central District Prosecutors' Office last month while he remains free pending trial. He is accused of sexually assaulting a woman late last year in Seocho-gu, southern Seoul. The victim directly reported the incident to the police via the 112 emergency hotline. Nam has denied the charges. Following the allegations, Nam deleted his social media accounts and severed ties with his agency. Nam debuted as a musical actor in the 1980s and has remained a highly influential presence in the Korean musical theater industry. He has starred in major productions including "Guys and Dolls" and "Chicago" and was routinely cast in lead roles until October last year. Nam has also been known as a major advocate for the arts in Korea. Last October, Nam made a high-profile appearance at a parliamentary audit before the Culture, Sports and Tourism Committee. During the session, he urged institutiona

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

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

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

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

exports that violate export controls and eradicate such practices to enhance national credibility and export competitiveness," said Lee Myeong-gu, a KCS chief, in a press release. The agency a

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

A set of judicial reform laws were officially proclaimed Thursday, allowing constitutional appeals of Supreme Court rulings, punishment for judges who intentionally distort legal principles and an expansion of the top court. The reforms marked the first major overhaul of the current judiciary system since a constitutional amendment in 1987. The National Assembly, controlled by the ruling Democratic Party, passed the bills last month in a push for judiciary reform despite strong objections from the main opposition People Power Party and the judiciary, which argued they could undermine its independence. The laws on constitutional appeals and punishment for the offense of "legal distortion" will take effect immediately, while the increase to the number of Supreme Court justices will gradually take place starting 2028. Under the amended Constitutional Court Act, individuals can now file constitutional complaints against finalized rulings if they are deemed to be against Constitutional Court decisions, have not followed due process or infringed fundamental rights with clear constitutional vio

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

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

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

A research team at Chonnam National University has drawn international attention after its microfluidics study was featured as the cover paper of the 25th anniversary issue of a leading scientific journal. According to the university Wednesday, the team led by Park Jin-soo, a professor in the university's School of Mechanical Engineering, conducted the international joint research with scientists from Germany's Technische Universitat Ilmenau. The study appeared on the cover of Lab on a Chip, an international journal published by the U.K.-based

Royal Society of Chemistry. Building on years of research in microfluidics, which examines how fluids behave at microscopic scales, Park's team investigated how biological particles such as cells, bacteria and microalgae move and interact in fluid environments. Many earlier studies treated biological particles as perfectly spherical when conducting theoretical or computational analyses. Yet such assumptions often failed to align with results observed in experiments and clinical settings. To address this gap, the researchers focused on the fact

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

South Korea plans to release 22.46 million barrels of oil from its strategic reserves in line with an agreement among International Energy Agency (IEA) members to make 400 million barrels of oil from their reserves available to the market, Seoul's industry ministry has said. The ministry announced the plan for the release on Wednesday, shortly after the 32-member IEA unanimously agreed to carry out the agency's largest-ever oil stock release in a collective action to help address disruptions in oil markets that stem from the ongoing war between the United States, Israel and Iran. The contribution of each country in the collective endeavor was calculated in proportion to its share of the member countries' total oil consumption. South Korea's planned release accounts for 5.6 percent of the total 400 million barrels to be released. "(South Korea) assesses that close cooperation with the IEA this time will contribute greatly to stabilizing the international oil market," an industry ministry official said. "Going forward, we plan to minimize the impact on the people's economy and prices by cl

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

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

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

The government has mapped out crowd safety measures for K-pop supergroup BTS' upcoming Seoul concert, the interior ministry said Wednesday, as a huge crowd is expected to gather at Gwanghwamun Square, the concert venue. The ministry said Minister Yun Ho-jung presided over a meeting of safety-related public institutions to review the duties of each organization in implementing crowd safety measures for the BTS concert slated for March 21. The concert is

expected to attract a large crowd, including 22,000 domestic and international ticket holders. The government plans to preemptively issue a "caution" level warning for crowd disaster to prevent accidents caused by overcrowding, the ministry noted, adding the warning will be ineffect for the central Seoul wards of Jongno and Jung during the concert day. The interior ministry and the police will form a situation management team, and the Seoul city government will operate a rapid response team to prepare for emergency situations. The culture ministry will provide advice on concert safety, and inspect stage facilities and seats, while the heal

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

Officials inspect agricultural machinery, including cultivators that had been idle during the winter, at the Gyeonggi-do Agricultural Research and Extension Services in Hwaseong, Gyeonggi Province, Wednesday, marking Soil Day. Yonhap

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

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

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

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

citizens and some foreign residents were eligible to receive 150,000 won (\$100), with additional benefits for low-income households. Non-Korean citizens were in principle excluded from the initiative

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

The first day after Korea’s revised Trade Union Act — the so-called “yellow envelope law” — took effect saw more than 80,000 subcontracted workers at 221 parent companies and public institutions seek bargaining with what they consider their primary employers. Officials at the Ministry of Employment and Labor told reporters Wednesday that, as of 8 p.m. the previous day, a total of 407 subcontractor unions and branches, representing about 81,600 workers, had filed bargaining requests with 143 private firms and 78 public entities. Among the companies facing new union requests for talks are major employers such as Hyundai Motor Group, Hyundai Mobis, Hyundai Glovis, HD Hyundai Heavy Industries, Hanwha Ocean, GM Korea, Yonsei University, CJ Logistics, POSCO, Coupang CLS, Korea Railroad Corp. and Incheon International Airport Corp. Only five of them — Hanwha Ocean, POSCO, Coupang CLS, Hwaseong city government and Busan Transportation Corp. — have posted notices acknowledging the bargaining demands and begun the legal process to handle them, including deciding whether to unify bar

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

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

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

Koreans planning honeymoons, pilgrimages and long-awaited overseas trips are scrambling to revise their itineraries as the conflict in the Middle East shuts down key transit hubs and throws global aviation into turmoil. For many engaged Korean couples, the crisis has hit hard. Over the past few years, Dubai has transformed from a mere layover into a standalone honeymoon hot

spot for Koreans, marketed as “affordable luxury” and bundled with resort destinations like the Maldives and Mauritius. Its appeal has grown with K-drama shoots, social media buzz over Dubai chocolate and visa-free entry for Korean travelers, helping push Korean arrivals up 225 percent in 2023 and another 51 percent in the first half of 2024, according to Dubai’s Department of Economy and Tourism. That booming demand is now colliding with anxiety over war. Since the U.S. and Israeli strikes on Iran in late February, Iran’s retaliatory attacks have raised fears that major Middle Eastern cities could become targets, particularly after reports that United Arab Emirates air defenses intercepted missiles and drone

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

with a budget of about 3 billion won funded by the central gove

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

The Seoul city government said Wednesday it plans to replace its decades-old baseball stadium in the southeastern district of Jamsil with a 30,000-seat dome arena by 2032 in a major redevelopment plan. The 25,000-seat Jamsil Baseball Stadium, home to the Doosan Bears and LG Twins of the Korea Baseball Organization, will close for the construction of the new stadium, which is planned to be the largest of its kind in the country, according to the city government. The construction will take place as part of a 3.3 trillion-won (\$2.25 billion) project to redevelop the Seoul Sports Complex site — built for the 1986 Asian Games and 1988 Summer Olympics, and home to the baseball stadium. The city said it recently wrapped up negotiations over the project with its preferred bidder, a consortium led by Hanwha Corporation E&C Division, after 160 rounds of talks over four years. The project, which will be entirely funded by the private sector, includes plans to build an exhibition center, a five-star hotel and other commercial facilities at the 350,000-square-meter site. As construction takes place

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

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

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

An appellate trial for former Prime Minister Han Duck-soo began Wednesday on charges that he played a key role in an insurrection by abetting former President Yoon Suk Yeol's 2024 imposition of martial law. The first hearing opened at the Seoul High Court after both Han and special counsel Cho Eun-suk's team appealed a 23-year prison sentence handed down by a district court in January. Han was found guilty of taking part in an insurrection by proposing that Yoon convene a Cabinet meeting before declaring martial law on Dec. 3, 2024. He was also convicted of signing a revised proclamation after the decree was lifted six hours later, in a bid to give it a veneer of legitimacy, and separately lying under oath at the Constitutional Court. With

the ruling, the former prime minister was placed in custody at the same detention center in Uiwang, south of Seoul, where Yoon has been held since last July. The morning portion of Wednesday's hearing will be broadcast using court equipment at the request of the special counsel team, the court said, adding it will review whether to allow broadcasting of

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

A joint prosecution-police team investigating suspected collusion between politics and religion again raided the Shincheonji Church of Jesus, a nonmainstream religious sect, on Wednesday as part of a probe into its alleged ties to the main opposition People Power Party (PPP). Prosecutors and investigators from the team searched Shincheonji's headquarters in Gwacheon, just south of Seoul, in the morning to seize additional data related to suspicions of church members' collective affiliation with the PPP years ago. They already searched the Gwacheon headquarters and the residence of the church's founder, Lee Man-hee, in January. Lee and others are suspected of forcing church followers to join the PPP with the aim of influencing the results of the party's presidential primary in 2021 and the party's candidate nominations for the 2024 general elections.

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

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

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

Calls are growing to end direct contact animal experiences at zoos across Korea, as new findings show many facilities continue to defy a legal ban on riding, touching and feeding animals more than two years after it took effect. Animal welfare advocates and lawmakers said the gap between the law and practice is exposing animals to chronic stress and sending the wrong message to children about wildlife. At a National Assembly forum Monday, Animal Welfare Research Institute AWARE and the Animal Welfare Parliamentary Forum presented findings

from an eight-month survey of 21 registered or licensed zoos and nine unlicensed facilities across the country. The study reviewed compliance with the revised Act on the Management of Zoos and Aquariums, which since late 2023 has prohibited zoos from allowing visitors to climb on, touch or feed animals for entertainment purposes. Despite the legal shift, 20 out of 21 surveyed zoos were still selling feed for animal encounters, and 15 imposed no limits on purchase frequency or feeding volume. In 18 facilities, visitors could touch animals at any time

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

One of the music acts set to perform at the St. Patrick's Day Festival this Saturday is the somewhat mysteriously named Gan Ainm. Gaelic for "without name," the band features four talented Korean musicians. This includes banjo player Darren Choi, fiddler Koh Hae-young, concertinist Koh Seulki and vocalist and guitarist Zee. This will be Gan Ainm's first appearance at the annual festival, organized by the Irish Association of Korea. When Choi, a Korean national whose real name is Jong-wook, joined the band in 2013, it wasn't all Koreans. He entered the picture when he attended a traditional music session and met Patricia Jones, the band's button accordion player. After the departure of some of the original members, it was down to him, Jones and Hae-young on fiddle. They went busking almost every weekend, and occasionally played other shows, including for charities. It was around this time when the band settled on Gan Ainm as the name, as they didn't want to spend too much more time thinking it over. "After much deliberation, Patricia, feeling a bit lazy about the whole process, simply sugg

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

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

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

More than half of foreign workers on so-called "professional" visas in Korea — holders of E-1 to E-7 work permits — now earn over 3 million won (\$2,000) a month, according to new data released Tuesday. A survey published by the Ministry of Data and Statistics shows that among professional workers — including professors (E 1), foreign language teachers (E 2),

researchers (E 3), tech experts (E-4), licensed professionals (E 5), artists and performers (E 6) and specific activity workers (E 7) — more than half reported a monthly income of at least 3 million won. Across all skilled foreign employees in the country, 50.2 percent earned between 2 million and 3 million won a month, while 36.9 percent took home more than 3 million won. However, among “non-professional” workers such as E-9 visa holders, 68.9 percent were concentrated in the 2 million to under 3 million won range. The survey also examined working hours. Among foreign workers overall, 58.1 percent said they worked between 40 and 50 hours per week. Another 17.8 percent worked between 50 and 60 hours, and

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

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

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

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

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

Subcontracted workers represented by unions across various industries are stepping up demands for direct talks with parent companies after Korea’s so-called “yellow envelope law” came into force Tuesday, with labor leaders preparing strikes against firms that refuse to negotiate. Amendments to Articles 2 and 3 of the Trade Union and Labor Relations Adjustment Act took effect, expanding the legal definition of an employer to include firms that exercise significant control over working conditions, even without a direct employment contract with subcontracted workers. The Korean Confederation of Trade Unions (KCTU), a powerful umbrella labor organization with more than 1 million members, expects a major wave of bargaining demands from these workers in the coming weeks. The KCTU and its partner unions have begun

sending bargaining notices to companies that oversee subcontracted work on behalf of nearly 140,000 subcontracted workers, with plans to present the overall scale of the campaign at a press briefing later this month. “In line with the purpose of the law, the real employer must

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

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

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

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

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

The government will establish the presidential "Committee of Light" to honor the dedication and spirit of people who contributed to protecting the Constitution and democracy during the Dec. 3, 2024, martial law, the interior ministry said Tuesday. The Cabinet meeting approved a bill earlier in the day on the establishment and operation of the Committee of Light, the ministry said. It will consist of no more than 35 members, including experts in the fields of the Constitution and democracy. The panel will establish basic directions for the spread of Korean-style citizen participation democracy, and issue and award the "certificate of light" to

people who contributed to the protection of democracy during the martial law imposition. The government plans to establish the criteria on the issuance of the certificate after deliberation by the committee. The committee will also pursue projects to inherit the spirit of democracy, such as collecting opinions on whether to designate a national commemorative day related to the "revolution of light," which refers to the citizen-led pro-democracy move

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

A concrete mound blamed for the deadly 2024 plane crash at Muan International Airport was found to have been built in order to save construction costs, the state auditor said Tuesday. The mound was raised near the end of the runway at the airport some 290 kilometers south of Seoul to support a localizer, which sends signals to help aircraft find the middle of the runway. On Dec. 29, 2024, a Jeju Air jet from Bangkok crashed into the structure after making a belly landing, killing 179 passengers and crew members on board. According to the Board of Audit and Inspection (BAI), which inspected aviation safety measures and related maintenance, personnel and control, the terrain on which the runway and the adjacent Runway End Safety Area were built was sloping. In order to save construction costs from reshaping the terrain, a concrete mound was built to raise the localizer above the runway, the BAI said. The auditor also found that the Korea Airports (KAC) demanded a review of the mound's construction in 2007 after it was approved by the land ministry in 2003 without a vulnerability assessment.

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

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

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

The main opposition People Power Party's (PPP) decision to formally distance itself from former President Yoon Suk Yeol is exposing deep divisions within Korea's conservative bloc as the country approaches the June 3 local elections. The party adopted a resolution Monday rejecting calls for Yoon's political comeback, marking its clearest attempt yet to separate itself from the so-called "Yoon Again" movement that has gained traction among some conservative supporters following the former president's conviction over his Dec. 3, 2024, martial law declaration. Political observers say the move reflects growing concerns within the

party about its electoral prospects, particularly in the Seoul metropolitan area, where public sentiment toward conservatives has deteriorated sharply. At an emergency meeting of lawmakers, the PPP apologized for the turmoil caused by Yoon's martial law declaration and said that it opposes "all claims calling for the former president's political return." The resolution was issued in the name of all PPP lawmakers. Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon welcomed the

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

Busan is rolling out an infectious disease testing program for foreign residents through a pilot program set to launch this month, bringing preventive on-site testing to centers serving foreign residents across the city. The Sunday infectious disease testing services reflect a broader push by the southeastern port city to expand health care access for foreign residents who face language barriers and struggle to find time on weekdays, as the city's foreign population rises. Busan Metropolitan City said Tuesday the program will offer foreign residents testing for diseases including Hansen's disease, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted infections, parasitic infections and hepatitis B and C. It aims to detect infections early and provide follow-up care for those who test positive. "While the city's Korean population declines, the number of foreign residents in Busan continues to rise," an official at Busan's infectious disease control division told The Korea Times, emphasizing the rising importance of early detection of major infectious diseases among foreign residents

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

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

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

Korea University pledged to expand the university's role in addressing the climate crisis and restoring ecosystems during a "Nature Positive" declaration ceremony at its Sejong campus last Thursday. A Korea University official said the event aimed to extend the university's social

responsibility beyond carbon reduction to broader environmental restoration initiatives. Korea University Kim Dong-one said during his welcome address that universities must go beyond their traditional role as institutions of knowledge and act as a community, taking practical steps to address the climate crisis. “Universities must now lead efforts to solve the climate crisis that threatens the survival of humanity,” Kim said. “Korea University will pioneer a ‘NaturePositive’ path that contributes not only to carbon neutrality but also to the recovery and enhancement of nature, leaving a healthy planet and a sustainable campus for future generations.” Former United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon also delivered congratulatory remarks via video, expressing strong support for the initiative.

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

A Korean court ruled that passport holders cannot change the Romanized spelling of their surname solely based on personal preferences if there is no practical inconvenience in daily life. According to legal sources on Monday, the Seoul Administrative Court ruled against the 36-year-old plaintiff surnamed Lee in a lawsuit filed against the foreign minister to overturn the government’s refusal to change the spelling of his passport surname from “Lee” to “Yi.” Lee filed a suit after his request to change the Romanized spelling of his surname on his passport was rejected. He argued that he had long used the spelling “Yi” since childhood, including in financial transactions, English ability tests and company ID cards, and that his passport spelling should reflect the same spelling. The plaintiff also claimed that when he applied for the passport, he spelled his surname “Yi,” but a government official changed it to “Lee” before issuing the document. He said he requested his name to be spelled “Yi” when he applied for the passport a second time, but was told the change

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

notification. The bill can be passed with the approval from at least two th

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The number of foreign nationals residing in Korea approached 1.7 million as of May last year, government data showed Tuesday. The total number came to 1.69 million, up 8.4 percent from a year earlier, according to data released by the Ministry of Data and Statistics. The figure refers to foreigners aged 15 and older who have resided in the country for more than 91 days. By category, Koreans with foreign nationalities accounted for the largest share at 24.2 percent, followed by non-professional employment visa holders at 19 percent, the data showed. International students accounted for 14 percent and permanent residents at 9.6 percent. Among foreign nationals, ethnic Koreans with Chinese nationality accounted for 29.9 percent of

the total, followed by those from Vietnam with 16 percent, the data showed. The data also showed that 65.5 percent of foreign nationals had jobs. Among those employed, 10.8 percent of foreign workers said they were seeking new jobs, with most citing low income as the main reason. About 32 percent of foreign nationals reported earning a monthly income between 2 million

Source: The Korea Herald

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

its previous world tour, members

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

appearance in 2009. It meets th

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- [Gulf states press US to neutralize Iran](#) (2026-03-17 02:15)

Gulf Arab states did not ask the US to go to war with Iran, but many are now urging it not to stop short by leaving the Islamic Republic still able to threaten the Gulf's oil lifeline and the economies that depend on it, three Gulf sources told Reuters. At the same time, these sources and five Western and Arab diplomats said Washington was pressing Gulf states to join the US-Israeli war. According to three of them, US President Donald Trump wants to show regional backing for the campaign, to be

- [Woman's body found in Seoul's Han River](#) (2026-03-17 02:15)

A woman's body was discovered in the Han River in eastern Seoul, prompting a police investigation into the circumstances of her death. The Seoul Seongdong Police Station said Monday that the body was found near a government vessel pier at Ttukseom Hangang Park, near the northern end of the Yeongdong Bridge. Police and fire authorities were dispatched to the scene at about 11:29 a.m. after a passerby reported seeing what appeared to be a human body floating in the river. Emergency responders late

- [Israel: Lebanese won't return until its citizens safe](#) (2026-03-17 02:14)

Israel on Monday warned that displaced Lebanese driven from their homes by its military campaign would not be able to return until the safety of Israelis living near the border was ensured, as Israeli troops pushed into new parts of southern Lebanon. In a briefing, Israeli military spokesperson Lt. Col. Nadav Shoshani told reporters that soldiers were now conducting ground operations in "new locations," describing the latest offensive as "limited and targeted." The extended operation began days

- [China warns Trump's latest tariff moves could damage trade ties](#) (2026-03-17 02:13)

PARIS (AP) — China warned Monday that US President Donald Trump's latest tariff moves could harm the countries' trade relationship, at the end of high-level talks in Paris. Li Chenggang, China's international trade representative, said the Chinese side had expressed serious concern about trade investigations into manufacturing in foreign countries that the Trump administration launched after the US Supreme Court struck down its earlier tariffs. "We are concerned that the possible results of such

- [President Lee Jae Myung orders 'watertight' safety, security measures ahead of BTS show](#) (2026-03-17 02:13)

President Lee Jae Myung on Tuesday called on government agencies to ensure that safety and security measures are fully in place for the BTS show to be held in central Seoul on Saturday. Speaking at Tuesday's Cabinet meeting, Lee said that the government must focus on safety for the performance. "Ministry of Interior and Safety, police, fire department and all other related ministries should prepare for all possibilities," Lee said. "Although likelihood is not said to be high, (government agencies

- [Trump vows to 'take' Cuba as island reels from oil embargo](#) (2026-03-17 02:03)

US President Donald Trump vowed Monday to "take" Cuba as the communist island plunged into darkness under a total power blackout linked to a crippling oil embargo imposed by Washington. After nearly seven decades defying the US, Havana's communist authorities are under massive pressure from a Trump administration determined to make history. "You know, all my life I've been hearing about the United States and Cuba. When will the United States do it?" Trump told reporters at the White House. "I do

- [Gulf importers race to reroute supplies amid Hormuz closure](#) (2026-03-17 02:03)

DUBAI (Reuters) -- Importers across the Gulf are scrambling to secure alternative routes for vital goods -- from food to medicines and factory supplies -- as the effective closure of the Hormuz strait blocks ports in an import-dependent region. The halt to commercial navigation through the critical shipping choke point brought on by the US-Israeli war on Iran has disrupted Gulf nations' oil exports, roiling global energy markets. But the closure is also forcing a rapid and costly supply chain r

- [Trump upset as US partners reject call for escorts](#) (2026-03-17 02:02)

Several US allies rebuffed Donald Trump's call Monday to send warships to escort tankers through the Strait of Hormuz, drawing criticism from the US president, who accused Western partners of ingratitude after decades of support. The US-Israeli war on Iran is in its third week with no end in sight. The critical Strait of Hormuz, through which 20 percent of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas flow, remains largely closed off, raising energy prices and fears of inflation. The conflict has a

- [Shinsegae launches probe, apologizes for employee intercepting NCT Jaemin' s fan gift vouchers](#) (2026-03-17 02:02)

South Korea' s retail giant Shinsegae Group has launched an internal investigation after one of its employees at an E-Mart store was found to have intercepted gift vouchers that a K-pop idol had sent to his fans. A Tuesday report by Busan Ilbo said Jaemin of NCT Dream sent fans 30 mobile gift vouchers worth 100,000 won (\$67) each on March 14 as presents for White Day. The vouchers were shared through the fan communication platform Bubble as images containing barcodes. These could then be exchange

- [Center for Islamic Civilization: Mega project for the international community](#) (2026-03-17 01:56)

On January 29, 2025, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev visited the Center for Islamic Civilization in Uzbekistan, offering detailed recommendations to integrate scientific and innovative projects developed by more than 2,000 researchers into its exhibitions. That visit served as a pivotal moment. Today, the center stands completed — an ambitious undertaking shaped by contributions from specialists and designers across more than 40 countries, united under a single vision. From the podium of the United

- [\[Graphic News\] Portugal tops retirement living rankings](#) (2026-03-16 23:00)

Portugal ranks as the best country in the world for retirement, according to the France-based retirement information website Retraite Sans Frontieres. The country scored high for its low cost of living, favorable climate and environment, tax benefits and retirement visas. Spain and Greece followed in second and third place, with Thailand, Mauritius, Morocco, Tunisia, Senegal, Vietnam and Indonesia rounding out the top 10. The rankings are drawing attention amid a growing trend of retirees, parti

- [SK hynix highlights AI memory innovations at Nvidia GTC](#) (2026-03-16 20:30)

SK hynix said Monday it is showcasing its latest artificial intelligence memory technologies at Nvidia's GPU Technology Conference in San Jose, California, highlighting solutions developed in collaboration with Nvidia. Nvidia GTC is one of the world's largest gatherings for AI and accelerated computing, drawing global technology firms, developers and researchers to discuss the latest advances and industry trends. This year's event runs Monday through Thursday.

“SK hynix has supplied memory produ

- [Samsung unveils HBM4E for first time at Nvidia GTC](#) (2026-03-16 20:30)

Samsung Electronics unveiled its seventh-generation HBM4E chip at Nvidia's GPU Technology Conference, widely known as GTC, highlighting its push to strengthen its position in the AI memory market. Samsung on Monday announced its participation in GTC 2026 in San Jose, California, which runs Monday to Thursday, where it presented the HBM4E technology alongside a range of memory solutions designed to support Nvidia platforms. At the event, Samsung set up an exhibition area dubbed the “HBM4 Hero Wal

- [\[Bae Su-kyeong\] The high cost of elegance](#) (2026-03-16 20:30)

“I have decided to find myself a home in the mountains, somewhere high up where one learns to live peacefully in the cold and the silence. That what the spirit reaches for may be eventually felt, if not exactly understood. Slowly, no doubt. I'm not talking about a vacation. Of course, at the same time I mean to stay exactly where I am. Are you following me?” In the poem “I Have Decided,” Mary Oliver writes about the will to reorient one's way of being. Modern societies often celebrate their open

- [\[Lee Jae-min\] English class shortage hits foreign students](#) (2026-03-16 20:24)

Seoul has become a popular destination for young people from around the world. Each year, more and more foreign students arrive at Korean universities through various international exchange programs. Some stay for a semester, while others stay for the whole academic year. In fact, one of the most prominent developments in Korean colleges lately is the growing population of international exchange students on campus. By the way, the number of foreign students seeking degrees in Korean universities

- [Korea expands automated immigration to EU, Schengen travelers](#) (2026-03-16 12:03)

South Korea on Monday began expanding access to its automated immigration clearance gates to travelers from the European Union, Schengen member states and Canada in a move aimed at simplifying entry procedures and boosting tourism. According to the Ministry of Justice, the list of countries eligible for using Korea's automated immigration clearance gates has been expanded to 42 from the previous list of 18. The expanded list now includes 19 EU members – Greece, Denmark, Latvia, Romania, Luxembourg

- [US, South Korea to meet this week on \\$350b deal fund](#) (2026-03-16 11:37)

Trade representatives from the US and South Korea are set to meet in Washington this week to discuss potential investments in American energy projects and other ventures under a recently approved \$350 billion fund, according to people familiar with the matter. The talks between South Korean officials and representatives from the US Commerce Department and President Donald Trump's National Energy Dominance Council are expected to review specific potential investments under that fund established a

- [Bithumb fined W37b, faces 6-month biz suspension over anti-money laundering lapses](#) (2026-03-16 11:01)

The country's anti-money laundering agency said Monday that it has decided to fine Bithumb, one of South Korea's crypto exchanges, some 37 billion won (\$24.8 million) and impose a six-month partial business suspension over lapses in customer verification obligations and transactions with unregistered partners. The Financial Intelligence Unit, under the Financial Services Commission said Bithumb did not comply with its obligations to verify the identities of users in about 6.59 million cases. The

- [N. Korea estimated to have earned up to \\$14.4b from Russia-Ukraine war involvement: report](#) (2026-03-16 10:42)

North Korea is estimated to have earned up to \$14.4 billion from its troop deployment to the Russia-Ukraine war and arms exports to Russia, a report showed Monday. The figures come from a recent report on the economic impact of North Korea's soldier dispatch and arms exports to Russia by Im Soo-ho at the Institute for National Security Strategy. "If North Korea fully collects payment for its troop deployments and arms exports, the key economic impact of sanctions, which is the reduction of hard

- [Why did Jeju soccer fans hold anti-racism placards before match?](#) (2026-03-16 09:15)

Racial slurs targeting a player for Jeju SK FC have prompted the club's supporters to launch an anti-racism campaign and call for changes in the spectator culture of Korean professional football. On Sunday, fans held placards reading "Say no to racism" during a fan event held before the team's match against FC Seoul at Jeju World Cup Stadium on Jeju Island. They also chanted the name of Italo Moreira Barcelos. The Brazilian midfielder plays in the K League 1, South Korea's top professional footb

- [Notorious serial arsonist arrested for massive Hamyang wildfire](#) (2026-03-16 08:51)

A man once dubbed the “Bongdaesan Squirrel,” a notorious serial arsonist blamed for a string of wildfires years ago, has been arrested again after allegedly igniting South Korea’s first major wildfire of the year, police said Monday. The South Gyeongsang Provincial Police Agency said on Monday it had detained a 67-year-old man surnamed Kim on charges of violating the Forest Protection Act for allegedly starting a massive wildfire in Hamyang on Feb. 21. The fire that broke out at around 9:15 p.m.

- [Lee orders stronger protections after stalking victim’s murder](#) (2026-03-16 08:37)

President Lee Jae Myung on Monday ordered an investigation into police officials over the murder of a stalking victim, and called for tougher measures to protect stalking and dating violence victims. The presidential office announced Lee’s instructions after criticism mounted that authorities had failed to properly protect the victim despite multiple warning signs before a fatal stabbing in Namyangju, Gyeonggi Province, Saturday. Lee Kyu-youn, senior presidential secretary for public relations a

- [Pearson to revise portrayal of Africa in textbooks upon Korean group's request](#) (2026-03-16 08:35)

British textbook publisher Pearson said it will revise future editions of its textbooks to more accurately depict Africa, following correction requests from the Voluntary Agency Network of Korea. “The content team is reviewing your suggestions and fixes will be made in any future releases of the titles,” Pearson said in an email response to the group’s recommendations. VANK, a South Korean internet-based civic group, submitted correction requests in January to major global publishers, including

- [Illit presses start on first tour with playful, game-themed Seoul concert](#) (2026-03-16 08:31)

Girl group Illit launched its concert tour in Seoul over the weekend with a colorful, game-themed show, sharing the excitement of a long-awaited milestone with its fandom, Gllit. The five-member group — Yunah, Minju, Moka, Wonhee and Iroha — held its first concert since debut in 2024, “Illit Live ‘Press Start’ in Seoul” on March 13 and 14 at Songpa, southern Seoul. Both shows sold out during presales, demonstrating the group’s growing ticket power. As the show opened, the members kicked off the

- [Liberal lawmaker holds solo protest against US warship request](#) (2026-03-16 08:14)

Rep. Lee Ki-heon, lawmaker of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea, has launched a solo protest against the United States’ request for South Korea to deploy naval vessels to the Strait of Hormuz amid the deepening Middle East crisis. Lee, a first-term liberal lawmaker, claimed Monday that deploying South Korea’s armed forces upon the request of US President Donald Trump on his Truth Social “would run counter to the spirit of our Constitution,” describing it as an unreasonable request that “disre

- [Why TikTok is becoming unavoidable for K-pop stars](#) (2026-03-16 08:02)

BTS member V joined TikTok on Friday, becoming the third member of the group to launch an account on the platform. His account quickly surpassed one million followers and was approaching four million as of Monday. While fellow member Jungkook first opened a TikTok account in 2023, he resumed activity in October under a new username. J-Hope also joined the platform in 2025. With BTS now in the 13th year of their career, industry watchers are paying close attention to why the veteran idols are emb

- [Why haven't K-pop games taken off?](#) (2026-03-16 08:01)

As K-pop continues its rapid global expansion, entertainment companies have increasingly tried to extend the genre's influence into gaming. Yet despite repeated attempts, few K-pop-based titles have managed to translate the industry's massive fandom into sustained success in the gaming market. The disconnect is notable given that South Korea's gaming sector plays a massive role in the global growth of K-content exports. According to a report released by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Touris

- [Oil price surge could hit Korea's growth, KIET warns](#) (2026-03-16 07:47)

SEJONG — A surge in oil prices triggered by the war involving Iran could deal a significant blow to the South Korean economy if the rally persists, given the country's heavy reliance on Middle Eastern crude oil, a state-run research institute warned Monday. The Korea Institute for Industrial Economics and Trade said it may need to revise down its economic growth forecast of 1.9 to 2 percent for this year if oil prices continue to rise and push up production costs in the coming months. “Geopoliti

- [In 'Korean Bloom,' hair weighs down woman facing discrimination](#) (2026-03-16 07:40)

This is one of a series of interviews in which Kim Hoo-ran, editor-at-large at The Korea Herald, speaks with leaders, trailblazers, unsung heroes and both well- and lesser-known figures who share the stories of their lives and their visions for a better world — Ed. An Asian character's dark hair grows at an unrealistic speed, like blinds being pulled down. When people press their palms together and bow in greeting the Asian woman and when people touch her hair, it grows, spilling onto the floor.

