



SOUTH KOREA SECURITY ANALYSIS REPORT

AI-Assisted Open Source Intelligence Assessment

Analysis Period: April 27, 2026 - May 04, 2026

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

Executive Summary

South Korea navigated a complex security landscape from April 27 to May 04, 2026, marked by intensified regional dynamics and a significant energy security crisis. Diplomatic efforts focused on strengthening ties with Japan and the US, while simultaneously seeking to stabilize relations with China amidst growing strategic competition. North Korea continued its aggressive missile testing and nuclear development, posing an enduring threat to regional stability. Concurrently, South Korea demonstrated a proactive stance in enhancing its defense capabilities through increased participation in multinational military exercises, significant investments in military AI, and expanding its defense industry exports. The closure of the Strait of Hormuz presented a critical economic vulnerability, highlighting the need for diversified energy security strategies and potentially influencing Seoul's diplomatic balancing act.

Key Security Developments

- Enhanced South Korea-Japan Security Cooperation

On April 27, South Korea's Ambassador to Japan, Lee Hyuk, underscored the necessity for stable security cooperation between the two nations. This call, made at an event in Tokyo, was driven by the uncertain international environment, including the strategic rivalry between the United States and China, North Korea's nuclear and missile programs, and China's growing military power. This diplomatic push reflects a broader trend of improving bilateral ties, which have seen increased favorability among South Koreans towards Japan, reaching 56.4% in FY2025.

- US Proposal for South Korea as Regional Sustainment Hub

US Forces Korea (USFK) Commander Xavier Brunson proposed on April 22 to establish South Korea as a Regional Sustainment Hub (RSH). This initiative aims to enable South Korea to conduct maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) on US aircraft, warships, missile systems, and drones, thereby improving logistical efficiency for US forces, particularly in the context of a potential Taiwan contingency. This proposal aligns with the US's 2026 National Defense Strategy, which emphasizes enabling allies to take primary responsibility for their own defense and prioritizing deterrence against China.

- Progress on OPCON Transfer

The United States and South Korea appear to be aligned on their objective to complete the transfer of wartime operational control (OPCON) from the US to South Korea by 2029. This transfer necessitates continued investment by South Korea in its defense capabilities and military modernization to meet the US's requirements, positioning South Korea to lead combined defense operations on the Korean Peninsula.

- North Korea's Continued Missile and Nuclear Escalation

North Korea conducted four missile launches in April alone, contributing to a total of seven tests in 2026, including multiple ballistic missiles fired from the Sinpo area on April 19. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) confirmed a significant increase in Pyongyang's nuclear weapons production at Yongbyon and the construction of a new enrichment facility. North Korea has explicitly rejected dialogue with South Korea, labeling it its "most hostile enemy state."

- North Korea-Russia Military Cooperation

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un reaffirmed Pyongyang's support for Russia's invasion of Ukraine on April 27, pledging assistance to Moscow. Pyongyang has reportedly sent missiles, munitions, and thousands of troops to Russia, while Moscow is believed to be providing financial aid, military technology, food, and energy in return. This deepening cooperation indicates a continued commitment to strengthening military and civil ties between the two nations.

- South Korea to Lead RIMPAC Maritime Exercise

For the first time, South Korea will lead multinational naval forces in the US-led Rim of the Pacific Exercise (RIMPAC), scheduled from June 24 to July 31 in and around Hawaii. A South Korean admiral will command the combined maritime forces, signifying an elevated role for South Korea in this biennial exercise, which aims to boost cooperation among participating countries to protect sea lines of communication and counter maritime security threats.

- Major Defense Export Deal with Poland

On April 29, Poland's state defense firm Bumar-Łabędy signed an agreement with South Korea's Hyundai Rotem for the domestic production of K2 tanks. This deal is part of a larger \$6.7 billion contract for 180 K2 tanks, including 61 K2PL versions to be manufactured in Poland, with the first K2PL tank expected to roll off the Gliwice production line in 2028. This highlights South Korea's growing role as a global defense exporter.

- Significant Investment in Military Artificial Intelligence

South Korea's Ministry of National Defense announced on April 30 an investment of 40 billion KRW (approximately 30 million USD) through the end of 2026 for 20 defense projects aimed at rapidly integrating commercial artificial intelligence across military

units. These projects span combat support, personnel reduction, defense operations efficiency, and cyber/security, with a focus on leveraging private sector AI technologies to enhance operational capabilities and administrative efficiency.

- International Cybersecurity Cooperation and Exercises

Korea Southern Power participated in NATO's 'Locked Shields 2026' international cyber defense exercise from April 20-24 in Tallinn, Estonia, as part of the Korean national team. South Korea deployed over 170 cybersecurity experts from 47 public and private organizations to the exercise, which simulates large-scale cyberattacks on a fictional NATO member state. Additionally, on April 27, South Korea and the Philippines signed a \$25.6 million grant agreement to establish a National Cyber Security Center (NCSC) in the Philippines, aimed at strengthening its cybersecurity landscape.

- Strait of Hormuz Blockade and Economic Impact

The ongoing closure of the Strait of Hormuz, triggered by the US-Israeli military campaign against Iran, has severely impacted South Korea's economy. South Korea, which imports 70% of its crude oil and 19.5% of its LNG from Middle Eastern countries, has seen its crude supply cut off, its currency (the won) hit a 17-year low, and 26 South Korean vessels stranded in the Persian Gulf. This crisis underscores South Korea's vulnerability to Middle East instability and its reliance on global supply chains.

Geopolitical Impact and Regional Dynamics

South Korea's security developments during this period reflect a delicate balancing act amidst a rapidly shifting geopolitical landscape. The emphasis on strengthening security cooperation with Japan, as highlighted by Ambassador Lee Hyuk on April 27, signals a continued commitment to trilateral security frameworks with the United States, particularly in response to North Korea's persistent threats and China's growing influence. This aligns with the US strategy of enabling allies to take greater regional responsibility, as seen in the proposal for South Korea to become a Regional Sustainment Hub for US forces, which could enhance collective deterrence in the Indo-Pacific, especially concerning a Taiwan contingency. However, this closer alignment with the US and Japan risks exacerbating tensions with China, which has historically reacted strongly to perceived containment efforts, such as the 2017 THAAD deployment.

The ongoing economic crisis stemming from the Strait of Hormuz blockade further complicates South Korea's foreign policy. The fact that China reportedly received transit exemptions from Iran, while South Korea did not due to its US alliance, creates an "interest collision" that could push South Korean policymakers towards Beijing. President Lee Jae Myung's stated willingness to restore ties with China and the

January 2026 summit with President Xi Jinping, where both leaders pledged to boost trade and stability, indicate Seoul's pragmatic approach to managing its vital economic relationship with Beijing. This pragmatic diplomacy seeks to expand South Korea's strategic autonomy without signaling a departure from its alliance with the US.

North Korea's accelerated missile testing and nuclear program expansion, including ballistic missile launches from Sinpo and increased production at Yongbyon, continue to be a primary destabilizing factor in Northeast Asia. Pyongyang's deepening military cooperation with Russia, involving the exchange of weapons and technology, further complicates regional security by potentially enhancing North Korea's capabilities and undermining international sanctions. This dynamic forces South Korea to continuously bolster its own defense and seek stronger alliances, even as it navigates the economic pressures from the Middle East and the strategic rivalry between its major partners. The overall regional dynamic is one of increased complexity, with South Korea striving to maintain stability and protect its national interests through a multi-faceted diplomatic and defense strategy.

Military and Defense Analysis

South Korea's military and defense posture during this period demonstrates a clear trajectory towards enhanced self-reliance, modernization, and increased international interoperability. The alignment with the US on completing OPCON transfer by 2029 signifies a strategic shift towards South Korea assuming greater leadership in combined defense operations on the Korean Peninsula. This requires substantial investment in modernizing its military, a commitment reflected in the Lee administration's proposed increase in the defense budget to 3.5% of GDP and the development of an indigenous nuclear-powered attack submarine (SSN). The emphasis on SSNs is particularly notable, as they are seen as crucial for countering submarine activities by both North Korea and China, addressing a perceived endurance gap in South Korea's current diesel-electric fleet.

The decision for a South Korean admiral to command multinational naval forces in the upcoming RIMPAC exercise in June marks a significant step in elevating South Korea's role in international maritime security and demonstrating its growing naval capabilities. This participation, along with the deployment of advanced assets like the Aegis destroyer Jeongjo the Great, P-9 maritime patrol aircraft, and the Dosan Ahn Chang-ho submarine, underscores South Korea's commitment to protecting sea lines of communication and countering maritime threats in the Indo-Pacific. Furthermore, the substantial investment of 40 billion KRW (30 million USD) in military AI projects by the Ministry of National Defense by the end of 2026 highlights a forward-looking approach to defense modernization. These projects, spanning combat support,

personnel reduction, and defense operations efficiency, aim to leverage commercial AI to create an "AI-enabled advanced force," indicating a strategic shift towards technological superiority and efficiency in military operations.

South Korea's defense industry continues to be a significant driver of its defense policy and diplomatic outreach. The agreement with Poland on April 29 for the domestic production of K2 tanks, part of a larger \$6.7 billion deal, exemplifies South Korea's success as a defense exporter. This export expansion not only boosts its domestic defense industrial base but also fosters bilateral security relationships, potentially reducing its dependence on the US in certain areas. Overall, South Korea is actively pursuing a strategy of strengthening its force posture through advanced acquisitions, technological innovation, and increased leadership in international military cooperation, while simultaneously working towards greater strategic autonomy.

Outlook and Forecast

Short-term trends (1-3 months): In the immediate future, South Korea will likely continue its diplomatic efforts to manage the complex relationships with its key partners. We can anticipate further discussions and potential agreements regarding the US proposal for South Korea to become a Regional Sustainment Hub, as Seoul weighs the strategic benefits against potential economic repercussions from China. The upcoming RIMPAC exercise in June will be a significant event, showcasing South Korea's increased leadership in multinational maritime operations and further solidifying its alliance with the US and other Indo-Pacific partners. North Korea is expected to maintain its provocative stance, with continued missile tests and advancements in its nuclear program, especially given the ongoing Middle East conflict diverting international attention. The economic impact of the Strait of Hormuz blockade will remain a critical concern, pushing South Korea to explore alternative energy sources and supply chain resilience strategies.

Critical flashpoints and risk areas: The Korean Peninsula remains a primary flashpoint, with North Korea's escalating nuclear and missile capabilities and its rejection of dialogue with South Korea. Any miscalculation or aggressive action by Pyongyang could rapidly escalate tensions. The Strait of Hormuz continues to be a critical risk area, as its closure has already demonstrated severe economic consequences for South Korea. Prolonged disruption or further escalation in the Middle East could trigger another energy and supply chain shock, impacting South Korea's economy and potentially forcing difficult strategic choices. The Taiwan Strait also presents a potential flashpoint, as South Korea's increased operational role in a Taiwan contingency, as implied by the RSH proposal, could draw economic pressure from China.

Indicators to monitor: Key indicators to monitor include the frequency and nature of North Korean missile tests and any further developments at its nuclear facilities. The progress of the OPCON transfer and the implementation details of the Regional Sustainment Hub initiative will reveal the evolving dynamics of the US-South Korea alliance. South Korea's diplomatic engagements with China, particularly any high-level meetings or economic agreements, will be crucial in assessing the balance of its foreign policy. Furthermore, global energy prices and the resolution of the Strait of Hormuz situation will directly impact South Korea's economic stability. Domestically, the progress of South Korea's military AI projects and defense industry exports will indicate its commitment to modernization and strategic autonomy.

Strategic recommendations: South Korea should continue to diversify its energy sources and strengthen supply chain resilience to mitigate vulnerabilities exposed by events like the Strait of Hormuz blockade. Proactive diplomatic engagement with Middle Eastern partners, beyond traditional energy ties, is recommended to secure long-term stability. While strengthening its alliance with the US and Japan, South Korea should also maintain open and pragmatic communication channels with China to manage economic dependencies and regional stability. Investing further in indigenous defense capabilities, including advanced technologies like AI and nuclear-powered submarines, will be crucial for enhancing deterrence against North Korea and increasing strategic autonomy. Finally, South Korea should continue to advocate for international cooperation on cybersecurity, building on its participation in exercises like 'Locked Shields 2026' and its partnerships with countries like the Philippines.

Structured Assessment

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## ANNEX: COLLECTED ARTICLES BY SOURCE

### Source: Daily NK

- [North Korea forces coastal fish farms to ditch Chinese partners, upending trade deals](#) (2026-04-30 22:32)

North Korean authorities have been forcing coastal aquaculture enterprises in South Hwanghae province to abandon their existing Chinese trading partners and replace them with state-designated ones, voiding active contracts and leaving local workers to manage the fallout. A Daily NK source in South Hwanghae province said recently that aquaculture operations in Yonyon county and nearby [...]

- [North Korea selling publications and films on WeChat in China](#) (2026-04-30 17:40)

North Korea appears to be selling state publications, films, and promotional videos through WeChat, China's dominant messaging and social media platform, in what represents a deliberate shift toward monetizing content that Pyongyang once tightly restricted from leaving the country. A China-based source told Daily NK that a distribution channel operating under the name “朝中社 (DPRK)” [...]

- [North Korea's market price surge shows signs of easing](#) (2026-04-30 13:20)

North Korean market prices, which had nearly doubled since early February 2026, showed signs of easing in late April, according to Daily NK's latest market monitoring data. Analysts say the slowdown reflects a collapse in purchasing power among ordinary North Koreans rather than any improvement in supply. Grain prices edge lower across monitored markets Daily [...]

- [North Korean coal miners arrested for watching South Korean videos](#) (2026-04-30 13:14)

Dozens of young coal miners at a state-run mining complex in South Pyongan province were arrested in February after a joint inspection found they had been watching and sharing South Korean videos. Public denunciation sessions held April 13 and 14 exposed the extent of the violations, which authorities framed as an existential threat to the [...]

- [North Korean military brigade caught using civilian ringers in arts competition](#) (2026-04-30 07:26)

A North Korean military brigade stationed in South Hamgyong province has been caught infiltrating a soldiers' family arts competition with civilian participants, drawing a formal rebuke from the corps-level political bureau and leaving the unit branded with what insiders describe as a political black mark. According to a Daily NK source in South Hamgyong province, [...]

- [North Korean soldiers beat taxi driver who refused free ride in Hyesan](#) (2026-04-30 02:20)

Two soldiers beat a taxi driver bloody in Hyesan, Ryanggang province, after he refused to give them a free ride, according to a Daily NK source, highlighting the entrenched culture of military impunity that keeps many North Korean people living in fear. The incident occurred on April 18. The driver, a man in his 40s, [...]

- [North Korea's China consulates hit with sweeping inspection, pre-dawn raids](#) (2026-04-29 21:11)

North Korea's consulates in China were subjected to a sweeping inspection last month, with auditors conducting unannounced pre-dawn searches of staff residences on multiple occasions, Daily NK has learned. A source in China told Daily NK on Tuesday that inspection personnel dispatched by the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK), the ruling [...]

- [New satellite images reveal upgrades, freight activity at North Korea's Pyongsan uranium plant](#) (2026-04-29 17:40)

Satellite imagery of North Korea's Pyongsan uranium refinery shows the facility continuing to operate and undergo upgrades, with new construction, freight activity, and expanding waste deposits all pointing to sustained production in support of the country's nuclear weapons program. The Pyongsan uranium refinery, located in Pyonghwa-ri, Pyongsan county, North Hwanghae province, is North Korea's only [...]

- [North Korea demands identity checks on Chinese trading partners in bid to cut unofficial deals](#) (2026-04-29 09:48)

North Korea has ordered trade officials to submit detailed personal information on their Chinese business partners as part of a sweeping post-congress crackdown on unauthorized trade activity, a Daily NK source in Pyongyang reported on Monday. The Ministry of External Economic Affairs — the cabinet-level body overseeing North Korea's foreign trade and economic cooperation with [...]

- [North Korea's donju go dark as post-congress crackdown spreads fear](#) (2026-04-29 02:42)

North Korean donju — the wealthy private traders who form the backbone of the country's informal market economy — are going dark. Amid a sweeping crackdown on private wealth following the Ninth Workers' Party of Korea Congress, the fear gripping the country's merchant class has become all-consuming, with many choosing to vanish from public life [...]

- [North Korea's farm labor exemptions for top students spark fairness row](#) (2026-04-29 01:38)

A Ryanggang province party committee directive exempting top-scoring students from seasonal farm labor mobilization has ignited a fairness dispute among parents, with many arguing that school-level testing used to determine exemptions is too easy to manipulate, a Daily NK source

in Ryanggang province said on Monday. North Korea regularly mobilizes students from senior middle schools [...]

- [N. Korea security officials get rations but feel the squeeze](#) (2026-04-28 20:34)

North Korea distributed three months' worth of food rations to personnel at security agencies in Hamhung ahead of the April 15 birthday of state founder Kim Il Sung, but the recipients themselves greeted the windfall with mixed feelings, a Daily NK source in South Hamgyong province said on Friday. North Korea's public distribution system, which [...]

- [Pyongyang tells Kangwon province: use science and talent to hit second-quarter targets](#) (2026-04-28 18:31)

North Korea's central party authorities have issued a directive to the Kangwon province party committee ordering officials to use science, technology, and talent development to drive progress on 12 key state projects during the second quarter of 2026, a Daily NK source in Kangwon province said on Friday. The Ninth Party Congress, which convened in [...]

- [A mended plastic bag from North Korea tells the story the regime won't](#) (2026-04-28 13:27)

On April 15, the day North Korea marks the birth of founding leader Kim Il Sung with elaborate state celebrations, I was combing through debris washed ashore on the rugged coastline of Yeonpyeong Island in the West Sea. Among the refuse, I found a tattered plastic bag. In six years of searching the coasts of [...]

- [Three words humbled a North Korean checkpoint inspector and got him reassigned](#) (2026-04-28 09:34)

A single claim of membership in the Kim Il Sung-Kim Jong Il Fund was enough to cut short the career of a North Korean checkpoint inspector in South Hwanghae province, according to a Daily NK source in Pyongyang. The Kim Il Sung-Kim Jong Il Fund is a state-affiliated fund established by North Korea to collect [...]

- [North Korea intensifies anti-American indoctrination for middle and high school students](#) (2026-04-27 20:41)

North Korean authorities are significantly expanding anti-American ideological education targeting middle and high school students, ordering the content to be woven into virtually every school subject. The move points to deepening official anxiety about ideological drift among the country's younger generation. A source in North Hamgyong province told Daily NK on Friday that on April [...]

- [Air conditioners become a must-have in North Korea as summers grow hotter](#) (2026-04-27 17:21)

Air conditioners are fast becoming a household essential in North Korea, with demand surging ahead of what many expect to be another punishing summer. The shift marks a notable change in a country where cooling units were long considered a luxury reserved for the privileged. A source in North Pyongan province told Daily NK on [...]

- [North Korea orders border residents to dress neatly as China camera surveillance grows](#) (2026-04-27 09:40)

North Korean authorities in April ordered people living near the Chinese border to dress neatly and mind their behavior along the riverbank, according to Daily NK sources, apparently in response to a rise in Chinese nationals filming North Koreans across the water and sharing the footage online. A source in north Hamgyong province told Daily [...]

- [North Korean officials skeptical of Kim Ju Ae as successor despite military appearances](#) (2026-04-27 09:03)

Kim Ju Ae, the daughter of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, made another high-profile appearance at a military event in April 2026, this time observing the test launch of the Hwasong-11Ra tactical ballistic missile on April 19. The appearance has reignited debate over whether she is being groomed as her father's successor. Yet sources [...]

## Source: Hankyoreh

- [Unification minister blasts PPP for 'excessive deference' to US](#) (2026-05-01 06:01)
- [Fees and fears of sanctions complicate efforts to free Korean ships in Strait of Hormuz](#) (2026-05-01 06:01)
- [Iranian media praises Korea for 'positive and constructive approach' during war](#) (2026-05-01 06:01)
- [90 lawmakers protest US Republicans for 'infringing' on Korea's judicial sovereignty](#) (2026-05-01 06:01)
- [Trump's trigger-happy arrogance may have started another forever war](#) (2026-04-30 12:01)
- [Korean anti-trust agency names Bom Kim as Coupang's de facto controller](#) (2026-04-30 12:01)
- [\[Editorial\] USFK commander's 'kill web' idea is dangerous and unworkable](#) (2026-04-30 12:01)

- [Trump’s worst-case scenario of a Cold War-like stalemate with Iran may already be here](#) (2026-04-30 12:01)
- [\[Editorial\] Coupang’s Kim must respect Korean law to earn Koreans’ trust](#) (2026-04-30 12:01)
- [Lee asks lawmakers not to stir the pot in foreign affairs](#) (2026-04-30 12:01)
- [Limited deal to reopen Hormuz is most realistic path forward for US and Iran, says expert](#) (2026-04-30 12:01)
- [My husband left Gaza to help us build a better life — then the war kept us apart](#) (2026-04-29 12:01)
- [\[Breaking\] Appeals court sentences Yoon to 7 years for obstructing arrest](#) (2026-04-29 12:01)
- [Time to put North Korea’s denuclearization on the back burner, says Victor Cha](#) (2026-04-29 12:01)
- [\[Editorial\] Appeal ruling rectifies lower court’s lenience on ex-first lady Kim Keon-hee’s corruption](#) (2026-04-29 12:01)
- [Lee says Korea must be able to defend itself without foreign troops, states resolve to reclaim OPCON by 2028](#) (2026-04-29 12:01)
- [Korean employer arrested for assault on Thai worker that caused organ damage](#) (2026-04-29 12:01)
- [North Korea and Russia hail ties ‘written in blood,’ discuss continued military cooperation](#) (2026-04-28 12:01)
- [80+ Korean lawmakers cosign letter protesting US pressure on Coupang investigation](#) (2026-04-28 12:01)
- [\[Column\] US shows China its limits in Iran war](#) (2026-04-28 12:01)
- [US lawmaker behind Coupang letter met PPP leader, voiced ‘concerns’ over company’s treatment](#) (2026-04-28 12:01)

- [Succession spotlight on Kim Ju-ae may cause rifts in North Korean regime, says analyst](#) (2026-04-28 12:01)
- [Korean stock market tops \\$4.1 trillion in value, more than doubling in a year](#) (2026-04-28 12:01)
- [\[Editorial\] South Korea must turn to multifaceted diplomacy as North Korea-Russia military ties deepen](#) (2026-04-28 12:01)
- [Appeals court sentences Kim Keon-hee to 4 years on corruption conviction](#) (2026-04-28 12:01)
- [Is Lee about to realize Korea's long-cherished dream of reclaiming wartime OPCON?](#) (2026-04-27 12:01)
- [\[Column\] Don't shoot the messenger](#) (2026-04-27 12:01)
- [Coupang dispute puts South Korea-US security cooperation in jeopardy](#) (2026-04-27 12:01)
- [\[Editorial\] Another act of political violence, another red flag for America's democracy](#) (2026-04-27 12:01)
- [Big lessons from how we treat the littlest of creatures](#) (2026-04-27 12:01)
- [\[Column\] People do not live on bread alone](#) (2026-04-27 12:01)

## Source: Korea Times

- [Special counsel says signs found of martial law preparations since early 2024](#) (2026-05-04 05:57)

A special counsel team said Monday it has found signs a military unit was making preparations for martial law operations in the first half of 2024, well before former President Yoon Suk Yeol's declaration in December of that year. "(We) have confirmed signs that the Defense Counterintelligence Command prepared for martial law since the first half of 2024," assistant special counsel Kim Ji-mi said in a briefing. The special counsel team is tasked with investigating allegations surrounding the ousted former president, including his failed bid to impose martial law, which have not been covered by previous special counsels.

- [Human rights watchdog chief says 'extreme' early education poses serious rights issue](#) (2026-05-04 05:57)

The head of the national human rights watchdog on Monday took issue with the country's "excessive" early education fervor for young children, saying it is depriving them of their childhood. Private preschool programs, especially those specializing in English, have recently come under growing scrutiny over their intensive classes designed to prepare young children for competitive academic admissions. "The expansion of extreme early education is a serious children's rights problem," Ahn Chang-ho, chair of the National Human Rights Commission, said in a statement released a day before Children's Day. "Such excessive early education deprives children from time to play, rest and express themselves, as well as undermining their healthy growth and development," he said. Ahn cited a recent United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) report that ranked Korea fourth in terms of children's skills, but 34th in mental health and 28th in physical health out of 43 countries in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the European Union. "While our children could be leading in ter

- [Half of upper elementary students use smart devices for over 2 hours](#) (2026-05-04 05:57)

Nearly one out of every 2 upper-grade elementary school students use smart devices, such as smartphones and tablets, for more than two hours a day after school, a survey showed Monday. The Korean Teachers and Education Workers' Union conducted the survey on 2,804 elementary school students in grades 4 through 6 from April 9-22 and released the results ahead of Tuesday's 104th Children's Day. Nearly half of them, or 49.2 percent, answered that they use smart devices for more than two hours after school. Specifically, 21.1 percent reported using smart devices for two to three hours, followed by 15.9 percent for three to four hours and 12.2 percent for more than four hours. In particular, it was found that smart device use increases as students' grade level rises. On the other hand, only 4.7 percent of the respondents said they do not use smart devices after school. Notably, 7 in 10 respondents said they use generative AI, such as ChatGPT and Gemini. In response to a question about their experience using AI, 57.4 percent reported using it "occasionally" and 14.7 percent reported using it "fr

- [SeoulTech bets on industry-embedded campus model to stand out in AI era](#) (2026-05-04 05:57)

Seoul National University of Science and Technology (SeoulTech) is doubling down on its identity as a practice-oriented institution, pushing to train graduate-level researchers in advanced fields and position itself as the go-to partner for Korean industry. President Kim Dong-hwan, who took office in December 2023, has centered his agenda on education innovation, stronger research capacity, deeper industry-academia cooperation and an expanded startup ecosystem. "SeoulTech is reinforcing a system where research outcomes translate into technology transfer and commercialization, drawing on its strengths in applied research and industry collaboration to build a university model that contributes to industrial development and national competitiveness," Kim said during a recent interview with The Korea Times. "To produce top-tier engineers in advanced fields — particularly semiconductors and AI (artificial intelligence) — training must extend beyond the undergraduate level to graduate education," he said, emphasizing that the university's core strategy is to supply

industry with

- [Seoul steps up school support for immigrant youth](#) (2026-05-04 05:57)

Seoul will strengthen educational and emotional support for immigrant youth with a range of expanded programs to facilitate their integration into school life. Immigrant youth are those who enter Korea between ages 9 and 24 after being born and raised abroad, including children of multicultural families, overseas Koreans and those born abroad to North Korean defectors who married foreign nationals. The Seoul Metropolitan Government said Monday the expanded programs are available at the Seoul Global Youth Education Center in Yeongdeungpo District, where key programs include Korean language classes on weekday afternoons and weekends. To accommodate students' schedules, the center has expanded its class hours to run weekdays from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For immigrant youth newly enrolled in university and struggling with academic language and peer relationships, the center offers tailored mentoring and multilingual peer counseling led by fellow immigrant youth who majored in psychology. To further expand its reach, the center signed agreements in February with

- [Special counsel appeals ex-first lady's 4-year corruption sentence to Supreme Court](#) (2026-05-04 05:57)

A special counsel team said Monday it has challenged an appeals court ruling sentencing former first lady Kim Keon Hee to four years in prison on corruption charges. The Seoul High Court raised Kim's sentence from 20 months to four years in prison Tuesday, finding her partially guilty of involvement in a stock price manipulation scheme and guilty of accepting luxury gifts from the Unification Church. Special counsel Min Joong-ki's team had sought a 15-year prison term for the wife of former President Yoon Suk Yeol after indicting her on charges of violating the Capital Markets Act, the Political Funds Act and a law on the acceptance of bribes for mediation. The team appears to have appealed the ruling to the Supreme Court to dispute the appellate court's acquittal of her on charges of violating the political fund law for allegedly receiving free opinion poll results from a self-proclaimed power broker. The appeals court had extended Kim's sentence after reversing a lower court ruling that acquitted her of taking part in the stock price manipulation scheme and found her guilty of only acc

- [Lee's approval rating falls below 60%: poll](#) (2026-05-04 05:57)

President Lee Jae Myung's approval rating fell below the 60 percent mark for the first time in two months partly due to growing concerns over people's livelihoods, a survey showed Monday. According to the survey conducted by Realmeter and commissioned by the EKN newspaper among 2,006 respondents aged 18 and older, the positive assessment of Lee's performance slipped 2.7 percentage points to 59.5 percent. Negative assessments rose 1.6 percentage points to 35 percent, while 5.5 percent said they were unsure. Lee's approval rating had stayed above 60 percent for seven consecutive weeks since the second week of March before dropping in the latest poll. Realmeter said the decline was marked by a decline in support among centrist voters

and vulnerable groups sensitive to the cost of living, citing mounting pressure from rising oil and consumer prices. The pollster also attributed the fall to the recent controversy over Unification Minister Chung Dong-young's reference to North Korea's Kusong region as one of the sites hosting the country's uranium enrichment facilities, which Washington reports

- [New Korean initiative honors foreign workers killed on job](#) (2026-05-03 23:57)

On the quiet morning of March 20 at Incheon International Airport, the head of a government agency responsible for administering industrial accident insurance stood before a memorial adorned with flowers and a photo of Nguyen Van Tuan, a 23-year-old Vietnamese worker who died 10 days earlier in a conveyor belt accident at a gravel factory in Icheon, Gyeonggi Province. As president of the Korea Workers' Compensation and Welfare Service (K-COMWEL), Park Jong-kil bowed deeply, offered flowers and placed his hand on the shoulder of Tuan's friend who was there to escort his remains home. In halting words bridged by interpreters, Park delivered a letter expressing gratitude for Tuan's contributions to Korea and offering sympathy. "The language was different, but the grief was the same," he recalled in an interview at the agency's Seoul office on April 23, ahead of Industrial Accident Workers' Memorial Week (April 28-May 4). That airport farewell marked the debut of the country's first pilot scheme expanding funeral support for deceased foreign workers, a benefit the agency is

- [Nearly 120,000 people receive over \\$1,360 in monthly pensions: data](#) (2026-05-03 11:57)

Almost 120,000 people in Korea currently receive a monthly payment of over 2 million won (\$1,360), data from the state-run pension agency showed Sunday. A total of 116,166 people received more than 2 million won in pensions as of the end of January, according to the data from the National Pension Service (NPS). The monthly amount is widely considered the threshold to maintain a stable standard of living without additional income after retirement, according to a survey conducted by the National Pension Research Institute in 2024. The number of such recipients has increased sharply from 10 people in 2018 to 437 in 2020 and 93,350 people in 2025. Seoul first introduced the pension scheme in 1988. Such a steep rise is attributable to an annual raise in pension payments to reflect inflation, and a growing number of long-term pension holders, notably those who have subscribed to the service for more than 20 years. By gender, only 2.2 percent of the high pension receivers were women, likely due to many women being employed at low-paying jobs, or discontinuing their careers due to child birth or p

- [Busan draws over 1 mil. foreign tourists in Q1 at record pace](#) (2026-05-03 05:57)

Busan welcomed more than 1.02 million foreign tourists in the first quarter of this year, surpassing the 1 million mark faster than ever, as the southern port city emerges as a fast-rising tourist destination in Asia. The Busan Metropolitan Government said Friday that the speed with which the number of international visitors exceeded 1 million was the fastest since the city began tracking foreign tourist arrivals in 2014, surpassing last April's record by a month. By nationality, Taiwan led with 208,984 visitors, accounting for about 20 percent of the total,

followed by China with 197,958, Japan with 130,217, the United States with 81,437 and Vietnam with 44,352. Visitors from the Philippines, Hong Kong and Indonesia rounded out the top eight, a spread the city said reflects growing market diversification, putting it on track for its goal of drawing 5 million foreign visitors by 2028. Foreign tourist spending in the first quarter also rose to 235.5 billion won (\$159.4 million), up 26.4 percent from the same period last year. The city credited the growth to expanded maritime tourism thro

- [Pilot exodus in military: Air Force loses veteran pilots to commercial airlines](#) (2026-05-03 05:57)

Hundreds of veteran Air Force pilots have left the military for commercial airlines over the past decade amid poor working conditions, causing significant losses for the military, data showed. According to Air Force data submitted to Rep. Kang Dae-sik of the main opposition People Power Party, a member of the National Assembly's National Defense Committee, Sunday, a total of 896 veteran pilots voluntarily left the service from 2017 to March this year. The term "veteran pilots" refers to those with eight to 17 years of experience who are capable of independently carrying out operations and training lower-grade pilots. In the first three months of this year alone, 47 pilots left the Air Force to join civilian airlines. Of the total, up to 622, or 69.4 percent, joined Korean Air, the country's flagship carrier, while 147, or 16.4 percent, joined Asiana Airlines and 103, or 11.5 percent, joined low-cost carriers. Separate 2025 data compiled by Rep. Kim Byung-kee of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea, another member of the National Assembly's National Defense Committee, showed that 113 v

- [Korean adoptee to Sweden traces roots to ancient kingdom founder](#) (2026-05-03 05:57)

Jenny Dargren, 51, a Korean adoptee to Sweden, says her years-long search for her biological family led to an unexpected discovery — a possible lineage linked to Dae Jo-yeong, founder of Korea's ancient Balhae Kingdom (698-926). Born in Korea under the name Tae Jeong-sun, Dargren was adopted to Sweden as an infant in 1975 with little known background. She had questioned her identity for most of her life and began actively searching for her origins around 2014. "I reached out to a lot of government agencies and submitted DNA to multiple databases, but to find my biological family needs their approval, so everything remained sealed," Dargren told The Korea Times in a recent interview. However, a different route led to a breakthrough. After multiple inquiries to adoption agencies and local governments, Dargren was eventually connected — through officials in Gyeongsan, North Gyeongsang Province — to members of the "Yeongsun Tae" clan. The Tae clan is centered in a small community known as "Balhae Village" in Gyeongsan, where dozens of families bearing the Tae surname, believed to be desce

- [Police impose travel ban on Japanese K-pop trainee over alleged fraud](#) (2026-05-03 05:57)

Seoul Yeongdeungpo Police Station recently banned the trainee from leaving Korea after the group's management agency had filed a complaint over his having previously signed with another company. According to police and the agency, the man, whose identity is being withheld, walked out on a six-member boy group last December, two months ahead of its

debut, citing "broken trust." The group had already shot a music video and released its first single on streaming platforms. The agency had also unveiled all six members of the group, which is currently working as a quintet sans the Japanese member. The agency belatedly learned that the missing member had already signed a deal with another management company, but he reneged on his commitment with that company as well. "He had signed with Korean agencies and made them spend large amounts of money on him, and then gone missing just before his groups were about to make their debuts," the agency that filed the police complaint said. "Smaller agencies may not pursue legal action in these instances because doing so can be time-consuming and costly, a

- [Korea's erotic film festival breaks down long-standing taboos](#) (2026-05-02 23:57)

Erotic expression in art and film has long faced censorship and resistance. A new film screening series started in Korea last year aims to challenge the dominant discourse and break down long-standing taboos. Held under the name The Love, the screening series was born out of a collaboration between Seoul-based artist Jeon Suhyun from the newly formed One More Pink cineclub collective and visiting Amsterdam-based Korean artist, film curator and organizer Hyeisoo Kim from the Porn Film Festival Amsterdam (PFFA). They held two screenings last year at small venues around Seoul. The third in the series, planned for May 9, is organized by One More Pink and will feature two documentaries about the diverse lives of Korean sex workers. At the end of last year's second screening, Jeon and Kim introduced their respective projects to the audience. Kim began by describing her philosophy around erotic films' positive role in bringing people together. "In my case, I see porn as primarily not just about sex but about showing the relationships between people," Kim told the audience. "Porn that m

- [S. Korea takes cautious stance after US tariff hike on EU](#) (2026-05-02 17:57)

South Korea will carefully assess how the Trump administration's move to raise tariffs on the European Union (EU)'s autos and trucks could affect its own trade deal with the United States and respond accordingly, a Cheong Wa Dae official said Saturday. The comments came after U.S. President Donald Trump said Friday (local time) that his administration will increase tariffs on cars and trucks from the EU to 25 percent next week, from the 15 percent rate agreed under last year's tariff deal. Prior to the agreement, the rate had been set at 27.5 percent. The announcement draws attention in Seoul, as South Korea has a similar tariff deal with the U.S. under which the rate was reduced to 15 percent from 25 percent. "We will monitor related developments, analyze potential impact on us and respond accordingly," a Cheong Wa Dae official said by phone, saying the government has been closely watching related developments. "The government is closely and frequently communicating with the U.S. side to discuss ways to implement our tariff agreement with the U.S. and we will continue efforts to ensure

- [Progressive civic group holds protest rally outside US Embassy](#) (2026-05-02 17:57)

A progressive civic group held a protest rally outside the U.S. Embassy in Seoul on Saturday, chanting slogans accusing the United States of interfering in South Korea's domestic affairs. An

estimated 500 protesters, according to police, gathered outside the U.S. Embassy compound in central Gwanghwamun, holding placards condemning the U.S. for undermining South Korea's sovereignty and interfering in its domestic affairs by requesting that Seoul lift an exit ban on Bang Si-hyuk, chairman of K-pop entertainment powerhouse Hybe. They also charged that the U.S. is "attacking" President Lee Jae Myung because Lee has refused to provide support for its war against Iran and is seeking an early transfer of wartime operational control from the U.S. They denounced Washington for restricting intelligence-sharing with Seoul on North Korea after taking issue with what it sees as Unification Minister Chung Dong-young's unilateral disclosure of shared intelligence on an unidentified North Korean nuclear facility, as well as for nominating Michelle Park Steel, a conservative former Republican lawmaker,

- [Fetus dies after 29-week pregnant woman transferred from Cheongju to Busan amid hospital search delays](#) (2026-05-02 05:57)

A 29-week pregnant woman in Cheongju was forced to wait more than three hours to find a hospital for emergency delivery before being airlifted to Busan, where her fetus ultimately died. According to fire authorities on May 2, a 119 emergency call was received at 11:03 p.m. the previous day from an obstetrics clinic in Heungdeok-gu, Cheongju, reporting that the fetus of a woman in her 30s was experiencing a drop in heart rate. The clinic requested an urgent transfer to a higher-level hospital. The woman had already been admitted to the clinic at the time. The facility reportedly contacted six hospitals across the Chungcheong region, including North Chungcheong, South Chungcheong, Daejeon and Sejong, but was told that transfer was not possible due to reasons such as a lack of available specialists. As delays mounted, fire authorities broadened their search nationwide and eventually secured acceptance from Dong-A University Hospital. The patient was transported by helicopter, arriving after approximately three hours and 30 minutes. Despite the efforts, the fetus did not survive. The woman is

- [Drugs in tea packaging found off Jeju coast again, marking 21st case](#) (2026-05-02 05:57)

A substance suspected of being drugs hidden in tea packaging has been discovered off the coast of Jeju Island again, raising concerns among the authorities about possible smuggling via maritime routes. According to the Jeju Coast Guard, an object believed to contain narcotics was collected at around 6:30 a.m. April 30 from rocks near the dock on Gapado, in Daejeong-eup, Seogwipo. The item was reported by a coastal environmental volunteer who found it among piles of debris during a cleanup activity. The recovered object weighed about 1 kilogram and was wrapped in silver-colored tea packaging, matching the appearance of similar drug packs found along Jeju's coastline since last year. The authorities said part of the outer packaging had been damaged, allowing seawater to seep inside. A preliminary field test conducted by the coast guard showed a positive reaction for ketamine, an illicit drug. Officials have requested a detailed forensic analysis from the National Forensic Service to confirm its exact composition and trace its origin. This marks the first such discovery in about a month,

- [Unionized workers of Samsung Biologics continue strike for 2nd day](#) (2026-05-02 05:57)

Unionized workers at Samsung Biologics, the biotech arm of Samsung Group, continued to stage a strike Saturday for a second day, according to union officials, with the union and the company showing little signs of bridging gaps over wages and other issues. The union of Samsung Biologics began the strike on Friday, marking the first walkout since the company's establishment in 2011. The union is seeking a 14 percent increase in both base and performance-related pay, a one-off cash incentive of 30 million won per worker and bonuses equivalent to 20 percent of annual operating profit. The company has proposed a combined 6.2 percent increase in base and performance pay.

- [Main opposition picks supreme council member as candidate for Gyeonggi Province governor](#) (2026-05-02 05:57)

Yang Hyang-ja, a member of the main opposition People Power Party (PPP)'s supreme council, was nominated as the party's candidate for Gyeonggi Province governor in the June 3 local elections, the party said Saturday. The PPP's nomination committee announced the results of a primary held from Thursday to Friday. Yang is widely known for rising to the rank of an executive at Samsung Electronics in 2014 after joining the company as a vocational high school graduate without a college degree in 1985. Her political career began in 2016 when she was recruited by former President Moon Jae-in, then leader of the Democratic Party of Korea (DPK). She was elected to the National Assembly in 2020. In the upcoming election, Yang will compete against DPK Rep. Choo Mi-ae, a six-term lawmaker who served as justice minister under the Moon administration, to secure the governorship of South Korea's most populous province with about 14 million people. Eyes are on whether she will unify her candidacy with the minor New Reform Party candidate, Cho Eung-chon. With Yang's nomination, the PPP has completed its can

- [\[MORNING CALM TALES\] Half-dreaming through early-morning English in 1990s](#) (2026-05-01 23:57)

Throughout the 1990s, the insatiable thirst of Koreans for mastering English was unmatched, eclipsed only by the frustration that accompanied their quest for fluency. It manifested in the vast sea of language institutions, academies and university programs, and in the staggering multimillion-won industry of English books, cassette tapes and glossy self-study materials. At the time, I was teaching at ELS, one of Seoul's top English academies, a place where that national obsession played out day after day in packed classrooms. In the late summer of 1991, ELS management hatched an audacious plan — to introduce early morning classes. The rationale was simple: Certain language learners, particularly salarymen, would welcome the opportunity to study English before work. After 12 hours at the office, evenings were an exhausted blur, so why not shift the burden forward, into the still-dark dawn? Instead of dragging themselves through conversation drills at 9 p.m., students could arrive fresh — at least in theory — at 6:30 a.m. and leave at 8:10 a.m., just in time to catch the subway to

- [Too many trainers: Seoul's Pokemon event canceled due to large crowd](#) (2026-05-01 11:57)

A free Pokémon card giveaway at Seoul Forest was canceled Friday after an estimated 40,000 people flooded the Seongsu-dong area by noon, overwhelming the venue and prompting safety concerns on Korea's first Labor Day as an official public holiday. Pokémon Korea posted a notice on its social media channels announcing the cancellation of the on-site giveaway, which had been organized as part of its 30th-anniversary celebration "Pokemon Mega Festa" alongside the Seoul International Garden Show. "The giveaway event promo card 'Magikarp' has been canceled due to on-site safety concerns," the notice read, adding that applications would instead be accepted later through an online form. "Everyone who met the event conditions today will receive the items, so please feel free to leave the event." The Seoul city government is reported to have requested the cancellation. The event had offered a rare promotional Magikarp card, one of the franchise's characters, along with a themed sun visor in exchange for collecting stamps across the area. The combination of a national holiday, a rare collectible

- [6 out of 10 Koreans back raising senior age threshold to 70](#) (2026-05-01 11:57)

A growing majority of Koreans support raising the legal age for senior benefits from 65 to 70, according to a survey, Thursday, as debate over one of the country's most symbolic age-based welfare policies — free subway rides for seniors aged 65 and older — gains momentum amid rising fiscal pressure and rapid population aging. A Gallup Korea survey conducted from April 28 to 30 found that 59 percent of respondents supported increasing the age threshold for senior benefits to 70 from the current 65, while 30 percent opposed it and 12 percent had no opinion. The results show a shift in public opinion over the past decade, with support for the proposal rising from 46 percent in 2015. In a 2023 survey, 60 percent of respondents favored raising the senior age threshold for basic pensions and elderly benefits to 70, while 34 percent opposed it. Support for raising the threshold was relatively consistent across age groups, ranging between 55 percent and 65 percent. People in their 30s showed the highest support at 65 percent, while those in their 60s were the least supportive at 55 perc

- [Teacher's 'melon seed' comment sparks backlash — health experts say eating them is actually beneficial](#) (2026-05-01 11:57)

Click here for more articles by Kormedi.com. A South Korean teacher is facing criticism after claiming that children who eat Korean melon seeds are more likely to come from disadvantaged backgrounds — a remark that has ignited debate online and drawn attention to misconceptions about food and health. The controversy began when a current teacher, identified as A, posted on the anonymous workplace app Blind. In the post, the teacher wrote, "My husband eats Korean melon seeds too. I didn't notice when we were dating, but after marriage, I started to feel differences even in small things." The teacher went on to say, "I see many children at school, and those who eat fruit seeds are usually from single-parent families or households that are not well-off," adding, "I was taught properly about these things growing up." The comments quickly drew backlash. Many users criticized the teacher for making assumptions about children based on eating habits. "It's shocking that a teacher judges students by whether they eat Korean melon seeds," one commenter said. Others said, "Whether someone eats

- ['Child nearly dies from mosquito bite': comedian Lee Soo-ji's kindergarten satire sequel draws explosive response](#) (2026-05-01 05:57)

Comedian Lee Soo-ji has once again sparked widespread reaction with a second YouTube video sharply satirizing the harsh realities faced by kindergarten and daycare teachers. Current and former childcare workers flooded the comments section, saying that "reality is even worse than the video," while criticizing unreasonable demands from some parents. The clip drew explosive engagement, surpassing 10,000 comments within a day of its release. The video was uploaded on April 29 to Lee's YouTube channel "Hot Issue Ji" under the title "A spring day of kindergarten teacher Lee Min-ji (feat. mosquitoes): Real extreme job documentary." The skit follows a fictional kindergarten teacher, Lee Min-ji, played by Lee Soo-ji, portraying a day in her life. It is a sequel released about three weeks after the first installment, "The never-ending 24 hours of kindergarten teacher Lee Min-ji: Real extreme job documentary," which was posted April 7 and went viral with 5.89 million views. In the new episode, a child is bitten by a mosquito during an outdoor activity, prompting the teacher to call an ambulance.

- [Wild boar sightings in Seoul surge 137%](#) (2026-05-01 05:57)

A video of firefighters struggling to subdue a wild boar in an apartment building in Seoul's Mapo District went viral, April 27. The footage shows four firefighters wrestling with the animal before it was eventually killed. Six days earlier, Ewha Womans University put up an unusual notice for dormitory residents, warning them about wild boars on campus and advising them not to walk alone at night, or make any sudden or provocative movements if they encounter one. The university said it had increased patrols while spraying repellent, but failed to spot or capture any animal. The number of wild boar sightings has been on the rise over the past few years. The incidents reflect a broader trend. According to the Seoul Metropolitan Government, the number of wild boars reported in the city rose 137 percent, from 205 in 2022 to 486 in 2024. Eunpyeong District recorded the most cases at 158, followed by Dobong District with 126 and Seongbuk District with 79. Fire department callouts related to wild boars in Seoul reached 589 in 2024, up 55.4 percent from 2022, with 290 cases already logged in the first half of the year.

- [Majority of S. Koreans back raising senior age to 70: poll](#) (2026-05-01 05:57)

A majority of South Koreans support raising the country's senior age threshold to 70 from the current 65, a survey by Gallup Korea showed Friday. The survey, conducted from Tuesday to Thursday on 1,002 adults aged 18 and older, found that 59 percent of respondents favored raising the eligibility age for senior benefits. Opposition stood at 30 percent, while 12 percent either declined to answer or said they were unsure. In similar surveys conducted in 2015 and 2023, 46 percent and 60 percent of respondents, respectively, backed raising the threshold. The poll also found 60 percent of respondents believe individuals should be primarily responsible for their own livelihood in old age. By contrast, 29 percent said the government and society should take responsibility, while 4 percent said such responsibility fell on their offspring and 3 percent chose other options. Across all age groups, more than half said individuals should take primary responsibility for their retirement.

- [Drug supplier to notorious drug kingpin Park Wang-yeol repatriated from Thailand](#) (2026-05-01 05:57)

A key drug supplier linked to infamous trafficker Park Wang-yeol was repatriated from Thailand on Friday to face investigation and possible criminal charges in his home country. The suspect, surnamed Choi, arrived at Incheon International Airport earlier in the day and was escorted directly to a police vehicle. He did not answer questions from reporters about his alleged ties to Park. Choi is accused of smuggling and distributing illegal drugs worth 10 billion won (\$6.77 million) since 2019. Police said the investigation will focus on the nature of his relationship with Park, as well as suspected transactions and criminal proceeds. Choi is believed to have led a luxurious life overseas, funded by illicit activities. He first came to authorities' attention during the investigation into Park, who was repatriated from the Philippines on March 25. Park is accused of trafficking methamphetamine into South Korea from overseas. He was returned in a temporary repatriation under an extradition treaty between Seoul and Manila. He had been serving a 60-year prison sentence in the Philippines for the

- [S. Korean envoy stresses commitment to 'peaceful coexistence' on peninsula, denuclearization](#) (2026-05-01 05:57)

WASHINGTON — South Korea's top envoy to the U.N. on Thursday reaffirmed Seoul's commitment to "peaceful coexistence" on the Korean Peninsula and denuclearization, as he explained its policy to reduce military tensions and build trust with North Korea. Ambassador Cha Ji-hoon delivered a speech during a U.N. Security Council (UNSC) meeting in New York, as the United States and other countries marked two years since a U.N. expert panel, tasked with monitoring the enforcement of sanctions on North Korea, was disbanded following Russia's veto of a resolution to extend its mandate. "Since the inauguration of the Lee Jae Myung administration last year, the Republic of Korea has consistently pursued a vision of a peaceful (Korean) peninsula built on reconciliation and cooperation rather than hostility and confrontation," he said, referring to South Korea by its official name. "We remain committed to respecting the DPRK system, pursuing neither hostility nor unification by absorption. In this spirit, the Republic of Korea has taken proactive steps to reduce tensions and build trust with the DP

- [Lee vows zero compromise on workplace safety in Labor Day address](#) (2026-05-01 05:57)

President Lee Jae Myung on Friday pledged unwavering commitment to workplace safety in his address to mark Labor Day at Cheong Wa Dae. "I will neither compromise nor make concessions on workplace safety," he said, vowing to build a "normal" country where no worker ever has to risk their life at work. "Safeguarding workers is the most basic responsibility of any nation and any business," he said. The president also pushed back against the notion that worker welfare and business growth are incompatible, stressing the two are mutually dependent. "We can only move forward by breaking free from the outdated thinking that being pro-business means being anti-worker," he said. "Growth has a future only when labor stands behind it" he said. Amid growing concerns that artificial intelligence (AI) threatens jobs, the

president sought to reassure the public that the government prioritizes people over productivity. "As technologies advance, the prevailing view is that machines powered by artificial intelligence will largely replace human labor," he said. "But it is not right to ask workers to sacrifice

- [Union wants foreign language teachers to know their rights](#) (2026-04-30 23:57)

She broke her foot, and still had to go to work. While her students were busy taking a test, she had the audacity to sit down, just to take pressure off her broken foot for a moment. Her boss was watching over CCTV, and came in to berate her for this infraction in front of the class. The teacher, who wished to be identified only as Day, said this experience pushed her to take action. She joined the Native Teachers' Branch of the Korean General Labor Union (KGLU), which is affiliated with the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions (KCTU). Originally named "Native English Teachers' Branch" in 2024, the word "English" was removed as the organization grew. "Now that we've grown, we have native teachers of other languages, such as Chinese and Japanese, that face the issues we face," said Day, who is now chair of the Seoul branch. "We changed the name to reflect that diversity and to be more welcoming to those teachers who need assistance and aid." She also added that some of the members are Korean nationals, and some aren't even currently teachers. This includes those who are studying for further

- [Trump Jr. gets taste of Seoul's famed pork belly scene](#) (2026-04-30 17:57)

Donald Trump Jr. added an unmistakably Korean stop to his Seoul itinerary this week: sizzling pork belly at one of the city's best-known barbecue restaurants. The eldest son of U.S. President Donald Trump was spotted at Geumdwaegi Sikdang, or Gold Pig Restaurant, in Jung District, Seoul, where he signed an interior door and wrote "2026" beside his name, according to local media reports. He also posed for a photo with a restaurant official. The restaurant is no ordinary neighborhood barbecue joint. Known for drawing long lines and celebrity diners, Geumdwaegi Sikdang has built a reputation as one of Seoul's most recognizable pork barbecue spots. Former soccer star David Beckham is among the high-profile visitors who have eaten there. The restaurant is best known for pork belly and other grilled pork cuts, making Trump Jr.'s visit a distinctly local stop during a trip otherwise watched for its business and political connections. Trump Jr.'s restaurant visit came during a private trip to Korea that has drawn attention because of his ties with Shinsegae Group Chairman Chung Yong-

- [Warehouse-style pharmacies pressure neighborhood drugstores](#) (2026-04-30 17:57)

At the first-floor entrance of the new wing of Yongsan Eland, one of Korea's largest electronics marketplaces, stands Medikingdom Pharmacy, a warehouse-style pharmacy that opened in February. Occupying one of the building's prime retail spots, the store spans 1,178 square meters — roughly 24 times the size of a typical neighborhood pharmacy, which average about 50 square meters. More striking than its size is the way the pharmacy sells medicine. Dozens of display shelves, each measuring 2.5 meters wide and 2 meters tall, were lined with over-the-counter drugs organized by category, including vitamins, pain relief, cold medicine, ointments and fever reducers. Inside, about 50 customers roamed the aisles, pushing small

shopping carts and picking up medicines like they might grab instant noodles or fresh vegetables at a big box store. The products themselves looked more like items at a supermarket than medicines at a neighborhood pharmacy. Jang, 27, said he visited MediKingdom Pharmacy after seeing a post about it on social media. "I bought antiseptic mouthwash, which I usually fe

- [Special counsel challenges appeals court ruling on ex-President Yoon's obstruction of justice case](#) (2026-04-30 11:57)

A special counsel team said Thursday it has appealed to the Supreme Court over a lower court ruling on former President Yoon Suk Yeol's case on obstruction of justice and other charges stemming from his failed 2024 martial law bid. On Wednesday, the Seoul High Court raised Yoon's sentence from five years to seven years in prison in the case, while upholding his acquittal of a charge on exercising a false official document. Special counsel Cho Eun-suk's team, which sought a 10-year sentence for Yoon, said in a press notice that it would dispute the acquittal at the top court. The appeals court found Yoon guilty of creating and then discarding a false proclamation after his martial law decree was lifted, but it acquitted him of exercising the document as it was not made public. Yoon's lawyers have also vowed to appeal the ruling, calling it "unacceptable." The former president has been standing a total of eight trials following his failed attempt to impose martial law on Dec. 3, 2024. He was sentenced to life imprisonment in February on charges of leading an insurrection through his martial

- ['Treat voters like insects': Busan by-election candidate faces backlash over 'hand-wiping' video](#) (2026-04-30 11:57)

A viral video showing a Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) candidate appearing to wipe his hands after greeting market vendors has sparked fierce criticism from conservative rivals ahead of a highly contested by-election in Busan. Ha Jung-woo, former senior presidential secretary for AI policy and future planning, visited Gupo Market on Wednesday. Multiple videos circulated online showing Ha rubbing and brushing his hands off immediately after shaking hands with merchants. Conservative rivals, including the People Power Party (PPP) members and independent candidates, launched a coordinated attack Thursday, framing the gesture as an insult to local residents. Han Dong-hoon, a former PPP leader running as an independent in the same district, took to Facebook to condemn the DPK's defense of Ha. "After hearing a DPK spokesperson dismiss this on television, I have to ask," Han said. "Does the party truly believe that ignoring Buk District people will not impact the overall race?" Park Min-sik, a former veterans affairs minister preparing to run as a PPP candidate, accused Ha of harboring deep-sea

- [Seoul to bring thousands together for women's marathon Saturday](#) (2026-04-30 11:57)

Seoul will turn its western riverside park district into a sea of runners and walkers Saturday morning as about 7,000 participants take part in a women's marathon designed less for competition than for community. The Seoul Metropolitan Government said the 2026 Women's Marathon will begin at 7:30 a.m. at Peace Plaza in World Cup Park in Mapo District, marking the

26th edition of an event first launched in 2001 in partnership with the Women's News. Unlike elite road races focused on finish times, the event emphasizes participation and public health, organizers said. The course includes 10-kilometer and 5-kilometer runs as well as a 3-kilometer walking route aimed at families, beginners and casual participants. The event is open to all genders and ages. Officials said the event is designed to encourage broader participation in recreational exercise, reflecting what they describe as Seoul's push to become a "city of companionship and attractiveness" through accessible sports programming. The race includes a charitable program called the "Together Run," which invites children fr

- [S. Korea downplays USFK reduction talk after Trump's troop cut hint in Germany](#) (2026-04-30 11:57)

