



SOUTH KOREA SECURITY ANALYSIS REPORT

AI-Assisted Open Source Intelligence Assessment

Analysis Period: May 31, 2026 - June 07, 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 experienced a dynamic security week (May 31 - June 07, 2026), marked by significant diplomatic engagements and advancements in defense capabilities. Key developments include the resumption of a joint search-and-rescue drill with Japan, signaling improved bilateral ties. Diplomatic efforts focused on strengthening relations with China and African nations, with President Lee Jae-Myung aiming for a "full-scale restoration" of Korea-China relations and hosting the first Korea-Africa Foreign Ministers' Meeting. Crucially, South Korea engaged in inaugural security talks with the US regarding nuclear cooperation, including plans for nuclear-powered submarines and expanded uranium enrichment rights. Cybersecurity also remained a focus, with efforts to enhance national defenses through a new cyber breach probe panel and access to advanced AI models.

Key Security Developments

- Resumption of Japan-South Korea Search-and-Rescue Drill

On May 30, 2026, South Korean Defence Minister Ahn Gyu Back and Japanese Defence Minister Shinjiro Koizumi announced the resumption of a joint search-and-rescue exercise, scheduled for June 7. This humanitarian exercise, involving the South Korean Navy and Japan's Maritime Self-Defence Force, marks the first such drill in approximately nine years, reflecting significantly improved defense relations between the two nations after a period of strain. The exercise aims to strengthen deterrence through the US-Japan and US-South Korea alliances and other strategic coordination.

- South Korea-China Diplomatic Engagements

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung and Chinese President Xi Jinping pledged to bolster bilateral relations during talks in Beijing, with Lee declaring 2026 as the "first year of full-scale restoration" of ties. The summit, Lee's first trip to Beijing since taking office, aimed to deepen economic collaboration and address regional geopolitical tensions. The leaders agreed to work towards a gradual reopening of cultural and content exchanges, which had been unofficially banned after South Korea's 2016 deployment of the U.S. THAAD missile defense system.

- Inaugural US-South Korea Nuclear Cooperation Talks

South Korea and the US held inaugural talks on June 2 and 3, 2026, to discuss nuclear cooperation under a joint fact sheet agreed upon by President Lee Jae Myung and US President Donald Trump in 2025. The discussions covered South Korea's push for

expanded uranium enrichment and spent-fuel reprocessing rights to support its plan to build nuclear-powered submarines. South Korea aims to launch its first nuclear-powered submarine by the mid-2030s, utilizing low-enriched uranium fuel and domestic construction.

- South Korea to Command RIMPAC 2026 Maritime Exercise

On June 5, 2026, it was announced that South Korea will take command of the Rim of the Pacific Exercise (RIMPAC), the world's largest maritime joint exercise, led by the U.S. in Hawaii at the end of June. This marks the first time an Asian nation, and specifically South Korea since joining in 1990, will command the combined naval forces. A South Korean admiral will serve as the Combined Force Maritime Component Commander, overseeing naval forces from over 30 participating countries.

- Establishment of Cyber Breach Probe Panel

On May 19, 2026, South Korea's Ministry of Science and ICT launched a statutory committee empowered to investigate major cyberattacks. This "cyber breach investigation committee" was created under a revised Information and Communications Network Act in response to a string of high-profile breaches in 2025 that exposed millions of South Koreans' personal data. The committee can initiate ex officio investigations into serious incidents even without a company report.

- Access to Anthropic's Mythos AI Cybersecurity Model

On June 3, 2026, South Korea's Science Ministry announced that the Korea Internet & Security Agency (KISA) secured access to Anthropic's cybersecurity AI model, Mythos, through participation in Project Glasswing. This initiative aims to use frontier AI models to identify and help fix cybersecurity vulnerabilities, with major Korean companies like Samsung Electronics, SK Hynix, and SK Telecom also included in the expansion.

- Korea-Africa Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Seoul

From May 31 to June 2, 2026, South Korea hosted the 2026 Korea-Africa Foreign Ministers' Meeting and the Korea-Africa Business Forum in Seoul. This landmark diplomatic gathering brought together representatives from 54 African countries and four regional organizations to strengthen practical cooperation and address shared global challenges, including trade, investment, infrastructure development, and supply-chain resilience.

- USFK Commander's Remarks on South Korea's Role in US-China Competition

General Xavier Brunson, Commander of U.S. Forces Korea (USFK), described South Korea as a "dagger" aimed at China's East Coast, prompting a strong reaction from Beijing's embassy in Seoul. These comments, made just days before local elections, stirred sensitivities over South Korea's role in the US-China strategic competition.

- South Korea Considers Phased Contribution to Strait of Hormuz Maritime Security

On May 13, 2026, South Korean Defence Minister Ahn Gyu-back stated that Seoul would review making phased contributions to a United States-led initiative, "Project Freedom," aimed at ensuring safe passage of commercial vessels in the Strait of Hormuz. This comes after an attack on a South Korean-operated cargo ship, HMM Namu, in the region on May 4, which Seoul concluded was caused by two unidentified airborne objects.

- US-South Korea Joint Counter-Drone Alliance

On May 15, 2026, the United States and South Korea formalized a new drone and counter-drone partnership through a letter of intent signed in Seoul. This alliance aims to accelerate the fielding of reconnaissance drones, FPV strike systems, loitering munitions, and counter-UAS weapons for allied forces, particularly in response to potential North Korean threats. The initiative focuses on shared supply chains, common standards, and interoperable anti-drone capabilities.

Geopolitical Impact and Regional Dynamics

South Korea's security developments this week highlight a complex and evolving geopolitical landscape, characterized by efforts to balance traditional alliances with expanding diplomatic and economic outreach. The resumption of joint search-and-rescue drills with Japan, after a nine-year hiatus, signifies a notable improvement in bilateral defense relations. This rapprochement is crucial for trilateral cooperation with the United States, especially in strengthening deterrence against North Korea and addressing broader Indo-Pacific security challenges. Both nations, as key US allies, are increasingly aligning their strategies to counter China's growing influence and navigate the unpredictability of US foreign policy under President Trump.

Simultaneously, South Korea is actively pursuing a "full-scale restoration" of relations with China, its largest trading partner. President Lee Jae Myung's summit with President Xi Jinping in Beijing underscores Seoul's pragmatic approach to maintain economic ties while navigating strategic competition between the US and China. However, the USFK Commander's remarks describing South Korea as a "dagger" aimed at China's East Coast underscore the inherent tension in this balancing act and Beijing's sensitivity to South Korea's alignment with the US. This delicate diplomacy reflects South Korea's need for China's cooperation on North Korea and stable supply chains, even as it deepens military and economic alliances with the US and Japan.

The decision for South Korea to command RIMPAC 2026, the world's largest maritime exercise, marks a significant elevation of its naval power and leadership role in

regional security. This move, while showcasing South Korea's capabilities, also aligns with the US strategy to assign more responsibility to its allies in countering China and maintaining a free and open Indo-Pacific. Furthermore, South Korea's engagement with 54 African nations in the Korea-Africa Foreign Ministers' Meeting demonstrates a broader diplomatic strategy of diversification and an aspiration to be a constructive actor in global affairs, particularly in securing critical minerals and strengthening supply chain resilience amidst global competition. The ongoing conflict in the Middle East and concerns over maritime security in the Strait of Hormuz further underscore the interconnectedness of global security, prompting South Korea to consider contributions to US-led maritime initiatives.

Military and Defense Analysis

South Korea's military and defense posture is undergoing significant modernization and strategic recalibration, driven by evolving regional threats and a desire for greater self-reliance. The Republic of Korea Navy's (ROKN) elevated status is evident in its upcoming command of RIMPAC 2026, where it plans to showcase indigenous capabilities such as the 3,000-ton submarine Dosan Ahn Chang-ho and the latest Aegis destroyer King Jeongjo. This leadership role in a major multinational exercise demonstrates the ROKN's rapid growth and operational command capabilities, potentially bolstering the case for an early transfer of wartime operational control (OPCON) from the US.

A critical development is South Korea's pursuit of nuclear-powered submarines, with inaugural talks held with the US on June 2-3, 2026, to discuss expanded uranium enrichment and spent-fuel reprocessing rights. This ambitious project, aiming for deployment by the mid-2030s, signifies a major leap in South Korea's defense capabilities and its commitment to deterring North Korean threats. While the US has approved the construction of such submarines, discussions are ongoing regarding the necessary revisions to the bilateral atomic energy agreement (123 Agreement) to facilitate fuel sourcing and address non-proliferation concerns.

In terms of force posture and modernization programs, the joint counter-drone alliance formalized with the US on May 15, 2026, highlights a proactive approach to address North Korea's unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) threats. This partnership aims to accelerate the fielding of reconnaissance drones, FPV strike systems, loitering munitions, and counter-UAS weapons, focusing on shared supply chains and interoperable anti-drone capabilities. The South Korean Army is also reviewing the deployment of attack drones to battalion-level units and plans to acquire over 50,000 operational drones by 2029. These initiatives underscore a strategic shift towards integrating advanced autonomous systems into its defense architecture. Furthermore, the Korea Army International Defense Industry Exhibition (KADEX) 2026 will showcase

key developments in unmanned systems, robotics, AI, and integrated battlefield technologies, indicating a strong focus on next-generation defense capabilities and export potential.

Outlook and Forecast

Short-term trends (1-3 months): In the immediate future, South Korea will likely continue its diplomatic balancing act between the United States and China. The upcoming RIMPAC 2026 exercise, where a South Korean admiral will command multinational naval forces, will be a key event, showcasing Seoul's growing military influence and its commitment to regional security cooperation. This will likely be followed by continued discussions with the US on nuclear cooperation, particularly regarding the development of nuclear-powered submarines and the revision of the 123 Agreement. The recently resumed search-and-rescue drill with Japan on June 7, 2026, is expected to pave the way for further defense exchanges and improved bilateral trust. On the economic front, the agreements made during the Korea-Africa Foreign Ministers' Meeting will likely lead to initial steps in expanding trade, investment, and supply chain cooperation with African nations.

Critical flashpoints and risk areas: The primary flashpoint remains the Korean Peninsula, with North Korea's unpredictable actions and continued weapons development posing a constant threat. The USFK Commander's "dagger" remarks regarding China could exacerbate tensions with Beijing, potentially leading to diplomatic repercussions or increased pressure on South Korea. The Strait of Hormuz also remains a critical risk area for South Korea's energy security, given its heavy reliance on Middle Eastern oil and the recent attack on a South Korean-operated cargo ship. Any escalation in the Middle East conflict could disrupt vital shipping routes and impact South Korea's economy. Domestically, cybersecurity threats remain elevated, with the new cyber breach probe panel and AI initiatives reflecting the ongoing struggle against sophisticated digital intrusions.

Indicators to monitor: Key indicators to monitor include North Korea's military activities, particularly any missile tests or provocations in response to US-ROK exercises. The progress of US-South Korea nuclear cooperation talks, especially concerning the 123 Agreement and nuclear submarine development, will be crucial. The trajectory of South Korea-China relations, particularly any follow-up on the "full-scale restoration" pledge and reactions to US-ROK alliance activities, should be closely watched. Additionally, developments in the Strait of Hormuz and South Korea's potential contributions to maritime security initiatives will indicate its evolving role in global security. Finally, the effectiveness of new cybersecurity measures and the frequency of cyber incidents will be important gauges of national resilience.

Strategic recommendations: South Korea should continue to strengthen its alliances with the US and Japan, leveraging these partnerships for advanced defense capabilities and regional stability. While pursuing improved relations with China, Seoul must maintain strategic clarity and avoid actions that could undermine its core alliances. Investing further in indigenous defense capabilities, particularly in areas like nuclear-powered submarines and advanced drone systems, is essential for enhancing self-reliant deterrence. Proactive engagement in international forums, such as the Korea-Africa Foreign Ministers' Meeting, should be sustained to diversify partnerships, secure critical resources, and project soft power. Finally, a robust and adaptive cybersecurity strategy, combining regulatory enforcement with technological innovation, is paramount to protect critical infrastructure and national data.

Structured Assessment

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## ANNEX: COLLECTED ARTICLES BY SOURCE

### Source: Daily NK

- [North Korea mobilizes factory workers for flood prevention push as rainy season approaches](#) (2026-06-03 20:40)

North Korea is rushing to survey and reinforce flood-prone areas ahead of the summer rainy season, mobilizing factory and enterprise workers for large-scale repair work at rivers, embankments, and mountain slopes across North Pyongan province. A Daily NK source in North Pyongan province said Monday that the Land and Environmental Protection Management Department of the [...]

- [Pyongyang's postwar problem: What happens to North Korea when Russia no longer needs it?](#) (2026-06-03 18:49)

Geopolitical dynamics are shifting rapidly as major powers intensify diplomatic coordination over the future shape of the international order. During the Victory Day parade on May 9, Putin hinted that the war in Ukraine may be entering its final phase. Less than a week later, U.S. President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping reaffirmed [...]

- [North Korean soldiers in Ukraine face forced return — a civilian delegation went to fight for them](#) (2026-06-02 20:47)

The sky over Kyiv hung heavy and gray during the days I spent in Ukraine's capital. Standing before the outer wall of a prisoner of war facility, our delegation pressed our hands against the cold concrete and wept. On the other side of that wall, two young North Korean soldiers — held under the pseudonyms [...]

- [North Korea's donju hand over rice and cash to the state — and call it insurance](#) (2026-06-02 13:28)

North Korean authorities are pressuring wealthy private traders known as donju — loosely translated as “masters of money,” referring to a class of entrepreneurs who accumulated capital through North Korea's informal market economy — to donate rice to the state under the banner of “patriotic rice” contributions. A Daily NK source in Ryanggang province said [...]

- [Mass livestock deaths at Kim Jong Un's model farm trigger political crisis in Kangwon province](#) (2026-06-02 09:08)

Hundreds of pigs, goats, and rabbits have died at a state breeding farm in North Korea's Sepho district, and authorities have dispatched a high-level joint investigation team to the site, treating the mass die-off as a politically sensitive incident. The Sepho Tableland livestock base in

Kangwon province is one of North Korea's flagship agricultural projects, [...]

- [North Korea makes parents pay to feed students forced into rice planting labor](#) (2026-06-01 20:57)

Parents across North Korea are being pressured to supply food for their children mobilized for rice planting season, bearing costs the state is unwilling to cover. Every spring, North Korean schools dispatch students to rural areas to help with rice transplanting — a nationwide mobilization campaign that can last a month or more. To feed [...]

- [Young North Koreans turn to flexible 8·3 labor as state wages fail to cover basic needs](#) (2026-06-01 17:32)

Young workers in North Korea are increasingly using a practice known as “8·3 labor” — paying a fee to their state-assigned workplace in exchange for permission to pursue private income — but with a new twist: rather than making a permanent arrangement, they are now doing so on a temporary, case-by-case basis whenever outside work [...]

- [North Korea uses Russia's Victory Day to push war readiness doctrine](#) (2026-06-01 13:27)

North Korea used its military's participation in Russia's Victory Day parade to conduct ideological indoctrination sessions targeting security officials, in what reflects Pyongyang's effort to legitimize its growing battlefield role alongside Russian forces. A Daily NK source in Pyongyang reported on Friday that on May 12, the Ministry of Social Security — one of North [...]

## Source: Hankyoreh

- [\[Column\] Takaichi is putting Japan's constitution in crisis](#) (2026-06-07 06:02)
- [\[News analysis\] Korean voters rebuked the PPP, but withheld mandate for Democrats](#) (2026-06-05 12:02)
- [\[Reportage\] Next-gen SMRs poised to power America's AI future](#) (2026-06-05 12:02)
- [Korean election body's efforts to curb conspiracy theories backfire amid ballot shortages](#) (2026-06-05 12:02)
- [\[Editorial\] Losing Seoul mayor's race should be a wakeup call for Democrats](#) (2026-06-05 12:02)
- [Kim Jong-un puts nuclear program front and center ahead of summit with Xi](#) (2026-06-05 12:02)

- [\[Column\] Want to know where US decline is headed? Look at Russia](#) (2026-06-04 12:03)
- [\[Editorial\] No excusing ballot shortage fiasco](#) (2026-06-04 12:03)
- [\[Column\] Naming the enemy: The unsettling return of ideological litmus tests in Korea](#) (2026-06-04 12:03)
- [Korea's Democrats win big nationwide but fail to flip Seoul mayor's office](#) (2026-06-04 06:02)
- [PPP's Oh Se-hoon wins historic 5th term as Seoul mayor by razor-thin margin](#) (2026-06-04 06:02)
- [Unprecedented ballot shortage in Korean local elections sparks chaos, outrage](#) (2026-06-04 06:02)
- [\[Column\] Balancing strength and institutions to build Korean peace](#) (2026-06-03 06:02)
- [\[Column\] Korea: A nation divided into blue and red](#) (2026-06-03 06:02)
- [\[Column\] When obeying law and order is a true subversion](#) (2026-06-03 06:02)
- [Korean police seek exit ban for Morse Tan, election denier accused of defaming president](#) (2026-06-02 12:03)
- [Yoon pressed Joint Chiefs chairman for 'loyalty' 1 year prior to martial law gambit](#) (2026-06-02 12:03)
- [Another deadly explosion casts shadow over Hanwha Aerospace's cutting-edge image](#) (2026-06-02 12:03)
- [Project to train AI on skilled workers' know-how prompts debate over who owns knowledge](#) (2026-06-02 12:03)
- [Parties show humility in final appeals to voters, even as attacks on rivals continue](#) (2026-06-02 12:03)
- [\[Editorial\] PPP's shameless parade of disgraced presidents](#) (2026-06-02 12:03)

- [\[Column\] From complete denuclearization of North Korea to managing nuclear risk](#) (2026-06-01 12:02)
- [Korean parties trade barbs over campaign tactics in countdown to Wednesday' s elections](#) (2026-06-01 12:02)
- [South Korea is ready for OPCON handover, defense chief tells US lawmakers](#) (2026-06-01 12:02)
- [Ripped from families for not being 'Korean enough,' mixed-race adoptees seek truth and justice](#) (2026-06-01 12:02)
- [Little-known former US official sets off flurry of election misinfo in Korea](#) (2026-06-01 12:02)
- [\[Editorial\] Korea is a model US ally on defense. It' s time it regains wartime OPCON.](#) (2026-06-01 12:02)
- [\[Editorial\] Election fraud conspiracy theorists are the real threats to Korea' s democracy](#) (2026-06-01 12:02)
- [\[Column\] Israel: The definition of a democratic fascist regime](#) (2026-05-31 06:02)
- [\[Column\] The tyranny of merit and the distribution of profit in the AI era](#) (2026-05-31 06:02)

## Source: Korea Times

- [Thousands rally for 3rd day demanding new election over ballot shortages](#) (2026-06-07 05:57)

Thousands of protesters continued to stage a rally near a vote-counting facility in eastern Seoul for the third day Sunday, claiming last week's local elections were fraudulent and demanding a new election. According to an unofficial police estimate, approximately 3,000 people surrounded SK Olympic Handball Gymnasium in Songpa Ward as of noon. Police estimated a crowd of 30,000 had gathered the previous day. Protesters are currently gathered at each of the eight entrances, keeping eyes on ballot boxes that remain inside the facility while chanting slogans calling for a do-over of the elections. An estimated 20 to 30 officials who were said to have been trapped inside reportedly managed to leave early Saturday, though the National Election Commission (NEC) has refused to officially confirm the reports. Protests have

continued after ballot paper shortages were reported at more than a dozen polling stations across Seoul on Wednesday, including in Songpa and Gangnam, prompting temporary voting suspensions. Some voters were believed to have left without casting their ballots. NEC Chairman Roh

- [SME minister Han Seong-sook tapped as new PM](#) (2026-06-07 05:57)

President Lee Jae Myung nominated Han Seong-sook, the current minister of small and medium-sized enterprises and startups and a former Naver chief executive, to serve as Korea's next prime minister. The nomination places one of the country's most prominent technology executives at the center of the Lee administration's efforts to promote innovation-led growth and accelerate the adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) across the economy. Before entering government, Han built her career in the technology sector, serving as chief executive officer of Naver, one of Korea's largest internet companies. She also held positions as senior vice president overseeing services at Naver and head of the search business division at Empas. Han graduated from Sookmyung Women's University with a degree in English language and literature. Announcing the nomination, Presidential Chief of Staff Kang Hoon-shik described Han as a leader capable of delivering growth that benefits the entire nation. "We expect her to be the right person to lead growth not for only part of the population, but for all of

- [Gov't to expand education subsidies for low-income multicultural youth](#) (2026-06-07 05:57)

The government will provide education subsidies starting this month to children aged seven to 18 from low-income multicultural families, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family said, Sunday. The initiative aims to expand educational opportunities, narrow learning gaps and support career development among multicultural youth. The subsidies will amount to 400,000 won (\$256.5) per year for elementary school students, 500,000 won for middle school students and 600,000 won for high school students. They will be provided in August through NH NongHyup card points, following an eligibility review. Recipients can use subsidies for educational expenses, including learning materials, study room fees, vocational training and certification programs. Applications will be accepted through June 30 at local family centers and multicultural family support centers in applicants' districts of residence. Families must submit an application form along with supporting documents, including identification, a family relations certificate, a resident registration record and proof of health insurance payments.