- [Special counsel raids conservative lawmaker's home, offices](#) (2026-03-16 07:26)

The special counsel on Monday raided three-term conservative Rep. Yoon Han-hong's home and offices over alleged involvement in former President Yoon Suk Yeol's decision to relocate the presidential residence. The counsel team, led by Kwon Chang-young, carried out search operations in his house in Gangnam-gu, southern Seoul, as well as his offices inside the National Assembly and Changwon, South Gyeongsang Province. The special counsel suspects that the three-term conservative lawmaker abused his

- [Samsung Bioepis, G2GBio partner on long-acting obesity drug development](#) (2026-03-16 07:12)

Samsung Bioepis and Epis NexLab, subsidiaries of Samsung Epis Holdings, have signed a joint research and licensing agreement with Korean biotech G2GBio to develop long-acting obesity treatments, the companies said Monday. The tripartite agreement aims to develop obesity drugs with extended dosing intervals and secure advanced drug delivery technologies using G2GBio's microsphere-based platform. Under the deal, Samsung Bioepis will obtain development and commercialization rights to G2GBio's pipeline.

- [Singing competition version of 'Culinary Class Wars' in works](#) (2026-03-16 07:01)

A singing competition take on the hit cooking survival show "Culinary Class Wars" is in development. According to local media reports, the project is being produced by Studio Slam, the studio behind "Culinary Class Wars," and is currently casting singers. The platform for the series has not yet been announced. Mirroring the structure of the original program, the singing edition will divide contestants into black and white teams. Established and widely respected vocalists will compete as part of the show.

- [NC AI leads Korean physical AI push with 'World Foundation Model'](#) (2026-03-16 06:30)

NC AI, the artificial intelligence subsidiary of NCSOFT, said Monday it has demonstrated its "World Foundation Model," highlighting its research infrastructure and positioning the technology as a potential "K-World Model" for Korea's AI ecosystem. The World Foundation Model, or WFM, uses a simplified architecture that generates actions directly from latent space information — data processed before images are produced — improving both efficiency and prediction accuracy. The model also addresses the challenges of large-scale AI training.

- [Korea Inc. rushes governance changes as shareholder meetings begin](#) (2026-03-16 06:28)

South Korea's shareholder meeting season starts this week, with major conglomerates such as Samsung Electronics and Hyundai Motor Group convening annual general meetings that will focus on governance changes and corporate strategies. This year's meetings are drawing heightened attention, with business groups rushing to amend bylaws and bolster management control before revisions to the Commercial Act take effect in the second half of the year. As major conglomerates view upcoming meetings as a critical time to address shareholder concerns, the government is also pushing for reforms to improve corporate governance.

- [Posco Future M wins W1tr EV battery anode supply deal](#) (2026-03-16 06:23)

Posco Future M said Monday it has won a 1 trillion won (\$668.2 million) contract to supply electric vehicle battery anode materials to a global automaker, its largest deal since entering the business in 2011. While the customer has not been disclosed, the agreement covers 2027-2032 and includes an option for extension upon mutual consent. The contract is part of a broader package arrangement that also includes a natural graphite anode supply deal signed in October. Building on this partnership, the company aims to strengthen its position in the EV battery materials market.

- [Trump's call for naval support to face multiple hurdles](#) (2026-03-16 06:20)

Debate intensified in South Korea on Monday over whether the National Assembly would approve a potential deployment of the Cheonghae Unit to the Strait of Hormuz, as experts and lawmakers raised legal and political questions about the potential mission. Observers say that if Washington formally asks Seoul to dispatch forces to the strategic waterway, the issue of parliamentary consent could become the biggest variable shaping the government's response. The controversy follows remarks by US Presi

- [Visa denials for foreign students expose policy clash between central, local governments](#) (2026-03-16 06:17)

Visa denials have blocked 167 international students under age 19 from attending vocational schools in South Korea for the 2026 academic year, prompting calls for closer coordination among government agencies, a National Assembly report said Monday. The report from the National Assembly Research Service said 100 students were denied visas in South Jeolla Province, followed by 33 in North Gyeongsang Province and 17 each in North Jeolla and South Chungcheong provinces, after being admitted to voca

- [Seoul unveils year-round festival plans](#) (2026-03-16 06:16)

As foreign tourist numbers surge, Seoul plans to transform itself into a year-round festival city by expanding its seasonal events into a continuous, integrated program. The Seoul Metropolitan Government on Monday announced its “365 Festival City Seoul” initiative, aimed at elevating the capital's global brand with the Han River at the center of the festivities. The city said the plan is expected to draw 30 million foreign visitors to Seoul this year, attract 60 million attendees across its fest

- [Chip stocks wobble, but analysts raise targets for Samsung, SK hynix](#) (2026-03-16 06:05)

Even as geopolitical tensions in the Middle East weigh on equity markets worldwide, brokerages at home and abroad are raising their price targets for South Korea's two largest chipmakers, Samsung Electronics and SK hynix, betting that booming demand for artificial intelligence memory chips will drive strong earnings growth. With investor sentiment shaken by US-Israeli strikes on Iran, heavy foreign selling has dragged down shares of both chipmakers. As of Monday's close, shares of Samsung Electr

- [China seeking to repair North Korea ties ahead of Trump's visit: experts](#) (2026-03-16 06:05)

China appears to be stepping up efforts to repair ties with North Korea and expand exchanges with Pyongyang ahead of US President Donald Trump's expected visit to Beijing later this month, as Washington continues to signal interest in reopening dialogue with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, experts said. Earlier this month, China resumed Beijing-Pyongyang passenger train services after nearly six years of suspension, and Air China is set to restart direct flights between Beijing and Pyongyang la

- [Hanwha forges tech-lifestyle synergies to power new holding company](#) (2026-03-16 06:03)

Hanwha Group said Monday its technology and lifestyle units have begun embedding joint technologies across their operations, in a push to sharpen each division's competitive edge under a newly created holding company. The move follows Hanwha's board approval in January of a plan to establish Hanwha Machinery & Services Holdings as a new holding company overseeing affiliates, including Hanwha Vision, Hanwha Galleria, Hanwha Momentum and Hanwha Robotics. The restructured portfolio, pitched by the

- [Korean insurers face \\$1.1b exposure as Hormuz shipping risks rise](#) (2026-03-16 06:03)

South Korean insurers face nearly 1.7 trillion won (\$1.14 billion) in marine insurance exposure, as escalating conflict in the Middle East disrupts shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, with risks extending beyond insured values to rising war-risk premiums, tighter reinsurance conditions and potential delays in claims recovery. According to data from the Financial Supervisory Service submitted to Rep. Kang Min-kuk of the main opposition People Power Party, 10 domestic insurers and two reinsurer

- [OpenAI Korea pushes back on report claiming Claude surge](#) (2026-03-16 05:57)

OpenAI Korea's general manager has publicly disputed a domestic media report that used card payment data to argue Anthropic's Claude is rapidly gaining ground among South Korean corporate clients, calling the methodology misleading because most enterprise deals never appear in card transactions. Kim Kyoung-hoon, who leads OpenAI's Korean operations, wrote on LinkedIn on Sunday that card spending figures fail to capture how large businesses actually pay for AI services. "Many enterprise clients p

- [Lee floats basic pension overhaul to address elderly poverty](#) (2026-03-16 05:52)

President Lee Jae Myung on Monday floated the idea of restructuring South Korea's basic pension system to provide greater support to low-income seniors and address poverty among the aging. "The biggest cause of elderly suicide is poverty in our country, where both the overall suicide rate and the elderly suicide rate are among the highest in the world," Lee wrote on his official X account. "If we want to reduce elderly poverty that even drives people to suicide, we need to revise the basic pensi

- [Samsung SDI wins \\$1b ESS battery supply deal in US](#) (2026-03-16 05:49)

Samsung SDI said Monday it has clinched a 1.5 trillion won (\$1 billion) deal to supply prismatic energy storage system batteries for a US energy firm, building on its growing presence in the North American energy storage market. While details of the contract, including the customer's identity, remain undisclosed, deliveries will take place in phases from this year through 2029. The batteries will be produced at a StarPlus Energy facility in Indiana, as part of a joint venture between Samsung SDI

- [60% of Korea's diet pill users aren't obese: report](#) (2026-03-16 05:48)

South Korea's social preference for slim body types has led many people who are not medically obese to take diet pills, with such users accounting for nearly 60 percent of diet pill takers in the country, according to a report released Monday by a state research institute. The study also raised concerns about the risks of prolonged use, warning that many users experience significant side effects, including insomnia and clinical depression. "Social pressure to diet, the expansion of mass media, t

- [Korea, Cambodia deepen tax cooperation amid rising offshore evasion](#) (2026-03-16 05:46)

South Korean and Cambodian tax authorities are stepping up cooperation on cross-border information sharing tied to tax crimes and financial assets as they seek to trace proceeds concealed overseas. South Korea's National Tax Service said Monday that NTS Commissioner Lim Kwang-hyun and Kong Vibol, head of Cambodia's General Department of Taxation, signed a memorandum of understanding on the exchange of information for tax purposes during a meeting in Phnom Penh on Thursday. The agreement formaliz

- [Aggressive outreach drives Chinese biotech success: McKinsey's Shanghai analyst](#) (2026-03-16 05:43)

China's biopharmaceutical and biotechnology companies are rapidly expanding their global presence, driven not only by strong drug pipelines but also by increasingly aggressive outreach to international partners, according to a China industry expert. "If you look at the first two months of licensing or cross-border deals from Chinese innovators, the volume has already exceeded that of the first quarter last year," said Fangning Zhang, a partner at McKinsey & Company's Shanghai office, in an inter

- [Middle East response pushes Lee's ratings past 60% for first time since July](#) (2026-03-16 05:30)

President Lee Jae Myung's approval rating rose above 60 percent for the first time in about seven months, according to a poll released Monday, extending a recent rise in public support. In the survey conducted by Realmeter, Lee's positive approval rating stood at 60.3 percent, up 2.1 percentage points from the previous week and marking a second consecutive weekly increase. Negative evaluations fell by 2.1 percentage points to 35.0 percent, while 4.7 percent of respondents said they were unsure,

- [TCL turns to LG Display for its first OLED monitor](#) (2026-03-16 05:27)

LG Display has begun supplying organic light-emitting diode panels to Chinese electronics maker TCL for the first time, marking a notable partnership as the Chinese firm moves into the premium OLED monitor market. According to industry sources Monday, TCL's newly released 32X3A — the company's first OLED monitor — is equipped with a panel supplied by LG Display. The Korean display maker is understood to have started shipments in January. The 32-inch monitor supports 4K resolution and a 240-hertz

- [Korea on highest alert as simultaneous livestock epidemics spread nationwide](#)

(2026-03-16 05:14)

South Korea's quarantine authorities are on high alert as three major livestock diseases, highly pathogenic avian influenza, African swine fever and foot-and-mouth disease, spread simultaneously across the country, raising concerns over supply disruptions and higher livestock prices. The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs said Monday that all three diseases remain at the highest of four alert levels, with the government extending its special quarantine period by one month through th

- [For a few nights only, step into imperial evening at Deoksugung](#) (2026-03-16 05:05)

A nighttime cultural program invites visitors for a rare after-dark glimpse inside Seokjojeon, the Western-style hall within Deoksugung, the palace located near City Hall in central Seoul. Seokjojeon, built in the late Korean Empire (1897-1910) period, is a neoclassical structure and the first and last Western-style palace building constructed for the imperial court. The Seokjojeon Night Tour will run from April 8 to May 17, Wednesday through Sunday each week. Participants will begin with a guid

- [Unification minister urges North Korea to seize opportunity for dialogue with US](#)

(2026-03-16 05:04)

Unification Minister Chung Dong-young on Monday urged North Korea to engage in dialogue, saying recent remarks by US President Donald Trump suggest the door to talks remains open. Speaking to reporters on Monday, Chung said that South Korean Prime Minister Kim Min-seok's recent meeting with Trump reaffirmed the US president's continued interest in talks with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un. "We need to keep the spark of US-North Korea dialogue alive," Chung said. "I hope the North will not miss

- [Purple replaces green: Ube emerges as the next matcha](#) (2026-03-16 04:48)

Matcha, powdered Japanese green tea, dominated cafe menus worldwide for years, appearing in everything from lattes to cakes and ice cream. Now, a new color is taking over cafe counters and social media feeds: purple. At the center of the shift is ube, a vivid purple yam traditionally grown in Southeast Asia, particularly in the Philippines. Long a staple in Filipino desserts, ube, a Tagalog word for purple yam, is rapidly gaining popularity in the US and beyond, emerging as one of the latest glo

- [SK hynix overtakes Samsung as most preferred employer](#) (2026-03-16 04:46)

SK hynix has overtaken Samsung Electronics as the most preferred employer among South Korean job seekers, underscoring the rising appeal of semiconductor companies amid the global artificial intelligence boom. According to a survey released by job platform Saramin on Monday, 20 percent of the 2,304 respondents selected SK hynix as their top employer of choice. It marks the first time the memory chipmaker has surpassed Samsung Electronics, which had held the top spot since the survey began, Saram

- [Ruling bloc eases cap on coal, nuclear output to cushion Middle East crisis](#) (2026-03-16 04:38)

South Korea's ruling party and the government are scrambling to cushion the impact of the Middle East conflict, this time by easing the country's limit on the maximum output of coal-fired power plants and nuclear reactors. Rep. Ahn Do-geol of the Democratic Party of Korea said that, starting Monday, the limit on coal-fired power plants' capacity, set at 80 percent, will be lifted. Also, the capacity utilization rate of South Korean nuclear power reactors will be swiftly raised to 80 percent, whi

- [6 hours on screens, 1 hour outdoors: teens shrug, parents worry](#) (2026-03-16 04:32)

South Korea's high school students log about six hours of screentime a day on average, while devoting just over an hour to outdoor activities, revealing a significant imbalance in daily physical activity, according to a state research report. The report also found a stark gap between how students perceive their own smartphone use and how their parents assess it, urging a more careful approach that takes both perspectives into account when addressing overuse. The survey by the Korea Institute of

- [Seoul to host citywide festival for BTS' 'Arirang' comeback](#) (2026-03-16 04:32)

Seoul will be marking BTS' comeback and new album "Arirang" with a monthlong citywide celebration, featuring large-scale public events and fan programs across major landmarks in the capital. Detailed plans for "BTS The City Arirang Seoul" were unveiled Monday through the group's global fan platform Weverse. The festival will run from March 20, the day the new album drops, through April 19. Several landmark events are scheduled for the album's release day. Media facade displays will illuminate hi

- [APR's Medicube enters India via Nykaa partnership](#) (2026-03-16 04:01)

APR said Monday that its flagship beauty brand Medicube has entered Nykaa, India's largest beauty platform, marking a strategic partnership aimed at expanding its presence in the local market. Nykaa operates more than 260 offline stores across India and generates about 90 percent of its revenue online through an omnichannel strategy. Having steadily expanded its K-beauty category over the past decade, Nykaa plans to further strengthen its skin care portfolio through the collaboration with Medicu

- [Blackpink logs over 3.6b streams on largest Korean music platform](#) (2026-03-16 03:21)

Blackpink has been streamed more than 3.6 billion times on Melon, the largest music platform in Korea said Monday, citing its own tally. Over 2.5 billion plays came via group efforts, led by "As If It's Your Last" with more than 260 million plays, followed by "Ddu-du Ddu-du" and "Playing With Fire." Solo works from the four bandmates exceeded 1 billion: Jennie's "Solo," the first solo single from the group, logged close to 180 million plays, with Rose's collaboration with Bruno Mars, "Apt.," qui

- [Foreign visitor tickets for Spring Royal Culture Festival open at 2 p.m. March 16](#) (2026-03-16 03:20)

Ticket sales for foreign visitors to the 2026 Spring Royal Culture Festival, which will run from April 24 to May 3, are set to open at 2 p.m. on March 16. Hosted by the Korea Heritage Service and organized by the Korea Heritage Agency, reservations will be available through Creatrip, a travel platform widely used by international tourists visiting Korea. The Royal Culture Festival, held each spring and fall, is the country's largest heritage festival, unfolding across the five palaces of Seoul —

- [Retail fuel prices drop after implementation of price cap system: ministry](#) (2026-03-16 02:41)

Fuel prices at gas stations have dropped significantly since the government introduced a temporary price cap system last week, the industry ministry said Monday, vowing continued efforts to ease energy supply woes due to the Middle East crisis. The average gasoline price at gas stations nationwide came to 1,840.1 won (\$1.23) per liter as of Sunday, down 58.7 won from Thursday, a day before the price ceiling system took effect, according to data compiled by the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Res

- [Red Velvet's Irene teases first solo LP](#) (2026-03-16 02:41)

Irene of Red Velvet will return with her first full-length solo album, marking her first solo release in about 16 months since her debut EP "Like A Flower." "Biggest Fan" is set for release on March 30 at 6 p.m., kicking off a new round of solo promotions. The upcoming album will feature 10 tracks spanning a variety of styles, including the title track. According to SM Entertainment, "Biggest Fan" is a pop dance track built on a lively bass groove, combining narration-style rap with an addictive

- [Cha Eunwoo to host photo exhibit in Japan: report](#) (2026-03-16 02:35)

Cha Eunwoo of Astro will be holding a photo exhibition in Tokyo, according to a local media report. From March 28 to May 12, a collection of candid photographs capturing the singer-actor in "behind the scenes" moments will be on display under the title "Afterimage." The news comes while he is in the middle of an investigation over tax evasion, which could levy him with 20 billion won (\$13.3 million), the largest for an entertainer in Korea. Agency Fantagio explained that the event is being held

- [Hungary preelection showdown draws crowds](#) (2026-03-16 02:28)

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AFP) -- Huge crowds joined rival marches staged by Hungarian premier Viktor Orban and his main opponent Peter Magyar in Budapest Sunday, as both push allegations of foreign interference just four weeks before tightly fought elections. Orban -- who faces an unprecedented challenge to his 16-year rule -- has sought to portray the opposition leader as a "puppet" of Brussels and Kyiv, while Magyar has accused the Moscow-friendly premier of seeking the Kremlin's help to stay in pow

- [Oil extends gains as Mideast conflict threatens facilities](#) (2026-03-16 02:25)

SINGAPORE (Reuters) -- Oil prices extended gains on Monday as the US-Israeli war against Iran entered a third week, putting oil infrastructure at risk and keeping the Strait of Hormuz shut in the biggest disruption to global supplies ever. Brent crude futures jumped \$2.01, or 1.95 percent, to \$105.15 a barrel by 11:38 p.m. after settling \$2.68 higher Friday. US West Texas Intermediate crude climbed \$1.61, or 1.63 percent, to \$100.32 a barrel, after gaining nearly \$3 in the previous session. Bot

- [Hundreds rally in London for march](#) (2026-03-16 02:24)

LONDON (AFP) -- Hundreds of people turned out in London Sunday for a pro-Palestinian march banned by the government after police said it was organized by a group "supportive of the Iranian regime." Interior Minister Shabana Mahmood said earlier this week she had agreed to the ban to "prevent serious public disorder" in the context of the ongoing conflict in the Middle East, where Iran has launched strikes in retaliation against a US-Israeli offensive. It is the first time a protest march in the

- [Kazakhstan approves new constitution in referendum](#) (2026-03-16 02:22)

Kazakh voters in a referendum on Sunday approved a new constitution that may provide President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev with a loophole allowing him to stay in power in the Central Asian energy and minerals giant beyond 2029, exit polls showed. Two exit polls said around 87 percent of voters had backed the new constitution. Turnout stood at 73 percent, the electoral commission earlier said. The new constitution streamlines the country's parliament, and recreates the office of vice president, whic

- [French far-right eyes Marseille city hall](#) (2026-03-16 02:21)

PARIS (Reuters) -- Marseille's leftist mayor and his far-right rival were tied in Sunday's first-round municipal election, exit polls showed, boosting the nationalist National Rally's (RN) hopes of winning France's No. 2 city ahead of the 2027 presidential election. A divisive anti-immigration and eurosceptic party, the RN is now France's largest parliamentary bloc and polls suggest it could win the presidency next year. It has long struggled to build a power base across French towns and citie

- [Snow and wind batter parts of US, with threat of thunderstorms](#) (2026-03-16 02:19)

CHICAGO (AP) — A broad and erratic patchwork of severe weather rumbled across much of the US Sunday, dumping heavy snow and making roads impassable in the Upper Midwest while damaging high winds swept across the Plains. Hawaii continued to be affected by severe flooding. And portions of the mid-South readied for late-day thunderstorms. Forecasters said the storms would spread eastward by Monday, with mid-Atlantic states and Washington at greatest risk for high winds and tornadoes. Successive pun

- [Babymonster to tour again from June](#) (2026-03-16 02:19)

Babymonster announced its second international tour via label YG Entertainment Monday. The tour will span five continents, kicking off in Seoul in June before heading to six cities in Japan. The group then goes on to mark concert debuts in Oceania, Europe and South America. Babymonster's first tour, Hello Monsters, comprised 32 shows held across 20 cities, drawing around 300,000 total attendees. Before launching this year's tour, the group will release its third EP in May, fronted by lead track

- [EU to discuss bolstering Mideast naval mission](#) (2026-03-16 02:18)

BRUSSELS (Reuters) -- European Union foreign ministers will discuss this week bolstering a small naval mission in the Middle East but are not expected to decide on extending its role to the choked-off Strait of Hormuz, diplomats and officials say. The EU's Aspides mission was established in 2024 to protect ships from attacks by Yemen's Houthi rebel group in the Red Sea. It currently has an Italian and a Greek ship under its direct command and can also call upon a French ship and another Italia

- [Video of passerby, delivery drivers putting out fire in Yongin goes viral](#) (2026-03-16 02:16)

A video showing two delivery riders and a passerby rushing to put out a suspected arson fire near Bojeong Station in Yongin, Gyeonggi Province, has gone viral online, expressing praise for their quick response in stopping the flames from spreading. The fire broke out on Friday at around 12:21 a.m in a grassy area near Exit 1 of Bojeong Station, according to fire authorities. Dashcam footage from a passing car shows two delivery riders, their motorbikes parked nearby, trying to extinguish the fla

- [Seoul transit kiosks to accept overseas cards from Tuesday](#) (2026-03-16 02:15)

Seoul's subway system will begin accepting overseas-issued payment cards for transportation card purchases and recharging starting Tuesday, a move aimed at easing a long-standing inconvenience for foreign visitors using the city's public transit. The Seoul Metropolitan Government said 440 new transportation card kiosks will be installed across 273 stations on Seoul Subway Line Nos. 1 through 8, allowing payments to be made with overseas credit and debit cards as well as via mobile payment platfo

- [Illit to release new album next month](#) (2026-03-16 02:14)

Illit will drop its fourth EP "Mamihlapinatapai" on April 30, the group announced at the end of the concert it held in Seoul on Sunday. The upcoming set will include the main track "It's Me," according to agency Belift Lab. The new EP will be Illit's first new album in about ten months, since the third EP "bomb," which entered the Billboard 200 at No. 171 as its third entry on the main albums chart. It sold over 400,000 copies in the first week, marking a career best for the group. The five-memb

- [US, China wrap Paris talks on managed trade, agriculture deals](#) (2026-03-16 01:41)

PARIS (Reuters) -- Top US and Chinese economic officials were due to conclude talks in Paris on Monday, with potential areas of agreement in agriculture, critical minerals and managed trade that could be taken up by US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing, sources familiar with the discussions said. The sources told Reuters that the "remarkably stable" talks led by US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng would set in motion possible

- [Milan Cortina Paralympics end with another boycott by Ukraine at Games marked by Russia's return](#) (2026-03-16 01:28)

CORTINA D'AMPEZZO, Italy (AP) -- A closing ceremony boycotted by Ukraine signaled the end of the Milan Cortina Winter Paralympics on Sunday, hours after the US Para ice hockey team won the final gold medal of the Games that were marked by the return of the Russian flag and national anthem to the global sports stage. China continued its dominance as a Paralympic powerhouse and topped the medals table with 15 golds, two more than the United States, which matched its total from the 2018 Pyeongchang

- [Pope escalates call for ceasefire in Iran by addressing those responsible for the war](#) (2026-03-16 01:16)

ROME (AP) -- Pope Leo XIV demanded a ceasefire in the Middle East on Sunday in his strongest comments to date, directly addressing the leaders who launched the war in Iran. "On behalf of the Christians of the Middle East and all women and men of good will, I appeal to those responsible for this conflict," Leo said. "Cease fire so that avenues for dialogue may be reopened. Violence can never lead to the justice, stability, and peace that the people are waiting for." Leo didn't cite the United Sta

- [Trump says trip to China might be delayed, calls on Beijing to help unblock Hormuz Strait: report](#) (2026-03-16 01:09)

US President Donald Trump said Sunday that his planned trip to China might be delayed, redoubling his call for Beijing to help keep the Strait of Hormuz, a vital oil shipping route, open amid the ongoing US-Israeli war against Iran, according to a report. Trump made the remarks in an eight-minute call with the Financial Times, a day after he urged South Korea, China, France, Japan, Britain and others -- which are affected by the "artificial constraint" on the waterway -- to send ships to secure

- [Lee suggests adjusting basic pension payments for low-income seniors](#) (2026-03-16 01:06)

President Lee Jae Myung on Monday floated the idea of adjusting basic pension payments for elderly people in proportion to their income level. Lee made the remarks in a post on the social media platform X, sharing a link to a news story about the government's plan to gradually ease the reduction in basic pension payments for couples aged 65 or older when both spouses receive the benefit. The adjustment is expected to begin next year, starting with low-income households. "A married couple growing

- [SK hynix beats Samsung as most preferred company for job seekers: survey](#) (2026-03-16 01:03)

SK hynix Inc. was named the most preferred company among job seekers, a poll showed Monday, amid the chipmaker's record-breaking earnings following the artificial intelligence boom. According to the survey of 2,304 job seekers conducted by Saramin, a major South Korean job-search website, 20 percent said they wished to get a position at SK hynix, followed by Samsung Electronics Co. with 18.9 percent. It marked the first time for SK hynix to beat Samsung Electronics in related surveys, the platfo

- [Lee's approval rating edges up for 2nd consecutive week: poll](#) (2026-03-16 00:34)

President Lee Jae Myung's approval rating rose for the second consecutive week thanks in part to the government's efforts to stabilize oil prices as war in the Middle East has intensified, a poll showed Monday. According to the survey by Realmeter commissioned by a local news outlet, 60.3 percent positively assessed Lee's handling of state affairs, up 2.1 percentage points from the previous poll, while 35 percent gave a negative assessment, down 2.1 percentage points. This marks the first time L

- [Kospi opens higher amid oil price hike](#) (2026-03-16 00:33)

South Korean stocks started higher Monday on strong gains in tech shares despite a jump in global crude prices sparked by US air strikes on Iran's main export hub. The benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index rose 58.31 points, or 1.06 percent, to 5,545.55 in the first 15 minutes of trading. The Kospi's rise came despite a drop in major US stock indexes last week amid escalating turmoil in the Middle East. On Friday, the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 0.26 percent, while tech-heavy Nasdaq

- [Korean currency slips past 1,500 won per dollar for 1st time in 17 yrs amid Middle East crisis](#) (2026-03-16 00:31)

The South Korean currency fell past the 1,500-won level against the US dollar Monday for the first time in 17 years as global oil prices surged amid heightened tensions in the Middle East. The won opened at 1,501 per dollar, down 7.3 won from the previous session, breaching the 1,500-won mark for the first time in intraday trading since March 12, 2009, when the country was reeling from the global financial crisis. The won later trimmed its losses and was fluctuating in the mid-1,490 won range. A

- [\[Breaking\] 'KPop Demon Hunters' wins best animated feature Oscar](#) (2026-03-15 23:39)

Netflix's "KPop Demon Hunters" won the Academy Award for Best Animated Feature at Sunday's 98th Oscars ceremony at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, delivering the night's most anticipated result in the animation race. Directors Maggie Kang and Chris Appelhans accepted the award. "For those of you who look like me, I'm so sorry that it took us so long to see us in a movie that looks like this," Kang said. "This is for Korea, and Koreans everywhere." The win

rounds out a dominant awards run that sa

- [\[Graphic News\] Wildfires surge again amid dry conditions](#) (2026-03-15 23:00)

The number of wildfires in South Korea rose in February, raising alarms among authorities and experts. According to the National Fire Data System, 134 wildfires were recorded by February, a roughly 30 percent increase from the 103 incidents reported during the same period last year. After falling from a peak of 782 cases in 2022 to 268 in 2024, the number of wildfires climbed again to 408 in 2025. The number of wildfire days has also increased over the past two decades, rising from an annual ave

- [\[Yoo Choon-sik\] What the weakening won may be signaling](#) (2026-03-15 20:30)

In April 2024, when the won' s exchange rate broke through the 1,400 mark against the dollar, the leader of the Democratic Party of Korea at the time warned that a serious crisis was becoming reality and called an emergency meeting to press the government to respond. The message was unmistakable. A weakening currency was not just a market fluctuation but a warning sign for the nation. Nearly two years on, that same political leader occupies the presidential office, only to witness the rate remain

- [\[Man-Ki Kim\] Korea' s supply chain imperative](#) (2026-03-15 20:30)

Rising tensions in the Middle East have once again shaken global oil markets, raising concerns about potential disruptions to the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world' s most critical energy transit routes. For Korea, which imports nearly all its energy, such uncertainty poses a serious economic risk. The Strait of Hormuz is a vital artery for global energy. A large share of the world's crude oil and liquefied natural gas passes through this narrow corridor. Even brief disruptions can trigger price

- [Kim Yun-ji wins historic fifth medal at Winter Paralympics](#) (2026-03-15 12:09)

Kim Yun-ji, a 19-year-old para cross-country skier, claimed her fifth medal at the 2026 Milano-Cortina Winter Paralympics on Sunday, setting a record for the most medals won by a South Korean athlete at a single Olympic or Paralympic Games. Kim finished the cross-country skiing women's 20-kilometer interval start sitting event in 58 minutes and 23.3 seconds at the Tesero Cross-Country Stadium in Italy, beating Germany's Anja Wicker by 54 seconds and American four-time gold medalist Oksana Master

- [Evacuation flight brings home 204 Koreans from Middle East](#) (2026-03-15 10:41)

A South Korean military transport aircraft carrying more than 200 evacuees from the Middle East landed at Seoul Air Base in Seongnam, Gyeonggi Province, Sunday evening, completing a government operation to bring home Korean nationals who had been stranded, amid escalating regional conflict. The Air Force' s KC-330 Cygnus multirole aerial tanker touched down at 5:59 p.m. with 204 on board, along with five foreign family members and two Japanese nationals, according to the Foreign Ministry and Defe

- [BOK says Middle East-linked extra budget unlikely to fuel inflation](#) (2026-03-15 09:20)