U.S. President Donald Trump's suggestion that American troop levels in Germany could be reduced is fueling speculation the move might extend to the Korean Peninsula. However, defense experts are not convinced the remarks will lead to troop cuts in South Korea, instead pointing to the peninsula's growing strategic importance — as reflected in the U.S.' latest defense strategy aimed at countering China — and the likelihood of restructuring rather than a reduction. Some 28,500 U.S. troops are stationed across South Korea. On Wednesday (local time), Trump said on Truth Social that the United States is weighing a possible reduction of American troops in Germany, with a decision to be made over "the next short period of time," after he decried European allies over a lack of support for the U.S.-Israeli war against Iran. Lee Sang-kyu, chief of the nuclear security research division at the Korea Institute for Defense Analyses, said any meaningful change to U.S. Forces Korea (USFK) would require revisions to operational plans and mission objectives — neither of which appears to be under

- [Lee flags risks of excessive union demands amid Samsung labor dispute](#) (2026-04-30 11:57)

President Lee Jae Myung on Thursday took direct aim at unions making excessive demands, in remarks widely seen as a warning to Samsung Electronics workers threatening to go on strike over a cap to bonus payouts. Speaking at a senior aides' meeting at Cheong Wa Dae, Lee called for greater responsibility from both labor and management, cautioning unions against pursuing narrow self-interest while urging employers to treat workers as genuine partners. "I hope workers will also show solidarity among themselves," Lee said during a senior aides' meeting at Cheong Wa Dae in Seoul, warning that the rise of artificial intelligence (AI) is reshaping workplaces and industries and stressing that meeting the challenge will require cooperation and shared growth. "If some organized labor groups pursue only their own interests with excessive or unjustified demands and draw public criticism, it could harm not only their own unions but other workers as well." He reiterated that employers must show the same broader sense of accountability. "We must move beyond a 'looking out only for oneself

- [Korea's zoos face reckoning after repeated deaths, escapes](#) (2026-04-30 11:57)

A string of animal deaths and escapes is intensifying calls for a sweeping overhaul of zoo operations in Korea, casting doubt on the effectiveness of a licensing law that replaced a looser registration system more than two years ago. The death of Bomunyi, a popular white lion cub at a Daejeon aquarium, was confirmed April 24, weeks after the animal died on April 2 at just 7 months old. The cause was identified as multiple cartilaginous exostosis, a rare hereditary joint disorder more commonly seen in white lions, which are frequently bred through repeated inbreeding to preserve their rare coloring. The case renewed criticism of exhibition-driven zoo practices, fueling calls for a shift toward animal welfare and conservation. Earlier on April 8, a wolf named Neukgu escaped from Daejeon O-World and was recaptured alive nine days later after surviving in the wild. The incident drew backlash over possible lapses in management. After the capture, the zoo released footage of the wolf eating, prompting further backlash from animal rights groups which accused the facility of once again turning

- [Budget ministry turns to AI to help steer fiscal planning](#) (2026-04-30 11:57)

Korea is moving to hand a portion of its fiscal planning to artificial intelligence (AI), betting that algorithms can sift through decades of data faster — and perhaps more rigorously — than overworked civil servants. The Ministry of Planning and Budget said Friday it will introduce an “AI budget assistant” to support nearly every stage of fiscal planning, from drafting proposals to restructuring expenditures, with full deployment targeted for May 2027. The initiative was discussed at a government meeting, where participants agreed that the system is intended to make the ministry a “first mover” in adopting AI across government operations. The tool will rely on a large language model trained on accumulated fiscal data, including budget requests, program descriptions, statistical records and internal reviews. Officials said the system will generate tailored responses when staff input queries, dramatically reducing the time needed to gather and analyze information. The ministry has sharply expanded its broader AI spending to support such efforts, tripling the national AI budget

- [Korea opens real-time infectious disease risk data to the public](#) (2026-04-30 11:57)

Korea is throwing open a once-internal system for tracking global outbreaks, giving the public a clear window into the risks of infectious diseases spreading across borders. The Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency said Thursday that it began publishing weekly risk assessments for more than 15 infectious diseases on a public portal (<https://dportal.kdca.go.kr>), a move intended to bolster transparency and public safety. The newly released data assess the risk of domestic inflow and the potential spread of diseases, including Ebola, Middle East respiratory syndrome, cholera, measles and dengue fever. To make the information more accessible, the agency is using visual tools designed to clarify complex risk levels at a glance. Officials said the initiative reflects a growing public demand for timely health information as international travel rebounds and global outbreaks remain a persistent concern. Previously, these analyses were reserved for internal use to guide quarantine measures and the designation of high-risk regions. By opening the data to the public, authorities aim to help

- [Seoul land prices climb as Myeong-dong plot retains crown as costliest property in Korea](#) (2026-04-30 11:57)

Land values across Seoul rose again this year, with nearly every parcel gaining ground and a prime commercial site in Myeong-dong holding its title as the city's most expensive property for the 23rd consecutive year, Seoul city government officials said Thursday. The Seoul Metropolitan Government said it finalized and disclosed individual land prices for 857,493 parcels as of Jan. 1, showing an average increase of 4.9 percent from a year earlier. The increase follows a 4.02 percent rise in 2025, reflecting what officials said is the influence of higher benchmark land prices set earlier this year by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport. Among the city's districts, Yongsan posted the steepest increase at 9.20 percent, followed by Seongdong at 6.52 percent, Gangnam at 6.30 percent and Seocho at 5.82 percent. Mapo, Gwangjin and Yeongdeungpo also recorded gains above the citywide average. Of the total parcels, 98.6 percent saw prices rise, while just 0.3 percent declined. About 1.0 percent remained unchanged, and newly assessed plots accounted for 0.1 percent. The most expens

- [Lack of manuals, insufficient oversight blamed for failure to fully recover remains of Jeju Air crash victims](#) (2026-04-30 11:57)

The lack of specific guidelines on the recovery of remains, coupled with insufficient oversight at the scene, led to the failure to fully recover the remains of victims in the 2024 Jeju Air plane crash for more than a year, a government investigation showed Thursday. The Office for Government Policy Coordination said that the Aviation and Railway Accident Investigation Board also violated related regulations in the course of keeping pieces of the wreckage mixed with remains in burlap bags at unroofed open spaces, and failed to respond immediately to requests from bereaved families for a reinvestigation. Announcing the results of a one-month investigation, the office said it has referred 12 related officials for disciplinary measures — four from the transport ministry, six from the accident investigation board, one from police and the other from a firefighting agency. The Jeju Air crash on Dec. 29, 2024, killed 179 passengers and crew members when the jet made an emergency belly landing at Muan International Airport, South Jeolla Province, and erupted into flames after crashing into a

- [Korea Heritage Service eyes National Treasure status for 10 Joseon-era Buddhist structures](#) (2026-04-30 05:57)

The Korea Heritage Service moved Thursday to expand its roster of National Treasures, turning attention to a category of religious architecture long overshadowed by grander temple halls and stone pagodas. The central government agency responsible for protecting, managing and promoting the nation's cultural heritage announced that it will seek official treasure designation for 10 Buddhist structures dating largely from the 17th to 19th centuries, including six subsidiary worship halls and four monks' residential quarters. The proposal begins a 30-day public review period before a final decision. The buildings, scattered across the country from Gyeonggi Province to South Jeolla Province, offer a rare architectural record of how Korean temples functioned not only as places of devotion, but also as centers of daily life,

scholarship and refuge. Among the sites nominated is Geungnakjeon Hall at Hyeondeung Temple in Gapyeong, Gyeonggi Province, believed to have been rebuilt in 1765 after a fire. Officials said surviving timber members and inscriptions discovered during restoration helped

- [Korea seeks to boost K-food exports with global certification drive](#) (2026-04-30 05:57)

Korea is stepping up its push to expand K-food exports, rolling out a nationwide campaign to help companies navigate tightening global food regulations. The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Resources' Korean Agency for Technology and Standards joined the Ministry of Finance and Economy's Export Plus Task Force to host a briefing in Seoul earlier this week aimed at demystifying overseas certification systems. Held at the Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency's IKP center, the event brought together exporters, regulators and certification experts to address what officials describe as mounting technical barriers in key markets. The session focused on major certification frameworks, including Global Food Safety Initiative standards, halal certification and evolving European rules on novel foods and food contact materials. Officials said stricter safety and environmental regulations abroad are reshaping market access requirements for Korean exporters. Particular attention was given to certifications increasingly required by global retailers, as well as labeling standards tied to consumer pre

- [Seoul goes green, planting 167 gardens across its urban landscape](#) (2026-04-30 05:57)

Seoul will host a large-scale international garden festival beginning Friday, showcasing hundreds of themed gardens across the city, organizers said Thursday. The “Seoul International Garden Show” will run for 180 days through Oct. 27, presenting a total of 167 gardens. The exhibition area will span about 90,000 square meters, making it one of the largest garden-themed events held in the capital. The event is designed to transform urban spaces into green cultural venues where visitors can experience a wide range of garden styles, from artistic installations to nature-based landscapes. Organizers aim to promote environmental awareness and provide residents with accessible leisure and relaxation spaces within the city. The festival will feature a variety of programs and displays intended to appeal to families and younger audiences, offering opportunities to explore nature and gardening. It is also expected to contribute to Seoul’s efforts to expand green infrastructure and enhance the urban environment. City officials said the long-running event reflects a growing emphasis on sustain

- [Top court upholds guilty verdicts for 18 people in courthouse riot related to Yoon's martial law bid](#) (2026-04-30 05:57)

The Supreme Court on Thursday confirmed guilty verdicts for 18 people for their participation in a courthouse riot in January last year over a court decision to keep former President Yoon Suk Yeol in custody over his failed martial law bid. The top court upheld lower rulings that handed out prison sentences or suspended terms to 17 individuals indicted on trespassing and other charges in connection with the riot at the Seoul Western District Court in the early hours of Jan. 19, 2025. It also maintained a 2 million-won (\$1,346) fine for documentary filmmaker

Jung Yoon-suk on trespassing charges, despite his claims that he merely entered the premises to record the event. The riot was sparked by the court's decision to extend Yoon's detention over his short-lived imposition of martial law the previous month. Yoon's supporters, who had been holding a rally outside the court, broke into its compound, smashing windows and damaging court property. One of the defendants was sentenced to four years in prison for assaulting a police officer and breaking a glass door with a steel bar, while another

- [Seoul recruits volunteer dog patrol teams to monitor safety in residential areas](#) (2026-04-30 05:57)

The Seoul Metropolitan Government's Autonomous Police Commission is recruiting new members for its volunteer "pet dog patrol" program, which pairs routine dog walks with neighborhood safety monitoring. Applications are open through May 20 to dog owners residing in Seoul, with selected teams to serve from June through December after completing required training. Returning teams from last year — 1,109 in total — began patrol activities on April 20. Launched in 2022 with 64 teams, the program has expanded significantly. By 2025, 1,529 teams conducted 83,345 patrols across the city. During those patrols, participants filed 153 emergency reports to police, including cases involving intoxicated individuals and minor traffic incidents, and submitted 1,703 civic complaints through the city's 120 hotline, such as reports of broken streetlights and damaged sidewalks. Applicants can register through the commission's website. The selection process consists of two stages. The first is a document screening that reviews applicants' motivation and whether their pets are officially regis

- [Cultural institutions tap power of art to heal national fractures](#) (2026-04-30 05:57)

Museums in Korea are being asked to do more than display relics behind the glass this May. They are being enlisted to help mend a fractured society. Beginning Friday, more than 300 museums and art institutions across the country will take part in the 2026 Museum and Gallery Week, a nationwide cultural festival organized by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism. Running through May 31, the event adopts this year's theme from the International Council of Museums: "Museums Uniting a Divided World." The slogan reflects an increasingly common expectation that museums should serve not only as custodians of the past, but also as civic spaces where communities can confront conflict, grief and difference. In Korea, where regional divides, generational tensions and political polarization have sharpened in recent years, officials say museums can offer a quieter kind of public square. The festival will unfold through three major programs. One, called "Museum × Meet," highlights 50 signature objects from institutions nationwide under the theme "Firsts, and Beginnings." The selecti

- [USFK troop drawdown not under discussion between S. Korea, U.S.: defense ministry](#) (2026-04-30 05:57)

South Korea and the United States are not discussing drawing down the 28,500-strong U.S. forces stationed in Korea, a Seoul defense ministry official said Thursday, after U.S. President Donald Trump said his administration is weighing a possible reduction of American troops in

Germany. Trump said in a social media post that the U.S. is "studying and reviewing" the possible reduction of troops in Germany, with the decision possibly to be made "over the next short period of time." The remarks followed a Wall Street Journal report that Washington is considering punishing some of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies for turning down his calls for naval assistance to help secure the Strait of Hormuz in light of the ongoing U.S.-Iran conflict. "There have been no discussions at all between South Korea and the United States on the reduction of the U.S. Forces Korea (USFK)," a ministry official said. "The primary mission of the USFK is to maintain a robust combined defense posture with the South Korean military to deter and respond to North Korean aggression and provocations," th

- [2 migrant workers arrested for allegedly using handmade air guns to hunt pigeons for food](#) (2026-04-30 05:57)

Police said Wednesday they arrested two migrant workers in Iksan, North Jeolla Province, on suspicion of manufacturing illegal air guns and using them to hunt pigeons. One of them was identified only as a Thai man in his 30s. According to Iksan Police Station, the two are accused of violating the Act on the Safety Management of Guns, Swords, Explosives, etc., by allegedly manufacturing imitation firearms and engaging in illegal hunting. The case began on March 16, when a resident in Iksan filed a police report after hearing what sounded like gunshots, prompting officers to respond to the scene. When police arrived, they found an abandoned car, four imitation firearms and 20 iron pellets. Police later identified the suspects through interviews with local residents and launched a search. The two men were arrested separately at an apple farm in Cheongsong County, North Gyeongsang Province, and at another farm in Buyeo County, South Chungcheong Province. Investigators said the suspects used handmade air guns in a bamboo grove to hunt pigeons for food. The two had entered Korea legally, but w

- [2 killed, 6 injured in apartment fire in Uiwang](#) (2026-04-30 05:57)

UIWANG — A fire broke out at an apartment in Uiwang, just south of Seoul, on Thursday, killing two people and injuring six others, officials said. The blaze began at about 10:30 a.m. on the 14th floor of the 20-story building, with firefighters completely putting out the blaze about two hours later. A man in his 60s died after plunging from the flat where the fire began, while his wife in her 50s was found dead inside their home. Authorities have discovered a suspected suicide note at the site. The fire also left six people with minor injuries, such as smoke inhalation. Police and fire authorities plan to investigate the exact cause of the fire and the couple's death.

- [Army chief calls drones 'personal weapon' of future soldiers](#) (2026-04-30 05:57)

The chief of staff of the Army described drones as a "personal weapon" that every soldier will be expected to operate, outlining an ambitious plan to embed unmanned systems across all combat units as the military adapts to a shrinking troop pool and shifting battlefield conditions. Speaking at a policy briefing Wednesday with defense reporters at Gyeryongdae in Gyeryong, South Chungcheong Province, Gen. Kim Gyu-ha placed drone deployment at the center of the

Army's evolving force structure. “Drones should be seen as a personal weapon,” Kim said. “They are no longer limited to a single function, but can be used for surveillance, strike missions and sustained support, depending on how they are equipped and operated.” The remarks came as the Army detailed its plans to expand the use of training-purpose commercial drones across units. Officials said around 10,000 such drones will be introduced this year, with the number expected to rise to some 50,000 by 2029 — a level that would allow roughly one drone to be assigned per squad. Military officials stressed that the initiative is par

- [Rare buncheong bottle among artifacts set for National Treasure designation](#) (2026-04-30 05:57)

A boldly abstract buncheong ware bottle, once taken overseas and later returned to Korea, is among seven cultural artifacts newly proposed for National Treasure designation, officials said Thursday. The Korea Heritage Service said it has given preliminary notice to designate the “Buncheong flattened bottle with incised fish and line design,” along with six other works, as state-designated cultural properties. The buncheong bottle, believed to date to the 15th or 16th century in the Jeolla region, features a flattened body shaped on a potter’s wheel and refined by hand. White slip was applied before intricate patterns were carved using a sharp tool, creating expressive linear and fish motifs. The piece is noted for its abstract yet balanced composition across both faces and sides. The artifact was taken abroad during the Japanese colonial period by a Japanese collector and was repatriated in 2018 after a Korean collector purchased and disclosed it, officials said. Its relatively well-preserved condition and distinctive artistry underpin its value, they said. Among the other items, m

- [Korea to assume command of naval forces in RIMPAC exercise for 1st time](#) (2026-04-30 05:57)

Korea will command naval forces of multinational countries for the first time during a U.S.-led combined maritime exercise scheduled for later this year, the Navy said Thursday. An admiral of the Korean Navy will take on the role of commanding the combined maritime component forces of the Rim of the Pacific Exercise (RIMPAC), set to take place in and around Hawaii from June 24 to July 31. It marks the first time for Korea to take the command of the maritime component forces in the RIMPAC exercise. In the previous drill in 2024, Korea took on a deputy commander position. The U.S. Third Fleet has also announced Korea's role for this year's exercise, along with Canada commanding the air component. Launched in 1971, the biennial RIMPAC is designed to enhance cooperation among participating countries in securing sea lines of communication and countering potential security challenges at sea. Korea joined RIMPAC in 1990. This year, the exercise will feature a multinational force involving more than 25,000 personnel, about 40 surface ships, five submarines and 140 aircraft, according to the U.S.

- [Kelly's Irish pub helps put Nowon on Seoul's cultural map](#) (2026-04-29 23:57)

For many foreign Seoulites, the name “Nowon” is more familiar as a punchline than a place. Beyond the long-running joke that the northeastern district’s name sounds like “no one,”

there isn't a whole lot that's known about it. For most, it's regarded as a quiet residential district, known more for its apartment blocks and cram school clusters than for nightlife or cultural flair. But Kelly's Pub, nestled above a street near Gongneung Station, is a sign that Nowon District is no longer a blank spot on the city's cultural map. The small, wood-trimmed bar, run by Irish American expat Brendan Kelly and his wife, has become a surprising gathering place for locals as well as the steadily growing foreign community finding its footing in northeastern Seoul. Kelly's Pub isn't a themed bar, nor is it trying to import the heavy, old-world aesthetic of a classic Irish tavern. "Honestly, I just wanted a lot of wood," Kelly said with a laugh. The interior is brighter than a traditional pub — intentionally so. "We're on the second floor and a little hard to spot, so I

- [SK hynix vest becomes Korea's hottest status symbol](#) (2026-04-29 17:57)

In Korea's latest viral meme, the ultimate status look is simple: an SK hynix employee vest. The joke has spread across social media and online communities, where the company-issued layer is recast as an all-purpose upgrade for blind dates, shopping trips or any moment when a little visible status might help. No styling required. The logo says enough. The joke gained wider attention after Saturday Night Live Korea played on the idea in a recent sketch. In the scene, a man entering a luxury clothing store is treated coldly until he reveals an SK hynix vest under his jacket, prompting the clerk's attitude to suddenly change. Behind the humor is a surge of attention on SK hynix, whose employees have been making headlines for unusually large bonuses tied to the artificial intelligence chip boom. Media reports have estimated this year's profit-sharing bonus pool at 23 trillion won, or an average of about 700 million won (approx. \$477,000) per employee, based on projected operating profit. The figure has turned the chipmaker into one of the country's most talked-about companies, not only

- [Trump Jr. attends Seoul concert, highlighting ties with Shinsegae chairman](#) (2026-04-29 17:57)

Donald Trump Jr. attended a Seoul concert Wednesday by flutist Han Jee-hee, the wife of Shinsegae Group Chairman Chung Yong-jin, underscoring his close relationship with one of Korea's most prominent retail executives. Trump Jr., the eldest son of U.S. President Donald Trump, was seen at Lotte Concert Hall in Jamsil, southern Seoul, for Han's Deutsche Grammophon album release concert, which began at 7 p.m. Reports say Chung waited in the lobby before the performance and greeted Trump Jr. and his partner, Bettina Anderson, with handshakes and brief embraces. Chung's side then handed Trump Jr. a red "Make America Great Again" hat bearing the Trump name, which Trump Jr. signed and returned. The appearance drew attention because of the close ties between Trump Jr. and Chung. The Shinsegae chairman and his wife attended President Trump's inauguration earlier last year and were later invited to Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort in Palm Beach, Florida. The concert was also attended by many high-profile figures from business, entertainment and sports, including Shinsegae Chairwoman Chung Y

- [STEM professors take helm of Korean universities in AI era](#) (2026-04-29 17:57)

A growing number of professors with backgrounds in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) are being appointed as university presidents, demonstrating a rapid shift in the leadership landscape that underscores a broader refocusing of institutional priorities toward research and advanced technology. As the government ramps up support for industry-academia collaboration and pushes to expand the advanced tech workforce, even universities long known for their strengths in the humanities are pivoting to expand their focus on natural sciences and engineering. Among institutions ranked in the top 30 of The Korea Times K-universities Global Excellence Rankings 2026, 19 institutions — a clear majority — are led by presidents with backgrounds in natural sciences or engineering. Hanyang University's ERICA campus, ranked 19th, was excluded as it shares the same president as the main campus. To account for 30 distinct university leaders, the analysis was extended to include the 31st-ranked institution. The trend shows a sharp reversal from a decade ago. In 2016, 17 of the 30 pre

- [Ex-POWs sue North Korea over forced labor](#) (2026-04-29 11:57)

Five former South Korean prisoners of war (POWs) have filed a compensation lawsuit against North Korea and its leader Kim Jong-un at a Seoul court, seeking damages for forced labor. According to the Korean POW Families Association on Wednesday, the five war survivors — Ko Kwang-myun, 95; Kim Jong-su, 95; Lee Sun-woo, 96; Lee Dae-bong, 95; and Choi Ki-ho, 98 — have recently filed the suit with the Seoul Central District Court, each demanding 21 million won (\$14,200) in compensation. The plaintiffs claimed they were forced to work in mines in North Korea even after the 1953 truce that halted the Korean War, before defecting to the South in the early 2000s. The case marked the third of its kind following two similar lawsuits filed in 2020 and 2023 by two and three former POWs, respectively. Currently, only six former POWs, including the five plaintiffs, remain alive in South Korea. In February, they issued a joint statement calling for the establishment of a truth commission on South Korean POWs and the designation of an official remembrance day, marking the 12th anniversary of the publ

- [South Korea faces export-readiness trade-off amid Gulf defense push](#) (2026-04-29 11:57)

South Korea's presidential chief of staff Kang Hoon-sik said this week that Seoul has secured priority crude oil and naphtha supplies from Gulf producers through the end of the year, a development that highlights a growing constraint on the country's defense export ambitions as rising demand from the same partners collides with limits in industrial capacity and domestic military requirements. Requests from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to accelerate deliveries of South Korean air defense systems are emerging at a time of heightened regional demand following sustained exchanges with Iran. On April 12, The Wall Street Journal reported that Riyadh had approached firms including Hanwha Aerospace and LIG Defense & Aerospace (D&A) about expediting deliveries for Cheongung-II medium range surface-to-air missiles, while Abu Dhabi sought additional interceptor missile supplies. The urgency reflects the depletion of air defense inventories across parts of the Gulf after weeks of retaliatory strikes. Systems that are already in production and have demonstrated operational eff

- [Seoul steps up diplomatic outreach to Africa ahead of major June summit](#) (2026-04-29 11:57)

Korea is deepening its diplomatic engagement with African nations, convening a high-level meeting with ambassadors on Wednesday to lay the groundwork for a major ministerial gathering set for early June. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said it held a trilateral meeting with the African Group of Ambassadors in Korea and the Korea-Africa Foundation to review preparations for the Korea-Africa Foreign Ministers' Meeting scheduled for June 1 and a business forum on June 2. About 20 African diplomatic missions took part in the talks. Chung Kwang-yong, director general for African and Middle Eastern Affairs at the ministry, said strengthening strategic ties between Korea and African nations has become increasingly important amid shifting global dynamics. He said the upcoming ministerial meeting will build on momentum from the 2024 Korea-Africa Summit and a senior officials' meeting held last year. Chafik Rachadi, ambassador of Morocco to Korea, said African nations welcomed the preparations for the upcoming ministerial meetings and will actively cooperate to ensure the talks produce substan

- [PM Kim calls for speedy housing supply](#) (2026-04-29 11:57)

Prime Minister Kim Min-seok paid a visit to a large housing construction site near Seoul on Wednesday to check on progress of the massive project designed to build more than 300,000 units around the capital city amid President Lee Jae Myung's push to rein in real estate speculation. The project, named "Third New City Project," has been under way since 2018, and ground was broken in 2023 to build the likes of Budang, Ilsan and Pangyo — newly developed towns under the first and second new city projects — to supply a total of about 314,000 new homes in Namyangju, Hanam and four other areas on the outskirts of Seoul. On Wednesday, Kim visited Namyangju's Wangsuk district, the largest site of the project. "A key priority of the government is to supply quality housing in a speedy, safe and meticulous way," Kim said during the visit, asking those in charge of the project to increase communication with residents and related government agencies to resolve problems as early as possible. Kim also asked officials to take preemptive measures to secure raw materials amid the Mideast war, officials

- [Appeals court raises Yoon' s term to 7 years over obstruction of duty charges](#) (2026-04-29 11:57)

Former President Yoon Suk Yeol was sentenced to seven years in prison on Wednesday after an appellate court found him guilty of abusing his presidential authority, obstructing official duties and fabricating documents over his handling of the 2024 martial law declaration and the subsequent investigation into his actions. The Seoul High Court increased his prison term to seven years, up from the five years handed down in the first trial. This case centered on how Yoon blocked his own arrest, overstepped his authority and tampered with documents. It is separate from the insurrection case that led to a life sentence on Feb. 19. "As sitting president at the time of the crimes, Yoon bore a heavy responsibility to uphold the Constitution and to protect and advance the people' s freedoms and rights, but instead he betrayed that duty and

deepened social unrest through this case,” Judge Yoon Seong-sik said. The appeals court found that he infringed on the deliberation rights of nine Cabinet members who were left out of the Cabinet meeting that preceded the martial law decree, saying that he

- [Ex-President Yoon denies all charges in 1st trial hearing over interference in Marine death probe](#) (2026-04-29 11:57)

Former President Yoon Suk Yeol's lawyers on Wednesday denied all charges during the first hearing of his trial over allegations of interfering in a probe into the 2023 death of a Marine. The ousted former president has been indicted on abuse of power and other charges for allegedly exerting undue influence on the probe to cover up its results that found a senior Marine commander responsible for the Marine's death in July 2023. "We deny everything in the indictment," Yoon's lawyer said at the Seoul Central District Court, claiming the former president does not know the now former Marine commander. "There is no motive to intervene in the investigation." Yoon, who appeared for the hearing, also argued against the case, dismissing allegations that he erupted in anger upon hearing the probe's results. Other defendants in the case, including former National Security Adviser Cho Tae-yong and former Defense Minister Lee Jong-sup, also denied charges raised against them. The special counsel team believes Yoon made unlawful orders to the defense ministry and the presidential office at the time, com

- [Seoul swaps shushing for socializing in Friday night talks with writers](#) (2026-04-29 11:57)

Seoul is betting that quiet libraries can transform into lively cultural spots, launching weekly Friday night events where readers meet writers face to face. The Seoul Metropolitan Government said it will expand its “Author Hip Talk” program across public libraries citywide, including the Seoul Metropolitan Library, from May through December. The initiative is designed to turn libraries into cultural hubs to attract office workers and young adults seeking evening events. Held every Friday, the program brings together authors from across literature, the humanities and the arts for lectures, conversations and question-and-answer sessions. The city said the format emphasizes direct interaction, allowing participants to engage beyond traditional readings. In May, events will take place at Seoul Library, Mapo Central Library, Gwangjin Information Library and Seonyudo Library, with each hosting programs tailored to local tastes. At the Seoul Metropolitan Library, a May 8 session will center on the theme of nature and feature Lee Won-young, a senior researcher at the Korea Polar Research In

- [Ex-Seoul councilor admits giving money to lawmaker in 1st trial](#) (2026-04-29 11:57)

Former Seoul city councilor Kim Kyung admitted in her first trial Wednesday to giving 100 million won (\$67,700) to former Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) lawmaker Kang Sun-woo for a party nomination ahead of the 2022 local elections. At the Seoul Central District Court trial, Kim's lawyers admitted the charges but said they may contest the prosecution's breach-of-trust and bribery claims. Kang's former aide, surnamed Nam, who arranged her meeting with Kim, also admitted to the charges. Kang's lawyers said they will state their position at the next

hearing after reviewing all records. All three defendants appeared in court on the day. The next hearing is set for May 29. Kang and Kim were arrested and indicted last month on charges of accepting and giving bribes during their meeting at a hotel in Seoul's Yongsan district in January 2022. Kim was subsequently elected to the Seoul Metropolitan Council after being nominated by the DPK. In January this year, Kang left the DPK to become an independent and Kim resigned from the council.

- [Gyeongbok Palace to remain open after dark for spring night tours](#) (2026-04-29 11:57)

As dusk settles over Seoul, the gates of Gyeongbok Palace will remain open to the public, offering a rare chance to wander Korea's most iconic royal complex under the glow of evening lights. The Korea Heritage Service's Gyeongbokgung Palace Management Office said Wednesday it will operate its spring nighttime viewing program from May 13 to June 14, with tickets available starting Sunday at 10 a.m. on a first-come, first-served basis. Visitors will be able to explore key areas of the palace. The site will remain open from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., and will be closed on Mondays and Tuesdays. This year's program will feature traditional court music performances that add a ceremonial atmosphere to the palace grounds. To celebrate the birth of King Sejong, the Traditional Performing Arts Company of the Blind will perform on May 15 at Geunjeongjeon, the king's former living quarters. The commemorative programming will continue with a series of 10 performances by musicians from the National Gugak Center, scheduled at Sajeongjeon Hall between May 20 and June 5. Tickets will be sold through Int

- [Lee stresses need for bipartisan support in diplomacy, national security issues](#) (2026-04-29 11:57)

President Lee Jae Myung on Wednesday warned against "self-defeating" behaviors by rival political parties in matters involving diplomacy and national security, calling for their unity in overcoming crises. Lee made the remarks in a luncheon with 21 lawmakers — 19 representatives from five minor parties and two independents — marking the first time he has hosted only minor party and independent lawmakers together at Cheong Wa Dae. "If you look at other countries, it is rare to see (rival parties) engage in self-defeating behavior in areas such as diplomacy and national security, even though they clash over domestic issues," Lee said. "Disappointingly, there still seem to be some (self-defeating) tendencies within us," he added, insisting that the public would want politicians "to demonstrate unity in order to overcome crises." Lee did not provide specific details, but the remarks came as rival parties continue to wrangle over diplomatic issues, including reported U.S. complaints over a Seoul minister's reference to Kusong as a North Korean uranium enrichment site, among others. "Extern

- [Korean labor law loophole leaves microbusiness workers unprotected](#) (2026-04-29 05:57)

Jung Woo-jin remembers Christmas Eve 2024 as the day his manager handed over the car keys. Jung, a pseudonym for a man who worked at a relocation agency for foreign executives from October 2024 to January 2026, said the manager ordered him to drive the vehicle to the supervisor's home and park it in the underground garage ahead of a night out drinking. The

personal errands escalated as time went on. Over the next year, the manager made Jung plan private vacation for his boss in Europe, book hotels and rental cars, and research local traffic laws. Jung also had to move personal belongings and settle utility bills at the supervisor's residence. Jung eventually quit and reported the abuse to the Seoul Regional Employment and Labor Office. Authorities, however, rejected his complaint. While Jung's company had six employees when he joined, officials determined that high turnover brought the average during his tenure to 4.66 workers. Because Korea's workplace harassment laws apply only to businesses with at least five regular employees, the calculation left Jung in a regulatory gap with

- [Korea begins construction of fast combat support ship](#) (2026-04-29 05:57)

A steel-cutting ceremony was held in southern Korea on Wednesday to mark the start of the construction of a naval combat support ship, the arms procurement agency said. The event for the country's second auxiliary oil, ammunition and equipment (AOE-II) ship took place at a shipyard of Hanwha Ocean in Geoje, South Gyeongsang Province, the Defense Acquisition Program Administration (DAPA) said in a release. The second AOE program, worth 531.5 billion won (\$360 million), was launched in 2024 to build a follow-on vessel to the 10,000-ton logistics support ship Soyang, which was commissioned in 2018. The new vessel is designed to support a domestically-developed engineering control system that controls the propulsion, electrical power and auxiliary equipment through a single network to boost safety. An upgraded video surveillance system will be installed to automatically detect emergencies, such as a fire or a fall, according to DAPA. The new ship is also expected to provide improved crew accommodations and safety, with noise-reduction features offering a more comfortable on-board environment,

- [President Lee to host luncheon with minor party, independent lawmakers at Cheong Wa Dae](#) (2026-04-29 05:57)

President Lee Jae Myung was set to host a luncheon with lawmakers from minor parties and independents at Cheong Wa Dae on Wednesday, a move aimed at expanding communication, officials said. The luncheon is expected to bring together 21 lawmakers, including 19 representatives from five minor parties, marking the first time Lee will host all minor party and independent lawmakers together at Cheong Wa Dae, according to the presidential office. The minor parties, including the Rebuilding Korea Party, the Jinbo Party and the New Reform Party, each have less than 20 lawmakers, the threshold needed to form a negotiating group. At the meeting, the president is expected to outline government policies on major issues, including the response to the Middle East conflict, prosecution reform and the real estate market, and seek cooperation from the minor parties. The presidential office said the luncheon is part of the president's efforts to broaden "inclusive" communication and is aimed at "emphasizing bipartisan cooperation in addressing pending livelihood issues and the legislative process." The eve

- [Busan partners with Agoda to attract foreign remote workers with workcation benefits](#) (2026-04-29 05:57)

Busan is teaming up with online travel platform Agoda to promote the southeastern port city as a "workcation" destination for foreign visitors, offering remote workers streamlined booking and accommodation discounts. Starting May 6, Busan will launch the program on Agoda's platform, with an initial focus on key inbound markets including Japan, China and Taiwan. A dedicated Busan workcation page and social media marketing campaigns will go live to highlight details about workcation opportunities in the city to users worldwide. The city also plans to streamline its workcation enrollment process for foreign participants, simplifying verification to lower entry barriers and make the program more accessible to international users.

International remote workers and digital nomads can participate by completing verification on busaness.com, using a passport and proof of employment, after which they receive a dedicated Agoda promo code for discounts. The Agoda deal is the latest step in Busan's bid to become a global workcation hub. In 2023, the city opened a 708 square-meter workcation center on

- [Korea launches ROKS Jeju, 4th vessel in new Ulsan-class frigate series](#) (2026-04-29 05:57)

The Korean Navy and the state-run Defense Acquisition Program Administration (DAPA) launched the ROKS Jeju, Wednesday, the fourth in a series of advanced frigates designed to bolster the country's coastal defenses. The vessel, an Ulsan-class Batch-III frigate, was christened at a shipyard in Goseong, South Gyeongsang Province, marking a milestone in a program aimed at replacing the military's aging fleet of smaller warships with high-tech, multi-mission platforms. The 3,600-ton guided-missile frigate measures 129 meters in length and 14.8 meters in beam. It is armed with a 5-inch gun, Korea Vertical Launch System (KVLS), surface-to-air missiles, surface-to-surface missiles, tactical ship-to-shore missiles and long-range anti-submarine torpedoes — all domestically developed systems. ROKS Jeju's most notable upgrade over previous frigates is its Integrated Sensor Mast (ISM) incorporating a domestically developed four-face fixed-array Multifunctional Phased Array Radar (MFR) capable of simultaneous detection, tracking and engagement of multiple air and surface targets across all bear

- [Presidential Security Service holds elite training for UAE agents in long-standing cooperation](#) (2026-04-29 05:57)

The Presidential Security Service (PSS) recently conducted a commissioned training in Seoul for presidential security agents from the United Arab Emirates, the agency said Wednesday. The elite training was part of efforts to enhance high-level cooperation between the two countries in military, security, counterterrorism and special operations since 2010. The program took place at the PSS training institute in western Seoul, where 10 UAE agents tasked with presidential protection underwent a four-week course from March 30 to April 24. The course was customized to reflect the UAE's requirements while incorporating Korea's advanced protective service capabilities, according to the PSS. The first two weeks focused on security theory and basic skills, while the final two weeks covered advanced protection techniques and scenario-based response training. "We hope this training will serve as an opportunity to further strengthen security cooperation between our two countries," PSS chief Hwang In-kwon

said, noting that the UAE has been a key partner of Korea, with the two sides formally est

- [Gov't identifies foreign trafficking victims, expands fast-track protections](#) (2026-04-29 05:57)

Two foreign nationals were formally recognized as victims of human trafficking in Korea this week, in a case that underscores how labor and sexual exploitation continue to ensnare vulnerable migrants. The Ministry of Gender Equality and Family said Wednesday it confirmed a Vietnamese national and a Filipino national as victims following a review by its Trafficking in Persons Case Deliberation Committee held Tuesday. Under government guidelines, the two victims will receive support covering living expenses, medical care, employment assistance and legal aid. Authorities said both individuals entered Korea for study or employment but were subjected to exploitation after arrival. The Vietnamese victim, identified as A, arrived in June 2023 to enroll in a vocational school. Officials said the victim faced poor-quality instruction and was placed in field training that violated Ministry of Justice regulations, where wages were not paid. Sixteen other international students in the same program were previously recognized as victims last year. The Filipino victim, identified only as B, arrived in

- [Universities take lead in spreading K-culture abroad](#) (2026-04-29 05:57)

Korea is turning to its universities to carry K-culture beyond familiar strongholds, launching a new initiative that sends Korean students overseas to stage events in regions without Korean cultural centers. The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism said Wednesday it is working with the Korea Foundation for International Cultural Exchange to advance the Oullim Korea Culture Festival University Support Project. The program selects domestic universities through a competitive process and pairs them with overseas partners to host performances, exhibitions and seminars abroad. The effort is designed to broaden the reach of Korean cultural exports beyond K-pop and television dramas, incorporating academic exchange and locally tailored programming. Nine universities were chosen for this year's initiative: Keimyung University, Far East University, Korea Nazarene University, Yonsei University, Chugye University for the Arts, Korea National University of Arts, Hansung University, Hanyang University and Kyonggi University. They will collaborate with partner institutions in countries such as Uz

- [Over 6,700 kids repeatedly reported for suspected abuse last year](#) (2026-04-29 05:57)

Over 6,700 children were repeatedly reported to police for suspected abuse last year, a lawmaker said Wednesday, citing data from the Korean National Police Agency. The number of children reported two or more times in 2025 due to suspected child abuse totaled 6,795, according to the police data released by Rep. Suh Beom-soo of the main opposition People Power Party. The police revamped the Abuse Prevention Officer system in January last year and have since tracked repeated reports by victim child, not the reporter's phone number. The largest group — 4,362 children — was reported twice, followed by 1,306 reported three times and 490 reported four times. As many as 114 children were reported 10 or more times. Separate welfare ministry data shows 50,242 suspected child abuse reports in 2024 and 24,492

of them were confirmed as abuse cases after government investigations. Meanwhile, child abuse cases where suspected perpetrators are not referred to the prosecution increased from 1,233 in 2021 to 1,735 in 2022, 2,399 in 2023 and 2,854 in 2025, according to police data.

- [Kookmin University, GE Aerospace hold seminar to deepen industry-academia cooperation](#) (2026-04-29 05:57)

Kookmin University is actively engaging in industry-academia collaboration to develop new technologies with businesses and research institutes. Last week, the university and GE Aerospace, a U.S. aircraft engine manufacturer, co-hosted a seminar to discuss ways of sharing research and development (R&D) trends and strengthening cooperation among corporations, universities and research institutes. The university said more than 20 professors, researchers and military officials participated in the “2026 KMU x GE Aerospace Technical Seminar,” held at its campus in northern Seoul on April 22. The university noted that it has maintained a close cooperative relationship with GE Aerospace since signing a memorandum of understanding on research collaboration related to unmanned aerial vehicle systems in 2018. From 2021 to 2024, the two sides carried out a joint project on the development of a quantum security-integrated avionics suite, building the foundation for collaborative research in the field. The seminar provided an opportunity for participants to share research experiences and the latest

- [Kookmin University launches international design award in Milan](#) (2026-04-29 05:57)

Kookmin University, one of Korea’s leading institutions in design education, co-hosted an international design award ceremony for the first time jointly with the Italian Association for Industrial Design (ADI) in Milan last week. The university said the inaugural Design Beyond East & West (DBEW) Award, held at the ADI Design Museum, served not only as an award ceremony, but also as a forum where students, educators and experts discussed the future of design. Kookmin announced that the Gold Prize was awarded to Baoyi Huang and professor David Buck from the University of Sheffield for their design work titled “Ecological Samsara — Soundscape Transformation of Parkwood Springs.” The Silver Prizes went to three teams from HTW Berlin University of Applied Sciences, Avantika University in India and L’École de design Nantes Atlantique in France. Kookmin University noted that the award is a global recognition reflecting the design values and aesthetics of Asian culture within the broader context of world design. Based on a new design paradigm that transcends the boundaries between East a

- [Unionized cargo workers, BGF Logis reach tentative agreement after fatal truck accident](#) (2026-04-29 05:57)

Unionized cargo workers said Wednesday they have reached a tentative agreement with BGF Logis, the logistics affiliate of the CU convenience store chain, following the death of a union member hit by a truck during a recent demonstration near a logistics center of the company. Last Monday, a 2.5-ton truck struck participants of a cargo worker rally near a CU convenience store logistics center in Jinju, about 290 kilometers southeast of Seoul, killing a union member in his 50s and injuring two others. The rally was staged to demand that BGF negotiate directly

with unionized cargo truck drivers who are not directly employed by the company. Such a call followed the recent enactment of the so-called yellow envelope act that made prime contractors more accountable for subcontracted workers while restricting businesses from claiming damages from striking workers. The Korean Public Service and Transport Workers' Union said it reached the deal in a meeting with representatives from BGF Logistics early Wednesday, with an official signing ceremony slated for 11 a.m. The union said blockades at major lo

- [Appeals court set to rule on ex-President Yoon's obstruction of justice case](#) (2026-04-29 05:57)

An appeals court was set to rule Wednesday on former President Yoon Suk Yeol's trial on obstruction of justice and other charges stemming from his failed martial law bid, after a lower court sentenced him to five years in prison. The Seoul High Court was scheduled to hand down its verdict in a live-televised hearing at 3 p.m., following the ousted former president's January conviction for obstructing investigators from detaining him last year over his martial law declaration in late 2024. The lower court also found him guilty of violating the rights of his Cabinet members by calling only select members to a meeting to review his martial law plan, and creating and then discarding a false proclamation after the decree was lifted. The lower court had acquitted him of abuse of power charges for ordering the distribution of false press statements defending his declaration. Both Yoon and special counsel Cho Eun-suk's team appealed the ruling, with the special prosecutor demanding a 10-year sentence as they did at the lower court. The jailed former president has been standing a total of eight tr

- [Lawyers, counselors grapple with what AI can and cannot replace](#) (2026-04-28 17:57)

A Seoul-based lawyer surnamed Ha spends about 600,000 won (\$410) a month on artificial intelligence (AI) subscriptions such as Claude and Korean legal platforms such as SuperLawyer and LBOX. Hiring a junior lawyer would cost him close to 100 million won a year, roughly 14 times as much. The math, he says, is no longer close. “Without AI, I’d probably have one more person in the office by now,” Ha told The Korea Times, adding that over the past two years, he has used large language models intensively for work. “I still need to review the quality of final drafts, but the need to hire new lawyers has definitely gone down.” Only a few years ago, Korean law firms routinely hired swarms of new law school graduates to plow through ruling precedents, check statutes and draft the first versions of briefs. Now, more managing partners reach for a subscription instead of a job posting, and the same calculation is playing out across other white-collar professions, from legal offices to counseling rooms, as AI forces a reckoning over what kind of work still requires a human. “I don’t re

- [Korea unveils sweeping plan to cut plastic use, curb oil dependence](#) (2026-04-28 11:57)

Korea is moving to break its reliance on oil-based plastics, unveiling an ambitious plan Tuesday to slash waste and build a circular economy that officials say will reshape how materials are produced and reused. The Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment said it presented the

“Plastic-Free Circular Economy Transition Plan” at a Cabinet meeting Tuesday, setting a target to cut the use of newly produced plastic materials by more than 30 percent from projected levels by 2030. The plan calls for reducing unnecessary plastic at the source while replacing unavoidable waste with recycled materials, the ministry said. Under current projections, plastic waste from households and businesses is expected to reach about 10 million tons by 2030, up from 7.8 million tons in 2024. The government aims to reduce that total by 1 million tons through source reduction and replace 2 million tons with recycled materials. Key measures include encouraging a shift to alternative materials such as paper, promoting lighter packaging designs and restricting excessive packaging in delivery services. Products

- [Appeals court increases sentence for ex-first lady to 4 years for corruption](#) (2026-04-28 11:57)

An appeals court on Tuesday increased the sentence for former first lady Kim Keon Hee from 20 months to four years in prison on corruption charges. The Seoul High Court handed down the sentence during a hearing that was televised live, after finding her partially guilty of involvement in a stock price manipulation scheme and guilty of accepting luxury gifts from the Unification Church. It acquitted her, however, of receiving free opinion poll results from a self-proclaimed power broker, upholding the lower court's ruling. Special counsel Min Joong-ki's team had sought a 15-year prison term for the wife of former President Yoon Suk Yeol after indicting her on charges of violating the Capital Markets Act, the Political Funds Act and a law on the acceptance of bribes for mediation. The team accused her of manipulating the stock price of Deutsch Motors, a BMW dealer in Korea, to make 810 million won (\$549,000) in illegal profits from 2010-12, receiving free opinion poll results from the power broker ahead of her husband's 2022 presidential election, and accepting two Chanel bags and a Graff

- [Korean government to pay ‘fair allowance’ to short-term workers](#) (2026-04-28 11:57)

The government will introduce a new allowance and raise pay for short-term public-sector workers as part of a sweeping plan to stamp out unfair employment practices affecting irregular workers whose contract is less than one year across state-funded organizations. At a Cabinet meeting Tuesday, the Ministry of Employment and Labor reported that the plan, drawn up jointly with related ministries, is aimed at rooting out practices such as repeatedly renewing 11-month contracts to avoid paying severance and sidestep giving permanent jobs to short-term workers. The new measure is expected to be adopted next year. According to a government survey of 2,100 state-related bodies, there are roughly 146,000 fixed-term workers in the public sector, with about half — some 73,000 — on contracts of less than one year. The average monthly wage for these workers is 2.89 million won (\$1,960), but those on contracts that last less than one year earn slightly less at 2.8 million won a month. Based on those findings, the labor ministry has decided to work toward banning contracts shorter than 12 months

- [Korea's top AI official quits for Assembly by-election, raising doubts over DPK candidate strategy](#) (2026-04-28 11:57)

Ha Jung-woo, senior presidential secretary for AI (artificial intelligence) policy and future planning, confirmed his resignation Tuesday in what is widely seen as a prelude to a parliamentary by-election bid on June 3. The move drew criticism over the vacancy it will create at the top of the government's AI strategy and raised questions about whether the ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) needed to recruit sitting presidential aides as candidates. The bid is regarded as suitable given Ha's public-friendly profile, especially considering that the by-elections, scheduled to be held concurrently with the quadrennial local elections, have expanded to more than a dozen constituencies and include contested regions. However, some say the decision was inconsiderate, as Ha was appointed less than 10 months ago and the DPK has a broader pool of talent to draw from. Criticism is also emerging from within the ruling party, with one official saying, "Ha's decision to run in a by-election is out of the blue, at a time when the government should be laying the groundwork to become a top-three

- [GKL showcases traditional ceramics at casino venue to promote regional arts](#) (2026-04-28 11:57)

Korea is turning to an unconventional stage for cultural diplomacy, placing award-winning traditional ceramics inside a casino in Seoul in an effort to attract foreign tourists and promote regional arts. Grand Korea Leisure, which operates the Seven Luck foreigner-only casinos, said Tuesday it opened a special exhibition featuring master ceramists from Yeosu at its Coex branch in Gangnam District. The exhibition runs through June 30. The company said the display is part of a broader initiative to link tourism with regional culture and support local festivals, including the upcoming Yeosu Ceramic Festival scheduled to begin May 1. Two artists are featured in the exhibition: master ceramist Park Gwang-cheon and Yeosu city master potter Lee Hyeong-woo. Each has contributed five works, which are displayed on the third floor of the casino's dedicated exhibition space. Grand Korea Leisure CEO Yoon Doo-hyun said the venue attracts more than 360,000 foreign visitors annually, making it a strategic platform for cultural outreach. Yoon said the exhibition is intended to introduce visitors to Korea

- [Korea exports anti-corruption model to Ethiopia in new training push](#) (2026-04-28 11:57)

Korea is taking its anti-corruption playbook abroad this week, hosting Ethiopian officials for an intensive training program aimed at exporting what it calls a proven governance model. The Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission said Tuesday it began a five-day training program for nine officials from the Ethiopian Federal Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission. The program, which runs through Friday, is conducted in partnership with the Korea International Cooperation Agency. The initiative follows a memorandum of understanding signed in June 2024 between the two countries to strengthen cooperation on anti-corruption policies. Ethiopian officials requested the program to learn from Korea's legal and institutional frameworks, the commission said. The curriculum focuses on key laws, including the Improper Solicitation and Graft Act and the Conflict of Interest Prevention Act for public officials, as well as Korea's structured anti-corruption education system. Sessions also cover training programs designed for future generations, the commission said. The agency said Korea has drawn

- [Korea, Australia to discuss AI education, Korean language programs at joint committee](#) (2026-04-28 11:57)

The Ministry of Education is dispatching a delegation to the seventh Korea-Australia Joint Education Committee meeting in Canberra Wednesday to discuss cooperation in artificial intelligence (AI) education, international student exchange, research collaboration, and Korean language programs. The bilateral committee, established under a memorandum of understanding on education cooperation signed in 2008, convenes at the director-general level every two years, rotating between the two countries. At this session, the two sides will share updates on their respective education policies and discuss cooperation in future-oriented fields. A central focus will be strategies to expand AI education in schools and strengthen teacher expertise, including opportunities for Korean and Australian educators to share AI and digital teaching practices and develop online exchange programs. Discussions on higher education will cover student exchange, dual and joint degree programs and joint curriculum development. The ministry said it plans to improve the quality of international cooperation frameworks betw

- [Korea rolls out tourism drive to woo holiday travelers from Japan, China](#) (2026-04-28 11:57)

Korea is racing to turn a looming holiday travel surge into a nationwide tourism boost, rolling out discounts, events and targeted campaigns to draw visitors from Japan and China, despite rising airfares. The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism said Tuesday that it is launching a series of initiatives with the Korea Tourism Organization timed with Japan's Golden Week, which began Tuesday and runs through May 6, and China's Labor Day holiday, which begins Thursday and runs through May 5. Officials expect between 180,000 and 200,000 visitors from the two countries during the period, including 80,000 to 90,000 from Japan and 100,000 to 110,000 from China, the ministry said. The campaign aims to spread tourism beyond Seoul by highlighting regional destinations and offering incentives tailored to different traveler groups. For Japanese tourists, particularly families, the government is working with airlines including Jin Air and Air Busan to offer airfare discounts of 1,000 to 2,000 yen per person and additional baggage allowances of up to 5 kilograms. Discount vouchers for duty-free

- [Lee says will resolve 'pending issues' with allies through mutual respect](#) (2026-04-28 11:57)

Issues between close allies should be resolved based on mutual respect and fundamental principles, President Lee Jae Myung said Tuesday. Lee made the remarks during a Cabinet meeting at Cheong Wa Dae, stressing that "cooperation with traditional allies should also be developed." "(We) need the wisdom to build healthy, future-oriented relations with traditional allies, while resolving pending issues based on mutual respect, common sense and principles," he told the meeting. "(I) will also devote myself to diplomacy aimed at building genuine friendship with allies, with confidence as a sovereign nation," the president added. The president did not provide the specific background, but the remarks came amid diplomatic frictions over Washington's reported complaints about Seoul's handling of a massive information breach at Coupang, a U.S.-listed e-commerce firm, and the disclosure by a Seoul

minister that Kusong may be a North Korean uranium enrichment site. Earlier reports suggested that Washington has partially suspended information sharing on North Korea's nuclear facilities with Seoul over

- [Medical schools short of teaching faculty after increase in admission quotas](#) (2026-04-28 11:57)

Medical schools failed to hire enough teaching faculty following a large increase in admission quotas for 2025, the state audit agency said Tuesday. The Board of Audit and Inspection announced the results of an audit into what measures medical schools took to ensure quality education after their aggregate admission quotas rose by about 1,500 to 4,567 for the 2025 school year under a decision by the then government of ousted former President Yoon Suk Yeol. Of the 30 medical schools given larger quotas, 18 fell short of meeting their hiring plans as of February last year, with Soon Chun Hyang University in the central city of Cheonan topping the list with a shortage of 92 teachers. Only 59 percent of newly added teaching positions were filled at 30 medical schools between March 2024 and February 2025, and the situation was worse at schools outside of the Seoul metropolitan area due in part to lower wages and poorer living conditions in provincial areas. The audit agency said government budgets were also allocated to medical schools solely based on increased quotas without taking the specif

- [Regulatory blind spot leaves students passing by adult-content livestream studio on way to school](#) (2026-04-28 11:57)

An adult-content livestreaming studio located next to an elementary school in Seoul's Gangnam district has sparked controversy over its potential impact on students' learning environment. A joint inspection by district authorities, launched after a series of complaints from parents, found that no concrete action could be taken under current law, further fueling the dispute. According to Gangnam District Office on Monday, the studio at the center of the controversy is located in the basement of a commercial building about 100 meters from an elementary school in Cheongdam-dong. Officials said the space is used by female online streamers who produce what are called "Excel broadcasts," a kind of livestream in which viewer donations are displayed on-screen in a spreadsheet-like format. The format often features multiple streamers at once, with some using provocative gestures or revealing outfits to encourage viewers to compete with one another in sending donations. Citing their structure and sexually explicit content, the National Tax Service last year described such broadcasts as

- [96 Korean lawmakers blast US for 'infringing on judicial sovereignty' over Coupang probe](#) (2026-04-28 11:57)

A total of 96 Korean lawmakers on Tuesday condemned what they described as U.S. political pressure over a local investigation into e-commerce giant Coupang, calling it "an infringement on judicial sovereignty" and "interference in domestic affairs." Rep. Park Hong-bae of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) and other lawmakers held a press conference at the National Assembly, saying 96 legislators had signed a joint protest letter to be delivered to the

U.S. Embassy in Seoul later in the day. The figure represents roughly one-third of the 300-member Assembly. The move follows a recent letter sent by 54 House Republican lawmakers, who claimed Korean government and law enforcement authorities' investigation into Coupang's massive data leak case was discriminatory against the U.S.-headquartered company. The 54 signatories account for about a quarter of the 217 Republican members in the 435-seat House of Representatives. A media report also said Washington asked Seoul to legally guarantee the safety of Coupang founder Kim Bom-suk, also known as Bom Kim, otherwise it would not pr

- [Court orders partial cancellation of corporate taxes for Netflix Korea](#) (2026-04-28 05:57)

A Seoul court on Tuesday ordered authorities to cancel 68.7 billion won (\$ 46.6 million) in taxes levied on the local unit of U.S. streaming giant Netflix. The Seoul Administrative Court ruled partly in favor of Netflix Services Korea after the company filed a lawsuit seeking to nullify corporate tax and other levies imposed by local tax authorities in November 2023. In 2021, the National Tax Service slapped approximately 80 billion won in taxes on Netflix following an audit amid controversy that the company was paying relatively low corporate tax compared to the volume of its sales. The streaming service firm challenged the measure, seeking a cancellation of around 76.2 billion won of the levied taxes. At the center of the controversy is whether the payments made by Netflix's Korean unit to a Dutch affiliate should be treated as "copyright royalties" or "business profits." Tax authorities have argued that the money transferred to the Dutch affiliate should be regarded as copyright royalties, which are subject to taxation. The local unit of Netflix, however, claimed that payments under su

- [Early-response gaps leave migrant women in Korea vulnerable to abuse: report](#) (2026-04-28 05:57)

Violence against migrant women in Korea often begins long before victims come into contact with government support services, according to a report released Tuesday that pointed to persistent gaps in early intervention and access to protection. The Korea Institute for Healthy Family said it reviewed 16,300 counseling cases involving violence against migrant women from a total of 236,728 consultations handled by the Danuri Call Center in 2025. In 77.1 percent of those cases, the reported abuse involved domestic violence, making it by far the most common category. The findings suggest that violence frequently unfolds within intimate or family relationships and reaches public authorities only later, through police involvement, counseling services or outside referrals. The Danuri Call Center, which operates around the clock, provides counseling, interpretation and translation in 13 languages for migrants and multicultural families. It also offers crisis assistance, support during investigations and court proceedings, referrals to shelters and follow-up care. Demand for such services continued

- [Arts Council Korea names new chairman](#) (2026-04-28 05:57)

The Arts Council Korea has named Lee Beom-heon, a special professor at Shinhan University, as its new chairman. The council, a state-run body tasked with leading the national arts agenda,

said Lee was elected as its ninth chairman through an internal vote during a meeting on Monday. The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism also appointed eight new board members during the meeting. Lee and the new board members will serve a three-year term. The meeting was attended by all 11 board members, including three continuing members whose terms run through July 31, 2027. Lee majored in East Asian painting at Hongik University and received a master's degree from the same institution. He previously served as the 24th chairman of the Korea Fine Arts Association from 2017 to 2020, a cultural arts adviser to the Seoul Metropolitan Office of Education from 2019 to 2024 and the 28th chairman of the Federation of Korean Artistic and Cultural Organizations from 2020 to 2024. He currently serves as a special professor at Shinhan University, a non-tenure-track position typically reserved for prominent f

- [Seoul opens int'l student support center in Sinchon](#) (2026-04-28 05:57)

Seoul city government has launched Seoul Global Student Center in the Sinchon university area, offering a one-stop platform in the northwestern neighborhood for foreign students seeking employment, startup support and settlement assistance, the city announced. The center, which begins full operations in May, is located near several major universities to maximize accessibility for foreign students. It complements the existing Seoul Global Center in Jongno, central Seoul, which serves the broader foreign resident population, by focusing specifically on the needs of international students. The number of foreign students in Korea has nearly tripled over the past decade, rising from roughly 90,000 to approximately 250,000, according to 2025 data from the Korean Educational Development Institute. Regardless of their multilingual skills, multicultural awareness and global networks, systematic support for these students remains inadequate, with critics pointing to a widening gap between policies aimed at attracting foreign students and those designed to help them find employment and settle in t

- [Busan job fair targets global talent with expanded reach](#) (2026-04-28 05:57)

Busan will open its doors to hundreds of international students seeking careers in Korea as city officials introduce an expanded job fair aimed at connecting foreign talent with regional employers. The Busan Metropolitan City government said Tuesday that the “2026 Busan Dream Job Fair” will take place Thursday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at BEXCO's second exhibition hall. About 1,000 international students from the Busan, Ulsan and the South Gyeongsang region are expected to attend, alongside representatives from 44 companies. The city said the event, now in its fourth year, has widened its scope to include students from Ulsan and South Gyeongsang, positioning itself as a broader employment platform aimed at helping foreign students transition from education to long-term residency. Participating companies span key regional industries, including manufacturing, hospitality and tourism, services, logistics and trade, and medical institutions. The number of participating firms rose to 44 this year from 35 last year, an increase of about 25 percent, underscoring growing demand among local b

- [Police seek arrest warrant for teen in jewelry store theft](#) (2026-04-28 05:57)

Police said Tuesday they plan to request an arrest warrant for a teenager accused of stealing gold bracelets from a jewelry store. The teenager posing as a customer entered a jewelry store in Gwangju, 30 kilometers southeast of Seoul, on Monday afternoon, smashed a display case and fled with several gold bracelets, according to the Gyeonggi Gwangju Police Station. He allegedly used a bus emergency escape hammer to strike the display stand and committed the theft within seconds. He was apprehended on a street near the store about an hour later. The police are looking for the bracelets stolen by the teenager, which the store owner claims are worth 50 to 70 million won (\$47,500).