- [Neuroscientist stresses importance of creativity, interdisciplinary thinking in AI era](#) (2026-06-07 05:57)

Jeong Jae-seung, one of Korea's leading neuroscientists, emphasized the importance of creativity, interdisciplinary thinking and problem-solving skills for the next generation of science and engineering students in a recent lecture. During the lecture hosted by the University of Seoul on May 29, Jeong highlighted the unique human capacities for thinking and learning from a neuroscientific perspective. He said the ability to generate insights and ask meaningful questions will remain a key source of competitiveness amid rapid technological advancement in

an era of artificial intelligence (AI). Speaking on the theme, “Reflecting on the Future of Science and Engineering through Neuroscience in the Age of AI,” he discussed the impact of AI advances on industry and society. Jeong currently serves as a professor in the department of brain and cognitive sciences at the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST). The University of Seoul said Friday that the lecture was held on its Seoul campus on the sidelines of an information session designed to introduce the Early Employment

- [Jeonbuk National University secures W286.8 bil. in state-funded projects over three years](#)  
(2026-06-07 05:57)

Jeonbuk National University has secured a combined 286.8 billion won (\$183.9 million) in government-backed industry-academia collaboration projects under the Glocal University 30 initiative over the past three years, the university said Friday. The large-scale funding is accelerating the school’s efforts to build the Jeonbuk University-Industry-City (JUIC) Triangle, which connects its campuses in Jeonju, Wanju, Iksan, Jeongeup and Saemangeum in North Jeolla Province with local industries to create a regional innovation model. The achievement demonstrates how the Glocal University 30 project can foster shared growth between universities and local communities. It is the result of Jeonbuk National University’s efforts to establish a robust industry-academia-research collaboration framework in line with local authorities’ industrial development strategy. The government-led initiative is designed to support 30 universities located in nonmetropolitan areas. “Glocal” is a portmanteau of “global” and “local,” signifying a dual push for globalization and localization. “We will

- [German, Russian visual artists explore Korea through art and everyday experience](#)  
(2026-06-06 23:57)

A group of international artists studying and living in Korea recently came together to present “Sweet Bread,” a group art exhibit currently on display at KOTE in central Seoul’s Insa-dong neighborhood, inspired by their experiences as foreigners navigating life in Korea. The exhibition is a collaboration between four art students from Germany and a photographer from Russia, who display a visual reflection of everyday life encounters in Korea, resulting in shifts in perception, habits and attention. Their collective perspective as outsiders allows them to reread everyday visual and digital stimuli as simultaneously seductive, soothing and excessive. Laila Kamil from the Academy of Fine Arts Leipzig, who came to Korea on an exchange program with Chung-Ang University, said their group was formed from friendships through university studies. Several of the artists met in sculpture classes at Chung-Ang University, while others had known each other previously in Germany. “Our group initially applied to several open calls for exhibitions but received little response. Eventually, through con

- [Protest against ballot paper shortages enters 2nd day, demanding new election](#)  
(2026-06-06 11:57)

Protests over ballot shortages entered their second day Saturday, with thousands encircling a vote-counting facility in eastern Seoul and demanding a new election. By 12:35 p.m.,

approximately 2,000 people had gathered around SK Olympic Handball Gymnasium in SongpaWard, according to police, claiming Wednesday's local elections were fraudulent. Protesters blocked entrances, trapping an estimated 20-30 officials inside. About 400 police officers were deployed to the scene. No clashes have been reported. The unrest stemmed from the shortage of ballot paper at more than a dozen polling stations across Seoul on Wednesday, including in Songpa and Gangnam, forcing temporary voting suspensions. Some voters are believed to have left without casting their ballots. Authorities managed to move the ballot boxes to the gymnasium Friday morning. Since then, protestors have surrounded the facility, preventing officials from removing the boxes or leaving the site. The same day, National Election Commission (NEC) Chairman Roh Tae-ak and NEC Secretary General Heo Cheol-hoon offered their resignations. The c

- [1st funeral held for victim of Hanwha Aerospace factory blast](#) (2026-06-06 05:57)

The first funeral for one of five people killed in a deadly factory explosion at Hanwha Aerospace, a defense company, was held in the central city of Daejeon on Saturday. A blast at the Hanwha Aerospace facility on Monday killed five people and injured two others, with company officials saying the workers were cleaning propellant powder residue from tools used in the production of propulsion systems at the time of the explosion. The funeral for one of the victims took place at a funeral parlor in Daejeon, about 140 kilometers southeast of Seoul, in the morning with the attendance of his bereaved family, relatives and company executives. This week's explosion marked the latest fatal incident at the Hanwha Aerospace factory following an explosion in 2018 that claimed five lives and another explosion the following year that left three people killed.

- [After 3,000 autopsies in nearly 30 years, Yoo sees life as movie](#) (2026-06-06 05:57)

Having examined more than 3,000 bodies since 1999, Yoo Seong-ho, a professor of forensic medicine at Seoul National University College of Medicine, has come to believe that life is like a movie. "A good death is living a good life," Yoo said in an interview with The Korea Times.

"Think of it like a film where the story is a mess from the start. If only the ending has a twist, people will hate it." Every Monday and Friday, Yoo performs autopsies referred by nine police precincts across Seoul from Jongno District to Yongsan District. In 2024, some 359,000 people died in Korea, most of them in hospitals under medical care and therefore not requiring an autopsy. The cases that come to Yoo are those where the cause of death is unknown or suspicious. Depending on the criteria, that amounts to between 30,000 and 50,000 a year, of which around 9,000 actually go to autopsy. Of Korea's 54 forensic pathologists, 34 work at the National Forensic Service (NFS) and 20 at universities, each handling roughly 180 cases a year. Among them, Yoo may be the most publicly recognized, running the YouTu

- [Ex-President Yoon questioned over messages to justify failed imposition of martial law](#) (2026-06-06 05:57)

Ex-President Yoon Suk Yeol on Saturday appeared before a special counsel team to be questioned on charges of abuse of power and obstruction of rights related to messages

justifying his failed imposition of martial law. Yoon, currently in custody at Seoul Detention Center, arrived at the special counsel's office in Gwacheon, just south of Seoul, at around 9:50a.m. It was his first time being questioned by the team since it was launched Feb. 25. He is alleged to have directed the foreign ministry and the National Security Office (NSO) to send messages to allies, including the United States, portraying his martial law declaration as legitimate. The messages reportedly framed the measures as necessary to safeguard democracy and counter pro-North Korean forces. The NSO was believed to have delivered Yoon's message to the National Intelligence Service the day after the martial law declaration on Dec. 3, 2024, where it was translated into English and briefed to a CIA official, according to the team. Investigators are said to be focusing on Yoon's intention behind the messages and the circumstances

- [Lee says paying full respects to those killed in service important 'social duty'](#) (2026-06-06 05:57)

President Lee Jae Myung said Saturday honoring and paying due respects to those killed while serving the country is a social duty the nation should uphold. Lee made the remarks in a speech at a Memorial Day ceremony, a national holiday commemorating those who sacrificed themselves while serving the country, including those who fought for independence from Japan's 1910-45 colonial rule of Korea. Saturday's ceremony at Seoul National Cemetery was attended by 3,000 uniformed service members, government officials, national merit recipients and their families. Among the attendees were the family members of a 34-year-old Coast Guard officer who was killed last year while trying to rescue a person from a tidal flat, as well as the families of two service members killed in an Army helicopter crash in February. "Commemorating the spirit of the patriots and paying them full respect is a social duty that we should faithfully uphold," the president said. The president highlighted the enactment next year of a law expanding benefits for the families of independence fighters, saying the government is al

- [Navies of Korea, Canada hold joint drill](#) (2026-06-06 05:57)

The navies of Korea and Canada held a joint drill this week off the Canadian west coast, Seoul's military said Saturday. The drill involved the 3,000-ton ROKS Dosan Ahn Chang-ho submarine and the 3,100-ton frigate Daejeon and Navy helicopters, according to the Korean military. Canada's HMCS Corner Brook submarine and Ottawa frigate, as well as CH-148 shipborne helicopters, joined the drill, according to Seoul's military. Korea's Navy said the two nations strengthened their joint operational capabilities through the naval exercises, which included anti-ship shooting and anti-submarine warfare.

- [US approves potential sale of JDAM precision bombs to Korea](#) (2026-06-06 05:57)

WASHINGTON — The U.S. government has authorized a potential sale to Korea of Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) precision bombs and related equipment, the State Department said Monday, noting the proposed sale will help enhance the Asian ally's defense capabilities. The

department announced its decision on the potential government-to-government Foreign Military Sale (FMS) estimated to cost \$106 million. The proposed sale requires congressional notification and review. Korea has made a request to buy 708 KMU-557 JDAM tail kits, 58 KMU-572 JDAM guidance sets and other items, including weapons support equipment and U.S. government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services, according to the department. "The proposed sale will improve the Republic of Korea's capability to meet current and future threats by expanding its critical air defense capability in the region and ensuring interoperability with U.S. forces," the department said. The principal contractor for the weapons sale will be the Boeing Company located in Arlington, Virginia, it said.

- [Won hits 17-year low after breaking 1,560 against US dollar](#) (2026-06-06 05:57)

The Korean won weakened beyond the 1,560-per-dollar mark in overnight trading Friday and early Saturday, falling to its lowest level in 17 years as a stronger dollar and continued foreign selling weighed on the currency. The exchange rate climbed as high as 1,561.5 won per dollar in overnight trading before ending at 1,559.0. The move marked the weakest level for the won since March 2009 during the global financial crisis. The won had already weakened to 1,549.1 per dollar during regular trading Friday before the exchange rate closed the daytime session at 1,539.1 won per dollar. It then accelerated sharply after the release of stronger-than-expected U.S. employment data, breaking through the psychologically significant 1,550 and 1,560 levels in succession. Market watchers attributed the latest surge in the exchange rate to a combination of factors, including a stronger dollar, continued foreign selling of Korean equities and concerns over the economic impact of the prolonged conflict in the Middle East. The U.S. jobs report reinforced expectations that the Federal Reserve could keep int

- [\[MORNING CALM TALES\] The ride of a lifetime](#) (2026-06-05 23:57)

The runway blurred beneath us. A second later, the afterburner ignited, and the F-16 surged forward with a force that pushed me deep into the seat. Rain streaked across the canopy as the jet roared down the runway at Osan Air Base in Pyeongtaek, Gyeonggi Province. Then the nose lifted and the ground dropped away. Within moments, we were climbing through the clouds. Strapped into the back seat, helmet on and oxygen mask tight against my face, I had a sudden thought that still seemed slightly unreal: Just days earlier, it was a classroom at Yonsei University, teaching English. Now it was the back seat of an F-16, one of the most advanced fighter jets ever built, punching through the clouds over the Korean Peninsula. The path that led to that cockpit began with a newspaper story. At the time, I was also working as a feature writer for The Korea Times, covering a variety of stories about the United States Forces Korea (USFK). One of them involved a dramatic rescue mission in the West Sea. Late one foggy night in February 2001, a pregnant Korean woman living on a small island near the Northern

- [Won hits 17-year high after breaking 1,560 against US dollar](#) (2026-06-05 17:57)

The Korean won climbed above the 1,560-per-dollar mark in overnight trading Friday and early Saturday, reaching its highest level in 17 years as a stronger dollar and continued foreign selling

weighed on the currency. The won rose as high as 1,561.5 per dollar in overnight trading before closing at 1,559.0, according to Seoul foreign exchange market data. The intraday high marked the strongest level for the dollar against the won since March 2009. The currency had already surged to 1,549.1 per dollar during regular trading Friday before ending the daytime session at 1,539.1. It then accelerated sharply after the release of stronger-than-expected U.S. employment data, breaking through the psychologically significant 1,550 and 1,560 levels in succession. Market watchers attributed the latest surge to a combination of factors, including a stronger dollar, continued foreign selling of Korean equities and concerns over the economic impact of the prolonged conflict in the Middle East. The U.S. jobs report reinforced expectations that the Federal Reserve could keep interest rates elevated for

- [Koreans living overseas urge gov't to improve public services](#) (2026-06-05 11:57)

Koreans living overseas urged the Overseas Koreans Agency (OKA) to improve citizen services, raising issues mainly about the expansion of the identity verification system using foreign numbers, support for Korean cultural facilities and the overseas issuance of international driver's licences. In an online forum held by the OKA marking the third anniversary of the launch of the agency, overseas Koreans, mainly the heads of overseas Korean associations, shared their difficulties and suggestions on how to improve Korean government services. Several participants urged the government to support cultural facilities in their regions so that Korea can expand its influence in other countries. "We urgently need a Korean Cultural Center established in East Timor ... KOICA (Korea International Cooperation Agency) has funded other large-scale projects here, such as a \$10 million football stadium and various small business factories. However, these do not seem to effectively enhance Korea's national image. When people here think of football, they think of Portugal, not Korea. Supporting a Taek

- [Final tally for local elections completed after counting omitted ballots](#) (2026-06-05 11:57)

The final vote count for this week's local elections was completed Friday, two days after a shortage of ballot papers disrupted voting at over a dozen polling stations in Seoul. Election officials declared the final tally for the June 3 vote after reflecting the results from two ballot boxes that were counted belatedly due to a blockade staged by protesters alleging election fraud. Earlier in the day, police dispersed a crowd of protesters and secured the ballot boxes, containing around 2,000 ballots, at a polling station in Seoul's Songpa Ward. Friday's tally did not significantly alter the election results, including the razor-thin Seoul mayoral race. The final count showed that incumbent Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon of the main opposition People Power Party won with 49.22 percent of the vote, defeating Chong Won-o of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea by 1.15 percentage points, or 60,259 votes. During Wednesday's elections, ballot shortages were reported at polling stations in Seoul, including in the southeastern wards of Songpa and Gangnam, prompting temporary suspensions of voting there.

- [Senior presidential official downplays Korea-US gap over OPCON transfer timeline, conditions](#) (2026-06-05 11:57)

A senior Cheong Wa Dae official said Friday that Korea and the United States have little difference over the transfer of wartime operational control (OPCON), downplaying concerns that the allies remain divided over its timing and conditions. “The gap between the two sides is not that large ... There is little difference in how the two sides assess relevant conditions,” the official said on condition of anonymity, concerning bilateral consultations on Korea’s push to take over the wartime command from the U.S. Seoul is seeking to regain wartime OPCON around 2028, or even earlier if possible. Washington, however, is reportedly favoring a more cautious timeline, with U.S. Forces Korea (USFK) Commander Gen. Xavier Brunson saying in April that the conditions would be met by the first quarter of 2029. The official noted that the allies have been working for more than 10 years to meet the conditions for the transfer, even before the Lee administration started in 2025. The official also noted that differences over the timing of the transfer are manageable. “(The gap in timeline) is about o

- [Kim Soo-hyun's agency welcomes detention of YouTuber accused of AI manipulation](#) (2026-06-05 11:57)

Actor Kim Soo-hyun's agency thanked fans and law enforcement Friday after police referred Kim Se-ui, operator of the YouTube channel HoverLab, also known as Garosero Institute, to prosecutors while he remained in custody. Gold Medalist released an official statement detailing the investigation results regarding multiple criminal complaints filed against the YouTuber. The agency noted that police recommended charges against Kim Se-ui, including defamation by spreading false information, attempted coercion and intimidation, as well as violations of anti-stalking and sexual crime laws. "Despite not being directly involved in the incident, we deeply thank those who consistently spoke out and those who worked hard by directly covering the story on behalf of Kim Soo-hyun, who was waiting for due process," the agency said. The company also praised authorities for uncovering the truth based strictly on evidence and ordering the suspect's detention. The agency addressed the actor's followers at the close of its statement. "Above all, we sincerely thank the fans who have cheered and stood by Kim So

- [Election fallout leaves rival party leaders on shaky ground](#) (2026-06-05 11:57)

Korea’s June 3 local elections have left both the ruling and opposition parties with wounded leaders who are politically weakened yet unwilling to step aside. Traditionally, a heavy electoral setback prompts party leaders to offer an apology and resign, paving the way for an emergency interim leadership. This time, neither side followed that script. Instead, the chairmen of the Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) and the People Power Party (PPP) insist they preserved “hope” or “victory,” even as their leadership and authority are being increasingly questioned by party members. On the surface, the ruling liberal party can claim victory, as Chairman Jung Chung-rae did on Thursday, given that it captured 12 of the 16 top posts of the nation’s metropolitan and provincial offices. But key, symbolic losses have forced insiders to acknowledge that the outcome looks far less reassuring. The most painful blow came in Seoul, where incumbent PPP Mayor Oh Se-hoon defeated DPK candidate Chong Won-o, despite early

polls showing Chong' s substantial lead and President Lee Jae Myung' s approv

- [President may need to moderate policy push following local election outcome: analysts](#) (2026-06-05 11:57)

President Lee Jae Myung may need to moderate the pace of his policy agenda following the recent local elections to more flexibly reflect public sentiment, as evidenced by voter concerns over housing issues in Seoul, analysts said Friday. "The Seoul mayoral election result suggests that the government will likely have to proceed more cautiously with its push for real estate regulation, as housing issues were a major factor behind the ruling party's defeat," a political commentator said, asking not to be named. He went on to say, "The implications could extend beyond housing to other politically sensitive issues that affect people's livelihoods." He pointed to how Oh Se-hoon, the incumbent Seoul mayor from the main opposition People Power Party (PPP), won reelection after overcoming an early deficit against Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) candidate Chong Won-o. The DPK contender's loss overshadowed the ruling party's victories in 12 of the 16 races for metropolitan and provincial leadership posts. The mounting frustration of home owners over the Lee administration' s real estate regulato

- [Six-term lawmaker Cho Jeong-sik elected new Nat'l Assembly speaker](#) (2026-06-05 11:57)

The National Assembly voted Friday to elect Rep. Cho Jeong-sik of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) as the new parliamentary speaker. Rep. Cho, a six-term lawmaker, won 267 out of 276 votes cast during a parliamentary plenary session and will serve as speaker for the second half of the 22nd National Assembly until May 2028. He was named a party candidate for speaker after winning a majority vote in the party's internal election last month. In Korea, it is customary for the largest party in terms of parliamentary seats to take the speaker position, with two vice speaker seats divided between the ruling and main opposition parties. In the 300-member assembly, the DPK currently holds 161 seats, while the main opposition People Power Party (PPP) holds 110. The assembly voted to elect four-term DPK Rep. Nam In-soon and four-term PPP Rep. Park Duk-hyum as the vice speakers.

- [Jongno District transforms local parks into splash zones](#) (2026-06-05 11:57)

Seeking to offer residents respite from the rising summer temperatures, the Jongno District office in Seoul said Friday that it will transform four neighborhood parks into temporary aquatic playgrounds beginning Saturday, June 6. The initiative will roll out sequentially across the district to provide local families with accessible recreational spaces through the peak of the season. The primary site, Yeonji Water Playground, is scheduled to open on June 6 and will remain operational through Aug. 30. During the month of June, the facility will open exclusively on weekends before expanding its hours. Three additional temporary installations — located at Sungin Neighborhood Park, Sanmaru Playground and Sangsang Guldduk Playground — will follow a modified schedule tailored to local school vacation calendars. Those three sites will operate on the weekends of July 11-12 and July 18-19, followed by a continuous daily run from July 23 through Aug. 16. To accommodate routine maintenance, all four locations will be closed

on Mondays. The facilities are intended exclusively for children of elem

- [Sejong University appoints Samjong KPMG partner as adviser for international accreditation](#) (2026-06-05 11:57)

The School of Business Administration at Sejong University has appointed Hwang Jae-nam, partner at Samjong KPMG, as an adviser for its efforts to maintain accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), a leading global accreditation body for business education. The university said Thursday that Hwang's appointment will support the school in securing AACSB reaccreditation, adding that it is preparing for the next reaccreditation review in 2028. Sejong University's School of Business Administration was among the first private universities in South Korea to earn AACSB accreditation in 2007. Since then, it has maintained its accreditation through three consecutive reaccreditation reviews in 2012, 2017 and 2022. The university expects Hwang's extensive industry experience and professional expertise to contribute significantly to the school's long-term development strategy, curriculum enhancement and industry-academia collaboration efforts. It also anticipates that he will play a crucial role in helping shape educational strategies that reflect in

- [Election chief offers to resign over local election ballot shortages](#) (2026-06-05 11:57)

National Election Commission (NEC) Chairman Roh Tae-ak offered to resign Friday to take responsibility for ballot shortages during Wednesday's local elections, amid sharp criticism and a police investigation into the nation's top election body. On Election Day, 14 polling stations in Seoul ran out of ballot papers, forcing hundreds of voters to wait for hours past the 6 p.m. ballot closing time. "The ballot shortage incident damaged the public's strong interest in local self-government and their active expression of political will through voting," Roh said in his public apology made at the NEC headquarters in Gwacheon, Gyeonggi Province. "I feel both devastated and infinitely responsible as the NEC chairman for a situation that has undermined public trust in election management and led to broader distrust in the electoral process," he added. He stressed that the commission would fully cooperate with all procedures aimed at determining its responsibility for the incident, including a parliamentary investigation. "If the findings show that there are responsibilities I must bear, I will neve

- [PPP floor leader offers to resign over local elections defeat](#) (2026-06-05 05:57)

The floor leader of the main opposition People Power Party (PPP) on Friday offered to resign over the party's recent local elections defeat, urging the embattled party to make a "fresh start." Rep. Song Eon-seog announced his resignation after the PPP won only four out of the 16 key mayoral and gubernatorial seats up for grabs in Wednesday's elections, though it managed to secure the key battleground of Seoul. "I am stepping down from my position as floor leader today," he said. "This week's elections were a great victory for the wise people of our country," he added. "I believe our party also needs a fresh start in support of the will of the people." Rep. Song called on the PPP to swiftly elect the next floor leader so that the party can "move vigorously forward again." His resignation offer comes amid growing calls within the party for

leader Jang Dong-hyeok to step down and take responsibility for the party's crushing defeat. Rep. Jang apologized for the "disappointing" outcome of the elections on Thursday.