The Bank of Korea said a supplementary budget being discussed to cushion the economic fallout from the war in the Middle East is unlikely to significantly fan inflation, even as oil-driven cost pressures build. In data submitted to Rep. Cha Gyu-geun of the minor Rebuilding Korea Party and released Sunday, the central bank said the inflationary impact of an extra budget tied to the Middle East crisis would likely be limited. A supplementary budget can generally add upward pressure on prices by bo

- [Civic groups urge Seoul to refuse Hormuz deployment](#) (2026-03-15 08:49)

Civic groups in South Korea urged the government Sunday to reject any US request to send warships to the Strait of Hormuz, warning that involvement in rising tensions with Iran could expose the country to security risks and legal challenges. The criticism, led largely by progressive and liberal organizations, came after US President Donald Trump called on countries including South Korea to deploy naval forces to the strategic waterway, where Iran has mounted a blockade and attacked several civil

- [Logistics worker stole 127 packages worth \\$80,000](#) (2026-03-15 08:34)

A logistics center employee in South Korea received a suspended prison sentence for stealing parcels containing high-end electronics worth about 120 million won (\$80,000) while working at a distribution facility, a court said Sunday. The Cheongju District Court sentenced the man in his 30s to one year and two months in prison, suspended for three years, and ordered him to complete 160 hours of community service, according to the ruling. Prosecutors said the employee stole packages 127 times betw

- [BTS comeback concert: Know before you go](#) (2026-03-15 08:19)

Authorities in Seoul are preparing extensive security and traffic measures ahead of the BTS comeback concert set for March 21 at Gwanghwamun Square. Here' s what visitors should know. Entry Access to the viewing area will be limited to 31 designated gates around the square and nearby Sejong-daero. Security Metal detectors will be installed at all gates and bag checks will begin at 7 a.m. Authorities are asking visitors to bring minimal belongings. Police will also deploy CCTV monitoring teams and

- [Belift Lab reaffirms Heeseung will not return to Enhypen](#) (2026-03-15 08:00)

Heeseung of Enhypen will not be returning to the boy band, its agency Belift Lab reaffirmed Sunday, less than a week after Hybe' s sub-label announced the main vocalist' s solo path outside the group. "Heeseung will not be returning to Enhypen," Belift Lab told The Korea Herald. "He has a clear artistic direction he wants to pursue, and we decided to respect that." The confirmation comes as fans — particularly international supporters — continue to organize large-scale campaigns urging the agency

- [Korea may need foreign workers to fill 110,000 elderly care jobs by 2028](#) (2026-03-15 07:41)

South Korea may face a shortage of about 110,000 elderly care workers by 2028, signaling the need to expand the role of foreign caregivers and guarantee them rights equal to local workers, according to a government-funded research institute. A report released Sunday by the Korea Immigration Service Foundation said foreign care workers should be integrated into the country's long-term care system with equal labor protections and broader social acceptance, as the country grapples with rapid popula

- [Running to make butter? 'Butter run' challenge churns up social media](#) (2026-03-15 07:38)

What if a morning jog could also produce a batch of homemade butter? That playful idea is behind the "Butter run," an unusual running challenge that has been spreading across TikTok and Instagram in recent weeks. Blending fitness with a kitchen experiment, the trend began in overseas running communities and is now catching the attention of runners in South Korea as well. The concept is simple. Participants pour heavy cream into a small bottle, zip-top bag or sealed container, tuck it into a runn

- [Six days left: Visitors gather at Gyeongbokgung ahead of BTS comeback concert](#) (2026-03-15 07:37)

Tourists walked around the main palace Gyeongbokgung to watch the changing of the royal guards ceremony at the Woldae platform in Seoul. K-pop supergroup BTS is set to hold an outdoor concert at the same site on March 21 for its long-awaited comeback, corresponding with its first new album in nearly four years, "Arirang." According to organizers, the group is expected to appear with Gyeongbokgung as a backdrop, proceed past the gate Gwanghwamun and the Woldae platform before taking to the stage

- [LG CEO visits AgiBot in China as company steps up humanoid robot plans](#) (2026-03-15 07:32)

LG Electronics CEO Lyu Jae-cheol visited Chinese humanoid robot maker AgiBot during a three-day trip to Shanghai earlier this week, signaling the Korean electronics giant's deepening commitment to robotics and AI as pillars of its future business. According to industry sources on Sunday, Lyu toured AgiBot's facilities starting Wednesday, meeting with the company's leadership to discuss trends in humanoid robotics and explore further collaboration. AgiBot ranks among the world's top humanoid robo

- [BTS comeback set to test Seoul's mobile networks](#) (2026-03-15 07:31)

South Korea's three major mobile carriers are racing to fortify their networks ahead of what is shaping up to be one of the country's largest live events in recent memory: the long-awaited BTS comeback concert in the heart of Seoul. The show, titled "BTS The Comeback Live: Arirang," is scheduled for 8 p.m. on March 21 at Gwanghwamun Square. Police estimate that upwards of

260,000 people will flood the area, with fans expected to begin gathering a full day in advance. The concert marks the group'

- [Wishy-washy: Opposition extends local election deadline yet again for Seoul mayor](#) (2026-03-15 07:31)

The main opposition People Power Party on Sunday extended its deadline yet again for candidate registration for June's Seoul mayoral race, in an apparent bid to woo incumbent conservative Mayor Oh Se-hoon. According to the People Power Party, it will prop open the door longer to the registration for its Seoul mayoral candidate nomination on Monday, accepting registrations on Tuesday before an interview of candidates Wednesday. The announcement is to mark a third time that the party is extending

- [Painted friends comfort Sero, zebra famous for zoo escape](#) (2026-03-15 07:30)

Sero, a 7-year-old male Grant' s zebra that became famous three years ago after escaping a zoo and roaming city streets, seems to be recovering psychologically from the loss of his companions thanks to some new friends, albeit only painted ones. Fine arts students from Sejong University painted zebras on the wall of Sero' s enclosure at Children' s Grand Park in April 2025 to help ease his loneliness. "Since the murals were painted, Sero has been seen sitting or rolling in the sand more often than

- [GS25 fresh food sales surge on preorder demand](#) (2026-03-15 07:17)

GS Retail said Sunday that fresh food preorders at its GS25 convenience chain are gaining momentum, with the company planning to broaden the category as younger consumers lead the charge. According to the company, the service, available through its mobile app, ran four promotional events between January and February, generating about 20,000 orders and pushing fresh-food sales through the app 540 percent higher than a year earlier. The model lets customers browse and pay for perishables online an

- [Gmarket drives higher traffic with brand partnerships](#) (2026-03-15 07:16)

Gmarket, the e-commerce arm of Shinsegae Group, said Sunday that brands participating in its strategic partnership program are seeing strong sales gains, prompting plans to extend the model into high-potential categories. The platform' s Joint Business Partnership, or JBP, program — through which it works with brands on promotional calendars, advertising plans and product strategies — now includes more than 1,300 brands. Among roughly 100 of the largest participants, transaction volumes have aver

- [\[Photo News\] Gurye in sea of yellow](#) (2026-03-15 07:13)

Visitors strolled among bright yellow cornelian cherry flowers in the village of Sansuyu, in Gurye, South jeolla Province, nestled in the foothills of Jirisan, as early spring unfolds across the countryside. The village has turned a vivid shade of yellow as sansuyu flowers bloom across the hillsides. Streams that remained frozen during the winter have thawed, signaling the arrival of

warmer days. With lighter clothing and cameras in hand, visitors walked along scenic paths, taking in the season

- [Seoul under pressure as Trump calls for naval support in Hormuz](#) (2026-03-15 06:24)

South Korea faces growing pressure to contribute naval forces to safeguard shipping through the Strait of Hormuz after US President Donald Trump called on major oil-importing countries to help keep the vital energy corridor open, placing Seoul at the center of a widening geopolitical test. The request comes at a sensitive moment for South Korea, whose economy remains heavily dependent on Middle Eastern crude oil that passes through the strait, while its alliance with Washington is undergoing wha

- [Korean authorities on alert as won flirts with 1,500 barrier](#) (2026-03-15 06:22)

South Korean authorities are on heightened alert and signaling possible verbal intervention as a Middle East-driven oil shock keeps pressure on the won, pushing the dollar-won monthly average toward crisis-era levels. The tougher tone follows the currency's brief breach of the 1,500-per-dollar mark in Friday overnight trading, renewing concern about the foreign-exchange market. "Major currencies such as the won, yen and euro are all weakening as the dollar strengthens," Finance Minister Koo Yun-

- [Ruling party furious after left-leaning news show claims government pressure to drop Lee charges](#) (2026-03-15 06:15)

The debate over reforming the legal system has intensified after a journalist alleged that allies of President Lee Jae Myung sought to persuade prosecutors to drop criminal charges against him. The allegation, denied by the government, has deepened opposition claims that the Lee administration's push for prosecution reform cannot be separated from the president's own legal situation. The ruling Democratic Party of Korea took legal action against Jang In-soo, an independent journalist who was for

- [Over half of workers report abuse by principal contractors: survey](#) (2026-03-15 06:13)

More than half of workers in South Korea said they have experienced or witnessed abusive practices by principal contractors, a recent survey showed. According to a study released Sunday by Workplace Gapjil 119, a South Korean civic group advocating for workers' rights, 55 percent of respondents said they had experienced such practices, including discrimination in wages, leave, work equipment and access to welfare facilities. The survey was conducted among 1,000 workers aged 19 and older between

- [A Korean fan's guide to the 98th Academy Awards](#) (2026-03-15 06:04)

The 98th Academy Awards, to be held at Hollywood's Dolby Theatre on Sunday, could shape up to be a landmark night for Korean cinema and Korean-rooted filmmaking. Two films with direct ties to Korea are in the running: one an overwhelming awards-season favorite and the other a dark-horse entry that gives one of the most eccentric works in Korean cinema its due. The

night's headline act for fans of Korean content will be Netflix's animated sensation "KPop Demon Hunters," which goes into Sunday's c

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Samsung Electronics said Sunday it has retained its position as the world’ s top soundbar brand for the 12th consecutive year. According to market research firm Futuresource Consulting, Samsung accounted for 21.5 percent of global soundbar revenue and 19.7 percent of shipments in 2025. The company has held the No. 1 position in the global soundbar market

since 2014. Samsung's soundbars are designed to work seamlessly with its TVs through the company's Q-Symphony feature, which synchronizes TV spe

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

With less than a week left before BTS' comeback performance at Seoul's Gwanghwamun Square, authorities plan to tighten security around 31 buildings surrounding the plaza, according to news reports Sunday. Police and the Seoul Metropolitan Government recently held

talks with the operators of the buildings and reached an agreement for six of the buildings to close their front entrances and allow access only through rear entrances, while urging the remaining 25 buildings to restrict access to rooftop

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hana Financial Group said Sunday it had signed a memorandum of understanding with British financial group Standard Chartered to expand cooperation in global business and digital assets.

The partnership aims to strengthen the two financial groups' global competitiveness by combining their overseas networks and financial capabilities amid rapidly changing global financial markets. The signing ceremony was held Friday at Hana Bank's headquarters in central Seoul, attended by Hana Financial Chairman

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) -- The American flag was raised Saturday over the US Embassy in Venezuela for the first time since 2019, a move that highlighted the recent shift in relations

between the two countries since then President Nicolás Maduro was captured by American troops in January. Though the flag is now waving, the building is undergoing renovations and it remains unclear when it will fully reopen. The move comes after several statements from US President Donald Trump in support of Maduro

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PARIS, France (AFP) -- Kharg Island, targeted in US air strikes on Saturday, is a scrubby stretch of land in the Gulf that handles almost all of Iran's crude exports. Announcing the strikes, US

President Donald Trump described Kharg as a "crown jewel" for Iran and maintained that every military target on the island had been "totally obliterated". The island, located around 30 kilometers off the Iranian mainland, is a hub for roughly 90 percent of Iran's crude exports, according to a JPMorgan not

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Google's artificial intelligence program AlphaGo defeated South Korean Go master Lee Se-dol 4-1 in a five-game match in Seoul in 2016, marking a historic milestone in AI development. Developed by Google DeepMind, AlphaGo used deep neural networks and reinforcement learning, improving through self-play rather than relying solely on brute-force calculation. Given Go's complexity and its demand for human intuition, experts had predicted such a breakthrough was still years away. The result stunned b

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

With its pitchers getting knocked around left and right, South Korea's run at the World Baseball Classic ended with a big loss in the quarterfinals Friday night in Miami. South Korea endured a 10-0 loss to the mighty Dominican Republic at loanDepot park, a game that was called after seven innings when Austin Wells' three-run shot provided the final margin of victory. Under WBC regulations, a game can be called early if a team is up by 15 runs after five innings or 10 runs after seven innings. Th

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

US President Donald Trump has said that the United States will hit Iran "very hard" over the next week, as the US military operation against the Islamic Republic enters its 14th day, aiming to destroy Tehran's missile capabilities, its Navy, and end its pathway to nuclear arms. During a Fox News radio interview released Friday, he also said that the ongoing war between the United States, Israel and Iran will end when he feels it "in my bones," as he pointed to progress that the US military has m

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

South Korea absorbed a 10-0 loss to the Dominican Republic in the quarterfinals of the World Baseball Classic (WBC) on Friday, as its first trip to the knockout stage lasted just one game. The Dominican Republic scored three times in the second and four more times in the third at loanDepot park in Miami, while South Korea managed just two hits. The game was called with two outs in the bottom of the seventh when Austin Wells launched a three-run homer off So Hyeong-jun to put the Dominicans up by

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Motor Group's Advanced Vehicle Platform div

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

South Korea on Friday confirmed the medical school admission quota for the 2027 academic year will increase to 3,538, as part of a five-year plan to boost the number of newly qualified doctors by 2031. The Ministry of Education said it has notified universities of the increased medical school admission quotas allocated to select institutions. There will be 490 additional seats in 2027 and 613 more seats annually from 2028 to 2031, compared to the base figure of 3,058 in 2024. The government emph

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

South Korean broadcasting has long been a powerhouse for the dating show genre, but SBS' latest three-part series, "Mongle Mongle Mongle," is breaking new ground by centering on a demographic often left out of romantic narratives -- people with disabilities. The program

follows the journey of three young adults -- Ji-hyun, who has a level 3 intellectual disability; Ji-hoon, who is on the autism spectrum; and Ji-won, who has Down syndrome -- as they embark on blind dates with other young adults w

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

President Lee Jae Myung on Friday asked the public to tell him directly of any gas stations that violate the fuel price cap that took effect Friday. "The public's monitoring and participation are needed to ensure that some sellers don't gain unfair profits," Lee wrote on his X account. "If you find any gas stations and such that break the regulation, report to me without hesitation." The price cap limits the price of fuel supplied by refiners to gas stations to 1,724 won (\$1.16) per liter of gas

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

Defense companies in South Korea will be required to obtain government approval when appointing foreign nationals or dual nationals to executive posts or positions handling defense technologies, according to sources Friday. The requirement is part of revisions to the Defense

Acquisition Program Act and the Defense Industry Technology Protection Act, which were recently approved at a Cabinet meeting, sources familiar with the matter said. The move comes amid growing concerns that appointing forei

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BTS has released an animated video inspired by the Korean folk song “Arirang” ahead of the group’s upcoming album of the same name. The video begins with a scene set in 1896, showing seven young men gathered around a phonograph. As the device is wound up, the melody of “Arirang,” widely regarded as Korea’s most representative folk song, begins to play. The story then follows the characters as they cross the Pacific Ocean by ship and record the song in a foreign country, sharing it with local aud

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

LG Energy Solution’s Canadian battery plant is emerging as a bright spot for the company as the global electric vehicle market slows, offsetting weaker performance at some of its European and US facilities. According to the company’s audit report released Thursday, NextStar Energy,

LG Energy Solution's battery plant in Windsor, Ontario, posted revenue of 362.4 billion won (\$268 million) last year, up 22.4 percent from a year earlier. Operating profit reached 53 billion won, surging nearly fivefold.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

included Standard Chartered Group CEO Bill Winters and other senior executives. StandardChartered said its global leadership regularly holds management

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Kep1er will host its second fan meeting in Japan in May, agency Klap Entertainment announced Friday. Under the title “Kep1arcade,” the group will take the stage six times across three cities — Osaka, Tokyo and Nagoya. The members will meet fans about three years after their first fanmeet held in Tokyo, and over six months after their “Kep1asia” brought them to three cities in the country. On March 31, the group will release its eighth EP, “Crack Code,” marking its first album since it reorganize

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

A man in his 40s was arrested for inflicting injuries with a knife on his wife and son, South Korean police said Friday. The father had allegedly been reprimanding the son for not studying. The incident occurred at around 11:32 p.m., Thursday, at an apartment in Gwangju, according

to the Gwangju Gwangsan Police Station. The son supposedly showed defiance, which enraged the suspect and led to him bringing a knife from the kitchen, apparently to scare him. His son and his wife tried to restrain hi

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

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

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

Nol Universe, a South Korean travel and entertainment platform operator, said Friday it has signed a memorandum of understanding with Woori Bank and Kona I to launch a prepaid card service tailored for foreign visitors to Korea. The agreement aims to improve financial accessibility and payment convenience for international tourists. The three companies plan to develop the necessary infrastructure ahead of the card's official launch in April. The prepaid card will be offered through Nol World, No

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

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

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

A woman in her 60s was crushed to death while out helping her neighbor Thursday, when his parked truck rolled down a hill. The incident occurred at around 1:13 p.m. at a home in Jindo-gun, South Jeolla Province, according to the Jindo Police Station. The victim was helping out a neighbor, a man in his 60s, dry his seaweed when the man's truck rolled down the hill. The car was parked in front of the home, about 7 or 8 meters uphill from the front yard where the fatal accident occurred. The car ow

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

LG Innotek's semiconductor substrate business is emerging as a key growth engine, with factories running at 80 percent of capacity as demand rises alongside the expansion of artificial

intelligence infrastructure. According to the company's 2025 business report released Thursday, the average use rate of its semiconductor substrate lines reached 80.8 percent last year, up sharply from 63.2 percent in 2023 and 75.6 percent in 2024. The rebound has driven strong growth in LG Innotek's Package Solut

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

North Korea warned Friday that Japan's plan to deploy upgraded long-range missiles could sharply worsen regional security and would bring about the "sinking of the Japanese archipelago." In a commentary carried by the Korean Central News Agency, Pyongyang

criticized Tokyo's reported plan to deploy an extended-range Type 12 surface-to-ship missile at an army base in Kumamoto prefecture, with additional deployments being considered in Shizuoka and Miyazaki. North Korea said the missile, whose rang

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A woman recently tried to extort money from a local nail salon by using an image generated by artificial intelligence that made it appear as if her treatment caused minor injuries to her fingers. South Korean police on Thursday said they had transferred the case to the prosecution for fraud and obstruction of business. The suspect also fabricated medical records in the process, but the police did not press charges of counterfeiting private documents. The suspect allegedly made a fake image of he

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

South Korean Prime Minister Kim Min-seok met US Vice President JD Vance in Washington on Thursday, where the two discussed bilateral trade issues, including the implementation of a

Korea-US investment framework agreed upon by President Lee Jae Myung and US President Donald Trump last year. Vance welcomed the South Korean National Assembly passing the US investment bill, and called for continued close cooperation between the two countries, South Korean the Prime Minister's Office said Friday. "(I

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Kim Wan-sun, a South Korean pop singer of the mid-1980s and early 1990s, has opened her first solo exhibition in New York as a painter. The exhibition marks the 40th anniversary of the singer's debut, running from Friday to March 31 at the Tenri Cultural Institute in Manhattan, New York. Its title "Icon On Demand" refers to Kim's past as a pop star driven by public demand, while hinting at her move to take control of her own image as an artist, according to the artist's agency, KWSunflower. The

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

"KPop Demon Hunters" is officially getting a sequel, Netflix confirmed Friday. The film will again be directed by the original creative team, Maggie Kang and Chris Appelhans. According to

Netflix, the sequel will mark the first project to emerge from the streamer's exclusive multiyear writing and directing partnership with Kang and Appelhans across animation. Specific details, including the release date and plot, have not yet been disclosed. However, speaking at a press conference in Seoul in Au

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Arco" (France) Opened March 11 Animation/Drama Directed by Ugo Bienvenu A 10-year-old boy from the future crash-lands in a climate-ravaged 2075 and goes on an adventure with a girl who takes him in. "Hoppers" (US) Opened March 4 Animation/Comedy Directed by Daniel Chong An animal lover (Piper Curda) transfers her consciousness into a robotic beaver to save a wildlife glade from demolition, only to stumble into a fully functioning animal civilization. "The Bride!" (US) Opened March 4 Romance/Fan

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Heeseung from K-pop boy group Enhypen recently surprised fans after he abruptly left the successful group and signed a new solo deal with the same agency, Belift Lab. In a statement announcing his departure, the company said, while discussing the group's future, Heeseung had a clear musical vision he wished to pursue, and the agency chose to respect his choice. Heeseung is not alone. An increasing number of K-pop idols have been turning their attention to solo projects. Wonpil of the popular roc

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

Rep. Yang Moon-seok of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea was stripped of his assembly seat with the Supreme Court on Thursday, upholding his fraud conviction. Yang, who represented the Ansan A electoral district in southern Gyeonggi Province, said he would consider appealing

the top court's decision to hand down a suspended 1 1/2 years of sentence. He was convicted of defrauding the Korean Federation of Community Credit Cooperatives to take out 1.1 billion won (\$743,100) of corporate loan and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A video showing a Korean child being pushed by a passerby at a convenience store in Japan has sparked anger online after it spread widely on social media. The footage, posted on Instagram by the child's mother, shows a woman forcefully shoving the girl with a bag as she walks past inside the store. The child, who had been browsing snacks with her father, appears startled and immediately runs toward her mother. "While I was filming in a convenience store after finishing our schedule, the woman fi

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

President Lee Jae Myung will chair a policy meeting on March 18 aimed at strengthening the resilience and restoring stability of South Korea's capital markets, the presidential office said

Thursday. The meeting will focus on assessing responses to financial market volatility triggered by recent developments in the Middle East, while also discussing longer-term reforms to improve the structural health of the country's capital markets. Officials said the government intends to use the gathering to

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- [Kim Jong-un tests new pistol with daughter Kim Ju-ae, stresses arms production](#) (2026-03-12 06:48)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- [The people's king: How "The King's Warden" became Korea's biggest film in years](#) (2026-03-12 06:28)

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

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

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

practices deemed unfair, and depending

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- [NCSoft targets W5tr in revenue by 2030](#) (2026-03-12 06:14)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- [Iranian Embassy in Seoul displays banner with image of Khamenei](#) (2026-03-11 11:46)

The Iranian Embassy in Seoul has put up a banner bearing the image of the late former leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and accusing "war criminals," sources said Wednesday. The embassy in Seoul's central Yongsan district has recently installed the banner on the building's outer wall bearing an image of Khamenei and the English phrase, "When will the world hold war criminals accountable?" diplomatic sources said. It also said "the massacre of women and children is neither forgivable nor forgettable,

- [Defense minister inspects S. Korea-US military exercise sites](#) (2026-03-11 10:27)

Defense Minister Ahn Gyu-back on Wednesday inspected sites of an ongoing South Korea-US military exercise, calling for thorough preparations for the planned recovery of wartime operational command from the United States. The minister visited the defense command headquarters, the command center for the Freedom Shield exercise, where he received a briefing on the progress of the drills, his ministry said. The allies launched the annual springtime military exercise on Monday for an 11-day run, with

- [S. Korea, Ghana leaders seek tangible cooperation on security, critical minerals](#) (2026-03-11 09:22)

The leaders of South Korea and Ghana agreed to work closely together to deliver tangible results across a range of sectors, including the economy, maritime security and critical minerals, according to Cheong Wa Dae. The agreement was reached at President Lee Jae Myung's summit with Ghanaian President John Dramani Mahama, who is on a working visit to South Korea, on Wednesday afternoon at the presidential office in Seoul. Mahama's visit marks the first by an African head of state since Lee took o

- [Taemin signs with G-dragon's agency, Galaxy Corporation](#) (2026-03-11 09:20)

Taemin of SHINee has signed an exclusive contract with Galaxy Corp., an AI entertainment technology company home to G-Dragon, the agency announced Tuesday. "Galaxy Corp. has signed an exclusive contract with artist Taemin," the company said in a statement, Wednesday. "We will provide full support so that Taemin's unique artistic capabilities can create synergy with our advanced technology." Galaxy Corp. describes itself as Korea's first AI entertainment technology company, combining artificial i

- [Samsung SDI warns patent infringement, tech leakage on prismatic batteries](#) (2026-03-11 09:13)

Samsung SDI has issued a clear warning against patent infringement and technology leakage in its prismatic battery technology, an area where it holds longstanding competitive edge over rivals. During The Battery Conference, a side event of InterBattery 2026 held at Coex in Seoul on Wednesday, Joo Yong-lak, head of the R&D center at Samsung SDI, emphasized that Samsung SDI would not tolerate unauthorized use of its prismatic battery technology. When asked about its competitors' recent foray into

- [LG Energy Solution, Samsung SDI flex patent muscle](#) (2026-03-11 08:49)

South Korea's two leading battery makers — LG Energy Solution and Samsung SDI — highlighted their patent strength at InterBattery 2026, signaling an intensifying race to secure next-generation battery technologies for emerging sectors such as energy storage systems and robotics. Speaking at The Battery Conference, a side event of the industry exhibition held at Coex in Seoul on Wednesday, Joo Yong-lak, head of Samsung SDI's R&D center, warned that the company would take action against patent inf

- [South Korea investigates BTS ticket scalping after nearly 1,900 illegal listings detected](#) (2026-03-11 08:47)

South Korea's Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism said it had identified 1,868 suspected scalping listings tied to upcoming BTS concerts in Goyang and Seoul's Gwanghwamun area after monitoring major online resale platforms. Authorities said four cases involving 105 tickets appeared to reflect organized attempts to resell seats at steep premiums, and those cases have been referred to the National Police Agency for investigation. According to data released by the ministry, the majority of susp

- [Yena returns with brighter, bolder take on love in 5th EP 'Love Catcher'](#) (2026-03-11 08:47)

Solo artist Yena returned Wednesday with a brighter, more self-assured take on love, unveiling her fifth EP, "Love Catcher," a five-track release that blends playful energy with a more mature emotional perspective. At a press conference in southern Seoul, Yena introduced the album as a project that captures different shades of love through a mix of sounds and collaborations, from the punchy main track "Catch Catch" to softer, more reflective B-sides featuring renowned artists such as Dindin, Mrc

- [Lawmaker in talks with Coupang CEO to get taste of night delivery](#) (2026-03-11 08:45)

Democratic Party of Korea Rep. Yeom Tae-young is in talks with Coupang CEO Harold Rogers to visit overnight delivery workers' workplace to experience a night shift together. According to Yeom's office, arrangements are being made to visit a Coupang Logistics Service facility to get a sense of what it is like to do delivery jobs overnight with Rogers, with March 19 being one of the options, though the schedule has yet to be fixed. Other liberal party lawmakers may accompany Yeom and Rogers. The v

- [Gender equality stalls as structural barriers persist, experts warn](#) (2026-03-11 08:38)

Experts urged coordinated efforts to tackle structural discrimination that continues to shape women's lives across society during an event hosted by the UN Women Knowledge and Partnerships Center in the Republic of Korea. They stressed that true equality requires dismantling entrenched barriers, not merely helping women navigate around them. The center, supported by the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family, held a commemoration marking the 2026 International Women's Day in Seoul on Wednesday u

- [Korean ring smuggled bulk cigarettes to Australia, making \\$6m in profit](#) (2026-03-11 08:30)

South Korean customs authorities have uncovered a smuggling ring that bought cigarettes in bulk from domestic convenience stores and illegally exported them to high-priced markets such as Australia and New Zealand, generating about 10 billion won (\$6.78 million) in profit. The Korea Customs Service's Incheon regional office said Wednesday that it had referred 11 suspects, including a ringleader in his 30s, to prosecutors without detention on charges of violating the Customs Act. The group allege

- [Jamsil mega convention center, dome stadium set for 2032 completion](#) (2026-03-11 08:26)

A 3.3 trillion-won (\$2.2 billion) sports and convention complex featuring South Korea's largest domed baseball stadium is planned for completion in Seoul by 2032 after the city finalized long-delayed negotiations for the Jamsil Sports and MICE Complex redevelopment. The Seoul Metropolitan Government said Wednesday it had concluded four years of negotiations with Seoul Smart MICE Park, a consortium led by Hanwha Construction Division selected as the preferred bidder for the privately funded proje

- [RBW acquires 257 Entertainment through WM, adds boy band Xlov](#) (2026-03-11 08:02)

Korean entertainment company RBW, the agency behind girl groups Mamamoo and Oh My Girl, said Tuesday that it acquired 257 Entertainment through its subsidiary WM Entertainment as part of efforts to strengthen its global expansion strategy. According to RBW, WM Entertainment recently signed a comprehensive business transfer agreement with 257 Entertainment and has begun post-merger integration procedures. Under the agreement, WM Entertainment will take over 257 Entertainment's intellectual proper

- [Senior US diplomat to discuss alliance issues in Seoul](#) (2026-03-11 07:59)

Michael DeSombre, the US assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, is scheduled to visit South Korea on Wednesday for talks on a range of alliance issues, officials said. According to South Korea's Foreign Ministry and diplomatic sources, DeSombre will stay in the country through March 15, with his official schedule beginning Thursday. During the visit, he is expected to meet with senior South Korean officials, including Jeong Yeon-doo, Seoul's chief representative for Nor

- [In Busan's Gijang, spring comes with anchovies](#) (2026-03-11 07:57)

Spring comes in many forms: cherry blossoms, pale pastel outfits appearing after months of winter drab, or the first green shoots on the dinner table. In a fishing town of Gijang, Busan, however, the season announces itself with a far more pungent sign: the salty, briny smell of fresh anchovies. Dae-byeon Village and its bustling namesake port account for about 60 percent of South Korea's anchovy catch, harvested using drift-net fishing. Anchovies, which live for only one year, are caught primar

- [Why did Heeseung leave Enhypen](#) (2026-03-11 07:56)

Heeseung of Enhypen announced his sudden departure from the boy group to pursue his own solo career through agency Belift Lab on Tuesday — raising questions across the industry about the rare circumstances surrounding the move. Departures from idol groups are not uncommon, but it is highly unusual for a member of a thriving group to leave the band specifically to pursue a solo career while remaining under the same agency. Speculation has quickly spread within the K-pop community, ranging from po

- [\[Key points\] NK leader oversees cruise missile test](#) (2026-03-11 07:27)

Missile launch: Kim Jong-un oversaw the launch of strategic cruise missiles from the Choe Hyon destroyer, with KCNA saying the test confirmed “the reliability of the national strategic weapons integrated command system.” Exercise response: The test is widely seen as a response to South Korea-US joint military exercises. Nuclear capability claim: Kim said the “state nuclear force has transitioned to a multifaceted operational stage.” Flight details: Missiles from the 5,000-ton Choe Hyon destroyer

- [Seoul shares up for 2nd day on bargain hunting amid Iran woes](#) (2026-03-11 07:08)

South Korean stocks finished higher for the second straight session Wednesday as investors hunted for bargains amid the market's recent volatility caused by the US-Iran war. The local currency rose against the greenback. The Korea Composite Stock Price Index moved up 77.36 points, or 1.4 percent, to close at 5,609.95 after rising as high as 5,746.36. Trade volume was heavy at 1 billion shares worth 26.3 trillion won (\$17.9 billion), with gainers far outpacing losers 701 to 198. Individual invest

- [US Senate Democrats warn Trump policies unsettling South Korea-US alliance](#) (2026-03-11 06:51)