- [Appeals court sentences former PPP floor leader to 2-year prison term over funds from Unification Church](#) (2026-04-28 05:57)

An appeals court on Tuesday sentenced Rep. Kweon Seong-dong of the main opposition People Power Party (PPP) to a two-year prison term on charges of accepting illegal political funds from the Unification Church. The Seoul High Court handed down the sentence after finding him guilty of accepting 100 million won (\$68,000) in January 2022 from a church official seeking favors from the former administration of President Yoon Suk Yeol. The sentence matched the ruling of a lower court in January. "This case is far more serious than typical violations of the Political Funds Act, making severe punishment inevitable," a judge at the sentencing hearing said. "Even though the charges were corroborated by various evidence, he denied the crime from the investigation stage." The court also ordered Kweon to forfeit 100 million won, in line with the lower court ruling. Kweon, a five-term lawmaker once known as one of Yoon's close confidants, had argued he met the church official for a meal but did not receive money. His lawyers had also claimed the case did not fall under the mandate of special counsel Min

- [S. Korea identifies remains of another soldier killed during Korean War](#) (2026-04-28 05:57)

South Korea's military has identified the remains of another soldier killed during the 1950-53 Korean War, raising the number of such service members to 273, the defense ministry said Tuesday. The ministry's Agency for KIA Recovery and Identification and the 21st Infantry Division recovered the remains of late Cpl. Kim Pan-seong near Yanggu, Gangwon, in 2024, according to the ministry. KIA stands for killed in action. Kim, who joined the military service in May 1951, died while fighting against North Korean and Chinese forces on Mount Baekseok, near Yanggu County, in October the same year. He was 21. South Korea has so far identified the remains of 273 service members killed in the conflict since it launched the excavation project in 2000.

- [University of Seoul professors selected for technology commercialization project](#) (2026-04-28 05:57)

Two University of Seoul professors have been selected for a government-led support program for technology commercialization, the university said Monday. The two are Professor Song Oh-sung of the Department of Materials Science and Engineering and Professor Lee Seung-hwan of the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering. The program, part of the

“2026 Technology Management Promotion Project” run by the Ministry of Science and ICT and the Commercialization Promotion Agency for R&D Outcomes, aims to support professors and researchers in commercializing technologies they have developed. Song and Lee are expected to receive support under the “IP Star Scientist Support Program,” which is designed to help researchers put their outstanding research outcomes and intellectual property (IP) into practical use. The university said the two professors will carry out the full process of technology commercialization in collaboration with private sector agencies specializing in commercialization. The program also aims to promote further development of intellectual property by researchers, lead

- [Korean lawmakers blast US for pressure over Coupang probe](#) (2026-04-28 05:57)

Korean lawmakers on Tuesday condemned what they described as U.S. political pressure over a local investigation into e-commerce giant Coupang, calling it “an infringement on judicial sovereignty” and “interference in domestic affairs.” Rep. Park Hong-bae of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea and other lawmakers held a press conference at the National Assembly, saying around 90 legislators had signed a joint protest letter to be delivered to the U.S. Embassy in Seoul later in the day. The lawmakers said the move reflects a cross-party effort to respond at the parliamentary level. They argued that intervention by foreign lawmakers in a domestic corporate investigation, as well as attempts to link the issue to broader diplomatic or security cooperation, undermines the rule of law. “Matters arising in Korea must be handled under Korean law and procedures,” Park said, warning that yielding to such demands could set a precedent for multinational firms to influence legal processes through diplomatic channels. The move follows reports that House Republican lawmakers had sent a letter

- [Kookmin University to start collaborative project on mobility design with UK firm](#) (2026-04-28 05:57)

Kookmin University has unveiled a plan to launch an industry-academia collaboration project with PriestmanGoode (PG), a London-based design firm, in the field of mobility design. The university said Monday that the Department of Automotive and Transportation Design at the College of Design will work with PriestmanGoode on mobility design research. A school official said the project aims to develop mobility solutions that can help Seoul address challenges related to urban expansion and severe traffic congestion in its metropolitan area. The initiative focuses on building a user-centered mobility ecosystem aligned with the city’s 2050 Seoul Grand Plan. Kookmin explained that both parties will jointly analyze changes in mobility environments and transportation issues resulting from urban sprawl, a phenomenon widely observed in major cities around the world. The project seeks to propose innovative solutions to these challenges. Over the course of the one-year collaboration, the two sides will conduct in-depth research on user travel experiences and service systems, with a particular focus

- [Lee vows to prevent industrial deaths with all available means](#) (2026-04-28 05:57)

President Lee Jae Myung on Tuesday pledged to mobilize all available resources to prevent workplace deaths, marking a state-designated day for commemorating industrial disaster victims. Lee called eliminating industrial disasters and achieving safety-based sustainable growth a "key task" and a core priority of his government on his Facebook account on Industrial Accident Workers' Day. Korea designated the day in 2024 to coincide with International Workers' Memorial Day on April 28, in remembrance and mourning of those who died on duty. " (The government) will mobilize all possible means so that workplaces will no longer be sites of death," Lee wrote. "We still have a long way to go in the face of the heart-rending outcries of those who lost family members and neighbors" to industrial disasters, the president also said, pledging necessary legal and institutional upgrades to prevent workplace deaths. He said signs of positive change had emerged, noting that the number of industrial deaths fell 17.5 percent in the first quarter of this year from a year earlier, "thanks to multifaceted governm

- [Appeals court set to rule on ex-first lady's corruption charges](#) (2026-04-28 05:57)

An appeals court was set to rule Tuesday on corruption charges against former first lady Kim Keon Hee, following a lower court sentence of one year and eight months in prison. Kim, who faces charges of accepting luxury goods from the Unification Church and involvement in a stock price manipulation scheme, was set to be sentenced during a 3 p.m. hearing at the Seoul High Court. The session will be broadcast live. Special counsel Min Joong-ki's team has sought a 15-year prison term for the wife of former President Yoon Suk Yeol after indicting her on charges of violating the Capital Markets Act, the Political Funds Act and a law on the acceptance of bribes for mediation. The team accuses her of manipulating the stock price of Deutsch Motors, a BMW dealer in South Korea, to make 810 million won (\$549,000) in illegal profits from 2010-2012, receiving free opinion poll results from a self-proclaimed power broker ahead of her husband's 2022 presidential election, and accepting two Chanel bags and a Graff diamond necklace from a former Unification Church official requesting favors. The lower co

- [Ruling bloc' s 80 lawmakers to send joint letter on US defense of Coupang](#) (2026-04-28 05:57)

More than 80 lawmakers of the ruling bloc plan to send a joint letter to the U.S. government protesting its defense of e-commerce giant Coupang, arguing it constitutes an infringement on South Korea's judicial sovereignty, political sources said Monday. The envisioned letter, which has reportedly been co-signed by 83 lawmakers of the ruling Democratic Party (DP), the minor Rebuilding Korea Party and Jinbo Party, will be delivered to the U.S. Embassy in Seoul on Tuesday, following a press conference at the National Assembly. The missive will come in response to Washington's reported complaints against Seoul over what some in the U.S. view as unfair treatment of Coupang, a U.S.-listed firm, amid a probe here into a massive breach of the personal information of more than 33 million of its customers. The plan for the letter was revealed in a request DP Reps. Kim Nam-geun, Park Hong-bae and others sent to fellow lawmakers to ask for their signatures. In the request, they argued the U.S. government recently demanded that Seoul guarantee the personal safety of Coupang Chairman Kim Bom-suk or ri

- [As Korea cracks down on English kindergartens, Seoul districts open their own for free](#) (2026-04-27 17:57)

Last week, Byun Jae-i, a 5-year-old at Donghwa Kindergarten in southern Seoul's Seocho District, learned that kangaroos come from Australia and pandas from China. The twist is she learned it all in English, a language she is still picking up. “I had learned English at a private institute before, so learning it here became easier,” she told The Korea Times. “Last time at kindergarten, I did an art activity where I made a tiny palm-sized bed and that was the most fun.” The weekly classes, funded by Seocho District, are part of a broader push by some Seoul districts to give young children a friendlier first brush with English, amid a government crackdown on so-called "English kindergartens." In Korea, English kindergartens refer to private academies that teach children mostly in English from around age 3 until they begin elementary school. Monthly tuition at English kindergartens averaged 1.54 million won (\$1,042) in 2024 — roughly 3.5 times the average monthly private education spending of 435,000 won per 5-year-old — according to the Ministry of Education. Criticized for fueli

- [Police launch probe into medical syringe hoarding amid war-related shortage](#) (2026-04-27 11:57)

Police said Monday they have launched an investigation into four companies suspected of hoarding medical syringes in violation of a government ban amid a shortage caused by the Middle East conflict. The four were among 32 companies caught during a special crackdown by the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety to ensure compliance with the government measure, which was recently adopted amid shortage concerns prompted by the Middle East war. The prolonged war is disrupting naphtha supplies, limiting the production of essential medical supplies, including syringes and intravenous bags. The ministry referred the four companies to the police after confirming they were in violation of the ban, and each case was assigned to the police station with jurisdiction, according to the National Office of Investigation under the National Police Agency. On Saturday, President Lee Jae Myung addressed the issue in a post on X, saying he has instructed the Cabinet to take "maximum" measures in the event violations are found, such as through swift investigations and punishment, and maximum administrative sanction

- [20-year prison term sought for ex-justice minister in martial law case](#) (2026-04-27 11:57)

A special counsel team on Monday sought a 20-year prison term for former Justice Minister Park Sung-jae on charges of playing a key role in former President Yoon Suk Yeol's failed martial law bid and granting undue favors to Yoon's wife. The team led by special counsel Cho Eun-suk made the sentence request during the final hearing of Park's trial at the Seoul Central District Court, saying it calls for strict judgment in order to sound the alarm on "a jurist who destroys the law." Park is accused of playing a key role in an insurrection and abusing his power by calling a meeting of senior justice ministry officials in the wake of Yoon's December 2024 martial law declaration to review dispatching prosecutors to a martial law-supporting body, checking the capacity of correctional facilities and calling to work officials responsible for

imposing travel bans. Additionally, the former minister is accused of giving inappropriate orders to his subordinates in line with a request from Yoon's wife, Kim Keon Hee, in May 2024, to check certain details of the prosecution's investigation into suspicious

- [Korea launches campaign urging fair treatment of immigrant workers](#) (2026-04-27 11:57)

A new government-backed campaign seeks to change how workers are addressed on factory floors and at industrial worksites in Korea, urging employers to move away from dismissive or overly casual labels for immigrant laborers and instead use their given names. The Ministry of Employment and Labor said Monday that it launched the Immigrant Worker Labor Respect Campaign at an industrial site in Ulsan, a major port city in the southeast. The event, which drew approximately 100 foreign workers and representatives from labor rights foundations, centered on a highly symbolic gesture: the distribution of safety helmets engraved with each worker's individual name. Officials said the initiative is a direct challenge to a long-standing workplace culture where foreign staff are frequently addressed by generic titles, numbers or informal honorifics that critics argue strip them of their professional dignity. The campaign is rooted in the belief that linguistic respect is a prerequisite for physical safety. By emphasizing the use of names and formal honorifics, authorities hope to foster an environment

- [Korea exports K-edu model to reshape Sri Lanka's medical research](#) (2026-04-27 11:57)

Korea's push to export its higher education model is gaining ground overseas, with a university-led partnership helping reshape Sri Lanka's medical research and training landscape. The Ministry of Education said Monday that a recent evaluation of its "Leading University for International Cooperation" program found tangible progress in strengthening higher education and public health systems in Sri Lanka. At the center of the effort is Sungkyunkwan University, which has worked since 2020 with the University of Sri Jayewardenepura to establish the country's first Department of Immunology and Molecular Medicine. The department, launched in July 2020, played a critical role during the COVID-19 pandemic as the only institution in Sri Lanka dedicated to nationwide infectious disease analysis, officials said. Building on that foundation, the Sri Lankan government supported the creation of a national-level Allergy and Immunology Research Institute within the university, set to be completed in January 2027. The institute is expected to serve as a central hub for infectious disease response

- [Ex-Unification Church official gets heavier prison term during appeal over gifts to ex-first lady](#) (2026-04-27 11:57)

An appeals court on Monday sentenced a former Unification Church official to 18 months in prison for giving luxury gifts to former first lady Kim Keon Hee, a heavier punishment than the 14 months given by a lower court. The Seoul High Court handed down the sentence to Yun Young-ho, who formerly served as head of the church's global headquarters, upholding most of the lower court's ruling in January. The appeals court found Yun guilty of giving a Graff diamond necklace worth 62.2 million won (\$42,200) and a Chanel bag worth 12.7 million won to Kim, the

wife of ousted former President Yoon Suk Yeol, in July 2022 while requesting favors on various issues related to the church. It also ruled that he gave 100 million won in illegal political funds to Rep. Kweon Seong-dong of the now main opposition People Power Party — a close political ally of Yoon — in January 2022. The court overturned the lower court's acquittal of Yun from charges of embezzling church funds to gift a separate Chanel bag to Kim in April 2022, finding him guilty of embezzlement, which apparently led to his increased se

- [Google to open AI campus in Korea](#) (2026-04-27 11:57)

Google will open an artificial intelligence (AI) campus in Korea within this year in line with the Korean government's expanded cooperation with global AI companies, a senior Cheong Wa Dae official said Monday. Kim Yong-beom, presidential chief of staff for policy, said the envisioned campus is anticipated to facilitate Google's cooperation with startups and researchers in Korea. It will be the first in the world outside the United Kingdom, where its AI research lab Google DeepMind is headquartered. Kim said Demis Hassabis, co-founder and CEO of Google DeepMind, disclosed the plan during his meeting with President Lee Jae Myung at Cheong Wa Dae. "Hassabis agreed to actively consider dispatching Google researchers to Korea," Kim said. "The CEO instantly accepted our request to send at least 10." The meeting came as Korea strives to become one of the world's top three AI powerhouses, alongside the United States and China. Lee and Hassabis discussed a range of cooperative measures, such as advancing the country's AI ecosystem and promoting the responsible use of related technologies. The

- [Seoul reimagines derelict oil depot as year-round cultural hub](#) (2026-04-27 11:57)

A former oil depot on the western edge of Seoul is fast becoming one of the city's most ambitious cultural experiments, as officials push to turn the industrial relic into a year-round arts and events hub drawing 1 million visitors annually. Seoul Metropolitan Government said Monday it plans to expand programming at Oil Tank Culture Park, a repurposed oil reserve facility built in 1976 and closed in 2000, into a multidisciplinary cultural complex blending exhibitions, performances, festivals and wellness events. Built from massive steel storage tanks once used for fuel reserves, the site was reimagined as a public cultural space in 2017 that preserves its industrial structure while hosting immersive media art, concerts and participatory programs. The city said it is aiming to attract 1 million annual visitors for this year as it scales up about 20 major events per year, ranging from music festivals to sports and wellness programming. This month alone, Oil Tank Culture Park has hosted a series of large-scale events focused on inclusion and environmental themes. An inclusive arts festiva

- [Seoul turns streets into stages with expanded busking program](#) (2026-04-27 11:57)

Korea's capital is transforming sidewalks, plazas and riverside parks into open-air stages, rolling out an expanded street performance initiative that will bring nearly 2,000 performances across the city through the end of the year. Seoul Metropolitan Government said Monday it has launched the 2026 edition of Guseokguseok Live, a city-run cultural program that places curated

live performances in everyday public spaces. Running from April through December, the program will feature 150 selected performance teams chosen through a competitive process that included video screening and live auditions. Officials said 657 teams applied this year, reflecting growing demand among street performers. The final lineup spans music, instrumental performances, traditional arts and stage performances. The city said the selection process was designed to emphasize live performance quality and audience engagement in public settings. Since its launch in 2011, Guseokguseok Live has grown into one of Seoul's largest public arts initiatives, producing more than 27,000 performances by over 2,000 artist teams

- [Major umbrella union to hold Labor Day rally over cargo worker's death in Jinju](#) (2026-04-27 11:57)

A major umbrella union will hold a large-scale rally on Labor Day to demand responsibility over the death of a cargo worker hit by a truck during a recent demonstration, officials said Monday. Last Monday, a 2.5-ton truck struck participants of a cargo worker rally near a CU convenience store logistics center in Jinju, South Gyeongsang Province, killing a union member in his 50s and injuring two others. The Korean Confederation of Trade Unions plans to hold its rally near the headquarters of BGF Retail, the operator of CU, in southern Seoul on Friday to call for a resolution to the underlying dispute between labor and management. Subcontractor workers of BGF had staged last week's rally to demand direct negotiations with BGF management following the recent enforcement of a new law holding prime contractors more accountable for subcontracted employees. The collision is suspected to have happened as rallygoers tried to block the truck, operated by a non-union worker, from leaving the site and continuing to work for the company despite the ongoing rally by unionized cargo truck drivers. The

- [Montana joins growing list of US states waiving driving tests for Koreans](#) (2026-04-27 11:57)

Drivers from Korea living in the U.S. state of Montana will soon be able to exchange their Korean licenses for local ones without undergoing written or road tests under a new reciprocal agreement aimed at easing bureaucratic burdens. The National Police Agency announced Monday that it had finalized the agreement with Montana officials Thursday, making it the 30th U.S. jurisdiction to waive testing requirements for Korean citizens. Under the terms of the deal, which takes effect May 1, Koreans residing in Montana for more than 90 days can obtain a Montana Class D license — the standard for passenger vehicles — by simply passing a physical vision and aptitude screening. The agreement covers a broad range of Korean license types, including Class 1 large, special and standard licenses, as well as Class 2 standard licenses. The arrangement is reciprocal, allowing Montana residents legally staying in Korea to exchange their Class D licenses for a Korean Class 2 license under a similarly streamlined process. The addition of Montana marks the culmination of a decade of diplomatic efforts. Si

- [Korea Heritage Service enlists G-Dragon-backed foundation for UNESCO cultural push](#) (2026-04-27 11:57)

Korea's cultural authorities are turning to the philanthropic arm of the country's pop-music machine to bolster its diplomatic standing, enlisting a foundation backed by K-pop star G-Dragon to help navigate a high-stakes gathering of world heritage leaders. The Korea Heritage Service said Monday that it had entered into a formal partnership with the Just Peace Foundation, an organization established last year with the support of the musician, whose legal name is Kwon Ji-yong. The memorandum of understanding, signed Thursday at the National Palace Museum of Korea, aims to coordinate the hosting of the 48th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee. The partnership represents a calculated attempt by Seoul to bridge the gap between its traditional statecraft and its modern soft power exports. Under the agreement, the foundation and its affiliates will participate in the summit and spearhead public-awareness campaigns for the UNESCO World Heritage Fund, an international purse used to protect and restore sites of "outstanding universal value." The Just Peace Foundation was launched

- [73 criminal suspects repatriated from Cambodia, Philippines since late February](#) (2026-04-27 11:57)

The Korean National Police Agency (KNPA) said Monday that 73 Koreans suspected of committing crimes, such as voice phishing, in Cambodia and the Philippines have been repatriated over the past two months. In the repatriation operation that lasted from Feb. 26 to April 22, 42 suspects returned from Cambodia and 31 from the Philippines, the agency said, adding 69 of them have been detained here and transferred to the prosecution. The repatriates from the Philippines included a ringleader who hacked a capital company's website server in 2011, stole the personal information of 1.75 million people and extorted 100 million won (\$68,000) from the company. Among those repatriated from Cambodia were 24 members of a criminal organization who swindled 51.7 billion won from 368 voice phishing victims and 14 members of a "romance scam" organization that extorted 2.3 billion won from 53 victims. The KNPA said the latest repatriation operation has been swiftly executed based on cooperative relationships with the police forces of the two Southeast Asian countries.

- [Minor party candidate for Busan mayor injured in drink attack](#) (2026-04-27 05:57)

The minor Reform Party's candidate running for Busan mayor was injured during street campaigning Monday after a driver in a passenger car sprayed a beverage at him in the southeastern port city. The incident occurred on a road in the city's northern ward of Geumjeong shortly after 8 a.m., when a passenger car approached candidate Jeong Yi-han as he was greeting citizens commuting to work. The driver suddenly sprayed the beverage he was drinking at Jeong's face while hurling abusive language and profanities. The candidate reportedly lost his balance and fell backward. Jeong was taken to a hospital after losing consciousness from hitting his head on the ground, while the driver fled the scene. Police said they began an investigation by analyzing witness accounts and surveillance camera footage from the scene and nearby areas. The Busan mayoral election will be held as part of the June 3 local elections.

## Source: The Korea Herald

- ['Call me oppa' backfires on election trail; draws apology from ruling party chief](#)

(2026-05-04 05:59)

A remark centered on the word “oppa” has drawn political fire during South Korea’s heated election season, after Jung Chung-rae, chair of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea, encouraged a young girl to use the term for its 48-year-old candidate while campaigning in Busan. During a visit to Gupo Market on Sunday, Jung told the girl, who said she was a first-grade elementary student, “What grade are you in? Say ‘Jung-woo oppa,’ ” referring to party candidate Ha Jung-woo. Ha also joined in, calling

- [Lee Do-hyun wins silver at IFSC bouldering opener](#) (2026-05-04 05:56)

South Korea's Lee Do-hyun won a silver medal in men's bouldering at the opening event of the 2026 IFSC World Climbing Series. Lee scored 69.6 points in the final on Sunday in Keqiao, Shaoxing, in China's Zhejiang province, finishing second behind Sorato Anraku of Japan, who posted 84.4 points. Mejdí Schalck of France took bronze with 59.8. The International Federation of Sport Climbing renamed its World Cup series to the World Climbing Series in December, with 2026 marking the inaugural season u

- [Day6’s Wonpil returns with ‘Unfiltered’ solo concert, embracing honesty beyond familiar image](#) (2026-05-04 05:54)

Day6's Wonpil returned to the solo stage with a concert that felt less like a dramatic reinvention than a careful unveiling of who he has become as both an artist and individual. Held from Friday to Sunday at Jamsil Indoor Stadium in southern Seoul, Wonpil’s “Unfiltered” marked his first solo show in more than four years, following his 2022 concert “Pilmography.” The final show opened with “Toxic Love” and “Already Grown Up,” immediately setting the tone for a performance centered on honesty. Ra

- [From mala tang to milk tea, Chinese food wave grows in Seoul](#) (2026-05-04 05:53)

Nearly a week after Chinese milk tea brand Chagee opened its first three stores in Korea, the lines haven't got any shorter. The brand launched Thursday in Sinchon, Yongsan and Gangnam. By 2 p.m. on opening day, the wait at the Sinchon location hit 188 minutes. The following afternoon, the in-app order queue at the Yongsan store registered an estimated 951-minute wait. Chagee didn't arrive as a stranger. Months before the official launch, Ive's Jang Wonyoung was spotted sipping the brand's milk

- [\[팟캐스트\] \(789\) Z세대 필수 아이템이 된 '스트레스 해소템'](#) (2026-05-04 05:49)

진행자: 홍유, Tannith Stress-relief items become everyday essentials for Gen Z 기사요약: 스트레스 해소용 소품들이 Z세대 사이에서 일상 필수품으로 자리 잡고 있다. [1] “I’m having a hard day.” For a growing number of young consumers, that sentiment is no longer kept private. It is

managed, quite literally, in hand. sentiment: 감정, 정서 literally: 문자 그대로 [2] Across South Korea, small, portable items designed to ease tension are becoming part of daily routines. From tactile keycap keyrings clipped onto bags to soft squishy toys and pocket-si

- [Top court gives wider leeway to deathbed wills](#) (2026-05-04 05:48)

South Korea's Supreme Court has broadened the scope for recognizing deathbed wills written down by others, ruling that a person's limited ability to communicate does not necessarily invalidate a will made outside standard forms such as handwritten, recorded or notarized wills. According to legal sources Monday, the Supreme Court overturned a lower court ruling against a plaintiff who had been in a nearly four-year legal dispute with a bank over the validity of a will left by his maternal half-br

- [Pokemon cards or Nintendo Switch? Children's Day gifts split generations](#) (2026-05-04 05:47)

Children's Day shopping in South Korea is revealing a generational divide, with parents leaning toward practical gifts and grandparents gravitating toward collectibles that could become more valuable over time. Local e-commerce platform Bungaejangter said Monday it analyzed customer search terms on its platform during the fourth week of April, when many people begin looking for gifts ahead of the May 5 holiday. Searches for gifts such as the Nintendo Switch and Starbucks' Toy Story merchandise,

- [N. Korea denounces Japan's security policy revision as 'challenge to international peace'](#) (2026-05-04 05:46)

North Korea on Monday denounced Japan's move to revise its three key national security documents aimed at strengthening defense capabilities and increasing defense spending, calling it "a blatant challenge to international peace and humanity." In an article carried by the Rodong Sinmun, the official newspaper of the North's ruling Workers' Party, the North claimed Japan's push to revise the documents was an attempt to become "a war state and war merchant, in order to realize their century-old am

- [Full Self-Driving hacking surges in Korea as cheaper China-made Teslas remain locked out](#) (2026-05-04 05:45)

A growing number of Tesla owners in Korea are attempting to illegally activate the company's Full Self-Driving feature, bypassing restrictions that limit its use to US-built vehicles. According to data released Monday by Rep. Park Yong-gap of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea, a member of the National Assembly's Land, Infrastructure and Transport Committee, 85 cases of attempted unauthorized FSD activation had been recorded as of April 28. Under current regulations, FSD is permitted only in T

- [Samsung turns to marketing veteran to reboot TV business](#) (2026-05-04 05:45)

Samsung Electronics has appointed marketing veteran Lee Won-jin to lead its TV business in a rare midyear reshuffle, signaling a strategic pivot as the division faces slowing demand and intensifying competition from Chinese rivals. The company said Monday that Lee, currently head of global marketing for its device experience division, will take over as president and head of its visual display business. His predecessor, Yong Seok-woo, will move into an advisory role supporting the device experien

- [Kim Si-woo ties for fourth at Cadillac Championship with Trump in attendance](#) (2026-05-04 05:44)

Kim Si-woo tied for fourth at the PGA Tour's Cadillac Championship for his sixth top-10 of the season. Kim shot a 2-under 70 in the final round Sunday at the Blue Monster course at Trump National Doral in Miami, carding three birdies and one bogey. He finished at 11-under 277, tied for fourth with Adam Scott of Australia and Sepp Straka of Austria. The result marked Kim's sixth top-10 of the season. He opened the year with a tie for sixth at The American Express, then posted back-to-back top-10s

- [Samsung Biologics strike talks stall as losses mount](#) (2026-05-04 05:44)

Negotiations between Samsung Biologics and its labor union failed to yield a breakthrough Monday, as both sides remained far apart during government-mediated talks aimed at ending the company's first full-scale strike. Representatives from management and the union met at a mediation table set up by the Ministry of Employment and Labor at 10 a.m., but failed to reach an agreement by press time. Talks resumed in the afternoon after a roughly two-hour morning session ended without progress. Accordi

- [APR crowned Asia's most valuable beauty firm](#) (2026-05-04 05:43)

South Korean beauty tech firm APR has vaulted to the top of Asia's beauty industry by market capitalization, nudging its way into the world's top tier while leaving big players in Korea and neighboring countries in its wake. The Seoul-based company ended April with a market capitalization of roughly 16 trillion won (\$10.9 billion), well ahead of domestic rivals Amorepacific and LG Household & Health Care, which sit in the 8 trillion won and 4 trillion won range, respectively. Regional peers also

- [Netflix tax win in Korea highlights gaps in digital tax rules](#) (2026-05-04 05:39)

A South Korean court's recent ruling in favor of Netflix has brought renewed attention to how global digital platforms structure their operations to minimize local tax liabilities — a practice that, while legal, continues to raise questions about fairness and the limits of existing tax systems. On April 28, the Seoul Administrative Court largely sided with Netflix Services Korea, canceling 68.7 billion won (\$46.7 million) of the 76.2 billion won in taxes imposed by Korean authorities in a 2023 d

- [Rare inter-Korean women's soccer match slated near Seoul this month](#) (2026-05-04 05:35)

A North Korean women's soccer club will visit South Korea this month to compete in the Asian Football Confederation Women's Champions League, marking the first time a team from the North has competed in the South in eight years. In a rare inter-Korean sports exchange, Pyongyang's Naegohyang Women's FC will face Suwon FC in the AFC Women's Champions League semifinals on May 20 at 7 p.m. at Suwon Stadium, according to the Korea Football Association on Monday. The delegation, comprising 27 athletes

- [Korea eyes wider QR payment network across Asia](#) (2026-05-04 05:33)

South Korea's financial clearing agency plans to expand its cross-border QR payment network across Asia as the country modernizes digital payments and brings artificial intelligence deeper into financial services. "Our goal is to build QR payment services with as many countries as possible," said Chae Byung-deuk, president of the Korea Financial Telecommunications & Clearings Institute, during a meeting with Korean reporters Sunday in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, where he was attending the Asian Devel

- [Speaker hopefuls make stronger Assembly diplomacy key pledge](#) (2026-05-04 05:30)

Three ruling party heavyweights launched bids for National Assembly speaker, each casting the post as a more assertive platform for domestic legislation and Assembly diplomacy as they called for a stronger role in foreign and security affairs. Reps. Cho Jeong-sik, Kim Tae-nyeon and Park Jie-won of the Democratic Party of Korea held separate news conferences in succession on Monday, the candidate registration day for the race for Assembly speaker, the country's No. 2 position in protocol hierarchy

- [Jeju's casino revenue grows 41%, but crime fears shadow jackpot](#) (2026-05-04 05:06)

Jeju Island is seeing a sharp rise in casino revenue on the back of surging international arrivals, but the boom is also drawing renewed attention to gambling-related crime. In a 2024 government survey, around 50 percent of the 1,000 Jeju residents said casinos negatively impacted public safety, prompting authorities to strengthen countermeasures. These included improving reporting systems for foreign visitors and cracking down on illegal money exchange. According to the Jeju Provincial Police o

- [30-day countdown to local elections](#) (2026-05-04 05:05)

A sign at an office of the National Election Commission in Seoul on Monday shows that there are 30 days to go to the June 3 local elections, which are expected to serve as the first major bellwether of public support for the policies of President Lee Jae Myung's administration since its launch in June 2025. (Yoon Chang-bin/The Korea Herald)

- [The North Face opens megastore in Jamsil](#) (2026-05-04 04:58)

The North Face said Monday it has opened a new megastore at Jamsil Lotte World Mall, designed as an immersive space showcasing the brand's identity and full product lineup. Located on the third floor, the store features both the North Face's core outdoor collection and the Korea-exclusive White Label line. The store offers a wide range of products tailored to activities such as running, hiking and climbing, alongside seasonal flagship items including the Day Camp Jacket and Ruben Jacket, allowin

- [Ulsan to pilot migrant-worker support center](#) (2026-05-04 04:54)

Ulsan will begin a pilot operation of a comprehensive support center for migrant workers Wednesday, as the industrial city seeks to expand legal, labor and daily-living support for its growing foreign workforce, the city government said Monday. The center will be located in Dong-gu, a district where almost half of the city's migrant workers reside. The 390-square-meter space will be used for consultations, education programs and community activities. It will consult workers on employment, legal

- [After surge in young visitors, Gwanaksan faces overcrowding, litter, vandalism](#) (2026-05-04 03:28)

Gwanaksan, one of Seoul's most popular mountains, is reeling from severe littering after going viral as a lucky landmark among young Koreans, according to online communities Monday. A recent post on Threads has sparked public outrage after showing a puddle near the summit of Gwanaksan stained red with ramen broth and littered with ice cream wrappers, tissues and other trash. "The hikers who left the mess should be made to pay for the damage," one user wrote. "This is a drinking spot for birds, c

- [Crackdown targets illegal banners after boy injured by cord](#) (2026-05-04 03:27)

The South Korean government on Monday began a nationwide crackdown on illegal political banners, after an accident last month in which an 11-year-old boy lost consciousness when his neck was caught by a banner string. The Ministry of the Interior and Safety will continue the inspections until June 2, the day before local elections are held. On April 15, the ministry sent regional governments and political parties guidelines on banners promoting politicians, parties or election candidates. The cr

- [Nearly 3 in 10 COVID vaccine doses discarded after expiring: report](#) (2026-05-04 03:27)

South Korea has acquired more than 200 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines since 2020, but 28.8 percent of them were discarded after reaching their expiration dates, data from the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency showed Monday. A total of 229.64 million doses had been acquired as of March since the pandemic began in 2020, of which 66.2 million were discarded, according to KDCA data released by Rep. Kim Mi-ae of the main opposition People Power Party. The number of discarded doses incre

- [Outgoing Tanzanian envoy touts complementary Tanzania-Korea ties](#) (2026-05-04 03:18)

South Korea and Tanzania's bilateral relations have grown stronger over the past 34 years, and the two nations will continue to be important partners, Tanzania's Ambassador to Korea Togolani Mavura said Thursday. "So much has been achieved in our 34 years of relations," Mavura said at Thursday's event marking the 62nd Union Day and 34 years of diplomatic ties, noting ties have "grown from strength to strength." He harked back to South Korea's support through the Korea International Cooperation A

- [BOK senior official hints at rate hike pivot amid inflation fears](#) (2026-05-04 03:12)

The Bank of Korea may begin considering a shift toward interest rate hikes, signaling a potential end to its easing cycle, as rising inflationary pressures and geopolitical risks cloud the economic outlook, a senior central bank official said Sunday. "The time may have come to halt rate cuts and consider moving toward rate hikes," BOK Senior Deputy Gov. Ryou Sang-dai said at a press conference on the sidelines of the Asian Development Bank's annual meeting in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. "Given extern

- [4 in 10 Korean children prefer play after school, but most end up studying](#) (2026-05-04 03:11)

Over 40 percent of children in Korea want to spend time with friends after school, but more than half attend private academies, known locally as "hagwon." According to the National Center for the Rights of the Child's recent report, 42.9 percent of respondents would like to socialize at playgrounds or internet cafes, but only 18.6 percent actually do so. Instead, 54 percent reported attending hagwon or receiving tutoring, compared to only 25.2 percent who said they would choose this option. These

- [Daesang opens entries for Budapest student film fest](#) (2026-05-04 02:44)

Daesang Group said Monday it would host the "6th Daesang E.T.F.F (Eat & Travel Film Festival)," a college student smartphone film competition, with applications open through June 3. The program marks the festival's first expansion into Europe, following previous editions held in Southeast Asian countries such as Vietnam and Indonesia. A total of 48 finalists will be selected on June 23 through document screening. They will be divided into teams of six and spend about a month developing projects,

- [Park Jinyoung's 2nd solo EP to feature Day6's Wonpil](#) (2026-05-04 02:30)

Park Jinyoung of GOT7 is set to release his second solo set, "Said & Done," on May 13, his agency BH Entertainment said Monday. The EP will consist of five tracks, including the main track "Everlove," for which he wrote the lyrics. Jinyoung also co-authored the lyrics of the B-side "17" with singer-songwriter Wonpil of Day6. The upcoming mini album comes more than three years after his previous EP "Chapter 0: With." He was the male lead in the 10-part series "Shining," starring opposite Kim Minj

- [Korean films take three prizes at Udine's Far East Film Festival](#) (2026-05-04 02:28)

Korean films walked away with a strong haul from the 28th Far East Film Festival in Udine, Italy, taking three of the top prizes alongside winners from Japan, China and Vietnam. "The Seoul Guardians," a documentary on the political unrest that gripped Seoul on the night of Dec. 3, 2024, took the Silver Mulberry, the festival's runner-up prize, decided by public vote. The film was the first documentary ever selected for the festival's competition section. Produced by Kim Jong-woo, Kim Shin-wan an

- [Kimchi sandwich at Van Gogh Museum sparks misrepresentation row](#) (2026-05-04 02:27)

A restaurant inside Amsterdam's Van Gogh Museum has drawn criticism for describing its kimchi sandwich as a combination of a French dish with Japanese influences. Sungshin Women's University professor Seo Kyoung-duk posted an image of the restaurant's menu on social media Monday. The menu said Bistro Vincent "celebrates life and the art of Vincent van Gogh with a unique culinary journey inspired by the countries that shaped him: the Netherlands, France and Japan." It added that the restaurant co

- [Starbucks Korea expands sliced cake lineup as demand shifts to variety](#) (2026-05-04 02:17)

Starbucks Korea said Monday it is expanding its lineup of cake slices ahead of "Family Month" in May, as dessert preferences shift toward greater variety and personalization. Consumers are increasingly opting for a range of flavors rather than one whole cake, with more people sharing desserts with family and friends or choosing items tailored to individual tastes. The trend has driven steady growth in demand for slices. In response, Starbucks has been broadening its slice offerings to provide mo

- [TWS' s 5th EP sells 1.1m in 1 week](#) (2026-05-04 02:11)

TWS sold more than 1.11 million copies of its fifth EP in one week, hitting a career high, according to agency Pledis Entertainment on Monday. The EP "No Tragedy" was released on April 27 and sold over 830,000 units on the day of release, surpassing those of TWS' previous endeavors. The mini album reached the 1 million units threshold in four days, becoming the two-year-old group's first million-selling set. The main track "You, You" entered all major music charts at home, and the supporting mus

- [Australian inquiry opens public hearings into Bondi Beach shooting](#) (2026-05-04 02:03)

SYDNEY (AFP) -- An Australian inquiry opened public hearings Monday into an antisemitic shooting that killed 15 people at a Jewish festival on Sydney's Bondi Beach. The federal royal commission -- the highest level of government inquiry -- was called to probe factors leading to the attack by two gunmen on Jewish families at Australia's most famous beach in December. Public hearings began with members of Sydney's Jewish community expected to talk about their experience of antisemitism. "The sharp

- [BMW M leads Korea's high-performance market, extends global streak](#) (2026-05-04 02:01)

BMW's high-performance brand BMW M continued to lead South Korea's premium automotive market while extending its record global sales streak to 14 consecutive years. BMW Korea sold 5,541 BMW M models in 2025, maintaining its position as the country's top seller in the premium high-performance segment for a second straight year. The momentum carried into 2026, with first-quarter sales reaching 1,334 units, up 7 percent from a year earlier. Globally, BMW M sold 213,457 vehicles in 2025, a 3 percent

- [LS Cable & System to showcase subsea cables at OTC 2026](#) (2026-05-04 02:00)

LS Cable & System said Monday it will showcase its maritime infrastructure products at the Offshore Technology Conference 2026, being held Monday to Thursday in Houston. The North American market is drawing growing investment in subsea power grids and offshore energy projects, driving demand for long-distance power transmission and large-scale marine infrastructure. In response, LS Cable & System is accelerating its push into the region, focusing on subsea cables and specialized marine cable sol

- [Special counsel appeals ex-first lady's 4-year corruption sentence to Supreme Court](#) (2026-05-04 02:00)

A special counsel team said Monday it has challenged an appeals court ruling sentencing former first lady Kim Keon Hee to four years in prison on corruption charges. The Seoul High Court raised Kim's sentence from 20 months to four years in prison Tuesday, finding her partially guilty of involvement in a stock price manipulation scheme and guilty of accepting luxury gifts from the Unification Church. Special counsel Min Joong-ki's team had sought a 15-year prison term for the wife of former Pres

- [Spirit says most customers refunded after abrupt shutdown](#) (2026-05-04 01:58)

NEW YORK (Reuters) -- Spirit Airlines said Sunday it had almost completed refunding passengers and returning its crew to their home bases following its decision to cease operations over the weekend. Spirit abruptly canceled flights early Saturday morning, stranding passengers and staff around the US, the Caribbean and Latin America, after collapsing under financial pressures that included a sharp rise in fuel costs due to the Iran war. The carrier had more than 4,000 domestic flights scheduled

- [Rubio to visit Rome, meet Pope Leo after Trump row](#) (2026-05-04 01:56)

ROME (AFP) -- US Secretary of State Marco Rubio will meet Pope Leo on a trip to Rome this week, in the wake of the pontiff's clash with US President Donald Trump, a Vatican source said Sunday. The source confirmed Italian media reports about the meeting, which newspapers said would take place on Thursday in an attempt to "thaw" relations. It comes just weeks after Trump's extraordinary criticism of Pope Leo XIV over the Catholic leader's anti-war rhetoric. An Italian government source earlier to

- [Kospi hits fresh high on chip rally](#) (2026-05-04 01:56)

South Korea's benchmark Kospi hit a fresh high in early trading Monday, lifted by strong gains in chipmakers. The Kospi opened at 6,782.93, up 2.79 percent from the previous session, surpassing the prior intraday high of 6,750.27 set Thursday, the last trading day before the holiday break. The index had extended its gains to reach a session high of 6,797.18 as of 10:15 a.m. Retail investors were net sellers, offloading 1.49 trillion won (\$1.01 billion), while foreign and institutional investors

- [Tottenham escapes relegation zone](#) (2026-05-04 01:54)

BIRMINGHAM, England (Reuters) -- Tottenham Hotspur eased their Premier League relegation fears with a vital 2-1 victory at Aston Villa to move above West Ham United and out of the bottom three on Sunday. West Ham's defeat by Brentford the day before opened the door for Tottenham and it took full advantage with Conor Gallagher's low shot and Richarlison's header punishing a lackluster Villa inside the opening 25 minutes. Fifth-placed Villa was poor as the team appeared to have one eye on Thursda

- [2 US service members missing after military exercises in Morocco](#) (2026-05-04 01:51)

CASABLANCA, Morocco (AP) — Two US service members are missing in southwestern Morocco after taking part in annual multinational military exercises in the North African country, the US Africa Command said Sunday. The service members are US Army soldiers who went missing while on a hike, a US defense official told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity as they were not allowed to speak publicly about the issue. “They were not actively taking part in any training. The day's exercises had co

- [Hezbollah pays steep price in battle to reverse fortunes](#) (2026-05-04 01:44)

BEIRUT (Reuters) -- Hezbollah has paid a heavy price for going to war with Israel on March 2: Israel has occupied a chunk of southern Lebanon, displaced hundreds of thousands of its Shiite Muslim constituents and killed as many as several thousand of its fighters, according to previously unreported casualty estimates from within the group. The move has brought severe political consequences, too. In Beirut, opposition has hardened to its status as an armed group, which domestic rivals see as exp

- [Suspected outbreak of rare hantavirus on cruise ship in Atlantic kills 3](#) (2026-05-04 01:30)

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (AP) — A suspected outbreak of the rare hantavirus infection on a cruise ship in the Atlantic Ocean killed three people, including an elderly married couple, and sickened at least three others, the World Health Organization and South Africa's Department of Health said Sunday. In a statement to The Associated Press, WHO said an investigation was underway but that at least one case of hantavirus had been confirmed. One of the patients was in intensive care in a South Africa

- [BTS charts 6 weeks among top 5 on Billboard 200](#) (2026-05-04 01:26)

BTS extended its stay on Billboard 200 to a sixth week, ranking No. 5 on the chart dated May 9, according to the ranking preview on Sunday in the US. Its fifth studio project “Arirang” slid down a rung from the previous week, preceded by a three-week run atop the main albums chart, a record for a K-pop endeavor. Meanwhile, the album is spending its sixth frame on Spotify’s Weekly Top Albums Global at No. 2, while all 14 tracks made the chart on its Weekly Top Songs Global, with the main track “S

- [Le Sserafim celebrates 4th year](#) (2026-05-04 01:16)

Le Sserafim is marking four years since the group's debut with a bevy of new content, according to Source Music on Sunday. The five bandmates began the celebration with a group photo in which they re-created moments from their own childhoods, fit for the theme of a “Fim'ily Party.” They also uploaded playful selfie visuals for “Celebration,” a single they dropped last month. On Saturday, the bandmates took to a livestream and shared episodes with fans, saying, “This is just the beginning of Le

- [Lee's approval rating falls below 60%: poll](#) (2026-05-04 01:01)

President Lee Jae Myung's approval rating fell below the 60 percent mark for the first time in two months partly due to growing concerns over people's livelihoods, a survey showed Monday. According to the survey conducted by Realmeter and commissioned by the EKN newspaper among 2,006 respondents aged 18 and older, the positive assessment of Lee's performance slipped 2.7 percentage points to 59.5 percent. Negative assessments rose 1.6 percentage points to 35 percent, while 5.5 percent said they w

- [Seoul shares open at fresh record high on eased Middle East tensions](#) (2026-05-04 00:15)

South Korean stocks opened at a fresh high of over 6,700 on Monday as US President Donald Trump announced plans to free ships stranded in the Strait of Hormuz, while Washington and Tehran exchanged their proposals for peace talks. After opening at a fresh record high of 6,782.93, or 2.79 percent higher, the benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index added 157.3 points, or 2.38 percent, to 6,756.17 as of 9:15 a.m. The index had risen three straight sessions to close at an all-time high of 6,690.

- [Trump says US to help free ships stranded in Strait of Hormuz](#) (2026-05-04 00:12)

US President Donald Trump said Monday that Washington will begin guiding some neutral ships stranded in the Strait of Hormuz this week as a “humanitarian gesture” amid the prolonged crisis in the Middle East. About 2,000 vessels remain trapped in the strait, including 26 South Korean-flagged ships, as the crucial waterway has effectively been shut down since late February, when the conflict began following US-Israeli strikes on Iran. In a post on his Truth Social platform, Trump said “neutral an

- [Top-ranked An Se-young leads S. Korea to badminton world team title](#) (2026-05-04 00:05)

World No. 1 An Se-young has led South Korea to its third world women's team badminton title. South Korea defeated China 3-1 to take the 2026 Uber Cup, the world team championships in women's badminton, at Forum Horsens in Horsens, Denmark, on Sunday. South Korea had previously won the biennial competition in 2010 and 2022. At the Uber Cup, teams play three singles and two doubles matches, with the first side to win three matches being declared the winner. An set the tone by dispatching world No.

- [\[Graphic News\] S. Korea' s cumulative EV registrations surpass 1m](#) (2026-05-03 23:00)

South Korea' s cumulative electric vehicle registrations have surpassed the 1 million mark, with more than 100,000 EVs registered in the first four months of this year, government data showed. A total of 106,939 EVs were sold this year as of April 17, according to data compiled by the Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment. Last year, the milestone was reached in seven months. In 2024, the figure only surpassed the 100,000-unit mark in September. This year, EVs accounted for more than 20 per

- [Eximbank partners with ADB to finance critical minerals supply chain](#) (2026-05-03 23:00)

The Export-Import Bank of Korea has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Asian Development Bank to support critical minerals projects and establish a joint financing platform, the bank said Sunday. Under the agreement, Eximbank will commit \$500 million by 2029 through its supply chain stabilization fund to participate in ADB' s newly launched critical minerals-to-manufacturing financing partnership facility, which targets projects across the Asia-Pacific. Eximbank President and CEO Hwang

- [\[Lee Kyong-hee\] Jeju' s tragedy is still awaiting closure](#) (2026-05-03 20:30)

Every spring, Jeju Island radiates poignant beauty. It beckons visitors with a riot of pink cherry blossoms and yellow canola flowers. On this island of vibrant subtropical scenery, known for its stone, wind and women, memories of brutal civilian massacres remain unhealed beneath the gloss of a bustling tourist destination. The film “My Name,” released last month, traces the long-repressed childhood memory of a middle-aged dance instructor who experiences, particularly in spring, unexplained phy

- [\[Man-Ki Kim\] Security beyond self-reliant defense](#) (2026-05-03 20:30)

Global instability is intensifying. The prolonged war in Ukraine, North Korea' s growing military ties with Russia, unrest in the Middle East, and supply-chain threats in the Strait of Hormuz all point to one reality: economic security can no longer be assumed. For Korea, lasting security depends not only on economic growth, defense industrial progress, or technological advancement, but also on recognizing a vital distinction: autonomy is not the same as security. A Self-reliant National Defense

- [Rain, gusty winds expected through Monday morning](#) (2026-05-03 12:34)

Wet and blustery weather will linger across South Korea into Monday morning before gradually clearing from the afternoon, the Korea Meteorological Administration said. Rain is expected to continue through the predawn hours in the Seoul metropolitan area, the inland Chungcheong region, eastern parts of the Jeolla provinces and on Jeju Island. Showers will persist longer in Gangwon Province and northern North Gyeongsang Province, easing only by afternoon. Higher elevations in Gangwon could see snow

- [Man kills ex-wife, jumps to death from Ulsan apartment](#) (2026-05-03 12:21)

A man in his 60s killed his ex-wife at his apartment in Ulsan on Sunday before jumping from the building, police said. Officers from the Ulsan Bukbu Police Station received a call at around 11:48 a.m. from the man, who told a 112 emergency operator that he had killed his wife. Police and paramedics arrived shortly after, but the man had already jumped from the apartment. He was pronounced dead at the scene. The ex-wife was found badly wounded in the living room. She was taken to hospital but died

- [Court orders detention of alleged drug supplier to former Philippines-based kingpin](#) (2026-05-03 11:55)

A South Korean court on Friday ordered the continued detention of a man accused of supplying narcotics to one of the country's most notorious drug traffickers. The Suwon District Court issued the warrant against the suspect, identified only by his surname Choi, citing concerns he could tamper with evidence or attempt to flee. Choi has been booked on charges of drug distribution under a law on aggravated punishment for specific crimes. The charge carries a sentence of life in prison or at least 1

- [Drunk-driving crash at east-coast beach town kills teen passenger](#) (2026-05-03 11:37)

A 19-year-old college student was driving under the influence early Sunday when the car flipped on a street in the east-coast city of Donghae, killing one passenger and injuring two others, police said Sunday. The crash happened at around 1:24 a.m. near Daejin Beach in Gangwon Province. A 19-year-old woman in the front passenger seat was taken to a hospital but did not survive. A third woman, also 19, was riding in the back and suffered minor injuries. A breath test put the driver's blood-alcohol

- [Singapore General Hospital spearheads AI-powered workflow](#) (2026-05-03 11:37)

Korea Herald correspondent SINGAPORE — Artificial intelligence is fundamentally changing every industry, and the health care sector is no exception. Singapore General Hospital, the country's largest and oldest hospital, is going all out to improve AI implementation for patients and medical professionals alike. As cognitive impairment becomes a bigger issue for Asian countries with aging populations, SGH has developed PENSIEVE-AI. This simple tool uses patients' drawings done on a tablet to detect

- [Samsung Biologics labor union set to resume talks with management on Monday](#)

(2026-05-03 11:10)

Samsung Biologics, the biotech arm of Samsung Group, has agreed to return to the negotiation table this week, a corporate official said. The two sides will renegotiate on Monday under the mediation of the Jungbu regional employment and labor office, after the first round of talks fell through on Thursday. The strike is the first ever for the union, with the walkout entering its third day on Sunday. "Our decision to respond to the labor ministry's arbitration request during the walkout was part o

- [Pregnant woman loses baby after she was turned away by 6 hospitals](#) (2026-05-03 10:58)

A woman who was 29 weeks pregnant was airlifted 280 kilometers to Busan late Friday after six nearby hospitals declined to admit her, resulting in the death of the fetus, fire authorities said Sunday. According to authorities, the woman had been admitted to an obstetrics clinic in Cheongju, North Gyeongsang Province, due to bleeding. The clinic called 119 around 11 p.m. after the fetal heart rate dropped. Six hospitals refused the transfer, citing a shortage of available specialists, among other

- [S. Korean Earth-observation satellite successfully put into orbit](#) (2026-05-03 10:07)

A South Korean Earth-observation satellite has successfully entered low-Earth orbit following its launch from a US space base in California, authorities said Sunday, in a move expected to help bolster Seoul's satellite development capabilities. A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket carrying the satellite lifted off at 12 a.m. Saturday (US time) from Vandenberg Space Force Base in Santa Barbara County, California. The satellite, called Compact Advanced Satellite (CAS) 500-2, was separated from the launch vehi

- [Women artists who trailblazed 'environments' revived in Seoul](#) (2026-05-03 08:53)

Stepping into a room filled with 136 kilograms of goose feathers felt like walking on clouds. This surreal space at the Leeum Museum of Art in Seoul is the immersive environment work "Feather Room" by American artist Judy Chicago. The piece, originally conceived in 1966 for the Rolf Nelson Gallery in Los Angeles, challenged the authority of rigid materials in male-dominated architectural traditions at the time. Sixty years later, it is revived in Seoul at "Inside Other Spaces: Environments by Wo

- [Seoul Friendship Festival to bring 75 countries to DDP this weekend](#) (2026-05-03 08:53)

The Seoul Metropolitan Government will host the Seoul Friendship Festival on May 9 and 10 at Dongdaemun Design Plaza. The annual international cultural exchange event, launched in 1996 to commemorate Seoul Citizens' Day, has grown into one of the city's signature multicultural festivals. Last year's edition drew about 160,000 visitors. Officials said Sunday that this year's key attractions include a world cultural performance stage, a global city cinema and embassy booths. International food and

- [S. Korean Earth-observation satellite enters orbit, makes ground contact](#) (2026-05-03 08:48)

A South Korean Earth-observation satellite launched from a US space base in California successfully entered low-Earth orbit and made contact with a ground station, authorities said Sunday. SpaceX launched a Falcon 9 rocket from Vandenberg Space Force Base in Santa Barbara County, California, at 11:59 p.m. Saturday (local time), carrying 45 payloads. The satellite was separated from the launch vehicle about one hour after liftoff, according to the Korea AeroSpace Administration. The mission has b

- [Citi flags strike risk as drag on Samsung earnings](#) (2026-05-03 08:15)

Samsung Electronics may face near-term pressure on earnings and its share price as labor tensions escalate, with a potential strike and large bonus provisions weighing on profitability, according to Citigroup. In a report released April 30, Citi analyst Peter Lee maintained a “buy” rating on the stock but lowered the target price by 6.3 percent to 300,000 won from 320,000 won. The revision reflects rising concerns that the company may need to set aside substantial provisions for performance-base

- [Posco Holdings invests \\$765m in Australian lithium](#) (2026-05-03 08:14)

Posco Holdings said Sunday it has signed a stake investment deal in Australian lithium mines as it moves to strengthen its raw material supply chain for battery materials. The company said it had recently agreed to invest about \$765 million in a lithium mining project with Mineral Resources, an Australian mining and mining services firm. The deal follows Posco Holdings’ announcement in November of its plan to invest in Australian lithium assets. Under the agreement, the two companies will establ

- [Cortis teases new album ‘Greengreen’ as preorders near 2.4m](#) (2026-05-03 08:04)