- [Lee to visit Europe from June 9-18, attend G7 summit in France's Evian](#) (2026-06-05 05:57)

President Lee Jae Myung will travel to Europe this month to take part in the Group of Seven (G7) summit in France, a senior presidential official said Friday. Lee's trip will last from Tuesday to June 18 and include visits to Belgium, Italy and the Vatican, according to National Security Adviser Wi Sung-lac. Lee's attendance at the G7 summit, set for June 15-17, comes at the invitation of the grouping, Wi told a press briefing. On the first leg of the trip, Lee will visit Brussels from Tuesday to Wednesday and hold separate summit talks with the leaders of Belgium and the European Union, the security adviser said. From next Friday to Saturday, Lee will pay a state visit to Italy at the invitation of President Sergio Mattarella and hold a summit with him, followed by talks with Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni. On the third leg of the trip, Lee will visit the Vatican from June 14-15 and meet with Pope Leo XIV before attending the G7 summit from June 16-17, the presidential official noted.

- [A young Chinese' s first encounter with Korea' s election fever](#) (2026-06-05 05:57)

For many Chinese people born after the mid-1990s, Korea first arrived not as a country, but as a cultural phenomenon. My generation grew up with Korean dramas and reality shows. I watched "Full House" with my mom, discussed "We Got Married" with classmates after school and later followed "My Love from the Star," which became a cultural sensation among young Chinese viewers. Although cultural exchanges became less visible in China after the dispute over the deployment of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense, or THAAD, in Korea erupted in 2016, causing a rift between the Chinese and Korean governments, interest in Korean society never entirely disappeared. Films such as "12.12: The Day" and works by writers like Han Kang and Kim Ae-ran have continued to attract young Chinese audiences, many of whom see echoes of their own experiences in the social pressures, competition and inequalities portrayed. Perhaps that is why many young Chinese look to Korea not only for entertainment, but also for perspective. That was the Korea I thought I knew before arriving in Seoul. As a journalist particip

- [Sejong University appoints Samjong KPMG partner as advisor for international accreditation](#) (2026-06-05 05:57)

The School of Business Administration at Sejong University has appointed Hwang Jae-nam, partner at Samjong KPMG, as an advisor for its efforts to maintain accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), a leading global accreditation body for business education. The university said Thursday that Hwang' s appointment will support the school in securing AACSB reaccreditation, adding that it is preparing for the next reaccreditation review in 2028. Sejong University' s School of Business Administration was among the first private universities in South Korea to earn AACSB accreditation in 2007. Since then, it has maintained its accreditation through three consecutive reaccreditation reviews in 2012, 2017 and 2022. The university expects Hwang' s extensive industry experience and

professional expertise to contribute significantly to the school's long-term development strategy, curriculum enhancement and industry-academia collaboration efforts. It also anticipates that he will play a crucial role in helping shape educational strategies that reflect in

- [PM highlights need for probe, if necessary, to look into ballot shortage](#) (2026-06-05 05:57)

Prime Minister Kim Min-seok said Friday that a parliamentary investigation or an independent counsel probe should be used, if necessary, to determine what led to the unprecedented shortage of ballots at a dozen polling stations in Seoul in Wednesday's local elections. Kim made the remark in a social media post, saying the ballot shortage "can never be overlooked" and represents "a grave challenge" to South Korea's democracy, while promising to mobilize all possible tools to get to the bottom of the case and hold those responsible to account. "I will order the truth of this incident be revealed through all possible means and measures, including an investigation, and hold those responsible strictly accountable. If necessary, we have to make sure to uncover the truth and improve the system even through a parliamentary investigation or a special prosecutor probe."

- [Election chief to apologize over local election ballot shortages](#) (2026-06-05 05:57)

National Election Commission Chairman Roh Tae-ak is set to issue a public apology Friday afternoon for ballot shortages during Wednesday's local elections, amid sharp criticism and a police investigation into the nation's top election body. On Election Day, 14 polling stations in Seoul ran out of ballot papers, forcing hundreds of voters to wait for hours past the 6 p.m. ballot closing time. A civic group filed a police complaint to investigate Roh over allegations, including dereliction of duty, with the case assigned to the Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency. He has also been pressured to resign to take responsibility.

- [Korean lacquerware masters showcased in Japan exhibition](#) (2026-06-05 05:57)

For more than a century, the defining characteristic of "najeonchilgi" — Korea's traditional mother-of-pearl lacquerware — has been its ability to capture light. Thinly sliced, iridescent shells are inlaid into dark lacquer, creating intricate landscapes and geometric patterns that shimmer with a quiet, fractured glow. Now, this meticulously demanding craft is stepping into the spotlight in Japan, a neighbor with its own deeply rooted lacquer traditions, in a major exhibition exploring the shared history and modern evolution of the art form. The Seoul Museum of Craft Art said Friday that its traveling exhibition, "The Design Room of Master Najeon Artisans," opened Thursday at the Korean Cultural Center in Tokyo. Running through Aug. 8 before moving to Osaka, the showcase features 110 objects, including finished masterpieces and, crucially, the rare design blueprints that guided the artisans' hands. By pairing original ink drawings with the completed lacquerware, the exhibition offers a rare glimpse into the intellectual labor behind the craft. It features seminal 20th-century

- [University of Seoul holds urban science exhibition to showcase students' graduation projects](#) (2026-06-05 05:57)

The University of Seoul is holding the 40th Urban Science Joint Exhibition, showcasing students' graduation projects at the Centennial Memorial Hall on its campus in northeastern Seoul. The school said Monday that the exhibition, which kicked off on May 29 for an 11-day run, is a signature annual event of the university's College of Urban Science. It is the only exhibition of its kind in Korea, where students from diverse urban science disciplines come together to present their graduation projects. The university has held the interdisciplinary exhibition for four decades, providing a platform for academic exchange and collaboration in the field of urban science. Participants include students from various departments of architecture, architectural engineering, landscape architecture, urban planning and design, transportation engineering and geoinformatics. Students majoring in environmental engineering joined the event for the first time this year. Their addition expands the exhibition's interdisciplinary reach, enabling a broader exploration of challenges confronting modern cities

- [Kookmin University expanding design collaboration with University of Nebraska-Lincoln](#) (2026-06-05 05:57)

The College of Design at Kookmin University signed a letter of intent with the Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to expand student and faculty exchanges and strengthen academic collaboration. Kookmin University said Tuesday that the letter was signed by Son Young-mo, dean of the College of Design, and Andy Belser, dean of the Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts, at the university's campus in northern Seoul on May 20. The signing took place during an international workshop titled "Ping Pong: In-between Conversations," which was jointly hosted by the two colleges at Kookmin University's campus from May 20-21. In welcoming remarks, Son and Belser underscored the importance of international cooperation in art and design education. They expressed hope that the workshop would provide students with an opportunity to discover new forms of creative expression while engaging with different cultures and artistic perspectives. Under the agreement, the two institutions plan to broaden international cooperation in the fields of grap

- [Lee calls for joint efforts to fight climate change on World Environment Day](#) (2026-06-05 05:57)

President Lee Jae Myung on Friday called for joint efforts to fight climate change, marking World Environment Day. In a message posted on his X account, the president urged people to "join hands in carrying out everyday climate action" to help build a sustainable country, referring to a namesake public campaign to be launched by the environment ministry. The ministry was scheduled to launch the Climate Action campaign later in the day, promoting measures, such as reducing carbon emission, using public transportation and cutting plastic use, to help tackle climate change and protect the environment. At the scheduled launch of the campaign, the whole of society, including religious and industrial sectors, as well as civil society and the government, will come together to commit themselves to climate action, Lee noted. "Reducing

the use of disposable items, turning off lights when they are not in use, walking short distances, using public transportation and carrying (reusable) shopping bags may seem trivial, but they can become a powerful force when practiced collectively," the president wr

- [Korea to hold Memorial Day ceremony](#) (2026-06-05 05:57)

Korea will hold its annual Memorial Day ceremony this week to commemorate the sacrifices made by fallen soldiers and public servants in service to the nation, the veterans ministry said Friday. The ceremony, marking June 6 Memorial Day, will be held Saturday at Seoul National Cemetery, attended by some 3,000 people, including the bereaved families of Korean War veterans and those of national merit, according to the ministry. Notably, the participants will include the bereaved families of two Army soldiers who died in a military helicopter training accident in February, it said. The ceremony will begin with a silent tribute at 10 a.m. Four people, including those who died or became disabled in the line of duty, will be presented with presidential certificates recognizing national merit.

- [Police secure ballot boxes from Seoul polling station after dispersing protesters](#) (2026-06-05 05:57)

Police on Friday secured remaining ballot boxes at a polling station in southern Seoul, two days after protesters gathered to prevent election officials from removing them in protest of a shortage of ballots during the June 3 local elections. Police officials broke through a crowd of protesters to remove the two ballot boxes at the polling station in Jamsil, Songpa Ward, after deploying around 1,000 officers to the scene earlier in the day to break up the rally. The boxes, said to contain around 2,000 ballots, were immediately transported for vote counting. The polling station was one of over a dozen locations in Seoul that experienced ballot shortages Wednesday, prompting the temporary suspension of voting at the affected stations. Angry protesters gathered at the Jamsil polling station, accusing the election watchdog of having committed election fraud and blocking election officials from removing the ballot boxes. The standoff had prevented the National Election Commission from completing vote counting and officially declaring election winners in the affected areas. A group of protesters

- [Police begin dispersing protesters at Seoul polling station](#) (2026-06-04 23:57)

Police on Friday began dispersing protesters at a polling station in southern Seoul after hundreds gathered earlier this week to protest a shortage of ballots during the June 3 local elections, blocking election officials from removing ballot boxes. More than 10 mobile police units were deployed around the No. 2 polling station in Jamsil, Songpa Ward, at around 7:30 a.m., with reports of physical clashes. A police official notified the protesters they had been asked to cooperate in removing remaining ballot boxes at the polling station, adding those who hurt election officials or damaged election equipment or facilities could be punished under the election law. The polling station was one of over a dozen locations in Seoul that experienced ballot shortages Wednesday, prompting the temporary suspension of voting. Angry protesters gathered at the polling station, accusing the election watchdog of having committed election

fraud. Two ballot boxes, containing around 2,000 ballots, are said to remain at the pollingstation, preventing the National Election Commission from completing vote coun

- [Korean hairstylists face exploitation, abuse due to legal loopholes](#) (2026-06-04 17:57)

Kwon Soo-hang, a 33-year-old hairstylist in Daegu who asked to be identified by a pseudonym, showed his hands, their skin damaged and peeling. “My skin barrier broke down from repeated exposure to perm solution, and it became difficult even to bend my fingers,” he said. In November 2022, Kwon began working at a major hair salon franchise with hundreds of locations nationwide. At first, it seemed like the breakthrough he had waited for over a decade-long career, one that began at 18 with sweeping salon floors. But the job soon turned into something else: long hours, workplace abuse and little legal protection. Kwon said the problem began with the freelance contract he signed with the franchise salon. Under that contract, he said, he was made to work from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. or from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., six days a week. Weekends were included because they were the busiest days for customers. On average, he handled 12 to 13 customers a day and worked about 60 to 66 hours a week. Yet because he was classified as a freelancer, he said, he was not paid overtime or extra compensation for workin

- [Air conditioners for prisoners? Korea's \\$780,000 plan sparks debate](#) (2026-06-04 12:02)

The Ministry of Justice on Tuesday sought to defuse criticism over a 1.2 billion won (\$784,616) plan to install air conditioning in prisons, clarifying the equipment will cool corridors, not inmates' cells. The ministry framed the installation as a minimal measure to protect vulnerable inmates and correctional officers from extreme heat, while online critics condemned the taxpayer-funded project as an unfair convenience for criminals. The Justice Ministry said the equipment will be installed in the corridors, not inside the cells, acting as an indirect cooling method to mitigate temperature increases throughout the prison. "The system will help improve the working environment for both inmates and correctional officers," the ministry said in a statement. The installation prioritizes corridors housing older inmates and those with disabilities or other medical issues. Some women's housing units were also included after assessing overcrowding, physical vulnerabilities and detention conditions. "To respond to heatwaves and prevent heat-related illnesses, we have continuously promoted measures

- [PPP floor leader calls for parliamentary probe into shortage of ballots in local elections](#) (2026-06-04 12:02)

The floor leader of the main opposition People Power Party (PPP) on Thursday called for a parliamentary investigation into an unprecedented shortage of ballot papers in this week's local elections. Rep. Song Eon-seog made the remarks during an emergency general meeting of PPP lawmakers at the National Assembly, after the shortage at more than a dozen polling stations in Seoul on Wednesday prompted the temporary suspension of voting. Some voters left without casting their ballots after a long wait. The incident sparked public outrage, with angry protesters blocking the entrance to one of the polling stations to prevent election officials from removing

the ballot boxes. "This is exactly the kind of case that requires a special counsel probe," Rep. Song said, calling for the parliamentary probe. After the controversy surfaced Wednesday night, the PPP had initially demanded the National Election Commission (NEC) immediately suspend vote counting and hold a revote. PPP leader Jang Dong-hyeok and party officials visited the NEC on Wednesday to file an official complaint. The ruling Democratic Pa

- [Korean, US Marine chiefs discuss expanding military cooperation, joint drills](#) (2026-06-04 12:02)

The chiefs of the Korean and U.S. Marine Corps have discussed ways to expand military cooperation and joint drills in a bid to strengthen their combined defense readiness posture, officials said Thursday. Lt. Gen. Ju Il-suk held talks with his U.S. counterpart, Gen. Eric M. Smith, at the Pentagon, near Washington, on Tuesday (local time), according to Korea's Marine Corps. The two sides shared the understanding that the allies' Marines will make efforts to bolster a combined defense posture even after the U.S. transfer of wartime operational control (OPCON) to Seoul. Smith underscored the role of the Marine Corps in forming a "strong and lasting" alliance, and voiced hope to continue their joint drills and personnel exchanges to contribute to the security on the Korean Peninsula. Meanwhile, Ju also visited a Korean War veterans memorial, the Arlington National Cemetery and the Korean War memorial commemorating the Changjin Reservoir Battle to pay respects to U.S. soldiers who fought in the 1950-53 Korean War. The visit, scheduled from June 1-7, comes at the invitation of the U.S. Marine C

- [Progressives sweep education superintendent races](#) (2026-06-04 12:02)

Progressive candidates dominated the education superintendent races, which were part of Wednesday's local elections, tilting the balance of power among the country's education chiefs in their favor. In Seoul, incumbent superintendent Jung Geun-sik was reelected in a crowded race among eight candidates, along with other progressive incumbents in Incheon and Busan. Busan winner Kim Seok-jun secured a fourth consecutive term, claiming a record tenure in the country. Gyeonggi Province saw progressive candidate Ahn Min-seok swoop in to take office. Progressives now hold 10 of 16 superintendent positions for the next four years. Conservatives won races in six constituencies including conservative strongholds Daegu, North and South Gyeongsang Provinces, as well as Sejong, Daejeon and North Chungcheong. Daegu winner Kang Eun-hee has become the city's first female superintendent, clinching her third consecutive term. Sejong winner Kang Mi-ae also became the city's first female education chief. The overall outcome has shifted the country's demography of education chiefs toward progressives,

- [Seoul Mayor Oh defies exit poll to win reelection](#) (2026-06-04 12:02)

In a stunning political turnaround, incumbent Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon secured his reelection in Wednesday's vote, overcoming an early exit poll projection that had forecast a loss to his liberal rival Chong Won-o. According to the National Election Commission (NEC) Thursday, as of 3 p.m., with 99.54 percent of the votes counted, Oh of the main opposition People Power Party (PPP)

obtained 49.15 percent of the vote, defeating Chong of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK), who garnered 48.13 percent. The formal announcement of the winner has not been made. This came after an exit poll for Wednesday's local elections released jointly by major broadcasters KBS, MBC and SBS put Chong at 51.4 percent and Oh at 46 percent. During the initial stages of the count, Chong had maintained a comfortable lead. But by around 7:20 a.m. Thursday, some 13 hours after counting started, Oh had steadily erased the deficit to clinch a dramatic come-from-behind win. "This election is a victory for common sense," Oh said at his campaign office. "It is a victory for young people who, even as they des

- [DPK reclaims Busan after 8 years, ending conservative rule](#) (2026-06-04 12:02)

Chun Jae-soo of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) won the Busan mayoral race in the June 3 local elections, as the party saw victories across most regions nationwide, reflecting voter support for the Lee Jae Myung administration. Chun secured 50.52 percent of the vote, compared with 47.9 percent for incumbent Busan Mayor Park Heong-joon of the main opposition People Power Party (PPP). Chun's victory marks the DPK's return to power in Busan, a conservative stronghold, for the first time in eight years. In his victory speech, Chun pledged to honor voters' call for change and work tirelessly on their behalf. "I will become the mayor that citizens want. I will prove myself through achievements and results, not words," he said. Chun also extended thanks to the PPP contender, saying, "I would like to tell candidate Park Heong-joon, who competed with me for Busan's future, that he worked very hard." A former three-term lawmaker and former minister of oceans and fisheries, Chun made his first bid for the Busan mayorship in this year's local elections. Throughout the campaign, he pr

- [Lee says will humbly accept public sentiment reflected in local election results](#) (2026-06-04 05:57)

President Lee Jae Myung said Thursday he would "humbly" accept the public sentiment reflected in the results of the recent local elections, pledging to cooperate actively with newly elected local governments regardless of political affiliation. Lee made the remarks during a meeting with senior aides at Cheong Wa Dae, a day after local elections and parliamentary by-elections in which his ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) won the majority of the seats up for grabs. The DPK, however, failed to secure the key Seoul mayoralty, while capturing the mayoralty of Busan, a conservative stronghold.