Democratic members of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee warned the South Korea-US alliance is facing mounting strain under the Donald Trump administration, citing a series of recent developments ranging from the detention of Korean workers in Georgia to pressure on Seoul to approve massive investments in the US. In a 56-page minority report titled “The Price of Retreat 2.0: Undermining America’s Economic Edge and Alliance Advantage,” released Tuesday in the US, committee Democrats argued

- [Mirae Asset Securities launches first global pension desk](#) (2026-03-11 06:38)

Mirae Asset Securities said it would launch the industry’s first dedicated service center for global companies in Korea’s expanding retirement pension market. The new unit, called the Global Pension Desk or GPD, is designed to help multinational corporations navigate Korea’s complex pension regulations and align local operations with global standards. The desk will operate through a specialized network of certified tax accountants, actuaries, financial analysts and labor attorneys, providing int

- [S. Korea, Ghana leaders meet to broaden cooperation on maritime security, climate](#) (2026-03-11 06:35)

The leaders of South Korea and Ghana met in Seoul to expand cooperation in the areas of the economy, maritime security and climate change, among others. South Korean President Lee Jae Myung and Ghanaian President John Dramani Mahama held a summit at Cheong Wa Dae on Wednesday afternoon during Mahama’s working visit to South Korea. As the outcome of the summit, the two sides also signed a series of agreements aimed at broadening cooperation in maritime security, climate change and digital innovat

- [Patriots, THAAD may be shipped to Middle East. Is South Korea safe without them?](#)

(2026-03-11 06:27)

Speculation about the possible redeployment of US missile defense assets stationed in South Korea to the Middle East has been growing, along with concerns about the potential impact such a move could have on the country's defense posture. The speculation comes as Washington seeks to reinforce missile defense coverage for US bases and allies in the Middle East, amid a possibly prolonged confrontation with Iran. The Washington Post reported Monday, citing US officials, that the Pentagon is moving

- [Samsung Electro-Mechanics brings 200MP continuous zoom to Xiaomi flagship](#)

(2026-03-11 06:27)

Samsung Electro-Mechanics has begun mass production of a 200-megapixel continuous optical zoom camera module, with the technology debuting in Xiaomi's latest flagship smartphone, according to the company's 2025 business report released Tuesday. The Korean electronic components manufacturer said the module supports continuous optical zoom from 3.2x to 4.3x. The design allows a smartphone camera to maintain true optical image quality while zooming across a range rather than switching between fixed

- [Ruling party seeks parliamentary probe into 'politically motivated' indictments](#)

(2026-03-11 06:22)

The Democratic Party of Korea on Wednesday submitted a formal request for a parliamentary probe into what it claims to be politically motivated indictments through the manipulation of evidence in seven criminal cases against liberal figures. The request was submitted by Reps. Park Sung-joon, Yang Bu-nam, Lee Geon-tae and Lee Ju-hee with the National Assembly. The request will be reported to the plenary session of the National Assembly on Thursday. Among the figures affected by an allegedly wrong

- [Different electricity bills for different regions? Plan raises concerns](#) (2026-03-11 06:10)

South Korea's plan to introduce regionally differentiated electricity prices is raising concerns that inland provinces and public utilities in the greater Seoul area could face higher power costs, as the government pushes ahead with reforms to ease regional imbalances in energy supply. The proposal centers on offering cheaper electricity to areas near major power generation facilities to encourage industries to relocate from the capital region to provincial areas. Many of these regions have beco

- [Starbucks Korea first globally to fund graduate degrees for staff](#) (2026-03-11 06:04)

Starbucks Korea said Wednesday it has expanded its employee scholarship program to cover master's and doctoral degrees, becoming the first Starbucks market globally to offer graduate-level tuition support. The initiative is part of the Starbucks College Achievement Plan, an education assistance program designed to help employees pursue higher education while working. While the program previously supported bachelor's degrees, Starbucks Korea

expanded the benefit last year to include graduate prog

- [Hyundai Motor tops Volkswagen in profit for first time](#) (2026-03-11 06:03)

South Korea's Hyundai Motor Group recorded the world's second-largest operating profit among global automakers last year, surpassing Germany's Volkswagen Group for the first time, industry data showed Wednesday. The group — which includes Hyundai Motor, Kia and luxury brand Genesis — posted 20.5 trillion won (\$13.95 billion) in operating profit in 2025. That placed it behind only Toyota Motor Corporation, which topped the list with 4.3 trillion yen (\$27.15 billion) in operating profit. Market wa

- [\[Photo News\] BTS' RM backs Korean art catalog](#) (2026-03-11 05:52)

A new catalog highlighting Korean paintings preserved in major museums around the world has been published with support from RM of BTS. The Overseas Korean Cultural Heritage Foundation, affiliated with the Korea Heritage Service, announced the publication of "It's ___ Here: Korean Paintings Shining Abroad," a richly illustrated catalogue that documents significant Korean paintings currently held in overseas museum collections. The project was made possible through a donation by RM in 2022, refle

- [Once criticized, Korea now helps end dog slaughter abroad](#) (2026-03-11 05:51)

Two long-running dog slaughter and meat-selling businesses in Indonesia have been shut down, marking what activists say is the first overseas application of South Korea's dog meat industry transition model. Humane World for Animals, a South Korea-based nonprofit, said Wednesday it supported the closure of a dog meat restaurant and slaughterhouse, rescuing 10 dogs that were awaiting slaughter. The operation in Kupang, on Indonesia's East Nusa Tenggara island, was conducted in partnership with Jak

- [Who's running to become next Seoul mayor?](#) (2026-03-11 05:47)

The race for Seoul mayor, the most high-profile of local government posts, remains clouded less than three months before the election. From the ruling bloc, several big names as well as relative unknowns have declared their bids, while the incumbent Seoul mayor and other conservative heavyweights are still weighing their options. From the ruling Democratic Party, five have made their bids official and will now have to go through primaries to enter the local election on June 3. One of the hopeful

- [Rights watchdog urges broader stimulus aid for foreign residents](#) (2026-03-11 05:45)

The National Human Rights Commission of Korea said Wednesday that it had advised the interior minister and other relevant officials to expand eligibility for government relief payments, including the so-called "consumption coupons for livelihood recovery," to cover more foreign residents. The government distributed coupons worth up to 550,000 won (\$375) to Korean residents in 2025 as part of efforts to stimulate domestic consumption. The policy largely excluded foreigners, though it allowed limi

- [From idol to producer: Lee Hae-in's rise as a K-pop hitmaker](#) (2026-03-11 05:43)

For the past three years, the K-pop scene has been swept by girl groups backed by major agencies and veteran hitmakers such as Min Hee-jin, creative director behind NewJeans. But one of the most talked-about breakthroughs came from a far smaller company: Kiss of Life, a girl group launched by the little-known S2 Entertainment. The group's rapid rise — often described in the industry as a “miracle from a small agency” — has drawn attention to the creative force behind it: Lee Hae-in. The former i

- [Musinsa Standard global sales jump 162% on overseas demand](#) (2026-03-11 05:37)

Korean fashion platform Musinsa said Wednesday its casualwear brand Musinsa Standard is rapidly expanding its overseas customer base, driven by surging global sales. According to the company's analysis of online and offline transactions last year, sales on Musinsa's global platforms operating across 13 regions rose 162 percent in 2025 from a year earlier, highlighting strong international demand for the brand. Foreign customers also drove significant spending at the brand's offline stores in Kor

- ['Minimalistic in very extreme way' : Sharon Eyal brings 'Jakie' to Seoul](#) (2026-03-11 05:34)

For professional dancers, learning to pare themselves down can be challenging. As technique deepens, so does the instinct to add. And choreographer Sharon Eyal asks for the opposite.

“I'm asking the dancers to reduce and to be most minimalistic in a very extreme way. This is very challenging because the more professional you are, you add stuff. But I think this effort brings what I said before -- not choreography but ‘experience.’ ” Eyal is working with Korean dancers for the first time, collabor

- [Posco Future M to mass-produce LFP cathodes this year to challenge China](#) (2026-03-11 05:30)

Posco Future M President and CEO Eom Gi-chen said the company plans to begin mass production of cathode materials for lithium iron phosphate (LFP) batteries, aiming to challenge Chinese dominance in the low-cost battery segment. “The three major Korean battery companies — LG Energy Solution, Samsung SDI and SK On — are all planning to release LFP products within this year,” Eom said during a press briefing at InterBattery 2026 in Seoul, which opened Wednesday. Eom was recently appointed chairman

- [Kim supervises destroyer cruise missile test amid Seoul-Washington drills](#) (2026-03-11 05:27)

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un oversaw the test-firing of strategic cruise missiles from the Choe Hyon destroyer, state media reported Wednesday, roughly a week after a similar launch from the same vessel. The latest test is widely seen as a show of force against the ongoing South Korea-US joint military exercises, with the North's state-run Korean Central News Agency

saying it was intended to underscore Pyongyang's nuclear deterrence. Kim Jong-un communicated with the warship by telephone and

- [Blackpink sets new K-pop girl group record on Billboard Hot 100 with 'Go'](#) (2026-03-11 05:23)

Blackpink continues to expand its presence on global music charts, setting new records for K-pop girl groups on both the US Billboard and UK Official Charts. According to the latest chart update released by Billboard on Monday, the group's newly released song "Go," the main track from its third EP "Deadline," debuted at No. 63 on the Billboard Hot 100. The entry marks Blackpink's 11th appearance on the Hot 100, the most among K-pop female artists to date. Other tracks that made the chart include

- [Samsung Electronics to cancel W16tr in treasury shares](#) (2026-03-11 05:17)

Samsung Electronics will cancel about 87 million treasury shares worth roughly 16 trillion won (\$10.9 billion) in the first half of this year as part of its efforts to enhance shareholder value, according to its 2025 business report released Tuesday. The cancellation represents a large portion of the 105.43 million treasury shares the company held at the end of last year. Based on Tuesday's closing price of about 190,000 won per share, the shares slated for retirement are valued at roughly 16 tr

- [Samsung Electronics average pay surges to record level](#) (2026-03-11 05:17)

Samsung Electronics employees earned an average salary of 158 million won (\$107,300) last year, the highest level on record, according to the company's 2025 business report released Tuesday. The average compensation per employee in 2025 rose 21.5 percent from 130 million won a year earlier, the filing showed. The report also detailed Samsung's performance stock unit program, introduced in October to strengthen employees' accountability for long-term business performance. Under the plan, the comp

- [Samsung Electronics spends record W37.7tr on R&D;](#) (2026-03-11 05:16)

Samsung Electronics spent a record 37.7 trillion won (\$25.7 billion) on research and development last year despite heightened global economic uncertainty, according to its 2025 business report Tuesday. The figure is a 7.8 percent increase from 35 trillion won a year earlier, equivalent to more than 100 billion won spent each day on technology development. Industry observers say a significant portion of the investment likely went toward next-generation memory technologies, particularly high-bandw

- [Medicube to sponsor Coachella in first for Korean beauty](#) (2026-03-11 05:16)

Korean beauty company APR said Tuesday its flagship brand Medicube will participate as an official sponsor of the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival, aiming to strengthen its global presence and promote K-beauty to international audiences. Medicube will operate a brand booth at the festival, which runs in California from April 10 to 19. APR will sponsor the skincare

and beauty device category, marking the first time a Korean beauty company has joined the globally renowned music festival in

- [Innocean makes Ad Age A-List as first Korean agency in US top 10](#) (2026-03-11 05:14)

Innocean, the advertising arm of Hyundai Motor Group, said Wednesday it has been named on Ad Age's 2026 A-List, becoming the first Korean agency to be selected among the Top 10 Most Outstanding Marketing Firms in the US. Ad Age evaluates agencies in the US — the world's largest advertising market, accounting for 35.3 percent of global ad spending — based on criteria including creative excellence, business performance and industry influence. Innocean became the first Korean advertising firm to pr

- [CICI to host news carousel competition](#) (2026-03-11 05:11)

The Korea Image Communication Institute said Wednesday it will host a news carousel competition from March 10 to May 10 under themes including the future of Korean traditional and contemporary culture and the competitiveness of K-content in the AI era. The contest is open to residents in Korea aged 18 and older, regardless of nationality. Participants must submit three to 10 images in vertical carousel format. For more information, visit www.coreaimage.org

- [NCSoft to acquire German mobile game company JustPlay](#) (2026-03-11 05:10)

NCSoft said Wednesday it is investing \$202 million in JustPlay, a German-based mobile game platform company, to acquire a 70 percent stake, looking to speed up its plan to expand the global mobile casual game business. According to NCSoft, the board of directors approved the acquisition on the previous day. The Korean game company expects to complete the acquisition by the end of next month. JustPlay, an advertisement technology-based mobile casual game developer and reward platform company, was

- [Samsung Biologics, Eli Lilly to build biotech innovation hub in Korea](#) (2026-03-11 05:10)

Samsung Biologics has teamed up with Eli Lilly to set up an open innovation hub for emerging biotechnology companies in Korea, marking the first time for Eli Lilly to establish such a site outside the United States and China. According to Samsung Biologics on Tuesday, the two companies agreed to build a Lilly Gateway Labs site within the Korean contract development and manufacturing organization, or CDMO, leader's second bio campus in Songdo, Incheon. The LGL facility will consist of five storie

- [Former lawmaker's sentence confirmed over Moon-Trump call in 2019](#) (2026-03-11 05:09)

South Korea's Supreme Court has finalized a suspended prison sentence for former lawmaker Kang Hyo-sang for leaking the contents of a confidential phone call between then-President Moon Jae-in and former US President Donald Trump. The Supreme Court in January upheld a lower court ruling sentencing Kang, a former member of the Liberty Korea Party — the predecessor of the People Power Party — to six months in prison, suspended for one year, on

charges including leaking diplomatic secrets. A former

- [Lee's gifts to Ghana's president: chocolate, a phone and a painting](#) (2026-03-11 05:03)

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung presented Ghanaian President John Dramani Mahama with specially produced chocolate during their summit in Seoul, Cheong Wa Dae said Wednesday. Mahama arrived in South Korea a day earlier for talks with Lee. According to presidential spokesperson Kang Yu-jung, Ghana chocolate was chosen as a symbolic gift because in South Korea, Ghana is closely associated with the popular brand, which uses over 80 percent Ghanaian cacao beans in its product. The packaging was

- [South Korea's live performing arts market hit W1.73tr in 2025, up 18.8%](#) (2026-03-11 04:55)

South Korea's performing arts market surpassed 1.73 trillion won (\$1.3 billion) in ticket sales in 2025, marking strong growth across concerts, musicals and dance performances, according to government data released Wednesday. The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism published a report analyzing ticket reservation data from the Korea Performing Arts Box Office Information System, compiled with the Korea Arts Management Service. The report showed that total ticket sales in the domestic performi

- [Calligrapher Kang Byung-in highlights philosophy of Hangeul at Korea CQ forum](#) (2026-03-11 04:53)

Renowned Korean calligrapher Kang Byung-in, known for designing iconic Hangeul lettering for popular brands and cultural works, spoke about the philosophy and artistic structure of the Korean alphabet during a lecture Tuesday at the New Zealand ambassador's residence in Seoul. The lecture, titled "Hangeul Calligraphy and the Spirit of Hangeul," was hosted by the Core Image Communication Institute as part of its Korea CQ Forum series. More than 10 opinion leaders attended the event, including di

- [Men tied to Myanmar fraud hub indicted over romance scam](#) (2026-03-11 04:44)

South Korean prosecutors have indicted several young men accused of working for a romance scam ring based in Myanmar, part of a growing network of overseas fraud operations targeting Korean victims. The Seoul Eastern District Prosecutors' Office said Wednesday that nine men aged 23 to 34 who operated out of a crime compound known as KK Park near the Myanmar-Thailand border were charged with joining and participating in a criminal organization. Five suspects were indicted in detention, while thre

- [BTS to accommodate 7,000 more for comeback show](#) (2026-03-11 04:30)

More seats will be added to the much-anticipated live show signaling BTS' return, according to Big Hit Music. The group is set to go live in central Seoul on March 21 under the title "BTS The Comeback Live: Arirang," a day after the rollout of its fifth studio album "Arirang." All 15,000 tickets sold out upon release — with a waitlist of over 100,000 people — and the label decided

to expand the outdoor venue for safety reasons and allow 7,000 more fans to enter. Seoul has gone on full alert to a

- [Deterrence posture against N. Korea won't be hindered, Cheong Wa Dae says amid reports of THAAD move](#) (2026-03-11 04:16)

The deterrence posture against North Korea will not be hindered regardless of a potential shift of military assets owned by the US military stationed in South Korea, a senior official at Cheong Wa Dae said Wednesday, amid media reports that the US Forces Korea has shipped out some of its air defense assets from the Korean Peninsula. "Given our level of military capability, defense spending, defense industry capacity and the high morale of our troops, there is no problem with deterrence against N

- [Samsung's Lee Jae-yong is richest Korean on Forbes billionaires list. No. 2 may surprise you](#) (2026-03-11 03:17)

Samsung Electronics Chairman Lee Jae-yong is the sole Korean on Forbes' world's 100 richest people list this year, with an estimated net worth of \$27 billion, according to the US magazine. But the country's second-richest person may be unfamiliar to many Koreans. Chung Yong-ji, chief executive of biotech firm Caregen, ranked 268th on the global list with a net worth of \$11.7 billion. Chung founded Caregen, a South Korean biotechnology company known for peptide-based products, including antiwrink

- [Wildlife to replace humans on next series of UK banknotes](#) (2026-03-11 02:55)

Images of animals will feature on the next series of banknotes from the Bank of England, as the central bank shifts away from historical figures such as William Shakespeare, Winston Churchill and Jane Austen over the coming years. "Nature is a great choice from a banknote authentication perspective and means we can showcase the UK's rich and varied wildlife on the next series of banknotes," Victoria Cleland, the BoE's chief cashier, said. Bank of England banknotes have featured monarchs since Q

- [Caregiver shaved her unconscious mother. Daughter's fury ends in court](#) (2026-03-11 02:48)

A South Korean woman was issued a fine of 1.5 million won (\$1,010), suspended for one year, for assaulting a caregiver who shaved her unconscious mother's head. The caregiver had also earlier received a suspended fine from the court for the incident. According to legal sources Tuesday, the Busan District Court showed leniency toward the daughter despite her conviction for special assault, which is a more serious charge than simple assault. The act was upgraded because it involved scissors, with

- [\[Photo News\] Jung Ho-yeon, Lisa attend Louis Vuitton show at Paris Fashion Week](#) (2026-03-11 02:45)

South Korean actress Jung Ho-yeon and Thai K-pop star Lisa were among the celebrity guests at the Louis Vuitton Women's Ready-to-Wear fall-winter 2026-2027 show during Paris Fashion Week on Tuesday. Jung and Lisa posed for photographers ahead of the show, held in the main courtyard of the Louvre Museum in Paris. The "Super Nature" collection closed out the Paris fashion week schedule with a natural theme. Artistic director Nicolas Ghesquiere drew inspiration from the roots of Louis Vuitton, who

- [Nearly half of Korean high school students use AI weekly for studies: survey](#) (2026-03-11 02:33)

Nearly half of South Korean high school students regularly use artificial intelligence in their studies, a recent study found. According to research released Wednesday by the Jinhak Educational Assessment Research Institute, 47.7 percent of students said they use artificial intelligence tools, including ChatGPT and Gemini, for studying at least once a week. By frequency, 25.2 percent said they use AI tools one to two times a week, 14.4 percent reported using them three times or more weekly and 8

- [Paraguay lawmakers approve defense agreement that allows increased US military presence](#) (2026-03-11 02:32)

ASUNCION, Paraguay (AP) — Paraguay's Chamber of Deputies on Tuesday approved a defense agreement allowing the temporary presence of US military and civilian personnel inside its borders, widely seen as a victory for the Trump administration, which has sought to strengthen its presence in Latin America. The Status of Forces Agreement, or SOFA, was approved by a large majority of lawmakers and now awaits the signature of President Santiago Peña to take effect. Peña, one of Trump's closest allies i

- [Police say deadly Swiss bus fire could be deliberate](#) (2026-03-11 02:30)

KERZERS, Switzerland (AFP) -- A bus caught fire in western Switzerland Tuesday killing at least six people and injuring five others in what police said may have been a deliberate act. The fire broke out on the bus in the main street of the small town of Kerzers, around 20 kilometers west of the Swiss capital Bern, at about 6:25 p.m. Videos circulating on social media showed flames several meters high bursting out from the windows, and black smoke rising into the sky. The fire " left at least six

- [Italy buys Caravaggio painting for about \\$35 million, one of its largest payouts for a single work](#) (2026-03-11 02:28)

ROME (AP) -- Italy has bought a rare portrait by baroque painter Caravaggio for 30 million euros (about \$35 million), one of the largest state investments ever for a single artwork, the country's Culture Ministry said Tuesday. The portrait, painted around 1598 and attributed to Caravaggio in 1963, depicts Maffeo Barberini, a nobleman who later became Pope Urban VIII. The painting was acquired from a private collection by the Italian state after over a year of negotiations and will now enter Rome

- [Ateez charts 4 weeks on Billboard 200](#) (2026-03-11 02:27)

Ateez logged another week on the Billboard 200, ranking No. 108 with its 13th EP, agency KQ Entertainment said Wednesday. The EP “Golden Hour: Part 4” has spent four weeks on the main albums chart after entering it at No. 3. It is the group's sixth consecutive album to sit among the top three on the chart. The newest endeavor logged 200,000 units in streaming equivalent album sales in the US — a career-best for the octet. It also sold more than 1.5 million copies in the first week and became the

- [FBI finds explosive residue in storage unit](#) (2026-03-11 02:26)

NEW YORK (AP) — The FBI said Tuesday that it found explosive residue in a Pennsylvania storage unit as part of an investigation into two men charged with bringing homemade bombs to a protest outside the home of New York City’s mayor. Emir Balat, 18, and Ibrahim Kayumi, 19, told police after their arrests that they were inspired by the Islamic State group, according to law enforcement officials and a criminal complaint. The men live in the Philadelphia suburbs and drove together to New York City

- [Riize earns double platinum status in Japan](#) (2026-03-11 02:24)

Riize’s second Japanese physical single “All of You” has earned platinum certification from the Recording Industry Association of Japan, the organization announced Tuesday. Released Feb. 18, the single surpassed 250,000 cumulative shipments as of February, securing platinum status in the Gold Disc category and reaffirming the group’s strong popularity in Japan. It also topped the daily singles chart on Oricon three times. Following the release, Riize held three concerts at Tokyo Dome, performing

- [Illit surpasses 100m streams in Japan](#) (2026-03-11 02:21)

Illit surpassed 100 million streams in Japan with its first Japanese single, “Almond Chocolate,” according to Oricon on Wednesday. The track reached the milestone on Oricon’s Weekly Streaming Ranking, becoming the group’s second song to exceed 100 million plays on the chart following “Magnetic,” which has accumulated more than 300 million streams. Released in February last year, “Almond Chocolate” was produced as the theme song for the film “It Takes More Than a Pretty Face to Fall in Love.” The

- [Appeal trial begins for ex-PM Han over insurrection charges](#) (2026-03-11 02:09)

An appellate trial for former Prime Minister Han Duck-soo began Wednesday on charges that he played a key role in an insurrection by abetting former President Yoon Suk Yeol's 2024 imposition of martial law. The first hearing opened at the Seoul High Court after both Han and special counsel Cho Eun-suk's team appealed a 23-year prison sentence handed down by a district court in January. Han was found guilty of taking part in an insurrection by proposing that Yoon convene a Cabinet meeting before

- [Shinee’s Onew tops iTunes Chart in 9 regions with solo EP](#) (2026-03-11 02:07)

The fifth solo set from Shinee's Onew debuted atop the iTunes Top Albums Chart in nine regions, his agency Griffin Entertainment said Wednesday. His five-track EP "Tough Love" rolled out on Monday. Onew co-wrote all five tracks on the album, including the title track — a first for the veteran idol — which landed atop the real-time songs chart on Bugs. A pop-up store is running in Seoul through March 15 to mark the album's release. Onew released his first solo album in 2018 and has since put out

- [Shooting at US consulate in Toronto prompts increased security](#) (2026-03-11 01:57)

Two men fired multiple shots at the US consulate in Toronto early Tuesday in what police described as a "national security incident," prompting beefed-up protection for US and Israeli diplomatic buildings in the Canadian city. The individuals approached the consulate in downtown Toronto at around 4:30 a.m., exited a white SUV and fired several rounds from a handgun at the consulate, Toronto police deputy chief Frank Barredo told reporters. There were people inside at the time, but "this building

- [Airlines raise fares as Middle East conflict lifts fuel costs](#) (2026-03-11 01:45)

Some airlines in Asia and Europe raised fares, added fuel surcharges or adjusted schedules Tuesday as the Middle East conflict drove jet fuel costs sharply higher and disrupted key air routes. Australia's Qantas Airways, Scandinavia's SAS and Air New Zealand were among the carriers that announced price increases, while others warned the crisis could threaten fuel supplies or force further schedule changes. Jet fuel prices, which were around \$85 to \$90 per barrel before US-Israeli strikes on Ira

- [BTOB to return as full group after almost 3 years: report](#) (2026-03-11 01:43)

BTOB will drop a digital single on March 21 featuring all six members, according to a local media report on Wednesday. It will be the first full group effort since their 12th EP, "Wind and Wish," released in May 2023, and will mark BTOB's 14th debut anniversary. After the mini album, the bandmates' exclusive contract with Cube Entertainment expired. Lee Changseob and Yook Sungjae each signed with new agencies, while the remaining four set up a company named after the group. BTOB's 13th EP "BToda

- [Exports up 55.6% during first 10 days of March on robust chip demand](#) (2026-03-11 01:02)

South Korea's exports jumped 55.6 percent from a year earlier in the first 10 days of March, driven by strong overseas demand for semiconductors, data showed Wednesday. Outbound shipments reached \$21.5 billion in the March 1-10 period, compared with \$13.8 billion tallied a year earlier, according to the data from the Korea Customs Service. It marked the country's largest exports recorded for the cited period. Imports went up 21.7 percent on-year to \$19.4 billion during the period, resulting in a

- [\[영어답게 표현하기\] 유용한 비즈니스 영어 표현들](#) (2026-03-11 01:00)

이번 회에는 저희 책 『나는 더 영어답게 말하고 싶다 일상회화 편』과 『나는 더 영어답게 말하고 싶다 비즈니스 편』에서 뽑은, 평이한 단어들로 이뤄졌지만 ‘있어 보이는’ 표현들을 소개합니다. 두 도서 모두 전자책으로 구매 가능합니다. 영어 스피킹 능력 향상에 많은 도움이 되시길 바랍니다.

1. 왜 I have some reservations.가 ‘좀 꺼려지는 면이 있습니다’ 라는 의미가 될까요? reserve는 ‘보류하다’ 입니다. 그 명사형 reservation를 활용해 I have some reservations.라고 하면, 확신이 없거나 생각이 다르다는 뜻이 됩니다. 말하자면 ‘판단을 보류하겠다’ 는 말이죠. 다른 생각이 있다는 뜻인 I have second thoughts.나 I have some reservations. 모두 ‘생각이 달라 선뜻 동의하지 못하겠다’ 라는 의미로 쓸 수 있는 정중한 표현입니다. 2. 장단점을 영어로 뭐라고 하면 좋을까요? 장단점을 merits and

- [Govt. to mobilize all policy tools in dealing with Middle East-related economic uncertainties](#) (2026-03-11 00:25)

South Korea will mobilize all available economic policy tools, including a possible supplementary budget, and activate an emergency economic response system to respond to economic uncertainties stemming from an ongoing Middle East crisis, Seoul's finance chief said Wednesday. Financial markets showed heightened volatility, with the Korean won falling sharply against the US dollar and domestic fuel prices spiking following US-Israeli strikes on Iran and Tehran's retaliatory attacks in the region.

- [Seoul shares open higher amid oil price swings](#) (2026-03-11 00:22)

South Korean stocks started higher Wednesday as investors continued to hunt for bargains despite volatility in global oil prices in the wake of the Middle East crisis. The benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index rose 154.83 points, or 2.8 percent, to 5,687.42 as of 9:15 a.m. The index rebounded 5.35 percent Tuesday. US President Donald Trump said in a social media post that Iran will face "military consequences" at a level "never seen before" if it has laid any mines in the Strait of Hormuz.