Preorders for Cortis’ second EP “Greengreen” were approaching 2.4 million copies as the group released teaser content shortly before its Monday release. According to distributors YG Plus and Universal Records, the album recorded 2.39 preorders as of April 30, raising expectations that the group will achieve its second consecutive double-million seller following its debut release. Ahead of the album’s release, Cortis unveiled four teaser videos of tracks from “Greengreen” — “TNT,” “Acai,” “Wassup

- [\[Exclusive\] S. Korean Embassy accused of mismanagement at K-Culture event in Pakistan](#) (2026-05-03 08:02)

A Korean cultural event hosted by the South Korean Embassy in Pakistan drew criticism over the weekend after visitors said they were told at the venue that the event had been canceled, leaving many unable to enter despite traveling long distances to attend. “People were so furious,” said Hajra Ijaz, a 29-year-old Pakistani visitor who attended the event. “When we reached the venue, police and security personnel told us the event had been canceled, which was clearly a lie.” The embassy on Saturda

- [An Se-young leads S. Korea to world team championship final](#) (2026-05-03 07:37)

Led by An Se-young, the South Korea's women's badminton team defeated Indonesia to advance to the final of the world team championships. South Korea earned a 3-1 victory over Indonesia on Saturday in the semifinals of the 2026 Uber Cup in Horsens. South Korea got off to a strong start when An defeated world No. 6 Putri Kusuma Wardani 21-19, 21-5 in the opening singles match. In the second match, the doubles team of Lee So-hee and Baek Ha-na beat Febriana Dwipuji Kusuma and Amallia Cahaya Pratiwi

- [Half of Korean workers say employment dropped related to AI tech](#) (2026-05-03 07:35)

Just over half of Korean workers said that use of artificial intelligence led to their companies hiring less people than before, but just a small portion of them said AI technology has reduced their personal workload, according to a survey by a civic group on Sunday. Some 52.4 percent of the respondents said the new hiring at shrunk since their companies officially adopted AI for their work, according to the survey by Gabjil 119, a civic group dedicated to workplace issues. It was also found tha

- [Lee Kang-in plays full 90 as PSG settles for draw](#) (2026-05-03 07:33)

Paris Saint-Germain was unable to secure a victory as Lee Kang-in went scoreless despite playing the full 90 minutes for the second straight Ligue 1 match. PSG drew FC Lorient 2-2 on Saturday in a 2025-26 Ligue 1 Round 32 match at Parc des Princes in Paris. The result extended PSG's unbeaten streak in league play to three matches (2 wins, 1 draw). The team remained atop the standings with 70 points. Lee also played the full 90 minutes in PSG's road match against Angers SCO on April 26. After rec

- [\[단독\] 주파키스탄 대사관 주관 K-문화 행사, 인파 관리 소홀 논란 ... '현장서 취소 안내받고 입장 못해'](#) (2026-05-03 07:29)

주파키스탄 대한민국 대사관이 2일 주최한 한국 문화 행사가 주말 사이 논란에 휩싸였다. 행사장을 찾은 방문객들이 현장에서 행사가 갑자기 취소됐다는 안내를 받았다고 주장하면서, 먼 길을 이동해 온 상당수 관람객들이 입장하지 못했다는 것이다. 행사에 참석한 29살 하즈라 이자즈(Hajra Ijaz)는 “사람들이 정말 분노했다”며 “행사장에 도착하자 경찰과 보안요원들이 행사가 취소됐다고 했는데, 이는 명백한 거짓말이었다”고 말했다. 대사관은 토요일 ‘K-웨이브 페스타’를 개최했다. 이 행사는 한국 음식, 뷰티 제품, 전통문화를 소개하고, 파키스탄 아마추어 댄서들이 무대에 오르는 K 팝 페스티벌도 함께 진행하는 행사였다. 행사는 파키스탄 이슬라마바드의 한 고급 호텔에서 열렸으며, 일반 대중에 공개된 행사였다. 이자즈는 “문제는 행사가 일반에 공개됐고, 대사관이 인파를 감당하지 못했다는 점”이라며 “끔찍한 경험이었다”고 말했다. 소셜미디어에서도 비슷한 주장이 이어졌다. 일부 이용자들은 전쟁으로

- [New special counsel may have power to cancel president's criminal charges](#) (2026-05-03 06:43)

Opposition parties have slammed a proposed special counsel investigation into allegations against the prosecution that could have the power to cancel criminal charges against the incumbent president. They branded the latest push by the ruling Democratic Party of Korea an attempt to abuse its authority in order to end investigations into President Lee Jae Myung. In a press conference Sunday People Power Party Floor Leader Rep. Song Eon-seog urged voters to pass judgment on Lee and the ruling Demo

- [Elections are a month away. What are key battles to look out for?](#) (2026-05-03 06:38)

As they approach the June 3 local and parliamentary by-elections, South Korea's parties face a political tide flowing in a very different direction to the last local elections four years ago. For President Lee Jae Myung's Democratic Party of Korea, victory in the elections will mean extending its dominance into local governments after a weak showing in the 2022 elections. For the main opposition People Power Party, winning in key regions will be an important step in turning the tide on its dimin

- [Korea' s takeaway from China' s robotics surge](#) (2026-05-03 05:53)

China has emerged as the world' s leading force in humanoid robotics, while Korea, the US and other rivals race to catch up in what is quickly becoming the next frontier of advanced manufacturing. Behind the country' s dominance lies years of coordinated policy support, academia-driven research and tightly integrated industrial ecosystems — a playbook that mirrors its rise in electric vehicles. “China’ s progress is not driven by a single factor,” said Li-Wei Zhang, a professor of mechanical engine

- [Samsung family pays record W12tr tax, tightens grip on group](#) (2026-05-03 05:51)

The owner family of Samsung Group has completed the payment of 12 trillion won (\$8 billion) in inheritance taxes over five years, marking the largest such settlement in South Korea' s history while further tightening its control over the conglomerate. The family' s wealth has more than doubled amid an AI-driven semiconductor rally, allowing it to meet the tax burden without large-scale disposals of core holdings. The conglomerate confirmed the final payment Sunday, noting the sum is equivalent to

- [Korean banking veteran named World Bank risk director](#) (2026-05-03 05:51)

The World Bank Group has appointed a South Korean banking veteran as its director of market and counterparty risk, the Finance Ministry said Sunday. Min Jee-nah, 52, head of credit for state-owned enterprises and reinsurance at the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency, an affiliate of the World Bank Group, will assume the role starting June 1. Min will be responsible for managing market risk related to the World Bank Group' s assets and overseeing counterparty risk associated with its investm

- [Foreign picks beat retail nearly threefold](#) (2026-05-03 05:50)

Stocks most heavily bought by foreign investors sharply outperformed the broader market last month, delivering returns nearly three times higher than those favored by retail investors. All of the top 10 most purchased stocks by overseas investors on the benchmark Kospi posted positive monthly returns in April. The group surged an average of 57.3 percent, far outpacing the Kospi's 30.6 percent gain over the same period. Samsung Electronics, the most heavily net-bought stock by foreign investors,

- [SK Group sees biggest gain in market cap on AI chip rally](#) (2026-05-03 05:49)

Chip-to-energy conglomerate SK Group has seen the largest gain in market value among South Korea's top business groups in the last year, propelled by an artificial intelligence-driven chip rally. The combined market capitalization of the country's top 10 conglomerates reached 3,832.65 trillion won (\$2.6 trillion) as of Friday, up 65 percent from 2,315.19 trillion won at the end of last year. SK Group led the gains. The combined market cap of its listed affiliates climbed to 1,139.76 trillion won

- [First strikes in Samsung Biologics' 15-year history put labor relations to test](#) (2026-05-03 05:48)

Samsung Biologics, the biotech arm of Samsung Group, is grappling with its first-ever general strike, entering its third day Sunday, with a pay standoff with its labor union hardening into a test of the company's labor relations and production stability. The union launched a five-day walkout Friday, demanding a 14 percent average wage increase, a one-time 30 million won (\$20,400) cash payout per employee and a bonus equal to 20 percent of operating profit. The company has countered with a 6.2 pe

- [Korea likely to keep juvenile criminal age at 14](#) (2026-05-03 05:44)

South Korea will likely maintain the current minimum age of criminal responsibility at 14, following months of public debate sparked by rising concern over juvenile crime. The decision was reached by a government-led deliberative body formed to review the age standard for juvenile offenders, minors aged 10 to 13 who are exempt from criminal punishment and instead subject to protective measures under the Juvenile Act. The recommendation, adopted after a final vote on April 30, will be submitted t

- [Indian TV to get first Korean webtoon adaptation with 'Love Always'](#) (2026-05-03 05:36)

India is poised to debut its first Korean webtoon adaptation for television, with a new series set to launch in the second half of the year on streaming platform, JioHotstar. Kross Pictures said its India-set series "Love Always" recently wrapped production on April 2. The company is a multinational film and television production outfit acquired by Kakao Entertainment in 2020. The series is based on a popular Kakao webtoon whose title translates as "To Live or Not," which follows an elderly coup

- [Court upholds discipline against bus drivers who refused holiday work](#) (2026-05-03 05:34)

A court recently ruled in favor of an Incheon public bus operator's discipline of drivers who, demanding paid holiday leave, refused to work on public holidays, legal circles said Sunday. The Incheon District Court found the bus operator's actions lawful on April 9, in a lawsuit filed by three drivers seeking to nullify disciplinary measures imposed after they refused to work on public holidays. The plaintiffs had refused work on multiple public holidays in 2024 and 2025, including Christmas and

- [Han River nap contest returns](#) (2026-05-03 05:28)

The 2026 Hangang Nap Competition took place Saturday in Yeouido Hangang Park. The contest, which started in 2024, invites people to compete for the best daytime sleep. The Seoul Metropolitan Government accepted applications from April 16-20 and chose 170 participants. Judges focused on how well contestants could stay asleep even with distractions. Participants faced two rounds of interruptions, like being tickled with a feather or being played mosquito sounds. The judges used sleep data to decide

- [Enhypen launches 'Blood Saga' tour as six-member group in Seoul](#) (2026-05-03 05:11)

Enhypen opened its new world tour "Blood Saga" with immersive, narrative-driven concerts at Kspo Dome in southern Seoul over the weekend, marking its first major performance as a six-member group. Held from Friday to Sunday, the group's Seoul concerts drew a total of 32,250 fans, setting the stage for a global tour spanning 21 cities. The performances carried added weight as the group's first since Heeseung's departure in March. From the outset, Enhypen leaned fully into its signature vampire lore

- [\[Photo News\] Devil wears Samsung AI](#) (2026-05-03 05:01)

Samsung Electronics promotes its Bespoke AI Laundry Combo on an outdoor screen in Myeong-dong, Seoul, as part of a global campaign tied to "The Devil Wears Prada 2." The ad features a coffee spill on red fabric — a nod to the film — before the garment is cleaned using the washer-dryer's "AI Custom+" feature, which automatically optimizes washing and drying settings. The campaign is also running in Gangnam and Gwanghwamun in Seoul and in Piccadilly, London. (Samsung Electronics)

- [On this day in Korea - May 4, 2006: KT establishes Dokdo phone line](#) (2026-05-03 04:57)

KT, South Korea's largest fixed-line and broadband service operator, established the first private telephone line on the Dokdo islets in the East Sea. The landline telephone was installed at the home of Kim Seong-do, who resided on Dokdo's Seodo. The islets are extremely remote and difficult to wire. Before the line launch, communication there relied on radio or limited government channels. The installation made administrative control and support for the residents easier. KT also went on to its mobile

- [Woman and jealous boyfriend steal ex-husband's remains](#) (2026-05-03 04:48)

A woman and her boyfriend have been each sentenced to a year in prison for stealing the ashes of the woman's ex-husband, court officials told local media outlets on Sunday. The appellate division of the Seoul Central District Court upheld an earlier ruling on April 16, which found them guilty of theft and violating Article 161 of the Criminal Act, exploring tombs. The pair broke into a cemetery in January 2024 to steal the urn carrying the deceased's ashes, along with photo frames and other item

- ['I hate Chinese': Man gets suspended term for drunken racist outbursts](#) (2026-05-03 04:31)

A man in his 40s was sentenced to a prison term of 18 months, suspended for three years, for attacks against complete strangers out of what appears to be racial hatred. The Cheongju District Court said Saturday it has found the defendant guilty of assault and destruction of property, ordering the suspended term and 200 hours of community service. He was on trial for two separate cases last year in Cheongju city, North Chungcheong Province. On June 27, the defendant struck a victim's car with his

- [Gaming gets pricier amid chip crunch](#) (2026-05-03 04:24)

Gaming consoles in Korea are hitting record-high prices, driven by a tightening supply of consumer-grade memory as semiconductor makers pivot toward artificial intelligence-focused production. Sony Interactive Entertainment Korea, the official distributor of PlayStation in the country, recently announced raised prices across its PlayStation 5 lineup starting Friday, citing broader global economic pressures. The increases apply to the PS5, PS5 Pro and the PS Portal Remote Player. Following the ad

- [Woori Bank leads \\$825m refinancing for Ohio power plant](#) (2026-05-03 04:22)

Woori Bank said Sunday it has completed an \$825 million refinancing for a 950-megawatt combined-cycle gas turbine power plant in Trumbull County, Ohio, as the facility enters commercial operation. The project is a joint investment with Korea Southern Power Co., the Korea Overseas Infrastructure & Urban Development Corporation and Siemens Energy. Following the plant's April 15 start-up, Woori led the refinancing of construction loans into long-term facility financing. The plant sits within the PJ

- [Japanese K-pop trainee faces exit ban after disappearance before debut](#) (2026-05-03 04:12)

Seoul police have imposed an exit ban on a Japanese K-pop trainee accused of fraud after he allegedly disappeared just months before his group's debut. According to local news reports on Sunday, the Seoul Yeongdeungpo Police Station is investigating the trainee following a complaint filed by his agency. The trainee went missing in December, about two months before he was set to debut as part of a six-member boy group. He reportedly left behind a message saying, "Trust has been broken," before cu

- [Basic pension burden could double by 2048: study](#) (2026-05-03 04:11)

The share of South Korea's public finances spent on the basic pension could nearly double by 2048 unless the government narrows eligibility and overhauls the program, a study showed Sunday. According to the study published in the Korea Journal of Public Finance, basic pension spending is projected to rise from 3.08 percent of government finances in 2026 to 6.07 percent in 2048 if the current eligibility criteria remain unchanged. As a share of gross domestic product, spending on the basic pension

- [Charles grasped 'opportunity' in US: palace](#) (2026-05-03 03:46)

King Charles III's US state visit was a "risk and challenge" that he "grasped in both hands," a palace aide said Sunday as the monarch returned from a widely praised trip. Charles left for the UK from Bermuda Saturday following what a senior royal aide called a "historic" visit to the US, aimed at healing strained ties between Washington and London. The highlight of the four-day visit was the 77-year-old king's speech to US Congress Tuesday -- the first such address since his mother, queen Eliza

- [Ballet Festival Korea takes stock of Korean ballet today](#) (2026-05-03 02:59)

A cross-section of works defining the Korean ballet scene today has come together, spanning classical repertoire and new, experimental pieces. The 15th edition of Ballet Festival Korea kicked off Friday with the Universal Ballet's signature work "Shim Chung" at the Seoul Arts Center. Under the theme of "Echo," the festival runs until June 21 across major venues in Seoul, presenting 14 works in 26 performances. Kim Joo-won, a star ballerina and the festival's artistic director, likened the concep

- [Ukrainian graduate student earns recognition at Korean beauty pageant](#) (2026-05-03 02:48)

A Ukrainian graduate student received attention for placing third in the 96th Global Chunhyang Contest held in Namwon, North Jeolla Province. Namwon City announced Saturday that Herasymenko Anhelina, also known as Lina, a 23-year-old Ukrainian graduate student at Kyungpook National University, received the third-place title of "mi" at the pageant held on April 30. She is the first foreign contestant to finish in the top three. "As a foreigner, being named 'mi' in a pageant with nearly 100 years

- [Police escort helps sick toddler reach ER](#) (2026-05-03 02:46)

A severely ill 22-month-old has made a full recovery after a police escort helped his father take him to hospital through heavy traffic police said Sunday. Officers at the Ilsan Dongbu Police Station in Goyang, Gyeonggi Province, shared the story of their recent civic assistance, which occurred at around 8:08 p.m. on April 11 in Ilsandong-gu district of the city. While a police patrol car was waiting for the traffic light to change, the father pulled up and told the officers inside that the boy

- [LG H&H; swings to Q1 profit on robust US sales](#) (2026-05-03 02:35)

LG Household & Health Care swung back to profit in the first quarter as restructuring efforts and surging North America sales began to bear fruit, even as annual growth continued to lag, the company said Sunday. The company reported operating profit of 107.8 billion won (\$73 million) on revenue of 1.58 trillion won, with sales rising 7 percent from the prior quarter and operating margins rebounding to 6.8 percent from negative 4.9 percent. Compared with a year earlier, however, revenue fell 7.1

- [Nearly 900 Air Force pilots left for civilian airlines over past decade: data](#) (2026-05-03 02:31)

Almost 900 Air Force pilots have left the armed forces for better-paying jobs with civilian airlines over the past decade, data showed Sunday. According to a report submitted by the Air Force to People Power Party Rep. Kang Dae-sik, a member of the parliamentary subcommittee on national defense, 896 "skilled" Air Force pilots opted for voluntary discharge from 2017 to March 2026. The Air Force defines skilled pilots as those with between eight and 17 years of experience and with an ability to co

- [North Korea rejects cybercrime allegations, accuses US of smear campaign](#) (2026-05-03 02:31)

North Korea on Sunday dismissed allegations that it is behind international cybercrimes, including hacking and cryptocurrency theft, calling it “absurd slander” aimed at tarnishing the country’ s image. In an article carried by the Korean Central News Agency, the North’ s Foreign Ministry accused the US of attempting to spread what it called a false perception of Pyongyang’ s cyber activities. In the article, the ministry claimed that the US has mobilized government agencies, media outlets and othe

- [Second Korean oil tanker clears Red Sea amid Hormuz closure](#) (2026-05-03 02:25)

A second South Korean-flagged vessel carrying crude oil has safely passed through the Red Sea and is now en route to the country, authorities said Sunday, marking another successful detour following the closure of the Strait of Hormuz. The Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries said the vessel had cleared the Red Sea as of 10 a.m. (Korean time) and is transporting crude to South Korea. It follows a similar case in mid-April, when a South Korean tanker departed Yanbu Port in Saudi Arabia on April 17 an

- [More young Koreans turning away from religion: poll](#) (2026-05-03 02:23)

Only 24 percent of South Koreans in their 20s said they have a religion, down significantly from 45 percent in 2004, according to a 2025 poll by Gallup Korea. The report on religion in Korea from 1983 to 2025 showed that, by age, those in their 20s were least likely to follow a religion. The figure increased gradually among older respondents: ages 30-39 recorded 29 percent, ages 40-41 recorded 39 percent, and ages 50-51 recorded 45 percent in 2025. Those in their 60s accounted for the highest po

- [Mexican governor and mayor indicted by US step down](#) (2026-05-03 02:20)

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Two members of Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum's party in the northwestern Sinaloa state said they would temporarily step down from their posts after the US charged them and eight other politicians and security officers with drug trafficking. The bombshell indictment against the 10 has shaken Mexico's political establishment. In a short video announcement at midnight on Friday, Gov. Ruben Rocha Moya, the highest-ranking official named in the indictment, denied accusations

- [Troop withdrawal announcement adds to friction between Europe and Trump](#) (2026-05-03 02:17)

BERLIN (AP) — Germany's defense minister on Saturday appeared to take in stride a Pentagon announcement that the US plans to pull some 5,000 troops out of the country, President Donald Trump's latest attempt to reduce America's commitment to European security. Boris Pistorius said the drawdown, which Trump has threatened for years, was expected, and he said European nations needed to take on more responsibility for their own defense. But he also emphasized that security cooperation benefited both

- [Not enough time to play for Korean children, teens: report](#) (2026-05-03 01:58)

South Korean children and teens are not being granted their right to play, mainly due to a lack of time, a report conducted by a state-run agency showed Sunday. Minors and adults gave an average of 3.21 out of 4 when asked how much they think children are granted their due rights. When specifically asked about children's right to play, the score dropped to 3.15 according to a survey by the National Center for the Rights of the Child. A total of 1,177 children and teens between fourth grade and t

- [KB Financial turns to Pantera Capital to scale blockchain strategy](#) (2026-05-03 01:53)

KB Financial Group said Sunday it has entered into a strategic partnership with Pantera Capital, a US-based blockchain-focused venture capital and hedge fund. Founded in 2003, Pantera Capital manages approximately \$5.2 billion in assets and launched the first bitcoin fund in the US in 2013. The firm is known for its hybrid investment model combining venture capital and token investments, positioning it as a key player in blockchain infrastructure. Under the partnership signed in Seoul on April 2

- [Golden Tempo takes the Kentucky Derby as Cherie DeVaux becomes the 1st woman to train its winner](#) (2026-05-03 01:49)

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky (AP) -- Cherie DeVaux spent the week talking a lot about the possibility of becoming the first woman to train a Kentucky Derby winner as she got ready to be just the 18th to enter a horse in the crown jewel of horse racing's Triple Crown with Golden Tempo. Charging from the back of the pack and down the stretch to win the Derby, Golden Tempo made history for DeVaux, taking her breath away in the process and rendering her nearly speechless. "I don't even have any words right

- [Over 400 S. Korea-listed firms exceed 1tr won in market capitalization](#) (2026-05-03 01:36)

The number of South Korean-listed companies whose market capitalization surpassed 1 trillion won (\$679.7 million) exceeded 400 for the first time this year, following a dramatic pre-Middle East-conflict recovery in the stock market, data showed Sunday. The number of companies listed on the local bourse, including preferred shares, with a market capitalization of over 1 trillion won stood at 405 as of Wednesday, according to the data from the Korea Exchange, South Korea's main bourse operator. By

- [Trump says he is reviewing a new Iranian proposal to end the war](#) (2026-05-03 01:30)

US President Donald Trump said on Saturday that he was reviewing a new Iranian proposal to end the war but also expressed skepticism it would lead to a deal. “I’ll let you know about it later,” he said before boarding Air Force One, adding that “they’re going to give me the exact wording now.” Shortly after speaking to reporters, Trump posted on social media about the new proposal, saying he “can’t imagine that it would be acceptable in that they have not yet paid a big enough price for what the

- [N. Korea's Kim calls for active role of young generation in party affairs](#) (2026-05-03 01:27)

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has called for a greater role of the young people in achieving national development, state media reported Sunday, following a meeting of the country's largest youth group last week. Kim made the call Saturday while meeting with the participants of the 11th congress of the Socialist Patriotic Youth League, according to the Korean Central News Agency. Kim underscored the need for the younger generation to play a more proactive and courageous role in advancing party

- [Some W3tr worth of loans extended by S. Korean banks unrecoverable in Q1](#) (2026-05-03 01:26)

Some 3 trillion won (\$2 billion) worth of loans extended by South Korea's four major financial groups have been classified as "estimated loss" in the first quarter, financial sector data showed Sunday. A total of 2.9 trillion won of loans held by these groups were deemed largely unrecoverable as of the end of March, up 5.8 percent from the same period a year earlier, according to a fact book released by the four major lenders. The four financiers are KB Financial Group, Shinhan Financial Group,

- [Spirit Airlines shuts down over oil costs](#) (2026-05-02 23:40)

WEST PALM BEACH, Florida (AP) — Spirit Airlines, an impish upstart that shook the industry with its irreverent ads and deep discount fares, announced Saturday that it has gone out of business after 34 years. The ultralow cost airline that once operated hundreds of daily flights on its bright yellow planes and employed about 17,000 people said it had “started an orderly wind-down of our operations, effective immediately.” Although Spirit had gone bankrupt twice before, the company said high oil p

- [FM urges safe navigation in Strait of Hormuz in call with Iranian counterpart](#) (2026-05-02 13:29)

Foreign Minister Cho Hyun held phone talks with his Iranian counterpart, Abbas Araghchi, on Saturday and called for the resumption of safe navigation of vessels through the Strait of Hormuz, the foreign ministry said. During the talks, Cho noted that South Korean and other international vessels remain anchored in the crucial waterway, stressing the need to ensure their safe resumption of navigation, according to the ministry. He also expressed hope for the swift restoration of peace and stabilit

- [Why ‘Billy Elliot’ still resonates: Young talent, enduring story](#) (2026-05-02 07:00)

In one of the most moving scenes in "Billy Elliot," a young boy meets his older self in a dreamlike duet — his hesitant, searching steps echoed and lifted by graceful, assured movement. For a brief moment, the two dance as one before drifting apart, tracing a quiet arc of longing, distance and the self he is still becoming. The scene — among the production’s most striking moments — was performed on Wednesday at a press call. Lim Sun-u, a principal dancer with Universal Ballet, played the adult B

- [Korea adds Toss to large business group list after stock market boom](#) (2026-05-02 07:00)

Toss has joined South Korea's list of large corporate groups for the first time, riding a prolonged stock market rally that lifted assets across the financial sector. The Fair Trade Commission designated Toss operator Viva Republica as a publicly disclosed business group on Wednesday. The label applies to conglomerates with combined assets above 5 trillion won (\$3.38 billion). The designation takes effect May 1. Toss was one of 11 newly added groups. Daou Kiwoom Securities moved up to a stricter

- [Shareholders, public line up against Samsung union as strike nears](#) (2026-05-02 07:00)

Three weeks before Samsung Electronics' largest union plans to halt the world's biggest memory chip operation for 18 days, the dispute is quickly expanding beyond the company. Three factors have lined up against the strike at once. The Suwon District Court on Wednesday set its ruling on Samsung's injunction request for sometime between May 13 and 20, meaning the decision could arrive just one day before the walkout begins. Polling firm Realmeter released a survey showing 69.3 percent of South Ko

- [Four Seoul hikes to help you enjoy spring like a local](#) (2026-05-02 07:00)

Spring is the season when Seoul's mountains come alive. Within minutes of dense urban neighborhoods, hiking trails open into panoramic views, blooming ridgelines and quiet forest paths. For travelers looking to experience Seoul beyond its cafes and palaces, these mountains offer a deeper glimpse into how locals embrace the season: hiking, picnicking and ending the climb with a well-earned meal. Here are four mountains in Seoul that combine accessibility, scenery and a full day’s worth of explor

- [Nomadic heritage under a dazzling skyline: What to enjoy in Astana](#) (2026-05-02 07:00)

Throughout its long history, Kazakhstan has been a place where East and West have met and blended, shaped by exchanges along the Silk Road and the nomadic traditions of the steppe. That legacy continues today in Kazakhstan's capital Astana, which is emerging as a growing stopover destination for travelers between Asia and Europe, helped by its central location. The city is drawing more transit travelers with its distinctive appeal, marked by the contrast between steppe heritage and a futuristic

- [ReFeed builds jet fuel supply chain from 'liquid gold' waste oil](#) (2026-05-02 07:00)

The future of aviation fuel may turn less on how it is produced than on how its raw materials are collected, according to ReFeed CEO Lee Chung-ho. The company is building a business around used cooking oil -- or what Lee calls "liquid gold" -- an increasingly critical feedstock for sustainable aviation fuel, or SAF. With SAF mandates expanding in Europe and set to begin in Korea in 2027, demand for such feedstocks is expected to increase. "The success of the SAF industry depends not on producing

- [Spirit Airlines shuts down, industry's first Iran war casualty](#) (2026-05-02 06:53)

Bankrupt discount carrier Spirit Airlines ceased operations on Saturday, the industry's first casualty linked to the Iran war, after failing to secure creditor support for a US government bailout plan. The collapse of the first carrier due to a doubling in jet fuel prices during the two-month-old Iran war will cost thousands of jobs. It is a blow to President Donald Trump, who had proposed \$500 million to save Spirit despite opposition from some of his closest advisers and many Republicans in C

- [Iran senior military official says renewed conflict with US 'likely'](#) (2026-05-02 06:49)

An Iranian military official said Saturday that a renewed conflict with the United States was "likely", as peace talks remain stalled and President Donald Trump criticised Iran's latest proposal in negotiations. "A renewed conflict between Iran and the United States is likely, and evidence has shown that the United States is not committed to any promises or agreements," Mohammad Jafar Asadi of the military's central command centre, Khatam al-Anbiya, was quoted as saying by Iran's Fars news agenc

- [Trump says 'not satisfied' with new Iran proposal](#) (2026-05-02 05:20)

US President Donald Trump said Friday he was "not satisfied" with a new Iranian negotiating proposal, as peace talks remain frozen despite a weeks-long ceasefire. Iran delivered the draft to mediator Pakistan on Thursday evening, the IRNA news agency reported, without detailing its contents. "At this moment I'm not satisfied with what they're offering," Trump told reporters, blaming stalled talks on "tremendous discord" within Iran's leadership. "Do we want to go and just blast the hell out of t

- [Workers' Day in North Korea](#) (2026-05-02 03:19)

North Korea commemorated the 136th International Workers' Day with nationwide events, underscoring the working class' role in advancing its economic development plan. According to the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), a ceremony marking the May Day was held on Friday at the People's Palace of Culture. Senior government officials, including Premier Pak Thae-song and Workers' Party Secretary Ri Il-hwan, attended the event, along with members of foreign diplomatic missions in Pyongyang and Koreans

- [Main opposition picks supreme council member as candidate for Gyeonggi Province Gov.](#) (2026-05-02 02:15)

Yang Hyang-ja, a member of the main opposition People Power Party (PPP)'s supreme council, was nominated as the party's candidate for Gyeonggi Province governor in the June 3 local elections, the party said Saturday. The PPP's nomination committee announced the results of a primary held from Thursday to Friday. Yang is widely known for rising to the rank of an executive at Samsung Electronics in 2014 after joining the company as a vocational high school graduate without a college degree in 1985.

- [Trump says US will increase tariffs on EU cars and trucks to 25% next week](#) (2026-05-02 02:09)

US President Donald Trump said Friday that his administration will raise tariffs on cars and trucks from the European Union to 25 percent next week, claiming that the regional bloc is not complying with a bilateral trade agreement with the United States. Trump made the announcement in a social media post, reiterating that if countries produce automobiles in the US, there will be no tariffs. "I am pleased to announce that, based on the fact the European Union is not complying with our fully agree

- [Hegseth has ordered withdrawal of about 5,000 troops from Germany: Pentagon](#) (2026-05-02 01:59)

US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth has ordered the withdrawal of about 5,000 American troops from Germany, the Pentagon said Friday, two days after President Donald Trump said his administration was weighing a reduction of its service members in the allied country. Chief Pentagon spokesperson Sean Parnell issued a statement on the drawdown, which he said is expected to be completed over the next six to 12 months. The US has around 36,000 troops stationed in Germany. "The Secretary of War has orde

- [Unionized workers of Samsung Biologics continue strike for 2nd day](#) (2026-05-02 01:50)

Unionized workers at Samsung Biologics, the biotech arm of Samsung Group, continued to stage a strike Saturday for a second day, according to union officials, with the union and the company showing little signs of bridging gaps over wages and other issues. The union of Samsung Biologics began the strike on Friday, marking the first walkout since the company's establishment in 2011. The union is seeking a 14 percent increase in both base and performance-related pay, a one-off cash incentive of 30

- [\[Room Tone\] The sound of my youth; the songs that found us](#) (2026-05-02 00:00)

Growing up, my most prized possessions were my books and my music CDs. Heaven take mercy on you if you failed to return either one. A borrowed CD was a small act of trust. Back then, music ownership meant something tactile. You could feel it in the weight of a jewel case, in the flipping through liner notes, in the faint scratches you so desperately tried to avoid. There was even that brief mechanical pause, the soft whirr as the CD slotted into the player and spun itself to speed, just enough t

- [Hanwha Solutions ordered again to revise share sale plan](#) (2026-05-01 07:41)

South Korea's financial regulator has again ordered Hanwha Solutions to revise its share sale plan, citing insufficient disclosures, the company said Friday. The Financial Supervisory Service previously made a similar request on April 9 over the company's plan to raise 2.4 trillion won (\$1.6 billion) through share issuance. The company reduced its share offering size to 1.8 trillion won in its revised plan. The FSS said the company's securities registration statement under its revised plan faile

- [Movies in theaters this week](#) (2026-05-01 07:24)

"The Devil Wears Prada 2" (US) Opened April 29 Comedy/Drama Directed by David Frankel Andy Sachs (Anne Hathaway) returns to Runway as Miranda Priestly (Meryl Streep) fights to keep the magazine afloat in a changing media landscape. "The Super Mario Galaxy Movie" (US) Opened April 29 Animation/Adventure Directed by Aaron Horvath and Michael Jelenic Mario and Luigi venture into outer space, where they cross paths with Princess Rosalina and go up against Bowser and his son. "Ran 12.3" (Korea) Opene

- [We are obsessed with 'Speed.' Where will it take us?](#) (2026-05-01 07:00)

Korea has long been associated less with a sense of ease than with a culture of "bbali, bbali" ("hurry, hurry"). Speed often feels less like a preference than a condition of everyday life. The phrase has become familiar shorthand, echoed in everything from same-day delivery services to a digital ecosystem. Faster is better, waiting is discomfort and stillness feels like delay. Yet, ironically, traditional Korean dance is still often trapped in a set of stereotypes as slow, dull, sleepy. So chore

- [Real actors, AI everything else: Inside CJ ENM's 'The House'](#) (2026-05-01 07:00)

Hollywood's flirtation with AI has gotten serious over the last few years. It started with de-aging older actors, cleaning up visual effects and fine-tuning accents in post. Now things have moved well past that. The Russo brothers are sinking \$400 million into building AI tools for filmmakers. Doug Liman is shooting a feature he claims AI trimmed from a \$300 million budget down to \$70 million. So where does that leave the Korean film business? As it happens, CJ ENM, the country's leading enterta

- [Alaska Airlines' long-haul, in its own language](#) (2026-05-01 07:00)

Korea Herald correspondent SEATTLE — The cabin lights dim to a warm amber. A lantern glows softly beside the seat as a flight attendant pours a chilled glass of sparkling wine. A sliding door closes, and for a moment, the hum of the Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner fades away. This is Alaska Airlines' new international business-class suite, which debuted April 25 as part of the carrier's long-haul rebrand. The airline introduced the suite on its first long-haul international route, Seattle-Incheon, follo

- [Philips doubles down on AI to offer better care for more people](#) (2026-05-01 07:00)

SINGAPORE — Philips on Wednesday unveiled a new artificial intelligence-backed patient monitoring innovation strategy, underlining its commitment to help hospitals improve health care coordination to offer better care for more people and more effectively cope with projected workforce shortages worldwide. “We need to start with where the pain sits in health care,” Stephanie Sievers, managing director of Philips Asia Pacific, told reporters on the sidelines of the company's Innovation Summit in Si

- [In May, Korea turns to families](#) (2026-05-01 07:00)

May is widely referred to as ‘Family Month’ in South Korea, with a cluster of family-related observances including Children's Day (May 5), Parents' Day (May 8), Teachers' Day (May 15) and Couples' Day (May 21). It is a time when the cultural calendar shifts noticeably toward children and parents, with museums, outdoor festivals and performance venues tailoring programs accordingly. Sejong Center for the Performing Arts in Seoul leads the month with programming designed for family viewing. The Se

- [Canton Network steps on the gas in Asia Pacific](#) (2026-05-01 07:00)

JPMorgan, BNP Paribas, HSBC, Circle, Cumberland, Goldman Sachs and the Depository Trust & Clearing Corp. These are major institutions with massive public footprints that all have something in common: They've worked with Canton Network. Canton is a blockchain protocol linking Daml applications — Daml is an enterprise-grade, open-source smart contract language — defining who is entitled to see, and who is authorized to change any given contract. In practice, this allows transactions on shared infr

- [\[H.eco Tech Festa 2026\] KARI extracts value from battery wastewater](#) (2026-05-01 07:00)

When much of the world still treats environmental compliance as a cost center, Yang Hee-young, CEO of KARI Corp., a specialist in resource recovery from high-salinity wastewater, is making a more pragmatic case that pollution can pay. Speaking ahead of H.EcoTech Festa 2026, a forum on climate solutions and economic opportunity, Yang said converting environmental value into economic gain is now “a very realistic conversation.” In his view, that shift is most evident in industrial wastewater, lon

- [US expert says OPCON transfer won't 'unzip' S. Korea-US alliance](#) (2026-05-01 06:47)

A US expert said Thursday that the transfer of wartime operational control to South Korea from the United States would not "unzip" the bilateral alliance, downplaying concerns that the move could weaken America's security commitment to the Asian ally. Bruce Klingner, senior fellow at the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation, made the remarks during a forum, citing Washington's pledge to offer "enduring" defense capabilities to South Korea, the bilateral mutual defense treaty and the presence of

- [Sun out, books out at Seoul Plaza](#) (2026-05-01 06:15)

Seoul Plaza became the heart of the city's new outdoor library program on Friday, marking the venue's opening as a reading and cultural space through Children's Day on May 5. At the open reading space, visitors can sit on beanbags and browse freely, with the stage also doubling as a reading area when no performances are scheduled. Family-oriented programs will take place throughout the holiday, including book talks, performances and interactive activities designed to draw visitors into the space

- [Travelers face steeper airfares as fuel surcharges double](#) (2026-05-01 05:32)

South Korean travelers are facing sharply higher airfares starting this month as fuel surcharges roughly double due to surging oil prices tied to escalating tensions in the Middle East. Tickets issued this month carry fuel surcharges at Tier 33, up from Tier 18 in April — the highest level since the current system was introduced in 2016. Fuel surcharges, which airlines add to base fares to offset rising fuel costs, are set monthly based on oil prices and adjusted individually by carriers. At Kor

- [Lee's approval rating dips to 64 pct over 'excessive' welfare, spending concerns](#) (2026-05-01 04:50)

President Lee Jae Myung's approval rating slipped 3 percentage points to 64 percent this week, with concerns over "excessive" welfare policies cited as a key factor for the decline, a poll showed Friday. The survey, conducted by Gallup Korea from Tuesday through Thursday on 1,002 people aged 18 and older, found 64 percent rated Lee's performance positively. Diplomacy and economic policy tied as the leading reasons for the positive assessments, each at 17 percent. Negative assessments rose 1 perc

- [Korea' s WGBI entry lifts foreign demand for government bonds](#) (2026-05-01 03:01)

Foreign investors increased their exposure to South Korean government bonds in the first month following the country' s entry into the FTSE World Government Bond Index, or WGBI, with both net purchases and holdings moving higher. Government and industry data show that foreign investors bought a net 10 trillion won (\$6.8 billion) worth of Korean Treasury bonds on a trade basis between March 30 and Monday. On a settlement basis, net purchases totaled 7.9 trillion won. The pace of inflows built stea

- [Drug supplier to notorious drug kingpin Park Wang-yeol repatriated from Thailand](#) (2026-05-01 02:21)

A key drug supplier linked to infamous trafficker Park Wang-yeol was repatriated from Thailand on Friday to face investigation and possible criminal charges in his home country. The suspect, surnamed Choi, arrived at Incheon International Airport earlier in the day and was escorted directly to a police vehicle. He did not answer questions from reporters about his alleged ties to Park. Choi is accused of smuggling and distributing illegal drugs worth 10 billion won (\$6.77 million) since 2019. Pol

- [S. Korean envoy stresses commitment to 'peaceful coexistence' on peninsula, denuclearization](#) (2026-05-01 01:59)

South Korea's top envoy to the UN on Thursday reaffirmed Seoul's commitment to "peaceful coexistence" on the Korean Peninsula and denuclearization, as he explained its policy to reduce military tensions and build trust with North Korea. Ambassador Cha Ji-hoon delivered a speech during a UN Security Council meeting in New York, as the United States and other countries marked two years since a UN expert panel, tasked with monitoring the enforcement of sanctions on North Korea, was disbanded follow

- [Lee vows zero compromise on workplace safety in Labor Day address](#) (2026-05-01 01:42)

President Lee Jae Myung on Friday pledged unwavering commitment to workplace safety in his address to mark Labor Day at Cheong Wa Dae. "I will neither compromise nor make concessions on workplace safety," he said, vowing to build a "normal" country where no worker ever has to risk their life at work. "Safeguarding workers is the most basic responsibility of any nation and any business," he said. The president also pushed back against the notion that worker welfare and business growth are incompa

- [Samsung Biologics union launches 1st general strike over pay dispute](#) (2026-05-01 01:33)

Unionized workers at Samsung Biologics, the biotech arm of Samsung Group, began a five-day general strike Friday, demanding higher wages and expanded performance-based compensation. The walkout marks the first labor strike since the company's establishment in 2011. Samsung Biologics said it is deploying all available personnel to minimize disruption but acknowledged that some impact to operations may be unavoidable. The company estimated that losses from a full-scale strike could exceed 640 bill

- [S. Korea's exports top \\$80b for 2nd month in April](#) (2026-05-01 01:29)

South Korea's exports exceeded US\$80 billion for the second consecutive month in April, jumping nearly 50 percent from a year earlier on the back of robust shipments of semiconductors, government data showed Friday. Outbound shipments totaled \$85.89 billion last month, up 48 percent on-year, according to the data compiled by the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Resources. The April tally marks the second-highest monthly export figure for the country, following an all-time high of \$86.6 billion re

- [Packages and promotions](#) (2026-05-01 00:00)

Sofitel Ambassador Seoul to screen French films under the stars Sofitel Ambassador Seoul will host French Movie Night in its sixth-floor garden from May 7 through May 28, marking the 140th anniversary of diplomatic ties between Korea and France. The lineup includes Michel Gondry's "The Book of Solutions," the culinary film "The French Soup" and "Attila Marcel," released locally as "Madame Proust's Secret Garden." Guests can pair the screenings with Whispering Angel rose, served through a partner

- [Festivals, sights across Korea](#) (2026-05-01 00:00)

The 40th Icheon Ceramic Festival runs through May 5 at the Icheon Ceramic Art Village and Sagimakgol Pottery Village in Icheon, Gyeonggi province. Admission is free. Icheon, long known for its fine clay and kiln traditions, marks the milestone year with exhibitions tracing the festival's history and the future of Korean ceramics. About 240 studios open their doors for sales and demonstrations. Hands-on programs include pottery sessions and ceramic cup making. Visitors can also see master worksho

- [\[Graphic News\] Korean Gen Z favors travel centered on experience](#) (2026-04-30 23:00)

Travel is increasingly becoming an experience-driven part of everyday life for South Korea's Generation Z, according to Agoda's 2026 Travel Outlook Report. Nearly half of South Korean Gen Z — generally adults born from 1997 onward, though not specified here — respondents (49 percent) said they plan to travel both domestically and overseas this year, 10 percentage points higher than the Asian average. Their travel motivations were led by outdoor activities (41 percent), cultural experiences (40 p

- [\[Robert J. Fouser\] English fever, then and now](#) (2026-04-30 20:30)

This year is the 30th anniversary of the start of English education in elementary schools in South Korea. The pivotal year when English classes began in nearly all elementary schools was 1996, with the official national rollout completed in March 1997. At the time, I was teaching in Japan, where the topic was big news in education circles. The 1990s were a period of rapid change and development in South Korea. The other important reform in English education was the adoption of listening comprehe

- [South Korea hosts event honoring Korean War POWs, families](#) (2026-04-30 13:53)

South Korea hosted a two-day event for former prisoners of war from the 1950-53 Korean War, the Defense Ministry said Thursday. The event, held Wednesday and Thursday, was organized to honor the sacrifices and contributions of repatriated POWs and express gratitude for their service to the nation. Around 30 former POWs and their family members attended the event, which was arranged ahead of May, a month widely associated with family in South Korea, and June, when the country honors patriots and

- [Gyeongbokgung to open for night tours](#) (2026-04-30 11:54)

Gyeongbokgung will open at night for a special seasonal program from May 13 to June 14. Online reservations open at 10 a.m. on Saturday on a first-come, first-served basis. Night admissions run from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., with last admission at 8:30 p.m. The palace will be closed every Monday and Tuesday. Beginning May 20-23, May 27-30 and June 4-5 (a total of 10 sessions), musicians from the National Gugak Center will perform court music and court dance at Sujeongjeon Hall. Tickets for the night

- [Arko opens literary residency with Andersen winner, Booker-nominated alumni](#) (2026-04-30 11:22)

Arts Council Korea said it has begun recruiting writers for the second half of its Arko Literary Residency program. Launched in 2014 as a corporate-sponsored arts initiative at the Hotel Prince Seoul, the residency program has since expanded through partnerships signed in 2025 with Hyeopseong Marina G7 in Busan and Hotel Jeonggwanru on Nami Island in Gangwon Province. For the second half of this year, the program will select a total of 14 writers: six each in Seoul and Busan, and two on Nami Isl

- [Banking groups pledge W1tr to government-led venture funding initiative](#) (2026-04-30 09:38)

Korea's five major banking groups pledged to commit a combined 1 trillion won (\$675.3 million) to support the country's venture and startup ecosystem, joining a government-led push to revive venture investment with private capital. KB, Shinhan, Hana, Woori and NH Financial Groups signed a memorandum of understanding Thursday with the Financial Services Commission and the Ministry of SMEs and Startups, according to the companies and government agencies. Policy financing and guarantee institutions

- [Lee orders 'stern punishment' for migrant worker abuse](#) (2026-04-30 08:56)

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung on Thursday ordered officials to swiftly address abuses against migrant workers and called for "stern punishment" for any unlawful acts uncovered, according to Cheong Wa Dae. Lee's remarks came amid repeated cases of violence and human rights abuses against foreign laborers in South Korea. The presidential civil affairs office reported measures to strengthen protections for foreign workers during a weekly meeting with senior aides and secretaries, senior pres

- [Koreans' meat-heavy diet carries bigger carbon cost than 10 return flights to Jeju](#) (2026-04-30 08:33)

A South Korean's annual meat consumption produces greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to about 10 flights across the country and back, a report showed Wednesday, highlighting the heavy climate footprint of Korea's meat-heavy diet. Meat consumed in South Korea generated an estimated 56.94 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions in 2024, according to Solution for Our Climate. The estimate was based on 3.08 million tons of beef, pork and chicken consumed in the country. The total is equ

- [Seoul says USFK troop reduction not on table in talks with US](#) (2026-04-30 08:23)

The Ministry of National Defense on Thursday clarified that Seoul and Washington have not discussed any possible reduction of US Forces Korea troops, amid renewed concerns over potential changes to the US military posture overseas. “There have been no discussions whatsoever between South Korea and the United States on a reduction of US Forces Korea,” ministry spokesperson Chung Binna said during a briefing at the ministry’s headquarters in Yongsan, Seoul. “As you know, the main mission of US For

- [Labor Day rallies to block Seoul roads](#) (2026-04-30 08:22)

Seoul police will deploy about 200 traffic officers on Labor Day as the country’s two major umbrella unions plan large rallies and marches in the capital, raising the prospect of heavy congestion in central Seoul and Yeouido. The Korean Confederation of Trade Unions plans to hold preliminary rallies from 1 p.m. Thursday around Jongno, Euljiro and Yulgok-ro, before staging its main rally at 3 p.m. on Sejong-daero between the Sejong and City Hall intersections. The group is scheduled to begin marc

- [Iran soccer body makes U-turn after Canada entry row](#) (2026-04-30 08:17)

Senior officials from the Football Federation Islamic Republic of Iran returned home after allegedly being subjected to unfair treatment during immigration procedures at an airport in Toronto while traveling to attend the FIFA Congress, Iran's Tasnim News Agency reported. The Iranian federation said its delegation — including president Mehdi Taj, secretary-general Hedayat Mombeini, and deputy secretary-general Hamed Momeni — had obtained official visas and arrived in Toronto. However, it claimed

- [YG to debut first boy group in six years this September](#) (2026-04-30 08:09)

YG Entertainment is preparing to debut its first new boy group in six years, executive producer Yang Hyun-suk announced Friday. In a video interview posted on the agency’s official blog, Yang said the company plans to introduce a five-member group in September, marking its first boy group launch since Treasure. “We previously mentioned plans to launch a new boy group this fall,” Yang said. “As of now, we are aiming to introduce a five-member team in September.” The upcoming group will depart fro

- [Prosecutors seek 3-year term for man in Suwon cafe groping case](#) (2026-04-30 07:45)

The prosecution is seeking a three-year prison sentence for a man in his 30s accused of hugging and touching multiple women at a Starbucks in Suwon, Gyeonggi Province. During a final hearing at the Suwon District Court on Wednesday, prosecutors argued that the defendant poses a high risk of reoffending and should be given a custodial sentence. The man is charged with touching the hands and shoulders of several women at a cafe in Gwanggyo, eastern Suwon, at around 6 p.m. on Jan. 16. He is also ac

- [Court sides with Bithumb, halts six-month biz suspension](#) (2026-04-30 07:30)

A Seoul court ruled Thursday in favor of Bithumb, temporarily halting a six-month partial business suspension imposed by regulators, allowing the crypto exchange to continue operations pending a final ruling. The Seoul Administrative Court said it accepted Bithumb's request to suspend the partial business suspension imposed by the Financial Intelligence Unit, an anti-money laundering body under the Financial Services Commission. "We plan to faithfully present our position throughout the remainin

- [Kospi snaps 3-day rise after touching new record high on oil price surge, profit-taking](#) (2026-04-30 07:27)

Seoul stocks dipped by more than 1 percent Thursday to snap their gains of three consecutive days, after touching a fresh all-time high, as investors cashed in gains amid a sharp rise in international oil prices. After choppy trading, the benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index fell 92.03 points, or 1.38 percent, to end at 6,598.87, after rising as high as 6,750.27. Trade volume was heavy at 676.2 million shares worth 34.7 trillion won (\$23.4 billion), with losers outnumbering winners 666 to

- [Note found after deadly Uiwang apartment fire prompts arson probe](#) (2026-04-30 07:10)

Police are investigating whether a deadly apartment fire in Uiwang, Gyeonggi Province, was deliberately set after a note believed to have been written by one of the deceased residents was found at the scene. The fire broke out at around 10:30 a.m. Thursday inside a unit on the 14th floor of a 20-story apartment building in Naeson-dong, killing a married couple and injuring six other residents, according to Uiwang Police Station and the Gyeonggi Fire and Disaster Headquarters. A man in his 60s wh

- [Best place to raise a child in Korea? It's not Gangnam](#) (2026-04-30 07:01)

Gwacheon in Gyeonggi Province offers the best environment in South Korea for children to grow up, according to a new private-sector analysis that shows child development conditions remain heavily concentrated in Seoul and the surrounding metropolitan area. ChildFund Korea said Thursday it released the country's first comprehensive private-sector index assessing child growth environments across 229 cities, counties and districts. Nine of the top 10 municipalities were in Seoul or Gyeonggi Provinc

- [At 12, Kim Yeonah is already shaping her own sound](#) (2026-04-30 06:16)

Her YouTube duet with French pianist Julien Cohen has been viewed more than 17 million times. She has performed for world leaders at APEC alongside robots, won grand prizes at competitions across continents, and earned standing ovations in cities where she could not pronounce the street names. She just turned 12 in April. Her name is Kim Yeonah, the same Korean name as the beloved figure skater Kim Yuna, who won South Korea's first Olympic gold in figure skating. Her mother chose it on purpose.

- [Southern Gyeonggi becomes key battleground in June elections](#) (2026-04-30 06:08)

Southern Gyeonggi Province is becoming a key battleground region in the June 3 elections, as a semiconductor boom and a wave of younger voters redraw the politics of a region once seen as conservative-leaning. Many constituencies in the south of the province are home to South Korea's expanding chip mega-cluster, anchored by Samsung Electronics and SK hynix, and have experienced rapid industrial growth, new-town development and an influx of voters in their 30s and 40s. The region also carries out

- [S. Korean Army eyes drones as personal weapons for future troops](#) (2026-04-30 06:02)

The South Korean Army envisions drones becoming as common as personal firearms for its troops, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Kim Gyu-ha said Wednesday, as the military moves to train personnel to operate uncrewed systems across battlefield roles. “Drones should be considered personal firearms in the future,” Kim said during a policy briefing at Army headquarters in Gyeryongdae, South Chungcheong Province. “There are drones for surveillance, reconnaissance, strikes and sustainment support, and combat

- [Kospi tops 6,750 before retreat, as overheating concerns weigh](#) (2026-04-30 05:59)

South Korea's benchmark Kospi swung sharply Friday, opening at a record high and climbing above 6,750 points for the first time, before turning course and going lower in the afternoon as foreign and institutional investors stepped up profit-taking. As of 2 p.m., the index was hovering around 6,613 points, down 1.1 percent from the previous close. The Kospi had opened at a fresh high of 6,739.39 and climbed as high as 6,750.27, marking an all-time intraday peak. The retreat followed a mixed sessi

- [Seoul overhauls US-facing diplomatic lineup amid growing Coupang dispute](#) (2026-04-30 05:57)

South Korea has carried out a reshuffle of senior officials handling US affairs, replacing key diplomatic posts in both Seoul and Washington at a time of mounting frictions in the bilateral relationship. According to the Foreign Ministry on Thursday, new appointments have been made for minister-counselor positions at the South Korean Embassy in Washington — including economic affairs, public diplomacy and political affairs — alongside a change in the director-general for North American affairs a

- ['Devil Wears Prada 2' lands at No. 1 in Korea with year's biggest opening day](#) (2026-04-30 05:52)

"The Devil Wears Prada 2" has marched into Korean theaters in formidable fashion, opening atop the local box office Wednesday with the year's biggest opening day to date. The 20th Century Studios sequel sold 150,769 tickets on its opening day, according to the Korean Film Council's box office tracker. It edged past the opening-day haul of homegrown phenomenon The King's Warden — the period drama that has dominated the market since its February bow and now sits as the highest-grossing Korean rele

- [\[Legal Updates in Korea\] Expanded tariff exemptions for rare disease medicines](#)

(2026-04-30 05:42)

- Updated Law: Customs Act What it does: Expands duty exemptions for medicines used to treat rare and intractable diseases Took effect: April 1 South Korea has expanded tariff exemptions to cover medicines used to treat rare and intractable diseases, easing the financial burden on patients. Previously, while some medicines qualified for duty exemptions, this did not apply to “self-treatment medicines” that are not distributed domestically. As a result, patients importing such medicines through t

- [Migrant workers call for right to change jobs under Korea’ s visa system](#)

(2026-04-30 05:42)

A Bangladeshi migrant worker whose assault was captured on video said Thursday he endured abuse because South Korea’ s visa rules made leaving his job feel impossible. “I thought such abuse would not happen if I spoke Korean well,” Rakibul Islam said at a press conference in front of Cheong Wa Dae in central Seoul. “But this was not a language issue. Workers are forced to endure or give up when companies do wrong.” His testimony came as foreign workers and advocacy groups called for abolishing re

- [LG Energy Solution bets on new orders to drive Q1 loss recovery](#)

LG Energy Solution said Thursday it had secured new orders across its electric vehicle and energy storage system segments in the first quarter, signaling a potential turnaround even as it swung to an operating loss. The South Korean battery-maker said it posted revenue of 6.55 trillion won (\$4.41 billion) and an operating loss of 207.8 billion won for the January-March period. Revenue slipped 2.5 percent from a year earlier, while the company reversed from a 374.7 billion won profit a year ago.