- [Investigators question Shincheonji sect leader over suspicious ties to opposition party](#) (2026-06-04 05:57)

Investigators on Thursday questioned the founder of the Shincheonji Church of Jesus, a nonmainstream religious sect, over suspicions he forced church members to join the main opposition People Power Party (PPP) ahead of elections in 2021 and 2024. Lee Man-hee appeared at the office of a prosecution-police task force to undergo questioning for the first time over allegations of violating the Political Parties Act. The task force is charged with investigating allegedly corrupt ties between political and religious groups, and has secured lists

of names of church followers and PPP members through raids on their respective headquarters since January. Lee did not answer questions from reporters as he entered the office. He is suspected of forcing church followers to join the PPP as dues-paying members with the intention of swaying the outcome of the presidential primary in 2021 and the general election primaries in 2024. The task force believes more than 50,000 followers joined the party as a result between 2021 and 2023. Investigators are expected to focus on whether the forced party membership

- [Gov't to create \\$1.3 bil. worth of public sector demand for drones](#) (2026-06-04 05:57)

The government will create 2 trillion won (\$1.3 billion) worth of public sector demand for drones over the next five years to help make the local drone industry globally competitive, officials said Thursday. The goal was a key part of the "K-Drone Dominance" strategy finalized at a meeting of a civilian-government task force formed in March to come up with measures to foster the local drone industry, comprising mostly small firms. The strategy focuses on ensuring stable demand so that drone firms can make large-scale investments. "The solution is to muster all government capabilities to explosively create about 2 trillion won worth of public sector demand and change the paradigm of the Republic of Korea's drone industry," the government said in a release. Currently, about 600 drone manufacturing firms are in operation in Korea, but most of them are micro-businesses with annual sales of less than 170 million won (\$111,000) and heavily rely on imports from China for key parts as they lack core technologies. The government also announced 10 key tasks aimed at growing the industry, including

- [Seoul expands safety net for small shops fighting inflation](#) (2026-06-04 05:57)

Inside a modest neighborhood diner in central Seoul, the price of a bowl of kimchi stew has held steady despite a bruising wave of inflation that has driven up the cost of everything from cabbage to utility bills. The restaurant is one of more than 2,000 businesses designated by the city government as "Good Price" shops — a decades-old program that is suddenly becoming a critical tool in the city's battle against the soaring cost of living. The Seoul Metropolitan Government said Thursday that it is launching a major push to expand this network, which grew to 2,025 participating storefronts by the end of May this year. Co-managed by the Ministry of the Interior and Safety, the initiative targets everyday service providers — including neighborhood diners, barbershops, hair salons and laundromats — that voluntarily keep their prices below the local market average. To shield these businesses from the economic headwinds that usually punish low-margin operators, the city is offering a suite of tailored subsidies and operational safety nets. Each designated shop receives up to 830,000

- [Korea wins \\$2.8 bil. Louisiana FLNG vessel contract](#) (2026-06-04 05:57)

A Korean public-private consortium has secured a \$2.8 billion contract to build a massive floating liquefied natural gas (LNG) vessel for an export project off the coast of Louisiana, officials said Thursday, a deal intended to anchor Korea's dominance in high-tech shipbuilding while shielding its economy from volatile global energy supply chains. The contract, awarded to

Samsung Heavy Industries on Monday by Delfin Midstream, was structured through a novel financing arrangement. Korean state-backed financial institutions co-invested directly in a fund managed by Global Infrastructure Partners, an affiliate of the asset management giant BlackRock that is leading the Louisiana project. The \$5 billion Delfin venture, which is also backed by the Japanese shipping firm Mitsui O.S.K. Lines and commodity trader Vitol, reached a final investment decision earlier this week. The project's first vessel is scheduled to begin production in 2030, converting American natural gas into liquid form for export. Floating liquefied natural gas (FLNG) vessels function as mobile, offshore factories. Equi

- [Police identify over 4,000 election law suspects in local election crackdown](#) (2026-06-04 05:57)

Police have identified more than 4,000 people suspected of violating the election law since February in connection with the June 3 local elections, officials said Thursday. A total of 2,549 election law violation cases, involving 4,191 people, were detected across the nation since Feb. 3 when preliminary candidate registrations for the local elections began, according to the National Office of Investigation. Of the total suspects, 265 have been sent to the prosecution, while 3,394 were undergoing investigation. Police decided to drop cases for the remaining 532. By the type of crime, the spread of false information topped the list with 1,365 suspects, accounting 32.5 percent of the total, followed by acceptance of money or valuables at 25 percent and damage to campaign banners or posters at 7.4 percent. Police also identified 210 suspects who committed violence against candidates or campaign workers, placing six of them under arrest. Police said they plan to operate an intensive investigation period into election-related cases through Oct. 2, while strengthening monitoring of post-electio

- [Court denies suspension of exit ban against US scholar under probe for defaming Lee](#) (2026-06-04 05:57)

A Seoul court on Thursday rejected a request for a suspension of an exit ban against Morse Tan, a Korean American scholar accused of defaming President Lee Jae Myung, legal sources said. The Seoul Administrative Court rejected Tan's request to suspend the exit ban, which the justice ministry imposed earlier this week, saying that a potential suspension could have a serious impact on the public interest, according to the sources. Tan is suspected of having defamed Lee by spreading false information about him, claiming during a Washington event last year that Lee had been involved in a murder case during his youth, and that he was sent to a juvenile detention center. The U.S. scholar, affiliated with the U.S.-based Liberty University, is also known for making claims of election fraud in Korea, including his earlier argument that the last presidential election here was rigged. The police investigation into Tan over the defamation allegations had been complicated as he had been in the United States. But he entered Korea last Thursday ahead of the June 3 local elections, saying he would monit

- [Defense ministry cites OPCON transfer drive as key achievement marking Lee gov't's 1st year](#) (2026-06-04 05:57)

The defense ministry on Thursday cited its consistent push for retaking wartime operational control (OPCON) from Washington as a key policy achievement under the President Lee Jae Myung administration in its first year in office. The ministry said Korea is seeking the OPCON transfer in a "swift" manner at a time when the allies are currently at the second stage of verifying "full operational capability (FOC)" this year. "(The ministry) is pushing for the restoration of wartime operational control in a systematic, stable and consistent manner to establish a combined defense posture led by the Korean military," it said in a release. The allies are in the process of verifying the FOC—the second part of a three-phase program aimed at vetting Seoul's capabilities to lead the allies' combined forces. The program consists of three stages of assessment for the initial operational capability (IOC), the FOC and full mission capability. The IOC phase was completed in 2019. The government also seeks to draw up a roadmap to expedite the OPCON transfer in coordination with Washington ahead of their a

- [Progressives take over education superintendent election](#) (2026-06-04 05:57)

Progressive candidates dominated the education superintendent races, which were part of Wednesday's local elections, tilting the balance of power among the country's education chiefs in their favor. In Seoul, incumbent superintendent Jung Geun-sik secured his office again in a crowded race among eight, along with other progressive incumbents in Incheon and Busan. Busan winner Kim Seok-jun has claimed his fourth term in a row, slating a record tenure in the country. Gyeonggi Province saw progressive candidate Ahn Min-seok swoop in to take the office. Progressives now hold 10 of 16 superintendent positions for the next four years. Conservatives won races in six constituencies including their friendly regions Daegu, North and South Gyengsang Provinces as well as Sejong, Daejeon and North Chungcheong. Daegu winner Kang Eun-hee has become the city's first female superintendent with the third term in a row. Sejong winner Kang Mi-ae has become the city's first female education chief. The outcome in overall has tilted the country's demography of education chiefs toward progressives, chang

- [Oh Se-hoon defies exit poll to retain Seoul mayor's office in razor-thin race](#) (2026-06-04 05:57)

In a stunning political turnaround, incumbent Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon has secured a victory in Wednesday's local elections, overcoming an early exit poll projection that had forecast a loss to his liberal rival Chong Won-o. According to the National Election Commission Thursday, as of 9:30 a.m., with 97.7 percent of the votes counted, Oh of the conservative People Power Party obtained 48.94 percent of the vote, defeating Chong of the governing Democratic Party of Korea, who garnered 48.34 percent. Chong had maintained a comfortable lead during the initial stages of the count. But by 7:20 a.m., roughly 13 hours after the beginning of the counting, Oh steadily erased the deficit to complete a dramatic come-from-behind win. Speaking to reporters at 9:30 a.m., Chong offered his congratulations to Oh on his election victory, saying he would humbly and solemnly accept the choice of Seoul citizens. The joint exit poll, conducted by major broadcasters KBS, MBC and SBS, put Chong at 51.4 percent and Oh at 46 percent. With this hard-fought win, Oh is expected to solidify his position as one of the

- [PM calls for expanding communication with newly elected heads of local governments](#)  
(2026-06-04 05:57)

Prime Minister Kim Min-seok asked the government Thursday to expand communication and work closely with newly elected heads of local governments in order to deliver policy promises and produce tangible results after the ruling Democratic Party of Korea won a resounding victory in Wednesday's elections. Kim made the remark during an economic policy meeting as the DPK was projected to win as many as 12 of the 16 metropolitan mayoral and gubernatorial posts at stake in the local elections, according to ballot counts by the National Election Commission (NEC). "Nationwide local elections took place yesterday, and new officials have been elected to lead local governments for the next four years," Kim said. "We need to expand communication with local governments and check on key projects so that the government's national agenda, regional pledges and major pending issues of local governments can create synergy with one another." Kim said it is time to put policy promises into action, cooperate with local governments and produce tangible outcomes.

- [Presidential chief of staff, 2 incumbent ministers being considered as next PM: sources](#)  
(2026-06-04 05:57)

President Lee Jae Myung was in the final stage of selecting a new prime minister, with presidential chief of staff Kang Hoon-sik and two incumbent ministers currently under consideration, sources said Thursday. Lee is highly likely to announce his nominee as soon as this week, who will replace current Prime Minister Kim Min-seok, if appointed, according to the sources. Kim is expected to tender his resignation soon, the ruling bloc sources told Yonhap News Agency, as he may run for the leadership of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) at its convention in August or September. Along with the presidential chief of staff, Justice Minister Jung Sung-ho and Han Seong-sook, minister of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), were currently being considered for the post of prime minister, according to the sources. Serving as Lee's chief of staff since his inauguration a year earlier, Kang has also been working as his special envoy for strategic economic cooperation and is well acquainted with the president's diplomatic and economic policies. Justice Minister Jung, a five-term lawmaker,

- [Ex-Minister Cho Kuk's political future uncertain after failed parliamentary comeback](#)  
(2026-06-04 05:57)

Cho Kuk, leader of the minor liberal Rebuilding Korea Party (RKP), failed in his bid to return to parliament in the by-election held alongside Wednesday's local elections, dealing a heavy blow to his political career. According to the National Election Commission Thursday, main opposition People Power Party (PPP) candidate Yoo Ui-dong won the by-election for the Pyeongtaek-B constituency in Gyeonggi Province with 34.83 percent of the vote. Ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) candidate Kim Yong-nam came in second with 28.77 percent, while Cho came third with 27.24 percent. Cho conceded defeat at his campaign office around 3 a.m. after Yoo's victory became certain. "The top priority of this election was to realize a 'zero PPP' outcome. While meaningful progress was made nationwide, we failed to fulfill that

mandate in Pyeongtaek. The responsibility lies entirely with me," Cho told reporters. The defeat marked a setback in Cho's attempt to revive his political career after a jail term over a corruption scandal cost him his parliamentary seat in December 2024. Political analysts said Cho's

- [DPK takes 17 of Seoul's 25 districts, reversing PPP majority](#) (2026-06-04 05:57)

The Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) was expected to win 17 of Seoul's 25 districts, reversing the People Power Party's (PPP) majority sweep in the 2022 local elections. On Thursday, DPK candidates had secured 17 districts, including Jongno and Dongdaemun. The PPP had won eight, including Yongsan and Gangnam. Songpa District, where multiple polling stations ran short of ballots on Wednesday, was still counting as of Thursday morning, but the PPP candidate was expected to win. The outcome marks a reversal of the 2022 local elections, when the PPP won 17 districts to the DPK's eight. Analysts partly attributed the results to voters prioritizing government stability over checking a new administration, as the previous vote was held just 22 days after former President Yoon Suk Yeol took office. In 2018, the DPK swept all but Seocho District in the district chief races, even prevailing in traditionally conservative Gangnam. The then-ruling party rode a favorable political climate partly driven by inter-Korean and U.S.-North Korea summit diplomacy. 2 women elected Two of the 25 elected district ch

- [Han stages comeback with Busan parliamentary by-election victory](#) (2026-06-04 05:57)

Independent candidate Han Dong-hoon won a closely watched parliamentary by-election in Busan's Buk-A constituency, Thursday, capping a dramatic political comeback months after being expelled from the People Power Party (PPP) and boosting his standing within the conservative bloc. The race, one of the most fiercely contested of the 14 by-elections held alongside the June 3 local elections, ended with a razor-thin margin. Han won 42.96 percent of the vote, or 35,056 ballots, edging out ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) candidate Ha Jung-woo, who garnered 41.26 percent, by just 1,382 votes. PPP candidate and former two-term lawmaker Park Min-shik finished third with 15.76 percent. Han hailed the result as a "historic victory" after he was projected to win around 2 a.m. during the vote count. He said his success as an independent reflected the public's desire to rebuild the conservative movement and serve as a check on the Lee Jae Myung administration. "I just happened to be standing before that great wave of public sentiment. I will follow the will of the people and the spirit of the

- [Ballot shortages damage public trust in June 3 local elections](#) (2026-06-04 00:02)

Public trust in the June 3 local elections took a hit after ballot shortages at polling stations in southern Seoul prompted hundreds of citizens to take to the streets in protest. Twelve polling stations across three Seoul districts ran out of ballots Wednesday afternoon, delaying voting or turning away some citizens. Hundreds gathered in front of a polling station in Jamsil, Songpa District, to block the collection of ballot boxes, with some claiming the incident as an "election fraud." The move came after the National Election Commission (NEC) announced the mishandling of the voting process and apologized, Wednesday evening. However, the main

opposition People Power Party (PPP) and several of its candidates including Seoul mayoral candidate Oh Se-hoon called for a halt to the vote counting until the situation is fully clarified. PPP leader Jang Dong-hyeok also claimed that the country should conduct the reelection and pledged to file a lawsuit to invalidate the election. An estimated 2,000 ballots were trapped inside two ballot boxes at the disputed Songpa station after protesters blo

- [Ex-Justice Minister Cho Kuk loses parliamentary by-election bid](#) (2026-06-04 00:02)

Cho Kuk, leader of the Rebuilding Korea Party (RKP), failed in his bid to return to parliament in the by-election held alongside Wednesday's local elections, dealing a heavy blow to his political career. According to the National Election Commission, main opposition People Power Party (PPP) candidate Yoo Ui-dong won the by-election for the Pyeongtaek-B constituency in Gyeonggi Province with 34.83 percent of the vote, based on vote-counting results as of 8:30 a.m. Thursday. Ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) candidate Kim Yong-nam came in second with 28.77 percent, while Cho came third with 27.24 percent. Cho conceded defeat at his campaign office around 3 a.m. after Yoo's victory became certain. "The top priority of this election was to realize a 'zero PPP' outcome. While meaningful progress was made nationwide, we failed to fulfill that mandate in Pyeongtaek. The responsibility lies entirely with me," Cho told reporters. The defeat marked a setback in Cho's attempt to revive his political career after losing his parliamentary seat in December 2024. Cho entered the National Assembly as

- [Election watchdog says ballot shortage not cause for postponing election](#) (2026-06-04 00:02)

The election watchdog said Thursday a shortage of ballots in parts of Seoul during the June 3 local elections does not constitute grounds for postponing the election or conducting a revote under the election law. The National Election Commission (NEC) made the remarks after holding an emergency meeting early Thursday, as a shortage of ballots at some polling stations in Seoul, mostly from Songpa Ward, prompted the temporary suspension of voting in the local elections. The main opposition People Power Party (PPP) strongly protested the incident, calling for halting vote counting and holding a reelection. The NEC determined the shortage did not fall under the causes for postponing an election or carrying out a reelection under the Public Official Election Act, adding that it would be impossible to halt vote counting.

- [DPK takes 18 of Seoul's 25 districts, reversing PPP majority](#) (2026-06-04 00:02)

The Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) was expected to win 18 of Seoul's 25 districts, reversing the People Power Party's (PPP) majority sweep in the 2022 local elections. By 7 a.m. Thursday, with most of Seoul's districts having completed counting or surpassed 90 percent of their vote count, DPK candidates had secured or were leading in 18 races, including Jongno and Dongdaemun districts. The PPP had won or was leading in seven, including Yongsan and Gangnam districts. Songpa District, where multiple polling stations ran short of ballots on Wednesday, was still counting as of Thursday morning, but the PPP candidate was expected to win. The outcome marks a reversal of the 2022 local elections, when the PPP won 17 districts to

the DPK's eight. Analysts partly attributed the result to voters prioritizing government stability over checking the new administration, as that vote was held just 22 days after former President Yoon Suk Yeol took office. In 2018, the DPK swept all but Seocho District in the district chief races, even prevailing in traditionally conservative Gangnam. The then-ruling pa

- [Seoul mayoral race remains too close to call](#) (2026-06-04 00:02)

The Seoul mayoral race in Wednesday's local elections still remains too close to call, with the winner uncertain more than 12 hours after polls closed Wednesday. As of 6:20 a.m. Thursday, Chong Won-o of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) secured 48.94 percent of the vote, compared with 48.34 percent for incumbent Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon of the main opposition People Power Party (PPP), who was seeking reelection. However, the race later swung in Oh's favor, with the incumbent taking a slim lead of 48.78 percent to Chong's 48.5 percent as of 8:20 a.m. The DPK candidate had been projected to win, leading the PPP contender 51.4 percent to 46 percent in a joint exit poll released by broadcasters KBS, MBC and SBS after polls ended at 6 p.m. Wednesday. The vote counting, however, has not yet been finished yet following ballot paper shortages at polling stations in some southern Seoul districts. As the National Election Commission (NEC) extended the closure of voting from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Wednesday, to allow those waiting for the papers to cast ballots, people who claimed unfair and illeg

- [DPK dominates local elections, wins 12 of 16 mayoral, provincial races](#) (2026-06-04 00:02)

The ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) won 12 out of the country's 16 mayor and provincial governor races in Wednesday's local elections, according to the National Election Commission (NEC) Thursday. The main opposition People Power Party (PPP) won two races in Daegu and North Gyeongsang Province. Vote counting for two regions, Seoul and South Gyeongsang Province, has not finished as of 6:20 a.m. The NEC said it faced challenges counting in Seoul as a ballot shortage at several polling stations in Seoul's Songpa and Gangnam districts caused voting and vote-counting delays. In Busan, DPK candidate Chun Jae-soo defeated incumbent Mayor Park Heong-joon of the PPP, while PPP candidate Choo Kyung-ho won the Daegu mayoral race against DPK's Kim Boo-kyum. The DPK also performed strongly in races for heads of lower-tier local governments. Of the country's 227 mayoral, county and district chief post, the party won 120, compared with 94 for the PPP. The Rebuilding Korea Party won two posts, while independents captured 11. In Seoul's district chief elections, the DPK won 21 of the capi

- [Chun Jae-soo wins Busan mayorship as DPK retakes conservative stronghold after 8 years](#) (2026-06-04 00:02)

Chun Jae-soo of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) won the Busan mayoral race in the local elections Wednesday, riding a wave of the party's sweeping nationwide victory that reflected voters' support for the Lee Jae Myung administration. Chun secured 50.56 percent of the vote, compared with 47.87 percent for incumbent Busan Mayor Park Heong-joon of the main opposition People Power Party (PPP). Chun's victory marks the DPK's return to power in

Busan, a conservative stronghold, for the first time in eight years. In his victory speech, Chun pledged to honor voters' call for change and work tirelessly on their behalf. "I will humbly accept the choice made by citizens for change and devote myself to working hard," he said. "I will become the mayor that citizens want. I will prove myself through achievements and results, not words." Chun also extended thanks to the PPP contender. "I would like to tell candidate Park Heong-joon, who competed with me for Busan's future, that he worked very hard." A three-term lawmaker and former minister of oceans and fisheries, Chun made his f

- [Choo Kyung-ho elected Daegu mayor, retains conservative stronghold](#) (2026-06-04 00:02)

Choo Kyung-ho of the main opposition People Power Party (PPP) was elected mayor of Daegu in the local elections, Wednesday, retaining the conservative stronghold where a rare liberal victory had increasingly appeared within reach. Choo garnered 53.92 percent of the vote against Kim Boo-kyum of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK), who received 45.05 percent. The PPP candidate's victory came after he narrowly led his DPK rival, 49.9 percent to 49.1 percent, in a joint exit poll conducted by broadcasters KBS, MBC and SBS. Multiple polls leading up to the election also showed the two contestants in a tight race. "I would like to thank the citizens of Daegu for their tremendous support and choice," Choo said. "I will never forget the trust voters have placed in me, and I will repay it with tangible results." He also said he will focus on unity for Daegu's development. "I will respect not only those who supported me but also those who chose another candidate." "I will work to bring everyone together and devote all my efforts solely to the development of Daegu," he added. He i

- [Election watchdog rejects calls for revote over Seoul ballot shortages](#) (2026-06-04 00:02)

The National Election Commission (NEC) on Thursday rejected calls for a revote over ballot shortages at several Seoul polling stations during Wednesday's local elections, saying the incident does not constitute legal grounds for postponing the election or holding a new vote. In a statement, the commission apologized for the disruption caused by the shortages but said vote counting could not be suspended and ballots cast at the affected polling stations must be included in the final tally. "The ballot shortages that occurred at some polling stations do not constitute grounds for postponing the election or conducting a reelection under the Public Official Election Act," the commission said. The statement came after the People Power Party called for a revote and demanded a halt to vote counting following ballot shortages at 14 polling stations in Seoul on Wednesday. The commission acknowledged responsibility for the incident and pledged to investigate its cause after vote counting is completed. "We deeply regret causing disappointment and concern to voters who visited polling stations to p

- [Lee gains stronger mandate as ruling party sweeps local elections](#) (2026-06-04 00:02)

President Lee Jae Myung received a significant boost to his agenda as the ruling Democratic Party's (DP) landslide victory in Wednesday's local elections signaled strong support for his running of state affairs ahead of the start of his second year in office. With the vote count still under way, the DP was certain to win 10 of the 16 key mayoral and gubernatorial races, while

the main opposition People Power Party (PPP) was certain to win one. Of the five races that were too close to call, the DP was projected to win three, while the PPP was projected to win two. The results, if confirmed, will shift the political center of gravity in local governments back to the liberals four years after they were defeated 12-5 during the administration of former conservative President Yoon Suk Yeol. In the National Assembly by-elections held alongside the local elections, the DP was also projected to sweep at least 9 out of 14 seats up for grabs, maintaining its dominance in the 300-member parliament where it already holds a majority. DP leader and campaign chief Rep. Jung Chung-rae hailed the results

- [Han stages comeback with Busan parliamentary by-election victory](#) (2026-06-04 00:02)

Independent candidate Han Dong-hoon won a closely watched parliamentary by-election in Busan's Buk-A constituency Thursday, capping a dramatic political comeback months after being expelled from the People Power Party (PPP) and boosting his standing within the conservative camp. According to the National Election Commission, Han won 42.96 percent of the vote, or 35,056 votes, defeating ruling Democratic Party of Korea candidate Ha Jung-woo, who received 41.26 percent. The final margin between the two candidates was just 1.7 percentage points, or 1,382 votes, confirming Han's victory. PPP candidate Park Min-sik finished third with 15.76 percent of the vote. Han hailed the result as a "historic victory" and pledged to fulfill the mandate entrusted to him by voters. The victory marks a remarkable turnaround for the former justice minister and ex-ruling party leader, who entered politics in December 2023 when he was appointed head of the People Power Party's emergency leadership committee ahead of the 2024 general election. After resigning as emergency committee chief following the party's d

- [Ruling party headed for landslide victory in local elections](#) (2026-06-03 17:57)

The ruling Democratic Party (DP) was poised for a sweeping victory in the local elections in a crushing defeat for the main opposition People Power Party (PPP), interim vote counting showed Thursday, a result expected to give President Lee Jae Myung a stronger mandate in his second year in office. The DP was projected to win as many as 14 of the 16 metropolitan mayoral and gubernatorial posts at stake, while the PPP was headed to secure only one or two key races, according to early ballot counts by the National Election Commission (NEC). Eleven out of the 16 key races were called or close to being called as of 2 a.m., with the ruling party winning 10 of the 11 races. The DP was also ahead in three of the rest of the five races where it was still too close to call. Wednesday's elections were held exactly one year after the Lee administration took office on June 4. A clear victory for the ruling party would likely solidify the government's mandate to push forward with its reform measures, while dealing a blow to the embattled PPP as it struggles to rebuild conservative support following fo

- [Turnout in local elections tentatively tallied at 61%, 2nd highest to date](#) (2026-06-03 17:57)

Turnout in the local elections was tentatively tallied at 61 percent, the election watchdog said Thursday, the highest rate since the first nationwide local elections in 1995. According to the

National Election Commission (NEC), nearly 27.25 million out of 44.64 million eligible voters hadcast their ballots in Wednesday's local elections. The final tally was still undetermined six hoursafter polls closed as a shortage of ballots at 14 voting stations in Seoul had pushed back the endof voting hours at some stations. The 61 percent turnout is less than the 68.4 percent turnout inthe 1995 elections but higher than the 60.2 percent recorded in the 2018 polls, the secondhighest prior to Wednesday's vote. In the previous local elections in 2022, the final turnout was50.9 percent.