- [\[Graphic News\] Air traffic tops 1 million flights for first time](#) (2026-03-10 23:00)

South Korea's annual air traffic surpassed 1 million flights for the first time last year, government data showed. The total number of flights reached 1,013,930 in 2025, according to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport. The country averaged 2,778 flights per day, up 6.8 percent from a year earlier. The annual figure exceeded the previous high of 842,041 recorded in 2019 before the COVID-19 pandemic. The growth was driven by a rebound in international travel. International flights

- [\[Kim Seong-kon\] Living in 'Jurassic World' in 2026](#) (2026-03-10 20:30)

Recently, Netflix added the Jurassic World collection to its film repository. We all remember the worldwide excitement when the epoch-making film “Jurassic Park” was released in 1993. Directed by legendary filmmaker Steven Spielberg and based on Michael Crichton's bestselling novel, the movie led to two sequels: “The Lost World: Jurassic Park” and “Jurassic Park III.” In 2015, “Jurassic World,” directed by Colin Trevorrow, reignited nostalgic feelings of "Jurassic

Park" fans. "Jurassic World" ha

- [\[Allison Schragger\] US human capital is eroding](#) (2026-03-10 20:30)

America is having a collective freakout about jobs — specifically, that soon AI will do everything and leave everyone unemployable. This concern is not necessarily misplaced, but it is better understood as part of a larger worry: that one of the country's most critical resources, human capital, is eroding. A large, diverse and highly skilled labor force is what made the US an economic powerhouse. Now, both the stock and value of its human capital are degrading, and almost no one is doing anything

- [Seoul hosts Ramadan iftar for OIC diplomats amid Middle East tensions](#) (2026-03-10 13:28)

South Korean Foreign Minister Cho Hyun hosted a Ramadan iftar dinner Tuesday evening for diplomats from member states of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation in Seoul, as South Korea seeks to strengthen ties with the Islamic world amid rising tensions in the Middle East. The event, held at the Four Seasons Hotel Seoul, is part of the Foreign Ministry's annual outreach to OIC member states during Ramadan. The ministry has hosted the gathering since 2004 to promote friendship and cooperation with

- [Wealthier overseas fans reshape power dynamics in K-pop](#) (2026-03-10 12:31)

With BTS' full-group comeback less than two weeks away, Chinese fan communities have recently announced large-scale promotional campaigns that will dominate some of Seoul's most visible digital billboards. Jungkook's official Chinese fan club said it will broadcast a congratulatory video for the singer's comeback on the 60-meter landmark megascreen at the Koreana Hotel in central Seoul from March 20 to 22. Chinese fan club Baidu V Bar has planned an even larger campaign for V, securing the massi

- [About 6,300 S. Koreans leave Middle East over past 7 days](#) (2026-03-10 12:24)

About 6,300 South Korean nationals have left countries across the Middle East over the past seven days amid the ongoing military conflict in the region, the foreign ministry said Tuesday. The number of South Koreans remaining in 14 countries in the region stood at about 14,700 as of Monday, down from some 21,000 last Tuesday, the ministry said, as many seek to return to their home country due to the widening conflict. The number of South Korean short-term travelers in those countries fell to rou

- [Train service between Beijing, Pyongyang to resume this week for first time in 6 years](#) (2026-03-10 12:18)

Train service linking Pyongyang and Beijing will resume this week for the first time since it was suspended six years ago due to the COVID-19 pandemic, sources said Tuesday. The Beijing-Pyongyang train route will resume operations Thursday, running four times a week, on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday, an official at China State Railway Group told Yonhap News Agency. The train will depart from Beijing at 5:26 p.m. and arrive in Pyongyang at

6 p.m. the following day, stopping once at the

- [Samsung Biologics, Eli Lilly to establish biotech incubator in Incheon](#) (2026-03-10 11:29)

Samsung Biologics, the biotech arm of Samsung Group, said Tuesday it has signed an agreement with US pharmaceutical giant Eli Lilly and Co. to set up a biotech incubator in the western city of Incheon. Under the partnership, the two companies will establish a new site for Eli Lilly's Lilly Gateway Labs in Songdo, an international business district in the port city, according to Samsung Biologics. The US company launched Lilly Gateway Labs in 2019 to support emerging biotech companies by offering

- [NCSoft to acquire 70% stake in German game developer JustPlay for W301.6b](#) (2026-03-10 10:57)

NCSoft, a major South Korean gamemaker, said Tuesday it will acquire a 70 percent stake in Germany-based game developer JustPlay GmbH for 301.6 billion won (\$204.8 million) as part of its push to expand its mobile casual game business. The deal is expected to close on April 30, after which NCSoft will hold the controlling stake in the German company, according to the company in a regulatory filing. Headquartered in Berlin, JustPlay operates a reward-based mobile gaming platform, along with its o

- [Prosecutors indict woman accused of fatally drugging 2 men](#) (2026-03-10 10:43)

Prosecutors on Tuesday indicted a 20-year-old woman accused of murdering two men by giving them drug-laced drinks. The Seoul Northern District Prosecutors Office said Kim So-young was indicted under physical detention on charges of murder, special bodily injury and violating the Narcotics Control Act. Kim is accused of handing the drinks containing benzodiazepine, a depressant, to three men on separate occasions between last December and last month, resulting in two deaths. One of the three men

- [Top general visits key Marine, Navy units to inspect S. Korea-US drills](#) (2026-03-10 10:37)

South Korea's top general on Tuesday visited key Marine Corps and Navy units to inspect their participation in an ongoing major exercise with U.S. troops, his office said. Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Jin Yong-sung visited the Combined Marine Component Command and the Northwest Islands Defense Command and urged troops to verify wartime plans during the Freedom Shield exercise as South Korea seeks to take back wartime operational control from the United States, according to the JCS. Jin al

- [Samsung Electronics spends W37.7tr won in R&D; in 2025](#) (2026-03-10 10:23)

Samsung Electronics Co. said Tuesday it spent a record 37.7 trillion won (\$25.6 billion) on research and development in 2025 as part of its push to gain an early lead in the global race for next-generation artificial intelligence chips. The amount represented a 7.8 percent increase from the previous year's 35 trillion won, the company said in an annual business report. Samsung Electronics said the massive investment was part of the company's strategy to

preemptively cope with booming demand for

- [K-drama icons return for 'Climax' as spring content wars heat up](#) (2026-03-10 09:33)

Korean heavyweights are returning to television with a major new project, as the political thriller "Climax" unites Netflix's "The Trauma Code: Heroes on Call" hero Ju Ji-hoon with a beloved K-drama heroine Ha Ji-won ("Secret Garden") -- who returns from a four-year hiatus with the new series. Set to air on cable network ENA, the outfit behind the global phenomenon "Extraordinary Attorney Woo," the show follows prosecutor Tae-sup (Ju) as he becomes part of a cartel in his pursuit of political po

- [S. Korea, Ghana leaders to discuss trade, defense cooperation: Cheong Wa Dae](#) (2026-03-10 09:20)

The leaders of South Korea and Ghana seek to deepen cooperation across a broad range of areas, including trade and investment as well as defense and the arms industry, Seoul announced Tuesday. South Korean President Lee Jae Myung is scheduled to hold a summit with Ghanaian President John Dramani Mahama on Wednesday afternoon at Cheong Wa Dae, presidential spokesperson Kang Yu-jung said in a press statement. Mahama is in South Korea from Tuesday through Saturday for a working visit. "The two lead

- [PM to visit US, Switzerland in bid to host 'UN AI hub'](#) (2026-03-10 09:00)

Prime Minister Kim Min-seok will travel to the United States and Switzerland later this week as South Korea launches its bid to host a platform for the United Nations bodies dedicated to artificial intelligence, which could collaborate with the South Korean government or private-sector companies. South Korea aims to secure a joint project with the UN and share necessary AI infrastructure through the launch of an "UN AI hub," Kim said in a meeting at the Government Complex Seoul on Tuesday. He ca

- [SK Inc. to retire record W4.8tr in treasury shares](#) (2026-03-10 08:59)

SK Inc., the holding company of SK Group, said Tuesday it will retire about 4.8 trillion won (\$3.27 billion) of treasury shares, marking the largest share retirement ever undertaken by a domestic holding firm. The board approved a plan to retire 14.69 million treasury shares out of the 17.98 million shares currently held by the company, excluding 3.29 million shares reserved for employee compensation. The retirement represents roughly 20 percent of SK Inc.' s outstanding shares and, based on curr

- [Beyond skills, attitude defines success in the AI era, says veteran civil servant](#) (2026-03-10 08:52)

Global interest in Korea has surged in recent years, ranging from its culture to its industries. But beyond what the world sees in K-culture lies something less visible, according to veteran South Korean civil servant Lee In-jae, president of the Korea Social Capital Research Center. He says it's about a way of working, a way of making decisions, a way of enduring. Drawing on 35 years

in public service, Lee is set to release "The K-Attitude Advantage: Beyond the Algorithm," a guide to leadership

- [Inside Korea's migrant population: 10 key takeaways from latest survey](#) (2026-03-10 08:51)

The Ministry of Statistics and the Ministry of Justice on Tuesday released the results of their annual Survey on the Residence and Employment Status of Migrants, offering a snapshot of how foreign residents and naturalized citizens live and work in South Korea. The government has conducted the survey since 2017, examining demographic, visa and employment trends among migrants aged 15 and older who have stayed in the country for at least 91 consecutive days. Here are some key findings from the 20

- [Heeseung to leave Enhypen](#) (2026-03-10 08:23)

Heeseung will part with Enhypen to pursue a solo career, his agency Belift Lab announced Tuesday. The agency shared the news through the fan community platform Weverse, saying it had been discussing the group's future direction and goals with the members. According to Belift Lab, the discussions included in-depth conversations about each member's vision and the team's path forward. During that process, Heeseung expressed a clear musical direction he wanted to pursue, and the agency decided to re

- [Last registered resident of Dokdo dies at 88](#) (2026-03-10 08:20)

The last registered resident of Dokdo, South Korea's easternmost islets, has died, leaving the outpost without a legal resident for the first time since the 1960s. According to Ulleung-gun in North Gyeongsang Province on Tuesday, Kim Shin-yeol died last week at the age of 88. A former haenyeo, or female free-diver who harvests seafood, from Jeju Island, she had been registered as a resident of the islets since moving there in 1991 to join her husband, Kim Sung-do. Kim Sung-do had lived on the is

- [Seoul shares rebound more than 5% on eased Iran woes; won sharply up](#) (2026-03-10 07:39)

South Korean stocks rebounded more than 5 percent Tuesday after suffering a sharp decline the previous session, as investors hunted bargains amid eased concerns over the US-Iran conflict. The local currency gained sharply against the greenback. The Korea Composite Stock Price Index moved up 280.72 points, or 5.35 percent, to close at 5,532.59. Trade volume was heavy at 913 million shares worth 28.4 trillion won (\$19 billion), with gainers far outpacing losers 753 to 146. Individual investors sol

- [Lee cautions against 'burning down the house' in prosecution overhaul](#) (2026-03-10 07:01)

President Lee Jae Myung on Monday warned that prosecution reform should be carried out with precision, cautioning against attempts that "burn down the house to get rid of bedbugs," in

remarks widely seen as directed at hard-line lawmakers within the ruling Democratic Party of Korea. “To solve a problem, one must accurately identify its cause and clearly distinguish what should and should not be addressed,” Lee wrote in a post on X. “In carrying out necessary reforms, caution is needed to avoid b

- [North Korean leader signals closer Pyongyang-Beijing cooperation in letter to Xi](#) (2026-03-10 06:28)

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un reaffirmed Pyongyang’s commitment to strengthening relations with Beijing in a reply to a congratulatory message from Chinese President Xi Jinping, the state-run Korean Central News Agency said Tuesday. The North Korean leader sent the letter to Xi on Monday in response to the Chinese leader’s message congratulating him on his reelection as general secretary of the ruling Workers’ Party of Korea during the party’s congress held last month. In the message, Kim Jong

- [How war in Iran is affecting Korea](#) (2026-03-10 06:27)

As the conflict involving the United States, Israel and Iran shows signs of prolonging, the ripple effects of soaring global oil prices are being felt acutely across South Korea, especially hitting workers in transport, agriculture, fisheries and island communities, whose livelihoods depend heavily on fuel. For many, the crisis triggered by the Middle East conflict is materializing in the form of rising operational costs that cannot be passed on to consumers. Truck drivers and delivery workers,

- [‘I need my heart to connect’: Olivier winner on taking Korea’s ‘The Last Man’ to London](#) (2026-03-10 06:22)

In a cramped studio in Sillim-dong — a neighborhood where young Koreans gather to study for exams that can shape the rest of their lives — a young man prepares for a test he may never take. Outside, the city has collapsed. Inside, he may be the last person alive. It is the premise of a one-man Korean musical that British playwright and dramaturg Jethro Compton is now bringing to the British stage. Compton is serving as dramaturg for the UK premiere of “The Last Man,” a Korean one-person rock mus

- [Lee calls large, small firms’ cooperation ‘survival strategy’](#) (2026-03-10 06:20)

President Lee Jae Myung said Tuesday that cooperation between large corporations and small businesses should be treated as an investment and even a national “survival strategy.” Speaking at a roundtable at Cheong Wa Dae with representatives from 10 large companies and their SME partners, Lee said some approaches that powered South Korea’s industrial rise had become outdated. Held under the slogan “seeds of shared cooperation, blossoming into growth for all,” the meeting aimed to encourage compan

- [Kim Jong-un’s sister issues stark warning over South Korea-US military drills](#) (2026-03-10 06:17)

Kim Yo-jong, the powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, warned Tuesday that joint military exercises between South Korea and the United States could lead to “unimaginably terrible consequences,” as the allies began their annual spring drills on the Korean Peninsula. Kim, a department director in the ruling Workers' Party of Korea, issued the warning in a statement carried by the state-run Korean Central News Agency a day after South Korea and the US launched their annual joint exerc

- [Yellow Envelope Act takes effect as labor-business tensions rise](#) (2026-03-10 06:13)

The government's major revision to labor law took effect Tuesday, allowing subcontractors to negotiate directly with contractors and expanding the scope of permissible labor disputes. But mixed views persist over potential disruptions to business operations. The government promulgated the revision to the Trade Union and Labor Relations Adjustment Act, commonly called the "Yellow Envelope" bill, on Sept. 9, 2025. Since then, authorities have continued to clarify ambiguous provisions in the law, e

- [Speaker sets early April as deadline to draft constitutional amendment](#) (2026-03-10 06:13)

National Assembly Speaker Rep. Woo Won-shik said Tuesday that the rival parties should work to launch a special parliamentary committee for constitutional amendment by next week and propose the draft by April 7. Woo's proposal would be a prerequisite for South Korea to hold a referendum simultaneously with the June 3 local election. The last amendment came into being in South Korea in 1987, alongside South Korea's democratization. Woo stressed in the press conference that legal hurdles to hold a

- [Korea has five years to act on AI gap with China: KAIST professor](#) (2026-03-10 06:06)

As China accelerates its advance in foundation models, South Korea is not far behind in frontier model performance, according to Shin Jin-woo, ICT endowed chair professor at the Kim Jaechul Graduate School of AI at KAIST. But performance is not the real issue. “The technology gap is often exaggerated,” Shin said in a recent interview with The Korea Herald in Seoul. “Based on the time required to absorb and reproduce publicly released technologies, the difference is closer to half a year.” Be caus

- [After DeepSeek: China shifts from breakthrough to AI scale](#) (2026-03-10 06:06)

One year after DeepSeek unsettled the global AI landscape and signaled that China had narrowed the gap with the US in generative artificial intelligence, the question is no longer whether China can compete. It is whether China is beginning to define the architecture of the next AI order. “The difference between adopting AI and defining its architecture is huge,” said Ahn Jun-mo, a professor of public administration at Korea University. “Countries that set the standards have the power to shape ec

- [People Power Party moves to distance itself from Yoon, but doubts linger](#) (2026-03-10 06:04)

South Korea's main opposition People Power Party has formally moved to distance itself from former President Yoon Suk Yeol, but doubts and criticism remain. The conservative party adopted a resolution Monday apologizing for Yoon's Dec. 3, 2024, martial law declaration and formally rejecting the "Yoon Again" slogan used by some supporters advocating for the former president's political comeback. The resolution was read by Floor Leader Rep. Song Eon-seok, who said the party must acknowledge public

- [Kospi rebounds as oil prices fall on hopes of early end to war](#) (2026-03-10 06:02)

South Korea's benchmark Kospi surged over 5 percent Tuesday, rebounding from the previous day's steep sell-off as hopes for an early end to the conflict in the Middle East lifted global markets. After US President Donald Trump said Monday that the war with Iran was "very complete," oil prices fell below \$90 per barrel, helping drive a recovery in equities worldwide, including in Korea. The Kospi reclaimed the 5,500 mark, closing the session at 5,532.59, up 5.35 percent from the previous session.

- [ISS backs Korea Zinc board nominees ahead of key vote](#) (2026-03-10 06:02)

Global proxy adviser Institutional Shareholder Services threw its support behind the proposal by Korea Zinc's incumbent board to nominate five directors ahead of a general shareholders' meeting, as the company's standoff with major shareholder Young Poong and MBK Partners continues to escalate. The ISS recommendation arrives roughly two weeks ahead of the March 24 annual shareholders' meeting, at which investors in the world's largest zinc smelter will vote on competing board nominations put for

- [BTS to launch 'Arirang' pop-up store in Seoul ahead of album release](#) (2026-03-10 05:58)

BTS will open a special pop-up store in Seoul to mark the release of its upcoming album, "Arirang," the group's agency said Tuesday. According to Big Hit Music, the pop-up event will run from 1 p.m. on the day of the album's release (March 20) through 8:30 p.m. on April 12 at two locations: Shinsegae Department Store's The Heritage building in Jung-gu, central Seoul, and the Hybe headquarters in Yongsan. Merchandise for sale at the pop-up was created in collaboration with the National Museum Fou

- [Police probe ticket scams ahead of BTS Gwanghwamun comeback show](#) (2026-03-10 05:58)

Police have launched an investigation into suspected ticket scams and misuse of automated programs related to BTS' upcoming comeback show at Gwanghwamun Square. Park Jeong-bo, chief of the Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency, said Monday that police are currently investigating three suspected criminal cases tied to ticket sales for the concert, after ticket platform Nol Universe requested a probe into signs of automated programs buying tickets for the event on March 21. Police said the main types o

- [Government to push phased retirement age increase](#) (2026-03-10 05:53)

The National Human Rights Commission of Korea said Tuesday that the Ministry of Employment and Labor had informed it the government would begin working to meet its recommendation to gradually raise the statutory retirement age. “We plan to draft new legislation to gradually raise the retirement age as part of the government’s national agenda,” the ministry said, according to the commission. “The government will actively support discussions so that labor and management can find common ground in a

- [Seoul calls for port access support for Korean ships stranded near Strait of Hormuz](#) (2026-03-10 05:51)

Seoul has asked countries near the Strait of Hormuz to assist South Korean vessels operating in the area by allowing them to enter nearby ports and receive supplies, a Foreign Ministry official said Tuesday. According to the official, requesting anonymity, more than 20 South Korean-flagged vessels with about 180 crew members are currently in or near the Strait of Hormuz, a strategic waterway linking the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman between Iran and Oman. Concerns are growing that the vessel

- [US investors drop Section 301 petition over Coupang probe](#) (2026-03-10 05:44)

Two US investors in Coupang — Greenoaks and Altimeter — have withdrawn their petition urging the United States Trade Representative to investigate the South Korean government’s handling of the e-commerce platform following a massive data breach in November last year. The investors filed the petition in January under Section 301 of the US Trade Act of 1974, a law used to address unfair trade practices by foreign governments. “Over the last several weeks, we have had constructive discussions with

- [Korean AI chip startups ramp up hiring as new processors near launch](#) (2026-03-10 05:44)

South Korea’s leading AI chip startups are sharply expanding their workforces as the sector enters a critical phase: commercializing next-generation processors designed to run artificial intelligence services. Industry sources and data from Korean startup investment database TheVC show that four prominent Korean AI fabless firms — Rebellions, DeepX, Mobilint and FuriosaAI — have significantly increased headcount over the past year as their latest chips move toward initial mass production or cust

- [‘Mad Concrete Dreams’ starring Ha Jung-woo takes aim at South Korea’s property obsession](#) (2026-03-10 05:37)

Ha Jung-woo, known for hits such as “Along with the Gods” and “1987,” returns to television for the first time in 19 years with “Mad Concrete Dreams,” a satire that taps into one of modern South Korea’s most enduring aspirations: property ownership. “(Shooting this series), I came to think that becoming part of the FIRE movement (Financial Independence, Retire Early) shouldn’t be something that comes easily,” Ha said during a press conference in Seoul on Monday. “It’s great if you manage to buy

- [Are butter rice cakes the new ‘Dubai chewy cookie’ ?](#) (2026-03-10 05:34)

After the frenzy surrounding the “Dubai chewy cookie,” a new dessert trend is quickly gaining traction in Korea: butter rice cakes, a treat defined by its “crispy outside, chewy inside” texture. Across social media and video platforms, recipe clips and cafe reviews featuring butter rice cakes are spreading rapidly, drawing attention to the dessert’s unusual texture and flavor combination. Made with glutinous rice dough enriched with butter, the pastry develops a crisp golden crust during baking

- [Ne-Yo launches Asia-focused label Pacific Music Group with top regional stars](#) (2026-03-10 05:28)

Grammy-winning singer-songwriter Ne-Yo has teamed up with Indian music star Sonu Nigam, Chinese American rapper MC Jin and veteran music executive Jonathan Serbin to launch a new entertainment company aimed at the Asian market, according to the firm on Tuesday. The newly established label, Pacific Music Group, will be headquartered in Hong Kong and focus on discovering and developing Asian artists for global audiences. PMG plans to operate multiple genre-specific labels — spanning pop, R&B, hip-

- [Trump says Iran war could be over soon, but oil disruption would trigger harsher US strikes](#) (2026-03-10 05:27)

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — US President Donald Trump said Monday that the war against Iran could be short-lived, but he left open the possibility of an escalation in fighting if global oil supplies are disrupted by the Islamic Republic, which chose a new hard-line supreme leader. Oil prices briefly shot to their highest level since 2022 a day after Iran selected Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei to succeed his late father as Iran’s supreme leader. Investors saw it as a signal that Iran was digg

- [SK hynix unveils world’s first 1c-based LPDDR6 chip](#) (2026-03-10 05:15)

SK hynix said Tuesday it has developed a next-generation 16-gigabit LPDDR6 DRAM built on its 10-nanometer-class sixth-generation 1c process, designed to support on-device artificial intelligence in mobile devices. LPDDR, or low-power double data rate memory, is widely used in smartphones and tablets because it operates at a lower voltage to reduce power consumption. The company recently completed what it said was the world’s first certification for a 1c-based LPDDR6 product after unveiling the c

- [Riize wraps ‘Riizing Loud’ world tour with electrifying finale in Seoul](#) (2026-03-10 05:09)

Boy group Riize closed its first world tour in Seoul over the weekend, delivering a high-energy finale concert that highlighted the group's rapid growth and deepening connection with fans. Held from Friday to Sunday at Kspo Dome in Songpa, southern Seoul, the finale of the group’s “Riizing Loud” tour drew a combined audience of 32,000 over three sold-out shows. Sunday’s concert marked the culmination of an eight-month global journey that took Riize across 21 cities in Asia and North America, dra

- [Stablecoins can cut costs of cross-border payments: Woori Financial digital chief](#) (2026-03-10 05:04)

Woori Financial Group is exploring global partnerships to expand stablecoin-based cross-border payments as the government moves toward regulating digital assets. “Companies with overseas subsidiaries constantly need to send money abroad,” Ok Il-jin, executive vice president of digital innovation at Woori Financial, said in an interview with Herald Business in Seoul. “Stablecoins can significantly shorten settlement times and reduce transaction costs.” The group is reviewing ways to integrate sta

- [France to deploy dozen warships: Macron](#) (2026-03-10 04:56)

PAPHOS, Cyprus (Reuters) -- France was deploying about a dozen naval vessels, including its aircraft carrier strike group, to the Mediterranean, Red Sea and potentially the Strait of Hormuz as part of defensive support to allies threatened by the conflict in the Middle East. Speaking in Cyprus before visiting the Charles de Gaulle aircraft carrier, which arrived over the weekend in the eastern Mediterranean, President Emmanuel Macron sought to reassure his Cypriot counterpart after drones were

- [China exports surge into 2026 after record year](#) (2026-03-10 04:51)

BEIJING (Reuters) -- China roared into 2026 with exports far outstripping forecasts, fueled by red-hot electronics demand, putting the economy on track to top last year's record \$1.2 trillion trade surplus and blunting the blow from the war in Iran. Outbound shipments from the world's second-largest economy grew 21.8 percent in US dollar terms in the January-February period, sharply up from the 6.6 percent increase recorded in December and blowing past the median forecast in a Reuters poll of

- [Korea Zinc to showcase strategic minerals at InterBattery](#) (2026-03-10 04:43)

Korea Zinc said Tuesday it will highlight its role in strengthening Korea's resource security by producing strategic minerals essential for advanced industries — including batteries, semiconductors and defense — at InterBattery 2026. Having participated in the exhibition for five consecutive years since 2022, the company plans to showcase its 52 years of technological expertise as one of the world's leading non-ferrous metals smelters, presenting a broad portfolio spanning battery materials and

- [LG CNS takes stake in Silicon Valley robot startup Dexmate](#) (2026-03-10 04:37)

LG CNS has taken a stake in Silicon Valley robotics startup Dexmate as the Korean technology services company moves to deploy humanoid robots in industrial workplaces such as warehouses and factories. The investment, announced Tuesday, was made through LG Technology Ventures, the venture capital arm of LG Group. Financial terms were not disclosed. Dexmate, based in Santa Clara, California, develops mobile humanoid robots designed for logistics and manufacturing environments. According to LG CNS,

- [Hyundai Mobis expands Mercedes-Benz partnership with Hungary facility](#) (2026-03-10 04:37)

Hyundai Mobis said Tuesday its newly operational plant in Hungary will supply chassis modules to Mercedes-Benz, expanding their partnership beyond North America. Located in Kecskemet in central Hungary, the facility is Hyundai Mobis' first European production base dedicated to global customers outside Hyundai Motor Group. It is the company's fourth manufacturing site in the region after plants in the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Turkey. The Hungary plant will mass-produce chassis modules for ele

- [More regions pay grandparents for child care](#) (2026-03-10 04:34)

Jeju will begin offering stipends to grandparents caring for their grandchildren starting in March, following strong public approval of a similar program in Seoul. A survey conducted by the Seoul Metropolitan Government in February found that 99.2 percent of guardians were satisfied with the program, while 99.5 percent said they would recommend it to other caregivers. "I want to give my parents money for taking care of my children, but I'm glad the city is supporting them on my behalf," said a p

- [Foreigners through eyes of media: Does coverage lead to prejudice?](#) (2026-03-10 04:32)

Crimes committed by foreigners account for only a small share of offenses in South Korea. But news coverage and public debate often make them appear far more common than the numbers suggest. As of 2024, the number of "foreign residents" — defined by the Interior Ministry as foreign nationals staying in Korea for more than 90 days, naturalized citizens and their children — surpassed 2.58 million, the highest figure on record. They now make up roughly 5 percent of the population. Despite this demo

- [Why Chinese students flock to Korea's MBA programs?](#) (2026-03-10 04:26)

The number of Chinese students enrolled in graduate programs at South Korean universities has surged over the past decade, and now account for more than half of all foreign master's and doctoral students in the country. Chinese graduate students totaled 30,081 as of April 1 last year, according to data submitted by the Education Ministry to Rep. Kim Min-jeon of the National Assembly's Education Committee. The figure represents a 167 percent increase from 11,250 in 2016, marking a roughly 2.6-fol

- [Swiss bar fire probe widens to five more local officials](#) (2026-03-10 04:26)

GENEVA (AFP) -- Swiss prosecutors on Monday said five more current and former local officials were under criminal investigation over the New Year bar fire in the ski resort of Crans-Montana that killed 41 people. The prosecutor's office in southwestern Switzerland's Wallis canton, where the upmarket ski resort is located, declined to provide further details. However, a source close to the case confirmed to Agence France-Presse that the mayor of the Crans-Montana municipality, Nicolas Feraud, is

- [Enhypen' s Jungwon to feature on Japanese film soundtrack](#) (2026-03-10 04:25)

Jungwon of Enhypen is set to lend his voice to a Japanese film soundtrack, teaming up with singer and actor Tomohisa Yamashita for a collaborative track. According to Enhypen' s agency Belift Lab on Tuesday, Jungwon participated in the track for the upcoming Japanese film “Honest Real Estate.” The song, titled “Koe,” was partially unveiled in the film' s newly released trailer. Jungwon described the project as a meaningful experience, marking his first time singing for a movie soundtrack. “I perso

- [Much of Iran's uranium likely to be in Isfahan: Grossi](#) (2026-03-10 04:22)

PARIS (Reuters) -- Almost half of Iran's uranium enriched to up to 60 percent purity, a short step from weapons-grade, was stored in a tunnel complex at Isfahan and is probably still there, UN nuclear watchdog chief Rafael Grossi said Monday. The tunnel complex is the only target that appears not to have been badly damaged in attacks last June by Israel and the US on Iran's nuclear facilities. Diplomats have long said Isfahan has been used to store 60 percent uranium, which the International A

- [Trump's Gaza plan on hold as Iran war pauses disarmament talks, sources say](#) (2026-03-10 04:20)

Talks to advance US President Donald Trump's plan to end the Gaza war have been on hold since last week when the US and Israel jointly attacked Iran, sparking a broader Middle East war, three sources with direct knowledge of the negotiations said. The pause threatens to stall implementation of Trump's flagship Middle East peace initiative, which he has cast as a major foreign policy objective. It comes less than a month after he secured billions of dollars in pledges for Gaza from Gulf Arab sta

- [Colombia's President Petro wins in congressional election, but lacks majority to advance reforms](#) (2026-03-10 04:19)

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — The party of Colombian President Gustavo Petro secured a victory in congressional elections, but will have to build coalitions with other parties to carry out announced reforms, including a controversial push to rewrite the nation' s constitution. Petro's Historical Pact party won almost a quarter of all seats in the Senate Sunday, more than any other party. But its staunchest opponents also made gains, with the Democratic Center party — the conservative party led by forme

- [K-pop concerts drive record traffic to Nol World](#) (2026-03-10 04:01)

Nol Universe said Tuesday that its global travel and entertainment booking platform Nol World recorded a record 2.64 million monthly active users in January, driven by an influx of Chinese tourists during the Lunar New Year holiday and K-pop concert ticketing. The figure represents roughly a 33-fold increase from the same period last year and marks the highest monthly user count since the platform' s launch. Membership also grew rapidly, with about 300,000 new users joining in January to bring th

- [Ex-President Yoon refuses to attend hearing on 2022 Itaewon disaster](#) (2026-03-10 03:48)

Former President Yoon Suk Yeol on Tuesday refused to meet with representatives of a special investigation committee on the 2022 crowd crush who visited the Seoul Detention Center to persuade him to attend a hearing. The National Commission for the Investigation of the October 29 Itaewon Disaster is scheduled to hold the hearing Thursday and Friday to uncover the truth behind the crowd accident that killed 159 people in the central Seoul district in October 2022, when Yoon was serving as president

- [S. Korea providing supplies to its stranded vessel in Strait of Hormuz: official](#) (2026-03-10 03:44)

South Korea is in the process of providing supplies to one of its ships stranded in the Strait of Hormuz amid the conflict in the Middle East, a foreign ministry official said Tuesday. The vessel is among some 20 ships stranded in the key waterway where roughly 20 percent of global oil and gas pass through. The shipping channel has effectively been shut down as the war between US-Israeli forces and Iran intensified. About 180 South Korean seafarers are currently aboard the 20 vessels, according

- [Seoul's aging poor driven toward bankruptcy by living costs](#) (2026-03-10 03:17)

A growing number of residents in Seoul are falling into irrecoverable debt, with new city data showing that people in their 60s and older now make up the majority of personal bankruptcy applicants. Six out of every 10 individuals who sought personal bankruptcy assistance through the Seoul Financial Welfare Counseling Center last year were aged 60 or above, according to a report released Tuesday. The center analyzed 1,192 valid bankruptcy applications filed in 2025 as part of its annual review of

- [Kard's BM joins 2nd season of 'Beef'](#) (2026-03-10 03:04)

BM of Kard appears in the trailer for the second season of Netflix drama series "Beef," confirming his upcoming Hollywood debut. BM plays a tennis coach from the country club that serves as the backdrop of the new season, set to premiere April 16. In the trailer, BM can be spotted touching faces with the club owner and Korean billionaire (Youn Yuh-jung) as well as having a chat with one half of the couple managing the club, played by Carey Mulligan. The television series' first season won critic

- [VeriVery's Kangmin to drop 1st solo set](#) (2026-03-10 02:53)

Kangmin of VeriVery will begin his solo career later this month with the physical single "Free Falling," his agency Jellyfish Entertainment said Tuesday. He is set to release the album on March 26, about seven years after his debut with VeriVery. Along with four bandmates, he picked up a trophy from a television music chart show for the first time in three years, with "Red (Beggin')," the main track from the group's fourth physical single, "Lost and Found." Kangmin embarked on a solo fan meet to

- [Lee says S. Korea's deterrence intact regardless of developments regarding USFK air defense assets](#) (2026-03-10 02:49)

President Lee Jae Myung said South Korea's deterrence against North Korea is not affected by the movement of US Forces Korea air defense assets, while underscoring the importance of self-reliant national defense. Presiding over a weekly Cabinet meeting, Lee noted that "it appears that recently controversy has arisen over the US Forces Korea taking certain assets — such as (missile) batteries or air defense systems — out of the country." "From our government's standpoint, we expect the role of US

- [S. Korea seeks to tap crude oil stored by foreign refiners: lawmaker](#) (2026-03-10 02:49)

South Korea is moving to exercise its rights to tap crude oil reserves stored in the country's oil terminals by foreign oil firms to cope with the volatility caused by the situation in the Middle East. According to Rep. Ahn Do-geol of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea on Tuesday, the government has initiated coordination with undisclosed foreign refiners over the rights to purchase oil stored in South Korea. According to Ahn, up to 6.86 million barrels of oil could be secured based on South K

- [LS Eco Energy secures first cable supply contract in Japan](#) (2026-03-10 02:39)

LS Eco Energy said Tuesday its Vietnamese subsidiary LS-VINA has signed an annual supply contract for 6.6-kilovolt CVT distribution cables with Kitanihon Electric Wire, marking the company's first entry into Japan's power infrastructure market. Kitanihon Electric Wire is a subsidiary of Tohoku Electric Power and supplies distribution cables to major electric utilities in Japan. Japan's power infrastructure market is widely considered difficult to enter due to its unique technical standards and s

- [KickFlip readies for 4th EP](#) (2026-03-10 02:30)

Boy group Kickflip unveiled the timetable for the release of its fourth EP, "My First Kick," through its label JYP Entertainment on Tuesday. Following teaser content, the six-member act will drop the mini album and host a comeback showcase on April 6. On Monday, the prerelease "Twenty" came out, and the bandmates celebrated with a fan event where they watched the single's music video and chatted. Donghyun, the youngest member, participated in writing the melody for the rock-based tune. The group

- [Lee says possible shift of USFK's military assets won't affect deterrence against N. Korea](#) (2026-03-10 02:23)

President Lee Jae Myung said Tuesday that a potential relocation of military assets owned by the US military stationed in South Korea will not affect the deterrence posture against North Korea. Citing media reports that the US Forces Korea might have recently shipped out some weapons, including an anti-missile defense system, Lee told a Cabinet meeting, "If you ask if our deterrence strategy against North Korea is severely affected (because of a possible shift of such assets), I can say absolute

- [Additional Cheongung-II interceptors shipped to UAE: reports](#) (2026-03-10 02:14)

The United Arab Emirates appears to have received dozens of Cheongung-II interceptor missiles from South Korea, according to multiple reports Tuesday. Local wire service News1 reported that a UAE Air Force C-17 strategic transport aircraft was spotted departing from Daegu Airport, near South Korea's K2 Air Base, on Monday afternoon. According to reports, the UAE's C-17 transport aircraft arrived at Daegu Airport late Monday night, and the Cheongung-II interceptor missiles — developed by South Ko

- [Blog of jailed Telegram sex ring leader shut down after post bragging about prison award](#) (2026-03-10 02:13)

A blog associated with Cho Ju-bin, the imprisoned leader of a Telegram-based sex exploitation ring, has been shut down as of Tuesday after a post boasting about an award he received in prison. When accessed, the blog currently displays only a notice stating that the page has been restricted for violating the platform's policies. The closure follows public backlash over a blog post from Monday titled "Award acceptance speech," which shared the news of Cho receiving recognition in a prison educati

- [Paris Hilton launches recovery fund for women business owners after disasters](#) (2026-03-10 02:07)

The pop culture star, advocate and entrepreneur Paris Hilton launched an initiative Monday to support female small-business owners impacted by disasters, a nationwide expansion of her philanthropic support for women entrepreneurs after the 2025 Los Angeles fires. Hilton is donating \$350,000 to kick-start the Back in Business Recovery Fund, with a goal to raise at least \$1 million by the end of March. "Women-owned businesses are really the heart of so many of these communities," Hilton told The A

- [Cosmax Indonesia partners with BRIN on skin microbiome research](#) (2026-03-10 02:04)

Cosmax's Indonesian unit said Tuesday it has signed a research agreement with the National Research and Innovation Agency to build the "Nusantara Skin Microbiome Map," expanding microbiome research tailored to local skin characteristics. BRIN, a research institution directly overseen by the Indonesian president, is responsible for managing the country's national research and development strategy and related research budgets. The agency also conducts research in bio and health sciences and works

- [Attacks reported near South Korean overseas units amid Middle East conflict](#) (2026-03-10 02:04)

Attacks have occurred near South Korean overseas military units following the outbreak of war in the Middle East, with the units maintaining heightened protection measures to ensure the safety of personnel, according to government data released Tuesday. Data submitted by the Defense Ministry to Rep. Hwang Hee of the Democratic Party of Korea showed that a strike

occurred about 31 kilometers northeast of the Dongmyeong Unit in Lebanon on Feb. 28, when the United States and Israel carried out air strikes.