- [Children’ s Day gifts now cost parents twice as much](#)

South Korean parents expect to spend an average of 95,000 won (\$64) on Children’ s Day gifts this year, nearly double the amount from a decade ago, a survey showed Thursday. According to English education company Yoon’ s English School, 96 percent of parents said they planned to give their children gifts for Children’ s Day, which falls on May 5. The survey was conducted from April 16 to 21 among 622 parents with children in elementary school or younger. The expected spending was up 1.9 times from

- [Woori Bank hosts US investment briefing to support SMEs](#)

Woori Bank said Thursday it held an investment briefing in partnership with the Ministry of SMEs and Startups to support small and medium-sized enterprises seeking to enter the US market. The event was organized as demand for local production facilities in the US rises amid tariff negotiations and growing protectionism. Following last year’ s Vietnam investment briefing, this marks the second such initiative, focusing on helping Korean firms establish an early foothold overseas. The briefing brou

- [Jin Seo-yeon on playing this year's most demanding role](#) (2026-04-30 05:14)

With one hand, Brenda takes a call, unfurling a set of oversized architectural blueprints across her kitchen table with the other. Juggling work, the single mother tries to get her 8-year-old son, Jason, ready for school. He barely listens, clutching a game console and demanding ketchup for his omelet. At first, it reads like an ordinary morning — hurried, distracted, faintly chaotic. But the phone cuts through it, its ring sharp enough to turn heads. Brenda answers. She says nothing. Then she h

- [Baby essentials under one roof](#) (2026-04-30 05:12)

Visitors look at strollers displayed at the 2026 Cobe Baby Fair held at Coex in Gangnam, Seoul, Thursday. The event, which runs until Sunday, provides information on pregnancy, childbirth education and child care to future parents. It also offers them a chance to see the latest products and services for babies and childbirth. (Photos: Yonhap)

- [Samsung Electro-Mechanics profit jumps 40% on AI demand](#) (2026-04-30 05:01)

Samsung Electro-Mechanics on Thursday posted first-quarter operating profit of 280.6 billion won (\$189 million), up 40 percent from a year earlier and well above the 271.5 billion won analysts had expected, as demand for the high-end semiconductor substrates used in AI accelerators drove the strongest growth in the components maker's portfolio. Revenue rose 17 percent to 3.21 trillion won, beating the consensus of 3.09 trillion won. The profit growth came despite a 71.4 billion won one-off retir

- [Jeonju Film Fest kicks off 27th edition, honors late star Ahn Sung-ki](#) (2026-04-30 04:59)

The 27th Jeonju International Film Festival got underway Wednesday, opening its 10-day run with the Korean premiere of Kent Jones' "Late Fame" and a posthumous tribute to Korean actor Ahn Sung-ki. This year's edition is screening 237 films from 54 countries across 21 screens at five venues, with 78 world premieres on the slate. The festival, long regarded as Korea's premier showcase for independent and arthouse cinema, runs through May 8. Wednesday's opening ceremony at the Sori Arts Center drew

- [Seoul, Doha move to expand energy ties into AI, biotech and chips](#) (2026-04-30 04:46)

A Qatari government delegation visited Seoul this week to explore ways to turn a partnership with South Korea long centered on energy into one focused on investment in advanced industries. President Lee Jae Myung's chief of staff Kang Hoon-sik, who also serves as Lee's special envoy for strategic economic cooperation, said Seoul expected the talks would soon produce "win-win" investment projects for both countries. Kang held talks Wednesday in Seoul with Qatar's Minister of State for Foreign Tra

- [Saudi PIF to withdraw funding from LIV Golf: WSJ](#) (2026-04-30 04:32)

The Wall Street Journal has reported that Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund is withdrawing from LIV Golf. Citing sources familiar with the matter, the newspaper said LIV Golf plans to inform players and staff by April 30 that PIF will halt its financial backing. Launched in 2021 with Saudi support, LIV Golf drew global attention by signing top-ranked players and introducing a competition format different from the US-based PGA Tour. In its early stages, the league abandoned the traditional 72

- [Kim Hye-seong snaps 4-game hitless streak](#) (2026-04-30 04:32)

Los Angeles Dodgers' South Korean infielder Kim Hye-seong recorded his first hit in four games on Wednesday. Kim started at shortstop and batted seventh in the Dodgers' home game against the Miami Marlins at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles, going 1-for-3 with a walk. His season batting average rose to .296 (16-for-54). Kim grounded out to third base in his first at-bat in the second inning with one out and a runner on second against Miami right-hander Sandy Alcantara. He then grounded out to short

- [S. Korea's national team guaranteed at least \\$12.5m for World Cup](#) (2026-04-30 04:31)

South Korea's national soccer team has already secured at least \$12.5 million for qualifying for the 2026 FIFA World Cup in North America next June. FIFA announced after its Council meeting in Vancouver that it had increased the prize fund allocated to the 48 participating nations. The overall distribution for the expanded tournament has risen to a staggering \$871 million, up from the previously announced \$727 million. The earlier \$727 million figure had already been a World Cup record. However,

- [Korea's Labor Day gets a name change, but who counts as a worker?](#) (2026-04-30 04:26)

South Korea will mark its first Labor Day on Friday, ending more than six decades in which the May 1 holiday was officially known as Workers' Day. The change restores the holiday's Korean name to Nodongjeol, replacing Geulloja-ui Nal, a term adopted in 1963 under an anti-communist government wary of the word "labor." The change may appear symbolic, but the name has long carried political, historical and legal weight in South Korea. For labor groups, replacing "Workers' Day" with "Labor Day" is a

- [Shinhan Card, Solana team up on stablecoin tech and online payments](#) (2026-04-30 03:59)

Shinhan Card said Thursday it had signed a memorandum of understanding with Solana Foundation to collaborate on stablecoin payment technologies and expand its high tech payment ecosystem. The companies plan to conduct an advanced proof-of-concept building on a preliminary PoC completed last year, to jointly explore commercial opportunities in various sectors. Using the Solana testnet, they will develop payment scenarios between customers and merchants while assessing the technical stability of t

- [Korean man's taxi ride in Vietnam sparks buzz with pocket money for driver's daughter](#) (2026-04-30 03:26)

A Korean taxi passenger in Vietnam is warming hearts online as a video spreads showing him giving pocket money to a taxi driver's young daughter sitting quietly in the back seat, trying not to be noticed, local news reports said Thursday. According to Dan Tri, a major Vietnamese newspaper, 33-year-old taxi driver Dang Van Dan picked up a Korean passenger on April 20 while driving with his 5-year-old daughter in the back row of his six-seat SUV. Dan, whose wife leaves for work early, normally dro

- [Charles, Camilla honor 9/11 victims on visit to New York](#) (2026-04-30 03:21)

King Charles III and Queen Camilla visited the site of the Sept. 11 attacks, met with schoolchildren and business titans and socialized with celebrities during a busy swing through New York City Wednesday — the first visit to the city by a reigning British monarch in 16 years. Charles laid flowers at the National 9/11 Memorial and the royal couple spoke with victims' relatives, first responders and local dignitaries before traveling to other events midway through a four-day diplomatic trip to th

- [Illit declares self-love in 4th EP](#) (2026-04-30 03:15)

Illit is not afraid to show their innermost thoughts in the girl group's new album, releasing Thursday. The bandmates shared their excitement through Belift Lab on the day of release. " Mamihlapinatapai," their fourth EP, will be full of unpredictable charm the five members exude, Minju said, confiding that her heart has been already going pitter-patter at the thought of revealing the new music. The main track from the mini album is "It's Me," and they all started banging their heads to the rhyth

- [One Store eyes all-in-one app market](#) (2026-04-30 03:00)

South Korea's homegrown app marketplace One Store said Thursday it will evolve into an "all-in-one store," bringing app downloads, payments and instant-play games onto a single platform as the company marks its 10th anniversary. "The (global) app market is now in an era of upheaval," CEO Park Tae-young said during a press conference in Seoul. "Korea' s revision of the Telecommunications Business Act became the starting signal for global legislation targeting app markets, and courts in the US, Jap

- [Naver Q1 profit up 7% as AI begins to pay off](#) (2026-04-30 02:50)

Naver said Thursday that first-quarter operating profit rose 7.2 percent year-on-year to 541.8 billion won (\$364.7 million), with the company pointing to artificial intelligence integration across its advertising and commerce businesses as the main driver of revenue acceleration. Consolidated revenue climbed 16.3 percent to 3.24 trillion won, beating the analyst consensus of 3.14 trillion won. Operating profit fell slightly short of the 559.3 billion won forecast. Advertising revenue grew 9.3 pe

- [Two killed as fire hits Uiwang apartment building](#) (2026-04-30 02:47)

Two people died and five others were injured after a fire broke out at a 20-story apartment building in Uiwang, Gyeonggi Province, on Thursday, fire authorities said. The blaze started at around 10:30 a.m. inside a unit on the 14th floor of the apartment building in Naeson-dong and was put out at about 12:35 p.m., more than two hours later. A man in his 60s who lived in the unit fell to the ground for unknown reasons at the time of the fire and was pronounced dead, according to authorities. His

- [Korea to remove ‘out-of-wedlock child’ from welfare forms](#) (2026-04-30 02:45)

South Korea will remove the term “out-of-wedlock child” from government forms used in child welfare administration, as authorities move to update official language in line with changing views on family and childbirth. The Ministry of Health and Welfare said Thursday it had issued an advance notice of revisions to the enforcement decree and rules of the Child Welfare Act. The proposed changes also include measures to strengthen responses to child abuse and suspected abuse-related deaths. The term

- [Treasure to release album on June 1](#) (2026-04-30 02:45)

Treasure will release its fourth EP on June 1, YG Entertainment’s founder and chief producer Yang Hyun-suk said Thursday. In a video interview, he shared plans for the upcoming album from the boy group. “Treasure debuted amid the global pandemic and had many struggles in global stage,” he acknowledged, but showed confidence in the new release, picking it as his “personal favorite.” To support the new album, the nonet will launch a tour on June 19. Tour “The Stage” will start with a three-date ru

- [Hanwha Aerospace expands Canadian push with defense vehicle joint venture](#) (2026-04-30 02:43)

Hanwha Aerospace said Thursday it had signed a memorandum of understanding with Canada's Automotive Parts Manufacturers’ Association and Hanwha Ocean to cooperate on the production of military and special-purpose vehicles in Ontario. The proposed joint venture is contingent on the outcome of Canada's planned purchase of up to 12 new diesel-powered submarines to replace the country's aging fleet, known as the Canadian Patrol Submarine Project. If Hanwha Ocean's Jangbogo-class submarine is selecte

- [Mother arrested after beating 8-month-old son to death with TV remote](#) (2026-04-30 02:42)

A woman in her 30s has been arrested on suspicion of killing her 8-month-old son, officials said Thursday. The Gyeonggi Nambu Provincial Police said the woman is under investigation on charges of child abuse resulting in death. Police said she had admitted to repeatedly hitting her on the head with a TV remote control on April 10. The child was taken into a nearby hospital in Bucheon, Gyeonggi Province, shortly after the incident occurred. Doctors found that the child had sustained severe head i

- [\[팟캐스트\] \(788\) 편집 없이 바로 공유... 실시간 브이로그 시대 열린다](#) (2026-04-30 02:27)

진행자: 흥유, Tannith Less editing, more living: Real-time vlogs catch on 기사요약: 일상을 실시간으로 공유하는 ‘비편집 브이로그’가 젊은 세대를 중심으로 인기를 끌고 있다. [1] A new social media app is reshaping how young users share their day — not through polished posts, but in fleeting, real-time fragments. polished: 세련된, 정교하게 다듬어진 fragment: (전체의 일부인) 조각, 단편 [2] Setlog is a platform built around a simple premise: record two seconds of life, every hour. From the first moments after waking up to the last scroll before bed, these snippets ar

- [Trump says US may cut troops in Germany as Iran row rages](#) (2026-04-30 02:25)

US President Donald Trump said Wednesday that the US is considering reducing the number of its troops in Germany, amid a row with German Chancellor Friedrich Merz over the Iran war. "The United States is studying and reviewing the possible reduction of Troops in Germany, with a determination to be made over the next short period of time," Trump said on his Truth Social platform. The US had more than 35,000 troops in Germany in 2024, according to the Congressional Research Service, although the n

- [Putin, Trump discuss Iran, Ukraine in phone call: Kremlin](#) (2026-04-30 02:20)

Russian President Vladimir Putin spoke by phone with US counterpart Donald Trump, Kremlin aide Yuri Ushakov said Wednesday, adding the two leaders discussed the Middle East war and Ukraine. The call lasted more than 90 minutes and was "frank and businesslike," Ushakov told reporters, including from Agence France-Presse, during a phone briefing. The presidents "paid particular attention to the situation regarding Iran and in the Persian Gulf," Ushakov said. "Vladimir Putin considers Donald Trump'

- [Grossi: Iran's uranium likely still at Isfahan](#) (2026-04-30 02:16)

The majority of Iran's highly enriched uranium is likely still at its Isfahan nuclear complex, which was bombarded by airstrikes last year and faced less intense attacks in this year's US-Israeli war, the UN nuclear agency's leader told The Associated Press. Rafael Grossi said in an interview Tuesday that the International Atomic Energy Agency has satellite images showing the effects of the latest US-Israeli airstrikes against Iran and that "we continue to get information." IAEA inspections end

- [Alpha Drive One to drop single, EP](#) (2026-04-30 02:16)

Alpha Drive One will bring out a single in May, which will be a prologue from second EP due out in August, the group's agency WakeOne Entertainment said Thursday. A teaser clip for single "No School Tomorrow" delivered the news inspired by weather forecast, hinting at the song's theme of early summer vibes. The single will come out on May 26 marking the first "comeback" from the group, which debuted in January. Its first album was EP "Euphoria," a six-track effort that sold more than 1.4 million

- [S. Korea to unveil World Cup squad on May 16 in Seoul](#) (2026-04-30 02:07)

South Korea will announce their FIFA World Cup squad in the capital city on May 16. The Korea Football Association said Thursday head coach Hong Myung-bo will do the honors at 4 p.m. on May 16 at KT Gwanghwamun West Building in central Seoul. The announcement will be streamed live on the medial wall outside the building, called "KT square," and a K-pop performance will celebrate the occasion after Hong's press conference. The KFA said it will schedule other offline events involving football fans

- [Seoul addresses concerns over planned review of USMCA to Mexico](#) (2026-04-30 02:05)

South Korean Trade Minister Yeo Han-koo held a meeting with Mexico's ambassador to Seoul on Thursday to address concerns over the planned review of a trilateral trade pact between Mexico, the United States and Canada, Yeo's office said. In the meeting with Carlos Penafiel Soto, Yeo delivered Korean companies' concerns over the first joint review of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement, scheduled for July, which is expected to raise trade uncertainties, according to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy

- [Braves' Kim Ha-seong picks up hit in 1st minor league rehab game](#) (2026-04-30 02:03)

Kim Ha-seong of the Atlanta Braves has collected a hit in his first rehab game in the minor league as he started working his way back from an offseason finger injury. Kim went 1-for-2 and stole a base while playing shortstop for five innings for Double-A Columbus on Wednesday. According to MLB.com, the Braves will gradually increase Kim's workload. "We'll continue to ramp up the volume. We'll take it easy early on," Braves manager Walt Weiss said. A position player can remain on a rehab assignment

- [Italy recovers 337 looted antiquities from United States](#) (2026-04-30 01:49)

ROME (Reuters) -- The United States has handed back 337 antiquities looted from Italy in one of the largest recent returns of stolen cultural property, officials said on Wednesday, highlighting deepened cooperation between Rome and Washington. The artifacts, ranging from ancient Roman sculptures to Greek, Etruscan and Egyptian pieces, were presented at the headquarters of Italy's Carabinieri cultural protection unit following an array of investigations, many centered on New York. Italy has spent

- [BOK sees rising uncertainty in US monetary policy path after new Fed chair](#) (2026-04-30 01:45)

Uncertainty over the future path of US monetary policy under the next Federal Reserve chair, Kevin Warsh, has increased further amid rising oil prices and inflation, the Bank of Korea said Thursday. "Overnight at the Federal Open Market Committee, opinions within the Fed were significantly divided, and inflation driven by rising oil prices was emphasized," BOK Senior Deputy Gov. Ryoo Sang-dai said during a meeting to review market conditions. "Uncertainty regarding the future path of US monetary

- [Finance chief cites financial market's sufficient crisis response capacity amid volatility](#) (2026-04-30 01:45)

Finance Minister Koo Yun-cheol said Thursday that financial institutions have sufficient capacity to withstand crisis scenarios despite volatility in financial and foreign exchange markets. Koo made the remarks during a macroeconomic policy meeting attended by Bank of Korea Gov. Shin Hyun-song, as well as the heads of the Financial Services Commission and the Financial Supervisory Service, according to the Ministry of Finance and Economy. Koo said volatility in financial and foreign exchange mar

- [TXT to livestream concerts in 53 regions](#) (2026-04-30 01:45)

Tomorrow X Together will offer live viewings of its show in Nagoya, Japan to fans in 53 regions, including Korea, the US and Canada, Big Hit Music announced Thursday. The quintet is set to perform in the city on May 24 on the Japan leg of its "Moa Con" tour, celebrating seven years together. The Japan trip will encompass four stops in the country — in the prefectures of Aichi, Chiba, Fukuoka and Hyogo — with two shows each in May and June. The group rolled out its eighth EP, "7th Year: A Moment

- [Powell era ends with rates on hold, vows to stay on as Fed governor](#) (2026-04-30 01:22)

WASHINGTON (Reuters) -- US Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell closed out eight years as head of the US central bank on Wednesday with interest rates on hold, rising concern about inflation, and an announcement that he would stay on as a Fed governor for now to defend the agency's independence from Trump administration "battering." Speaking after the end of a two-day policy meeting, Powell said he would "keep a low profile as a governor," and did not intend to act as a disruptive "high-profile

- [YG to launch five-member boy group in September](#) (2026-04-30 01:14)

K-pop agency YG Entertainment's first boy group in six years will launch in September with five members, the company announced Thursday. YG had previously unveiled a plan to launch a new boy group this fall. "We're planning to introduce the male group in September for now. The number of its members, which many people may be curious about, is five," Yang Hyun-suk, founder and executive producer of YG Entertainment, said in a video posted on the company's official blog. He did not give further det

- [Korean German midfielder Castrop defends 'aggressive' play, vows discipline at World Cup](#) (2026-04-30 01:12)

Likely headed for the summer's FIFA World Cup representing South Korea, Korean German midfielder Jens Castrop has vowed to stay out of trouble in the big tournament. Castrop, born to a Korean mother and a German father, has earned five caps for head coach Hong Myung-bo's national team since last fall. The physical and versatile midfielder is expected to be named to South Korea's World Cup squad on May 16 and receive a chance to realize his lifelong dream of playing in the sport's showpiece event

- [Industrial output, retail sales, facility investment gain ground in March](#) (2026-04-30 00:48)

South Korea's industrial output, retail sales and facility investment all rose from a month earlier in March, official data showed Thursday. It marked the first time since last September that all three indicators posted on-month growth. Industrial production edged up 0.3 percent last month, marking the second consecutive month of increase, according to the data from the Ministry of Data and Statistics. The ministry noted that the impact of the Middle East crisis that erupted in late February had

- [Seoul shares open at a fresh high on Samsung, strong earnings from US big techs](#) (2026-04-30 00:35)

Seoul stocks opened higher Thursday at a fresh high of over 6,700 as investors bet that chip demand will remain solid amid strong earnings from Samsung and US big tech giants. The benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index had added 19.51 points, or 0.29 percent, to 6,710.41 as of 9:15 a.m. after rising as high as 6,739.39 at the opening bell. The index closed at a new peak of 6,690.90 the previous day, extending its gains to a third consecutive day. Overnight, major US indexes closed mixed, wi

- [Samsung Electronics Q1 net surges over fivefold on AI-driven demand](#) (2026-04-30 00:29)

Samsung Electronics Co. said Thursday its first-quarter net profit surged more than fivefold from a year earlier, driven by robust demand for high-end memory chips used in artificial intelligence applications. Net profit for the three months ended March jumped to 47.22 trillion won (\$31.8 billion) from 8.22 trillion won a year earlier, the company said in a press release. Operating profit jumped more than eightfold to 57.23 trillion won from 6.68 trillion won over the same period, while sales cl

- [Kospi breaches 6,700 at open, extends record run](#) (2026-04-30 00:20)

Seoul's benchmark Kospi opened at a record high Thursday, breaching the 6,700 mark as foreign investors started the session as net buyers. The index began trading up 0.72 percent at 6,739.39, before quickly climbing as high as 6,750.27. The rally extended gains from the previous session, when the Kospi crossed 6,700 intraday for the first time before closing at an all-time high of 6,690. If the Kospi extends gains through Thursday's close, it would mark the index's fourth consecutive record clos

- [Naver Q1 net falls 31.3% on FX losses](#) (2026-04-30 00:20)

Naver Corp., South Korea's largest online portal operator, said Thursday its first-quarter net profit fell 31.3 percent from a year earlier, weighed down by foreign exchange losses. Net profit for the three months that ended in March fell to 291 billion won (\$195.9 million) from 423.7 billion won in the same period last year, the company said in a regulatory filing. "The decline was largely attributed to increased translation losses on the company's dollar-denominated debt when converted into th

- [Trump says US reviewing possible troop cut in Germany, decision due in 'short period'](#) (2026-04-30 00:15)

US President Donald Trump said Wednesday the United States is weighing a possible reduction of American troops in Germany, with a decision to be made over "the next short period of time," after he decried European allies over a lack of support for the US-Israeli war against Iran. Trump made the remarks in a social media post following a recent report by The Wall Street Journal that his administration is considering punishing some members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization that he perceives

- [Samsung Electronics posts record Q1 profit on chip rebound](#) (2026-04-30 00:14)

Samsung Electronics said Thursday its first-quarter operating profit jumped 756.1 percent on-year to 57.23 trillion won (\$38.5 billion), hitting a quarterly high as its chip business accounted for the bulk of earnings. Revenue rose 69.2 percent on-year to 133.87 trillion won in the January-March period, while net profit climbed 474.3 percent to 47.23 trillion won, the company said in a regulatory filing. The results came in well above market expectations. According to financial data provider FnG

- [\[Graphic News\] Coupang tops Korea's e-commerce app users in Q1](#) (2026-04-29 23:00)

Coupang was the most-used commerce application in South Korea in the first quarter of 2026, according to market research firm Wiseapp Retail Goods. The e-commerce giant recorded 33.25 million users during the January-March period, ranking first in monthly active users. Secondhand marketplace Karrot followed with 23.19 million users, while food delivery app Baemin came in third at 22.55 million. Other major platforms included Coupang Eats, fashion app Ably, beauty retailer Olive Young and Chinese

- [Can older Koreans eat one more egg? Experts weigh protein needs](#) (2026-04-29 22:00)

While eggs are widely seen as an affordable source of high-quality protein, Koreans have long been advised to limit consumption to one egg a day due to concerns over cholesterol intake. But as dietary guidelines increasingly address chronic protein deficiency among older people, experts are suggesting that a second egg may be beneficial for some people. According to the Ministry of Health and Welfare and the Korean Nutrition Society, the latest dietary guidelines for Koreans raised the recommend

- [\[Xin Meng\] China must hike minimum wage](#) (2026-04-29 20:30)

China's government wants to strengthen domestic consumption, encourage family formation, increase fertility and achieve more balanced growth. But a major barrier is impeding progress on all these fronts: Chinese non-agricultural workers currently work some 2,500 hours per year, and hundreds of millions of blue-collar workers, largely rural-to-urban migrants, work nearly 3,000. That is nearly 60 hours per week — a schedule that leaves little time for consumption, relationships or family-building.

- [\[Wang Son-taek\] No place for violence in democracy](#) (2026-04-29 20:30)

The recent assassination attempt against US President Donald Trump was a stark reminder of how fragile political stability can be, even in a major democracy. Political violence can never be justified under any circumstances. Regardless of political preference or policy disagreement, the use of violence against a political leader crosses a line that must remain absolute. One encouraging aspect of this episode was the unified response from leaders around the world. Governments across regions expre

- [S&P; keeps Korea's sovereign rating at 'AA' with stable outlook](#) (2026-04-29 12:07)

S&P Global Ratings on Wednesday maintained South Korea's long-term sovereign credit rating at "AA" with a stable outlook, citing the country's competitive electronics sector and supportive fiscal policy as buffers against mounting global energy market risks. The US-based credit appraiser has held Korea's rating at "AA" — the third-highest grade on its scale — since August 2016, when it upgraded the country by one notch from "AA-." "The dislocation of the global energy market is a risk to Korea's

- [Nvidia official meets with Samsung, SK hynix executives for physical AI partnership](#) (2026-04-29 11:24)

A key executive of U.S. tech giant Nvidia Corp. held meetings with counterparts from Samsung Electronics Co. and SK hynix Inc. on Wednesday to discuss cooperation in physical artificial intelligence, industry sources said. The back-to-back meetings came as Madison Huang, senior director of product and technical marketing for physical AI platforms at Nvidia, is visiting South Korea to expand partnerships in the sector. Her team oversees Nvidia Omniverse, a development platform for physical and in

- [ACC seeks multilingual guides to expand foreign visitor outreach](#) (2026-04-29 11:23)

The Asia Culture Center is recruiting a new cohort of multilingual interpreters to guide foreign visitors through its facilities and programs, the Gwangju-based institution said. Applications for the "ACC Multilingual Interpreter" program will be open from May 1 to 10, with around 10 positions available. The center, which operates under the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, is significantly broadening the range of languages covered this year following a successful pilot run in 2025. Last

- [Tang Wei expecting 2nd child with director Kim Tae-yong](#) (2026-04-29 11:15)

The "Decision to Leave" star Tang Wei revealed Wednesday she is expecting her second child with her husband, South Korean director Kim Tae-yong. "There will be yet another baby horse at my house soon," she wrote on her Instagram. "It is a big surprise, and I am very happy," she added. "Everyone is really excited about it." The announcement came amid recent pregnancy rumors after she was spotted with a visible baby bump at a public event. The two married in 2014 and welcomed a daughter in 2016.

- [Hybe posts record Q1 on BTS comeback, rookie momentum](#) (2026-04-29 10:44)

Hybe's first-quarter revenue hit an all-time high on the back of BTS's full-group return and rising momentum from newer acts, but the K-pop powerhouse swung to an operating loss after booking a one-time charge tied to employee bonuses funded by its chairman. Revenue for the January-March period reached 698.3 billion won, up 40 percent from 500.6 billion won a year earlier, the company said. Adjusted operating profit — which strips out a one-time, non-cash accounting charge — came in at 58.5 billion

- [Hyundai Motor chief attends Beijing auto show for 1st time in 8 years](#) (2026-04-29 10:43)

Hyundai Motor Executive Chair Chung Euisun attended Auto China 2026 in Beijing, industry sources said Wednesday, as the automaker steps up efforts to regain its foothold in the world's largest vehicle market. It marks his first appearance at the Beijing auto show since the 2018 edition and his second consecutive visit to a Chinese auto show, following the Shanghai Auto Show in 2025. Chung's attendance at the world's largest auto event is seen as signaling a renewed focus on China after years of

- [S. Korea, U.S. discuss N. Korea, cooperation on disarmament, nonproliferation](#) (2026-04-29 10:43)

Senior officials of South Korea and the United States discussed the situation on the Korean Peninsula, and challenges facing the global disarmament and nonproliferation regime, Seoul's foreign ministry said Wednesday. Jeong Yeon-doo, vice foreign minister for diplomatic strategy and intelligence, met with Christopher Yeaw, U.S. assistant secretary for the bureau of arms control and nonproliferation at the State Department, in New York on Tuesday (U.S. time) on the sidelines of the Nuclear Non-Pr

- [Cravity reflect on growth, future as 'Redefine' marks new chapter](#) (2026-04-29 10:00)

With its eighth EP “Redefine,” Cravity turns inward, using a six-track release to explore growth, uncertainty and the process of redefining itself. Fronted by the track “Awake,” the album reflects both a creative shift and a transitional moment for the group. The album comes at a meaningful point for Cravity. With the group now six years into their career and contract renewal decisions approaching, Wonjin said the members had discussed the future before preparing the comeback. “We talked about c

- [Red ginseng may curb muscle loss in women: studies](#) (2026-04-29 09:10)

Red ginseng may help slow muscle loss and limit fat gain in postmenopausal women, while also improving metabolic indicators through changes in the gut microbiome, according to studies presented at a recent academic conference. The findings were unveiled at the spring conference of the Korean Society of Ginseng held April 22 at Jeonbuk National University. Sarcopenia, obesity and diabetes are key metabolic conditions linked to aging. Sarcopenia — the progressive loss of muscle mass and function —

- [Doosan to build W180b CCL plant in Thailand to meet AI demand](#) (2026-04-29 08:56)

Doosan Corp. said Wednesday it will establish a new copper-clad laminate production plant in Thailand to meet rising demand driven by the expansion of artificial intelligence data centers. The company plans to set up a new subsidiary and build a manufacturing plant at the Araya Industrial Estate in Bang Bo, Samut Prakan province. The investment is estimated at 180 billion won (\$121.7 million), while the facility will span approximately 73,000 square meters. Construction is scheduled to kick off

- [Court approves Ador request to freeze assets linked to Danielle's family, Min Hee-jin: report](#) (2026-04-29 08:56)

A Seoul court approved Ador's request in February to freeze assets owned by former NewJeans member Danielle's mother, and former CEO Min Hee-jin, according to local reports on Wednesday citing legal sources. The total claim amounts to 7 billion won (\$4.73 million), comprising 5 billion won against Min and 2 billion won against Danielle's mother. The measure is intended to prevent the disposal or concealment of assets before a final ruling, ensuring the enforceability of potential compensation. T

- [Yoon Suk Yeol's sentence rises to 7 years in prison on appeal](#) (2026-04-29 08:37)

Former President Yoon Suk Yeol was sentenced to seven years in prison by the Seoul High Court on Wednesday, as the appeals court increased his punishment in a case tied to his failed 2024 martial law decree. The ruling, two years longer than the lower court's five-year sentence, marked the first appellate decision from a special court division handling insurrection-related cases. The special counsel had sought a combined 10-year prison term for Yoon on charges including obstruction of the execut

- [First lady bakes hope into cookies](#) (2026-04-29 08:29)

First lady Kim Hea Kyung joined children with glycogen storage disease on Wednesday to make "hope cookies," a low-carbohydrate snack developed for young patients who must carefully manage their blood sugar. Kim visited a special cooking class at Seoul Children's Museum, a children's experience facility inside Seoul Children's Grand Park in Gwangjin-gu, Seoul. The event, held ahead of Children's Day on May 5, was arranged as a follow-up to a Christmas Eve meeting last year between President Lee J

- [Nvidia CEO's daughter visits Doosan as humanoid tie-up deepens](#) (2026-04-29 07:58)

Madison Huang, senior director of product marketing at Nvidia, visited Doosan Robotics on Wednesday, as the South Korean company and US tech giant step up their partnership to build a robot execution platform and commercialize industrial humanoid robots by 2028. Doosan Robotics said Huang — the eldest daughter of Nvidia cofounder and CEO Jensen Huang — toured the company's innovation center in Seongnam, Gyeonggi Province, where she met with CEO Kim Min-pyo. The discussions focused on integrating

- [Vancouver snubs FIFA president's 'excessive' demands](#) (2026-04-29 07:49)

Vancouver, one of the host cities for the 2026 FIFA World Cup in North America, has firmly rejected demands from FIFA President Gianni Infantino for what it described as "excessive protocols." According to Reuters on Tuesday, ahead of the 36th AFC Annual Congress in Vancouver, FIFA requested that local authorities provide Infantino with a Level 4 motorcade escort, which was promptly denied. A Level 4 escort is a high-security convoy that can ignore traffic signals and completely restrict the mov

- [LIV Golf postpones summer event](#) (2026-04-29 07:48)

Amid speculations of a looming financial crisis, LIV Golf has officially confirmed that it will postpone this summer's LIV Golf Louisiana event to fall. In a statement sent to the Associated Press, LIV Golf said, "In cooperation with the state government of Louisiana, we have decided to move the tournament to a new schedule," adding that the change is intended "to avoid extreme summer heat and to prevent conflicts with the global sports calendar, including the FIFA World Cup in North America." T

- [Why are refreshing, youthful concepts dominating K-pop boy groups?](#) (2026-04-29 07:46)

A growing number of rookie K-pop boy groups are embracing youthfulness, signaling a shift away from the darker, powerful styles that defined many third-generation boy groups. Often described as refreshing, the concept emphasizes bright, emotionally sincere imagery and boyish innocence expressed through both music and visuals. Notable examples include TWS and NCT Wish, which have both built their identities around youth-driven storytelling and approachable aesthetics. TWS, in particular, has gain

- [\[Contribution\] The path to climate finance begins with forests](#) (2026-04-29 07:35)

By Park Eun-sik Minister of the Korea Forest Service At the 44th meeting of the Green Climate Fund Board, recently held in Songdo, Incheon, the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization — an intergovernmental body established under the leadership of the South Korean government — was unanimously approved as a GCF Accredited Entity. Achieving accreditation within just eight years of its establishment is a notable milestone, underscoring AFoCO' s emergence as a trusted international platform for forest

- [\[Photo News\] Aespa's Ningning named Gucci ambassador](#) (2026-04-29 07:32)

Italian luxury house Gucci has tapped Ningning of K-pop group Aespa as its newest global brand ambassador, it announced Wednesday, releasing a pair of portraits to mark the appointment. Ningning has earned recognition for her commanding stage presence, vocal range and distinct artistic identity, establishing herself as one of the defining performers of her generation. As part of Aespa, she helped earn group of the year at the 2025 Billboard Women in Music Awards. Her creative output and internat

- [Seoul stocks end at fresh record high on revived hope for AI boom](#) (2026-04-29 07:23)

Seoul stocks closed at a fresh peak on Wednesday, just an inch away from the 6,700 mark, as investors bet chip demand will remain solid amid woes over the artificial intelligence boom. The benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index added 49.88 points, or 0.75 percent, to a fresh record high of 6,690.90 after rising as high as to 6,716.20, extending its gains to a third consecutive day. Trade volume was heavy at 712.3 million shares worth 31 trillion won (\$21 billion), with winners outnumbering

- [Shinsegae ramps up foreign shopper push for holiday rush](#) (2026-04-29 07:22)

Shinsegae said Wednesday it will launch its largest-ever promotional campaign to attract foreign national customers ahead of a “super holiday” period in early May, when public holidays in Korea, China and Japan overlap. The move follows strong first-quarter growth in foreign sales at its department stores, led by men’s fashion, up 121 percent on-year; women’s fashion, up 99.6 percent; and cosmetics, up 91.2 percent. To capitalize on the momentum, Shinsegae will focus on discounts in fashion and

- [Amorepacific rides skin care boom to Q1 growth](#) (2026-04-29 07:22)

Amorepacific Group reported first-quarter sales of 1.22 trillion won (\$826.8 million) and operating profit of 137.8 billion won on Wednesday, up 6.4 percent and 7.6 percent on-year, respectively. The company attributed the growth to strong performance from its skin care brands, expansion of its North American Amazon business and solid gains in Japan, driven by key brands including Laneige, Hera, Aestura and COSRX. Aestura posted triple-digit growth in North America, led by its A-Cica line, while

- [Korea's Presidential Security Service trains UAE presidential guards](#) (2026-04-29 07:02)

South Korea’s Presidential Security Service has trained presidential guards from the United Arab Emirates in Seoul, underscoring the two countries’ expanding security cooperation, the agency said Wednesday. The four-week program for 10 members of the UAE Presidential Guard Command was held from March 30 to April 24 at the PSS’ Security Safety Training Institute in Gangseo-gu, western Seoul. The UAE Presidential Guard is an elite special operations unit within the UAE Armed Forces. The program wa

- [Is it time to rethink zoos' role?](#) (2026-04-29 06:51)

South Korea is moving to toughen zoo regulations by mandating licensing for all of its 121 zoos nationwide following the escape and recapture of Neukgu the wolf from Daejeon O-World theme park. However, some experts say that measures safeguarding the welfare of animals held in zoos remain insufficient. Kim Kyeong-seok, director of the Nature Conservation Bureau's biological diversity division at the Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment, said in a parliamentary debate held at the National

- [Would scrapping 'kill chain' reduce tensions with North Korea?](#) (2026-04-29 06:49)

A recent proposal to abandon South Korea's preemptive strike system known as the "kill chain" has reignited debate over whether it could help ease tensions with North Korea — or risk undermining security. Speaking to Korean correspondents at a briefing in Washington on Tuesday, Victor Cha, Korea chair at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, argued that moving away from this system could reduce escalation risk. Cha recommended that South Korea discontinue the kill chain, arguing th

- [Samsung revamps appliance unit to shore up margins](#) (2026-04-29 06:37)

Samsung Electronics has begun restructuring parts of its consumer electronics business, including dishwashers and microwave ovens, as it pivots toward profitability amid weakening demand and rising costs, industry sources said Wednesday. The move comes despite record first-quarter earnings driven by a semiconductor boom, underscoring a widening gap between its chip business and consumer divisions. Samsung's device appliances division, which oversees home appliances, recently outlined a restructu

- [Korea recognizes two foreign nationals as trafficking victims](#) (2026-04-29 06:32)

The South Korean government has designated two foreign nationals as victims of human trafficking, making them eligible for support, including medical care and job assistance, after they suffered sexual and labor exploitation in the country. According to the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family on Tuesday, one Philippine woman and one Vietnamese woman were recognized as victims. The ministry designates individuals who have been subjected to coercion and exploitation as trafficking victims and p

- [Women's British Open gets bump in prize money to \\$10 million](#) (2026-04-29 06:25)

The Chevron Championship bumped its purse an additional \$1 million two days before the opening round to a record \$9 million, and Nelly Korda went wire-to-wire to claim the \$1.35 million top prize. Two days later, The R&A and title sponsor AIG announced Tuesday yet another increase for the Women's British Open to \$10 million. That makes it the third LPGA major to have an eight-figure prize fund, trailing the US Women's Open and KPMG Women's PGA at \$12 million each. It's only a \$250,000 bump from

- [Rivals reunite in Seoul a decade after AlphaGo showdown](#) (2026-04-29 06:17)

Google DeepMind CEO Demis Hassabis reunited with Go grandmaster Lee Se-dol in Seoul on Wednesday, revisiting their landmark 2016 AlphaGo match that reshaped the trajectory of artificial intelligence. The two met during a session at the Google for Korea 2026 event held at The Westin Josun Seoul, where Lee joined author and YouTuber Cho Seung-yeon and Hassabis in a discussion reflecting on the historic five-game series. "It feels like a hundred years have passed in terms of the advances since then

- [Brother's involvement opens door for tighter scrutiny of Coupang](#) (2026-04-29 06:16)

South Korea's antitrust regulator has designated Kim Bom-suk, known globally as Bom Kim, as the controlling figure of Coupang, a move that significantly expands regulatory oversight of the US-listed firm and its founder's family. The decision replaces Coupang Inc. with Kim as the group's "same person" — a legal term under Korean antitrust law that identifies the effective controller of a business group and serves as the basis for monitoring related-party transactions and potential self-dealing.

- [Big Hit Music artists dominate global charts led by BTS, TXT](#) (2026-04-29 06:02)

Artists under Big Hit Music are continuing to flourish on global music charts, led by BTS and Tomorrow X Together. According to the latest Billboard charts dated May 2, BTS' fifth studio album "Arirang" maintained a strong presence across major rankings. Its main track "Swim" ranked No. 2 on the Global Excl. US chart and No. 3 on the Global 200, extending its run in the top three to five consecutive weeks. All 13 vocal tracks from the album — excluding the sixth track, "No. 29," which features t

- [Pyongyang appears to justify support of Russia's war in Ukraine with glorification of fallen soldiers](#) (2026-04-29 06:01)

North Korea's state-run Rodong Sinmun on Wednesday reported that people from across society are paying their respects at the new memorial museum for overseas military operations, in an apparent continuation of the regime's efforts to justify deploying troops to support Russia. The newspaper described the museum as a place that "eternally conveys the heroic feats and noble spirit" of Korean People's Army soldiers who took part in overseas military operations. It said officials, workers, military

- [Is Korea becoming too dependent on chips? Moody's weighs in](#) (2026-04-29 05:58)

South Korea's broader industrial base may give it a structural edge over Taiwan, but that advantage is increasingly under strain as the economy becomes more reliant on semiconductors, according to an economist at Moody's Analytics. While Seoul is often compared with Taipei for their similar economic size and heavy dependence on chips, Korea's more diversified mix — spanning autos, machinery and other traditional industries — has historically provided a buffer against sector-specific shocks. But

- [\[H.eco Tech Festa 2026\] From firefighter coats to airline safety: 119REO's circular bet](#) (2026-04-29 05:54)

Lee Seung-woo's company started with a missed fundraising goal that turned into something else entirely. In 2016 as a student at Konkuk University in Seoul, Lee joined a one-year campus venture project to raise money for a firefighter dying of a rare cancer. The team collected discarded turnout coats — the heavy aramid-fiber jackets Korean firefighters wear into burning buildings — and stitched them into bags and key rings. After 12 months, they had a small donation ready for the family. The fam

- [Samsung Display tipped to win exclusive iPhone 20 OLED deal](#) (2026-04-29 05:53)

Samsung Display is on track to be the exclusive OLED supplier for Apple's 20th-anniversary iPhone in 2027, according to fresh supply-chain leaks out of Greater China. The arrangement, if it holds, would echo the sole-vendor deal that handed Samsung the entire iPhone X panel order in 2017. Three separate leaks within the past week have pointed to the same panel: a custom screen with all four edges gently curved, built without the polarizing film that sits on top of conventional OLEDs. Greater Chi

- [Korea vows crackdown on unapproved international schools](#) (2026-04-29 05:48)

South Korea's Education Ministry said it would crack down on about 200 unapproved or unregistered education facilities, including international schools operating in a legal gray zone, as concerns grow over students being kept outside the formal public education system. The ministry said Wednesday it had identified the facilities after running a reporting period and conducting on-site inspections from December to March. The targets included institutions that collected high tuition without approval

- [10 years after AlphaGo clash](#) (2026-04-29 05:45)

Go master Lee Se-dol (right), a special professor at the Ulsan National Institute of Science and Technology; Demis Hassabis (center), co-founder and CEO of Google DeepMind and the architect behind AlphaGo; and author Cho Seung-yeon take part in a discussion during the Google for Korea 2026 event in Seoul on Wednesday. Hassabis, who is also an artificial intelligence researcher and Nobel Prize in Chemistry laureate in 2024, visited Korea for the first time in 10 years following the landmark human

- [LG Electronics posts record Q1 sales on appliances, EV parts](#) (2026-04-29 05:45)

LG Electronics reported record first-quarter revenue on Wednesday, with its home appliance and vehicle components businesses emerging as key growth drivers. The company posted consolidated revenue of 23.73 trillion won (\$17.5 billion), up 4.3 percent from a year earlier, and operating profit of 1.67 trillion won, up 32.9 percent. Revenue marked a record high for a first quarter, while operating profit was the third-highest on record, LG said. Combined quarterly revenue from its home appliance bu

- [Calls mount to accelerate Seoul's first US-bound investment plan amid alliance strains](#) (2026-04-29 05:45)

Delays in rolling out South Korea's first major US-bound investment project are feeding broader tensions with the US, and could begin to affect key security negotiations, South Korean government officials and experts warn. Seoul has yet to finalize a concrete blueprint for its initial project under a pledged \$350 billion investment in the United States, despite agreement on the overall framework last year. Officials and analysts say moving quickly on the project is now critical to stabilizing ti

- [Lee calls partisan feuding over foreign affairs ‘self-inflicted harm’](#) (2026-04-29 05:42)

President Lee Jae Myung on Wednesday called for political unity on foreign and security affairs, saying the current domestic infighting over external matters amounts to “self-inflicted harm” at a time of mounting external challenges. During a luncheon with lawmakers from minor parties and independents at Cheong Wa Dae, Lee underscored that South Korea faced an “extremely challenging external situation” that demanded greater unity at home rather than partisan conflict. “To overcome these difficul

- [Hana, Posco, Dunamu team up on blockchain remittance platform](#) (2026-04-29 05:26)

Hana Financial Group, Posco International and Dunamu said Wednesday they are joining hands to build a blockchain-based cross-border remittance platform, aiming to improve transparency and efficiency in overseas fund transactions. The three companies signed a memorandum of understanding at Hana Financial Group’s headquarters in Seoul to collaborate across finance and digital assets. Attendees included Hana Financial Group Vice Chair Lee Eun-hyung, Posco International President Lee Kye-in and Duna

- [Plastic waste plan draws fire over lack of hard limits](#) (2026-04-29 05:25)

South Korea’s plan to curb plastic waste would still allow total plastic use to rise through 2030, environmental groups said, criticizing the government for leaning on recycling and voluntary reuse rather than binding cuts in consumption. The Environment Ministry on Tuesday released an updated strategy that aims to cap newly produced plastic waste at 70 percent of projected 2030 levels. But critics say that target is based on continued growth in plastic consumption, meaning the actual reduction

- [LX International Q1 profit doubles on commodities, trading recovery](#) (2026-04-29 05:20)

LX International said Wednesday its first-quarter operating profit nearly doubled from the previous quarter, as stronger commodity prices and a recovery in trading lifted earnings. The company reported revenue of 4.21 trillion won (\$2.9 billion) and operating profit of 108.9 billion won for the January-March period, according to a regulatory filing. Revenue rose 4 percent from a year earlier, supported by higher output and sales at key assets including its AKP nickel mine and palm plantations in

- [LX Hausys earns Red Dot for eco-friendly terrazzo design](#) (2026-04-29 05:19)

LX Hausys said Wednesday its acrylic solid surface Himacs Terrazzo has won the 2026 Red Dot Award for product design. The product was recognized for its distinctive design and use of recycled materials, reflecting both aesthetic innovation and environmental sustainability. Himacs Terrazzo reinterprets the traditional Italian terrazzo style — a surface made by embedding marble chips and pebbles into cement — with a more refined, contemporary finish. The product also stood out for its contribution

- [Posco expands financial support for steel exporters](#) (2026-04-29 05:19)

Posco is expanding financial support for its trading partners, aiming to stabilize supply chains and strengthen export competitiveness amid global tariffs and an oversupply of Chinese steel. The program, launched in January, is structured in partnership with Industrial Bank of Korea and Korea Trade Insurance (K-Sure). Posco and IBK jointly contribute 20 billion won to K-Sure, which then provides preferential guarantees worth about 400 billion won to participating trading companies. IBK offers ad

- [This is the studio behind Korea's box office comeback](#) (2026-04-29 05:01)

Korea's film business is showing signs of life again, and it has one film — and the studio behind it — to thank for most of it. According to the quarterly report released Wednesday by the Korean Film Council, the government body in charge of film policy, the country's box office took in 318 billion won (\$215 million) and drew 31.9 million admissions between January and March, making it the strongest first quarter since 2020. Revenue climbed 58.7 percent year on year; admissions rose 53.2 percent

- [Korean-French actor Park Ji-min joins Cannes jury](#) (2026-04-29 05:01)

Park Ji-min, the South Korea-born French actor and visual artist, has been named to the short film and La Cinef jury at this year's Cannes Film Festival, organizers announced Tuesday. The Paris-based artist will serve under jury president Carla Simon, the Spanish filmmaker behind Berlin Golden Bear winner *Alcarras*. The five-member panel will hand out the Short Film Palme d'Or and the three La Cinef prizes, awarded to student films selected from schools around the world. Also on the jury are Iran

- [What Universal Ballet did right to make 'Shim Chung' a Korean classic](#) (2026-04-29 04:57)

Becoming a "classic" is less a moment than a process — a long, uneven accumulation of revisions, failures and returns. Many of the works we now consider classics also required time to mature. "Swan Lake" was dismissed at its 1877 premiere and only entered the canon after years of reworking; "The Nutcracker," first staged in 1892, met a similarly chilly reception before becoming a seasonal staple. In ballet, as in all performing arts, endurance is earned over time. Now, in Korea, a homegrown work

- ['Perfect Crown' is fiction, but its Joseon setting contains historical inaccuracies: historian](#) (2026-04-29 04:50)

"Perfect Crown" focuses on a hypothetical royal family of the Joseon era, which, in reality, ended in the early 20th century. Despite the hit series' fictional nature, historian Shim Yong-hwan says it still contains many historical inaccuracies, especially in its regency storyline and portrayal of a continued royal family after the fall of Joseon. The series follows chaebol heiress Hui-ju (IU), who orchestrates a contract marriage with royal prince I-an (Byeon Woo-seok) in a fictional 21st-centu

- [Daegu public official stops attempted arson on subway train](#) (2026-04-29 04:43)

A public official stopped a man from setting fire to a subway train in Daegu during the morning rush hour last week, police said Wednesday. The Daegu Dalseo Police Station said the suspect, a man in his 40s, was referred to the prosecution on charges of violating the Railroad Safety Act. The suspect allegedly walked through a Line 1 train operated by Daegu Transportation Corp. at around 8:30 a.m. on April 23 while carrying a lighter and flammable bug spray, and attempted to start a fire inside t

- [Top court overturns urine swap conviction over illegal police conduct](#) (2026-04-29 04:37)

South Korea's top court has overturned the conviction of a drug suspect who submitted another person's urine to dodge a narcotics test, ruling the police acted unlawfully and the suspect cannot be punished. The Supreme Court sent the case back to the Seoul Eastern District Court, overturning a lower court decision that had sentenced the defendant to 10 months in prison on charges of obstruction of official duties by deception, according to legal sources on Wednesday. The suspect was accused of i

- [Stranded whale en route to open sea on barge](#) (2026-04-29 04:29)

INSEL POEL, Germany (AFP) -- A special boat carrying a stranded humpback whale whose weeks-long struggle to survive has captured hearts in Germany set off for the open seas on Tuesday evening in a last-ditch rescue attempt. Rescuers had earlier succeeded in coaxing the animal into the barge, which has a water-filled hold and is usually used to carry other boats, in an attempt to return it to its natural habitat. The whale, dubbed "Timmy" by German media, and its ordeal have gripped the country s

- [Goals galore as PSG beats Bayern Munich 5-4 in record-setting Champions League semifinal 1st leg](#) (2026-04-29 04:29)

PARIS (AP) -- Titleholder Paris Saint-Germain trailed early, led by three goals and ultimately held on for a pulsating 5-4 win over Bayern Munich in the highest-scoring semifinal match in Champions League history on Tuesday. And there's still next week's second leg to come. PSG built a 5-2 lead early in the second half thanks to two goals each from flying winger Khvicha Kvaratskhelia and Ousmane Dembele at Parc des Princes. "We deserved to win, we deserved to lose, we deserved to draw," PSG coac

- [Criminal records, old controversies dog local election candidates](#) (2026-04-29 04:15)

With about a month left until South Korea's June 3 local elections, candidates from rival parties are facing scrutiny over past criminal records, controversial remarks and old cases that have resurfaced during the nomination process. A total of 8,377 people have registered as preliminary candidates for local posts across the country, with official candidate registration scheduled for May 14 and 15. The controversies span both the ruling Democratic Party of Korea and the main opposition People Po

- [Driver in fatal Incheon crash took extra sleeping pills: police](#) (2026-04-29 04:15)

A security guard at an apartment complex in Incheon died after being hit by a van while helping students cross the road on their way to school, with police later finding that the driver had taken more sleeping pills than usual before the crash. The driver, a woman in her 40s, was leaving the apartment complex in a van when she drove the vehicle onto a crosswalk and hit the security guard, who was in his 60s. The van stopped only after traveling about 10 meters farther. The guard went into cardiac arrest.

- [Nvidia official to meet with Samsung, SK hynix executives for physical AI partnership](#) (2026-04-29 03:50)

A key executive of US tech giant Nvidia will hold meetings with counterparts from Samsung Electronics Co. and SK hynix Inc. on Wednesday to discuss cooperation in physical artificial intelligence, industry sources said. The back-to-back meetings come as Madison Huang, senior director of product and technical marketing for physical AI platforms at Nvidia, is visiting South Korea to expand partnerships in the sector. Her team oversees Nvidia Omniverse, a development platform for physical and industrial AI.

- [Daejeon honors 15 citizens, officials for helping recapture escaped wolf](#) (2026-04-29 03:43)

The Daejeon Metropolitan Government on Tuesday awarded commendations to 15 people for their roles in safely capturing Neukgu, a young wolf that escaped from Daejeon O World earlier this month, including a citizen whose voluntary tracking efforts proved crucial in locating the animal. The citizen, 27-year-old Kang Jun-su, encountered the wolf on the night of April 14 while driving near wooded areas near the zoo in search of it. Footage he recorded helped authorities track down the animal during the hunt.

- [Belarus frees prominent journalist Andrzej Poczobut in a 10-person prisoner swap](#) (2026-04-29 03:40)

Prominent journalist Andrzej Poczobut has been released from jail in Belarus in a swap with Poland that saw a total of 10 people freed as the authoritarian leader of Belarus seeks improved relations with the West, officials in both countries said Tuesday. Poczobut, a correspondent for the influential Polish newspaper Gazeta Wyborcza and a leading figure among Belarus' Polish minority, was serving eight years in prison in a case condemned as politically motivated. His 2021 arrest after covering the war in Ukraine.

- [King Charles promotes US-UK unity in speech to Congress](#) (2026-04-29 03:30)

Britain's King Charles told the US Congress Tuesday that despite an age of uncertainty and conflict in Europe and the Middle East, the UK and the US will always be staunch allies united in defending democracy, at a time of deep divisions between the two long-time allies over the war with Iran. "Whatever our differences, whatever disagreements we may have, we stand united in our commitment to uphold democracy, to protect all our people from harm, and to salute the courage of those who daily risk their lives for freedom."

- [Gulf leaders meet in Saudi Arabia to discuss war's fallout](#) (2026-04-29 03:22)

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AFP) -- Saudi Arabia welcomed leaders and officials from across the Gulf Tuesday to discuss the ongoing crisis in the region triggered by the US-Israeli war against Iran. The talks in the coastal city of Jeddah come as the White House considers Iran's latest proposal to end the two-month-old conflict and reopen the Strait of Hormuz. The crucial waterway saw roughly 20 percent of global crude and liquefied natural gas pass through its waters before the war largely choked off

- [Ex-FBI chief Comey charged with threatening Trump's life in Instagram post](#) (2026-04-29 03:19)

WASHINGTON (AFP) -- Former FBI director James Comey has been indicted for threatening the life of Donald Trump, officials said Tuesday, five months after a previous case against the outspoken critic of the US president was thrown out. The indictment by a grand jury in North Carolina stems from an Instagram post the 65-year-old Comey made in May last year that showed the numbers "86 47" spelled out in seashells. Trump alleged in an interview with Fox News at the time that "86" was slang for kill

- [Hyundai Glovis deploys world's largest car carrier](#) (2026-04-29 02:58)

Hyundai Glovis said Wednesday it has put the world's largest car carrier into service, aiming to support exports by South Korean automakers and further bolster its competitiveness in the global shipping market. The logistics unit of Hyundai Motor Group said the vessel, named Glovis Leader, measures 230 meters in length and 40 meters in width, with a gross tonnage of 102,590. It can transport up to 10,800 vehicles in a single voyage, making it the first pure car and truck carrier capable of carryi

- [What happens to a neighborhood when BTS comes to town?](#) (2026-04-29 02:44)

When BTS staged performances in central Seoul and Goyang in March and April, the events triggered a measurable tourism surge. International fans stayed longer and spent significantly more than other visitors from abroad, while foreign foot traffic and card spending in surrounding districts multiplied more than 30-fold within days, according to data released Wednesday by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism; the Korea Culture and Tourism Institute; and the Korea Tourism Organization. The a

- [S. Korea's seaport cargo up 1.5% in Q1 despite trade uncertainties](#) (2026-04-29 02:42)

Cargo processed at South Korean seaports grew 1.5 percent from a year earlier in the first quarter, showing limited impact from the Middle Eastern conflict, the oceans ministry said Wednesday. Cargo handled at the country's seaports nationwide came to 388.45 million tons during the January-March period, up from 382.89 million tons tallied the same period last year, according to the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries. Of them, export-import cargo totaled 327.48 million tons, also up 1.5 percent on-

- [English at age 7: tutoring cost fix or pressure on children?](#) (2026-04-29 02:38)

A pledge to introduce English classes from first grade has revived a decades-old debate in South Korea over whether earlier public instruction can ease private tutoring costs or fuel even more competition among young children. Yoon Ho-sang, the conservative candidate in the 2026 Seoul education superintendent race, told Newsis on Monday that public elementary schools should begin English education earlier to meet demand now being absorbed by private academies.