- [Polling stations in southern Seoul run short of ballots amid surging turnout](#) (2026-06-03 11:57)

Voting at several polling stations in southern Seoul and Incheon was disrupted on Wednesday after ballot papers ran out during the June 3 local elections, prompting complaints from voters and criticism from both major parties. According to the National Election Commission (NEC), 12 polling stations across three Seoul districts ran short of ballots on Wednesday afternoon. As of 6:30 p.m., the affected stations included 10 in Songpa District, one in Gangnam District and one in Gwangjin District. Voters were left waiting past the 6 p.m. closing time. Officials issued queue numbers to manage the lines and ensure that those who remained could still cast their ballots after the deadline, though some voters left before additional papers arrived. The NEC said the shortage was caused by higher-than-expected turnout, adding that extra ballots were transported to the affected stations. A similar disruption occurred in Incheon's Yeonsu District, where two polling stations temporarily ran out of ballots around 5:30 p.m. Additional ballots were delivered, though some voters waited up to 20 minutes wh

- [Progressive candidates lead in most education superintendent races: exit poll](#) (2026-06-03 11:57)

Progressive candidates are projected to dominate Korea's education superintendent elections, leading in 11 of the 16 races surveyed, according to a joint exit poll released Wednesday by the country's three major broadcasters. The poll, conducted by KBS, MBC and SBS following voting in the nationwide education superintendent elections, suggests that progressive candidates could ultimately win as many as 13 regional education offices, depending on the outcomes of two closely contested races. In the Seoul metropolitan area, progressive candidates were projected to lead in all three jurisdictions. In Seoul, incumbent superintendent Jung Geun-sik was forecast to receive 39 percent of the vote, ahead of conservative challenger Cho Jeon-hyuk, who was projected to garner 21.2 percent. In Gyeonggi Province, progressive candidate Ahn Min-seok was projected to win 58.2 percent, compared with the 41.8 percent of conservative candidate Lim Tae-hee. In Incheon, incumbent superintendent Do Seong-hoon was expected to secure 37.1 percent, ahead of Lee Dae-hyung's 32.7 percent. Progressive candidates were a

- [Police receive 312 voting-related reports on election day](#) (2026-06-03 11:57)

Police said Wednesday they received a total of 312 voting-related reports complaining of misbehavior or inconveniences during local elections held the same day. According to the

National Police Agency, the reports were filed nationwide between 6 a.m. and 3 p.m., with votedisruptions and commotions taking up the largest number of cases at 53. Travel inconveniences followed at 14 cases, while assault accounted for three. In one case, a voter in Seoul was reported to have protested loudly while attempting to vote twice to take issue with what he described as election fraud. In another instance, a 60-something man in Seoul's southern Dongjak Ward was reported to have caused a ruckus while having his ID checked. Police said they plan to verify the details of each case and determine whether there were violations of the law.

- [Exit polls show DPK candidate leading Seoul mayoral race](#) (2026-06-03 11:57)

The ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) is leading in the Seoul mayoral race in the June 3 local elections, according to exit polls, but faces too-close-to-call contests in Busan and Daegu against candidates of the main opposition People Power Party (PPP). A sweep of all three cities would deliver a commanding mandate for the Lee Jae Myung administration, though the tight margins in Busan and Daegu mean the final outcomes could still go either way. For the Seoul mayoral race, Chong Won-o, a three-term Seongdong District head and DPK candidate, led the exit poll and is largely expected to be elected to lead the capital city with 51.4 percent of the vote, while incumbent Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon, who was seeking reelection with the PPP, is predicted to gain approximately 46 percent of the vote. Meanwhile, JTBC's forecast placed Chong further ahead at 53.5 percent to Oh's 42.9 percent. The exit poll was conducted by the Korea Election Pool, a joint forecasting committee formed by broadcasters KBS, SBS and MBC. The consortium surveyed voters at 615 polling stations nationwide and conducted

- [Choo Mi-ae poised to make history again as Korea's 1st female governor](#) (2026-06-03 11:57)

Choo Mi-ae, a ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) candidate who has repeatedly shattered gender barriers throughout her career, broke new ground again, as she was projected to secure the governorship in Gyeonggi Province in the local elections, Wednesday. If her victory is confirmed, she will be the first woman to lead a provincial or metropolitan government. Choo garnered 60.4 percent of votes against the main opposition People Power Party's (PPP) Yang Hyang-ja at 34.1 percent in a joint exit poll conducted by broadcasters KBS, MBC and SBS. The surveys had margins of error ranging from 1.7 to 4.1 percentage points, with a 95 percent confidence level. The historic provincial contest between two women drew attention throughout the country. The projected victory marks another milestone in Choo's career, which has been defined by a series of remarkable achievements for a woman across the legislative, executive and judicial branches. Among those achievements are becoming the first female judge elected to the National Assembly, the first woman to serve six terms in parliament and the first

- [Busan's Buk-A by-election shows close race between former presidential aide, ex-PPP leader](#) (2026-06-03 11:57)

Ha Jung-woo of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) and independent candidate Han Dong-hoon are locked in a neck-and-neck race in the parliamentary by-election for Busan's Buk-A constituency, according to an exit poll released 6 p.m. Wednesday by the country's three major broadcasters. In the joint exit poll conducted by KBS, MBC and SBS, Ha held a narrow lead with 42.6 percent of the vote, while Han garnered 41.6 percent, within the margin of error ranging from 1.7 to 4.1 percentage points, with a 95 percent confidence level. Park Min-shik of the main opposition People Power Party (PPP) gained 15.8 percent. The constituency emerged as one of the most closely watched battlegrounds in the parliamentary by-elections, which were held alongside the local elections, seen as a duel between Han and Ha that could play a role in shaping the country's political landscape. Ha was the inaugural senior presidential secretary for artificial intelligence (AI) and future planning. While overseeing the Lee Jae Myung administration's AI strategy, the Busan native joined the DPK's race following re

- [Local election turnout hits 58% as of 5 pm, exceeding 2022 mark](#) (2026-06-03 11:57)

The total turnout for Wednesday's local elections is tallied at 58.1 percent as of 5 p.m., the National Election Commission said. According to the election watchdog, 26 million out of 44.6 million eligible voters had cast their ballots as of 5 p.m. Wednesday. The total turnout through 6 p.m. had not been announced as of 8:30 p.m. Early voting on Friday and Saturday drew more than 10 million voters for a 23.5 percent turnout — a record high for a local election, surpassing the 20.6 percent mark set in 2022. Wednesday's turnout was 7.2 percentage points higher than the 2022 local elections, which recorded 50.9 percent. Turnout in local elections has ranged between 50 and 60 percent over the past decade. In the 2022 local elections, early voting hit a record high, raising expectations for a strong final turnout. However, the overall figure fell short, coming in roughly 10 percentage points below the previous election and marking the second-lowest participation rate in local election history. The lowest turnout was recorded in 2002, when only 48.9 percent of eligible voters cast their ballot

- [Ruling party projected to secure sweeping win in local elections](#) (2026-06-03 11:57)

The liberal ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) is projected to dominate Wednesday's local elections, with exit polls showing it leading in a majority of key races while the conservative main opposition People Power Party (PPP) trails across the nation. According to a joint exit poll, released at 6 p.m. by major broadcasters KBS, MBC and SBS, DPK candidates were leading in 11 of the nation's 16 mayoral and gubernatorial contests, while the PPP was ahead in just one. Contests in four cities and provinces — Busan, Daegu, Gangwon Province and North Jeolla Province — were too close to call as of 9 p.m. In the closely watched Seoul mayoral race, DPK candidate Chong Won-o led the race at 51.4 percent, outpacing incumbent Mayor Oh Se-hoon of the PPP, who stood at 46 percent. In Busan, the nation's second-largest city, DPK candidate Chun Jae-soo narrowly led with 50.2 percent over PPP Mayor Park Heong-joon's 48.3 percent, but the gap was within the margin of error of 1.7 percentage points to 4.1 percentage points. In Daegu, long regarded as one of the PPP's strongholds, PPP cand

- [Jeonbuk National University institute makes notable results in addressing regional issues](#) (2026-06-03 11:57)

Jeonbuk National University's Institute for Regional Development has emerged as a key regional think tank and implementation hub for addressing local challenges and fostering strategic industries, the school said Tuesday. The university set up the institute in 2023 to build a cooperation framework among government, industry, academia and research institutions as part of the government-led "Glocal University 30" project designed to support 30 selected universities located in nonmetropolitan areas. The university said the institute has created a region-specific implementation system centered on local hub research centers, including the Namwon Development Institute, the Wanju Research Institute and the Iksan Animal Healthcare Research Institute. It added that the implementation framework integrates policy research, business support, industry collaboration and strategic responses to government-led development projects. "Our university is closely connecting policy, industry and businesses so that it can serve as an implementation platform that goes beyond academic research," said Yang

- [Voter turnout hits 51.9% as of 3 pm](#) (2026-06-03 11:57)

Turnout in Wednesday's local elections reached 51.9 percent as of 3 p.m., already surpassing the final turnout of the previous local elections in 2022, the election watchdog said. The National Election Commission (NEC) said 23.16 million out of 44.64 million eligible voters had cast their ballots, exceeding the 50.9 percent final turnout recorded in the local elections four years ago. The latest turnout tally includes the 23.51 percent turnout from last week's two-day early voting period, which was also the highest on record. South Jeolla Province in the country's southwest logged the highest turnout of over 60 percent, followed by the eastern province of Gangwon recording 57.2 percent and North Jeolla Province at 56.3 percent. The southwestern city of Gwangju recorded the lowest turnout of 47.5 percent. Seoul's turnout stood at 52.7 percent. Voting will continue until 6 p.m.

- [Voters head to polls with different hopes in local elections](#) (2026-06-03 05:57)

As polling stations opened across Korea Wednesday morning, voters streamed in to cast ballots in the nationwide local elections, each carrying their own hopes and expectations for their communities and local governments. At a polling station set up inside an indoor baseball practice facility at Cheonggu Elementary School in central Seoul, residents quietly made their way through the voting process. The facility, normally used by students for batting practice, was temporarily converted into a polling station for Election Day. Among those casting ballots was Oh Eun-soon, 73, who said she came out because there was a candidate she strongly supported. "I came because there is someone I really want to see elected," she said. "I wanted to do my part." Elsewhere in Seoul, polling stations saw a steady stream of voters throughout the morning. At Jangchung Elementary School, voters lined up to wait their turn while election officials guided them through the process of casting seven separate ballots for metropolitan and local offices. Families, elderly residents and younger voters were all vi

- [Former Korean envoy to Russia stresses importance of balanced diplomacy](#) (2026-06-03 05:57)

Lee Do-hoon, former South Korean ambassador to Russia, emphasized the importance of balance in diplomacy in a lecture held last week at Kookmin University. “The essence of diplomacy lies in reconciling differing interests and finding practical common ground,” he said during the 668th Special Thursday Lecture organized by the university on its campus in northern Seoul on May 28. The school said Tuesday that in his lecture on Korea-Russia relations, Lee discussed how to view the bilateral ties amid rapidly changing global dynamics, while highlighting firsthand observation and analysis as essential tools for understanding international affairs. “International affairs cannot be viewed through a simple lens of good and evil. Therefore, we should consider the historical backgrounds and interests of individual countries,” a university official quoted Lee as saying. Lee cited the changes in Korea-Russia relations following the outbreak of the war in Ukraine as an example, underscoring the importance of balanced diplomacy and strategic judgment. He pointed out that Russia remains a major p

- [Foreign hotel bookings in Busan surge ahead of BTS concert](#) (2026-06-03 05:57)

The number of hotel reservations booked by foreign tourists in the southeastern port city of Busan rose sharply ahead of next week's concert by K-pop sensation BTS, industry sources said Wednesday. According to Hanwha Hotels & Resorts, foreigners accounted for 42 percent of the rooms booked at its Matie Osiria hotel in the port city from June 11 to 13, up sharply from 0.2 percent during the same period last year. BTS' performances in Busan will take place June 12-13. Hanwha Hotels added that the number of rooms booked by foreign tourists for all of June also increased tenfold from a year earlier. Paradise Hotel Busan, another luxury hotel in the city, said more than 90 percent of its rooms were booked during the concert period, with foreigners accounting for 70 percent of the guests. "The (BTS) Busan performances are not just concerts but a citywide tourism event," an industry official said. "As overseas fans visiting Busan for the concerts enjoy accommodation, shopping and tourism, the event is expected to have a positive impact on the regional economy."

- [Voter turnout hits 46% as of 1 pm, highest on record](#) (2026-06-03 05:57)

Turnout in Wednesday's local elections reached 46 percent as of 1 p.m., the highest ever recorded for local elections at that hour, the election watchdog said. The National Election Commission (NEC) said 20.51 million out of 44.64 million eligible voters had cast their ballots, the highest turnout at the same hour since the 1998 local elections. The latest turnout tally includes the 23.51 percent turnout from last week's two-day early voting, which was also the highest on record. South Jeolla Province in the country's southwest logged the highest turnout of 56.1 percent, followed by North Jeolla Province at 52.2 percent and the eastern province of Gangwon recording 51.8 percent. Gyeonggi Province, which surrounds Seoul, recorded the lowest turnout of 43 percent. Seoul's turnout stood at 46.1 percent. Voting will continue until 6 p.m.

- [Police identify all 5 victims killed in Hanwha plant explosion](#) (2026-06-03 05:57)

Police said Wednesday they have identified all five victims killed in the Hanwha Aerospace factory explosion and plan to return their bodies to their families. The Daejeon Metropolitan Police Agency said the identities of the five victims were confirmed through DNA analysis by the National Forensic Service. "We cross-referenced the victims' DNA with that of their family members to identify them," a police official said. "We plan to return the bodies to the families." A funeral is expected to be held later in the day. The deadly blast occurred at the defense company's manufacturing plant in Daejeon, about 140 kilometers south of Seoul, killing five people and injuring two others. Two were contract employees in their 20s, while the others were permanent employees, with two in their 50s and one 30-something. Hanwha Group, the defense-to-chemical conglomerate, issued an apology to the victims, their bereaved families and the public, pledging to provide full support where needed. The state arms agency has formed a task force to provide technical support for the investigation into the accident.

- [Nation heads to polls to select local gov't chiefs, councilors](#) (2026-06-02 23:57)

Koreans will head to polling stations to select their local government chiefs and council members as voting for the ninth local elections begins Wednesday. Polls are open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 14,288 locations nationwide. Voters will elect 16 metropolitan city mayors and provincial governors, 227 local government heads, 3,973 local council members and 16 education superintendents. By-elections for 14 National Assembly seats will also be held alongside the local polls. Vote counting will begin immediately after polls close. Record early voting turnout has raised expectations for higher overall participation. According to the National Election Commission, 10.49 million voters already cast ballots during the two-day early voting period held Friday and Saturday, resulting in a turnout of 23.51 percent. The figure surpassed the 2022 local elections' early voting turnout rate of 20.62 percent. The highest voter turnout in local elections was 68.4 percent, in the inaugural elections held in 1995, while the lowest was 48.9 percent in 2002. The most recent local elections in 2022 recorded a turn

- [Stalked from behind bars: A female reporter' s yearslong fight for safety](#) (2026-06-02 17:57)

"The perpetrator' s lawyer said he had read your petition and even praised it, saying, 'You really can write. I guess that' s what I' d expect from a journalist.' " Gwak Ah-ram, 47, said chills ran down her spine when she heard those words from her lawyer. The perpetrator was a stalker who had harassed Gwak for years — a man whose name she did not even know at first. Gwak had sued him in 2021, and a year later, she was preparing for an appeals trial when her lawyer casually delivered the comment. At first came disbelief. She had written the petition to the court out of desperation, her hands shaking as she asked for severe punishment. But how had the accused' s lawyer been able to read it? In an interview near Gwanghwamun, Gwak recounted the terrifying experience she went through in 2022. Shortly after the conversation with her lawyer, she received a letter from the stalker, who was serving his sentence after the first trial. It included parts of what she had written in her petition to the court, along with curses

and expressions of hatred. Gwak said she first turned to the c

- [Cabinet passes bill to strengthen self-reliance of semiconductors in defense systems](#) (2026-06-02 11:57)

The Cabinet on Tuesday approved a bill aimed at supporting the development of semiconductors for defense systems using domestically developed technology. Under the bill, the government seeks to set up a comprehensive support system to foster the country's so-called "defense semiconductors," according to the defense ministry and the Defense Acquisition Program Administration (DAPA). It includes drawing up a plan to advance defense semiconductors, funding relevant research projects, and offering advanced purchase options for products developed using homegrown technologies. The move comes as semiconductors for defense systems have emerged as a key strategic asset in the era of artificial intelligence (AI), amid continued demands to reduce foreign reliance and secure a stable supply route for the key component in advanced weapons systems. Korea is looking to reduce its reliance on foreign technology, over concerns that unpredictability in international situations may cause unstable supply. The bill is set to be proclaimed within this month. It will take effect as early as the final quarter of

- [JCS chief inspects readiness posture at coastal, riverine units](#) (2026-06-02 11:57)

Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) Chairman Gen. Jin Yong-sung visited a Marine unit and the Army's Capital Corps Command west of Seoul on Tuesday to check operational readiness in coastal and riverine security, the JCS said. During his visit to the unit under the Second Marine Division in Gimpo, he stressed the need to "maintain heightened surveillance and vigilance" in the area that stands as a key gateway to the capital, and to immediately respond to any provocations by the enemy, the JCS said in a release. Jin also visited the Capital Corps Command near Incheon to inspect its operational readiness. He called for keeping a robust posture in the summer season, underscoring the importance of countering enemy drone threats and responding to illegal fishing activities in the neutral waters of the Han River estuary, the JCS said.

- [Lee flags repeated Hanwha plant explosions as 'serious problem,' orders prevention measures](#) (2026-06-02 11:57)

President Lee Jae Myung on Tuesday said the repeated occurrence of the same type of accident at the same facility is a serious problem, referring to the explosion and fire at a Hanwha Aerospace plant in Daejeon that killed five workers and injured two others the previous day.