- [Innometry to unveil next-generation inspection solutions at InterBattery](#) (2026-03-10 02:03)

Innometry said Tuesday it will participate in InterBattery 2026, set to be held at Coex in Seoul this week, where it will showcase next-generation nondestructive inspection technologies for secondary batteries and other advanced industries. At the exhibition, the company will operate a booth highlighting its core technologies based on X-ray and 3D CT solutions. Innometry will divide its showcase into two sectors — secondary batteries and advanced industries — presenting inspection technologies to

- [Five Iranian women's soccer players granted humanitarian visas in Australia](#) (2026-03-10 01:56)

SYDNEY (Reuters) -- Australia on Tuesday granted humanitarian visas to five Iranian women's soccer team players after they sought asylum fearing persecution in their home nation. The announcement came after US President Donald Trump said he had spoken to Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese about the Iran women's soccer team in Australia following reports that the players had requested asylum. The remaining players are in a hotel on the Gold Coast. Albanese said help is available to the others.

- [CJ Olive Young takes K-beauty festival global](#) (2026-03-10 01:56)

CJ Olive Young said Tuesday it would expand its signature beauty event, Olive Young Festa, to global markets this year, holding events sequentially in Japan and the United States. Launched as Korea's first large-scale beauty festival, Olive Young Festa has served as an experiential platform where participating brands introduce their products directly to consumers, leveraging Olive Young's product curation and beauty trend insights. This year's Olive Young Festa 2026 will retain the event's original

- [Day6's Wonpil returns with 'Unfiltered' after 4 years](#) (2026-03-10 01:55)

Wonpil of Day6 is set to release his first solo EP “Unfiltered” on March 30, JYP Entertainment announced Monday. The release was announced via a post on Day6's official social media channels Monday. The teaser captures Wonpil gazing through a fogged window as droplets slowly slide down from a section wiped clean, visually conveying the album's dreamy, melancholic mood. In the clip, Wonpil's plaintive vocals deliver the line, “I'm just breathing empty air, I'm not alright, oh God, save me,” hinting

- [Lee thanks UAE and Qatar, calls for sustained evacuation efforts](#) (2026-03-10 01:49)

President Lee Jae Myung on Tuesday called on government agencies to continue efforts to evacuate Korean nationals from the Middle East and thanked foreign governments for their support. Speaking at Tuesday's Cabinet meeting, Lee said hundreds of South Koreans had

safely returned home in recent evacuation operations facilitated by the United Arab Emirates and Qatar amid escalating conflict in the region. “Early yesterday morning, 203 of our nationals who had been staying in the UAE returned home

Source: Yonhap

- [\(2nd LD\) Samsung vows to triple HBM production, unveils HBM4E sample](#) (2026-03-17 05:57)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Electronics Co. is planning to triple its pr...

- [\(LEAD\) S. Korea officially launches committee for preliminary review of U.S. investment projects](#) (2026-03-17 05:56)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean government said Tuesday it official...

- [Galleries Art Fair to open next month with record participants](#) (2026-03-17 05:47)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- The Galleries Art Fair, also known as the Hwarang Ar...

- [Defense ministry to publish white paper for 1st time in 4 years](#) (2026-03-17 05:43)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- The defense ministry is preparing to publish its def...

- [Cabinet endorses special law on \\$350 bln investment pledge to U.S.](#) (2026-03-17 05:26)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- The Cabinet on Tuesday endorsed a special law to fac...

- [\(LEAD\) SK Group chief seeks closer ties with Nvidia during GTC 2026](#) (2026-03-17 05:19)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- SK Group Chairman Chey Tae-won attended an annual te...

- [AMD chief to visit Samsung's chip plant this week: sources](#) (2026-03-17 05:02)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- Lisa Su, chief executive officer (CEO) of Advanced M...

- [Today in Korean history](#) (2026-03-17 05:00)

March 18

- [\(LEAD\) Ex-President Yoon, wife face same court in separate trials](#) (2026-03-17 04:56)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- Former President Yoon Suk Yeol and his wife, former ...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-03-17 04:31)

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

- [S. Korea launches committee for preliminary review of U.S. investment projects](#) (2026-03-17 03:11)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean government said Tuesday it has laun...

- [FTC charges HDC chief for omitting subsidiaries in regulatory filings](#) (2026-03-17 03:00)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- The antitrust regulator said Tuesday it has charged ...

- [FM Cho sidesteps questions on whether U.S. asked Seoul to send warships to Middle East](#) (2026-03-17 02:59)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- Foreign Minister Cho Hyun sidestepped questions Tues...

- [Defense, foreign ministries raided over presidential residence relocation](#) (2026-03-17 02:54)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- A special counsel team raided the defense and foreig...

- [Lee urges thorough security measures ahead of BTS concert in Seoul](#) (2026-03-17 02:40)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Tuesday urged authorities...

- [Seoul shares up over 2 pct late Tues. morning amid oil price retreat](#) (2026-03-17 02:39)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- South Korean shares traded more than 2 percent highe...

- [Police request arrest warrant for North Chungcheong governor over alleged bribery](#) (2026-03-17 02:37)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- Police on Tuesday requested an arrest warrant for Ki...

- [Samsung Electronics ends sales of Galaxy Z TriFold despite strong popularity](#) (2026-03-17 02:35)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Electronics Co. has ended sales of the Galax...

- [U.S. confirms Tesla as buyer of LG Energy Solution's July battery deal](#) (2026-03-17 02:27)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- The U.S. government has confirmed that global electr...

- [Lee stresses role of financial measures in stabilizing housing market](#) (2026-03-17 02:21)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Tuesday called on the gov...

- [\(LEAD\) Police nab S. Korean man over threat to bomb U.S. airport](#) (2026-03-17 02:17)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- Police said Tuesday they have apprehended a South Ko...

- [PM meets U.N. chief to promote bid to host AI hub](#) (2026-03-17 02:09)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- Prime Minister Kim Min-seok met with U.N. Secretary-...

- [Army halts small firearms training after elementary school student wounded by bullet in Daegu](#) (2026-03-17 02:06)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- The Army has suspended all shooting training involvi...

- [\(LEAD\) Lee calls for measures to handle worst-case scenarios over prolonged Mideast crisis](#) (2026-03-17 02:00)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung said Tuesday the government ...

- [Lee calls for measures to handle worst-case scenarios over prolonged Mideast crisis](#) (2026-03-17 01:43)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung said Tuesday the government ...

- [Gov't to tighten reviews of high-value state asset sales](#) (2026-03-17 01:43)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- The government on Tuesday announced plans to tighten...

- [Celltrion wins 294.9 bln-won drug substance supply deal from global firm](#) (2026-03-17 01:39)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- Celltrion Inc., a major South Korean biopharmaceutic...

- [\(URGENT\) Lee urges energy-saving measures, including car license plate restrictions](#) (2026-03-17 01:26)

(END)

- [\(URGENT\) Lee calls for measures to handle worst-case scenarios over prolonged Mideast crisis](#) (2026-03-17 01:14)

(END)

- [Veterans ministry to launch team to track down remains of independence fighter Ahn Jung-geun](#) (2026-03-17 01:13)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- The veterans ministry will launch a public-private t...

- [Police nab S. Korean man over threat to bomb U.S. airport](#) (2026-03-17 01:04)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- Police said Tuesday they have apprehended a South Ko...

- [DP to push for plenary vote on prosecution reform bills this week](#) (2026-03-17 00:59)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- The leader of the ruling Democratic Party (DP) said ...

- [\(2nd LD\) N. Korea to hold first session of new Supreme People's Assembly on Sunday: KCNA](#) (2026-03-17 00:59)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- North Korea will hold the first session of its new S...

- [Hyundai Motor, Kia to adopt Nvidia's Level 2+ self-driving features](#) (2026-03-17 00:54)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- Hyundai Motor Co. and its affiliate Kia Corp. said T...

- [Platform operators ramp up preparations ahead of much-awaited BTS comeback](#) (2026-03-17 00:47)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- South Korean platform operators, ranging from stream...

- [S. Korean currency rebounds from 17-yr low amid drop in oil prices](#) (2026-03-17 00:37)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean currency gained against the U.S. do...

- [\(LEAD\) Seoul shares open sharply higher as global oil prices ease](#) (2026-03-17 00:26)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- South Korean shares kicked off sharply higher Tuesda...

- [Lee reaffirms commitment to measured prosecution reform](#) (2026-03-17 00:24)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Tuesday reaffirmed his co...

- [S. Korean, U.S. Army troops hold combined drills in California desert](#) (2026-03-17 00:23)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- South Korean and U.S. Army troops conducted joint dr...

- [N. Korea's Kim inspects memorial museum for troops sent to Russia in war with Ukraine](#) (2026-03-17 00:20)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un inspected a memorial...

- [Ex-President Yoon, wife set to face on same day in separate trials](#) (2026-03-17 00:12)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- Former President Yoon Suk Yeol and his wife, former ...

- [Seoul shares open sharply higher as global oil prices ease](#) (2026-03-17 00:03)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- South Korean shares kicked off sharply higher Tuesda...

- [\(URGENT\) Seoul shares open nearly 3 pct higher as global oil prices ease](#) (2026-03-17 00:02)

(END)

- [SK hynix highlights HBM leadership during Nvidia tech conference](#) (2026-03-16 23:29)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- SK hynix Inc. said Tuesday it will participate in th...

- [\(LEAD\) Samsung unveils HBM4E sample; NVIDIA CEO highlights closer ties](#) (2026-03-16 23:15)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Electronics Co. unveiled its seventh-generat...

- [\(LEAD\) N. Korea to hold first session of new Supreme People's Assembly on Sunday: KCNA](#) (2026-03-16 22:30)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- North Korea will hold the first session of its new S...

- [\(EDITORIAL from Korea JoongAng Daily on March 17\)](#) (2026-03-16 22:14)

As fears grow about a prolonged conflict in the Middle East, the Korean economy ...

- [\(EDITORIAL from The Korea Times on March 17\)](#) (2026-03-16 22:14)

Korea is facing repeated calls from the U.S. to send warships to help keep the S...

- [\(EDITORIAL from The Korea Herald on March 17\)](#) (2026-03-16 22:13)

U.S. President Donald Trump said in a social media post Saturday that "hopefully...

- [Top headlines in major S. Korean newspapers](#) (2026-03-16 22:13)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- The following are the top headlines in major South K...

- [\(3rd LD\) Trump renews calls on S. Korea, China, Japan, others to help keep Strait of Hormuz open](#) (2026-03-16 21:51)

WASHINGTON, March 16 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday renewed h...

- [N. Korea to hold first session of new Supreme People's Assembly on Sunday: KCNA](#) (2026-03-16 21:40)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- North Korea will hold the first session of its new S...

- [\(LEAD\) Trump says U.S. requested summit with Xi be delayed 'a month or so'](#) (2026-03-16 21:38)

WASHINGTON, March 16 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump said Monday the Uni...

- [Trump says U.S. requested summit with Xi be delayed 'a month or so'](#) (2026-03-16 21:19)

WASHINGTON, March 16 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump said Monday the Uni...

- [\(URGENT\) N. Korea's Supreme People's Assembly to convene first session on Sunday: KCNA](#) (2026-03-16 21:17)

(END)

- [\(URGENT\) Trump says U.S. requested summit with China be delayed 'a month or so'](#) (2026-03-16 21:04)

(END)

- [Import prices rise for 8th month in Feb. on rising oil prices: BOK](#) (2026-03-16 21:00)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- Import prices increased for the eighth consecutive m...

- [Samsung unveils HBM4E during Nvidia's annual tech conference](#) (2026-03-16 20:30)

SEOUL, March 17 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Electronics Co. said Tuesday it unveiled its...

- [\(2nd LD\) Trump renews calls on S. Korea, China, Japan, others to help keep Strait of Hormuz open](#) (2026-03-16 19:56)

WASHINGTON, March 16 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday renewed h...

- [\(LEAD\) Trump renews calls on S. Korea, China, Japan, others to help keep Strait of Hormuz open](#) (2026-03-16 18:01)

WASHINGTON, March 16 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday renewed h...

- [Trump redoubles calls on S. Korea, China, Japan, others to help keep Strait of Hormuz open](#) (2026-03-16 17:09)

WASHINGTON, March 16 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday renewed h...

- [Ex-U.S. officials voice concerns about Trump gov't 'vacating' deterrence assets from Indo-Pacific amid Iran war](#) (2026-03-16 16:42)

WASHINGTON, March 16 (Yonhap) -- Former senior U.S. officials expressed concerns...

- [FM Cho, Rubio hold phone talks on Middle East issues](#) (2026-03-16 14:19)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- Foreign Minister Cho Hyun held phone talks with U.S....

- [S. Korea expands e-gates access to 42 countries](#) (2026-03-16 11:37)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- The justice ministry said Monday it has expanded the...

- [Bithumb fined 37 bln won, faces 6-month biz suspension over anti-money laundering lapses](#) (2026-03-16 10:38)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- The country's anti-money laundering agency said Mond...

- [N. Korea estimated to have earned up to US\\$14.4 bln from Russia-Ukraine war involvement: report](#) (2026-03-16 09:38)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- North Korea is estimated to have earned up to US\$14....

- [\(LEAD\) POSCO Future M wins 1 tln-won battery material supply deal from global automaker](#) (2026-03-16 09:11)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- POSCO Future M Co., the battery materials unit of PO...

- [Lee congratulates Netflix's 'K-Pop Demon Hunters' on winning Academy Awards](#) (2026-03-16 08:34)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung congratulated Netflix's "K-P...

- [Army chief, 8th Army commander inspect sustainment capabilities amid joint drills](#) (2026-03-16 08:23)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- The chief of the South Korean Army and the commander...

- [Lee calls for cautious approach to prosecution reform amid hard-line DP push](#) (2026-03-16 08:19)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Monday called for a measu...

- [\(LEAD\) Cheong Wa Dae says sufficient deliberations needed to handle Trump's request for Hormuz warships](#) (2026-03-16 08:15)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- Cheong Wa Dae said Monday that U.S. President Donald...

- [Top general inspects Army 2nd Operations Command's readiness amid Freedom Shield drills](#) (2026-03-16 08:09)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's top general on Monday visited the Army...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-03-16 08:02)

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

- [Gov't accepts applications for GPU lease program for AI projects](#) (2026-03-16 07:48)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- The science ministry began Monday accepting applicat...

- [Lee criticizes belated, insufficient response to fatal stalking case](#) (2026-03-16 07:46)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Monday criticized law enf...

- [\(2nd LD\) Seoul shares close over 1 pct higher on chip gains; won declines](#) (2026-03-16 07:43)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks finished over 1 percent higher M...

- [S. Korea, U.S. in close communication over request for warship dispatch to Hormuz: presidential aide](#) (2026-03-16 07:37)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and the United States are in close commu...

- [\(LEAD\) \(News Focus\) Iran crisis sharply weakens Korean won, fueling inflation, economic fallout concerns](#) (2026-03-16 07:24)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean won's slide to a 17-year low Monday...

- [\(LEAD\) Seoul shares close over 1 pct higher on chip gains; won declines](#) (2026-03-16 07:23)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks finished over 1 percent higher M...

- [Prequel trilogy for 'Inside Men' to be produced](#) (2026-03-16 07:11)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- A prequel story to the hit Korean political thriller...

- [\(2nd LD\) S. Korean currency slips to fresh 17-yr low against U.S. dollar amid Iran crisis](#) (2026-03-16 07:07)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean currency fell to a 17-year low agai...

- [Ruling party seeks passage of bills adjusting role of new investigation agencies this week](#) (2026-03-16 06:52)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- The ruling Democratic Party (DP) is moving to accele...

- [Seoul shares close over 1 pct higher despite oil price hikes](#) (2026-03-16 06:41)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks finished over 1 percent higher M...

- [\(LEAD\) Yang Hyun-jun to return to Korea squad ahead of World Cup](#) (2026-03-16 06:39)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- Celtic winger Yang Hyun-jun has been recalled to Sou...

- [\(URGENT\) KOSPI closes 1.14 pct higher despite oil price hike](#) (2026-03-16 06:34)

(END)

- [Suspect in laced drink murders linked to three more victims](#) (2026-03-16 06:14)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- Police said Monday they have identified three more v...

- [Yang Hyun-jun to return to Korea squad ahead of World Cup](#) (2026-03-16 06:14)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- Celtic winger Yang Hyun-jun has been recalled to Sou...

- [Lee praises veteran pitcher Noh Kyung-eun's performance in WBC](#) (2026-03-16 05:54)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung praised South Korean veteran...

- [\(News Focus\) Iran crisis sharply weakens Korean won, fueling inflation, economic fallout concerns](#) (2026-03-16 05:44)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean won's slide to a 17-year low Monday...

- [Police seek arrest warrant for man accused of stalking, killing ex-girlfriend](#) (2026-03-16 05:42)

NAMYANGJU, South Korea, March 16 (Yonhap) -- Police said Monday they have sought...

- [BTS to light up Seoul landmarks to celebrate comeback](#) (2026-03-16 05:37)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- K-pop supergroup BTS will launch a monthlong cultura...

- [Pyongyang-sponsored hacking group uses KakaoTalk in malware distribution campaign: report](#) (2026-03-16 05:11)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- A North Korea-linked hacking group has used stolen K...

- [Today in Korean history](#) (2026-03-16 05:00)

March 17

- [S. Korea-Japan trade council calls for stronger bilateral cooperation in energy, supply chains](#) (2026-03-16 05:00)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- A Korea-Japan trade council called for stronger bila...

- [S. Korean manufacturing faced with increased cost burdens as Iran crisis persists: KIET](#) (2026-03-16 05:00)

SEJONG, March 16 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's manufacturing sector is expected to f...

- [\(LEAD\) Retail fuel prices drop at slower-than-expected pace after price cap system introduction: ministry](#) (2026-03-16 04:55)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- Fuel prices at gas stations have been steadily dropp...

- [\(3rd LD\) 'KPop Demon Hunters' wins Oscars for best animated feature, original song](#) (2026-03-16 04:46)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- Netflix's "KPop Demon Hunters" capped its awards run...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-03-16 04:30)

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

- [Science ministry offers smart water management solutions to Mekong nations](#) (2026-03-16 03:00)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- The science ministry said Monday it has completed an...

- [\(2nd LD\) 'KPop Demon Hunters' wins Oscars for best animated feature, original song](#) (2026-03-16 02:59)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- Netflix's "KPop Demon Hunters" capped its awards run...

- [Gov't to strengthen swine flu response after virus detected in livestock feed](#) (2026-03-16 02:49)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- The government plans to strengthen quarantine measur...

- [Retail fuel prices drop after implementation of price cap system: ministry](#) (2026-03-16 02:40)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- Fuel prices at gas stations have dropped significant...

- [Seoul stocks inch down late Mon. morning as oil price woes continue](#) (2026-03-16 02:33)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks traded slightly lower late Monda...

- [\(URGENT\) 'KPop Demon Hunters' takes Oscar for Best Original Song with 'Golden'](#) (2026-03-16 02:10)

(END)

- [Ruling party, gov't agree to submit extra budget bill by end-March](#) (2026-03-16 02:08)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- The ruling Democratic Party (DP) and the government ...

- [POSCO Future M wins 1 tln-won battery material supply deal from global automaker](#) (2026-03-16 02:03)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- POSCO Future M Co., the battery materials unit of PO...

- [LG eyes leadership in home robot sector through global AI partnerships: CEO](#) (2026-03-16 02:00)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- LG Electronics Inc. aims to take a leading role in d...

- [Unification minister urges N. Korea not to miss chance for talks with Trump](#) (2026-03-16 01:59)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- Unification Minister Chung Dong-young called on Nort...

- [Labor ministry launches inspection into alleged cover-up surrounding Coupang worker's death](#) (2026-03-16 01:48)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- The labor ministry on Monday launched an inspection ...

- [Dispatching warships to Hormuz requires parliamentary approval: PPP floor leader](#) (2026-03-16 01:21)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- The floor leader of the main opposition People Power...

- [Hankook Tire supplies EV tires for BMW's new iX3 SUV](#) (2026-03-16 01:19)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- Hankook Tire & Technology Co., the world's seven...

- [\(LEAD\) Trump says trip to China might be delayed, calls on Beijing to help unblock Hormuz Strait: report](#) (2026-03-16 01:06)

WASHINGTON, March 15 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump said Sunday that hi...

- [Special counsel raids PPP lawmaker's home, office over presidential residence relocation](#) (2026-03-16 00:55)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- The second comprehensive special counsel team raided...

- [\(LEAD\) 'KPop Demon Hunters' wins Oscar for Best Animated Feature](#) (2026-03-16 00:50)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- Netflix's global animation sensation "KPop Demon Hun...

- [Lee suggests adjusting basic pension payments for low-income seniors](#) (2026-03-16 00:44)
SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Monday floated the idea o...
 - [Container shipping costs to U.S. east coast rise for 4th month in Feb.](#) (2026-03-16 00:38)
SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- Container shipping costs from South Korea to the U.S...
 - [\(LEAD\) Korean currency slips past 1,500 won per dollar for 1st time in 17 yrs amid Middle East crisis](#) (2026-03-16 00:37)
SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean currency fell past the 1,500-won le...
 - [Trump says trip to China might be delayed, calls on Beijing to help unblock Hormuz Strait: report](#) (2026-03-16 00:36)
WASHINGTON, March 15 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump said Sunday that hi...
 - [\(LEAD\) KOSPI opens higher amid oil price hike](#) (2026-03-16 00:31)
SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks started higher Monday on strong ...
 - [Ex-N. Korean point man on inter-Korean affairs serves as chief of rubber-stamp party](#) (2026-03-16 00:27)
SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- Ri Son-gwon, North Korea's former point man on relat...
 - [Lee's approval rating edges up for 2nd consecutive week: poll](#) (2026-03-16 00:24)
SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung's approval rating rose for t...
 - [SK hynix beats Samsung as most preferred company for job seekers: survey](#) (2026-03-16 00:14)
SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- SK hynix Inc. was named the most preferred company a...
 - [Korean currency slips past 1,500 won per dollar amid oil price hike](#) (2026-03-16 00:11)
SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean currency fell past the 1,500 won le...
 - [KOSPI opens higher amid oil price hike](#) (2026-03-16 00:11)
SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks started higher Monday despite a ...
 - ['KPop Demon Hunters' wins Oscar for Best Animated Feature](#) (2026-03-16 00:03)
SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- Netflix's global animation sensation "KPop Demon Hun...
 - [\(URGENT\) KOSPI opens 0.43 pct higher on oil prices hike](#) (2026-03-16 00:02)
- (END)

- [\(URGENT\) Korean won slips past 1,500 won per dollar amid high oil prices](#) (2026-03-16 00:01)

(END)

- [Samsung SDI to supply 1.5 tln won worth of ESS batteries to U.S. energy firm](#) (2026-03-15 23:39)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- Samsung SDI Co. said Monday it has clinched an agree...

- [\(URGENT\) 'KPop Demon Hunters' clinches Oscar for Best Animated Feature](#) (2026-03-15 23:32)

(END)

- [N. Korea's Kim casts ballot at coal mine constituency in parliamentary elections](#) (2026-03-15 22:46)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has cast his ballot ...

- [\(EDITORIAL from Korea JoongAng Daily on March 16\)](#) (2026-03-15 22:05)

U.S. President Donald Trump has publicly called on five countries — Korea, China...

- [\(EDITORIAL from The Korea Times on March 16\)](#) (2026-03-15 22:04)

The recent controversy sparked by broadcaster Kim Ou-joon has once again thrown ...

- [\(EDITORIAL from The Korea Herald on March 16\)](#) (2026-03-15 22:04)

There are moments in economic policy when speed feels like virtue. President Lee...

- [Top headlines in major S. Korean newspapers](#) (2026-03-15 22:01)

SEOUL, March 16 (Yonhap) -- The following are the top headlines in major South K...

- [Lee vows to push through reform agenda at dinner with ruling party freshmen](#) (2026-03-15 13:21)

SEOUL, March 15 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Sunday called on first-te...

- [Industry minister discusses energy, supply chain cooperation with Indo-Pacific economies](#) (2026-03-15 11:18)

SEOUL, March 15 (Yonhap) -- South Korean Industry Minister Kim Jung-kwan attende...

- [\(3rd LD\) Military aircraft lands in Seoul with 211 S. Koreans, foreigners from Saudi Arabia](#) (2026-03-15 10:07)

SEOUL, March 15 (Yonhap) -- A South Korean military transport aircraft bringing ...

- [Para cross-country skier wins record 5th medal for S. Korea](#) (2026-03-15 09:49)

SEOUL, March 15 (Yonhap) -- Para cross-country skier Kim Yun-ji clinched her fif...

- [\(2nd LD\) Military aircraft lands in Seoul with 211 S. Koreans, foreigners from Saudi Arabia](#) (2026-03-15 09:17)

SEOUL, March 15 (Yonhap) -- A South Korean military transport aircraft bringing ...

- [S. Korea weighs Trump's ship request with careful consideration](#) (2026-03-15 07:52)

SEOUL, March 15 (Yonhap) -- The presidential office said Sunday it will carefull...

- [\(URGENT\) S. Korea weighs Trump's ship request with careful consideration](#) (2026-03-15 07:11)

(END)

- [Today in Korean history](#) (2026-03-15 05:00)

March 16

- [\(LEAD\) Lee vows expanded compensation for activists of 1960 democracy movement](#) (2026-03-15 04:20)

SEOUL, March 15 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung said Sunday the government w...

- [Lee vows expanded compensation for activists of 1960 democracy movement](#) (2026-03-15 03:02)

SEOUL, March 15 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung said Sunday the government w...

- [Shops, hotels in central Seoul preparing safety measures ahead of BTS show](#) (2026-03-15 02:33)

SEOUL, March 15 (Yonhap) -- Shops and hotels in central Seoul are bracing for a ...

- [Tech giants facing higher cost burdens amid supply chain disruptions](#) (2026-03-15 01:42)

SEOUL, March 15 (Yonhap) -- South Korean tech giants faced higher production cos...

- [PPP official in charge of nomination for local elections rescinds resignation offer](#) (2026-03-15 01:27)

SEOUL, March 15 (Yonhap) -- Lee Jung-hyun, head of the nomination committee at t...

- [Samsung leads global soundbar market for 12th straight year](#) (2026-03-15 01:20)

SEOUL, March 15 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Electronics Co. maintained its stronghold on...

- [SK hynix spends 6.7 tln won on R&D; last year amid HBM boom: data](#) (2026-03-15 01:08)

SEOUL, March 15 (Yonhap) -- SK hynix Inc. poured 6.7 trillion won (US\$4.4 billio...

- [\(2nd LD\) Trump calls on S, Korea, China, Japan, others to send ships to keep Hormuz Strait open](#) (2026-03-15 00:53)

WASHINGTON, March 14 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump said Saturday that ...

- [S. Korea seeks partnership with Anthropic amid AI push](#) (2026-03-15 00:45)

SEOUL, March 15 (Yonhap) -- South Korea is seeking to forge a partnership with A...

- [Olympic short track medalists win world titles in Montreal](#) (2026-03-15 00:38)

SEOUL, March 15 (Yonhap) -- Kim Gil-li, a recent Olympic double gold medalist in...

- [\(LEAD\) Military aircraft bringing back 211 S. Koreans, foreigners from Saudi Arabia amid Mideast conflict](#) (2026-03-14 23:13)

SEOUL, March 15 (Yonhap) -- A South Korean military transport aircraft is bringi...

- [Military aircraft bringing back 211 S. Koreans, foreigners from Saudi Arabia amid Mideast conflict](#) (2026-03-14 22:43)

SEOUL, March 15 (Yonhap) -- A South Korean military transport aircraft is bringi...

- [\(URGENT\) Military aircraft bringing back 211 S. Koreans, foreigners from Saudi Arabia in Middle East evacuation: Seoul](#) (2026-03-14 22:36)

(END)

- [\(LEAD\) N. Korea says conducted firepower strike drill with 600 mm ultra-precision multiple rocket launchers](#) (2026-03-14 22:13)

SEOUL, March 15 (Yonhap) -- North Korea conducted a firepower strike drill invol...

- [N. Korea says conducted firepower strike drill with 600 mm ultra-precision multiple rocket launchers](#) (2026-03-14 21:34)

SEOUL, March 15 (Yonhap) -- North Korea conducted a firepower strike drill invol...