“Many families spend heavily on pri

- [Retail sales rise 5.6% in March on tourism boost, back-to-school season demand](#) (2026-04-29 02:37)

Revenue of major retail companies here went up 5.6 percent from a year earlier in March thanks to the robust consumption demand fueled by a sharp increase in inbound travelers to South Korea and the back-to-school season, government data showed Wednesday. Offline retailers reported 1.9 percent on-year growth in sales, with department stores posting a sharp growth of 14.7 percent and convenience stores enjoying a 2.7 percent gain in revenue, according to data compiled by the Ministry of Trade, In

- [Major comics piracy hubs are shutting down. Here's how it happened.](#) (2026-04-29 02:36)

It has been a brutal few months for readers of pirated comics and manga. On Monday, Newtokki, a major illegal webtoon site in Korea, abruptly shut down. In a notice posted on its website, the operators said the platform would go dark by midnight and that all user data would be deleted. They added that they had no plans to revive the service and warned that any future site using a similar name would not be affiliated with them. Newtokki ran alongside two affiliated sites operated by the same owne

- [S. Korea, Qatar to push for deeper cooperation in manufacturing AI, semiconductor, biohealth](#) (2026-04-29 02:35)

Trade ministers of South Korea and Qatar agreed Wednesday to expand the two countries' cooperation in advanced industries, including artificial intelligence (AI) transformation of the manufacturing sector, semiconductor and biohealth, a Seoul ministry said. Trade Minister Yeo Han-koo met with his Qatar counterpart, Ahmed bin Mohammed Al-Sayed, in Seoul to discuss ways to expand economic and investment cooperation between the two nations, according to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Resources

- [Philip Morris Korea names new chief](#) (2026-04-29 02:34)

Philip Morris Korea said Wednesday it has appointed Lee Hong-suk as its new managing director, effective May 1. Lee, currently head of smoke-free products, brings more than two decades of experience across global markets within Philip Morris International. Since joining the company in 1999, he has held key commercial and strategic roles. He has built extensive international experience in markets including Singapore and Hong Kong, and served as general manager of Philip Morris Taiwan in 2018, whe

- ['Culinary Class Wars' eyes May shoot amid judge controversies](#) (2026-04-29 02:31)

Riding the wave of the explosive success of its first two seasons, "Culinary Class Wars" is gearing up for Season 3, with filming reportedly set to begin in May. Netflix has not confirmed whether its judges, chef Anh Sung-jae and Paik Jong-won, will return, as both remain embroiled in ongoing controversies. The new season is reportedly set to begin filming roughly four months after Season 2 wrapped on Jan. 13. Netflix previously revealed that Season 3 would adopt a team-based format, pitting res

- [New York City's first full casino with live table games opens](#) (2026-04-29 02:16)

NEW YORK (AP) -- New York City's first full casino with live table games opened to fanfare Tuesday. Resorts World, a slots parlor in Queens, officially cut the ribbon on an expanded gambling area featuring more than 200 games with live dealers, including blackjack, craps, baccarat and roulette, as well as more than 2,500 slot machines. The company says it will bring more tables and slot machines online later in the year. It has also promised to build a new hotel, restaurants, a 7,000-seat entert

- [After film success, Park Jihoon returns with single album 'Re:flect'](#) (2026-04-29 01:54)

Park Jihoon is making his return to the music scene with the single album "Re:flect," to be released at 6 p.m. Wednesday across major streaming platforms. The release marks his first musical project in three years, following his seventh EP "Blank or Black," released in April 2023. During his musical hiatus, Park continued to work as an actor, appearing in Netflix's "Weak Hero" and the film "The King's Warden," which surpassed 16 million ticket sales as of April 19. "Re:flect" explores themes of

- [United Arab Emirates will leave OPEC in a blow to oil cartel](#) (2026-04-29 01:51)

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The United Arab Emirates said Tuesday it will leave OPEC effective May 1, stripping the oil cartel of its third-largest producer and further weakening its leverage over global oil supplies and prices. The UAE's decision had been rumored as a possibility for some time, as it pushed back in recent years against OPEC production quotas it felt had been too low — meaning it wasn't able to sell as much oil to the world as it had wanted. "Having invested heavily in ex

- [LG Display wins 'Display of the Year' for ultra-fast OLED](#) (2026-04-29 01:45)

LG Display said Wednesday its 27-inch 540/720Hz OLED gaming monitor panel has won display of the year at the Society for Information Display's Display Industry Awards. SID, the world's largest display organization, brings together around 7,000 industry professionals, researchers and academics each year. The awards recognize the most innovative display technologies introduced over the past year. Display of the year, the top honor, is awarded to a single product deemed to have the greatest potenti

- [Korean Air named chair of SkyTeam safety group](#) (2026-04-29 01:43)

Korean Air said Wednesday it has been elected chair of the safety, security and quality advisory group under SkyTeam, strengthening its role in shaping industry standards. Following the appointment, Bennet Allen Walsh, head of Korean Air's aviation safety and security division, will serve a two-year term as chair of the SSQ Functional Executives. As chair airline, Korean Air will advise on safety, security and quality policies across SkyTeam's member carriers, drawing on its operational expertise

- ['Sold Out on You' tops Netflix chart for non-English shows](#) (2026-04-29 01:28)

The romantic comedy "Sold Out on You" led Netflix's weekly non-English series chart a week after its debut, the streaming giant said Wednesday. The 12-part series garnered 4.7 million views for the week ended Sunday, the most among non-English TV series available on Netflix. It was in the top 10 in 42 countries and regions, including No. 1 in Taiwan, Guatemala and Peru. Starring Ahn Hyo-seop and Chae Won-bin, the SBS series centers on the romance between Matthew Lee, a young perfectionist farmer

- [S. Korea to launch new frigate with enhanced anti-air, anti-sub capabilities](#) (2026-04-29 01:07)

South Korea was set to hold a launch ceremony Wednesday for a new homegrown 3,600-ton frigate with enhanced anti-air and anti-submarine capabilities, the Navy and the state arms procurement agency said. The ceremony for the ROKS Jeju, named after the country's southern resort island, will take place at a shipyard run by SK Oceanplant Co., in Goseong County, about 350 kilometers south of Seoul, the Navy and the Defense Acquisition Program Administration said in a joint release. The 129-meter-long

- [Amorepacific Q1 net falls 5% on base effect](#) (2026-04-29 01:00)

Amorepacific Corp., South Korea's leading cosmetics company, said Wednesday its first-quarter net profit fell 5 percent from a year earlier due to a base effect. Net profit for the three months that ended in March fell to 113 billion won (\$76.6 million) from 119 billion won in the same period last year, the company said in a regulatory filing. The decline was largely attributable to the absence of one-off gains recorded in the previous year. "In the first quarter of 2025, one-off gains from the

- [N. Korea's Kim attends concert marking 80th founding anniv. of key military band](#) (2026-04-29 00:34)

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has attended a concert marking the 80th founding anniversary of a key military band, calling it a symbol of the country's armed forces, state media reported Wednesday. The concert was held the previous day to commemorate the founding anniversary of the Central Military Band of the Ministry of National Defense, according to the Korean Central News Agency. The event was also attended by key military and party officials, including Defense Minister No Kwang-chol and K

- [Appeals court set to rule on ex-President Yoon's obstruction of justice case](#) (2026-04-29 00:32)

An appeals court was set to rule Wednesday on former President Yoon Suk Yeol's trial on obstruction of justice and other charges stemming from his failed martial law bid, after a lower court sentenced him to five years in prison. The Seoul High Court was scheduled to hand down its verdict in a live-televised hearing at 3 p.m., following the ousted former president's January conviction for obstructing investigators from detaining him last year over his martial law declaration in late 2024. The lo

- [Seoul stocks open lower on renewed AI woes, rising oil prices](#) (2026-04-29 00:30)

Seoul stocks opened lower Wednesday as a report on OpenAI's poorer-than-expected performance renewed concerns over the artificial intelligence sector and rising oil prices. The benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index opened down 22.02 points, or 0.33 percent lower at 6,619.00. Overnight, major stock indexes on Wall Street lost ground as concerns over the AI sector reemerged following a report warning that ChatGPT maker OpenAI was falling short of revenue and user targets. The Wall Street Jou

- [Truckers' union, logistics firm reach tentative deal after strike](#) (2026-04-29 00:10)

A truckers' union and a logistics firm behind CU convenience stores reached a tentative deal early Wednesday, the union said. The Cargo Truckers Solidarity, under the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions, said it reached a provisional agreement with BGF Logistics at around 5 a.m. during a fifth round of talks in Jinju, South Gyeongsang Province. Details of the agreement were not disclosed. The union released a photo of the meeting attended by Labor Minister Kim Young-hoon. Union members are voti

- [\[Graphic News\] Seoul ranks 8th in global financial index](#) (2026-04-28 23:00)

Seoul ranked eighth globally in financial competitiveness, according to a recent report by UK-based consulting firm Z/Yen. In its 39th edition of the Global Financial Centers Index, Z/Yen evaluated 137 cities worldwide. The South Korean capital placed eighth in human capital, sixth in business environment, eighth in financial sector development and ninth in reputation. Seoul has remained in the top 10 for four consecutive years, climbing two spots from 10th place last year. The city ranked 53rd

- [Secret snaps fuel fresh tensions in decades-old pink seat dispute](#) (2026-04-28 23:00)

The yearslong debate over "pink seats" on buses and subways in Korea has taken a new turn amid a surge in social media posts shaming passengers who are apparently not pregnant. A search for priority seating for pregnant women on local social media platforms turns up numerous photos and short videos of passengers occupying these seats, often with their faces blurred. "I mean, sure, people can sit there for a bit if they're tired. But if you see a pregnant woman, shouldn't you at least try to move

- [Cravity redefines itself with new EP ‘Redefine’](#) (2026-04-28 22:00)

Boy group Cravity is returning with its eighth EP, “Redefine,” using its latest release to revisit who they are six years into their career — not by rejecting the past, but by carrying it forward. Ahead of the album’s release, the nine-member group sat down for a round interview at Starship Entertainment’s headquarters in Gangnam-gu, southern Seoul on April 23, where the bandmates shared their excitement ahead of the new album, which arrives in the same month as the anniversary of the group's de

- [\[Kim Seong-kon\] Living across boundaries: 'Now we are shining'](#) (2026-04-28 20:30)

These days, Koreans overseas take pride in their home country, as Korea is “glittering” in the international spotlight. In America, for example, many Korean Americans are proud of the country of their heritage thanks to the huge success of “KPop Demon Hunters.” People in Korea, too, are pleased with their country, as K-pop, Korean film and K-drama enjoy immense popularity in the global village. The recent worldwide applause for “KPop Demon Hunters” has greatly elated people of Korean origin. In

- [\[Jessica Melugin\] Social media bans bring problems](#) (2026-04-28 20:30)

Bans on social media for minors are having a political moment. Parents’ sincere concerns and politicians’ instincts to capitalize on those fears are driving federal and state legislation like the kind already in effect elsewhere in the world. But no amount of good intentions makes these efforts good policy. At the federal level, bipartisan legislation seeks to ban some age groups from creating or maintaining a social media account and restrict older youths from receiving algorithmic recommendati

- [Lee approves resignation of 2 presidential officials expected to run in by-elections](#) (2026-04-28 13:01)

President Lee Jae Myung on Tuesday approved the resignation of two senior presidential officials widely expected to run in upcoming parliamentary by-elections. Lee accepted letters of resignation from Ha Jung-woo, presidential secretary for artificial intelligence policy and future planning, and presidential spokesperson Jeon Eun-soo, asking Ha to “work for the people and national interest,” his office said. Ha is expected to run for a parliamentary seat in the southeastern city of Busan, while

- [Enhypen adds third Mexico City show as demand surges](#) (2026-04-28 12:34)

Enhypen has added another Mexico City stop to its ongoing “Blood Saga” world tour, bringing its total to three shows at Arena CDMX as demand continues to surge. The group announced Tuesday via Weverse, Hybe's global fandom platform, that an additional performance will be held on July 14, following previously scheduled shows on July 11 and 12 at the roughly 20,000-seat Arena CDMX. Originally planned as a one-night event, the July 11 concert sold out quickly during presales, prompting organizers t

- [S. Korean sports agency signs teen rhythmic gymnast from Cyprus](#) (2026-04-28 12:08)

Seoul-based sports agency Next Creative said Tuesday it has signed a teenage rhythmic gymnast from Cyprus as its first international client. The company said it reached a global management agreement with 17-year-old Vera Tugolukova. She is the first international athlete to be represented by Next Creative, whose clientele includes Olympic speed skater Kim Min-sun, short track world champion Park Ji-won and KPGA Tour star Park Hyun-kyung. Tugolukova was the youngest rhythmic gymnast to compete a

- [Calling N. Korea by its official name subject of public debate: ministry](#) (2026-04-28 11:51)

The unification ministry said Tuesday the question of whether South Korea should use North Korea's official name is a matter that warrants broad public debate amid criticism that such a reference constitutes a violation of the Constitution. The debate was ignited last month when Unification Minister Chung Dong-young used North Korea's official name at an academic forum for the first time. South Korea currently refers to the North as "North Korea" rather than its official name, the Democratic Peo

- [Trump Jr. returns to South Korea for personal visit: Local report](#) (2026-04-28 11:47)

Donald Trump Jr., the eldest son of US President Donald Trump, arrived in South Korea on Tuesday for a four-day visit, marking his second trip to the country in a year, according to local reports. While the visit has been described only as for "business purposes," local media reported that his itinerary includes attending a classical concert hosted by the wife of Shinsegae Group Chairman Chung Yong-jin, with whom Trump Jr. has a close personal relationship. The two have maintained ties since aro

- [BTS earns El Paso honor as concerts drive tourism boom](#) (2026-04-28 10:55)

El Paso County, Texas, honored BTS with a special award on Monday in recognition of the group's impact on local tourism and community engagement. According to Big Hit Music on Tuesday, the Commissioners Court of El Paso County approved a resolution awarding all seven members the "Estimado Amigo" honor and proclaiming May 2-3 as "El Paso BTS Weekend," coinciding with the group's upcoming concerts in the city. The county credited BTS with helping boost tourism, elevate community pride and spotlight

- [Seoul weighs response to US lawmakers over Coupang case](#) (2026-04-28 09:06)

South Korea is considering a formal response to US lawmakers who have accused Seoul of targeting American firms, the Foreign Ministry said Tuesday, as tensions simmer over a probe into Coupang Inc. and broader alliance issues. The Foreign Ministry said Tuesday it is reviewing whether to send a reply to a letter from 54 Republican lawmakers affiliated with the Republican Study Committee, who urged Seoul to halt what they described as discriminatory regulations against US companies operating in Ko

- [SK Inc. boosts stake in SK Ecoplant to back chip, AI push](#) (2026-04-28 08:59)

SK Inc., SK Group's holding company, said Tuesday it will spend about 400 billion won (\$271 million) to raise its stake in SK Ecoplant, betting on the construction arm's growing role in the group's semiconductor value chain. In a regulatory filing, the company said its board approved the purchase of common shares and a portion of convertible preferred shares in SK Ecoplant currently held by financial investors. The deal will lift SK Inc.'s stake in the affiliate to 71.2 percent from 66.7 percent

- [Kospi hits record high, races toward 7,000](#) (2026-04-28 08:56)

The South Korean benchmark Kospi surged to another high as of closing Tuesday as it continued its strong upward momentum. The index is now swiftly approaching the 7,000-point threshold. The Kospi closed at 6,641.02, gaining 0.39 percent from the previous session. It notched an all-time high as of closing, surpassing Monday's record 6,615.03 close. During trading, it surged to a record high of 6,712.73, surpassing the 6,700 mark for the first time. It first closed above the 5,000 mark, a historic

- [82Major leans into maturity, self-produced identity with 'FeelM'](#) (2026-04-28 08:51)

Boy group 82Major returned with a more refined and self-defined sound, unveiling its fifth EP "FeelM" at a media showcase Tuesday in Seoul. The six-member group — Seongil, Yechan, Seongmo, Seongbin, Seokjoon and Dogyun — introduced the album at Yes24 Wanderloch Hall, marking its first comeback since its 2025 EP "Trophy." "FeelM," a combination of the words "feel" and "film," captures a range of emotional moments as if they were scenes from a movie. Member Dogyun said the album was designed to pr

- [Ex-first lady gets 4 years over graft, stock manipulation](#) (2026-04-28 08:49)

The Seoul High Court on Tuesday sentenced former first lady Kim Keon Hee to four years in prison, overturning her acquittal in the Deutsch Motors stock manipulation case and finding her guilty of receiving bribes from the Unification Church. The appellate court also imposed a 50 million won (\$33,900) fine, handing down a heavier sentence than the one year and eight months Kim received in the first trial. However, the court upheld the lower court's acquittal on a separate charge that Kim illegall

- [In photos: Annual career fair opens for soldiers](#) (2026-04-28 08:27)

An annual job fair for soon-to-be-discharged military personnel opened in Goyang, Gyeonggi Province, Tuesday. The ROK Armed Forces Career Fair, launched in 1998, is hosted by the Ministry of National Defense and is designed to help service members transition back into civilian life. In South Korea, able-bodied men are required to serve in the military for 18 to 21 months. The two-day event is expected to attract approximately 15,000 soldiers, along with representatives from 160 companies and ins

- [At 20, Daegu Int'l Musical Festival presses case for national theater complex](#) (2026-04-28 08:27)

When the Daegu International Musical Festival opens its 20th edition this June, organizers will be celebrating more than a milestone. They are using the occasion to press the longer-running case: Korea's musical theater industry, now riding the high of the six Tony Awards pulled by "Maybe Happy Ending" last year, needs national infrastructure to match — and that infrastructure should be built in Daegu, not Seoul. At a Seoul press conference on Tuesday, the festival's leadership laid out the line

- [Kim Jong-un praises both fallen and surviving troops in message seen aimed at POWs](#) (2026-04-28 08:25)

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has publicly praised both soldiers who took their own lives in combat and those who survived, in remarks believed to be an attempt at managing psychological fallout from North Korean troops captured in the Russia-Ukraine war. Speaking at a ceremony on Sunday marking what Pyongyang described as operations in Russia's Kursk region, Kim said, "Those who, in order to defend great honor, unhesitatingly chose the path of self-destruction and self-sacrifice are heroes."

- [PGA Tour returns to Trump's golf course after 10 years](#) (2026-04-28 08:21)

The PGA Tour's Cadillac Championship (\$20 million purse) will be held from Thursday through Sunday at the Trump National Doral Miami's Blue Monster Course near Miami, Florida. The tournament kicks off a series of marquee events on the PGA Tour schedule. The Trust Championship is scheduled to begin on May 7, followed by the PGA Championship on May 14. The Cadillac Championship has drawn attention because it is being staged at a golf club owned by the US President Donald Trump. Trump National Dor

- [FIFA plans new yellow card reset rule for 2026 World Cup](#) (2026-04-28 08:21)

FIFA is set to revise its suspension rules for accumulated yellow cards at the 2026 World Cup in North America. According to the BBC on Tuesday, FIFA is preparing a plan to wipe all yellow card records at two points during the tournament: after the final group-stage match and after the quarterfinals. Under the rules used through the 2022 World Cup, any player who received two yellow cards during the group stage and knockout rounds (round of 16 and quarterfinals) was suspended for one match. All

- [Migrant groups file complaint over relief payments excluding foreign residents](#) (2026-04-28 08:03)

Migrant rights groups in South Korea have filed a complaint with the National Human Rights Commission of Korea, arguing that most foreign residents have been excluded from government relief payments intended to offset high fuel costs. The groups, including the Gyeonggi Migrants' Equality Coalition, said that of roughly 2.167 million foreign residents who have stayed in South Korea for more than three months as of March, about 1.785 million — excluding marriage migrants, permanent residents and r

- [\[단독\] QS 창립자 “한국 대학 생태계, 상위 20개국 중 가장 폐쇄적”](#) (2026-04-28 08:00)

세계 대학평가기관 QS의 창립자인 맷 시몬스(Matt Symonds)는 한국 대학들이 수년간 글로벌 위상을 높이기 위해 노력해왔지만, 다른 아시아 국가들에 비해 여전히 낮은 국제화 수준을 보인다고 평가했다. 시몬스는 새 국가별 고등교육 순위인 ‘measuresHE Country 100’ 발표를 앞두고 코리아 헤럴드와 22일 진행한 단독 인터뷰에서 이같이 밝혔다. 시몬스는 한국 고등교육 시스템이 연구와 제도적 역량 면에서는 아시아에서 가장 강한 축에 속하지만, 글로벌 인재 유치와 해외 학술 네트워크 구축에서는 역내 경쟁국들에 크게 뒤처져 있다고 진단했다. 이 같은 평가는 국가 고등교육 시스템의 전반적인 역량과 국제적 연계 수준을 평가하기 위해 새로 설계된 순위 및 보고서인

‘measuresHE Country 100’에 담겼다. 이 프로젝트는 QS 창립자이자 블루스카이 에듀케이션 CEO인 시몬스와 데이비드 왓킨스(David Watkins) 전 타임스고등교육(THE) 전무이사, 빌리 웡(B

- [\[Exclusive\] Korea’ s universities rank high, but remain globally inward-looking: QS founder](#) (2026-04-28 08:00)

South Korea’ s universities have spent years trying to raise their global profile, but a new country-level ranking suggests the more important question is not where they place, but how weak their connection to the international academic system is. That assessment comes from the Country 100 by measuresHE. The new ranking and report evaluate the overall strength and global connectedness of national higher education systems. The project was co-developed by former Times Higher Education managing dire

- [Korail adds extra trains for Buddha’ s Birthday holiday travel rush](#) (2026-04-28 07:51)

Travelers planning trips over the upcoming holiday for Buddha’ s Birthday will have more options this year, as Korea Railroad Corporation expands train services to meet rising demand. Korail said Monday it will run additional trains from May 23-25, covering the long weekend that includes the national holiday and its substitute day. The move is aimed at easing congestion on major routes as domestic travel picks up. A total of 38 extra services, including high-speed KTX trains and conventional line

- [LTI Korea to launch graduate school for literary translation in 2027](#) (2026-04-28 07:51)

The Literature Translation Institute of Korea said Tuesday it is moving ahead with plans to establish a graduate school dedicated to training professional translators of Korean literature and cultural content. The LTI Korea Graduate School of Translation is set to open in 2027. The government-funded institution specializing in literary translation training held a ceremony for its graduate school establishment committee on Tuesday in central Seoul, where it outlined its plans and vision for the n

- [US calls Korea’ s network fee policy ‘outlier,’ raises trade concerns](#) (2026-04-28 07:36)

The Office of the US Trade Representative has renewed criticism of South Korea’ s network usage fee policy, calling it an outlier and one of the “craziest” foreign trade barriers facing American exporters. In a series of posts on X on Tuesday, the agency said, “You wouldn’ t believe the lengths some countries go to stop American exports,” listing 10 examples.

Korea's so-called "sending party network pays" policy ranked fourth. "No country in the world imposes a network usage fees on the transmissi

- [Seoul stocks again at fresh peak ahead of US big tech earnings](#) (2026-04-28 07:08)

Seoul stocks closed at a new record high Tuesday, boosted by anticipation over the earnings releases of major US tech companies. The Korean won fell against the greenback. The benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index closed up 25.99 points, or 0.39 percent, to 6,641.02. Trade volume was heavy at 1.1 billion shares worth 37.3 trillion won (\$25.3 billion). Winners slightly outnumbered losers 431 to 417. Foreign and retail investors were net sellers, offloading a combined 315.2 billion won worth

- [N. Korea 'most pressing challenge to the nonproliferation regime'](#) (2026-04-28 06:38)

South Korea's top nuclear envoy underscored the urgency of resolving North Korea's nuclear issue while calling for a more flexible, phased approach to denuclearization, the Foreign Ministry said Tuesday. Jeong Yeon-doo, vice foreign minister for diplomatic strategy and intelligence, made the remarks in a keynote speech at the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) review conference held in New York on Monday. In his address, Jeong stressed that North Korea is "the only case that has benefited fr

- [Woori falls behind NongHyup as brokerage gap widens](#) (2026-04-28 06:25)

Woori Financial Group was overtaken by NongHyup Financial Group in first-quarter earnings, a rare shift that highlights the growing importance of nonbanking income, as a stock market rally boosts brokerage profits. Industry data released Tuesday showed NongHyup Financial posted 868.8 billion won (\$589 million) in net profit for the January-March period, up 21.7 percent from a year earlier, surpassing Woori Financial's 603.8 billion won. Woori, which has typically ranked fourth among Korea's majo

- [From price to strategy: Korea unveils procurement reform](#) (2026-04-28 06:24)

The Public Procurement Service has unveiled a reform package aimed at shifting procurement toward a more "citizen- and market-centered" model, while strengthening its role in supporting emerging industries. The plan outlines around 70 detailed measures across four pillars: expanding procurement autonomy for local governments, enhancing competition and transparency, fostering new industries, and advancing socially responsible procurement. The reform is part of efforts to reposition South Korea's

- [Korea targets \\$2tr global procurement market with new support](#) (2026-04-28 06:24)

South Korea is looking to use public procurement as a launchpad for global expansion by increasing support for exporters looking to break into international markets. The Public Procurement Service has expanded funding for overseas pilot projects to help companies build up an overseas track record. It has also increased availability of "export vouchers," which companies can use to pay for a range of support services. The move aligns with the agency's

broader strategy to use public purchasing power

- [Government buying power key to AI race, says Korea's procurement chief](#) (2026-04-28 06:24)

South Korea's public procurement system is undergoing a quiet but consequential shift — from a back-office function focused on price and efficiency to a frontline policy tool shaping industrial strategy, supply chains and emerging technologies. At the center of that transition is the Public Procurement Service, which oversees roughly 225 trillion won (\$160 billion) in annual public spending — equivalent to about 9 percent of the country's gross domestic product. In a recent interview with The Korea Herald,

- [Korea overtakes UK to rank No. 8 in stock market cap](#) (2026-04-28 06:24)

South Korea's stock market has climbed to eighth place globally by market capitalization, overtaking the UK, on the back of a strong rally fueled by semiconductor gains and policy support. According to the Korea Exchange on Tuesday, the combined market capitalization of the Kospi and Kosdaq reached 6,101 trillion won (\$4.1 trillion) as of Monday's close. The Kospi accounted for 5,421 trillion won, while the Kosdaq stood at 679 trillion won. Global comparisons show Korea has surpassed the UK — with the UK at 5,800 trillion won.

- [\[Photo News\] Seoul's financial hub push](#) (2026-04-28 06:24)

Deputy Prime Minister Koo Yun-cheol (left) and American Chamber of Commerce in Korea Chairman James Kim shake hands after their meeting in Seoul on Tuesday. Kim stressed the need to strengthen competitiveness amid rising pressure from Singapore and Hong Kong, calling Korea's potential MSCI upgrade a "critical opportunity." Koo said the government is committed to advancing the capital market in line with global standards and implementing the MSCI road map to secure a "fair Korea premium," with both sides committed to strengthening cooperation.

- [Kim Hye-seong belatedly receives Dodgers World Series ring](#) (2026-04-28 06:23)

Kim Hye-seong, who made his MLB debut last year and was part of the Los Angeles Dodgers's World Series championship run, has now officially received his championship ring. The Dodgers revealed the clubhouse ring presentation on Tuesday through the club's official social media account. Manager Dave Roberts handed Kim the ring and praised his decision to join the club. "Two years ago, he could have signed with any MLB team," Roberts said. "But he said, 'I want to play for the Dodgers. I want to play for the Dodgers.'"

- [Is NewJeans returning as a trio?](#) (2026-04-28 06:21)

NewJeans has begun preparations for a comeback, but without member Minji, raising questions about the group's future lineup. Ador confirmed Tuesday that members Hyein, Haerin and Hanni recently traveled to Copenhagen for music production. Minji, however, was not part of the trip, fueling speculation that the group could return as a trio. The five-member group has been largely inactive following a prolonged legal dispute with its agency. In November 2024, the group's legal dispute with its agency was resolved, paving the way for a potential comeback.

members notified Ador of contract ter

- [Former Lee aide to 'serve in the ranks' for ruling party after failed by-election bid](#) (2026-04-28 06:14)

Kim Yong, a confidant of President Lee Jae Myung, on Tuesday said that he would "serve in the ranks" for the ruling Democratic Party of Korea, following the party's decision to drop him in its selection of parliamentary by-election candidates. "Today, I take the decision by the (Democratic Party's candidate selection committee on Monday) seriously," Kim told reporters at the National Assembly on Tuesday. "I respect the committee's deep consideration and strategic decision, and I will serve in th

- [Court jails Uzbek, Kazakh men over Hwaseong car theft](#) (2026-04-28 06:04)

Two foreign nationals were sentenced to prison for stealing five vehicles from a used-car lot in Hwaseong, Gyeonggi Province, and moving them to an export packing site in Incheon, legal sources said Monday. The Suwon District Court sentenced a Uzbek man in his 40s to 10 months in prison and a Kazakh man in his 20s to one year in prison on charges including aggravated theft. The Kazakh man was also convicted of driving without a license. The two were accused of stealing five vehicles, including H

- [Kospi extends rally with fresh high](#) (2026-04-28 06:01)

The South Korean benchmark Kospi surged to another high Tuesday, topping 6,700 points in during intraday trading as it continued its strong upward momentum. The index is now swiftly approaching the 7,000-point threshold. The Kospi opened at 6,646.8 points, 0.48 percent higher from the previous session, and soon surpassed the 6,700 mark in early trading. After extending its gain to as high as 6,712.73, it partly pared the gains to stand at 6,657.45 at 2:30 p.m., climbing 0.64 percent on-session.

- [Mirae Asset eyes No. 1 spot over Korea Investment on SpaceX gains](#) (2026-04-28 05:57)

Mirae Asset Securities is poised to post a record quarterly profit, fueled by valuation gains from its early investment in SpaceX, in a result that could reshape the pecking order among South Korea's brokerages. The firm is forecast to report first-quarter operating profit of about 1.2 trillion won (\$815 million), according to market consensus compiled by FnGuide. Some estimates suggest earnings could exceed that level by more than 20 percent. If confirmed, it would mark the first time a domesti

- [Yoon Ina jumps 14 spots to No. 39](#) (2026-04-28 05:50)

Yoon Ina surged to No. 39 in the women's world golf rankings after posting the best major finish of her career at the season's first LPGA major, the Chevron Championship. In the latest rankings released Tuesday, Yoon earned 2.13 points to climb 14 places from No. 53 last week. She finished tied for fourth at the Chevron Championship, which concluded on Monday. Tournament winner Nelly Korda moved from No. 2 to reclaim the world No. 1 ranking. Korda

had lost the top spot to Jeeno Thitikul in August

- [Art Busan keeps door open to overseas M&A; as it marks 15th year](#) (2026-04-28 05:49)

Art Busan returns this May for its 15th anniversary, reinforcing its ties with the global art scene amid a cautious art market. The fair has long been regarded as one of Korea's leading art fairs, attracting international galleries, VIP collectors and art lovers alike. Its momentum, however, has slowed in recent years, reflecting a broader downturn in the art market. "We are always keeping the possibility of overseas M&A open and remain attentive to opportunities as they arise, although it is no

- [S. Korea nears completion of five-satellite network to monitor North Korea](#) (2026-04-28 05:48)

South Korea is set to complete the deployment of its five-satellite military reconnaissance constellation this month, marking a major step toward strengthening its independent capabilities in the surveillance of North Korea. According to a military official on Monday, the country's fifth reconnaissance satellite — launched in November last year from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida — has met all required criteria in its operational testing and evaluation phase. The satellite is now

- [\[Photo News\] Samsung targets retail shelves with 32-inch 3D display](#) (2026-04-28 05:44)

SAMSUNG'S GLASSES-FREE 3D DISPLAY Samsung Electronics' new 32-inch Spatial Signage is on display, Tuesday. The glasses-free 3D screen extends the lineup beyond large-format models, including an 85-inch version, targeting close-range retail settings such as shelves and counters. Using Samsung's proprietary 3D Plate technology, it creates depth through binocular parallax, enabling realistic 360-degree product views without glasses, the company said. (Samsung Electronics)

- [At least 358 executed under Kim Jong-un over 13 years: report](#) (2026-04-28 05:43)

At least 358 people have been executed in North Korea since Kim Jong-un came to power in late 2011, with executions surging sharply following the country's Covid-19 border shutdown, according to a report released Tuesday by a Seoul-based nongovernmental organization. The Transitional Justice Working Group said in its latest study, "Mapping North Korea's Executions Before and After the Covid-19 Pandemic," that it documented 136 executions between Dec. 17, 2011, and Dec. 16, 2024, resulting in at

- [K-culture turns viewers into visitors: Airbnb report](#) (2026-04-28 05:42)

K-culture has evolved from a global content phenomenon into a powerful driver of inbound tourism to South Korea, according to a report unveiled Tuesday. At a media briefing in Seoul, Airbnb presented findings from its latest global study, "Korea Calling: How K-Culture Is Driving a New Generation of Travelers into Korea," based on a survey of 4,500 travelers across Asia-Pacific and the US. Presenting the report, Sharon Chan, Head of APAC Communications at

Airbnb, said the influence of Korean pop

- [Lee calls for sovereign diplomacy, readiness for self-reliant defense](#) (2026-04-28 05:39)

President Lee Jae Myung on Tuesday underscored the need for diplomacy conducted with the confidence of a sovereign nation and called for self-reliant defense backed by full military readiness at home. Lee's message of greater autonomy in diplomacy and defense came at a sensitive moment when disagreements between South Korea and the US have come to the fore. "The structural reorganization of the global economy and security order is underway as geopolitical risks triggered by the Middle East war h

- [Intel-Tesla tie-up raises stakes for Samsung in foundry race](#) (2026-04-28 05:37)

Samsung Electronics' effort to defend its position as the world's second-largest contract chipmaker is drawing renewed scrutiny after Tesla CEO Elon Musk confirmed Intel's most advanced 14A process will anchor production at his Terafab project in Texas. Speaking on Tesla's first-quarter earnings call on April 22, Musk said Intel is "a key partner for the Terafab buildout" and that the 1.4-nanometer-class 14A node will be its workhorse process once volume production begins. Intel shares jumped ro

- [Literature translation institute moves to open specialized grad school](#) (2026-04-28 05:35)

The Literature Translation Institute of Korea on Tuesday announced a plan to establish a graduate school next year in efforts to nurture more translators specializing in Korean literature, officials said. The LTI has launched a nine-member committee to push for the project, with members including poet and former Culture Minister Do Jong-hwan, and renowned novelists Hwang Sok-yong and Eun Hee-kyung, according to officials from the state-run agency. Darcy Paquet, a US film critic who translated th

- [Korea's OLED market share rises for first time in years](#) (2026-04-28 05:34)

South Korea's share of the global OLED market rose for the first time in nearly a decade in 2025, as domestic display makers strengthened their lead in high-end technologies despite intensifying competition from China. According to the Korea Display Industry Association on Tuesday, citing data from Omdia, Korea's OLED market share reached 68.7 percent in 2025, up 1.5 percentage points from a year earlier. The gain marks the first increase since China entered the OLED market in 2015. Korea has le

- [Hyundai rolls out EV battery subscription test](#) (2026-04-28 05:34)

Hyundai Motor Group said Tuesday it had launched a pilot electric vehicle battery subscription service with Hyundai Motor and Hyundai Capital, targeting corporate taxis whose battery warranties expire in the first half of this year. The initiative follows regulatory changes approved in November that allow separate ownership registration of EV batteries and vehicle bodies — a shift aimed at lowering barriers to EV adoption. Under current rules, batteries are typically tied to the vehicle, limitin

- [Fly for miles, meet your idols: Korean Air taps Weverse](#) (2026-04-28 05:31)

Korean Air has partnered with Weverse to broaden mileage redemption options, allowing customers to use points for digital and fan-based services, the company announced Tuesday. Weverse is a global platform where users interact with artists, access exclusive content and watch live broadcasts. It hosts around 180 artists — including BTS, Blackpink, Dua Lipa and Yoasobi — and has about 12 million monthly active users worldwide. Under the partnership, members of Korean Air's Skypass loyalty program

- [Posco ramps up industrial gas push beyond steel](#) (2026-04-28 05:31)

Posco said Tuesday it is accelerating expansion of its industrial gas business as a future growth engine, aiming to capture rising demand from advanced industries such as semiconductors, aerospace and secondary batteries. As these sectors expand, the strategic importance of industrial gases is growing. In particular, securing stable supplies of rare gases has emerged as a key factor in national competitiveness, amid persistent global supply chain disruptions and geopolitical risks. The vulnerabi

- [S. Korea expected to secure up to 90% of pre-war-level naphtha supply for May: ministry](#) (2026-04-28 05:29)

South Korea is expected to secure up to 90 percent of pre-Iran war naphtha supplies for May, the industry ministry said Tuesday, adding that major petrochemical companies are expanding their plant operations in line with inbound supplies. The plant operation rate of Yeochun NCC, which had declared force majeure for some of its products due to naphtha shortages, has increased to 65 percent as of Friday from 55 percent on April 1, according to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Resources. The ope

- [Hyundai Motor Group eyes W8tr future R&D; complex in Seoul](#) (2026-04-28 05:28)

Hyundai Motor Group plans to invest about 8 trillion won (\$5.43 billion) to build a massive research and business complex in southern Seoul, as the company moves to consolidate scattered research capabilities and accelerate its push into future mobility. The new entity, named "HMG Future Complex," will be tasked with developing a facility near Bokjeong Station on Subway Line No. 8 in Songpa-gu, southern Seoul, which will spearhead research and development in future businesses such as artificial

- [Lee says will resolve 'pending issues' with allies thru mutual respect](#) (2026-04-28 05:27)

Issues between close allies should be resolved based on mutual respect and fundamental principles, President Lee Jae Myung said Tuesday. Lee made the remarks during a Cabinet meeting at Cheong Wa Dae, stressing that "cooperation with traditional allies should also be developed." "(We) need the wisdom to build healthy, future-oriented relations with traditional allies, while resolving pending issues based on mutual respect, common sense and principles," he told the meeting. "(I) will also devote

- [Charles meets Trump to salvage ties](#) (2026-04-28 05:26)

Britain's King Charles III met Donald Trump at the White House Monday, kicking off a high-stakes state visit shadowed by transatlantic tensions and a new alleged attempt to assassinate the US president. Behind the warm welcome for Charles and Queen Camilla in front of the cameras lay a deepening rift in the so-called "special relationship" between Washington and London over Trump's war in Iran. With such tensions simmering, Charles was to address a joint meeting of Congress, when he will tell US

- [Trump not happy with latest Iran proposal to end war, US official says](#) (2026-04-28 05:25)

US President Donald Trump is unhappy with the latest Iranian proposal on resolving the two-month war, a US official said, dampening hopes for a resolution to the conflict that has disrupted energy supplies, fueled inflation, and killed thousands. Iran's latest proposal would set aside discussion of Iran's nuclear program until the war is ended and disputes over shipping from the Gulf are resolved. That is unlikely to satisfy the US, which says nuclear issues must be dealt with from the outset,

- [Police probe Moon, health minister over COVID-19 vaccine complaint](#) (2026-04-28 05:24)

South Korean police have launched an investigation into allegations that vaccines from batches linked to foreign-substance reports were improperly distributed during the COVID-19 pandemic, authorities said Tuesday. The investigation comes after a civic group filed a complaint against former President Moon Jae-in, who was in office during the pandemic, and Health Minister Jeong Eun-kyeong, who served as commissioner of the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency at the time. According to the

- [Indonesia train crash toll rises](#) (2026-04-28 05:24)

The death toll from a train collision near the Indonesian capital Jakarta has risen to 14 with another 84 injured, the train operator said on Tuesday, as rescuers worked to extract survivors still trapped in the wreckage. The collision between a commuter train and a long-distance train happened late Monday in Bekasi, just outside Jakarta. Bobby Rasyidi, chief executive of Indonesia's state railway firm PT KAI, said the death toll had risen to 14 and that evacuation work was still ongoing. Moha

- [How Samsung, Apple are overcoming China's smartphone chip crunch](#) (2026-04-28 05:22)

A tightening memory chip supply is reshaping the global smartphone market, squeezing Chinese vendors while lifting shipments at Samsung Electronics and Apple. According to market tracker International Data Corp. on Tuesday, global smartphone shipments fell 4.1 percent on-year to 289.7 million units in the first quarter, marking the first decline for the January-March period since 2023. Samsung ranked first with shipments of 62.8 million smartphones and a 21.7 percent market share. Apple followed

- [Samsung SDI narrows loss on AI-driven ESS demand](#) (2026-04-28 05:22)

Samsung SDI significantly reduced its operating loss in the first quarter this year, supported by surging demand for energy storage systems driven by the artificial intelligence data center boom. According to the company's earnings call Tuesday, its operating loss narrowed 64.2 percent year-on-year to 155.6 billion won (\$105.6 million), while revenue rose 12.6 percent to 3.58 trillion won. Battery sales revenue fell 7 percent from the previous quarter, but increased 13 percent on-year to 3.35 tr

- [Daejeon Technopark opens global biotech gateway](#) (2026-04-28 05:13)

By Lee Kwon-hyung and Yoon Min-sik Daejeon, long recognized as South Korea's science capital, is moving to turn its research strength into a broader platform for global investment, commercialization and technology collaboration. At the center of that push is Daejeon Technopark, which is working with the Daejeon Metropolitan Government to connect local companies with overseas investors, pharmaceutical firms and research partners. The effort reflects the city's ambition to evolve from a research-f

- [BTS 'Arirang' earns platinum certification in France](#) (2026-04-28 05:06)

BTS has earned a platinum certification in France with its latest album "Arirang," extending its record-breaking global run. According to France's music certification body SNEP, the group's fifth LP "Arirang" surpassed 100,000 equivalent sales — including physical sales, downloads and streams — to receive platinum status. The certification marks BTS' fourth group album to achieve platinum status in France, following "Map of the Soul: 7," "Proof" and "Love Yourself: Answer." "Arirang" reached the

- [Where was S. Korea at Central Asia's key ecological expo?](#) (2026-04-28 05:00)

Korea Herald correspondent ASTANA, Kazakhstan — A floor map at the entrance to the Regional Ecological Summit Expo 2026 offered a quick look at major players in Kazakhstan's fast-growing environmental technology market. Chinese firms were listed. European countries had joint pavilions. Kazakh government entities filled the hall. South Korean companies were nowhere to be found. The absence stood out because, despite appearances, Korea has been trying to expand cooperation with Kazakhstan in green

- [Heading to national cemetery for a picnic? Maybe leave the mat at home](#) (2026-04-28 05:00)

Every April, beneath the peak bloom of cherry blossoms, Seoul National Cemetery, the resting place of the country's fallen heroes and martyrs, takes on an unexpected festive air. Families and couples stroll along tree-lined paths around the cemetery's pond to take in the blossoms, stopping for photos beneath the trees, while others lay out picnic mats on open grassy areas to relax in the spring breeze or enjoy snacks. But the sight of picnic mats in the national memorial space has become a growi

- [Building an 'Ulsan sound': Sascha Goetzel's bet on a Korean industrial city](#) (2026-04-28 04:58)

When Austrian conductor Sascha Goetzel was named recipient of the 2026 BBC Music Magazine Award for Orchestral Recording on Wednesday London time, he wasn't in Europe to collect it. The 55-year-old maestro heard the news in Seoul, where he was preparing a performance with the Ulsan Philharmonic Orchestra — the finale of this year's Orchestra Festival organized by the Seoul Arts Center. The winning album, recorded with the Orchestre National des Pays de la Loire on the BIS label, brings together

- [Daewoo E&C; Q1 profit surges nearly 70%](#) (2026-04-28 04:46)

Daewoo Engineering & Construction said Tuesday its first-quarter operating profit rose nearly 70 percent from a year earlier, as margins improved in its core building business despite a challenging external environment. The builder reported operating profit of 255.6 billion won (\$173 million) in the January-March period, up 68.9 percent on-year, while net profit more than tripled to 195.8 billion won. Revenue fell 6.0 percent to 1.95 trillion won from 2.08 trillion won. By segment, housing and b

- [Hyundai Rotem signs deal to build K2 tanks in Poland](#) (2026-04-28 04:44)

Hyundai Rotem said Tuesday it has signed an agreement with Poland's state-run defense company Bumar-Labedy for local production of its K2 battle tanks and armored recovery vehicles in the European country. The deal with Bumar-Labedy, a unit of the state-run Polska Grupa Zbrojeniowa, covers the production of a Poland-specific variant of the K2 tank tailored to local operational requirements, called the K2PL, along with ARVs. The two sides are also expected to discuss potential local production of

- [8 in 10 working mothers with preschoolers face 'time poverty' : report](#) (2026-04-28 04:42)

A recent report has found that over 80 percent of employed women with preschool-aged children experience significant shortages of sleep, leisure, and personal time, a condition identified as "time poverty." A report published by the Korea Labor Institute released Tuesday indicates that 81.2 percent of dual-income women with children aged under 7 experience time poverty, significantly higher than the 60.3 percent reported for their male counterparts. Time poverty is defined as a condition in whic

- [Seoul court wipes out 90% of Netflix Korea's W76.2b tax bill](#) (2026-04-28 04:41)

The Seoul Administrative Court on Tuesday ordered the cancellation of 68.7 billion won (\$46.7 million) in taxes imposed on Netflix Services Korea, ruling mostly in favor of the global streaming giant's local unit in a lawsuit against tax authorities. Netflix Services Korea filed the lawsuit in 2023 against the head of the Jongno Tax Office and other authorities, seeking to cancel about 76.2 billion won in taxes. The court accepted 68.7 billion won of that claim Tuesday. The court found that Netf

- [Why nationality is more than a personal choice in South Korea](#) (2026-04-28 04:41)

Should a man whose wife is American and whose two children hold British citizenship lead South Korea's monetary policy? This question has left many South Koreans without an easy answer, caught between rational acceptance and a quiet sense of unease. In many countries, nationality is seen largely as a personal legal status shaped by family ties, mobility and individual choice. In South Korea, still a relatively homogeneous society, decisions to renounce citizenship — particularly within the family

- [90 lawmakers urge US Congress to stop intervening in Coupang case](#) (2026-04-28 04:40)

Ninety liberal lawmakers on Tuesday urged the US Congress to respect South Korea's judicial sovereignty in a letter to the US ambassador to South Korea, countering allegations of discriminatory actions against e-commerce firm Coupang and other US companies. In the letter, the lawmakers stressed that the probe into Coupang over a range of allegations such as a massive consumer data leak involving over 33 million users and unfair business practices "must, in all circumstances, be conducted indepen

- [TWS embraces bolder romance with 5th EP 'No Tragedy'](#) (2026-04-28 04:29)

Boy group TWS returned Monday with a more direct take on youth and romance for its fifth EP, "No Tragedy" — a release that pushes its bright "boyhood pop" identity into a bolder emotional space. The six-member group — Shinyu, Dohoon, Youngjae, Hanjin, Jihoon and Kyungmin — introduced the album at a press showcase held at Yes24 Live Hall in Gwangjin-gu, eastern Seoul. According to Pledis Entertainment, "No Tragedy" marks a shift from the group's earlier fresh, boyish energy to a more assertive lo

- [Google Translate sparks backlash over Dokdo, kimchi translations](#) (2026-04-28 04:27)

A local professor, known for his yearslong promotion of Dokdo, criticized Google Translate on Tuesday for converting culturally and politically sensitive terms in ways that misrepresent them. Seo Kyung-duk, a professor of liberal arts at Sungshin Women's University, shared a Google Translate screenshot in which the Hangeul for Dokdo is translated into Japanese as Takeshima. Japan also claims sovereignty over Korea's easternmost islets, referring to them as Takeshima in Japan. The criticism comes

- [At 90, father resumes fight to find missing daughter](#) (2026-04-28 04:26)

The father of Lee Yun-hee, a woman who went missing in 2006 at the age of 28, has resumed a one-man protest calling on authorities to reinvestigate his daughter's disappearance. Local media reported Friday that Lee Dong-se, 90, has been protesting on the streets of Jeonju, North Jeolla Province, urging President Lee Jae Myung to order a new investigation into what he claims was a flawed police search in 2006. He placed a life-size cutout of his daughter at the protest site, along with a message

- [Babymonster floats teasers for 3rd EP](#) (2026-04-28 04:16)

Babymonster uploaded animated posters of all six members, further stirring up excitement for its third EP, “Choom,” via label YG Entertainment on Tuesday. Each of the six demonstrated their different sides while a snippet of the title track played. The mini album will be released on May 4, with four tracks that span hip-hop, dance and R&B. After promoting the forthcoming set, the group will embark on its second international tour. On June 26-28, it will go live in Seoul, kicking off the concert

- [XngHan&Xoul; returns with first EP ‘Glow’](#) (2026-04-28 04:01)

XngHan&Xoul, the artist brand led by singer XngHan under SM Entertainment, returned Monday with its first EP, “Glow,” marking his first release in nine months since debut single “Waste No Time.” The five-track project blends house, disco and Afrobeats influences, offering a snapshot of the former Riize member’s evolving musical identity. The EP includes title track “Glow,” alongside “Dancing Anyway,” “Light The Fire,” “Wishlist” and “Lovin’ On Me.” “I’m really happy to share a wide range of musi

- [Court upholds former PPP leader’s 2-year prison term in church bribery case](#) (2026-04-28 03:42)

The Seoul High Court on Tuesday upheld a lower court ruling that sentenced former People Power Party floor leader Kweon Seong-dong to two years in prison for receiving illicit political funds from a senior Unification Church official ahead of the 2022 presidential election. In explaining the sentence, the court said the case was “far more serious than an ordinary violation of the Political Funds Act” and warranted stern punishment. The court also rebuked Kweon for denying the charges from the in

- [Pope prays with Archbishop of Canterbury Sarah Mullally in historic encounter, vows dialogue](#) (2026-04-28 03:05)

VATICAN CITY (AP) -- Pope Leo XIV prayed Monday in the Vatican with the Archbishop of Canterbury, Sarah Mullally, and vowed to keep working to overcome differences "no matter how intractable they may appear," in a historic meeting with the first female leader of the Church of England and spiritual leader of the global Anglican Communion. The encounter between Christianity's two most famous religious figures would have been unthinkable just a few years ago, given the divisions between their two c

- [Samsung SDI swings to Q1 profit on ESS battery growth](#) (2026-04-28 02:41)

Samsung SDI Co., a major South Korean battery manufacturer, said Tuesday it swung to a profit in the first quarter from a year earlier, driven by expanded energy storage system sales. In the three months that ended in March, the company shifted to a net profit of 56.1 billion won (\$38.1 million) from a net loss of 216 billion won in the same period last year, it said in a regulatory filing. The company attributed the turnaround to increased US-based production and sales of ESS batteries, along w

- [Iraqi president nominates Ali al-Zaidi as PM-designate](#) (2026-04-28 02:33)

Iraq's newly elected president nominated businessman Ali al-Zaidi as the country's prime minister-designate Monday, after the country's leaders yielded to US pressure not to support the bid of a former premier close to Iran. The Coordination Framework, an alliance of Shia factions with varying links to Iran, had initially backed powerbroker Nouri al-Maliki to become the country's next premier, but an ultimatum by US President Donald Trump left Iraqi leaders looking elsewhere. For weeks, they wer

- [Appeals court sentences Rep. Kweon to 2-yr prison term over funds from Unification Church](#) (2026-04-28 02:25)

An appeals court on Tuesday sentenced Rep. Kweon Seong-dong of the main opposition People Power Party to a two-year prison term on charges of accepting illegal political funds from the Unification Church. The Seoul High Court handed down the sentence after finding him guilty of accepting 100 million won (\$68,000) from a church official seeking favors from the former administration of President Yoon Suk Yeol. The sentence matched the ruling of a lower court in January. (Yonhap)

- [TWS renews career sales record in 1 day](#) (2026-04-28 02:18)

The fifth EP from TWS sold more than 830,000 copies on the day of its release, hitting a career best in terms of albums sold in a single day, agency Pledis Entertainment announced Tuesday. “No Tragedy,” released Monday, surpassed the accumulated sales of the group's previous EP “Play Hard,” upon release, landing atop the daily album sales chart in Korea. The latest effort received over 1.16 million in pre-orders, elevating hopes for the group’ s first million-seller. Focus track “You, You” entere

- ['Running Man' creator talks 16 years on-air, hopes to invite BTS' V](#) (2026-04-28 02:17)

SBS’ s “Running Man,” featuring Korean entertainment staples Yoo Jae-suk, Kim Jong-kook and Jee Seok-jin, aired its 800th episode on Sunday, extending its run as South Korea’ s longest-running variety show. Below is an interview distributed by SBS with producer Kang Hyeong-seon, the show’ s lead creator, speaking about how the series reached the milestone and the key factors behind its longevity. Kang: I first joined “Running Man” as an assistant director about 10 years ago, in 2016, and worked on

- [S. Korea identifies remains of another soldier killed during Korean War](#) (2026-04-28 02:10)

South Korea's military has identified the remains of another soldier killed during the 1950-53 Korean War, raising the number of such service members to 273, the defense ministry said Tuesday. The ministry's Agency for KIA Recovery and Identification and the 21st Infantry Division recovered the remains of late Cpl. Kim Pan-seong near Yanggu, 175 kilometers northeast of the capital, in 2024, according to the ministry. KIA stands for killed in action. Kim, who joined the military service in May 19

- [Trumps call for ABC to fire Jimmy Kimmel -- again -- after morbid joke about first lady](#) (2026-04-28 02:08)

Donald and Melania Trump both called for ABC to fire Jimmy Kimmel on Monday after a joke last week in which the late-night comic described the first lady as having "the glow of an expectant widow." The remark about the president's wife was part of a routine on Thursday's "Jimmy Kimmel Live" where the host pretended to deliver a comedy routine at the White House Correspondents' Association dinner. That event two nights later was cut short when a man armed with guns and knives tried to enter the W

- [Le Sserafim teams up with Roblox, logs 700m on Spotify](#) (2026-04-28 02:04)

Le Sserafim has taken over the Roblox Seoul map in partnership with the global game platform, according to its agency Source Music on Tuesday. Fans will be able to practice the choreography to "Celebration," a prerelease track from the group's second full-length album, "Pureflow pt. 1." Fans can also join the avatars of the five members on stage in one of the platform's most popular games, Berry Ave. "Celebration" was unveiled Friday, well ahead of the album due out on May 22. Four remix version

- ['Salmokji' crosses 2m admissions, first for Korean horror in 8 years](#) (2026-04-28 02:01)

Water-ghost horror film "Salmokji: Whispering Water" has crossed 2 million admissions, the first homegrown fright flick to clear the bar in eight years. The film's cumulative tally reached 2.02 million as of Tuesday morning, according to the Korean Film Council's box office tracker. The last Korean horror to pull it off was "Gonjiam: Haunted Asylum" in 2018. Director Lee Sang-min's feature debut has topped the local box office every day since its April 8 opening. It is also the second Korean rel

- [Appeals court set to rule on ex-first lady's corruption charges](#) (2026-04-27 23:55)

An appeals court was set to rule Tuesday on corruption charges against former first lady Kim Keon Hee, following a lower court sentence of one year and eight months in prison. Kim, who faces charges of accepting luxury goods from the Unification Church and involvement in a stock price manipulation scheme, was set to be sentenced during a 3 p.m. hearing at the Seoul High Court. The session will be broadcast live. Special counsel Min Joong-ki's team has sought a 15-year prison term for the wife of

- [USTR criticizes Korea's network usage fee policy in X post](#) (2026-04-27 23:53)

The US government has renewed its criticism of South Korea's network usage fee policy, underscoring a persistent friction point in bilateral trade relations. The Office of the United States Trade Representative said Monday (local time) in a post on X that "no country in the world imposes network usage fees on the transmission of internet traffic by its internet Service providers. Except Korea." Washington has long regarded this particular Korean policy as a representative non-tariff barrier. The

- [\[Graphic News\] 8 in 10 Koreans satisfied with life, highest since 2013](#) (2026-04-27 23:00)

Eight in 10 South Koreans reported being satisfied with their lives, according to Statistics Korea. In its “2025 Social Indicators of Korea” report, the agency said 80.8 percent expressed overall life satisfaction, up 5.2 percentage points from a year earlier and the highest level since 2013. By age group, those in their 30s and 40s reported the highest satisfaction at 85.2 percent and 85 percent, respectively, while people aged 60 and older recorded the lowest at 75.1 percent. By income, respon

- [Three cups of coffee a day linked to more muscle: study](#) (2026-04-27 22:00)

People who drink coffee three times a day had more muscle mass than those who drank it less than once a day, a Korean research team said Monday, though the researchers cautioned that the study does not prove coffee directly changes body composition. The team, led by Park Sang-min at Seoul National University College of Medicine, analyzed data from the Korea National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey collected between 2008 and 2011, the university said. The study examined 15,447 adults aged

- [\[Lim Woong\]The dangers of Korean lobbying in Washington](#) (2026-04-27 20:30)

As a scholar observing the shifting dynamics of the US-South Korea alliance, I have become increasingly concerned by what appears to be a notable new pattern: The utilization of Washington’ s lobbying machinery by corporate leaders seeking to avoid legal accountability in Seoul. Recent interventions by the US government and members of Congress on behalf of Coupang and Hybe (the entertainment company behind the K-pop phenom BTS) point to not only the potential power of lobbying, but also, I would

- [\[Shigeru Omi\] Stay alert after Korea’ s vaccine win](#) (2026-04-27 20:30)

This year’ s World Immunization Week (April 24-30) carries a simple but powerful message: “For every generation, vaccines work.” It is a timely reminder for Korea, a country whose public health success was shaped by vaccination. Although Korea is now seen as an advanced economy with strong health institutions, this confidence was built over decades of sustained investment in prevention, public trust and collective action. Vaccination has been a foundation of that progress. I have seen that transf

- [\[Andrew Sheng\] Moving to stable, inclusive order](#) (2026-04-27 20:30)

The old order is being destroyed before our eyes. With volatility players making billions from Trump’ s “war-on, war-off” announcements on the Iranian war, the rest of us are finally convinced that geopolitical rivalry is all about who controls energy, water, food and technology. Geography and ego determine destiny. War aside, adults who care about peaceful long-term stability have to address the perennial tough transitions to a more just, inclusive and ecologically sustainable global order. Idea

- [Court begins ex-President Yoon's insurrection appeals trial](#) (2026-04-27 11:59)

An appeals court held the first preliminary hearing of former President Yoon Suk Yeol's insurrection trial Monday over his failed 2024 martial law bid after a lower court sentenced him to life imprisonment. The session at the Seoul High Court followed appeals from both Yoon and a special counsel team over the February ruling that convicted the ousted president on charges of leading an insurrection through his martial law declaration on Dec. 3, 2024. Special counsel Cho Eun-suk's team had demande

- [Police launch probe into medical syringe hoarding amid war-related shortage](#) (2026-04-27 10:52)

Police said Monday they have launched an investigation into four companies suspected of hoarding medical syringes in violation of a government ban amid a shortage caused by the Middle East conflict. The four were among 32 companies caught during a special crackdown by the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety to ensure compliance with the government measure, which was recently adopted amid shortage concerns prompted by the Middle East war. The prolonged war is disrupting naphtha supplies, limiting th

- [Struggling Eagles reliever Kim Seo-hyeon demoted to minors](#) (2026-04-27 10:18)

The Hanwha Eagles on Monday demoted their slumping reliever Kim Seo-hyeon to the minor leagues. Kim was removed from the active roster for the Korea Baseball Organization (KBO) club after pitching to a 9.00 ERA in eight innings across nine outings, while going 1-2 with just one save. Kim has walked a whopping 14 batters and hit two others, but has struck out just five. A player sent to the minors must spend at least 10 days there. The lowlight of Kim's fourth season came against the Samsung Lion

- [20-yr prison term sought for ex-justice minister in martial law case](#) (2026-04-27 10:12)

A special counsel team on Monday sought a 20-year prison term for former Justice Minister Park Sung-jae on charges of playing a key role in former President Yoon Suk Yeol's failed martial law bid and granting undue favors to Yoon's wife. The team led by special counsel Cho Eun-suk made the sentence request during the final hearing of Park's trial at the Seoul Central District Court, saying it calls for strict judgment in order to sound the alarm on "a jurist who destroys the law." Park is accuse

- [Twins lose closer You Young-chan to elbow fracture](#) (2026-04-27 10:09)

The LG Twins announced Monday their All-Star closer You Young-chan has been diagnosed with a stress fracture in his right elbow that will require surgery. The Twins, the 2025 Korean Series champions, didn't give an exact timeline for You's return, only saying the pitcher will undergo further tests at a hospital in Yokohama, Japan, before deciding where he will go under the knife. You suffered the injury after making a pitch during Friday's Korea Baseball Organization (KBO) regular-season game ag

- [Lee, DeepMind CEO discuss AI future, guardrails after AlphaGo decade](#) (2026-04-27 09:36)

President Lee Jae Myung and Google DeepMind CEO Demis Hassabis met to discuss the promise and peril of artificial intelligence, including global guardrails and basic income for a society increasingly being reshaped by AI. The meeting at Cheong Wa Dae in Seoul on Monday came about 10 years after AlphaGo's landmark Go match in the city helped usher in the modern era of AI in 2016. "The two sides held in-depth discussions on the rapid recent advances in AI technology, the direction of future develo

- [Rom-com star Park Bo-young switches gears for gold heist thriller](#) (2026-04-27 09:34)

Disney+ is betting big on transformation with its latest tentpole Korean original, "Gold Land." The crime thriller sees the nation's sweetheart Park Bo-young shed her familiar image for a woman with nothing left to hold on to — except a gold chest worth over a million dollars. Airport security officer Hee-joo, played by Park, becomes ensnared in a slew of escalating events after she finds a chest containing one ton of gold. What follows is a ruthless chase as Hee-joo competes against a host of f

- [NexZ asserts its own rhythm with 2nd EP 'Mmchk'](#) (2026-04-27 09:12)

Boy band NexZ returned Monday with a playful but confident declaration of identity, unveiling its second EP, "Mmchk," built around the group's own rhythm and attitude. At a press showcase in Yongsan-gu, central Seoul, the seven-member act — Tomoya, Yu, Haru, Sogeon, Seita, Hyui and Yuki — introduced the album as its first release in six months, since "Beat-Boxer" in October 2025. " 'Mmchk' reflects how we define ourselves — choosing our own standards and enjoying things in our own way rather than

- [South Korean golfers climbing in rankings](#) (2026-04-27 09:00)

Kim Si-woo continued his upward movement in the world rankings, setting a new career-high. In the men's golf world rankings released on Monday, Kim moved up one spot from 26th last week to 25th. He did so without competing in a tournament last week, as he was resting, surpassing his previous career-best ranking. Kim has been on a steady upward trend recently. At the RBC Heritage, he finished tied for third, which lifted him from 30th to 26th in the world rankings and matched his previous career-

- [Was Byun Woo-seok's 'Perfect Crown' costume not hanbok? KHS rules spark debate](#) (2026-04-27 08:46)

A "cheollik" outfit worn by actor Byun Woo-seok in the hit drama "Perfect Crown" has put Korea's palace admission rules back in the spotlight, after a tourist wearing a similar traditional garment was allegedly denied free entry to Gyeongbokgung. Under guidelines from the Korea Heritage Service's Royal Palaces and Tombs Center, visitors wearing traditional or modernized hanbok can enter four of Seoul's five major royal palaces and Jongmyo Shrine for free, as long as the outfit consists of a top,

- [Ex-Unification Church official gets 18 months in prison in appeal over bribery scandal](#) (2026-04-27 08:12)

The Seoul High Court sentenced former Unification Church official Yun Young-ho to one year and six months in prison on Monday for embezzling church funds intended as bribes for key political figures, including former first lady Kim Keon Hee. The sentence was heavier than the one-year, two-month imprisonment he received from a lower court in January. The appellate court upheld the lower court's finding that Yun provided Kim with a luxury necklace and a Chanel handbag worth 12.7 million won (\$8,600).