“Relevant authorities must thoroughly investigate the cause of the accident and take all necessary measures to prevent a recurrence,” Lee said at a Cabinet meeting, ordering officials to compile a list of workplaces where the same type of accident has repeatedly occurred. The Daejeon plant has seen similar explosions before, with incidents in 2018 and 2019 killing five and three workers, respectively. The explosion of undetermined cause occurred Monday when seven workers were conducting cleaning operations to remove explosive residue from tools used in the manufacturing process of rocket propellant, according to an executive at Hanwha

Aerospace, a defense affiliate under Hanwha Group. The five died at the scene, where a fire broke out, while the two injured workers managed to escape on their own. The plant is th

- [Rival parties make final push for support on eve of local elections](#) (2026-06-02 11:57)

The ruling and opposition parties made last-ditch appeals for support Tuesday, the eve of nationwide local elections, a vote widely seen as a test of public sentiment toward President Lee Jae Myung's first year in office. Up for grabs in the June 3 elections are 16 mayoral and gubernatorial posts, along with 227 heads of local governments and some 4,000 members of local councils. This year's elections carry added significance as 14 National Assembly seats are also at stake in parliamentary by-elections, to be held alongside the local elections, with several political heavyweights running in the races. Surveys conducted before a blackout period of election-related polls last week pointed to a tighter-than-expected race between candidates from the ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) and their rivals from the main opposition People Power Party (PPP). Wrapping up the 13-day campaign period, the DP appealed for support in regions ranging from the traditional conservative stronghold of Gangwon Province to the liberal party's turf of the Jeolla provinces. DPK leader Jung Chung-rae was set to

- [Cabinet approves revised labor law allowing hourly use of paid annual leave](#) (2026-06-02 11:57)

The Cabinet approved Tuesday a revised labor law allowing the hourly use of paid annual leave, which is currently permitted only on a daily basis. Under the revised Labor Standards Act, workers will be allowed to take paid annual leave on an hourly basis, as well as in full-day units, with employers who violate the provision subject to penalties, according to Cheong Wa Dae. The revision also requires employers to allow workers to leave immediately after four consecutive hours of work without taking a rest break, if they so request. Under the current law, employers must provide a rest break during working hours, often requiring workers to remain at the workplace for a break even after completing four hours of work. The current law mandates a 30-minute break after four hours of work and a one-hour break after eight hours of work. The revision also prohibits employers from dismissing or disadvantaging workers for taking or applying for paid annual leave. The provision allowing the hourly use of paid leave will take effect one year after the revision's promulgation, while the provision on res

- [Cheong Wa Dae eyes Cabinet, aide reshuffle after local elections](#) (2026-06-02 11:57)

Cheong Wa Dae is poised to carry out a broad reshuffle spanning both the Cabinet and the presidential office after Wednesday's local elections, according to ruling party and government officials, Tuesday. The projected shakeup comes as President Lee Jae Myung approaches his first anniversary in office, Thursday, and looks to build fresh momentum for the remainder of his term. The prospect of a reshuffle has been fueled by growing speculation that Prime Minister Kim Min-seok will resign after the elections to run for the leadership of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK). The leadership race has already begun to take shape, with Kim widely seen as a likely challenger to incumbent DPK Chairman Jung Chung-rae. Kim's

departure would require Lee to appoint a new prime minister, prompting speculation over potential successors, including Cabinet ministers and senior presidential aides. A chain of promotions and transfers would follow, leaving a number of posts to be filled across the government. "With the president marking his first anniversary in office, he will likely prefer someone

- [Seoul moves to measure new form of inequality as AI divide widens](#) (2026-06-02 05:57)

The traditional definition of the digital divide — the simple barrier separating those with high-speed internet from those without — is rapidly becoming obsolete. As generative artificial intelligence (AI) weaves its way into the fabric of daily commerce and public life, municipal authorities here are warning of a more complex and volatile disparity: an emerging "AI divide" that threatens to permanently disadvantage those unable to navigate the new algorithmic landscape. Seeking to quantify this friction point, the Seoul AI Foundation announced a joint initiative with researchers at Yonsei University to develop a formal analytical framework for measuring AI inequality. The ultimate goal is to establish a Seoul-specific "AI divide index" that can be used to shape future public policy and targeted municipal interventions. The project lands amid mounting anxiety from global institutions, including the United Nations and UNESCO, which have warned that the breakneck pace of AI development and use risks exacerbating deep-seated socioeconomic gaps if access to technical literacy remains u

- [Korea declares yellow-throated marten endangered species as habitats shrink](#) (2026-06-02 05:57)

To glimpse a marten, known as "dambi" in Korean, moving through the misty ridges of the Baekdudaegan mountain range is to witness an exquisite contradiction. With its pale belly and striking collar of yellow fur, the creature resembles a plush toy brought to life. But beneath that cute exterior lies one of Korea's most efficient and calculated apex predators, an agile hunter capable of bringing down prey several times its own size. The Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment has designated this remarkable mammal, scientifically classified as *Martes flavigula*, as its Endangered Wild Species of the Month for June. Known by a variety of different regional names, including yellow-throated or continental marten, its official designation has since been unified simply as "marten." Weighing up to six kilograms and measuring nearly a meter from its dark muzzle to the tip of its long, sweeping tail, this medium-sized carnivore occupies a vital niche in the local ecosystem. While martens possess a sweet tooth for seasonal forest fruits, they are also formidable pack hunters. Operating in tig

- [Jeonbuk National University builds physical AI lab to keep talent from leaving for Seoul](#) (2026-06-02 05:57)

Jeonbuk National University is trying to reverse a pattern that has long defined regional higher education in Korea: training talented students who leave for the capital. The university in Jeonju, North Jeolla Province, is positioning itself as a regional innovation hub, banking on physical artificial intelligence (AI), future mobility and industry-academia collaboration to attract talent,

researchers and businesses into the region rather than losing them to opportunities in the capital. University President Yang O-bong said the effort reflects the government's initiative to strengthen regional flagship universities — commonly known as the "making 10 Seoul National Universities" plan. Under this plan, the Ministry of Education will select three universities in the second half of this year and provide each with 100 billion won (\$66.5 million) annually for five years. Yang argued the program should be seen as more than just another higher education funding — it is a national strategy for balanced regional development, anchored by globally competitive universities. “Regional universit

- [S. Korea selected as chair of 2027 Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting](#) (2026-06-02 05:57)

South Korea will host the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) next year as the chair country, leading discussions on research promotion and environment protection in the South Pole, government officials said Tuesday. The 49th ATCM will be held in Incheon, just west of Seoul, in May next year, along with the 29th Committee for Environmental Protection, according to the officials at oceans and other related ministries. It will mark the first time in 32 years that South Korea will host the ATCM. During the 28th ATCM held in Japan last month, Seoul participated in discussions on environment protection in the Antarctic, the response to climate change, the promotion of tourism and non-governmental activities in the region, science research cooperation and other issues as the vice chair, the officials said. South Korea joined the Antarctic Treaty in 1986 and obtained the status of a consultative party of the treaty in 1989.

- [Arrest warrant sought for factory owner over alleged assault of foreign workers](#) (2026-06-02 05:57)

Police and labor authorities said Tuesday they have filed for a warrant for the arrest of a textile company owner accused of repeatedly assaulting foreign employees over the past three years. The warrant application was filed Friday on suspicions of property damage and assault on employees in violation of the Labor Standards Act, according to the Incheon Seobu Police Station and the Jungbu Regional Office of Employment and Labor's branch office in Incheon, west of Seoul. The owner is accused of assaulting four Bangladeshi workers on seven occasions between March 2023 and April at a textile factory he operates in Incheon's western district of Gajwa. In particular, a video showing the owner attacking a worker in his 20s on April 24 sparked public outrage after it was reported by the media and circulated online. In the video, the owner is heard shouting at the worker, "What did you do yesterday?" and "What were you doing instead of answering the phone?" while repeatedly slapping him in the face and grabbing him by the hair. The owner is also accused of damaging factory property and verbally

- [Singer Psy referred to prosecution over alleged medical law violation](#) (2026-06-02 05:57)

Singer-rapper Psy has been referred to prosecutors on suspicions of receiving prescription psychotropic drugs through third parties, police said Tuesday. The singer, whose real name is Park Jae-sang, is accused of having his manager and other third parties collect the psychotropic drugs Xanax and Stilnox after getting prescriptions through non-face-to-face treatment at a

university hospital in Seoul between 2022 and 2025. The Seoul Seodaemun Police Station said it referred a total of six people, including Psy, his manager and the doctor who prescribed the drugs, to the prosecution Friday on suspicions of violating the medical law. Under the current law, only the patient who has seen a doctor can receive prescription drugs. Violations are punishable by a prison term of up to one year or a fine of up to 10 million won (\$6,590). Xanax and Stilnox are psychotropic drugs used to treat sleep disorders, anxiety disorders and depression. Due to their high risk of dependence and addiction, face-to-face examinations and prescriptions are required. "The police investigation into the violation of the

- [Civil rights commission recommends gov't agencies share English test scores for hiring](#) (2026-06-02 05:57)

The state civil rights commission has recommended that government agencies requiring English test scores for hiring come up with measures to share test scores after a single input without requiring applicants to register them with each agency repeatedly, officials said Tuesday. The Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission issued the recommendation to the ministry of personnel management, the Human Resources Development Service of Korea and the Financial Supervisory Service so that TOEIC, TOEFL and TEPS scores can be shared among the agencies. Currently, these agencies maintain their own registration systems, requiring applicants to submit scores to each agency and forcing the agencies to verify their authenticity separately. These test scores, usually effective for two years, can be recognized for up to five years in government hiring once registered under the extended validity policy.

- [National security adviser to meet US under secretary of state](#) (2026-06-02 05:57)

National Security Adviser Wi Sung-lac was set to meet with visiting U.S. Under Secretary of State Allison Hooker on Tuesday, informed sources said, with the two likely to discuss Seoul's push to build nuclear-powered submarines. Wi and Hooker, under secretary of state for political affairs, will meet at Cheong Wa Dae at 2 p.m. to discuss a range of pending issues, likely including Seoul's push to secure greater authority to enrich uranium and reprocess spent nuclear fuel for its envisioned nuclear-powered submarines, according to the sources. The discussion could also delve into the allies' plan to transfer wartime operational control of Korean troops from Washington to Seoul, they noted. Leading a U.S. delegation, Hooker arrived in Korea the previous day as the allies are set to begin follow-up negotiations on an agreement reached by President Lee Jae Myung and U.S. President Donald Trump in October on Seoul's plan to build nuclear-powered submarines.

- [Lee urges stern punishment for intentional spreading of false information](#) (2026-06-02 05:57)

President Lee Jae Myung on Tuesday called for stern punishment for those knowingly spreading misinformation, citing an ongoing police investigation into the circulation of online fake news claiming the government will force people to sell U.S. dollars. The president made the call on his X account, attaching a news article reporting that the police have identified 10 people suspected

of circulating fake news claiming the government will issue an emergency order requiring the sale of dollars to address an economic crisis stemming from the Middle East conflict. "The act of intentionally spreading false information and causing social confusion and economic damage should be identified and punished sternly," Lee wrote on the account. The president insisted that spreading fake news to the detriment of the public cannot constitute freedom of expression or be tolerated. "Any acts that harm people or destroy public order and values are tantamount to serious crimes that should be punished severely, even if they were committed as a joke," Lee noted. As claims about the dollar sale circulated in online

- [Foreign voting rights under strain as information barriers persist](#) (2026-06-01 23:57)

When Stephane Mot, a French national living in Korea, learned he was eligible to vote in local elections, it came as "a good surprise." Most eligible foreign voters never get that far. Though the number of registered foreign voters hit a record 151,532 ahead of the June 3 local elections, turnout keeps falling, dragged down by language barriers, lack of outreach and little awareness that the right exists at all. In the 2022 local elections, just 13.3 percent of eligible foreign voters cast a ballot. In Korea, foreign nationals aged 18 or older can vote in local elections — for mayors, governors, district heads, local councilors and education superintendents — three years after obtaining an F-5 permanent residency visa. Chinese nationals make up the overwhelming majority, accounting for roughly 78 percent of eligible foreign voters for the 2022 elections. As the eligible foreign voter pool grows, some election commissions and candidates are stepping up multilingual outreach. Regional branches of the National Election Commission (NEC), including the office in Gangwon Province, are dis

- [\[LEE'S 1ST YEAR IN OFFICE\] President turns social media into governing tool to boost transparency](#) (2026-06-01 23:57)

When former President Yoon Suk Yeol declared martial law on Dec. 3, 2024, then-opposition leader Lee Jae Myung launched a Facebook livestream as he scaled a wall to reach the National Assembly and vote to block the decree. The footage made headlines for offering a raw, firsthand look at the crisis — a scene only people on the ground could have captured and exactly the kind of unmediated moment that has defined Lee's political brand. A year into his presidency, that instinct for direct communication remains central to how Lee governs. Long before taking office, Lee built his political brand on X, formerly Twitter, using the platform's speed and reach to bypass mainstream outlets that paid little attention to a politician who rose from a local government post rather than a major political party. As president, he carried that habit into Cheong Wa Dae, generating engagement and using the platform to build public momentum for his policy agenda. At a roundtable co-hosted by The Korea Times and the Korean Institute for Presidential Studies on May 13, experts assessed Lee's first year of soc

- [\[RESTAURANT OF THE WEEK\] Suncheon Brewery proves simple can still satisfy](#) (2026-06-01 23:57)

Suncheon Brewery is just a hop and a skip away from Suncheon Station in... you guessed it, the city of Suncheon in South Jeolla Province. Founded in 2018, this brewpub is part of a larger Brewworks group including a cafe. The brewery serves burgers under the guise of Crane Burger, Suncheon's local bird, the hooded crane. There are three kinds, of which we ordered two: the Suncheon Bay Burger and the Itaewon Burger. The Bay Burger is the restaurant's signature burger, with a tteokgalbi patty. Tteokgalbi is everywhere in the Jeolla region and is half ground pork, half ground beef. This is then topped with Suncheon Bay area minari and bulgogi sauce. The minari added a distinctive "Korean" herbaceousness to the burger and balanced out the sweetness of the bulgogi sauce. The Itaewon Burger is a classic American burger: beef patty, cheese. No fuss, no muss. Like the Bay Burger, I found the taste really balanced, too. The cheddar balanced out the sweetness of the patty. My family and I really loved the buns as well: perfectly toasted with a nice crunch to keep the beef juice inside. I

- [Police seek exit ban on Morse Tan over defamation allegations](#) (2026-06-01 11:57)

Police on Monday applied to the Ministry of Justice for an exit ban on Morse Tan, a Korean American professor and former U.S. ambassador at large for global criminal justice under the first Trump administration, amid an ongoing investigation into defamation charges tied to false claims he made about President Lee Jae Myung. Tan, also known by his Korean name Dan Hyun-myung, returned to Korea on Thursday, citing intentions to personally monitor and verify the June 3 local elections for irregularities. Officers traveled to Incheon International Airport on the day of his arrival, formally notifying him to appear for questioning the following day. Tan declined to comply, submitting a written statement explaining his rejection of the summons and filing a separate request to have the assigned investigating officers replaced. Police determined that his refusal to cooperate, combined with the circumstances of his visit, indicated a credible risk that he might attempt to leave the country before the investigation concludes. Park Jeong-bo, head of Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency, addressed the m

- [South African sculptor Ndivhuho Rasengani opens solo exhibition in Seoul](#) (2026-06-01 11:57)

South African artist and designer Ndivhuho Rasengani recently presented his first major installation exhibition in Seoul, titled "RITUALS OF DWELLING," at 37A gallery in the central Yongsan District, marking an important milestone in his evolving creative journey. Rasengani's work occupies the intersection of sculpture, kinetic installation and spatial research. With a fine arts master's degree from the Rhode Island School of Design and a background in foundry and digital fabrication, his practice moves fluidly between rigorous technical systems and intuitive handcraft. Although he officially worked for only a few years, his practice draws from a deeper foundation in architecture. His fascination with space, atmosphere and the materials that shape our environments continues to influence his artistic vision. The artist, having worked and evolved across continents, has shown his pieces at both public projects and private showcases in South Africa, China and the United States. In 2025, he established Rasengani Atelier, a formal evolution of his daily practice into a collaborative research

- [Ex-President Yoon made preparations for martial law since late 2023: special counsel](#) (2026-06-01 11:57)

A special counsel team has determined former President Yoon Suk Yeol had prepared to declare martial law since late 2023, about a year before his failed bid in December 2024, officials said Monday. Assistant special counsel Kim Ji-mi said in a briefing that the team has determined that Yoon had made preparations for martial law since November 2023 after questioning former Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Kim Myung-soo. The now-retired admiral is said to have told the team last month that Yoon asked him whether he would do anything he would order when they met on Nov. 29, 2023. Yoon allegedly flew into a rage when he said he would follow them if they were just orders. The team, led by special counsel Kwon Chang-young, has left open the possibility that Yoon's alleged remarks may have been part of preliminary efforts to recruit top military officials for his martial law bid. Kwon's team earlier said Yoon appeared to be preparing for martial law since the first half of 2024, citing the outcome of its questioning of a military counterintelligence official. Meanwhile, a separate special counsel t

- [Defense minister vows assistance in probe into Hanwha Aerospace plant explosion](#) (2026-06-01 11:57)

Defense Minister Ahn Gyu-back said Monday his ministry would spare no effort to provide technical assistance in determining the cause of a deadly explosion at a factory of key defense firm Hanwha Aerospace. Earlier in the day, a blast tore through the company's plant in the central city of Daejeon, killing five people and injuring two. "We will spare no technical assistance," Ahn wrote on X, saying his ministry would work alongside the Defense Acquisition Program Administration (DAPA) to determine what triggered the blast. He also pledged to cooperate in drawing up safety measures for defense industry workers "to prevent this tragedy from recurring," offering condolences to the victims' families and wishing the injured a swift recovery. The Daejeon plant manufactures large propulsion engines and tactical surface-to-surface missile systems. Since the accident, DAPA has sent officials to the site to assess the damage.

- [Colombia introduces Korean language classes at public schools for 1st time](#) (2026-06-01 11:57)

In a milestone for Korea's quiet but expanding cultural diplomacy in Latin America, the Korean language is set to enter Colombian classrooms as an official subject for the first time this summer. Beginning in August, three prominent secondary schools in Colombia will integrate Korean language classes into their regular curricula, Korea's Ministry of Education said Monday. The rollout follows an agreement signed on Friday between the Korean Embassy in Bogota and the participating institutions: the Institute for Pedagogical Research and Action — which is affiliated with the National University of Colombia — alongside Colegio Nueva Granada and the Fundación Hogar Nueva Granada. The initiative makes Colombia the seventh country in Latin America to introduce Korean into its formal primary or secondary school system, joining

Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico and Paraguay. For years, the global surge of interest in Korean culture has driven a demand for language learning in Colombia. But until now, that education was largely confined to King Sejong Institutes, weekend diaspo

- [Seoul maps out tricky market alleys with 3D address overhaul](#) (2026-06-01 11:57)

The Seoul Metropolitan Government said Monday that it is expanding its high-tech "3D spatial addressing" initiative to six major traditional markets across the capital, mapping out thousands of stalls to improve navigation, logistics and emergency responses. The ambitious project will convert a combined 200,000 square meters of notoriously complex market layouts into high-precision 3D digital data using cutting-edge technologies, including the Global Navigation Satellite System and LiDAR. Roughly 2,500 individual stalls across six key commercial hubs — including Donghwa Market, Guro Market, Mapo Agriculture & Marine Products Market and the Garak Mall sales building — will receive precise, institutionalized 3D addresses. The digital upgrade aims to eliminate chronic navigation challenges in traditional shopping districts, which have historically relied on unofficial storefront numbers or vague, landmark-based directions. By integrating this newly generated spatial data directly into Korea's premier navigation platforms — including TMAP, Naver Maps and Kakao Maps — visitors and de

- [Seoul unveils plans for nation's 1st hybrid timber eco-stadium along Han River](#) (2026-06-01 11:57)

The Seoul Metropolitan Government said Monday that it will construct Korea's first hybrid timber-structured multipurpose arena on the Han River waterfront. Designed to host elite international combat sports competitions and double as a sprawling public park, the 199.9 billion won (\$145 million) project is expected to revitalize a prime riverside site left largely underused for nearly five decades. A joint design submission by Kawa Architects, Architectural Studio Isae, and DD Architects won the international design competition, beating out 27 other entries. The winning proposal features an innovative, circular stadium built with a hybrid timber framework — a structural rarity for large-scale public facilities in Korea. The evaluation committee highly praised the design for its sleek aesthetic harmony with the Han River landscape, its sophisticated interior spatial planning and its technical feasibility despite complex underground conditions, which include a subway line and waste treatment infrastructure. Situated on a 50,916-square-meter plot in Gwangjang-dong near Gwangnaru Station

- [Korea increases hotline staff for suicide prevention calls, boosts multilingual support](#) (2026-06-01 11:57)

Korea is sharply augmenting the staffing of its national suicide prevention hotline to address a severe bottleneck in crisis call management, the Ministry of Health and Welfare said Monday. Driven by a presidential directive to eliminate connection delays and reinforce the existing public safety net, the ministry will immediately expand the workforce of the crisis hotline, nearly doubling personnel from 103 counselors to 200 by October. Since the "109 hotline" was launched in January 2024, public awareness has sent inbound call volumes skyrocketing by 46

percent, jumping from roughly 219,000 in 2023 to over 352,000 in 2025. This explosive demand has outpaced current capacity, with an average of 1,118 daily calls but staff levels currently only able to handle approximately 532 calls each day. To bridge this critical operational gap, the government is introducing targeted personnel adjustments and logistical support. Over 60 percent of the hotline's traffic arrives between 4 p.m. and 3 a.m. To ease this pressure, the ministry is partnering with the specialized civilian NGO Lifeline Korea

- [Korea to melt instant noodle cups to produce petrochemical feedstock](#) (2026-06-01 11:57)

For decades, the empty, broth-stained polystyrene cup that once held instant noodles was viewed by Korean sanitation officials as an intractable environmental nuisance. Too heavily contaminated by spicy oil to be processed by traditional mechanical recycling, millions of these lightweight containers were destined for the incinerator or the landfill, a stubborn byproduct of the nation's ubiquitous convenience food culture. Now, the government is attempting to transform this discarded plastic waste into a valuable feedstock for the petrochemical industry. The Ministry of Environment said Monday that it is expanding a nationwide chemical recycling initiative that uses advanced thermal decomposition technology to break down polystyrene paper — commonly known as PSP — and convert it into naphtha, a foundational building block for new plastics. The expansion marks a significant shift away from mechanical recycling, which simply melts and reshapes plastic, often degrading its quality and limiting its reuse to low-value items. Polystyrene paper has long frustrated recycling networks because

- [Over 23,000 drug offenders rounded up last year](#) (2026-06-01 11:57)