- [\(URGENT\) N. Korea says conducted firepower strike drill with 600 mm ultra-precision multiple rocket launchers: KCNA](#) (2026-03-14 21:15)

(END)

- [U.S. says it is consulting with allies over N.K. launches, reaffirms defense commitment to allies](#) (2026-03-14 17:12)

WASHINGTON, March 14 (Yonhap) -- A U.S. military command said Saturday it is con...

- [\(LEAD\) Trump calls on S, Korea, China, Japan, others to send ships to keep Hormuz Strait open](#) (2026-03-14 15:36)

WASHINGTON, March 14 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump said Saturday that ...

- [Trump says 'hopefully,' S. Korea, other countries affected by attempted Hormuz Strait closure will send ships](#) (2026-03-14 14:58)

WASHINGTON, March 14 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump said Saturday that ...

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

SEOUL, March 14 (Yonhap) -- Three people sustained serious injuries in a fire th...

- [Search under way for 2 crewmembers missing in ship fire off Jeju](#) (2026-03-14 14:00)

JEJU, South Korea, March 14 (Yonhap) -- Coast Guard personnel were searching for...

- [S. Korea reach semifinals at Women's Asian Cup, qualify for 2027 Women's World Cup](#) (2026-03-14 12:45)

SEOUL, March 14 (Yonhap) -- South Korea advanced to the semifinals of the top As...

- [2 seriously injured in building fire in central Seoul](#) (2026-03-14 12:04)

SEOUL, March 14 (Yonhap) -- Two people sustained serious injuries in a fire that...

- [Seoul evacuates more nationals from war-hit Iran](#) (2026-03-14 12:01)

SEOUL, March 14 (Yonhap) -- Several more South Koreans have evacuated from war-h...

- [\(2nd LD\) S. Korea wins int'l arbitration case against elevator maker Schindler](#) (2026-03-14 10:45)

SEOUL, March 14 (Yonhap) -- South Korea has won an international arbitration cas...

- [Finance minister says verbal intervention possible over sharp won decline](#) (2026-03-14 10:36)

TOKYO, March 14 (Yonhap) -- Finance Minister Koo Yun-cheol said Saturday the gov...

- [\(LEAD\) Cheong Wa Dae calls N. Korea's missile launch violation of UNSC resolution, calls for halt](#) (2026-03-14 08:53)

SEOUL, March 14 (Yonhap) -- The presidential Office of National Security denounc...

- [S. Korea, U.S. hold joint river-crossing drills amid N. Korea's missile firing](#) (2026-03-14 08:41)

YEONCHEON, South Korea, March 14 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean and U.S. militarie...

- [Cheong Wa Dae calls N. Korea's missile launch violation of UNSC resolution, calls for halt](#) (2026-03-14 08:35)

SEOUL, March 14 (Yonhap) -- The presidential Office of National Security denounc...

- [\(URGENT\) Cheong Wa Dae denounces N. Korea's missile launch as violating UNSC resolution, calls for halt](#) (2026-03-14 08:20)

(END)

- [Today in Korean history](#) (2026-03-14 07:44)

March 15

- [\(3rd LD\) N. Korea fires ballistic missiles as S. Korea, U.S. conduct joint drills](#) (2026-03-14 07:16)

SEOUL, March 14 (Yonhap) -- North Korea fired about 10 ballistic missiles toward...

- [\(URGENT\) N. Korea's ballistic missiles flew some 350 km: JCS](#) (2026-03-14 06:58)

(END)

- [Lee congratulates para cross-country skier for winning 4 medals](#) (2026-03-14 06:58)

SEOUL, March 14 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Saturday congratulated pa...

- [S. Korea, Japan to hold regular policy dialogue on trade, supply chain issues](#) (2026-03-14 06:41)

SEOUL, March 14 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and Japan agreed Saturday to establish a...

- [\(LEAD\) S. Korea wins int'l arbitration case against elevator maker Schindler](#) (2026-03-14 06:32)

SEOUL, March 14 (Yonhap) -- South Korea has won an international arbitration cas...

- [\(2nd LD\) N. Korea fires ballistic missiles as S. Korea, U.S. conduct joint drills](#) (2026-03-14 05:48)

SEOUL, March 14 (Yonhap) -- North Korea fired about 10 ballistic missiles toward...

- [S. Korea wins int'l arbitration case against elevator maker Schindler](#) (2026-03-14 05:47)

SEOUL, March 14 (Yonhap) -- South Korea has won an international arbitration cas...

- [\(LEAD\) N. Korea fires projectile as S. Korea, U.S. conduct joint drills](#) (2026-03-14 05:10)

SEOUL, March 14 (Yonhap) -- North Korea fired at least one unidentified projecti...

- [\(WBC\) Held back by subpar pitching, S. Korea's run ends in quarterfinals](#) (2026-03-14 04:55)

MIAMI, March 14 (Yonhap) -- With its pitchers getting knocked around left and ri...

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

SEOUL, March 14 (Yonhap) -- North Korea fired at least one unidentified projecti...

- [\(URGENT\) N. Korea fires unidentified projectile eastward: JCS \(2026-03-14 04:31\)](#)

(END)

- [\(WBC\) Ryu Hyun-jin announces retirement from int'l play after loss to Dominican Republic \(2026-03-14 04:22\)](#)

MIAMI, March 14 (Yonhap) -- It's not the way he wanted to end it, but following ...

- [\(LEAD\) Man nabbed after stabbing woman to death in Namyangju \(2026-03-14 02:45\)](#)

NAMYANGJU, South Korea, March 14 (Yonhap) -- A man who had fled after fatally st...

- [\(LEAD\) \(WBC\) S. Korean bats stymied by Dominican pitching \(2026-03-14 02:36\)](#)

MIAMI, March 13 (Yonhap) -- As their pitchers kept getting punched around, South...

- [\(LEAD\) \(WBC\) Starter gets early hook, relievers struggle in big loss in quarterfinals \(2026-03-14 02:31\)](#)

MIAMI, March 13 (Yonhap) -- The veteran pitcher that the team trusted the most c...

- [\(WBC\) S. Korea manager thanks veteran pitcher for service after crushing defeat \(2026-03-14 02:20\)](#)

MIAMI, March 13 (Yonhap) -- As he tried to pick up the pieces following a crushi...

- [\(WBC\) S. Korean bats stymied by Dominican pitching \(2026-03-14 01:50\)](#)

MIAMI, March 13 (Yonhap) -- As their pitchers kept getting punched around, South...

- [Man flees after stabbing woman to death in Namyangju \(2026-03-14 01:43\)](#)

NAMYANGJU, South Korea, March 14 (Yonhap) -- A man has fled after fatally stabbi...

- [\(WBC\) Starter gets early hook, relievers struggle in big loss in quarterfinals \(2026-03-14 01:41\)](#)

MIAMI, March 13 (Yonhap) -- The veteran pitcher that the team trusted the most c...

- [\(LEAD\) \(WBC\) S. Korea humbled by Dominican Republic in quarterfinals \(2026-03-14 01:31\)](#)

MIAMI, March 13 (Yonhap) -- South Korea absorbed a 10-0 loss to the Dominican Re...

- [\(3rd LD\) PM Kim says Trump positive about dialogue with N. Korea's Kim but leaves open its timing \(2026-03-14 01:28\)](#)

WASHINGTON, March 13 (Yonhap) -- South Korean Prime Minister Kim Min-seok said F...

- [N. Korea promotes new street for families of soldiers killed in Russia-Ukraine war \(2026-03-14 01:08\)](#)

SEOUL, March 14 (Yonhap) -- Families of North Korean soldiers killed during the ...

- [\(WBC\) S. Korea humbled by Dominican Republic in quarterfinals](#) (2026-03-14 01:04)

MIAMI, March 13 (Yonhap) -- South Korea absorbed a 10-0 loss to the Dominican Re...

- [Top headlines in major S. Korean newspapers](#) (2026-03-14 00:28)

SEOUL, March 14 (Yonhap) -- The following are the top headlines in major South K...

- [\(URGENT\) Trump says meeting with N. Korea's Kim could happen during his China trip or afterward: S. Korean PM](#) (2026-03-13 23:54)

(END)

- [\(Yonhap Interview\) Rich in key minerals, Ghana seeks collaboration with S. Korea in critical minerals exploration: president](#) (2026-03-13 23:01)

SEOUL, March 14 (Yonhap) -- Ghanaian President John Dramani Mahama has expressed...

- [\(2nd LD\) S. Korean PM says Trump asked him whether N.K. leader Kim wants dialogue with U.S.](#) (2026-03-13 22:59)

WASHINGTON, March 13 (Yonhap) -- South Korean Prime Minister Kim Min-seok said F...

- [\(URGENT\) S. Korean PM says Trump directed aides to consider steps related to U.S.-N.K. relations](#) (2026-03-13 22:30)

(END)

- [\(URGENT\) S. Korean PM says Trump asked him whether N.K. leader Kim wants dialogue with U.S.](#) (2026-03-13 22:28)

(END)

- [\(LEAD\) Trump says U.S. will hit Iran 'very hard' over next week, war will end when he feels it 'in my bones'](#) (2026-03-13 21:00)

WASHINGTON, March 13 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump has said that the U...

- [\(LEAD\) S. Korean PM meets Trump after parliament passes U.S. investment bill](#) (2026-03-13 19:09)

WASHINGTON, March 13 (Yonhap) -- South Korean Prime Minister Kim Min-seok met wi...

- [S. Korean PM meets Trump after parliament passes U.S. investment bill](#) (2026-03-13 18:40)

WASHINGTON, March 13 (Yonhap) -- South Korean Prime Minister Kim Min-seok met wi...

- [\(URGENT\) S. Korean PM meets Trump in Washington](#) (2026-03-13 18:34)

(END)

- [Trump says U.S. will hit Iran 'very hard' over next week, war will end when he feels it 'in my bones'](#) (2026-03-13 17:58)

WASHINGTON, March 13 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump has said that the U...

- [\(LEAD\) Hegseth says new Iranian supreme leader 'likely disfigured'](#) (2026-03-13 14:59)

WASHINGTON, March 13 (Yonhap) -- U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said Friday...

- [Hegseth says new Iranian supreme leader 'likely disfigured'](#) (2026-03-13 14:08)

WASHINGTON, March 13 (Yonhap) -- U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said Friday...

- [S. Korea seeks Saudi's cooperation for steady oil supply in foreign ministers' call](#) (2026-03-13 14:07)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's foreign minister on Friday asked for S...

- [\(LEAD\) Air China to resume Beijing-Pyongyang route for 1st time in 6 yrs](#) (2026-03-13 13:26)

BEIJING, March 13 (Yonhap) -- China's national carrier, Air China, will resume f...

- [Air China to resume Beijing-Pyongyang route](#) (2026-03-13 11:32)

BEIJING, March 13 (Yonhap) -- China's national carrier, Air China, will resume f...

- [U.S. welcomes S. Korea's passage of investment bill as 'positive' step: U.S. official](#) (2026-03-13 09:32)

WASHINGTON, March 13 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump's administration we...

- [S. Korea warns of stern response to Japan PM's renewed Dokdo claim](#) (2026-03-13 08:55)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's foreign ministry said Friday it will t...

- [Lee suggests wider regional integration for Daejeon, Chungcheong provinces](#) (2026-03-13 08:10)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Friday floated the idea o...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-03-13 08:00)

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

- [\(LEAD\) Gov't revises electricity rates for industrial use to ease burden on companies](#) (2026-03-13 07:59)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- The government on Friday revised the electricity rat...

- [Gov't revises electricity rates for industrial use to ease burden on companies](#) (2026-03-13 07:44)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- The government on Friday revised the electricity rat...

- [\(2nd LD\) Seoul shares down for 2nd day on prolonged Hormuz shutdown; won declines](#) (2026-03-13 07:35)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks closed lower Friday as investors...

- [Main opposition party falls further into disarray with local elections just 3 months away](#) (2026-03-13 07:16)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- The main opposition People Power Party (PPP) is drif...

- [Duty free sales down by nearly 50 pct last year compared to 2019: data](#) (2026-03-13 07:04)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- Total sales at local duty free stores last year almo...

- [Gov't vows enhanced interagency collaboration in securing strategic tech under NEXT initiative](#) (2026-03-13 07:00)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- The science ministry pledged Friday to enhance inter...

- [S. Korea eyes closer science ties with Finland in quantum, 6G sectors](#) (2026-03-13 07:00)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- South Korea will seek to expand cooperation with Fin...

- [Watchdog urges brokerages to enhance monitoring of illegal short selling](#) (2026-03-13 07:00)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- The country's financial watchdog said Friday that se...

- [Key developments on North Korea this week](#) (2026-03-13 07:00)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- The following are key developments regarding North K...

- [Summary of inter-Korean news this week](#) (2026-03-13 07:00)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- The following is a summary of inter-Korean news this...

- [Summary of domestic news in North Korea this week](#) (2026-03-13 07:00)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- The following is a summary of domestic news in North...

- [Summary of external news of North Korea this week](#) (2026-03-13 07:00)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- The following is a summary of external news on North...

- [\(LEAD\) Seoul shares down for 2nd day on prolonged Hormuz shutdown; won declines](#) (2026-03-13 06:49)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks closed lower Friday as investors...

- [\(LEAD\) Korean won falls further against dollar amid oil price surge, supply woes](#) (2026-03-13 06:48)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean currency fell markedly for the seco...

- [Hanwha Aerospace expands Australian plant, begins Redback IFV production](#) (2026-03-13 06:47)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- Hanwha Aerospace Co., South Korea's leading defense ...

- [Seoul shares down for 2nd day on prolonged Hormuz shutdown; won declines](#) (2026-03-13 06:33)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks closed lower Friday as investors...

- [Itaewon disaster committee to file complaint against ex-President Yoon](#) (2026-03-13 06:22)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- A special investigation committee on the Itaewon cro...

- [16th Gwangju Biennale: You must change your life](#) (2026-03-13 06:19)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- This year's Gwangju Biennale draws its inspiration f...

- [Seoul to communicate with Washington over USTR probe on forced labor-linked imports](#) (2026-03-13 06:01)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- The government said Friday it will continue close co...

- [Samsung chief returns from Europe after likely talks on EV battery cooperation](#) (2026-03-13 05:32)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Electronics Co. Chairman Lee Jae-yong return...

- [\(LEAD\) Industry minister says fuel price cap system already showing price stabilization effect](#) (2026-03-13 05:31)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- Industry Minister Kim Jung-kwan said Friday the gove...

- [PM seeks U.S. senator's cooperation for passage of bill on visas](#) (2026-03-13 05:28)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- Prime Minister Kim Min-seok has requested the cooper...

- [Police vow zero tolerance for terror threats against BTS comeback concert](#) (2026-03-13 05:26)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- Police vowed Friday to detain any suspects behind po...

- [KRX takes part in global bell-ringing ceremony for gender equality](#) (2026-03-13 05:01)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- The Korea Exchange (KRX) said Friday it hosted a bel...

- [Today in Korean history](#) (2026-03-13 05:00)

March 14

- [Antitrust regulator probes alleged price-fixing by gas stations in southern regions](#) (2026-03-13 04:58)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- The antitrust regulator is looking into suspected pr...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-03-13 04:30)

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

- [Money supply rises for 3rd month in Jan. on rising corporate deposits: BOK](#) (2026-03-13 03:00)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's money supply rose for the third consec...

- [USTR launches investigations into S. Korea, 59 other economies over failure to ban forced labor-linked imports](#) (2026-03-13 02:35)

WASHINGTON, March 12 (Yonhap) -- The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (US...

- [Seoul shares down late Fri. morning as oil swings on prolonged Hormuz blockade](#) (2026-03-13 02:27)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks trimmed losses late Friday morni...

- [Samsung Heavy opens U.S. research center to support MASGA initiative](#) (2026-03-13 02:27)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Heavy Industries Co. said Friday it has esta...

- [Gov't to ease customs rules for U.S. naval MRO to accommodate demand](#) (2026-03-13 02:23)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- The customs agency said Friday it plans to ease cust...

- [\(LEAD\) Passenger train linking N. Korea, China arrives in Beijing for 1st time in 6 years](#) (2026-03-13 02:22)

SEOUL/BEIJING, March 13 (Yonhap) -- A passenger train linking the capitals of No...

- [Lee's approval rating hits highest level since inauguration: poll](#) (2026-03-13 02:11)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung's approval rating climbed to...

- [Indonesia's Prabowo to pay state visit to S. Korea for summit with Lee](#) (2026-03-13 01:54)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto will make a st...

- [Industry minister urges cooperation from oil sectors in implementing fuel price cap system](#) (2026-03-13 01:54)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- Industry Minister Kim Jung-kwan on Friday urged oil ...

- [\(LEAD\) Police raid land ministry over Jeju Air crash](#) (2026-03-13 01:49)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- Police raided the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure a...

- [Lee to host France's Macron for state visit in early April](#) (2026-03-13 01:47)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung will host French President E...

- [Gov't to draft extra budget using excess tax revenue: budget ministry](#) (2026-03-13 01:37)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- The government said Friday it plans to swiftly draw ...

- [Lee calls for close monitoring of gas stations as fuel price cap takes effect](#) (2026-03-13 01:36)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Friday called for close m...

- [Medical school admission quota rises to 3,548 for 2027 academic year](#) (2026-03-13 01:35)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- The nation's medical school admission quota for the ...

- [Passenger train linking N. Korea, China arrives in Beijing for 1st time in 6 years](#) (2026-03-13 01:22)

SEOUL/BEIJING, March 13 (Yonhap) -- A passenger train linking the capitals of No...

- [Gov't files objection to court mediation for Japan-funded foundation to pay damages to victim of wartime sexual slavery](#) (2026-03-13 01:19)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- The government has recently filed an objection to a ...

- [Hanwha Aerospace partners with gaming giant Krafton to develop physical AI](#) (2026-03-13 01:14)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- Hanwha Aerospace Co., South Korea's leading defense ...

- [Police raid land ministry over Jeju Air crash](#) (2026-03-13 01:06)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- Police raided the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure a...

- [Lee vows supports for industrial sectors in AI adoption](#) (2026-03-13 01:06)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung said Friday the government w...

- [\(WBC\) Dominican manager Pujols guarding against S. Korea's small ball in quarterfinals](#) (2026-03-13 01:03)

MIAMI, March 12 (Yonhap) -- Dominican Republic manager Albert Pujols said Thursd...

- [\(WBC\) Budding S. Korean star seeking to use knockout game as measuring stick](#) (2026-03-13 00:34)

MIAMI, March 12 (Yonhap) -- The emerging South Korean star Kim Do-yeong said Thu...

- [POSCO Future M partners with U.S. battery startup for advanced materials development](#) (2026-03-13 00:29)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- POSCO Future M Co., the battery materials unit of So...

- [Korean won falls against dollar amid oil price surge over supply concerns](#) (2026-03-13 00:26)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean currency fell against the U.S. doll...

- [\(LEAD\) Seoul shares open sharply lower as new Iran leader vows to keep Hormuz blockade](#) (2026-03-13 00:19)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks started sharply lower Friday aft...

- [\(WBC\) S. Korea captain implores teammates not to be intimidated by Dominican Republic](#) (2026-03-13 00:14)

MIAMI, March 12 (Yonhap) -- South Korea captain Lee Jung-hoo said Thursday he do...

- [Seoul shares open sharply lower as new Iran leader vows to keep Hormuz blockade](#) (2026-03-13 00:03)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks started sharply lower Friday aft...

- [\(URGENT\) Seoul shares open 3.06 pct lower as new Iran leader vows to keep Hormuz blockade](#) (2026-03-13 00:01)

(END)

- ['KPop Demon Hunters' to return for sequel](#) (2026-03-12 23:19)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- Netflix's record-breaking animated feature "KPop Dem...

- [\(WBC\) S. Korea manager calls on pitchers to minimize mistakes vs. powerful Dominican lineup](#) (2026-03-12 23:14)

MIAMI, March 12 (Yonhap) -- With South Korea about to take on the top home run-h...

- [\(3rd LD\) PM calls on Vance to work together to quickly implement deals on nuclear subs, energy, shipbuilding](#) (2026-03-12 23:03)

WASHINGTON, March 12 (Yonhap) -- Prime Minister Kim Min-seok called on U.S. Vice...

- [\(WBC\) Ex-MLB All-Star Ryu Hyun-jin to start vs. Dominican Republic in quarterfinals](#) (2026-03-12 22:47)

MIAMI, March 12 (Yonhap) -- South Korea will start former major league All-Star ...

- [N. Korea slams Japan's plan to deploy long-range missiles](#) (2026-03-12 22:36)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- North Korea on Friday denounced Japan for its plan t...

- [N. Korea picks candidates for deputies to rubber-stamp parliament ahead of elections](#) (2026-03-12 22:17)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- North Korea has completed the selection of candidate...

- [\(2nd LD\) Vance welcomes Nat'l Assembly passage of U.S. investment bill: Seoul's PM office](#) (2026-03-12 22:12)

WASHINGTON, March 12 (Yonhap) -- U.S. Vice President JD Vance welcomed the South...

- [\(EDITORIAL from Korea JoongAng Daily on March 13\)](#) (2026-03-12 22:09)

Concerns about political pressure on the judiciary emerged immediately after two...

- [\(EDITORIAL from The Korea Times on March 13\)](#) (2026-03-12 22:08)

In recent days, a large banner displayed on the outer wall of the Embassy of Ira...

- [\(EDITORIAL from The Korea Herald on March 13\)](#) (2026-03-12 22:07)

South Korea's per capita income marked \$36,855 in 2025, according to Bank of Kor...

- [Top headlines in major S. Korean newspapers](#) (2026-03-12 22:06)

SEOUL, March 13 (Yonhap) -- The following are the top headlines in major South K...

- [\(LEAD\) S. Korean PM meets Vance in Washington after parliament passes U.S. investment bill](#) (2026-03-12 18:05)

WASHINGTON, March 12 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's Prime Minister Kim Min-seok met w...

- [\(LEAD\) U.S. sanctions 6 individuals, 2 entities for roles in N. Korean IT worker 'fraud': Treasury Dept.](#) (2026-03-12 17:53)

WASHINGTON, March 12 (Yonhap) -- The U.S. Treasury Department said Thursday it s...

- [S. Korean PM meets Vance to discuss bilateral relations in Washington](#) (2026-03-12 17:40)

WASHINGTON, March 12 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's Prime Minister Kim Min-seok held ...

- [U.S. sanctions 6 individuals, 2 entities for roles in N. Korean IT worker 'fraud': Treasury Dept.](#) (2026-03-12 17:02)

WASHINGTON, March 12 (Yonhap) -- The U.S. Treasury Department said Thursday it s...

- [\(URGENT\) U.S. sanctions 6 individuals, 2 entities for roles in N. Korea-orchestrated IT worker schemes: Treasury Dept. \(2026-03-12 16:43\)](#)

(END)

- [S. Korea issues special travel advisory for Turkey's southeast following Iran's missile attacks \(2026-03-12 13:49\)](#)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- South Korea on Thursday issued a special travel advi...

- [Lee warns of monitoring, sanctions against unfair price hikes \(2026-03-12 12:49\)](#)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung said Thursday the government...

- [\(2nd LD\) N. Korea, China resume cross-border passenger train service for 1st time in 6 yrs \(2026-03-12 12:31\)](#)

BEIJING/DANDONG, March 12 (Yonhap) -- North Korea and China resumed an internati...

- [Gov't designates 23 necessities for special price monitoring amid Middle East crisis \(2026-03-12 11:48\)](#)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- The government has designated 23 key items, such as ...

- [\(LEAD\) Gov't to implement fuel price cap system starting midnight to help ease cost burdens \(2026-03-12 10:56\)](#)

SEJONG, March 12 (Yonhap) -- The government said Thursday it will implement a te...

- [Seoul mayor again delays PPP candidate registration for local elections \(2026-03-12 10:50\)](#)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon said Thursday he did not regi...

- [5 S. Koreans flee from Iran amid Middle East conflict \(2026-03-12 10:41\)](#)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- Five South Korean nationals have fled from Iran amid...

- [Gov't to implement fuel price cap system this week to help ease cost burdens \(2026-03-12 10:18\)](#)

SEJONG, March 12 (Yonhap) -- The government said Thursday it will implement a te...

- [\(2nd LD\) Judicial reform laws take effect allowing constitutional appeals of court rulings, punishment for 'legal distortion' \(2026-03-12 10:16\)](#)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- A set of judicial reform laws were officially procla...

- [\(URGENT\) S. Korea to implement temporary fuel price cap system this week to help ease cost burdens \(2026-03-12 10:08\)](#)

(END)

- [JCS chairman, USFK commander inspect front-line troops during annual joint drills](#) (2026-03-12 09:31)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- Top military commanders of South Korea and the U.S. ...

- [\(3rd LD\) S. Korea, U.S. agree on need to implement summit agreements in 'balanced' manner: Seoul official](#) (2026-03-12 09:23)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and the United States agreed Thursday on...

- [\(LEAD\) N. Korea, China resume cross-border passenger train service for 1st time in 6 yrs](#) (2026-03-12 09:08)

SEOUL/DANDONG, March 12 (Yonhap) -- North Korea and China resumed an internation...

- [\(URGENT\) Passenger train between N.K.-China passes Amnok River railway bridge for 1st time in 6 yrs](#) (2026-03-12 08:34)

(END)

- [\(2nd LD\) S. Korea, U.S. agree on need to carry out joint summit agreements in 'balanced' manner: Seoul official](#) (2026-03-12 08:26)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and the United States agreed Thursday on...

- [Lee orders thorough probe into belated discovery of remains of Jeju Air crash victims](#) (2026-03-12 08:15)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Thursday ordered a thorou...

- [\(2nd LD\) National Assembly passes special bill on U.S. investment pledges with bipartisan support](#) (2026-03-12 07:54)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- The National Assembly on Thursday passed a special b...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-03-12 07:53)

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

- [Nongshim, Samyang to cut ramyeon prices in line with gov't cost stabilization efforts](#) (2026-03-12 07:44)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- South Korean ramyeon makers said Thursday they will ...

- [Incumbent Gov. Kim, six-term lawmaker Choo declare bids for Gyeonggi governor](#) (2026-03-12 07:43)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- Incumbent Gyeonggi Gov. Kim Dong-yeon and six-term l...

- [\(2nd LD\) Seoul shares close lower on extended Middle East tension; won sharply down](#) (2026-03-12 07:42)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks closed lower Thursday amid escal...

- [Complaint filed against top court chief justice for 'legal distortion'](#) (2026-03-12 07:35)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- A complaint was filed against Supreme Court Chief Ju...

- [N. Korea, China resume cross-border passenger train service for 1st time in 6 yrs](#) (2026-03-12 07:24)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- North Korea and China resumed an international passe...

- [S. Korea, Japan to hold finance ministers' talks in Tokyo this week](#) (2026-03-12 07:09)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- Finance Minister Koo Yun-cheol will hold talks with ...

- [AI-driven innovation at forefront in 2027 gov't R&D; policy vision](#) (2026-03-12 07:08)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- The government on Thursday unveiled a policy vision ...

- [Hyundai Motor, Chinese firm sign MOU on battery recycling in Indonesia](#) (2026-03-12 07:07)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- Hyundai Motor Group said Thursday it has signed a me...

- [Mexico official guarantees security for S. Korean team, supporters during World Cup](#) (2026-03-12 07:00)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- With South Korea gearing up for FIFA World Cup match...

- [\(LEAD\) \(WBC\) S. Korea to take on Dominican Republic in quarterfinals](#) (2026-03-12 07:00)

MIAMI, March 12 (Yonhap) -- South Korea will face the mighty Dominican Republic ...

- [\(2nd LD\) Trade chief vows to protect S. Korea's interests through consultations with U.S. over USTR probe](#) (2026-03-12 06:57)

SEJONG, March 12 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's top trade negotiator vowed Thursday c...

- [\(LEAD\) Korean won falls sharply against dollar amid oil price volatility](#) (2026-03-12 06:49)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean currency fell markedly against the ...

- [\(LEAD\) Seoul shares close lower on extended Middle East tension; won sharply down](#) (2026-03-12 06:48)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks closed lower Thursday amid escal...

- [\(LEAD\) National Assembly passes special bill on U.S. investment pledges with bipartisan support](#) (2026-03-12 06:43)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- The National Assembly on Thursday passed a special b...

- [\(LEAD\) N. Korea's Kim, daughter test pistols together at munitions factory](#) (2026-03-12 06:41)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un inspected a factory ...

- [Seoul shares close lower on extended Middle East tension; won sharply down](#) (2026-03-12 06:35)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks closed lower Thursday amid escal...

- [Spending on private education turns downward in 2025](#) (2026-03-12 06:17)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- Spending on private education for young South Korean...

- [\(LEAD\) Lee urges extra budget to be swiftly prepared to stabilize people's livelihoods, prop up recovery](#) (2026-03-12 06:16)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Thursday instructed his a...

- [\(URGENT\) National Assembly passes special bill on U.S. investment pledges with bipartisan support](#) (2026-03-12 06:13)

(END)

- [Supreme Court finalizes loss of seat for ruling party lawmaker over fraud](#) (2026-03-12 05:59)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- The Supreme Court on Thursday finalized a ruling str...

- [\(LEAD\) Trade chief vows to protect S. Korea's interests through consultations with U.S. over USTR probe](#) (2026-03-12 05:59)

SEJONG, March 12 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's top trade negotiator vowed Thursday c...

- [Lee urges extra budget to be swiftly prepared to stabilize people's livelihoods, prop up recovery](#) (2026-03-12 05:46)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Thursday instructed his a...

- [SeMA opens 7th branch, bringing media art to Seoul's southwest](#) (2026-03-12 05:30)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- The Seoul Museum of Art (SeMA) on Thursday opened Se...

- [\(URGENT\) Lee calls for extra budget to be swiftly drafted](#) (2026-03-12 05:17)

(END)

- [NCSoft targets 5 tln won in sales by 2030 through more shooters, anime games](#) (2026-03-12 05:14)

SEONGNAM, South Korea, March 12 (Yonhap) -- NCSoft Corp., a major South Korean g...

- [\(LEAD\) Samsung, LG display arms closely watching fallout of Middle East crisis](#) (2026-03-12 05:10)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- Heads of South Korean display makers said Thursday t...

- [Antitrust regulator fines pork processors 3.15 bln won for price-fixing](#) (2026-03-12 05:00)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- The antitrust regulator said Thursday it has imposed...

- [Today in Korean history](#) (2026-03-12 05:00)

March 13

- [Trade chief vows to protect S. Korea's interests through consultations with U.S. over USTR probe](#) (2026-03-12 05:00)

SEJONG, March 12 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's top trade negotiator vowed Thursday c...

- [BOK to maintain cautious monetary stance amid uncertainties over Middle East crisis](#) (2026-03-12 04:52)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- The central bank said Thursday it would maintain a c...

- [\(LEAD\) Top U.S. diplomat for East Asia holds talks with Seoul officials on alliance, N. Korea](#) (2026-03-12 04:46)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- The top U.S. diplomat for East Asia policy held talk...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-03-12 04:30)

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

- [Ruling party, gov't agree to provide energy vouchers to vulnerable households amid Middle East crisis](#) (2026-03-12 04:27)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- The ruling Democratic Party (DP) and government offi...

- [\(WBC\) S. Korea to take on Dominican Republic in quarterfinals](#) (2026-03-12 04:22)

MIAMI, March 11 (Yonhap) -- South Korea will face the mighty Dominican Republic ...

- [Foreign net selling of S. Korean stocks hits record high in Feb.: BOK](#) (2026-03-12 03:00)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- Foreign investment in the South Korean stock market ...