- [More Koreans are splitting their food and groceries with strangers](#) (2026-04-27 08:03)

Many Koreans are engaging in the rising trend of shared shopping and food delivery as single-person households and the cost of living continue to rise. "Sobun (subdividing) meeting" refers to a gathering of strangers who meet to share groceries or delivered food that a single person may not be able to finish alone. Such meetings are usually convened through mobile-based communities, such as the second-hand market platform Karrot. In one Karrot group, Seoul residents find others to split Costco's

- [Forensic investigator fined for stealing gold necklace from corpse](#) (2026-04-27 07:57)

An Incheon forensic investigator was fined 10 million won (\$6,800) for stealing a gold necklace from the body of a man found dead at a villa, a local court said Monday. The Incheon District Court convicted the investigator, a civil servant in his 30s assigned to the Incheon Metropolitan Police Agency's forensic investigation unit, of theft. He was indicted on charges of taking a 30-don, or 112.5-gram, gold necklace worth about 20 million won from the neck of a man in his 50s who was found dead at a

- [Can garlic help Korean cattle burp less methane?](#) (2026-04-27 07:57)

A natural feed additive developed in South Korea has been found to cut methane emissions from hanwoo, Korea's native beef cattle, by more than 14 percent, clearing the national threshold for low-methane feed certification and raising the prospect of commercialization. The additive, called MGOsyn, was developed by the city of Jeongeup, North Jeolla Province, and the Microbial Institute for Fermentation Industry as part of efforts to turn livestock carbon reduction technology into a local growth industry.

- [Google DeepMind CEO seeks deeper AI ties with Samsung, SK hynix, Hyundai, LG](#) (2026-04-27 07:51)

Demis Hassabis, the Google DeepMind co-founder and CEO known as the architect behind AlphaGo, will meet senior executives from Korean companies including Samsung Electronics, SK hynix, Hyundai Motor during his visit to Seoul. "We hope to be a big area of collaboration for us going forward on the industrial side and commercial side. We already have very deep partnerships with many of the world-class companies here from Samsung Electronics, SK hynix, Hyundai Motor through Boston Dynamics and LG Ele

- [HD Hyundai Heavy lands \\$349m icebreaker deal in Sweden](#) (2026-04-27 07:05)

HD Hyundai Heavy Industries has become the first Korean shipyard to secure an overseas order for a dedicated icebreaking vessel, marking a milestone in its expansion into high-value specialized ships. The company said Monday it held a signing ceremony Friday in Stockholm with the Swedish Maritime Administration for the construction and delivery of the vessel. The event, held at the National Maritime Museum, was attended by Joo Won-ho, head of HD HHI's naval and special ship business unit, and Er

- [Seoul stocks close at a new record high amid AI-led tech rally](#) (2026-04-27 06:59)

Seoul stocks shattered a new record Monday, to close at a fresh high, boosted by an artificial intelligence-led chip and power equipment rally, ahead of upcoming earnings releases from global big tech companies. The Korean won rose against the US dollar. The benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index closed up 139.4 points, or 2.15 percent, to 6,615.03. The record high closing comes amid growing anticipation over corporate earnings, amid strong earnings from major tech companies in the AI suppl

- [China's EVs level up, as global rivals scramble to adapt](#) (2026-04-27 06:55)

BEIJING — Chinese automakers are rapidly shedding their reputation as budget electric vehicle producers, unveiling high-performance, software-driven models at the country's premiere auto show, while foreign rivals rush to localize their strategies to remain relevant in the world's largest automotive market. At the Auto China 2026 trade show, Chinese manufacturers are showcasing breakthroughs in battery technology, autonomous driving, artificial intelligence and in-car digital systems, reflecting

- [Mirae Asset's Tiger 200 IT ETF tops W1tr on AI demand](#) (2026-04-27 06:48)

Mirae Asset Global Investments said Monday its Tiger 200 IT ETF has surpassed 1 trillion won (\$679 million) in net assets, highlighting strong investor appetite for artificial intelligence infrastructure plays. According to the Korea Exchange, the exchange-traded fund's assets marked 1.13 trillion won as of April 24, with a year-to-date return of 89.86 percent. The strong performance reflects a strategy that goes beyond semiconductors to capture broader beneficiaries of AI infrastructure expansi

- [K-pop's most powerful man Bang Si-hyuk may be its biggest risk](#) (2026-04-27 06:18)

The possible indictment of Hybe Chairman Bang Si-hyuk for violating capital markets law could send ripples far beyond the company, dealing a significant blow to the broader K-pop industry, according to industry insiders. Bang is alleged to have misled Hybe's existing investors in 2019 — a year before the company's initial public offering — by falsely claiming there were no IPO plans, while arranging for the company executives to offload their shares through a special-purpose company established

- [Kospi rally pushes Korea market cap above W6,000tr](#) (2026-04-27 06:16)

South Korea's stock market capitalization surpassed 6,000 trillion won (\$4.1 trillion) for the first time Monday, backed by a blistering Kospi rally that pushed the index past the 6,600 point mark for the first time. The combined market cap stood at 6,104.69 trillion won as of closing, according to the Korea Exchange. By market, the main board Kospi accounted for 5,439.87 trillion won, taking up roughly 90 percent of the total market. The secondary Kosdaq and entry-level Konex stood at 678.68 tr

- [N. Korea, Russia signal next step in military ties with 5-year plan](#) (2026-04-27 06:15)

North Korea and Russia could be moving to formalize a five-year military cooperation plan, a step analysts view as a potential sign of a shift toward a more institutionalized alliance involving arms, technology transfers, joint training and personnel exchanges. Russian Defense Minister Andrei Belousov told North Korean leader Kim Jong-un during talks in Pyongyang that Moscow is prepared to sign a “Russian-Korean military cooperation plan for the 2027-2031 period” this year, according to Russia’s

- [Hanwha Ocean beats Q1 forecasts on LNG-led profits](#) (2026-04-27 06:12)

Hanwha Ocean posted a first-quarter earnings surprise, driven by a high-margin shipbuilding portfolio centered on liquefied natural gas carriers, as demand for alternative fuels strengthened amid Middle East-driven energy volatility. According to the company’s earnings call Monday, operating profit for the January-March period rose 70.6 percent on-year to 441.1 billion won (\$300 million), while revenue edged up 2.1 percent to 3.21 trillion won. The results exceeded market expectations of 3.29 tr

- [Samsung Biologics sweats over strike threat](#) (2026-04-27 06:06)

Samsung Biologics’ growth outlook faces uncertainty as a first-ever strike for the firm raises risks to production and client trust. Samsung Biologics’ labor union has asked for a 14 percent average wage increase, a 30 million won (\$20,400) cash payout per worker, and a bonus equivalent to 20 percent of operating profit. The company has reportedly offered a 6.2 percent wage increase. While the two sides have yet to find solid middle ground, the Incheon District Court on Thursday ruled that a str

- [Shinhan Bank deepens Vietnam ties with series of deals](#) (2026-04-27 06:04)

Shinhan Bank said Monday it joined a South Korean government-led economic delegation to Vietnam, signing a series of agreements with key local partners to expand its presence in the market. The move aims to strengthen its financial cooperation base and support Korean and Vietnamese companies operating across both markets. CEO Jung Sang-hyuk met with Nguyen Ngoc Canh, deputy gov. of the State Bank of Vietnam, to discuss financing support for Korean firms entering Vietnam, as well as cooperation i

- [LG CNS brings ChatGPT Edu to Korea](#) (2026-04-27 06:04)

LG CNS said Monday it has signed a reseller partnership with OpenAI to supply its ChatGPT Edu service to educational institutions, expanding into the AI transformation market for education. ChatGPT Edu is a version of ChatGPT tailored for schools and universities, supporting tasks such as generating lecture materials, organizing research and reports, and providing personalized tutoring. It offers enterprise-grade security, allowing students, faculty and researchers to use the service without con

- [Hyundai Ioniq gains on Tesla as oil prices drive EV demand](#) (2026-04-27 06:03)

Hyundai Motor's electric vehicle sales in the US jumped in March as surging oil prices fueled demand, sharpening its challenge to Tesla's dominance. According to industry sources Monday, Hyundai's EV sales in the US rose by approximately 40 percent in March from the previous month. The Ioniq 5 crossover SUV led the growth, with 4,425 units sold, up 37 percent from 3,234 in February. The Ioniq 9 SUV also gained momentum, jumping 79 percent to 905 units from 505 in the same period. As a result, sa

- [Brokerages emerge as profit engines for financial groups](#) (2026-04-27 05:58)

Securities firms under major financial holding groups emerged as key profit drivers in the first quarter, posting strong earnings on the back of a stock market rally. Brokerage units of South Korea's five largest financial groups reported a combined net profit of 1.23 trillion won (\$836 million), up 132.3 percent from 529 billion won in the previous quarter. NH Investment & Securities led with 475.7 billion won in net profit, followed by KB Securities with 347.8 billion won and Shinhan Investmen

- [Meet Korea's priciest stock — and find out why it's surging](#) (2026-04-27 05:51)

Hyosung Heavy Industries, the highest-priced stock on the local market, surged past the 4 million won (\$2,700) mark shortly in early trading Monday, supported by robust order momentum. After opening at 3.99 million won, just below the key threshold, the stock climbed to as high as 4.006 million won. It later pared some gains to trade at 3.94 million won as of 1:25 p.m., still up 10.9 percent from the previous session. The stock has nearly doubled from 2.1 million won as of Feb. 6, extending its

- [South Korea's first AI film hits theaters. But is it watchable?](#) (2026-04-27 05:47)

In a near-future where AI sits in every household, an AI-powered robot police officer hunts a child it has flagged as a future criminal. A grieving father takes the algorithm to court. That is the conceit of "I'm Popo," billed by its distributor as the first South Korean feature with visuals generated entirely by AI. Director Kim Il-dong, a webtoon artist making his feature directing debut, wrote the script and ran the prompts himself. Voice work was handled by professional voice actors, but no

- [Lee Boo-jin buyback lifts Hotel Shilla to 52-week high](#) (2026-04-27 05:37)

Hotel Shilla shares surged Monday to a 52-week high after CEO Lee Boo-jin began a planned 200 billion won (\$136 million) share buyback, and stronger-than-expected earnings fueled hopes for a turnaround after a prolonged period of lackluster growth. As of 2 p.m., the stock was trading at around 65,700 won, up 5.5 percent from Friday's close. It had climbed as high as 67,800 won earlier, breaking its 52-week high and reaching the strongest level since late 2023. Monday marked the first day of Lee'

- [Yoon Ina ties for 4th at Chevron Championship](#) (2026-04-27 05:36)

Yoon Ina tied for fourth place Sunday at the Chevron Championship, posting her best career finish in a major on the LPGA Tour. Yoon shot a 4-under 68 in the final round at Memorial Park Golf Course, recording seven birdies and three bogeys to finish at 12-under 276. She shared fourth place with Liu Yan. The finish followed another fourth-place result last week at the JM Eagle LA Championship, giving Yoon consecutive top-five finishes and her third top-10 of the season. After dominating the KLPGA

- [AI boom moves down the supply chain, lifting Samsung Electro-Mechanics](#) (2026-04-27 05:35)

The artificial intelligence capital spending boom has spilled past memory and logic chips into the component tier of the supply chain, and Samsung Electro-Mechanics has become the Korean name with the clearest leverage to it. Shares of the Samsung group affiliate jumped 93.37 percent between March 31 and April 24, closing Friday at 788,000 won (\$536) after opening Monday at 792,000 won, according to Korea Exchange data. The stock hit an intraday record of 816,000 won on April 22 and set fresh pe

- [Why the shelves of your nearest CU look empty](#) (2026-04-27 05:31)

Some CU convenience stores across South Korea are running low on food and daily necessities as a weekslong logistics strike continues to disrupt deliveries, with no clear end in sight. Since April 5, members of Cargo Truckers Solidarity, under the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions, have been blocking access to key distribution centers operated by BGF Retail in cities including Jinju, Hwaseong, Anseong and Naju, slowing or halting shipments to stores. As the disruption spread to production, a

- [KOICA chief seeks to expand development cooperation with Vietnam](#) (2026-04-27 05:24)

The head of South Korea's official development assistance agency visited Hanoi last week to inspect ongoing projects and discuss ways to expand development assistance between Korea and Vietnam, the Korea International Cooperation Agency said Monday. On Thursday, KOICA president Chang Won-sam visited the Nguyen Dinh Chieu School for visually impaired students in Hanoi, Vietnam, to review progress on phase two of a project to improve the quality of inclusive education for children with disabilities

- [When dementia freezes money, aging Korea turns to public trusts](#) (2026-04-27 05:21)

Experts have called for South Korea's new public trust pilot program for dementia patients to be expanded and paired with reforms to the country's guardianship system, as the government moves to address the growing problem of frozen assets held by older people with cognitive decline. The Ministry of Health and Welfare announced on Wednesday that it is launching a pilot program for what it calls "a safe asset management service for dementia patients." Under the program, the National Pension Servi

- [LG Innotek profit more than doubles on camera, chip demand](#) (2026-04-27 05:09)

LG Innotek posted a 136 percent jump in first-quarter operating profit, beating expectations as steady demand for smartphone camera modules and high-end semiconductor substrates offset seasonal weakness. The company reported Monday that its operating profit rose to 295.3 billion won (\$201 million) in the January-March period, while revenue increased 11.1 percent to a record 5.53 trillion won for a first quarter. Operating profit topped the one-month consensus of 236.9 billion won, according to F

- [Brokers cash in on Korea's refugee review delays: report](#) (2026-04-27 05:09)

Brokers are turning South Korea's refugee application process into a backdoor route for long-term stays, with 109 people caught arranging false claims between 2021 and 2025, a local media outlet reported Monday, citing Justice Ministry data. According to the Korean-language daily JoongAng Ilbo, all 109 people are subject to criminal or administrative punishment. Excluding cases still under review, 57 were sentenced to prison terms and 13 were fined, the ministry said. The number rose from nine i

- [Lee Jung-hoo's fiery performance leads Giants' victory](#) (2026-04-27 05:08)

Lee Jung-hoo, nicknamed "Grandson of the Wind," has shaken off his early-season slump and is surging at the plate for the San Francisco Giants. Lee matched a career high with four hits in a game and raised his batting average above .300 in the Giants' 6-3 victory over the Miami Marlins on Sunday at Oracle Park. Batting leadoff and playing right field, Lee went 4 for 5 with a triple and two runs scored. It was the third four-hit game of his MLB career and his first since Sept. 6 against the St. L

- [A fifth of New York prices: Why Seoul is a bargain for many travelers](#) (2026-04-27 05:07)

For international travelers watching their budgets, Seoul is emerging as one of the world's most cost-effective major cities, with prices often a fraction of those in top tourism destinations. A recent analysis by Yanolja Research, a private research institute operated by the Korean travel-tech company Yanolja, Seoul was one of the most competitively priced destinations in terms of accommodation, transportation and dining costs across major cities. The average hotel rate stands at \$89.90 per nig

- [Korean university project helped Sri Lanka build pandemic lab](#) (2026-04-27 05:03)

A South Korean university project helped Sri Lanka build its first immunology and molecular medicine department, which later became the country's only infectious disease analysis center during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Education Ministry said Monday. The project, led by Sungkyunkwan University, established the department at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura in July 2020 as part of Korea's university-based international cooperation program. After the pandemic, the Sri Lankan government funded

- [‘Switch-on’ diet: Why people are swapping meals for protein shakes](#) (2026-04-27 04:40)

A new diet trend centered on protein intake and metabolic “resetting” is gaining traction among women in their 20s and 30s, fueled by social media buzz and a rapidly expanding market for ready-to-drink protein products. Known as the “switch-on diet,” the regimen combines low-carbohydrate eating with intermittent fasting, aiming to shift the body toward fat metabolism. The approach, popularized by physician Park Yong-woo, has drawn widespread attention online, with related video content amassing

- [Zerobaseone to return with sixth EP “Ascend-” on May 18](#) (2026-04-27 04:40)

Zerobaseone is set to return with its sixth EP “Ascend-” on May 18, signaling a new phase in the group's musical direction. The upcoming EP marks the group's first release as a five-member act. Originally formed through the survival show “Boys Planet,” four members left Zerobaseone after their contracts expired. Via its social media channels, the group unveiled a poster teasing the upcoming release. The image features a large wooden speaker inscribed with the members' names, hinting at the group

- [Military duty persists as axis of gender conflict in Korea](#) (2026-04-27 04:35)

A recent court ruling has reignited one of South Korea's most sensitive social debates: whether military service should translate into tangible advantages in civilian life and, if so, who bears the cost. Last week, the Seoul Administrative Court ruled that a personnel system granting higher starting ranks to employees with military service may constitute gender discrimination if it affects promotions. The court said such practices place women, who are not subject to conscription, at a disadvantage

- [Assembly speaker urges opposition to drop party line against constitutional revision](#) (2026-04-27 04:35)

National Assembly Speaker Woo Won-shik on Monday urged the main opposition People Power Party to drop its official stance against a constitutional revision bill, warning that the party would bear responsibility. Woo made the appeal at a news conference 10 days before the National Assembly is set to vote on the constitutional amendment bill on May 7, a mandatory step toward holding a referendum simultaneously with the June 3 local elections. Given the current makeup of the Assembly, the bill — wh

- [NCT's Taeyong to release first LP 'Wylid'](#) (2026-04-27 04:24)

Taeyong of NCT is set to expand his solo career with the release of his first LP, “Wyld,” on May 18. According to SM Entertainment, “Wyld” will consist of 10 tracks, led by the title track. “Wyld” holds particular significance for Taeyong, as he took part in writing the lyrics for all tracks and composing for nine of them, while also contributing to the album’s overall production. The new album is “expected to reflect a more introspective and refined artistic identity, highlighting Taeyong’s gro

- [Son Suk-ku, Ha Jung-woo to portray Roh Tae-woo, Chun Doo-hwan in Netflix film](#) (2026-04-27 04:21)

Netflix has greenlit "The Generals" (working title), a political drama from director Yoon Jong-bin, with Ha Jung-woo and Son Suk-ku attached to star, the streamer announced Monday. The film follows the late former president Roh Tae-woo, who held office from 1988 to 1993 and was the last South Korean leader with a military background to take the country's top job. Son will play Roh, described by Netflix as a man who "always stood just to the side of absolute power." Ha will take on Chun Doo-hwan,

- [Man breaks into ex-girlfriend's home, kills her cat](#) (2026-04-27 04:11)

A man in his 20s was sentenced to six months in prison, suspended for two years, for breaking into his former girlfriend’s home and beating her cat to death after the animal scratched him. The Suwon District Court found the man guilty of home invasion, property damage and violating the Animal Protection Act. It also ordered him to perform 80 hours of community service. The man broke into his former girlfriend’s home in Yongin, Gyeonggi Province, in August, while she was away. After her cat scrat

- [Korea's competition show boom returns to fashion with 'Kill It'](#) (2026-04-27 04:08)

From Netflix’s megahit "Culinary Class Wars" to Coupang Play’s "Just Makeup," almost everything seems to be getting the survival-series treatment in Korea. Fashion is the latest to return to the wave, with cable network tvN set to launch a new competition entertainment series titled "Kill It." According to CJ ENM, which operates tvN, the show follows the company's earlier fashion competition hits, including "Korea’s Next Top Model" and "Project Runway Korea." The series brings together 100 trend

- [Global military spending surges on insecurity: report](#) (2026-04-27 04:07)

STOCKHOLM (AFP) -- Global military spending reached nearly \$2.9 trillion in 2025, marking an 11th consecutive year of growth, researchers said Monday, as insecurity and rearmament fueled defense budgets. The three top spenders -- the US, China and Russia -- spent a combined total of \$1.48 trillion, just over half of global expenditure. Spending rose by 2.9 percent compared with 2024, despite a reduction by the US, the world's biggest spender, according to a report by the Stockholm International

- [Asian Games may move to odd years from 2030](#) (2026-04-27 03:54)

The Asian Games are being considered for a shift from even-numbered to odd-numbered years, following recommendations from the International Olympic Committee. If the proposal is approved, the 2026 Aichi–Nagoya Asian Games would proceed as scheduled. However, subsequent editions, Doha 2030 and Riyadh 2034, would be pushed back by one year to 2031 and 2035, respectively. The move, however, raises concerns over a potential 5-year gap between the 2026 Games and the rescheduled Doha edition in 2031.

- [Hands off: New Cadillac Escalade puts GM's Super Cruise to the test](#) (2026-04-27 03:22)

General Motors has introduced the new Cadillac Escalade in Korea, marking the first internal combustion model on the market to feature its enhanced hands-free driving system, Super Cruise, as demand for advanced driver-assistance technologies grows. First introduced in 2017, Super Cruise was the industry's first hands-free driver-assistance system. It allows drivers to take their hands off the wheel and feet off the pedals on pre-mapped highways, while still requiring active attention. The syste

- [Malian defense chief is killed as jihadis and rebels seize towns and military bases](#) (2026-04-27 03:22)

DAKAR, Senegal (AP) — Mali 's defense minister was killed in a sweeping attack by jihadis and rebels who seized several towns and military bases, authorities said Sunday, the latest violence in the junta-run country that has long battled militants linked to al-Qaida and the Islamic State group as well as a separatist rebellion in the north. The Malian government confirmed the death of the defense chief, Gen. Sadio Camara, in a post on the Defense Ministry's Facebook page, and expressed its condo

- [Colombia road bombing death toll rises to 20](#) (2026-04-27 03:12)

BOGOTA, Colombia (AFP) -- The death toll in a weekend highway bombing in Colombia rose to 20, with another 36 people injured, the local department's governor said Sunday on X. The attack -- which local and national officials are blaming on armed groups -- comes one month before the country holds presidential elections on May 31. Cauca Department Gov. Octavio Guzman described the bombing as the area's "most brutal and ruthless attack against the civilian population in decades," adding that it lef

- [Syria's trial of Assad-era officials opens in Damascus](#) (2026-04-27 02:56)

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — The first public trial in Syria of officials linked to the rule of former President Bashar Assad opened Sunday in Damascus. Atef Najib, a former Syrian army brigadier general who was head of the Political Security Branch in southern Syria's Daraa province under Assad and who is also a cousin of the former president, appeared in the courtroom to face charges related to “crimes against the Syrian people,” state-run news agency SANA reported. Najib was in that position in 201

- [Park Chan-wook's next project is a western](#) (2026-04-27 02:39)

Park Chan-wook is heading to the Wild West for his next feature, "The Brigands of Rattlecreek," with Matthew McConaughey, Austin Butler, Pedro Pascal and Tang Wei rounding out the cast. The South Korean filmmaker, who is set to lead the jury at this year's Cannes Film Festival, will direct the adaptation of S. Craig Zahler's ("Bone Tomahawk," "Dragged Across Concrete") original script. Patrick Wachsberger's Legendary-backed sales label 193 will handle international rights and begin presales at C

- [Monte Carlo Ballet brings 'Swan Lake' reinterpretation 'Lac' to Korea](#) (2026-04-27 02:39)

The Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo will visit Korea in May with "Lac," a signature work by artistic director Jean-Christophe Maillot. Maillot's reinterpretation of "Swan Lake" transforms Tchaikovsky's classic through his distinctive contemporary lens. The French title "Lac" means lake. Premiered in Monaco in 2011, "Lac" recasts the fairy-tale romance as a tightly constructed psychological drama shaped by childhood trauma, family conflict, and the clash between good and evil. The production marks the

- [NewJeans' recent activities raise comeback speculations](#) (2026-04-27 02:35)

What appears to be a scheduler for a recording studio in Copenhagen circulated online, further fueling speculation that NewJeans is preparing to return. The document included the name of the group's agency, Ador, booking sessions for five days earlier in April. Around the same time, Haerin and Hyein were spotted at a store in the Danish capital, and Hani was said to have accompanied the two. Ador confirmed that the three visited the city on Monday, adding that "the visit was part of a preproduct

- [TVXQ marks Japan debut anniversary with 130,000 fans](#) (2026-04-27 02:27)

TVXQ drew a crowd of 130,000 fans over two shows at Nissan Stadium in Japan, where it celebrated the 20th anniversary of its Japanese debut. Held on Saturday and Sunday, the shows had added significance: TVXQ became the first and most frequent overseas act to perform at Nissan Stadium, having first taken the stage there in 2013 and 2018. Located in Yokohama, Nissan Stadium is Japan's largest-capacity stadium and hosts major international sporting events as well as high-attendance concerts. Throu

- [Lebanon says Israel strikes kill 14 in deadliest day since truce](#) (2026-04-27 02:25)

BEIRUT (AFP) -- Lebanon's Health Ministry said Israeli strikes on the country's south on Sunday killed 14 people, the deadliest day since a ceasefire in the Israel-Hezbollah war came into force over a week ago. It came as Israel and the Iran-backed group traded fresh accusations of breaching the fragile truce, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu saying the military was "vigorously" targeting Hezbollah and the group vowing to keep responding to "violations." Israel's military has carried out r

- [Two former Israeli prime ministers join forces against Netanyahu in upcoming elections](#) (2026-04-27 02:24)

JERUSALEM (AP) — Two Israeli political heavyweights on Sunday said they would join forces in elections scheduled for later this year in an effort to unseat longtime Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Naftali Bennett and Yair Lapid served as prime ministers in a rotation agreement as part of a coalition government they formed in 2021, ending 12 years of Netanyahu's rule. Now they plan to merge their parties into single faction headed by Bennett, calling it a partnership between the center and the

- [Concealing student athlete abuse now punishable by immediate dismissal](#) (2026-04-27 02:24)

Coaches who conceal or fabricate evidence related to violence against student athletes can be dismissed immediately after a single offense under new Ministry of Education guidelines distributed to schools in March. Starting this school year, abuse of student athletes will be subject to tougher penalties under the new “one-strike” system. Coaches who physically abuse students may receive a suspension in some minor cases, but serious acts of physical violence can lead to dismissal. Sexual assault

- [NCT Wish’ s 1st LP sells career-high 1.8m](#) (2026-04-27 02:16)

NCT Wish logged over 1.82 million units sold in the first week with its first full album “Ode to Love,” label SM Entertainment said Monday. The subunit recorded its career-best first-week sales with its third consecutive million-selling album, surpassing sales of its second EP “Poppop,” and its third EP “Color.” The LP sold 1 million copies on the day of release. The title track peaked at No. 3 on Melon’ s Top 100, after debuting atop its Hot 100 chart. Meanwhile, the exhibition “Love Wish Be Ins

- [K bank, Ripple form strategic partnership on blockchain remittances](#) (2026-04-27 02:06)

South Korea's internet-only lender K bank has signed a strategic partnership with global blockchain firm Ripple to test blockchain-based technology for overseas remittances. The agreement was signed recently at K bank's headquarters in Seoul, the bank said Monday. Ceremony attendees included K bank CEO Choi Woo-hyung, Ripple Asia-Pacific Managing Director Fiona Murray and other officials from both companies. Founded in 2012, Ripple operates Ripple Payments, a global financial network used by mor

- [CJ CheilJedang partners Bach Hoa Xanh to expand K-food in Vietnam](#) (2026-04-27 01:49)

CJ CheilJedang has teamed up with Vietnamese supermarket chain Bach Hoa Xanh to expand its footprint in Vietnam’ s processed food market. The two companies signed a memorandum of understanding in Hanoi, Vietnam, last week on the sidelines of the Korea-Vietnam Business Forum. The signing was attended by Cho Jae-bom, CJ CheilJedang’ s APAC regional CEO, and Nguyen Duc Tai, CEO of Mobile World Group, along with government officials from both countries. Bach Hoa Xanh, part of Mobile World Group — one

- [Ukraine marks 40th anniversary of Chernobyl disaster under cloud of war](#) (2026-04-27 01:47)

KYIV, Ukraine (Reuters) -- Ukraine commemorated the 40th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster on Sunday, amid fears that Russia's four-year war could spark a repeat of the world's worst nuclear accident that led to thousands of deaths and devastating environmental consequences. Marking the disaster -- which spewed radioactive material across much of Europe as Soviet authorities sought to hide its true scale -- has taken on sharp new meaning during Russia's invasion of its smaller neighbor. Kyiv

- [BoyNextDoor to return in June with 1st LP: report](#) (2026-04-27 01:44)

BoyNextDoor is gearing up for a June comeback and will drop a prerelease from its first studio album in May, according to a local media report Monday. The album will come about eight months after the group's fifth EP, "The Action." The last mini album sold more than 1 million copies, as did the two preceding sets, EPs "19.99" and "No Genre." The main track "Hollywood Action" won three first-place trophies on domestic television music chart shows. In February, they released a live album recording

- [CJ Olive Young takes K-beauty festival to Japan in global push](#) (2026-04-27 01:42)

CJ Olive Young will kick off its first global festival tour in Japan next month as it steps up efforts to expand the reach of K-beauty. The company said Monday it will hold "Olive Young Festa Japan 2026" from May 8 to 10 at Makuhari Messe in Chiba, marking the overseas debut of its flagship beauty event. First launched in 2019, Olive Young Festa is Korea's largest beauty festival focused on direct consumer engagement. The company is taking the event abroad this year to strengthen its global pres

- [Korea's market cap tops W6,000tr for first time](#) (2026-04-27 01:41)

South Korea's stock market capitalization surpassed 6,000 trillion won (\$4.1 trillion) for the first time on record during trading Monday, driven by broad-based gains. The combined market cap reached 6,031.97 trillion won in early trading, according to the Korea Exchange. By market, the benchmark Kospi accounted for 5,354.36 trillion won, while the secondary Kosdaq and the entry-level Konex stood at 673.97 trillion won and 3.64 trillion won, respectively. The milestone comes as the Kospi extends

- [And2ble to debut on May 26](#) (2026-04-27 01:35)

And2ble will release its first mini album "Sequence 01: Curiosity" on May 26, agency YH Entertainment announced Monday. On Friday, the final installment of the introductory teaser videos was unveiled. In the final trailer, a tremor of violin sounds breaks the silence, awakening member Zhang Hao. He, along with three former members of Zerobaseone and a new member, formed And2ble. It will debut eight days after the reorganized Zerobaseone, also as a five-member act, which is set to release its six

- [Marathon milestone shattered: Sabastian Sawe breaks the fabled 2-hour barrier by 30 seconds](#) (2026-04-27 01:18)

LONDON (AP) -- A pair of African distance runners took down what was once among the most unthinkable records in sports on Sunday, shattering the long-unapproachable two-hour barrier in the 42.195-kilometer marathon. Sabastian Sawe of Kenya won the London Marathon in 1 hour, 59 minutes and 30 seconds, bettering the previous men's world record by an astonishing 65 seconds. He beat Ethiopia's Yomif Kejelcha, who was running his first marathon and finished in 1:59.41. "What comes today is not for me

- [N. Korea opens memorial honoring own troops killed in Russia's war with Ukraine](#) (2026-04-27 01:08)

Pyongyang has opened a memorial honoring North Korean troops killed while fighting alongside Russia in the war against Ukraine, with leader Kim Jong-un stressing the need to strengthen Pyongyang-Moscow ties into a "powerful bulwark" in a ceremony marking its opening, state media reported Monday. The North held the opening ceremony of the Memorial Museum of Combat Feats at the Overseas Military Operations in Pyongyang the previous day on the occasion of the first anniversary of the "liberation" o

- [Ikea studies Korean living, redesigns around it](#) (2026-04-27 01:00)

South Koreans are more likely than the global average to view home as a place to unwind, yet less likely to feel satisfied with their own living spaces. So goes the recent finding of internal research by Ikea Korea, and that is the gap it aims to fill, according to Folkert van Keulen, the country commercial manager. "People want to improve their homes, but they are not always sure how to do it," said van Keulen in an interview with The Korea Herald on Wednesday. "For us, it's about making that k

- [Hanwha ramps up SAR satellite push with AI integration](#) (2026-04-27 01:00)

Hanwha Group is accelerating its push into the global space industry, expanding capabilities across satellite manufacturing, launch, ground operations and data services, as it seeks to position itself as a full-spectrum space solutions provider. At the center of the effort is Hanwha Systems, which has been strengthening its synthetic aperture radar, or SAR, satellite technology following the successful launch of Korea's first domestically developed small SAR satellite in December 2023. Unlike op

- [Seoul stocks open sharply higher despite faltering hopes for US-Iran peace talks](#) (2026-04-27 00:39)

Seoul stocks opened sharply higher Monday despite hopes of a breakthrough between the United States and Iran faltering further over the weekend. The benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index rose 69.95 points, or 1.08 percent, to 6,545.58 in the first 15 minutes of trading. Soon after the market's opening, the index once hit a fresh intraday record of 6,557.78 points. On Friday stock indexes on Wall Street closed mixed, as investors pinned hopes that

peace talks between the US and Iran will ma

- [Korean musicals enter season of revival and recalibration](#) (2026-04-27 00:36)

Korea's musical theater scene is entering a season of renewal, as a wave of original productions returns to the stage. Spanning long-running hits and newly reworked revivals, the current lineup reflects not only the resilience of Korean original musicals but also a broader shift toward refining existing works rather than continuously debuting new ones. Among the returning productions is "The Days," a flagship Korean original musical now in its seventh season, alongside a slate of revived and new

- [Govt. starts rolling out cash aid for vulnerable groups amid Mideast crisis](#) (2026-04-27 00:34)

Cash assistance for basic livelihood security recipients and other vulnerable groups began rolling out Monday as part of efforts to ease financial strains caused by rising oil prices amid the war in the Middle East. The government started accepting applications for the funds, which will allocate 550,000 won (\$372) for basic livelihood security recipients and 450,000 won per person for single-parent households and those just above the welfare eligibility threshold. Recipients outside Seoul or the

## Source: Yonhap

- [BOK senior deputy gov. says time to consider rate hike on solid growth](#) (2026-05-04 05:49)

SEOUL, May 4 (Yonhap) -- Ryo Sang-dai, senior deputy governor of the Bank of Ko...

- [Special counsel says signs found of martial law preparations since early 2024](#) (2026-05-04 05:45)

SEOUL, May 4 (Yonhap) -- A special counsel team said Monday it has found signs a...

- [G-Dragon's agency apologizes over stage outfit featuring racial slur](#) (2026-05-04 05:24)

SEOUL, May 4 (Yonhap) -- K-pop icon G-Dragon's agency issued an apology Monday, ...

- [Human rights watchdog chief says 'extreme' early education poses serious rights issue](#) (2026-05-04 05:24)

SEOUL, May 4 (Yonhap) -- The head of the national human rights watchdog on Monda...

- [\(URGENT\) Special counsel says found signs of preparations to declare martial law since early 2024](#) (2026-05-04 05:17)

(END)

- [Today in Korean history](#) (2026-05-04 05:00)

May 5

- [Tigers sign minor leaguer Rodriguez as injury replacement](#) (2026-05-04 04:35)

SEOUL, May 4 (Yonhap) -- The Kia Tigers announced Monday they have signed longti...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-05-04 04:30)

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

- [Online shopping sales top record high of over 25 tln won in March on Tesla demand surge](#) (2026-05-04 03:00)

SEOUL, May 4 (Yonhap) -- Online shopping sales in South Korea rose 13.3 percent ...

- [Half of upper elementary students use smart devices for over 2 hours](#) (2026-05-04 02:51)

SEOUL, May 4 (Yonhap) -- Nearly one out of every 2 upper-grade elementary school...

- [\(LEAD\) N. Korean women's football club to travel to S. Korea for regional tournament](#) (2026-05-04 02:46)

SEOUL, May 4 (Yonhap) -- A North Korean women's football club will play a South ...

- [Hyundai, Kia's U.S. sales drop on base effect, hybrid cars hit record high](#) (2026-05-04 02:36)

SEOUL, May 4 (Yonhap) -- Sales of Hyundai Motor Co. and Kia Corp. vehicles in th...

- [Seoul shares up nearly 4 pct late Mon. morning on chip rally](#) (2026-05-04 02:34)

SEOUL, May 4 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks traded nearly 4 percent higher to h...

- [\(LEAD\) Special counsel appeals ex-first lady's 4-year corruption sentence to Supreme Court](#) (2026-05-04 02:30)

SEOUL, May 4 (Yonhap) -- A special counsel team said Monday it has challenged an...

- [N. Korean women's football club to travel to S. Korea for regional tournament](#) (2026-05-04 02:16)

SEOUL, May 4 (Yonhap) -- A North Korean women's football club will play a South ...

- [Hanwha Ocean wins order for 3 ammonia carriers for 507 bln won](#) (2026-05-04 02:13)

SEOUL, May 4 (Yonhap) -- Hanwha Ocean Co. said Monday it has secured a 507 billi...

- [Samsung Heavy bags 485 bln-won deal for LNG-FSRU](#) (2026-05-04 02:01)

SEOUL, May 4 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Heavy Industries Co., a major shipyard here, sa...

- [Special counsel appeals ex-first lady's 4-year corruption sentence to Supreme Court](#) (2026-05-04 01:56)

SEOUL, May 4 (Yonhap) -- A special counsel team said Monday it has challenged an...

- [\(LEAD\) Samsung Electronics names new head of visual display business](#) (2026-05-04 01:50)

SEOUL, May 4 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's tech giant Samsung Electronics Co. on Mon...

- [\(LEAD\) Trump says U.S. to help free ships stranded in Strait of Hormuz](#) (2026-05-04 01:47)

SEOUL, May 4 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump said Monday that Washington...

- [Intellectual property rights violations worth 278.9 bln won detected in 2025](#) (2026-05-04 01:16)

SEOUL, May 4 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's customs agency said Monday intellectual p...

- [\(URGENT\) Special counsel appeals ex-first lady's 4-year corruption sentence to Supreme Court](#) (2026-05-04 01:10)

(END)

- [Surging Giants to take on KBO-leading Wiz](#) (2026-05-04 01:09)

SEOUL, May 4 (Yonhap) -- Riding their season high four-game winning streak, the ...

- [Samsung Electronics names new head of visual display business](#) (2026-05-04 01:02)

SEOUL, May 4 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's tech giant Samsung Electronics Co. on Mon...

- [Actor Lee Jae-wook to begin military service this month](#) (2026-05-04 00:59)

SEOUL, May 4 (Yonhap) -- Actor Lee Jae-wook, known for his role in "Extraordinar...

- [Lee's approval rating falls below 60 pct: poll](#) (2026-05-04 00:49)

SEOUL, May 4 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung's approval rating fell below th...

- [\(LEAD\) Seoul shares open at fresh record high on eased Middle East tensions](#) (2026-05-04 00:25)

SEOUL, May 4 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks opened at a fresh high of over 6,70...

- [BTS' 'Arirang' stays in top 5 on Billboard 200 for 6th straight week](#) (2026-05-04 00:25)

SEOUL, May 4 (Yonhap) -- K-pop megastars BTS remained in the top ranks of the Bi...

- [Seoul shares open at fresh record high on eased Middle East tensions](#) (2026-05-04 00:05)

SEOUL, May 4 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks opened at a fresh high of over 6,70...

- [Trump says U.S. to help free ships stranded in Strait of Hormuz](#) (2026-05-04 00:01)

SEOUL, May 4 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump said Monday that Washington...

- [\(URGENT\) Seoul shares open at fresh record high on eased Mideast tension](#) (2026-05-04 00:01)

(END)

- [UNESCO inspects preparations for World Heritage Committee session in Busan](#) (2026-05-04 00:00)

SEOUL, May 4 (Yonhap) -- UNESCO officials visited South Korea last week to review...

- [S. Korea, Pakistan begin 1st round of CEPA negotiations](#) (2026-05-03 23:56)

SEOUL, May 4 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and Pakistan will begin the first round of...

- [Kim Si-woo sets career high with 6th top-10 finish, reaches No. 20 in rankings](#) (2026-05-03 23:55)

SEOUL, May 4 (Yonhap) -- Kim Si-woo has set a new career high with his sixth top...

- [N. Korea slams Japan's move to revise key security documents](#) (2026-05-03 23:34)

SEOUL, May 4 (Yonhap) -- North Korea on Monday criticized Japan over its move to...

- [Top-ranked An Se-young leads S. Korea to badminton world team title](#) (2026-05-03 23:09)

SEOUL, May 4 (Yonhap) -- World No. 1 An Se-young has led South Korea to its third...

- [\(EDITORIAL from Korea JoongAng Daily on May 4\)](#) (2026-05-03 22:00)

More than two months into the Iran war, the closure of the Strait of Hormuz has...

- [\(EDITORIAL from Korea Times on May 4\)](#) (2026-05-03 22:00)

U.S. President Donald Trump's renewed threat to reduce American troop levels in...

- [\(EDITORIAL from Korea Herald on May 4\)](#) (2026-05-03 21:59)

On Friday, South Korea marked a symbolic shift by restoring Labor Day to its original...

- [Top headlines in major S. Korean newspapers](#) (2026-05-03 21:59)

SEOUL, May 4 (Yonhap) -- The following are the top headlines in major South Korean...

- [OTC derivatives transactions climb to record high in 2025: data](#) (2026-05-03 21:00)

SEOUL, May 4 (Yonhap) -- Transactions of over-the-counter (OTC) derivatives rose...

- [Finance chief calls for regional cooperation in tackling economic impact from Iran war](#) (2026-05-03 14:11)

SEJONG, May 3 (Yonhap) -- Finance Minister Koo Yun-cheol on Sunday called for st...

- [Arrest warrant issued for key drug supplier to notorious drug kingpin Park Wang-yeol](#) (2026-05-03 11:46)

SUWON, South Korea, May 3 (Yonhap) -- A district court on Sunday issued an arres...

- [\(LEAD\) Samsung Biologics labor union set to resume talks with management on Monday](#) (2026-05-03 11:06)

SEOUL, May 3 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Biologics, the biotech arm of Samsung Group, ha...

- [Lions veteran Choi Hyoung-woo becomes KBO career hits leader](#) (2026-05-03 10:57)

SEOUL, May 3 (Yonhap) -- Choi Hyoung-woo of the Samsung Lions became the all-tim...

- [\(2nd LD\) S. Korean Earth-observation satellite successfully put into orbit](#) (2026-05-03 09:46)

SEOUL, May 3 (Yonhap) -- A South Korean Earth-observation satellite has successf...

- [\(URGENT\) S. Korean Earth-observation satellite succeeds in communicating with ground station](#) (2026-05-03 08:37)

(END)

- [\(LEAD\) S. Korean Earth-observation satellite enters orbit after being separated from launch vehicle](#) (2026-05-03 08:31)

SEOUL, May 3 (Yonhap) -- A South Korean Earth-observation satellite, launched fr...

- [\(URGENT\) S. Korea's Earth-observation satellite separated from launch vehicle, enters orbit](#) (2026-05-03 08:09)

(END)

- [S. Korean Earth-observation satellite launched from U.S. base](#) (2026-05-03 07:38)

SEOUL, May 3 (Yonhap) -- A South Korean Earth-observation satellite has been lau...

- [Nearly 120,000 people receive over 2 mln won in monthly pensions: data](#) (2026-05-03 07:35)

SEOUL, May 3 (Yonhap) -- Almost 120,000 people in South Korea currently receive ...

- [Samsung Biologics labor union set to resume talks with management on Monday](#) (2026-05-03 06:22)

SEOUL, May 3 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Biologics, the biotech arm of Samsung Group, ha...

- [Gov't to inject 560 bln won into S. Korean AI startup Upstage](#) (2026-05-03 05:30)

SEOUL, May 3 (Yonhap) -- Financial authorities said Sunday they approved a 560 b...

- [Today in Korean history](#) (2026-05-03 05:00)

May 4

- [S. Korean appointed as new director of risks at World Bank Group](#) (2026-05-03 04:46)

SEOUL, May 3 (Yonhap) -- A South Korean has been appointed as the new director o...

- [LAFC's Son Heung-min takes MLS lead with 8th assist](#) (2026-05-03 04:29)

SEOUL, May 3 (Yonhap) -- Son Heung-min of Los Angeles Football Club (LAFC) has g...

- [Nearly 900 Air Force pilots left for civilian airlines over past decade: data](#) (2026-05-03 02:28)

SEOUL, May 3 (Yonhap) -- Almost 900 Air Force pilots have left the armed forces ...

- [S. Korea to participate in Offshore Technology Conference this week](#) (2026-05-03 02:23)

SEOUL, May 3 (Yonhap) -- South Korea is participating in a U.S. conference on sh...

- [Over 400 S. Korea-listed firms exceed 1 tln won in market capitalization](#) (2026-05-03 01:33)

SEOUL, May 3 (Yonhap) -- The number of South Korean-listed companies whose marke...

- [Police impose travel ban on Japanese K-pop trainee over alleged fraud](#) (2026-05-03 01:29)

SEOUL, May 3 (Yonhap) -- Police have placed a travel ban on a Japanese trainee o...

- [Some 3 tln won worth of loans extended by S. Korean banks unrecoverable in Q1](#) (2026-05-03 01:14)

SEOUL, May 3 (Yonhap) -- Some 3 trillion won (US\$2 billion) worth of loans exten...

- [N. Korea shoots back at hacking allegations](#) (2026-05-03 00:49)

SEOUL, May 3 (Yonhap) -- North Korea on Sunday dismissed allegations that it had...

- [N. Korea's Kim calls for active role of young generation in party affairs](#) (2026-05-02 23:13)

SEOUL, May 3 (Yonhap) -- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has called for a greate...

- [FM urges safe navigation in Strait of Hormuz in call with Iranian counterpart](#) (2026-05-02 12:49)

SEOUL, May 2 (Yonhap) -- Foreign Minister Cho Hyun held phone talks with his Ira...

- [Progressive civic group holds protest rally outside U.S. Embassy](#) (2026-05-02 12:49)

SEOUL, May 2 (Yonhap) -- A progressive civic group held a protest rally outside ...

- [S. Korea signals careful assessment, response after U.S. moves to raise tariffs on EU](#) (2026-05-02 10:45)

SEOUL, May 2 (Yonhap) -- South Korea will carefully assess how the Trump adminis...

- [Yonhap, Save the Children host mini marathon to support children of migrant workers](#) (2026-05-02 06:45)

SEOUL, May 2 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's key news service Yonhap News Agency and i...

- [Today in Korean history](#) (2026-05-02 05:00)

May 3

- [Main opposition picks supreme council member as candidate for Gyeonggi Province Gov.](#) (2026-05-02 02:04)

SEOUL, May 2 (Yonhap) -- Yang Hyang-ja, a member of the main opposition People P...

- [Unionized workers of Samsung Biologics continue strike for 2nd day](#) (2026-05-02 01:35)

SEOUL, May 2 (Yonhap) -- Unionized workers at Samsung Biologics, the biotech arm...

- [Top headlines in major S. Korean newspapers](#) (2026-05-02 00:07)

SEOUL, May 2 (Yonhap) -- The following are the top headlines in major South Kore...

- [\(LEAD\) Hegseth has ordered withdrawal of about 5,000 troops from Germany: Pentagon](#) (2026-05-02 00:06)

WASHINGTON, May 1 (Yonhap) -- U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth has ordered th...

- [Hegseth has ordered withdrawal of about 5,000 troops from Germany: Pentagon](#) (2026-05-01 22:25)

WASHINGTON, May 1 (Yonhap) -- U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth has ordered th...

- [\(2nd LD\) Trump says he's 'not satisfied' with Iran proposal, calls Tehran leadership 'extremely disjointed'](#) (2026-05-01 19:36)

WASHINGTON, May 1 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump said Friday that he wa...

- [\(2nd LD\) Trump says U.S. will increase tariffs on EU cars and trucks to 25 pct next week](#) (2026-05-01 18:31)

WASHINGTON, May 1 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump said Friday that his a...

- [\(LEAD\) Trump says he's 'not satisfied' with Iran proposal, calls Tehran leadership 'extremely disjointed'](#) (2026-05-01 18:13)

WASHINGTON, May 1 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump said Friday that he wa...

- [Trump says he's 'not satisfied' with Iran proposal, calls Tehran leadership 'extremely disjointed'](#) (2026-05-01 17:47)

WASHINGTON, May 1 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump said Friday that he wa...

- [\(LEAD\) Trump says U.S. will increase tariffs on EU cars and trucks to 25 pct next week](#) (2026-05-01 16:27)

WASHINGTON, May 1 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump said Friday that his a...

- [Trump says U.S. will increase tariffs on EU cars and trucks to 25 pct next week](#) (2026-05-01 16:10)

WASHINGTON, May 1 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump said Friday that his a...

- [\(URGENT\) Trump says U.S. will increase tariffs on EU cars and trucks to 25 pct next week](#) (2026-05-01 15:57)

(END)

- [\(2nd LD\) Samsung Biologics union launches 1st general strike over pay dispute](#) (2026-05-01 12:19)

SEOUL, May 1 (Yonhap) -- Unionized workers at Samsung Biologics, the biotech arm...

- [Highways congested on 1st day of extended holiday](#) (2026-05-01 10:37)

SEOUL, May 1 (Yonhap) -- Highways across South Korea were congested Friday, as o...

- [Lee commends law enforcement for almost halving voice phishing damage](#) (2026-05-01 07:12)

SEOUL, May 1 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Friday praised law enforceme...

- [Hanwha Solutions ordered again to revise share sale plan](#) (2026-05-01 06:47)

SEOUL, May 1 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's financial regulator has again ordered Han...

- [\(LEAD\) Samsung Biologics union launches 1st general strike over pay dispute](#) (2026-05-01 05:44)

SEOUL, May 1 (Yonhap) -- Unionized workers at Samsung Biologics, the biotech arm...

- [\(LEAD\) Lee vows zero compromise on workplace safety in Labor Day address](#) (2026-05-01 05:31)

SEOUL, May 1 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Friday pledged unwavering co...

- [Today in Korean history](#) (2026-05-01 05:00)

May 2

- [Majority of S. Koreans back raising senior age to 70: poll](#) (2026-05-01 02:51)

SEOUL, May 1 (Yonhap) -- A majority of South Koreans support raising the country...

- [Lee's approval rating dips to 64 pct over 'excessive' welfare, spending concerns](#) (2026-05-01 02:49)

SEOUL, May 1 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung's approval rating slipped 3 per...

- [Foreign buying, holdings of S. Korean government bonds rise after WGBI entry](#) (2026-05-01 02:18)

SEOUL, May 1 (Yonhap) -- Foreign investors increased their purchases and holding...

- [Drug supplier to notorious drug kingpin Park Wang-yeol repatriated from Thailand](#) (2026-05-01 01:58)

SEOUL, May 1 (Yonhap) -- A key drug supplier linked to infamous trafficker Park ...

- [S. Korean envoy stresses commitment to 'peaceful coexistence' on peninsula, denuclearization](#) (2026-05-01 01:43)

WASHINGTON, April 30 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's top envoy to the U.N. on Thursday...

- [Lee vows zero compromise on workplace safety in Labor Day address](#) (2026-05-01 01:33)

SEOUL, May 1 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Friday pledged unwavering co...

- [\(2nd LD\) S. Korea's exports top US\\$80 bln for 2nd month in April](#) (2026-05-01 01:21)

SEOUL, May 1 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's exports exceeded US\$80 billion for the se...

- [Samsung Biologics union launches 1st general strike over pay dispute](#) (2026-05-01 01:09)

SEOUL, May 1 (Yonhap) -- Unionized workers at Samsung Biologics, the biotech arm...

- [\(LEAD\) S. Korea's exports top US\\$80 bln for 2nd month in April](#) (2026-05-01 00:35)

SEOUL, May 1 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's exports exceeded US\$80 billion for the se...

- [\(EDITORIAL from Korea Times on May 1\)](#) (2026-05-01 00:07)

The decision by the Korea Fair Trade Commission (FTC) to designate Coupang Chair...

- [\(EDITORIAL from Korea Herald on May 1\)](#) (2026-05-01 00:07)

A regulatory label, obscure to most consumers, has become an unlikely fault line...

- [Top headlines in major S. Korean newspapers](#) (2026-05-01 00:06)

SEOUL, May 1 (Yonhap) -- The following are the top headlines in major South Kore...

- [S. Korea's exports top US\\$80 bln for 2nd month in April](#) (2026-05-01 00:04)

SEOUL, May 1 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's exports exceeded US\$80 billion for the se...

- [\(URGENT\) S. Korea's exports top US\\$80 bln for 2nd month in April](#) (2026-05-01 00:01)

(END)

- [\(Movie Review\) 'The Day She Returns' ponders meaning, memory through subtle conversation](#) (2026-04-30 22:00)

SEOUL, May 1 (Yonhap) -- Bae Jeong-su (Song Sun-mi) is a middle-aged woman who h...

- [U.S. expert says OPCON transfer won't 'unzip' S. Korea-U.S. alliance](#) (2026-04-30 21:41)

WASHINGTON, April 30 (Yonhap) -- A U.S. expert said Thursday that the transfer o...