The government rounded up a total of 23,403 drug offenders through special crackdowns last year, with the number of online drug offenders arrested and drugs seized since the inauguration of President Lee Jae Myung reaching all-time highs, officials said Monday. By agency, the prosecution booked 765 drug offenders and formally arrested 217 of them between June last year and March of this year, while seizing 1,042 kilograms of drugs during the same period, the Office for Government Policy Coordination said in a release highlighting the achievements in the fight against drugs in the first year of the Lee government. Police apprehended 5,385 offenders by operating special teams dedicated to drug crimes between June last year and April this year, while also rounding up a total of 12,774 people through special crackdowns focused on new types of drugs and drugs for medical purposes, according to the data. The customs agency detected 3,233 kilograms of drugs at the border in 1,181 cases for 10 months since Lee took office, an all-time high that represents a 307 percent increase from the same period

- [Hanwha Aerospace plant explosion kills 5, injures 2](#) (2026-06-01 11:57)

An explosion and fire at a Hanwha Aerospace plant in Daejeon killed five workers and injured two others, authorities said Monday. Under the Serious Accidents Punishment Act, executives of the company could face penalties if the explosion is found to be the result of safety failures. Police and fire authorities said the explosion occurred at 10:59 a.m. About 100 firefighters,

along with dozens of vehicles and other firefighting equipment, were dispatched to the scene, bringing the blaze under control about 50 minutes after it broke out and fully extinguishing it at 1:07 p.m. The seven workers were conducting cleaning operations to remove explosive residue from tools used in the manufacturing process of rocket propellant, according to a Hanwha Aerospace executive. The plant is the company's key facility producing equipment for the aviation, defense and space industries. The five victims died at the scene, where a blaze also broke out, while the two injured workers managed to escape on their own. One of them suffered severe burns over most of their body and remained hospitalized, while the ot

- [Political parties scale back campaigning after deadly factory explosion](#) (2026-06-01 11:57)

The leaders of the ruling and main opposition parties urged candidates in the upcoming local elections to scale back or tone down their campaign activities Monday following a deadly explosion at a Hanwha Aerospace factory in the central city of Daejeon. At least five people were killed and two others injured in the explosion, which was reported at 10:59 a.m. in the city located some 140 kilometers south of Seoul. Rep. Jung Chung-rae, leader of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK), immediately instructed party candidates and election camps nationwide to suspend their campaign activities. "DPK leader Jung has urgently instructed all DPK candidates and camps to halt campaigning and refrain from using campaign songs or dance performances following the Hanwha Aerospace factory accident in Daejeon," the party said in a press notice. Rep. Jang Dong-hyeok, leader of the main opposition People Power Party (PPP), called on candidates to tone down their campaigning and to avoid playing music or dancing during campaign rallies, according to the party's election committee. "I pray for the souls

- [Korea ramps up 'K-wellness tourism' under new Healing Industry Act](#) (2026-06-01 11:57)

As international travelers increasingly trade sightseeing itineraries for trips centered on rest and rejuvenation, Korea is deploying legislative muscle and state subsidies to brand itself as a premier global destination for wellness. The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism said Monday that it selected 20 premier wellness sites nationwide to spearhead a new global marketing push, backing each venue with up to 50 million won (\$36,300) in government funding. The initiative marks the first major rollout under the newly enacted Healing Tourism Industry Act, an ambitious piece of legislation designed to institutionalize, regulate and scale a fragmented domestic sector. The policy framework, which went into effect this spring, establishes an official bureaucratic apparatus to manage the quality of healing services, train certified industry professionals and designate specialized regional "healing tourism zones." To build its new vanguard of wellness hubs, the government winnowed down an existing list of 88 state-vetted properties before finally choosing 20 based on their readiness to acco

- [Conservative ex-presidents hit campaign trail](#) (2026-06-01 11:57)

Former President and former Seoul Mayor Lee Myung-bak stepped back into his old legacy he built in the capital, Monday, standing at the edge of Seoul Forest as he urged voters to choose “mayors and district chiefs who get things done, not those who only talk and play politics.” Surrounded by conservative hopefuls, Lee framed the park, along with Cheonggye Stream, as proof that leadership willing to push through opposition can transform a city. “I hope we Seoul residents will elect mayors and district chiefs who get things done,” he said. “There was a lot of political opposition when we developed Cheonggye Stream and when we planned the dedicated bus lanes, but once they were actually built, they became good spaces that all Seoul citizens use very conveniently.” The previous day, the final weekend of the official election campaign period ahead of the June 3 vote, impeached former President Park Geun-hye visited Seomun Market in Daegu, alongside the People Power Party’s (PPP) mayoral candidate, Choo Kyung-ho. As she moved through the crowds, shaking hands with visitors, she

- [Korea expands ‘top-tier’ visa to woo global scientists](#) (2026-06-01 11:57)

Korea is expanding its elite "top-tier" visa program to encompass foreign professors and researchers as part of an aggressive push to secure global scientific talent amid intensifying international competition. The Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Science and ICT (MSIT) announced a joint initiative, Monday, to streamline immigration for world-class scientists. Originally launched to recruit corporate talent in advanced fields like semiconductors and artificial intelligence, the revamped visa track will open to academic and institutional researchers starting this month. Under the new policy, candidates can secure an MSIT recommendation by meeting at least one of four strict technical criteria. These high-level requirements include winning a prestigious international award like a Nobel Prize or Fields Medal or being listed on the Highly Cited Researchers (HCR) index with primary publications in elite journals such as Science or Nature. Alternatively, applicants can qualify by holding triadic patents registered across the United States, Japan and Europe, generating over 1 billion w

- [Half of travelers using overseas booking platforms report problems, Seoul says](#) (2026-06-01 11:57)

More than half of Korean travelers using foreign online accommodation platforms have experienced billing issues or customer service failures, prompting the Seoul Metropolitan Government to demand tighter regulatory oversight of global travel giants. According to the city government, Monday, an in-depth investigation into six major overseas booking platforms — including Agoda, Airbnb and Booking.com — revealed widespread use of deceptive design practices, commonly known as "dark patterns." These digital interfaces are deliberately structured to manipulate consumer choice and drive up transactional volumes. A joint monitoring initiative conducted alongside a domestic civic consumer group found that multiple platforms systematically attract travelers by displaying lower base prices that excluded mandatory taxes and hidden service fees. Customers only discovered the inflated final cost at the point of digital checkout, long after investing time in the booking process. Critical data regarding nonrefundable clauses and strict cancellation penalties were also routinely buried in

microscop

- [4 suspects booked in police probe into Seoul overpass collapse](#) (2026-06-01 11:57)

Four engineering company officials have been booked as suspects as part of a police probe into the partial collapse of an overpass in western Seoul last week, the city's top police officer said Monday. A section of the Seosomun Overpass undergoing demolition collapsed last Tuesday during an on-site safety inspection, killing three people and injuring three others. Police have since launched a probe into the collapse. Park Jeong-bo, head of the Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency, said the four suspects, which include a site manager of the engineering company involved in the demolition, have been booked on suspicion of occupational negligence resulting in death. "(We) are analyzing documents secured through raids and an on-site inspection," Park told reporters in a briefing. "Necessary questioning will take place after analyzing the relevant documents." On Friday, police raided the offices of the Seoul city government and the engineering company as part of the investigation into the overpass collapse.

- ['Call him oppa': Politicians' outdated language draws fresh scrutiny](#) (2026-06-01 11:57)

Ahead of the local elections on Wednesday, some candidates' use of insensitive language is exposing a widening gap between politicians and public sensibility in Korea. The most recent incident came Sunday, when the ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) candidate Woo Hyoung-chan, running for southwestern Seoul's Yangcheon District chief, sparked controversy after asking a baby for a peck at a campaign event. The baby was being held by DPK Seoul mayoral candidate Chong Won-o at the time and a spokesperson for Chong intervened. Woo later apologized. The People Power Party (PPP) condemned the remarks as inappropriate coercion. "Why would you ask a baby to do that?" PPP spokesperson Ham In-kyung said. Ham added that parents today teach their children to set clear boundaries around physical contact with strangers and to feel free to say no. "Many parents were shocked to see a public figure casually ask a baby in public for a peck." This is not the first time a politician's outdated or inappropriate use of language has stirred controversy during this campaign. Last month, DPK leader Jun

- [Local election results to decide fates of major party leaders](#) (2026-06-01 11:57)

The outcome of the local elections slated for Wednesday is decisive for each candidate. But it will also determine the political fate of major party leaders: Rep. Jung Chung-rae of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) and Rep. Jang Dong-hyeok of the main opposition People Power Party (PPP). While both leaders are likely to seek another term, a landslide victory for the DPK signals a boost for Jung not only as the party's leader but also as a potential presidential contender. For the PPP, Jang's ability to save face and keep his position will depend on the electoral success of PPP candidates in key regions, or at the very least, a smaller voter support gap between the two parties. In the early phases of the elections, a landslide victory for the DPK has been widely anticipated, backed by the high approval ratings of President Lee Jae Myung and negative sentiment against the PPP following the impeachment of former President Yoon

Suk Yeol. Yoon was sentenced to life for insurrection and treason tied to his martial law declaration in 2024. However, the PPP was able to solidify their

- [Broadcasters gear up for high-tech showdown on election night](#) (2026-06-01 11:57)

Korea's three major terrestrial broadcasters are gearing up for a high-stakes, high-tech ratings battle on June 3, as they are expected to roll out lavish election night specials for the nationwide local elections. Election night coverage has emerged as a signature battleground for Korean media in recent years, with broadcasters pouring resources into data visualization, star panelists and eye-catching graphics to distinguish their shows. This year, KBS, MBC and SBS are doubling down on artificial intelligence (AI), augmented reality (AR) and extended reality (XR) to entice viewers and interpret the vote. For the first time, KBS will stage its election night broadcast from the National Museum of Korea in Seoul, turning a venue of recent cultural sensation into a symbolic arena for democracy. A special set around the museum's central Mirror Pond will serve as a metaphorical pool reflecting public sentiment, while artifacts from the museum are expected to help visualize local voters' choices. Inside the main studio, a massive LED screen, 30 meters wide and 7 meters high, will display

- [PM reportedly preparing to offer resignation after local elections](#) (2026-06-01 05:57)

Prime Minister Kim Min-seok is preparing to offer his resignation after this week's local elections as he plans to run for the leadership of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK), news reports said Monday. Kim plans to express his intention to resign to President Lee Jae Myung right after Wednesday's local elections to run in the race for the party leader that will be determined at the party's national convention in August, the Kyunghyang Shinmun daily and other media outlets reported. But Kim is expected to remain in office until his successor becomes ready to take over, the reports said. The issue could be discussed when Kim holds a weekly lunch meeting with Lee on Monday. On Tuesday, Kim is also scheduled to hold a dinner party with Cabinet members, which some political observers say could be a farewell gathering, though Kim's office said the meeting was set up to mark the first anniversary of the inauguration of the Lee administration. Speculation has persisted for months that Kim, a key political ally of President Lee, could step down and try to take over the party from current

- [KAIST launches AI college vision, aiming to shape next generation of global innovators](#) (2026-06-01 05:57)

As artificial intelligence (AI) rapidly reshapes industries, research and daily life, KAIST on Sunday unveiled an ambitious vision for its newly established College of AI, positioning it as a hub for cultivating the talent and ideas expected to define the next era of technological change. The Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, known as KAIST, held its College of AI Vision declaration ceremony Monday at the Chung Geun-mo Conference Hall on its main campus in Daejeon. The event was designed to present the college's long-term strategy for talent development, research innovation, industry collaboration and the creation of a responsible AI ecosystem. KAIST said the College of AI views AI not simply as a tool but as a

foundation for generating new knowledge and driving transformation across science, technology, industry, education and society. The college plans to train both advanced AI researchers and interdisciplinary talent capable of applying AI creatively across a wide range of fields. The ceremony opened with welcoming remarks from KAIST President Kwang Hyung Lee. Bae Ky

- [Lee calls for all-out efforts for rescue operations after Hanhwa Aerospace factory explosion](#) (2026-06-01 05:57)

President Lee Jae Myung on Monday instructed government officials to mobilize all available resources for rescue efforts after an explosion at a Hanwha Aerospace factory in the central city of Daejeon left at least five people dead and two others injured. Lee ordered a thorough investigation into the cause of the explosion and called for measures to prevent similar incidents from recurring, presidential spokesperson Kang Yu-jung said, amid concerns that the number of casualties could rise. Prime Minister Kim Min-seok also ordered the interior ministry, the fire agency, police and the Daejeon city government to mobilize all available equipment and personnel to put out the fire and rescue victims so as to ensure no additional casualties occur. The labor ministry, the science ministry, the aerospace agency, and other related ministries and agencies should also provide full cooperation for rescue efforts, Kim said. Authorities received a report of the explosion at 10:59 a.m. and were working to confirm the exact number of casualties. Police and fire officials believe the explosion occurred on

- [Local election result to decide fates of major party leaders](#) (2026-06-01 05:57)

The outcome of the local elections slated for Wednesday is decisive for each candidate. But it will also determine the political fate of major party leaders: Rep. Jung Chung-rae of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) and Rep. Jang Dong-hyeok of the main opposition People Power Party (PPP). While both leaders are likely to seek another term, a landslide victory for the DPK signals a boost for Jung not only as the party's leader but also as a potential presidential contender. For the PPP, Jang's ability to save face and keep his position will depend on the electoral success of PPP candidates in key regions, or at the very least, a smaller voter support gap between the two parties. In the early phases of the elections, a landslide victory for the DPK has been widely anticipated, backed by the high approval ratings of President Lee Jae Myung and negative sentiment against the PPP following the impeachment of former President Yoon Suk Yeol. Yoon was sentenced to life for insurrection and treason tied to his martial law declaration in 2024. However, the PPP was able to solidify their

- [Death toll rises to 5 in Hanwha Aerospace explosion: authorities](#) (2026-06-01 05:57)

DAEJEON — Five people were killed and one other injured Monday in an explosion at defense company Hanwha Aerospace's factory in the central city of Daejeon, officials said. Authorities received a report of the explosion at 10:59 a.m., with authorities working to confirm the exact number of casualties. Fire authorities dispatched to the scene were working to put out a blaze at the site. Police and fire officials believe the explosion occurred on the first floor of the factory

and plan to investigate the exact cause of the incident once the blaze is put out.

- [Customs agency seizes 3,233 kg of drugs since June 2025](#) (2026-06-01 05:57)

Korea has seized 3,233 kilograms of drugs since the launch of the Lee Jae Myung administration in June last year, the customs agency said Monday, on the back of its tighter surveillance scheme. The Korea Customs Service (KCS) said it seized the drugs in 1,181 busts from June 2025 to April this year, marking a fourfold increase in terms of the volume confiscated. The agency said the increase was made possible by tightened surveillance measures, including inspections of international parcels at local post offices that had already undergone screening at airports and seaports. Korea has also carried out joint inspections with Thai and Cambodian authorities to intercept potentially dangerous narcotics at the source before they are smuggled into the country. The customs service added the country has seized 17 firearms and 331 rounds of ammunition. In a separate move, the KCS has tightened its monitoring of trade security, detecting 949.4 billion won (\$627 million) worth of illegal exports disguised as Korean products, along with illegal shipments of strategic items worth 258.1 billion won, such

- [Ex-NIS chief grilled over suspected martial law role](#) (2026-06-01 05:57)

Cho Tae-yong, a former head of the National Intelligence Service (NIS), appeared before a special counsel team Monday over allegations linked to former President Yoon Suk Yeol's failed 2024 martial law bid. Cho is accused of playing a key role in an insurrection by allegedly attempting to contact U.S. intelligence agencies after Yoon's martial law declaration on Dec. 3, 2024, to deliver a message justifying the emergency decree. The special counsel team believes the NIS received a document from the presidential Office of National Security a day after Yoon's declaration along with a request to explain the background of his decree to friendly countries. It suspects that NIS officials called in a U.S. Central Intelligence Agency official to explain the emergency measure at Cho's instructions. Last month, a Seoul district court sentenced Cho to 18 months in prison, finding him guilty of perjury for falsely testifying at the Constitutional Court that he did not receive martial law-related documents from Yoon. Yoon was sentenced to life imprisonment in February for leading an insurrection throu

- [Justice ministry launches new team to protect foreign workers' rights](#) (2026-06-01 05:57)

The Ministry of Justice said Monday it has established a new team dedicated to preventing human rights violations against foreign workers and strengthening protections for them. The team, established within the Korea Immigration Service, is tasked with providing education and information to immigrant workers, supporting counseling and reporting, conducting on-site investigations into human rights violations and offering relief to victims, the ministry said. In case of clear human rights violations, such as the recent air gun attack on a migrant worker and the assault of foreign workers at a textile factory in Incheon, west of Seoul, the team will establish a rapid response system and strengthen victim protection, it said. In addition, the ministry said it will establish an integrated support system to ensure that the human rights of foreign workers are protected throughout the entire migration process, from pre-entry

procedures, such as visa applications, to residence, employment and community integration in Korea. The ministry said it will also cooperate with the labor ministry, local g

- [Lee's approval rating inches down to 59.1%: poll](#) (2026-06-01 05:57)

President Lee Jae Myung's approval rating fell slightly from a week earlier partly due to negative sentiment over the deadly collapse of an overpass in central Seoul last week, a survey showed Monday. In the poll commissioned by EKN newspaper and conducted by Realmeter, the positive assessment of Lee's job performance slipped 0.2 percentage point from a week before to 59.1 percent. The weekly survey was conducted on 2,008 people aged 18 and older from Tuesday through Friday. The negative assessment rose 0.7 percentage point to 36.8 percent. Lee's approval rating stood at 60.5 percent in the second week of May before falling to 59.3 percent the following week and further to 59.1 percent in the latest poll. Realmeter said the partial collapse of the Seosomun Overpass in central Seoul last Tuesday overshadowed positive economic developments, including the benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index hitting a record high. The overpass collapsed during an on-site safety inspection while undergoing demolition, killing three people and injuring three others. The pollster said former President Par

- [9 opinion leaders stress importance of dialogue for peace on Korean Peninsula](#) (2026-05-31 23:57)

Experts and religious leaders gathered for a Korea Times Roundtable on Tuesday, emphasizing the urgent need for dialogue and mutual respect as essential foundations for achieving peace on the Korean Peninsula. At the event held in Seoul, participants discussed South Korea's role in global peacemaking, shifting generational attitudes toward North Korea and recent incidents that have exposed social divisions. Lee Young-hoon, senior pastor of Yoido Full Gospel Church, opened the discussion by describing peace as a shared global responsibility that requires persistent communication across borders. "Many people around the world are worried because of wars and conflicts between Ukraine and Russia and Iran and the Middle East," Lee said. "In times like this, I believe the most important thing we need is peace. We must respect one another and work together to create a peaceful future. This cannot be achieved by one nation alone — it requires cooperation, understanding and sincere communication among all countries." The roundtable, moderated by Oh Young-jin, president and publisher of

- [Foreign voters in Guro seek economic revival but lack candidate awareness](#) (2026-05-31 23:57)

Ahead of the June 3 local elections, Kim Bun-ok, an ethnic Korean from China and permanent resident living in southwestern Seoul's Guro District, has a lot on her mind. "I'm not sure who to vote for, but I definitely plan to vote," the 66-year-old side dish shop owner told The Korea Times, Wednesday. Kim is among a fast-growing pool of foreign eligible voters, a number that has tripled from 48,428 in 2014 to 151,532 this year, according to the National Election Commission. Unlike presidential and parliamentary elections, foreign residents aged 18 or older are eligible to vote in local elections three years after obtaining an F-5 permanent residency

visa. Among all 25 districts in Seoul, Guro District leads with 6,736 eligible foreign voters, reflecting its large population of Chinese nationals and ethnic Koreans from China. On the ground, however, foreign voters The Korea Times spoke with last week knew little about the district chief candidates and their platforms. However, they were united in calling for the revival of the regional economy, which in part is a national-level issue.

- [Solas sunrise walk shines light on mental health awareness](#) (2026-05-31 23:57)

In four cities across Korea, more than 200 people participated in the annual Solas sunrise walk on Saturday, bringing local and international communities together for the third time in a nationwide show of solidarity for mental health awareness and suicide prevention. Organized by the Irish Association of Korea (IAK), the early morning walk events were held simultaneously in Seoul and Busan, on Jeju Island and, for the first time, in Jeonju, North Jeolla Province, aimed at spreading awareness of mental health and well-being, while also raising funds to support mental health counseling services in Korea. In Seoul, about 100 people gathered near Yeouinaru Station on Seoul Metro Line 5 at 4 a.m. wearing green T-shirts for the annual 5-kilometer community walk known as Solas, from the Irish word for "light." The organizers stressed that the event was about connection, reminding each other that even in difficult times, there is comfort in community and strength in togetherness. "There's an Irish saying: 'Ní neart go cur le chéile,' there is no strength without unity," Warren Neiland,

- [Korea seeks to highlight efforts for 'self-reliant' defense at key security forum](#) (2026-05-31 11:57)

SINGAPORE — At a key defense forum in Singapore, Defense Minister Ahn Gyu-back has highlighted South Korea's efforts to strengthen its "self-reliant" defense capabilities amid growing North Korean threats and a volatile security environment shaped in part by the Middle East tensions. Attending the three-day Asia Security Summit, also known as the Shangri-La Dialogue, Ahn also stressed that these efforts are being pursued alongside the country's strong commitment to strengthening its alliance with the United States. In his speech during a plenary session Saturday, Ahn cited the North's military buildup and its closer alignment with Russia as a "key variable" in global security, emphasizing that the security on the Korean Peninsula is increasingly linked to the security in the Indo-Pacific and beyond. "The Republic of Korea will continue its efforts to strengthen self-reliant defense capabilities in tandem with enhancing the alliance (with the United States)," Ahn said in his speech, calling South Korea by its official name. Ahn introduced South Korea's efforts to build a "smart military

- [Lee vows zero tolerance for those who defame disaster victims](#) (2026-05-31 11:57)

President Lee Jae Myung said Sunday he will not tolerate those who insult victims and bereaved families of social disasters. "I will order authorities to thoroughly investigate and sternly punish" anyone who does so, he said, citing a recent case in which a man in his 50s was arrested for allegedly posting more than 3,000 defamatory messages targeting victims and their families of the 2014 Sewol ferry sinking, the 2022 Itaewon crowd crush and the 2024 Jeju Air crash. "Why

on earth would someone do this?" Lee wrote on X. "He should put himself in their shoes; imagine if his family were among the victims." The man was arrested the previous day for allegedly spreading defamatory content and groundless allegations against victims and their families on major online forums since 2022. The case marked the third case where a suspect was arrested since police established a special investigation team in July, at Lee's direction, to crack down on those who inflict secondary harm on disaster victims and their families.