- [FSS chief discusses regulations on banks' capital base, virtual assets at Basel meeting](#) (2026-03-12 03:00)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- The chief of South Korea's financial watchdog has at...

- [Gov't picks 4,600 science researchers to promote basis research activities](#) (2026-03-12 03:00)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- The science ministry said Thursday it has selected a...

- [Current account surplus expected to ease downward pressure on Korean won: BOK](#) (2026-03-12 03:00)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's current account surplus is expected to...

- [Economy shows 'gradual' increase in production despite improved consumption: KDI](#) (2026-03-12 03:00)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean economy is showing continued signs ...

- [Samsung Display expects business headwinds in H2 linked to Middle East conflict: CEO](#) (2026-03-12 02:40)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- The head of Samsung Display Co. said Thursday the co...

- [\(LEAD\) Judicial reform laws take effect allowing constitutional appeals of court rulings, punishment for 'legal distortion'](#) (2026-03-12 02:34)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- A set of judicial reform laws were officially procla...

- [Seoul shares down late Thu. morning amid Iran uncertainties](#) (2026-03-12 02:26)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks continued to trade lower late Th...

- [Finance chief promises full gov't support for businesses grappling with Middle East uncertainties](#) (2026-03-12 02:15)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- The government will provide full support for busines...

- [Lotte Card given penalty for leaking critical information of 450,000 customers](#) (2026-03-12 02:14)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- Lotte Card Co. has been slapped with a penalty and a...

- [S. Korean envoy delivers Lee's message for stronger ties to Chile's new president](#) (2026-03-12 02:13)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- A special envoy for President Lee Jae Myung has deli...

- [ICT exports double in Feb. on AI-driven chip demand](#) (2026-03-12 02:00)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's exports of information and communicati...

- [Industry ministry to double budget to support SMEs affected by foreign import barriers](#) (2026-03-12 02:00)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- The government will double its budget this year to s...

- [S. Korea posts fiscal surplus of 11.3 tln won in Jan. on increased tax revenue](#) (2026-03-12 01:50)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- South Korea posted a fiscal surplus of more than 11 ...

- [\(LEAD\) PM set to visit U.S. for talks on U.N. hub, possible meeting with Vance](#) (2026-03-12 01:47)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- Prime Minister Kim Min-seok is set to depart for the...

- [S. Korea aims to actively consult with U.S. as Washington opens new trade probe](#) (2026-03-12 01:30)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- South Korea will "actively consult with" the United ...

- [\(WBC\) RBI leader eyes trip to final for S. Korea](#) (2026-03-12 01:16)

MIAMI, March 11 (Yonhap) -- South Korean slugger Moon Bo-gyeong said Wednesday h...

- [PM set to visit U.S., Switzerland to promote S. Korea's bid to host U.N. hub](#) (2026-03-12 01:00)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- Prime Minister Kim Min-seok is set to depart Thursda...

- [Taihan Cable begins construction of 2nd Vietnam plant for extra-high-voltage products](#) (2026-03-12 00:57)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- Taihan Cable & Solution Co., South Korea's secon...

- [Nearly 4,000 vehicles shipped from S. Korea to Russia over 3 yrs despite sanctions: customs agency](#) (2026-03-12 00:53)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- Nearly 4,000 vehicles worth a combined 179.6 billion...

- [Judicial reform laws take effect allowing constitutional appeals, punishment for 'legal distortion'](#) (2026-03-12 00:53)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- A set of judicial reform laws were officially procla...

- [\(2nd LD\) U.S. launches Section 301 trade investigation into S. Korea, China, Japan, 13 other economies: USTR](#) (2026-03-12 00:44)

WASHINGTON, March 11 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump's administration op...

- [Korean won falls against dollar amid rising oil prices as Middle East crisis drags on](#) (2026-03-12 00:42)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean currency fell against the U.S. doll...

- [\(WBC\) Veteran pitcher Ryu Hyun-jin hoping for deep run in knockout round](#) (2026-03-12 00:38)

MIAMI, March 11 (Yonhap) -- Veteran South Korean pitcher Ryu Hyun-jin hasn't pit...

- [\(LEAD\) Seoul shares open lower amid extended woes over oil prices; won sharply down](#) (2026-03-12 00:22)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks started slightly lower Thursday ...

- [Int'l customs body classifies outdoor display modules as duty-free](#) (2026-03-12 00:19)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- The World Customs Organization (WCO) has decided to ...

- [\(WBC\) Cardinals reliever O'Brien ruled out for S. Korea](#) (2026-03-12 00:14)

MIAMI, March 11 (Yonhap) -- South Korea manager Ryu Ji-hyun said Wednesday that ...

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

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks started slightly lower Thursday ...

- [N. Korea set to elect new leadership at largest women's organization](#) (2026-03-12 00:03)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- North Korea will hold a congress of the country's la...

- [\(URGENT\) Seoul shares open 0.75 pct lower amid oil volatility](#) (2026-03-12 00:01)

(END)

- [National Assembly set to vote on bill on U.S. investment pledges](#) (2026-03-11 23:47)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- The National Assembly is set to hold a plenary sessi...

- [\(LEAD\) U.S. launches Section 301 trade investigation into S. Korea, China, Japan, 13 other economies: USTR](#) (2026-03-11 23:35)

WASHINGTON, March 11 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump's administration op...

- [Seventeen's Vernon, The8 to launch new unit this summer](#) (2026-03-11 23:32)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- Vernon and The8 of K-pop boy group Seventeen will fo...

- [U.S. to release 172 mln barrels from strategic oil reserve: energy secretary](#) (2026-03-11 23:30)

WASHINGTON, March 11 (Yonhap) -- The United States plans to release 172 million ...

- [U.S. to initiate Section 301 trade investigation into S. Korea, China, Japan, 13 other economies: USTR](#) (2026-03-11 23:16)

WASHINGTON, March 11 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump's administration wi...

- [\(URGENT\) U.S. to initiate Section 301 trade investigation into S. Korea, China, Japan, 13 other economies: USTR](#) (2026-03-11 23:15)

(END)

- [\(2nd LD\) Trump says 'we've won' in war with Iran](#) (2026-03-11 22:52)

WASHINGTON, March 11 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump claimed Wednesday t...

- [Top U.S. diplomat for East Asia to hold talks with Seoul officials on alliance, N. Korea](#) (2026-03-11 22:30)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- The top U.S. diplomat for East Asia policy was set t...

- [N. Korea's Kim, daughter test pistols together at munitions factory](#) (2026-03-11 22:19)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un inspected a factory ...

- [\(EDITORIAL from Korea JoongAng Daily on March 12\)](#) (2026-03-11 22:01)

Financial markets remain volatile in the wake of tensions in the Middle East, an...

- [\(EDITORIAL from The Korea Times on March 12\)](#) (2026-03-11 22:01)

As the escalating conflict in the Middle East drives up oil prices, the governme...

- [\(EDITORIAL from The Korea Herald on March 12\)](#) (2026-03-11 22:01)

Patriot and Terminal High Altitude Area Defense antimissile systems deployed wit...

- [Top headlines in major S. Korean newspapers](#) (2026-03-11 22:00)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- The following are the top headlines in major South K...

- [\(LEAD\) Trump says war with Iran will end 'soon' as 'practically nothing left to target': Axios](#) (2026-03-11 18:15)

WASHINGTON, March 11 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump said Wednesday that...

- [S. Korea to release 22.46 mln barrels from oil reserves under IEA release plan](#) (2026-03-11 16:24)

SEOUL, March 12 (Yonhap) -- South Korea plans to release 22.46 million barrels o...

- [Trump says war with Iran will end 'soon' as 'practically nothing left to target': Axios](#) (2026-03-11 15:00)

WASHINGTON, March 11 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump said Wednesday that...

- [U.S. military has struck more than 5,500 targets in Iran, including over 60 ships: CENTCOM](#) (2026-03-11 14:39)

WASHINGTON, March 11 (Yonhap) -- The U.S. military has struck more than 5,500 ta...

- [Cheong Wa Dae denies report on reviving open-to-all bar exam](#) (2026-03-11 13:52)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- The presidential office denied a news report Wednesd...

- [FC Seoul eliminated in round of 16 at top Asian club tournament](#) (2026-03-11 12:10)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- FC Seoul have been eliminated in the top Asian club ...

- [Para cross-country skier wins record 3rd medal for S. Korea](#) (2026-03-11 11:39)

TESERO, Italy, March 11 (Yonhap) -- Para cross-country skier Kim Yun-ji captured...

- [AMD's Lisa Su to visit S. Korea next week, may meet with Samsung chief](#) (2026-03-11 11:24)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- Lisa Su, the head of Advanced Micro Devices Inc. (AM...

- [Iranian Embassy in Seoul displays banner with image of Khamenei](#) (2026-03-11 11:10)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- The Iranian Embassy in Seoul has put up a banner bea...

- [Defense minister inspects S. Korea-U.S. military exercise sites](#) (2026-03-11 10:08)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- Defense Minister Ahn Gyu-back on Wednesday inspected...

- [State oil company chief apologizes for steep price hikes at gov't-run stations](#) (2026-03-11 10:04)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- The chief of the Korea National Oil Corp. (KNOC) apo...

- [\(WBC\) S. Korea manager mulling roster change with quarterfinals on horizon](#) (2026-03-11 09:22)

MIAMI, March 11 (Yonhap) -- South Korea manager Ryu Ji-hyun said Wednesday he wi...

- [Relocation of THAAD interceptors to Middle East seen as imminent: sources](#) (2026-03-11 09:11)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- Interceptors of a Terminal High Altitude Area Defens...

- ['The King's Warden' surpasses 12 million admissions](#) (2026-03-11 08:28)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- The Korean historical drama "The King's Warden" has ...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-03-11 08:04)

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

- [\(LEAD\) Gov't mulls targeted extra budget to help vulnerable groups as fuel prices surge: finance chief](#) (2026-03-11 07:45)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- South Korea is considering a targeted supplementary ...

- [Gov't to provide comprehensive support for SME exporters to Middle East](#) (2026-03-11 07:44)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- The government will provide comprehensive support fo...

- [\(2nd LD\) Seoul shares up for 2nd day on bargain hunting amid Iran woes](#) (2026-03-11 07:29)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks finished higher for the second s...

- [Lee, Ghanaian president agree to boost cooperation in maritime securiy, climate change](#) (2026-03-11 07:28)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung held summit talks with Ghana...

- [Korean Air extends Dubai flight suspension until March 28 over Middle East tensions](#) (2026-03-11 07:17)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- Korean Air Co. said Wednesday it will extend the sus...

- [Gov't reviews crowd safety measures for BTS concert](#) (2026-03-11 07:12)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- The government has mapped out crowd safety measures ...

- [Hanwha to showcase air defense capabilities at BEDEX 2026 in Belgium](#) (2026-03-11 07:11)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- Hanwha Group, South Korea's chemicals-to-defense con...

- [\(WBC\) Pitcher Son Ju-young sidelined with elbow inflammation](#) (2026-03-11 07:10)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- Left-hander Son Ju-young, who started South Korea's ...

- [\(LEAD\) Korean won rises for 2nd session on easing oil prices, weaker dollar](#) (2026-03-11 07:10)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean currency rose for the second consec...

- [S. Korea involved in oil reserve release discussions with IEA](#) (2026-03-11 07:09)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean government is "closely involved" in...

- [Singer Choi Yena hopes new single 'Catch Catch' inspires Korean baseball team](#) (2026-03-11 06:52)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- K-pop singer Choi Yena said Wednesday she hopes her ...

- [\(LEAD\) Seoul shares up for 2nd day on bargain hunting amid Iran woes](#) (2026-03-11 06:52)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks finished higher for the second s...

- [Football chief predicts deep run for S. Korea at World Cup](#) (2026-03-11 06:45)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- South Korean football chief Chung Mong-gyu predicted...

- [\(2nd LD\) N. Korea's Kim oversees another cruise missile test from destroyer amid Seoul-Washington military drills](#) (2026-03-11 06:41)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has overseen another...

- [Seoul shares up for 2nd day on bargain hunting amid Iran woes](#) (2026-03-11 06:36)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks finished higher for the second s...

- [Ex-JCS chief banned from leaving country over alleged martial law role](#) (2026-03-11 06:19)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- A retired admiral who served as the country's highes...

- [Ruling party, gov't announce reform measures for NongHyup following corruption scandal](#) (2026-03-11 06:12)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- The ruling Democratic Party (DP) and the government ...

- [Multinational augmentees from UNC member states participate in Freedom Shield exercise](#) (2026-03-11 06:04)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- Multinational forces from member states of the U.N. ...

- [11 S. Koreans flee Saudi Arabia on Japan's chartered flight amid Middle East conflict](#) (2026-03-11 06:03)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- Eleven South Koreans fled Saudi Arabia on a Japanese...

- [Gov't eyes measures for stable electricity rates amid volatile global energy prices](#) (2026-03-11 05:50)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- The government will prepare precautionary measures t...

- [N. Korea speeds up preparations for next week's parliamentary elections](#) (2026-03-11 05:48)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- North Korea has been speeding up its preparations fo...

- [Son Heung-min records assist in LAFC's draw in regional tournament](#) (2026-03-11 05:36)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- Son Heung-min has picked up yet another assist for L...

- [Lee congratulates Kim Yun-ji on winning second medal at Winter Paralympics](#) (2026-03-11 05:02)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Wednesday congratulated p...

- [Today in Korean history](#) (2026-03-11 05:00)

March 12

- [K-pop agency RBW acquires 257 Entertainment in global push](#) (2026-03-11 04:46)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- RBW, the agency behind K-pop acts Mamamoo and Oh My ...

- [\(LEAD\) Household loans fall for 3rd month in Feb.; mortgage loans edge up on moving demand](#) (2026-03-11 04:44)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- Household loans extended by South Korean banks fell ...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-03-11 04:30)

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

- [\(Movie Review\) 'Samakdo': ambitious premise, uneven delivery](#) (2026-03-11 03:51)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- The Korean occult thriller "Samakdo" sends chills do...

- [Samsung SDI vows to overcome EV-related business challenges through ESS, robot sector opportunities](#) (2026-03-11 03:00)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- The head of Samsung SDI Co.'s research center said W...

- [Household loans fall for 3rd month in Feb.; mortgage loans edge up on moving demand](#) (2026-03-11 03:00)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- Household loans extended by South Korean banks fell ...

- [Lee gifts specially designed Ghana chocolate to Ghanaian president](#) (2026-03-11 02:44)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung prepared Ghana chocolate and...

- [Aging baseball stadium in Jamsil to be replaced with 30,000-seat dome by 2032](#) (2026-03-11 02:44)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- The Seoul city government said Wednesday it plans to...

- [KBO preseason to start this week amid WBC fever](#) (2026-03-11 02:39)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- The preseason in South Korean baseball is set to sta...

- [Seoul shares extend gains late Wed. morning amid Iran uncertainties](#) (2026-03-11 02:31)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks extended gains late Wednesday mo...

- [Deterrence posture against N. Korea won't be hindered regardless of potential shift of USFK's assets](#) (2026-03-11 02:22)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- The deterrence posture against North Korea will not ...

- [Appeal trial begins for ex-PM Han over insurrection charges](#) (2026-03-11 02:02)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- An appellate trial for former Prime Minister Han Duc...

- [Investigators again raid Shincheonji sect over alleged collusion with politics](#) (2026-03-11 01:18)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- A joint prosecution-police team investigating suspec...

- [40 years on stage, soprano Sumi Jo says music can 'change people'](#) (2026-03-11 01:04)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- Renowned South Korean soprano Sumi Jo has said she h...

- [Korean won falls amid oil price volatility as Middle East conflict continues](#) (2026-03-11 00:55)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean currency fell slightly against the ...

- [\(LEAD\) Exports up 55.6 pct during first 10 days of March on robust chip demand](#) (2026-03-11 00:53)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's exports jumped 55.6 percent from a yea...

- [InterBattery 2026 kicks off to showcase future battery technologies](#) (2026-03-11 00:52)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- InterBattery 2026, South Korea's largest battery ind...

- [Hyundai Motor ranks 2nd in operating profit among global automotive peers in 2025](#) (2026-03-11 00:38)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- Hyundai Motor Group, the world's third-largest autom...

- [Exports up 55.6 pct during first 10 days of March](#) (2026-03-11 00:35)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's exports jumped 55.6 percent from a yea...

- [N.K. defector-turned-journalist officially recognized by gov't as S. Korean detainee in N. Korea](#) (2026-03-11 00:30)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- Ham Jin-woo, a North Korean defector-turned-journali...

- [\(LEAD\) Seoul shares open higher amid oil price swings](#) (2026-03-11 00:22)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks started higher Wednesday as inve...

- [BLACKPINK's 'Go' debuts on Billboard Hot 100 at No. 63](#) (2026-03-11 00:20)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- K-pop girl group BLACKPINK's latest single "Go" debu...

- [Police refer lawmaker, ex-councilor at center of bribery scandal to prosecution](#) (2026-03-11 00:10)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- Police on Wednesday referred an independent lawmaker...

- [Gov't to mobilize all policy tools in dealing with Middle East-related economic uncertainties](#) (2026-03-11 00:03)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- South Korea will mobilize all available economic pol...

- [Seoul shares open higher amid oil price swings](#) (2026-03-11 00:03)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks started higher Wednesday as inve...

- [\(URGENT\) Seoul shares open 2.28 pct higher amid oil price swings](#) (2026-03-11 00:02)

(END)

- [Samsung launches Galaxy S26 series worldwide following record preorders](#) (2026-03-11 00:01)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Electronics Co. said Wednesday it has offici...

- [S. Korea highlights commitment to nonproliferation principles at nuclear energy summit](#) (2026-03-10 23:59)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- South Korea has reaffirmed its commitment to upholdi...

- [Krafton CEO to double as head of new AI robotics unit in U.S.](#) (2026-03-10 23:41)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- Kim Chang-han, chief executive officer (CEO) of Sout...

- [\(LEAD\) N. Korea supports Iran's choice of new supreme leader amid raging war in Middle East](#) (2026-03-10 23:27)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- North Korea said Wednesday it respects the Iranian p...

- [\(LEAD\) N. Korea's Kim oversees another cruise missile test from destroyer amid Seoul-Washington military drills](#) (2026-03-10 22:49)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has overseen another...

- [N. Korea supports election of Iran's new supreme leader amid raging war in Middle East](#) (2026-03-10 22:03)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- North Korea said Wednesday it supports the election ...

- [\(EDITORIAL from Korea JoongAng Daily on March 11\)](#) (2026-03-10 21:58)

President Lee Jae Myung said Monday that while his government opposes the redepl...

- [\(EDITORIAL from The Korea Times on March 11\)](#) (2026-03-10 21:58)

Spurred into action by an unprecedented lack of bids from hopefuls seeking the P...

- [\(EDITORIAL from The Korea Herald on March 11\)](#) (2026-03-10 21:58)

Tilted playing field : With Yellow Envelope Act taking effect, unions should exe...

- [Top headlines in major S. Korean newspapers](#) (2026-03-10 21:57)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- The following are the top headlines in major South K...

- [N. Korea conducts another cruise missile test from destroyer amid Seoul-Washington military drills](#) (2026-03-10 21:41)

SEOUL, March 11 (Yonhap) -- North Korea has conducted another test-firing of str...

- [\(URGENT\) N. Korea says it 'strongly' denounces U.S.-Israel's act of aggression against Iran](#) (2026-03-10 21:15)

(END)

- [\(URGENT\) N. Korea conducts another strategic cruise missile test from destroyer Choe Hyon on Tuesday: state media](#) (2026-03-10 21:13)

(END)

- [\(LEAD\) Iran operation will end when Trump determines military objectives have been met: White House](#) (2026-03-10 21:01)

WASHINGTON, March 10 (Yonhap) -- The U.S. military operation against Iran will e...

- [Iran operation will end when Trump determines military objectives have been met: White House](#) (2026-03-10 20:03)

WASHINGTON, March 10 (Yonhap) -- The U.S. military operation against Iran will e...

- [Senate Democrats say S. Korea-U.S. alliance is 'under strain' amid Trump's foreign policy](#) (2026-03-10 17:34)

WASHINGTON, March 10 (Yonhap) -- U.S. Senate Democrats said in a new report Tues...

- [\(LEAD\) Pentagon says USFK maintaining 'combat-credible' force posture in Korea amid THAAD redeployment report](#) (2026-03-10 15:10)

WASHINGTON, March 10 (Yonhap) -- U.S. Forces Korea (USFK) remains focused on ens...

- [Pentagon says USFK remains focused on 'combat-credible' force posture in Korea amid THAAD redeployment report](#) (2026-03-10 14:58)

WASHINGTON, March 10 (Yonhap) -- The U.S. Forces Korea (USFK) remains focused on...

- [Hegseth says Iran war is 'quite contained,' but warns of 'most intense day of strikes' ahead](#) (2026-03-10 14:38)

WASHINGTON, March 10 (Yonhap) -- U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said Tuesda...

- [FM Cho discusses Middle East situation with Indian, Vietnamese counterparts](#) (2026-03-10 14:19)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- Foreign Minister Cho Hyun held separate phone talks ...

- [\(LEAD\) About 6,300 S. Koreans leave Middle East over past 7 days](#) (2026-03-10 13:48)
SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- About 6,300 South Korean nationals have left countri...
- [About 6,300 S. Koreans leave Middle East over past 7 days](#) (2026-03-10 11:56)
SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- About 6,300 South Korean nationals have left countri...
- [S. Korea reports 2 new bird flu cases; total rises to 55](#) (2026-03-10 11:14)
SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- South Korea has confirmed new cases of highly pathog...
- [Samsung Biologics, Eli Lilly to establish biotech incubator in Incheon](#) (2026-03-10 11:10)
SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Biologics Co., the biotech arm of Samsung Gr...
- [NCSOFT to acquire 70 pct stake in German game developer JustPlay for 301.6 bln won](#) (2026-03-10 10:36)
SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- NCSOFT Corp., a major South Korean gamemaker, said T...
- [Top general visits key Marine, Navy units to inspect S. Korea-U.S. drills](#) (2026-03-10 09:59)
SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's top general on Tuesday visited key Mar...
- [Samsung Electronics spends 37.7 tln won in R&D; in 2025](#) (2026-03-10 09:58)
SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Electronics Co. said Tuesday it spent a reco...
- [\(News Focus\) USFK's relocation of military assets to Middle East raises concerns about Seoul's capability to deter N.K. threats](#) (2026-03-10 09:54)
SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- The U.S. Forces Korea (USFK)'s apparent move to relo...
- [Prosecutors indict woman accused of fatally drugging 2 men](#) (2026-03-10 09:23)
SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- Prosecutors on Tuesday indicted a 20-year-old woman ...
- [Lee to hold summit talks with Ghanaian president Wed.](#) (2026-03-10 08:54)
SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung will hold summit talks with ...
- [\(LEAD\) Train service between Beijing, Pyongyang to resume this week for 1st time in 6 yrs](#) (2026-03-10 08:13)
SEOUL/BEIJING, March 10 (Yonhap) -- Train service linking Pyongyang and Beijing ...
- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-03-10 08:00)
The following is the second summary of major stories moved by Yonhap News Agency...

- [Starring Ju Ji-hoon, Ha Ji-won, 'Climax' gives voice to desires nobody talks about](#) (2026-03-10 07:54)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- ENA's new series "Climax" is a work that "scratches ...

- [Enhypen reshaped as six-member group with Heeseung's departure](#) (2026-03-10 07:45)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- K-pop boy band Enhypen will be reorganized as a six...

- [\(LEAD\) PM to visit New York, Switzerland for talks on U.N. hub](#) (2026-03-10 07:44)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- Prime Minister Kim Min-seok will visit New York and ...

- [SK Innovation to invest US\\$380 mln in SK hynix's U.S. AI affiliate](#) (2026-03-10 07:30)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- SK Innovation Co. has decided to invest US\$380 milli...

- [Lee expresses hope new labor law will promote dialogue to resolve labor-management disputes](#) (2026-03-10 07:28)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Tuesday expressed hope th...

- [\(2nd LD\) Seoul shares rebound more than 5 pct on eased Iran woes; won sharply up](#) (2026-03-10 07:28)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks rebounded more than 5 percent Tu...

- [\(LEAD\) Korean won rebounds sharply after hitting 17-yr low amid Middle East crisis](#) (2026-03-10 07:07)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean currency rose sharply against the U...

- [Last remaining Dokdo resident dies at 88](#) (2026-03-10 07:05)

ULLEUNG, South Korea, March 10 (Yonhap) -- The last remaining resident of South ...

- [\(LEAD\) Seoul shares rebound more than 5 pct on eased Iran woes; won sharply up](#) (2026-03-10 06:56)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks rebounded more than 5 percent Tu...

- [Seoul shares rebound more than 5 pct on eased Iran woes; won sharply up](#) (2026-03-10 06:36)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks rebounded more than 5 percent Tu...

- [Lee calls for cooperation between big firms, SMEs for sustainable growth](#) (2026-03-10 06:35)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Tuesday urged big compani...

- [\(URGENT\) KOSPI rebounds more than 5 pct on eased Iran woes; won sharply up](#) (2026-03-10 06:33)

(END)

• [Concrete mound at Muan airport built to save construction costs: audit](#) (2026-03-10 06:22)
SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- A concrete mound blamed for the deadly 2024 plane cr...

• [Gov't to set up committee to honor civic resistance to martial law](#) (2026-03-10 06:10)
SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- The government will establish the presidential "Comm...

• [Hyundai Mobis wins 2nd chassis module supply deal from Mercedes-Benz](#) (2026-03-10 06:06)
SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- Hyundai Mobis Co., South Korea's leading auto parts ...

• [U.S. moving parts of THAAD anti-missile system from S. Korea to Middle East: report](#) (2026-03-10 05:58)
SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- The United States has been moving parts of its Termini...

• [Train service between Beijing, Pyongyang to resume this week for 1st time in 6 yrs](#) (2026-03-10 05:43)
SEOUL/BEIJING, March 10 (Yonhap) -- Train service linking Pyongyang and Beijing ...

• [\(LEAD\) Antitrust watchdog fines Mercedes-Benz 11.2 bln won over misleading EV battery info](#) (2026-03-10 05:07)
SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's antitrust regulator on Tuesday imposed...

• [BTS expands Gwanghwamun concert capacity to 22,000 with added standing zones](#) (2026-03-10 05:01)
SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- K-pop juggernaut BTS will perform before some 22,000...

- [Today in Korean history](#) (2026-03-10 05:00)

March 11

• [Antitrust watchdog fines Mercedes-Benz 11.2 bln won over misleading EV battery info](#) (2026-03-10 04:56)
SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's antitrust regulator on Tuesday imposed...

• [PM likely to visit New York this week for talks on U.N. hub](#) (2026-03-10 04:45)
SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- Prime Minister Kim Min-seok is likely to visit New Y...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-03-10 04:44)

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

- [DP, gov't mull buying over 6 mln barrels of crude oil from foreign refiners in S. Korea](#) (2026-03-10 03:46)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- The ruling Democratic Party (DP) and the government ...

- [Number of foreign residents in S. Korea nears 1.7 mln in 2025](#) (2026-03-10 03:00)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- The number of foreign nationals residing in South Ko...

- [Customs agency launches inspection into illegal distribution of fuel products](#) (2026-03-10 03:00)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- Tax authorities launched Tuesday an intensive inspec...

- [Ex-President Yoon refuses to attend hearing on 2022 Itaewon disaster](#) (2026-03-10 02:49)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- Former President Yoon Suk Yeol on Tuesday refused to...

- [S. Korea providing supplies to its stranded vessel in Strait of Hormuz: official](#) (2026-03-10 02:47)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- South Korea is in the process of providing supplies ...

- [Lee says need for extra budget to support small business owners, firms amid Mideast crisis](#) (2026-03-10 02:46)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung said Tuesday that it is time...

- [Assembly speaker urges rival parties to form special committee on constitutional revision](#) (2026-03-10 02:44)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- National Assembly Speaker Woo Won-shik on Tuesday ca...

- [\(LEAD\) Lee says possible shift of USFK's military assets won't affect deterrence against N. Korea](#) (2026-03-10 02:41)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung said Tuesday that a potentia...

- [Seoul shares extend gains late Tues. morning as crude price stabilizes](#) (2026-03-10 02:38)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks continued to trade higher late T...

- [S. Korean troops in Lebanon report strikes near military base amid Middle East conflict](#) (2026-03-10 02:20)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- South Korean troops dispatched to Lebanon for peacek...

- [\(2nd LD\) N. Korean leader's sister warns of 'terrible consequences' amid S. Korea-U.S. military drills](#) (2026-03-10 02:19)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- The powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong-...

- [Lee says possible shift of USFK's military assets won't affect deterrence against N. Korea](#) (2026-03-10 02:08)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung said Tuesday that a potentia...

- [KOTRA pledges support for 80 service firms with high export prospects](#) (2026-03-10 02:00)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- The Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA) ...

- [S. Korea's per capita income edges up 0.3 pct to stay in US\\$36,000 range amid weak won](#) (2026-03-10 01:32)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's per capita income edged up 0.3 percent...

- [\(URGENT\) Lee says possible shift of USFK's military assets won't affect deterrence against N. Korea](#) (2026-03-10 01:27)

(END)

- [BTS to launch 'Arirang' pop-ups to mark new album release](#) (2026-03-10 01:26)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- K-pop supergroup BTS will open special pop-up stores...

- [\(URGENT\) Lee says difficult to fully oppose possible shift of USFK's military assets](#) (2026-03-10 01:24)

(END)

- [N. Korea rallies voters ahead of next week's parliamentary elections](#) (2026-03-10 01:24)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- North Korea on Tuesday urged voter participation ahe...

- [\(LEAD\) N. Korean leader's sister warns of 'terrible consequences' amid S. Korea-U.S. military drills](#) (2026-03-10 01:09)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- The powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong-...

- [SK hynix develops advanced LPDDR6 for mobile devices with AI features](#) (2026-03-10 00:59)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- SK hynix Inc. said Tuesday it has developed an advan...

- [Top U.S. diplomat for East Asia to pay tribute to memorial honoring USFK soldiers this week](#) (2026-03-10 00:38)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- The top U.S. diplomat for East Asia policy will pay ...

- [Korean won rebounds sharply after dropping to 17-yr low amid Middle East crisis](#) (2026-03-10 00:33)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean currency gained sharply against the...

- [\(LEAD\) S. Korean economy grows 1 pct in 2025; Q4 GDP contracts 0.2 pct: BOK](#) (2026-03-10 00:31)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean economy expanded 1 percent in 2025 ...

- [\(LEAD\) Seoul shares open nearly 5 pct higher as Trump hints Iran war nearing end](#) (2026-03-10 00:28)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks started sharply higher Tuesday, ...

- [\(News Focus\) Pro-labor 'yellow envelope act' takes effect amid continued resistance](#) (2026-03-10 00:25)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- A revised labor law aimed at broadening workers' bar...

- [N. Korean leader's sister warns of 'terrible consequences' amid S. Korea-U.S. military drills](#) (2026-03-10 00:24)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- The powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong-...

- [\(URGENT\) N. Korean leader's sister warns S. Korea-U.S. military drills could result in 'terrible consequences'](#) (2026-03-10 00:10)

(END)

- [\(URGENT\) KRX issues buy-side sidecar for KOSPI on sharp hike](#) (2026-03-10 00:08)

(END)

- [Seoul shares open over 5 pct higher as Trump hints Iran war nearing end](#) (2026-03-10 00:03)

SEOUL, March 10 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks started sharply higher Tuesday, ...

- [\(URGENT\) Seoul shares open 5.17 pct higher as Trump hints Iran war nearing end](#) (2026-03-10 00:02)

(END)