- [Top U.S., Chinese officials hold talks ahead of planned Trump-Xi summit](#) (2026-04-30 19:45)

WASHINGTON, April 30 (Yonhap) -- Top diplomatic and economic officials of the Un...

- [Pentagon declines to comment on potential USFK troop cut, reaffirms 'unwavering' commitment to S. Korea](#) (2026-04-30 16:06)

WASHINGTON, April 30 (Yonhap) -- A Pentagon official on Thursday declined to com...

- [S. Korea's resource developer sells Mexican mine stake for US\\$2 amid losses](#) (2026-04-30 13:08)

SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's state-run resource developer said Thur...

- [S. Korea to send special envoy to Kuwait, Iraq, Bahrain amid Middle East crisis](#) (2026-04-30 12:41)

SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- South Korea will dispatch a special envoy to Kuwait,...

- [HMM, labor union agree to relocate headquarters to Busan](#) (2026-04-30 12:08)

SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- HMM Co., South Korea's largest shipping firm, said T...

- [Reliable S. Korea-Australia energy supply vital amid 'disproportionate' Middle East impact: Australian FM](#) (2026-04-30 11:09)

SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong on Thursday c...

- [\(2nd LD\) LG Energy Solution swings to Q1 loss amid EV market slowdown](#) (2026-04-30 11:04)

SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- LG Energy Solution Ltd. said Thursday it swung to a ...

- [POSCO signs US\\$765 mln deal for 30 pct stake in Australian lithium mine](#) (2026-04-30 10:53)

SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- POSCO Holdings, South Korea's leading steelmaker, sa...

- [\(LEAD\) S. Korea, Australia agree to enhance cooperation on stable energy supplies amid Middle East crisis](#) (2026-04-30 10:12)

SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- Top diplomats of South Korea and Australia held talk...

- [Lee to host Labor Day event with major umbrella labor unions](#) (2026-04-30 09:34)

SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung will host an event commemora...

- [S. Korea, Pakistan discuss accelerating CEPA negotiations](#) (2026-04-30 09:04)

SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and Pakistan discussed ways Thursday to ...

- [\(LEAD\) USFK troop drawdown not under discussion between S. Korea, U.S.: defense ministry](#) (2026-04-30 08:41)

SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and the United States are not discussing...

- [\(2nd LD\) Lee warns excessive labor union demands could harm other workers](#) (2026-04-30 08:29)

SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Thursday warned that exce...

- [S. Korean, U.S. forces sign MOU on joint medical training](#) (2026-04-30 08:28)

SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean and U.S. Armies have signed an agre...

- [DP picks ex-presidential AI chief, spokesperson as candidates in June by-elections](#) (2026-04-30 08:17)

SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- The ruling Democratic Party (DP) on Thursday nominat...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-04-30 08:02)

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

- [Finance chief to attend ASEAN+3, ADB meetings in Uzbekistan](#) (2026-04-30 08:00)

SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- Finance Minister Koo Yun-cheol will attend a series ...

- [Special counsel challenges appeals court ruling on ex-President Yoon's obstruction of justice case](#) (2026-04-30 07:49)

SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- A special counsel team said Thursday it has appealed...

- [\(2nd LD\) KOSPI snaps 3-day rise after touching new record high on oil price surge, profit-taking](#) (2026-04-30 07:49)

SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- Seoul stocks dipped by more than 1 percent Thursday ...

- [\(LEAD\) Lee warns excessive labor union demands could harm other workers](#) (2026-04-30 07:40)

SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Thursday warned that exce...

- [5 banking groups unveil 1 tln-won support plan for startups](#) (2026-04-30 07:30)

SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- Hana Financial Group and four other banking groups w...

- [Cargo union, BGF Logis sign collective agreement after 10 days of conflict](#) (2026-04-30 07:07)

SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- Unionized cargo workers and convenience store chain ...

- [\(3rd LD\) Samsung Electronics Q1 net surges over fivefold on AI-driven demand](#) (2026-04-30 06:59)

SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Electronics Co. said Thursday its first-quar...

- [\(LEAD\) KOSPI snaps 3-day rise after touching new record high on oil price surge, profit-taking](#) (2026-04-30 06:58)

SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- Seoul stocks dipped by more than 1 percent Thursday ...

- [Lee warns excessive labor union demands could harm other workers](#) (2026-04-30 06:41)

SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Thursday warned that exce...

- [\(LEAD\) Krafton Q1 net income jumps nearly 40 pct on solid PUBG demand](#) (2026-04-30 06:40)

SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- Krafton Inc., a South Korean game publisher known fo...

- [Late S. Korean, French veterans named Korean War heroes of May](#) (2026-04-30 06:38)

SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- The veterans ministry on Thursday appointed late sta...

- [KOSPI snaps 3-day rise after touching new record high on oil price surge, profit-taking](#) (2026-04-30 06:35)

SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- Seoul stocks dipped by more than 1 percent Thursday ...

- [\(URGENT\) KOSPI dips over 1 pct after touching new record high on oil price surge, profit-taking](#) (2026-04-30 06:33)

(END)

- [Lack of manuals, insufficient oversight blamed for failure to fully recover remains of Jeju Air crash victims](#) (2026-04-30 06:30)

SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- The lack of specific guidelines on the recovery of r...

- [S. Korea, China discuss ways to curb illegal fishing ahead of implementation of new laws](#) (2026-04-30 06:28)

SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and China discussed Thursday ways to cur...

- [POSCO Holdings' Q1 net rises 0.34 pct on equity gains](#) (2026-04-30 06:25)

SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- POSCO Holdings Inc., South Korea's leading steelmake...

- [Son Heung-min sets up 2 goals in LAFC's win at regional tournament](#) (2026-04-30 05:50)

SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- Son Heung-min has recorded two assists to push his L...

- [\(LEAD\) 2 killed, 6 injured in apartment fire in Uiwang](#) (2026-04-30 05:45)

UIWANG, South Korea, April 30 (Yonhap) -- A fire broke out at an apartment in Ui...

- [S. Korea, Australia agree to enhance cooperation on stable energy supplies amid Middle East crisis](#) (2026-04-30 05:43)

SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and Australia agreed Thursday to enhance...

- [\(LEAD\) LG Chem shifts to Q1 net loss on equity losses](#) (2026-04-30 05:40)

SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- LG Chem Ltd., South Korea's leading chemical company...

- [\(LEAD\) Top court upholds guilty verdicts for 18 people in courthouse riot related to Yoon's martial law bid](#) (2026-04-30 05:40)

SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- The Supreme Court on Thursday confirmed guilty verdi...

- [Sports ministry renews call on top football body to discipline leader](#) (2026-04-30 05:28)

SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- The sports ministry said Thursday it once again urge...

- [Ryu Seung-ryong to star in 'The Miracles of the Namiya General Store'](#) (2026-04-30 05:24)

SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- Ryu Seong-ryong has been cast in a new Disney+ serie...

- [\(LEAD\) Gov't considering extending crude swap system with private firms until July: official](#) (2026-04-30 05:22)

SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- The government is considering extending its crude oi...

- [\(LEAD\) Samsung Electro-Mechanics Q1 net profit rises sharply on strong AI demand](#) (2026-04-30 05:06)

SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Electro-Mechanics Co., an electronic compone...

- [Today in Korean history](#) (2026-04-30 05:01)

May 1

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-04-30 04:30)

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

- [Top court upholds guilty verdicts for 18 people in courthouse riot related to Yoon's martial law bid](#) (2026-04-30 03:29)

SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- The Supreme Court on Thursday confirmed guilty verdi...

- [Army reviewing deployment of 'suicide drones' to battalion-level units as part of modernization push](#) (2026-04-30 03:29)

GYERYONG, South Korea, April 30 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean Army is reviewing d...

- [U.S. becomes largest exporter of naphtha to S. Korea following Iran war outbreak](#) (2026-04-30 03:05)

SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- The United States has become the largest exporter of...

- [1 killed, 2 injured in apartment fire in Uiwang](#) (2026-04-30 03:03)

UIWANG, South Korea, April 30 (Yonhap) -- A fire broke out at an apartment in Ui...

- [BOK's senior deputy gov. to attend ADB, ASEAN+3 meetings in Uzbekistan](#) (2026-04-30 03:00)

SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- Ryoo Sang-dai, senior deputy governor of the Bank of...

- [Seoul shares up late Thurs. morning on robust tech earnings](#) (2026-04-30 02:56)

SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- Seoul stocks traded higher late Thursday morning at ...

- [Foreign tourist arrivals last month top pre-pandemic levels on BTS comeback](#) (2026-04-30 02:45)

SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- Foreign tourist arrivals in South Korea surpassed pr...

- [Supreme Court sides with Nexon in trade secret dispute with Ironmace](#) (2026-04-30 02:44)

SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- The Supreme Court on Thursday upheld a lower court's...

- [Funds' net asset value gains over 8 pct in Q1](#) (2026-04-30 02:42)

SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- The value of South Korea's investment funds rose mor...

- [S. Korea to redeploy unification attache to Russia amid deepening Pyongyang-Moscow ties](#) (2026-04-30 02:39)

SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- South Korea will redeploy an attache in charge of un...

- [USFK troop drawdown not under discussion between S. Korea, U.S.: defense ministry](#) (2026-04-30 02:28)

SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and the United States are not discussing...

- [\(LEAD\) LG Energy Solution swings to Q1 loss amid EV market slowdown](#) (2026-04-30 02:19)  
SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- LG Energy Solution Ltd. said Thursday it swung to a ...
- [\(LEAD\) Hanwha Aerospace Q1 operating income jumps 20.6 pct on robust arms exports](#) (2026-04-30 02:16)  
SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- Hanwha Aerospace Co., South Korea's leading defense ...
- [S. Korea to unveil World Cup squad on May 16 in Seoul](#) (2026-04-30 02:03)  
SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- South Korea will announce their FIFA World Cup squad...
- [Tax revenue rises 5.5 tln won in March on increased income tax](#) (2026-04-30 02:00)  
SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's tax revenue increased by 5.5 trillion ...
- [Seoul addresses concerns over planned review of USMCA to Mexico](#) (2026-04-30 02:00)  
SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- South Korean Trade Minister Yeo Han-koo held a meeti...
- [Braves' Kim Ha-seong picks up hit in 1st minor league rehab game](#) (2026-04-30 01:51)  
SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- Kim Ha-seong of the Atlanta Braves has collected a h...
- [Card spending climbs over 7 pct in Q1](#) (2026-04-30 01:46)  
SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- Credit card spending rose by more than 7 percent in ...
- [\(2nd LD\) Samsung Electronics Q1 net surges over fivefold on AI-driven demand](#) (2026-04-30 01:43)  
SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Electronics Co. said Thursday its first-quar...
- [Finance chief cites financial market's sufficient crisis response capacity amid volatility](#) (2026-04-30 01:40)  
SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- Finance Minister Koo Yun-cheol said Thursday that fi...
- [BOK sees rising uncertainty in U.S. monetary policy path after new Fed chair](#) (2026-04-30 01:29)  
SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- Uncertainty over the future path of U.S. monetary po...
- [Tickets for BTS' concerts in Busan sell out in presales](#) (2026-04-30 01:08)  
SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- All tickets for BTS' concerts in the southern South ...
- [Korean German midfielder Castrop defends 'aggressive' play, vows discipline at World Cup](#) (2026-04-30 00:56)  
SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- Likely headed for the summer's FIFA World Cup repres...

- [Hanwha Aerospace signs MOU on Canadian JV in submarine bid push](#) (2026-04-30 00:50)

SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- Hanhwa Aerospace Co., a defense affiliate of the cou...

- [S. Korea to assume command of naval forces in RIMPAC exercise for 1st time](#) (2026-04-30 00:46)

SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- South Korea will command naval forces of multination...

- [\(LEAD\) Samsung Electronics Q1 net surges over fivefold on AI-driven demand](#) (2026-04-30 00:45)

SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Electronics Co. said Thursday its first-quar...

- [YG to launch five-member boy group in September](#) (2026-04-30 00:38)

SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- K-pop agency YG Entertainment's first boy group in s...

- [\(LEAD\) Seoul shares open at a fresh high above 6,700 on strong earnings from Samsung, U.S. big techs](#) (2026-04-30 00:30)

SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- Seoul stocks opened higher Thursday at a fresh high ...

- [\(2nd LD\) Naver Q1 net falls 31.3 pct on FX losses](#) (2026-04-30 00:11)

SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- Naver Corp., South Korea's largest online portal ope...

- [Seoul shares open at a fresh high on Samsung, strong earnings from U.S. big techs](#) (2026-04-30 00:05)

SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- Seoul stocks opened higher Thursday at a fresh high ...

- [\(URGENT\) Seoul shares open at fresh record high after Samsung earnings](#) (2026-04-30 00:02)

(END)

- [N Korea mobilizes officials as drought threatens crop production](#) (2026-04-29 23:51)

SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- North Korea is ramping up efforts to prevent a prolo...

- [\(2nd LD\) Industrial output, retail sales, facility investment gain ground in March](#) (2026-04-29 23:50)

SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's industrial output, retail sales and fa...

- [Lions extend contract with injury replacement O'Loughlin](#) (2026-04-29 23:46)

SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- The Samsung Lions have extended their contract with ...

- [\(LEAD\) Naver Q1 net falls 31.3 pct on FX losses](#) (2026-04-29 23:38)

SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- Naver Corp., South Korea's largest online portal ope...

- [\(LEAD\) Industrial output, retail sales, facility investment gain ground in March](#) (2026-04-29 23:30)

SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's industrial output, retail sales and fa...

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SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's industrial output, retail sales and fa...

- [\(URGENT\) Industrial output, retail sales, investment gain ground in March](#) (2026-04-29 23:00)

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- [\(LEAD\) Trump says U.S. reviewing possible troop cut in Germany, decision due in 'short period'](#) (2026-04-29 22:44)

WASHINGTON, April 29 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump said Wednesday the ...

- [Trump says U.S. reviewing possible troop cut in Germany, decision due in 'short period'](#) (2026-04-29 22:13)

WASHINGTON, April 29 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump said Wednesday the ...

- [\(EDITORIAL from Korea JoongAng Daily on April 30\)](#) (2026-04-29 21:58)

As school outings, field trips and other forms of experiential learning rapidly ...

- [\(EDITORIAL from Korea Times on April 30\)](#) (2026-04-29 21:57)

A rare confrontation has emerged between lawmakers in Korea and the United State...

- [\(EDITORIAL from Korea Herald on April 30\)](#) (2026-04-29 21:57)

Ha Jung-woo, senior presidential secretary for artificial intelligence policy an...

- [Top headlines in major S. Korean newspapers](#) (2026-04-29 21:57)

SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- The following are the top headlines in major South K...

- [\(URGENT\) Trump says U.S. is reviewing possible troop cut in Germany](#) (2026-04-29 21:54)

(END)

- [\(Yonhap Feature\) Automation powers GM's global small SUV exports at S. Korean plant](#) (2026-04-29 21:00)

CHANGWON, South Korea, April 30 (Yonhap) -- On the assembly line at the Changwon...

- [ABS issuance soars 36 pct in Q1 on rise in mortgage-backed securities](#) (2026-04-29 21:00)

SEOUL, April 30 (Yonhap) -- The issuance of asset-based securities (ABSs) in Sou...

- [GM Korea reaffirms commitment to S. Korean operations; Middle East conflict poses no disruption](#) (2026-04-29 21:00)

CHANGWON, South Korea, April 30 (Yonhap) -- GM Korea Co., the South Korean unit ...

- [\(3rd LD\) Fed holds rates steady, cites 'elevated' inflation, 'high level' uncertainty from Middle East war](#) (2026-04-29 20:58)

WASHINGTON, April 29 (Yonhap) -- The U.S. Federal Reserve on Wednesday held its ...

- [\(2nd LD\) Fed holds rates steady, cites 'elevated' inflation, 'high level' uncertainty from Middle East war](#) (2026-04-29 20:24)

WASHINGTON, April 29 (Yonhap) -- The U.S. Federal Reserve on Wednesday held its ...

- [\(LEAD\) Fed holds key rates steady, says Middle East conflict fuels 'high level of uncertainty'](#) (2026-04-29 18:25)

WASHINGTON, April 29 (Yonhap) -- The U.S. Federal Reserve on Wednesday held its ...

- [Fed holds rates steady for 3rd time amid war-driven inflation concerns](#) (2026-04-29 18:03)

WASHINGTON, April 29 (Yonhap) -- The U.S. Federal Reserve on Wednesday held its ...

- [\(URGENT\) Fed holds key interest rate steady for 3rd straight time](#) (2026-04-29 18:01)

(END)

- [Hegseth calls N. Korea's nuclear program 'lesson' as he defends Iran operation](#) (2026-04-29 17:17)

WASHINGTON, April 29 (Yonhap) -- U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth on Wednesda...

- [Trump calls on Iran to 'get smart soon' amid impasse in negotiations](#) (2026-04-29 13:01)

WASHINGTON, April 29 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump on Wednesday warned...

- [Tang Wei expecting 2nd child with director Kim Tae-yong](#) (2026-04-29 10:47)

SEOUL, April 29 (Yonhap) -- The "Decision to Leave" star Tang Wei revealed Wedne...

- [\(LEAD\) Nvidia official meets with Samsung, SK hynix executives for physical AI partnership](#) (2026-04-29 10:46)

SEOUL, April 29 (Yonhap) -- A key executive of U.S. tech giant Nvidia Corp. held...

- [Ex-POWs sue N. Korea over forced labor; 3rd of its kind](#) (2026-04-29 10:42)

SEOUL, April 29 (Yonhap) -- Five former South Korean prisoners of war (POWs) hav...

- [\(LEAD\) Hybe posts nearly 700 bln won in Q1 revenue on BTS' comeback](#) (2026-04-29 10:36)

SEOUL, April 29 (Yonhap) -- Hybe, the company behind K-pop megastar BTS, posted ...

- [S. Korea, U.S. discuss N. Korea, cooperation on disarmament, nonproliferation](#) (2026-04-29 09:36)

SEOUL, April 29 (Yonhap) -- Senior officials of South Korea and the United State...

- [S&P; maintains S. Korea's rating at 'AA' with stable outlook](#) (2026-04-29 09:20)

SEOUL, April 29 (Yonhap) -- Global credit appraiser S&P Global Ratings on We...

- [Hyundai Motor chief attends Beijing auto show for 1st time in 8 yrs](#) (2026-04-29 09:00)

SEOUL, April 29 (Yonhap) -- Hyundai Motor Executive Chair Euisun Chung attended ...

- [Seoul continues consultations with Iran over S. Korean vessels stranded in Strait of Hormuz: official](#) (2026-04-29 08:47)

SEOUL, April 29 (Yonhap) -- South Korea is actively seeking ways to resolve the ...

- [KBO's career hits leader sent to minors for 1st time since trade](#) (2026-04-29 08:25)

SEOUL, April 29 (Yonhap) -- Son Ah-seop, the career hits leader in South Korean ...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-04-29 08:05)

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

- [\(2nd LD\) Appeals court increases ex-President Yoon's sentence to 7 yrs in obstruction of justice case](#) (2026-04-29 08:00)

SEOUL, April 29 (Yonhap) -- An appeals court on Wednesday increased the sentence...

- [FM Cho discusses Middle East situation, enhanced ties with Azerbaijani counterpart](#) (2026-04-29 07:51)

SEOUL, April 29 (Yonhap) -- Foreign Minister Cho Hyun held a phone call with his...

- [\(LEAD\) S. Korea launches new frigate with enhanced anti-air, anti-sub capabilities](#) (2026-04-29 07:51)

SEOUL, April 29 (Yonhap) -- South Korea held a launch ceremony Wednesday for a n...

- [\(2nd LD\) Seoul stocks end at fresh record high on revived hope for AI boom](#) (2026-04-29 07:49)

SEOUL, April 29 (Yonhap) -- Seoul stocks closed at a fresh peak on Wednesday, ju...

- [Hyundai Glovis deploys world's largest vehicle carrier](#) (2026-04-29 07:38)

SEOUL, April 29 (Yonhap) -- Hyundai Glovis Co., the logistics unit of Hyundai Mo...

- [Forgotten 'environment' of 11 women artists brought back to life at Leeum](#) (2026-04-29 07:38)

SEOUL, April 29 (Yonhap) -- A shrill siren pierces a fog-filled room draped in b...

- [Gov't to support 100,000 young job seekers through conglomerate-led vocational training program](#) (2026-04-29 07:30)

SEOUL, April 29 (Yonhap) -- The government on Wednesday announced a set of suppo...

- [R&D; spending by S. Korean ICT companies up over 13 pct in 2024: data](#) (2026-04-29 07:26)

SEOUL, April 29 (Yonhap) -- Investments in research and development (R&D) ma...

- [\(LEAD\) Lee stresses need for bipartisan support in diplomacy, national security issues](#) (2026-04-29 07:12)

SEOUL, April 29 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Wednesday warned against ...

- [\(LEAD\) Appeals court increases ex-President Yoon's sentence to 7 yrs in obstruction of justice case](#) (2026-04-29 07:09)

SEOUL, April 29 (Yonhap) -- An appeals court on Wednesday increased the sentence...

- [PM calls for speedy housing supply](#) (2026-04-29 07:08)

SEOUL, April 29 (Yonhap) -- Prime Minister Kim Min-seok paid a visit to a large ...

- [\(LEAD\) Seoul stocks end at fresh record high on revived hope for AI boom](#) (2026-04-29 07:02)

SEOUL, April 29 (Yonhap) -- Seoul stocks closed at a fresh peak on Wednesday, ju...

- [Busan by-election heats up as ex-presidential AI secretary joins potential three-way race](#) (2026-04-29 07:01)

SEOUL, April 29 (Yonhap) -- A scheduled parliamentary by-election in the southea...

- [\(URGENT\) Appeals court increases ex-President Yoon's sentence to 7 yrs in obstruction of justice case](#) (2026-04-29 07:00)

(END)

- [Ex-President Yoon denies all charges in 1st trial hearing over interference in Marine death probe](#) (2026-04-29 06:43)

SEOUL, April 29 (Yonhap) -- Former President Yoon Suk Yeol's lawyers on Wednesda...

- [BTS begins North America tour in Tampa, drawing 190,000 fans](#) (2026-04-29 06:41)

SEOUL, April 29 (Yonhap) -- K-pop supergroup BTS drew about 190,000 fans over th...

- [Seoul stocks end at fresh record high on revived hope for AI boom](#) (2026-04-29 06:36)

SEOUL, April 29 (Yonhap) -- Seoul stocks closed at a fresh peak on Wednesday, ju...

- [\(URGENT\) Seoul stocks end at fresh record high of 6,690.90 on revived AI hope](#) (2026-04-29 06:32)

(END)

- [Ex-Seoul councilor admits giving money to lawmaker in 1st trial](#) (2026-04-29 06:09)

SEOUL, April 29 (Yonhap) -- Former Seoul city councilor Kim Kyung admitted in he...

- [DeepMind chief reunites with baduk champion 10 yrs after historic match](#) (2026-04-29 06:01)

SEOUL, April, 29 (Yonhap) -- Demis Hassabis, the co-founder of Google DeepMind, ...

- [S. Korea, Cambodia agree to expand investigation of joint police team to drug, gambling crimes](#) (2026-04-29 05:47)

SEOUL, April 29 (Yonhap) -- South Korean and Cambodian police agreed Wednesday t...

- [Defense minister voices hope for greater defense industry partnership with Latvia](#) (2026-04-29 05:42)

SEOUL, April 29 (Yonhap) -- Defense Minister Ahn Gyu-back expressed hope Wednesd...

- [\(LEAD\) LG Electronics Q1 net income up 14.8 pct on robust home appliance sales](#) (2026-04-29 05:38)

SEOUL, April 29 (Yonhap) -- LG Electronics Inc. said Wednesday its first-quarter...

- [Gov't to offer 53 bln-won support this year for AI factory projects](#) (2026-04-29 05:19)

SEOUL, April 29 (Yonhap) -- The industry ministry will provide 53 billion-won (U...

- [Tennessee official visits Korea Zinc facility for U.S. project cooperation](#) (2026-04-29 05:15)

SEOUL, April 29 (Yonhap) -- Korea Zinc Co., the world's biggest refined zinc sme...

- [Today in Korean history](#) (2026-04-29 05:00)

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- [S. Korea begins construction of fast combat support ship](#) (2026-04-29 05:00)

SEOUL, April 29 (Yonhap) -- A steel-cutting ceremony was held in southern South ...

- [\(LEAD\) Watchdog names Coupang founder Kim Bom as controlling figure under tighter oversight](#) (2026-04-29 04:42)

SEOUL, April 29 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's antitrust regulator on Wednesday newly...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-04-29 04:29)

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- [Daily FX turnover hits quarterly high in Q1: BOK](#) (2026-04-29 03:00)

SEOUL, April 29 (Yonhap) -- Daily foreign exchange (FX) trading by banks in Sout...

- [Watchdog newly designates Coupang founder Kim Bom as controlling figure under tighter oversight](#) (2026-04-29 03:00)

SEOUL, April 29 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's antitrust regulator on Wednesday newly...

- [Nvidia official to meet with Samsung, SK hynix executives for physical AI partnership](#) (2026-04-29 02:51)

SEOUL, April 29 (Yonhap) -- A key executive of U.S. tech giant Nvidia will hold ...

- [BTS logs 5th week on Billboard Hot 100 with two tracks](#) (2026-04-29 02:43)

SEOUL, April 29 (Yonhap) -- Two tracks from K-pop sensation BTS' fifth studio al...

- [Seoul stocks down late Wed. morning amid AI woes, oil prices](#) (2026-04-29 02:36)

SEOUL, April 29 (Yonhap) -- Seoul stocks were trading lower late Wednesday morni...

- [\(Yonhap Interview\) Bears pitcher Benjamin looking to capitalize on new KBO opportunity](#) (2026-04-29 02:18)

SEOUL, April 29 (Yonhap) -- At first, pitcher Wes Benjamin wasn't aware of a new...

- [S. Korea's seaport cargo up 1.5 pct in Q1 despite trade uncertainties](#) (2026-04-29 02:15)

SEOUL, April 29 (Yonhap) -- Cargo processed at South Korean seaports grew 1.5 pe...

- [Park Ji-hoon returns as singer with 1st release in 3 years](#) (2026-04-29 02:07)

SEOUL, April 29 (Yonhap) -- Singer-actor Park Ji-hoon will return to the music s...

- [BTS concerts drive longer stays, higher spending among foreign tourists: gov't analysis](#) (2026-04-29 02:05)

SEOUL, April 29 (Yonhap) -- Foreign tourists who recently visited the country fo...

- [President Lee to host luncheon with minor party, independent lawmakers at Cheong Wa Dae](#) (2026-04-29 02:03)

SEOUL, April 29 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung was set to host a luncheon w...

- [Over 6,700 kids repeatedly reported for suspected abuse last year](#) (2026-04-29 02:02)

SEOUL, April 29 (Yonhap) -- Over 6,700 children were repeatedly reported to poli...

- [Retail sales rise 5.6 pct in March on tourism boost, back-to-school season demand](#) (2026-04-29 02:00)

SEOUL, April 29 (Yonhap) -- Revenue of major retail companies here went up 5.6 p...

- [S. Korea, Qatar to push for deeper cooperation in manufacturing AI, semiconductor, biohealth](#) (2026-04-29 02:00)

SEOUL, April 29 (Yonhap) -- Trade ministers of South Korea and Qatar agreed Wedn...

- [S. Korean currency edges up in morning trade amid decision by UAE to leave OPEC](#) (2026-04-29 01:54)

SEOUL, April 29 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean won rose slightly against the U.S. ...

- [LS Electric wins 319 bln-won deal from U.S. energy firm for data center project](#) (2026-04-29 01:25)

SEOUL, April 29 (Yonhap) -- LS Electric Co., a South Korean electrical equipment...

- ['Sold Out on You' tops Netflix chart for non-English shows](#) (2026-04-29 01:17)

SEOUL, April 29 (Yonhap) -- The romantic comedy "Sold Out on You" led Netflix's ...

- [\(LEAD\) Unionized cargo workers, BGF Logis reach tentative agreement after fatal truck accident](#) (2026-04-29 01:15)

JINJU, South Korea, April 29 (Yonhap) -- Unionized cargo workers said Wednesday ...

- [Nongshim partners with Chinese firm to boost H2 sales](#) (2026-04-29 01:06)

SEOUL, April 29 (Yonhap) -- Nongshim Co., South Korea's leading instant noodle m...

- [Chief regulator vows bold deregulation to enhance financial innovation](#) (2026-04-29 01:00)

SEOUL, April 29 (Yonhap) -- The chief of the country's financial regulator said ...

- [S. Korea to launch new frigate with enhanced anti-air, anti-sub capabilities](#) (2026-04-29 00:45)

SEOUL, April 29 (Yonhap) -- South Korea was set to hold a launch ceremony Wednes...

- [Seoul stocks open lower on renewed AI woes, rising oil prices](#) (2026-04-29 00:42)

SEOUL, April 29 (Yonhap) -- Seoul stocks opened lower Wednesday as a report on O...

- [Lions ace Jurado shrugs off yet another no-decision](#) (2026-04-29 00:37)

SEOUL, April 29 (Yonhap) -- By several measures, Samsung Lions ace Ariel Jurado ...

- [Unionized cargo workers, BGF Logis reach tentative agreement after fatal truck accident](#) (2026-04-29 00:26)

JINJU, South Korea, April 29 (Yonhap) -- Unionized cargo workers said Wednesday ...

- [\(LEAD\) Amorepacific Q1 net falls 5 pct on base effect](#) (2026-04-29 00:06)

SEOUL, April 29 (Yonhap) -- Amorepacific Corp., South Korea's leading cosmetics ...

- [Seoul stocks open lower on renewed AI woes, rising oil prices](#) (2026-04-29 00:05)

SEOUL, April 29 (Yonhap) -- Seoul stocks opened lower Wednesday as a report on O...

- [\(URGENT\) Seoul stocks open 0.33 pct lower amid renewed concerns over AI, rising oil prices](#) (2026-04-29 00:01)

(END)

- [Appeals court set to rule on ex-President Yoon's obstruction of justice case](#) (2026-04-28 23:56)

SEOUL, April 29 (Yonhap) -- An appeals court was set to rule Wednesday on former...

- [N. Korea's Kim attends concert marking 80th founding anniv. of key military band](#) (2026-04-28 23:55)

SEOUL, April 29 (Yonhap) -- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has attended a conce...

- [Jeonju Int'l Film Festival to kick off with 237 films](#) (2026-04-28 23:48)

JEONJU, South Korea, April 29 (Yonhap) -- The Jeonju International Film Festival...

- [PSG edge out Bayern with S. Korean players benched](#) (2026-04-28 22:36)

SEOUL, April 29 (Yonhap) -- The defending champions Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) ha...

- [\(EDITORIAL from Korea JoongAng Daily on April 29\)](#) (2026-04-28 22:01)

The government has decided to introduce a "fair allowance" for temporary workers...

- [\(EDITORIAL from Korea Times on April 29\)](#) (2026-04-28 22:01)

The looming strike by workers at Samsung Electronics is no longer a routine labo...

- [\(EDITORIAL from Korea Herald on April 29\)](#) (2026-04-28 22:01)

A market that doubles in less than a year invites applause. It also invites ques...

- [Top headlines in major S. Korean newspapers](#) (2026-04-28 22:01)

SEOUL, April 29 (Yonhap) -- The following are the top headlines in major South K...

- [Corporate direct financing rises 4 pct in March on increased debt sale](#) (2026-04-28 21:00)

SEOUL, April 29 (Yonhap) -- Corporate direct financing increased in March from t...

- [Lions' hero thanks Lady Luck after busy day on field](#) (2026-04-28 13:54)

SEOUL, April 28 (Yonhap) -- With his uniform all dirty after an action-filled Tu...

- [Lions beat Bears in extra innings to end 7-game losing streak](#) (2026-04-28 13:28)

SEOUL, April 28 (Yonhap) -- The Samsung Lions squeezed past the Doosan Bears 5-4...

- [Cheong Wa Dae denies discrimination against U.S. companies over network usage fees](#) (2026-04-28 13:01)

SEOUL, April 28 (Yonhap) -- Cheong Wa Dae on Tuesday denied a claim that U.S. co...

- [\(2nd LD\) Trump's eldest son visits S. Korea: sources](#) (2026-04-28 12:06)

SEOUL, April 28 (Yonhap) -- Donald Trump Jr., the eldest son of U.S. President D...

- [\(3rd LD\) Appeals court increases sentence for ex-first lady to 4 years for corruption](#) (2026-04-28 10:01)

SEOUL, April 28 (Yonhap) -- An appeals court on Tuesday increased the sentence f...

- [Constitutional Court to hear GC Biopharma's case in 1st complaint against court ruling](#) (2026-04-28 09:34)

SEOUL, April 28 (Yonhap) -- The Constitutional Court said Tuesday it will hear b...

- [Lee approves resignation of 2 presidential officials expected to run in by-elections](#) (2026-04-28 09:32)

SEOUL, April 28 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Tuesday approved the resi...

- [S. Korean sports agency signs teen rhythmic gymnast from Cyprus](#) (2026-04-28 09:26)

SEOUL, April 28 (Yonhap) -- Seoul-based sports agency Next Creative said Tuesday...

- [Slumping Lions seek spark from key hitter returning from injury](#) (2026-04-28 08:51)

SEOUL, April 28 (Yonhap) -- As the Samsung Lions try to snap their season-worst ...

- [\(LEAD\) Trump's eldest son visits S. Korea: sources](#) (2026-04-28 08:33)

SEOUL, April 28 (Yonhap) -- Donald Trump Jr., the eldest son of U.S. President D...

- [With All-Star closer down, Bears turn to versatile pitcher for save opportunities](#) (2026-04-28 08:22)

SEOUL, April 28 (Yonhap) -- With their All-Star closer Kim Taek-yeon out a few w...

- [\(2nd LD\) Appeals court increases sentence for ex-first lady to 4 years for corruption](#) (2026-04-28 08:08)

SEOUL, April 28 (Yonhap) -- An appeals court on Tuesday increased the sentence f...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-04-28 08:00)

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

- [Trump's eldest son visits S. Korea: sources](#) (2026-04-28 07:51)

SEOUL, April 28 (Yonhap) -- Donald Trump Jr., the eldest son of U.S. President D...

- [Calling N. Korea by its official name subject of public debate: ministry](#) (2026-04-28 07:41)

SEOUL, April 28 (Yonhap) -- The unification ministry said Tuesday the question o...

- [Galleries from 18 countries to take part in Art Busan next month](#) (2026-04-28 07:40)

SEOUL, April 28 (Yonhap) -- The annual Art Busan fair will open for a four-day r...

- [\(2nd LD\) Seoul stocks again at fresh peak ahead of U.S. big tech earnings](#) (2026-04-28 07:36)

SEOUL, April 28 (Yonhap) -- Seoul stocks closed at a new record high Tuesday, bo...

- [\(LEAD\) Appeals court increases sentence for ex-first lady to 4 years for corruption](#) (2026-04-28 07:34)

SEOUL, April 28 (Yonhap) -- An appeals court on Tuesday increased the sentence f...

- [Foreign ministry reviewing response to U.S. lawmakers' letter on Coupang case](#) (2026-04-28 07:32)

SEOUL, April 28 (Yonhap) -- The foreign ministry said Tuesday it is reviewing se...

- [\(URGENT\) Appeals court increases sentence for ex-first lady to 4 years for corruption](#) (2026-04-28 07:30)

(END)

- [Public-private alliance kicks off to foster cooperation in shipbuilding, shipping industries](#) (2026-04-28 07:30)

SEOUL, April 28 (Yonhap) -- An alliance for the promotion of balanced growth of ...

- [\(3rd LD\) Seoul stocks briefly top 6,700, set for another milestone](#) (2026-04-28 07:26)

SEOUL, April 28 (Yonhap) -- Seoul stocks closed at an all-time high Tuesday, bri...

- [\(LEAD\) Seoul stocks again at fresh peak ahead of U.S. big tech earnings](#) (2026-04-28 07:03)

SEOUL, April 28 (Yonhap) -- Seoul stocks closed at a new record high Tuesday, bo...

- [\(LEAD\) Hyundai E&C; Q1 net rises 24 pct on weak won, asset revaluation](#) (2026-04-28 06:51)  
SEOUL, April 28 (Yonhap) -- Hyundai Engineering & Construction (E&C) Co...

- [\(2nd LD\) Seoul stocks briefly top 6,700, set for another milestone](#) (2026-04-28 06:45)  
SEOUL, April 28 (Yonhap) -- Seoul stocks closed at an all-time high Tuesday, bri...

- [PM calls for practical projects for struggling youths](#) (2026-04-28 06:44)  
SEOUL, April 28 (Yonhap) -- The government should come up with practical project...

- [\(3rd LD\) Lee says will resolve 'pending issues' with allies thru mutual respect](#) (2026-04-28 06:41)  
SEOUL, April 28 (Yonhap) -- Issues between close allies should be resolved based...

- [Seoul stocks again at fresh peak ahead of U.S. big tech earnings](#) (2026-04-28 06:35)  
SEOUL, April 28 (Yonhap) -- Seoul stocks closed at a new record high Tuesday, bo...

- [\(URGENT\) Seoul stocks close at new record high of 6,641.02, ahead of U.S. big tech earnings releases](#) (2026-04-28 06:31)

(END)

- [Gov't to pay 'fairness allowance' to public-sector fixed-term workers](#) (2026-04-28 06:30)  
SEOUL, April 28 (Yonhap) -- Starting next year, the government will introduce a ...

- [S. Korea, Singapore kick off negotiations to upgrade bilateral FTA](#) (2026-04-28 06:16)  
SEOUL, April 28 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and Singapore officially kicked off nego...

- [\(LEAD\) Lee says will resolve 'pending issues' with allies thru mutual respect](#) (2026-04-28 06:05)  
SEOUL, April 28 (Yonhap) -- Issues between close allies should be resolved based...

- [DeepMind chief holds separate meetings with heads of S. Korean conglomerates in Seoul: sources](#) (2026-04-28 06:02)  
SEOUL, April 28 (Yonhap) -- Demis Hassabis, the co-founder and chief of Google D...

- [Seoul's surveillance of N. Korea unaffected by U.S. intelligence sharing restrictions: source](#) (2026-04-28 06:02)  
SEOUL, April 28 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's surveillance of North Korea has not be...

- [Finance chief highlights capital market reforms to boost growth](#) (2026-04-28 06:00)  
SEOUL, April 28 (Yonhap) -- Finance Minister Koo Yun-cheol said Tuesday the gove...

- [Medical schools short of teaching faculty after increase in admission quotas](#) (2026-04-28 05:44)

SEOUL, April 28 (Yonhap) -- Medical schools failed to hire enough teaching facul...

- [Court orders partial cancellation of corporate taxes for Netflix Korea](#) (2026-04-28 05:11)

SEOUL, April 28 (Yonhap) -- A Seoul court on Tuesday ordered authorities to canc...

- [Today in Korean history](#) (2026-04-28 05:00)

April 29

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-04-28 04:30)

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

- [S. Korea expected to secure up to 90 pct of pre-war-level naphtha supply for May: ministry](#) (2026-04-28 03:14)

SEOUL, April 28 (Yonhap) -- South Korea is expected to secure up to 90 percent o...

- [S. Korea to begin 1st filing for global minimum corporate tax next month](#) (2026-04-28 03:00)

SEOUL, April 28 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's tax authorities said Tuesday they will...

- [Banks' lending rates fall in March for 1st time in 4 months](#) (2026-04-28 03:00)

SEOUL, April 28 (Yonhap) -- Banks' overall lending rates fell for the first time...

- [Antitrust regulator extends corrective measures on Hanwha's shipbuilder acquisition by another 3 yrs](#) (2026-04-28 03:00)

SEOUL, April 28 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's antitrust regulator said Tuesday it ha...

- [Literature translation institute moves to open specialized grad school](#) (2026-04-28 02:55)

SEOUL, April 28 (Yonhap) -- The Literature Translation Institute (LTI) of Korea ...

- [Lee says will resolve 'pending issues' with allies thru mutual respect](#) (2026-04-28 02:55)

SEOUL, April 28 (Yonhap) -- Issues between close allies should be resolved based...

- [\(LEAD\) Appeals court sentences Rep. Kweon to 2-yr prison term over funds from Unification Church](#) (2026-04-28 02:48)

SEOUL, April 28 (Yonhap) -- An appeals court on Tuesday sentenced Rep. Kweon Seo...

- [\(2nd LD\) Samsung SDI swings to Q1 profit on ESS battery growth](#) (2026-04-28 02:33)

SEOUL, April 28 (Yonhap) -- Samsung SDI Co., a major South Korean battery manufa...

- [Seoul stocks up late Tues. morning driven by large-cap tech shares](#) (2026-04-28 02:30)  
SEOUL, April 28 (Yonhap) -- Seoul stocks were trading sharply higher late Tuesda...
- [Police seek arrest warrant for teen in jewelry store theft](#) (2026-04-28 02:27)  
SEOUL, April 28 (Yonhap) -- Police said Tuesday they plan to request an arrest w...
- [\(LEAD\) Seoul stocks briefly top 6,700 on tech rally, ahead of M7 earnings](#) (2026-04-28 02:25)  
SEOUL, April 28 (Yonhap) -- Seoul stocks briefly topped the 6,700-point level Tu...
- [Lottery sales expected to increase 4 pct on-year in 2027](#) (2026-04-28 02:14)  
SEOUL, April 28 (Yonhap) -- Lottery sales in South Korea are expected to increas...
- [Appeals court sentences Rep. Kweon to 2-yr prison term over funds from Unification Church](#) (2026-04-28 02:06)  
SEOUL, April 28 (Yonhap) -- An appeals court on Tuesday sentenced Rep. Kweon Seo...
- [\(URGENT\) Appeals court sentences Rep. Kweon Seong-dong to 2-yr prison term over funds from Unification Church](#) (2026-04-28 02:04)  
(END)
- [Gov't discusses trade security issues with semiconductor, AI industries](#) (2026-04-28 02:00)  
SEOUL, April 28 (Yonhap) -- The industry ministry held an inaugural public-priv...
- [S. Korea identifies remains of another soldier killed during Korean War](#) (2026-04-28 02:00)  
SEOUL, April 28 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's military has identified the remains of...
- [Gov't to offer 300 bln-won support for projects aimed at fostering AI, green transformation of industrial complexes](#) (2026-04-28 02:00)  
SEOUL, April 28 (Yonhap) -- The industry ministry said Tuesday it will provide a...
- [Hyundai Rotem signs K2 battle tank production deal in Poland](#) (2026-04-28 01:57)  
SEOUL, April 28 (Yonhap) -- Hyundai Rotem Co., the defense and rail systems unit...
- [Padres' Song Sung-mun sent back to minors](#) (2026-04-28 01:31)  
SEOUL, April 28 (Yonhap) -- Song Sung-mun of the San Diego Padres has been sent ...
- [BTS' 'Arirang' album certified platinum in France](#) (2026-04-28 01:26)  
SEOUL, April 28 (Yonhap) -- K-pop megastars BTS' latest album, "Arirang," has be...

- [S. Korean envoy calls N. Korea's nukes 'most urgent' challenge to nonproliferation regime](#) (2026-04-28 01:11)

SEOUL, April 28 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's top nuclear envoy has stressed the nee...

- [Lee vows to prevent industrial deaths with all available means](#) (2026-04-28 01:07)

SEOUL, April 28 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Tuesday pledged to mobili...

- [Seoul stocks briefly top 6,700 on tech rally, ahead of M7 earnings](#) (2026-04-28 01:04)

SEOUL, April 28 (Yonhap) -- Seoul stocks briefly topped the 6,700-point level Tu...

- [\(URGENT\) KOSPI tops 6,700, set for another all-time high on tech rally](#) (2026-04-28 00:59)

(END)

- [\(LEAD\) Samsung SDI swings to Q1 profit on ESS battery growth](#) (2026-04-28 00:35)

SEOUL, April 28 (Yonhap) -- Samsung SDI Co., a major South Korean battery manufa...

- [N. Korea's executions over S. Korean cultural content surge after COVID-19 border closure: report](#) (2026-04-28 00:32)

SEOUL, April 28 (Yonhap) -- Executions rose sharply in North Korea for offenses ...

- [\(LEAD\) Seoul stocks open at record high ahead of U.S. big tech earnings](#) (2026-04-28 00:31)

SEOUL, April 28 (Yonhap) -- Seoul stocks opened at a record high on Tuesday ahea...

- [K-pop album exports top US\\$100 mln for first time in Q1](#) (2026-04-28 00:24)

SEOUL, April 28 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's exports of K-pop albums hit a record h...

- [Seoul stocks open higher ahead U.S. big tech earnings](#) (2026-04-28 00:04)

SEOUL, April 28 (Yonhap) -- Seoul stocks opened higher on Tuesday ahead of earni...

- [\(URGENT\) Seoul stocks open 0.48 pct higher ahead of earnings releases from big techs](#) (2026-04-28 00:01)

(END)

- [Appeals court set to rule on ex-first lady's corruption charges](#) (2026-04-27 23:52)

SEOUL, April 28 (Yonhap) -- An appeals court was set to rule Tuesday on corrupti...

- [Lee touts hunt for hidden overseas assets, calls for 'tax justice'](#) (2026-04-27 23:44)

SEOUL, April 28 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Tuesday touted the tax of...

- [\(EDITORIAL from Korea JoongAng Daily on April 28\)](#) (2026-04-27 22:04)

The number of brokers caught arranging fraudulent refugee applications for forei...

- [\(EDITORIAL from Korea Times on April 28\)](#) (2026-04-27 22:04)

In a democracy, the spoils, or "patronage system," have long been taken for gran...

- [\(EDITORIAL from Korea Herald on April 28\)](#) (2026-04-27 22:03)

The prosecution's April 22 announcement of how it handled the bribery case invol...

- [Top headlines in major S. Korean newspapers](#) (2026-04-27 22:03)

SEOUL, April 28 (Yonhap) -- The following are the top headlines in major South K...

- [Biz sentiment rebounds in April as Middle East crisis reduces inventories: BOK](#) (2026-04-27 21:00)

SEOUL, April 28 (Yonhap) -- Despite the ongoing Middle East crisis, business sen...

- [Over 80 ruling bloc lawmakers to send joint letter of protest against U.S. defense of Coupang](#) (2026-04-27 14:21)

SEOUL, April 27 (Yonhap) -- More than 80 lawmakers of the ruling bloc plan to se...

- [\(3rd LD\) Court begins ex-President Yoon's insurrection appeals trial](#) (2026-04-27 12:50)

SEOUL, April 27 (Yonhap) -- An appeals court held the first preliminary hearing ...

- [\(2nd LD\) Court begins ex-President Yoon's insurrection appeals trial](#) (2026-04-27 11:46)

SEOUL, April 27 (Yonhap) -- An appeals court held the first preliminary hearing ...

- [Police launch probe into medical syringe hoarding amid war-related shortage](#) (2026-04-27 10:43)

SEOUL, April 27 (Yonhap) -- Police said Monday they have launched an investigati...

- [Struggling Eagles reliever Kim Seo-hyeon demoted to minors](#) (2026-04-27 09:42)

SEOUL, April 27 (Yonhap) -- The Hanwha Eagles on Monday demoted their slumping r...

- [20-yr prison term sought for ex-justice minister in martial law case](#) (2026-04-27 09:39)

SEOUL, April 27 (Yonhap) -- A special counsel team on Monday sought a 20-year pr...

- [Twins lose closer You Young-chan to elbow fracture](#) (2026-04-27 09:05)

SEOUL, April 27 (Yonhap) -- The LG Twins announced Monday their All-Star closer ...

- [Lee, Google DeepMind CEO discuss responsible use of AI](#) (2026-04-27 09:05)

SEOUL, April 27 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Monday met with Demis Has...

- [Seoul's top envoy to U.S., FM Cho discuss N.K. intel controversy, Coupang issue](#) (2026-04-27 08:33)

SEOUL, April 27 (Yonhap) -- South Korean Ambassador to the United States Kang Ky...

- [\(LEAD\) End of Iran war, stabilization of fuel prices prerequisite for termination of price cap system: minister](#) (2026-04-27 08:33)

SEJONG, April 27 (Yonhap) -- The end of the war between the United States and Ir...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-04-27 08:24)

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

- [End of Iran war, stabilization of fuel prices prerequisite for termination of price cap system: minister](#) (2026-04-27 08:19)

SEJONG, April 27 (Yonhap) -- The end of the war between the United States and Ir...

- [Ex-MLB player Choi Ji-man determined to prove worth on S. Korean minor league team](#) (2026-04-27 08:18)

SEOUL, April 27 (Yonhap) -- Former major leaguer Choi Ji-man said Monday he did ...

- [Ex-President Moon urges N. Korean leader to return to dialogue on summit anniv.](#) (2026-04-27 07:58)

SEOUL, April 27 (Yonhap) -- Former President Moon Jae-in on Monday urged North K...

- [\(2nd LD\) Seoul stocks close at a new record high amid AI-led tech rally](#) (2026-04-27 07:41)

SEOUL, April 27 (Yonhap) -- Seoul stocks shattered a new record Monday, to close...

- [U.S. restricts intelligence-sharing with S. Korea on N. Korea's nuclear facilities: sources](#) (2026-04-27 07:23)

SEOUL, April 27 (Yonhap) -- The United States has restricted South Korea's acces...

- [S. Korea partners with Google DeepMind for AI-led science innovation project](#) (2026-04-27 07:19)

SEOUL, April 27 (Yonhap) -- The government has partnered with Google DeepMind, a...

- [\(LEAD\) Seoul stocks close at a new record high amid AI-led tech rally](#) (2026-04-27 07:14)

SEOUL, April 27 (Yonhap) -- Seoul stocks shattered a new record Monday, to close...

- [Ex-Unification Church official gets heavier prison term during appeal over gifts to ex-first lady](#) (2026-04-27 06:52)

SEOUL, April 27 (Yonhap) -- An appeals court on Monday sentenced a former Unific...

- [NewJeans in prep for new music amid comeback speculation](#) (2026-04-27 06:35)  
SEOUL, April 27 (Yonhap) -- K-pop girl group NewJeans is preparing to resume mus...
- [Seoul stocks close at a new record high amid AI-led tech rally](#) (2026-04-27 06:34)  
SEOUL, April 27 (Yonhap) -- Seoul stocks shattered a new record Monday, to close...
- [\(LEAD\) Hanwha Systems swings to Q1 loss on equity losses tied to U.S. shipyard](#) (2026-04-27 06:32)  
SEOUL, April 27 (Yonhap) -- Hanwha Systems Co., the defense solutions arm of Han...
- [\(URGENT\) Seoul shares again set fresh record high of 6,615.03 on AI-led chip, power equipment rally](#) (2026-04-27 06:32)  
(END)
- [Samsung SDS, LG CNS secure sales rights for ChatGPT Edu in S. Korea](#) (2026-04-27 06:25)  
SEOUL, April 27 (Yonhap) -- Samsung SDS Co. and LG CNS Co. have secured respecti...
- [Major umbrella union to hold Labor Day rally over cargo worker's death in Jinju](#) (2026-04-27 06:17)  
SEOUL, April 27 (Yonhap) -- A major umbrella union will hold a large-scale rally...
- [KOFIA launches forum aimed at boosting long-term capital market strategies](#) (2026-04-27 06:09)  
SEOUL, April 27 (Yonhap) -- The Korea Financial Investment Association (KOFIA) a...
- [Lee reaffirms commitment to restoring inter-Korean trust, calls for Pyongyang's response](#) (2026-04-27 06:03)  
SEOUL, April 27 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Monday reaffirmed his com...
- [73 criminal suspects repatriated from Cambodia, Philippines since late Feb.](#) (2026-04-27 05:56)  
SEOUL, April 27 (Yonhap) -- The Korean National Police Agency (KNPA) said Monday...
- [\(LEAD\) Top diplomats of S. Korea, Australia to hold talks this week amid Mideast crisis](#) (2026-04-27 05:46)  
SEOUL, April 27 (Yonhap) -- The top diplomats of South Korea and Australia will ...
- [\(LEAD\) Hanwha Ocean's Q1 net more than doubles on LNG projects, improved profitability](#) (2026-04-27 05:44)  
SEOUL, April 27 (Yonhap) -- Hanwha Ocean Co. said Monday its first-quarter net i...

- [Finance minister stresses big-small biz cooperation in bio sector](#) (2026-04-27 05:38)

SEOUL, April 27 (Yonhap) -- Finance Minister Koo Yun-cheol on Monday emphasized ...

- [\(LEAD\) Navy, Marine Corps hold large-scale amphibious landing drills in Pohang](#) (2026-04-27 05:09)

SEOUL, April 27 (Yonhap) -- The Navy and Marine Corps launched a weeklong regula...

- [Today in Korean history](#) (2026-04-27 05:00)

April 28

- [Gov't to expand supply of mid-rate loans for mid-credit borrowers](#) (2026-04-27 05:00)

SEOUL, April 27 (Yonhap) -- The government will expand loans for mid-credit borr...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-04-27 04:45)

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

- [Minor party candidate for Busan mayor injured in drink attack](#) (2026-04-27 03:02)

BUSAN, April 27 (Yonhap) -- The minor New Reform Party's candidate running for B...

- [Minister vows efforts to secure stable supplies of agricultural inputs amid Mideast crisis](#) (2026-04-27 03:00)

SEJONG, April 27 (Yonhap) -- Agriculture Minister Song Mi-ryung said Monday the ...

- [FTC orders e-commerce platforms to revise unfair user terms](#) (2026-04-27 03:00)

SEOUL, April 27 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's antitrust regulator on Monday ordered...

- [Market cap of S. Korean-listed companies surpasses 6,000 tln won for 1st time: data](#) (2026-04-27 02:49)

SEOUL, April 27 (Yonhap) -- The total market capitalization of companies listed ...

- [\(LEAD\) N. Korea opens memorial honoring own troops killed in Russia's war with Ukraine](#) (2026-04-27 02:40)

SEOUL, April 27 (Yonhap) -- Pyongyang has opened a memorial honoring North Korea...

- [Seoul stocks up sharply late Mon. morning on bullish corporate earnings expectations](#) (2026-04-27 02:39)

SEOUL, April 27 (Yonhap) -- Seoul stocks were trading up sharply late Monday mor...

- [Ha Jung-woo, Son Suk-ku cast in Netflix's political film 'The Generals'](#) (2026-04-27 02:16)

SEOUL, April 27 (Yonhap) -- Ha Jung-woo and Son Suk-ku have been cast in Netflix...

- [Carlyle acquires KFC Korea, eyes aggressive expansion](#) (2026-04-27 02:00)  
SEOUL, April 27 (Yonhap) -- U.S. private equity firm The Carlyle Group has acqui...
- [Top diplomats of S. Korea, Australia to hold talks this week amid Mideast crisis](#) (2026-04-27 01:43)  
SEOUL, April 27 (Yonhap) -- The top diplomats of South Korea and Australia will ...
- [Innospace, RSAT Space partner for satellite launch service cooperation in N. America](#) (2026-04-27 01:28)  
SEOUL, April 27 (Yonhap) -- Innospace Co., a South Korean space startup, said Mo...
- [CJ Cheiljedang signs MOU with Vietnam retailer to expand market presence](#) (2026-04-27 01:23)  
SEOUL, April 27 (Yonhap) -- CJ Cheiljedang Corp. said Monday it has signed a mem...
- [Lions looking to snap season-worst 7-game slide in KBO](#) (2026-04-27 01:03)  
SEOUL, April 27 (Yonhap) -- The Samsung Lions started last week in first place i...
- [\(LEAD\) Court set to begin ex-President Yoon's insurrection appeals trial](#) (2026-04-27 01:01)  
SEOUL, April 27 (Yonhap) -- An appeals court was set to hold the first prelimina...
- [N. Korea opens memorial honoring own troops killed in Russia's war with Ukraine](#) (2026-04-27 00:47)  
SEOUL, April 27 (Yonhap) -- Pyongyang has opened a memorial honoring North Korea...
- [Seoul stocks open sharply higher despite faltering hopes for U.S.-Iran peace talks](#) (2026-04-27 00:36)  
SEOUL, April 27 (Yonhap) -- Seoul stocks opened sharply higher Monday despite ho...
- [Industry minister vows active support to companies reshoring to S. Korea](#) (2026-04-27 00:34)  
SEJONG, April 27 (Yonhap) -- Industry Minister Kim Jung-kwan on Monday vowed the...
- [Gov't starts rolling out cash aid for vulnerable groups amid Mideast crisis](#) (2026-04-27 00:28)  
SEOUL, April 27 (Yonhap) -- Cash assistance for basic livelihood security recipi...
- [Supernatural horror 'Salmokji' tops weekend box office](#) (2026-04-27 00:27)  
SEOUL, April 27 (Yonhap) -- The horror film "Salmokji: Whispering Water" has con...

- [Padres' Song Sung-mun makes MLB debut as pinch runner; Giants' Lee Jung-hoo has 4-hit game](#) (2026-04-27 00:13)

SEOUL, April 27 (Yonhap) -- Song Sung-mun of the San Diego Padres has made his m...

- [Lee's approval rating falls to 62.2 pct: poll](#) (2026-04-27 00:12)

SEOUL, April 27 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung's approval rating stayed abo...