- [Presidential envoy visits Canada to expand ties, back submarine bid](#) (2026-05-31 11:57)

Presidential chief of staff Kang Hoon-sik departed for Canada on Sunday in his capacity as presidential special envoy for strategic economic cooperation in a visit widely seen as connected to Ottawa's submarine procurement project. "ROK-Canada relations have been rapidly expanding across the economy, energy and high-tech industries," he wrote on his Facebook page. "Amid the prolonged Middle East crisis, I am keenly aware that the two countries' economic and industrial structures are highly complementary and that the potential synergies from cooperation as global middle powers are enormous. "As this marks my second visit in four months as special envoy, I will try my best to yield tangible results this time in expanding strategic cooperation between the two countries in energy, resources, supply chains and high-tech industries," he wrote. Kang is expected to attend a Korea-Canada forum on energy, security and supply chains and to support Korean shipbuilders' efforts to win Ottawa's submarine procurement project worth as much as 60 trillion won (\$39.9 billion). Currently, Korea's Hanwha Oc

- [Gov't denies foreign worker scheme aims to expand cheap labor](#) (2026-05-31 11:57)

The government has rejected concerns that its new foreign worker scheme for depopulated regions is designed to expand access to cheap migrant labor, insisting it is meant to sustain local economies facing structural labor shortages. In written responses sent to The Korea Times recently, the Ministry of Justice said the goal is not "simple cost-cutting through low-paid foreign workers," but to help solve the "structural labor shortage problem in depopulation areas where hiring Koreans" is very difficult. Announced earlier this month, the "regional vitality special employment scheme for small businesses" allows small businesses and agricultural corporations in designated areas to hire foreigners who hold the F-2-R visa, which lets certain noncitizens live and work long term in designated depopulated areas. Previously, the F-2-R visa could only be used by employers that already had Korean staff on their payroll, a condition officials said was difficult to meet amid worsening labor shortages across the country, excluding major cities. Under the initiative, employers in 89 design

- [Defense minister seeks US congressional support for S. Korea's nuclear-powered sub project](#) (2026-05-31 11:57)

Defense Minister Ahn Gyu-back on Sunday sought bipartisan U.S. congressional support for South Korea's nuclear-powered submarine project, as he met with members of the House of

Representatives and the Senate at a defense forum, Seoul's defense ministry said. Ahn separately met with congressmen and senators, including Reps. Pat Harrigan (R-NC), Gregory Meeks (D-NY) and Michael Baumgartner (R-WA); and Senators Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) and Pete Ricketts (R-NE), the ministry said in a release. "The minister sought congressional support for key alliance issues, including the transfer of wartime operational control, the pursuit of nuclear-powered submarines and cooperation in shipbuilding and maintenance, repair and overhaul," the ministry said in a release. The United States gave backing for Seoul's bid to build nuclear powered subs after an October summit between President Lee Jae Myung and U.S. President Donald Trump. South Korea recently unveiled its road map for the program, aiming to domestically build the boats and launch the first one in the mid-2030s. Ahn also stressed the importance of

- [Korea shows uneasiness over USFK chief's 'dagger' remarks](#) (2026-05-31 11:57)

Korea showed uneasiness about remarks by the U.S. Forces Korea (USFK) commander describing the country as a "dagger" in Asia — controversial wording that highlighted the country's strategic role in U.S. deterrence against China without reflecting its own strategic choices on regional security. National Security Adviser Wi Sung-lac, along with officials from the Ministry of National Defense and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, conveyed Seoul's position through respective diplomatic and security channels regarding USFK Commander Gen. Xavier Brunson's remarks, according to Cheong Wa Dae, Saturday. While the presidential office did not elaborate on Seoul's stance, analysts interpreted it as an expression of regret that reflected Korea's efforts to maintain a balance amid the intensifying rivalry between the U.S. and China. "Brunson focused solely on the U.S. perspective, overlooking Korea's own strategic calculations and its relationship with China," a researcher at a private defense think tank said on condition of anonymity. The ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) ope

- [Police accelerate probe into deadly overpass collapse in Seoul](#) (2026-05-31 11:57)

Police on Sunday accelerated their probe into last week's deadly collapse of an overpass in central Seoul, focusing on whether the demolition work at the time of the accident was carried out in accordance with proper safety guidelines. Last Tuesday, a section of the Seosomun Overpass in central Seoul undergoing demolition collapsed during an on-site safety inspection, killing three people and injuring three others. The Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency has since launched an investigation into the case and raided the offices of the Seoul city government, an engineering company and others involved in the demolition. On Sunday, police officials were reviewing materials seized in the raids to determine whether proper safety guidelines had been established and followed during the construction and demolition of the overpass. In particular, they were focusing on who was responsible for the demolition work, which proceeded without the necessary safety measures despite apparent risk of a collapse, according to sources. The investigation team plans to summon officials from the construction company a

- [Alternative forms of smoking double as less smokers try to quit](#) (2026-05-31 11:57)

The use of heated tobacco products has nearly doubled since records began in 2019, even as overall tobacco use has not declined with fewer smokers attempting to quit. The findings, released by the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA) on World No Tobacco Day on Sunday, show that e-cigarettes have partially replaced conventional cigarettes without reducing overall tobacco use. The agency based its report on last year's annual Community Health Survey, which tracks the health behaviors of approximately 230,000 adults aged 19 and older nationwide. The smoking rate for conventional cigarettes stood at 17.9 percent last year, down 1 percentage point from 2024, while usage of heated tobacco products rose 0.3 percentage points to 6.3 percent and liquid e-cigarettes climbed 0.5 percentage points to 4.5 percent. Since records began in 2019, the heated tobacco product usage rate has nearly doubled from 3.3 percent, while liquid e-cigarette usage surged 73.1 percent from 2.6 percent. The quit attempt rate fell from 46.8 percent in 2020 to 40.6 percent last year. Of overall tobacco produ

- [S. Korea discussed bilateral military logistics support pact with Japan: defense minister](#) (2026-05-31 11:57)

South Korea has discussed a Japan-proposed bilateral military logistics support pact with Tokyo, although Seoul maintained its reservations over the matter, Defense Minister Ahn Gyu-back said Sunday. Ahn made the remarks to the press at a defense forum in Singapore, a day after he had bilateral talks with Japanese Defense Minister Shinjiro Koizumi. "There were discussions regarding (a potential) ACSA," Ahn told reporters at the Shangri-La Dialogue, referring to an acquisition and cross-servicing agreement. He declined to give further details. "As this is a matter that requires understanding and persuasion from the peoples of both countries, we still believe that we should remain cautious," he said. It marked the first time that a Seoul official acknowledged that an ACSA was among the agenda items discussed between the defense authorities of the two countries. An ACSA is a bilateral pact between the United States and its allies on facilitating the sharing of logistics supplies and services, such as food, fuel and transportation, during contingencies. Tokyo has been seeking to sign a bilater

- [How will South Korean nuclear submarines alter underwater balance near in the Indo-Pacific region?](#) (2026-05-31 11:57)

South Korea's plans to build nuclear-powered submarines by the mid-2030s will spur a U.S.-allied network of advanced underwater capabilities near the first island chain, strengthening deterrence against potential adversaries such as China and North Korea, analysts say. The South Korean defence ministry this week announced its basic plans to build the country's first nuclear-powered submarine, giving its first detailed outline of the programme since U.S. President Donald Trump granted initial approval in October. According to the plan, South Korea will launch the first of the vessels by the mid-2030s and deliver them to the Republic of Korea Navy by the late 2030s. The submarines, which are expected to be in use for at least 30 years, will be powered by low-enriched uranium instead of high-enriched uranium that could be used to build nuclear weapons. However, in contrast to Trump's approval, which

required the South Korean submarines to be built at Hanwha Ocean's shipyard in Philadelphia, the plan said South Korea would develop and build the submarines within its own territory using the c

- [Foreign tourists visiting Seoul jump 19% year-on-year in April](#) (2026-05-31 05:57)

A total of 1.56 million foreign tourists visited Seoul in April, marking an 18.8 percent increase from the same month last year, the metropolitan government said Sunday. Amid the increase, card spending by foreign visitors in Seoul reached 1.15 trillion won (\$763.1 million) in April, up a sharp 50.5 percent from a year earlier, according to the announcement based on data from the Korea Tourism Organization and the culture ministry. Of the nearly 2 trillion won in card spending by foreigners nationwide last month, Seoul accounted for the largest share of 72.3 percent, excluding online purchases worth 397.4 billion won. By category, spending at shopping malls reached 245.2 billion won, up 62.5 percent from a year earlier, while medical spending rose by 59.2 percent to 192.1 billion won. Spending on beauty-related purchases increased 35 percent. The southern district of Gangnam accounted for the biggest share of spending in Seoul, at 29.1 percent, followed by the central Jung district at 27.5 percent and the Mapo district at 7.4 percent. Chinese tourists represented the largest group of foreign

- [Negative campaigning overshadows local elections](#) (2026-05-31 05:57)

Korea's June 3 local elections have entered their final stretch amid a surge of allegations and political attacks, with negative campaigning overshadowing races across major battlegrounds. Just days before voters head to the polls, candidates in key cities and provinces have traded accusations ranging from misinformation to illegal election interference. This reflects a familiar end-of-campaign pattern, but this year in particular highlights rising concerns over digital manipulation and the political neutrality of public officials. In Seoul, the ruling Democratic Party of Korea's (DPK) mayoral candidate Chong Won-o filed a complaint Friday against incumbent Mayor Oh Se-hoon of the People Power Party (PPP), alleging organized online defamation and opinion manipulation. This follows a media report claiming Oh's campaign was involved in systematically producing and distributing negative content about his rival. Oh's camp has denied the allegations as groundless. Similar clashes have emerged in Busan, where the PPP accused DPK candidate Jeon Jae-soo of spreading false information about i

- [6th S. Korean oil tanker successfully transits through Red Sea](#) (2026-05-31 05:57)

A South Korean vessel has successfully transited the Red Sea and is currently en route home, marking the sixth crude oil shipment to use the route, the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries said Sunday. The oil tanker loaded crude oil at Saudi Arabia's Yanbu Port and passed through the Red Sea at around 10 a.m. Korea time, the ministry said. Details of the vessel's movements were not disclosed for safety reasons. The vessel is the sixth South Korean oil tanker to use the route linking the Indian Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea via the Red Sea and the Suez Canal since the country began diverting shipments away from the Strait of Hormuz, which has been effectively blocked by Iran amid its conflict with the United States.

- [Yeoju Ceramic Festival apologizes over Chinese-made giveaway prizes](#) (2026-05-31 05:57)

Organizers of Korea's renowned Yeoju Ceramic Festival have apologized after Chinese-made ceramic products were distributed as giveaway prizes at an event intended to promote the country's pottery heritage, sparking public backlash and online criticism. The controversy emerged after a social media user posted on Threads on Tuesday that a miniature moon jar received through a festival promotional event carried a "Made in China" sticker. "I honestly doubted my eyes when I opened the package," the winner wrote on Threads, posting photographs of the prize. "This was an event held under the name of the Yeoju Ceramic Festival, but what I received was a cheap, low-quality product with a 'Made in China' sticker on it, which is worse than something you'd buy at Daiso. Is this right?" The annual festival, held in Yeoju, Gyeonggi Province, is one of Korea's best-known ceramic events and aims to promote local artisans and the region's pottery industry. As part of a social media campaign held from May 1 to May 10, visitors who posted photos from the festival on their personal social media accounts we

- [Rival parties focus on battleground regions in last-minute campaigns for June 3 elections](#) (2026-05-31 05:57)

Rival parties were to stage last-minute campaigns Sunday, the last weekend before this week's nationwide elections, focusing on battleground regions, including Seoul. Up for grabs in the June 3 elections are 16 mayoral and gubernatorial posts, along with 227 heads of local governments and some 4,000 members of local councils. On Sunday, Rep. Jung Chung-rae, leader of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK), may visit Seoul, North Jeolla Province and the southeastern city of Ulsan to rally support for DPK candidates in those regions, a party spokesperson said. Polls have suggested close races in the three key regions. In Ulsan, traditionally a conservative stronghold, Kim Sang-wook of the DPK won a candidate unification deal with a minor progressive runner, boosting his chances against Kim Du-kyun of the main opposition People Power Party (PPP) in the mayoral race. In Seoul, the mayoral race is forecast to be a close contest between DPK candidate Chong Won-o and incumbent Oh Se-hoon of the PPP. On Sunday, PPP leader Jang Dong-hyeok is also scheduled to rally support in Seoul, as the part

## Source: The Korea Herald

- [Nvidia chief bolsters ties with Krafton, NC in Seoul](#) (2026-06-07 05:51)

Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang has once again chosen Korea's PC gaming cafes as the places to meet with the founders of the country's leading game companies — Krafton and NC — after picking T1's Base Camp as the first destination during his visit to Seoul on Friday. Huang joined Chang Byung-gyu, founder and chair of Krafton, and Kim Taek-jin, founder and co-CEO of NC, at two gaming cafes located across the street from one another in Gangnam-gu in southern Seoul on Sunday afternoon. The chiefs of Nvidia

- [Lee taps SME minister Han Seong-sook for PM](#) (2026-06-07 05:42)

President Lee Jae Myung nominated Minister of SMEs and Startups Han Seong-sook to be the country's next prime minister, a senior presidential official said Sunday, putting South Korea on track to appoint its first female premier in nearly two decades and only the second woman ever to hold the office. If approved by the National Assembly, Han, 59, would become the country's second female prime minister, following Han Myeong-sook, who served from 2006 to 2007. The nomination comes as current Prime

- [Ahead of Xi visit, North Korea signals denuclearization is off the table](#) (2026-06-07 05:31)

Just one day before Chinese President Xi Jinping is set to arrive in Pyongyang for a rare state visit, North Korea on Sunday delivered an unmistakable message: Its nuclear weapons program is not up for negotiation. A strongly worded statement by the North Korean leader's influential sister, Kim Yo-jong, and Kim Jong-un's inspection of nuclear and missile production facilities appear to be an attempt to define the terms of the summit before Xi even lands, making clear that any discussion of denuc

- [Lee nominates SME Minister Han Seong-sook as new prime minister](#) (2026-06-07 05:18)

President Lee Jae Myung has nominated Han Seong-sook, the incumbent minister of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), as the next prime minister, a senior presidential official said Sunday. If confirmed by the National Assembly, Han would become the Lee government's first female prime minister and South Korea's second female prime minister since Han Myeong-sook, who served in the post from 2006-2007. Current Prime Minister Kim Min-seok is stepping down, reportedly to run for the leadership

- [LAFC' s Son Heung-min named to MLS All-Star squad](#) (2026-06-07 04:57)

Son Heung-min of Los Angeles Football Club on Sunday was one of 11 players named to the Major League Soccer squad for the MLS All-Star Game slated for next month in North Carolina. The MLS First XI was selected through a combined vote of players, fans and media members to recognize the league's top performers from the first half of the regular season. This marks the 33-year-old' s first MLS First XI selection since joining the club in August. He is also just the second South Korean player to earn

- [S. Korean retail investors sell over W1tr won in overseas stocks in 1st week of June](#) (2026-06-07 04:56)

South Korean retail investors sold over 1 trillion won (\$641 billion) worth of overseas stocks in the first week of June, data showed Sunday, suggesting their possible return to the local stock market amid record-breaking gains led by semiconductor shares. Local retailers sold a net \$793.67 million worth of foreign stocks from Monday through Friday, continuing their net selling streak that began in April, according to the data from the Korea Securities Depository. The figure far surpassed the ne

- [Hana Bank opens Subic office in Philippines](#) (2026-06-07 04:46)

Hana Bank said Friday it has opened a branch office in the Subic Special Economic Zone northwest of Manila, aiming to strengthen its presence in Southeast Asia and support growing demand from Korean companies operating in the region. The move comes as HD Hyundai Heavy Industries ramps up operations at the former Subic shipyard, which resumed full-scale production in the second half of 2025 after a major facility overhaul. The company plans to turn the site into a key Southeast Asian production h

- [Free resume feedback for international students](#) (2026-06-07 04:24)

Have your resume polished by a professional before job hunting in Korea. Seoul Global Center is offering a free resume review service for 50 international students. International students who want their resumes to sound more natural, better present their work experience or receive detailed feedback on their cover letters may apply. Applicants must submit resumes and cover letters written in Korean. The required format is available through the Google Drive link on the application page. Feedback m

- [Ulsan language schools face labor fight over foreign teachers' contracts](#) (2026-06-07 04:24)

A labor dispute at two private language schools in Ulsan has escalated into a legal fight over whether the academies lawfully ended fixed-term contracts or used contract expirations to remove foreign English teachers who had joined a union. The union held a rally Friday near the entrance of Ulsan Grand Park, accusing the schools of dismissing unionized foreign teachers while collective bargaining was underway. The rally was organized by the Busan branch of the Korean Public Service and Transport

- [US eyes Iran assets for Gulf reconstruction](#) (2026-06-07 04:17)

The US government will attempt to redirect Iranian assets to Gulf states for rebuilding and repairs of damage caused by Iran, a source familiar with the matter said, as Tehran followed up a wave of strikes against Kuwait and Bahrain with further drone launches. US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent has directed a team to assess costs for damages already inflicted on Gulf allies by Iran, the source said, adding that the US will consider using Iranian assets for repairs of any future destruction as

- [What to watch as Xi heads to Pyongyang for summit with Kim](#) (2026-06-07 03:58)

When Chinese President Xi Jinping arrives in Pyongyang on Monday, what matters may not be what he and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un say behind closed doors, but what they choose to show the world, according to experts on Sunday. Will Kim's daughter, known as Ju-ae, appear alongside the two leaders? Will the summit avoid any mention of denuclearization? Will Beijing signal it is reclaiming influence over a North Korea that has grown increasingly close to Russia? Experts say the rare visit from

- [Foreign workers gain skills, but stuck on career ladder](#) (2026-06-07 03:05)

When Nalinda Kumara, a 37-year-old Sri Lankan shipyard worker, was promoted to on-site foreman in 2024, his company described it as the first such appointment of a foreign national in Korea's shipbuilding industry, a sector increasingly reliant on overseas workers. Kumara has worked for more than a decade with a subcontractor of HD Hyundai Heavy Industries. He now leads a team of 25 Korean and foreign workers, overseeing touch-up painting operations and workplace safety. "I feel very proud that

- [Trump faces new Republican resistance in Congress as midterm pressures build](#) (2026-06-07 02:38)

Donald Trump is facing widening opposition within his own party as Republican lawmakers in Congress, long reluctant to defy him, are showing a greater willingness to break ranks with the US president. Just over the past week, multiple factions of Republicans in the Senate and House of Representatives have stepped forward to rebuke his war against Iran, reject \$1 billion in funding tied to his White House ballroom, force a retreat on his \$1.8 billion "anti-weaponization" fund and block his legi

- [The hottest thing in Seoul? Jensen Huang's leather jacket and his new Dior look](#) (2026-06-07 02:28)

It was nearly 30 degrees Celsius in Seoul on the first day of Jensen Huang's Seoul visit, but he sported his signature black leather jacket despite the sweltering weather. The fashion item quickly drew attention and dominated conversations online. On major South Korean online shopping platforms, products modeled after Huang's look began appearing under keywords such as "Jensen Huang jacket." Online posts cataloging the brands and prices of leather jackets Huang has worn over the years also gaine

- [Albanians step up protests over Trump-linked property development](#) (2026-06-07 02:26)

Thousands of people rallied Saturday in the Albanian capital and hundreds in a protected nature reserve on the country's coast to protest plans for a luxury beach resort by a company linked to the Trump family. Answering a call from environmental organizations, activists from across the country and local residents flocked at midday to the Vjosa-Narta lagoon, around 150 kilometers southwest of the capital Tirana. It was the latest in a series of protests against a project whose cost is estimated

- [Israeli strike kills three Lebanese soldiers](#) (2026-06-07 02:25)

An Israeli strike in southern Lebanon killed three soldiers, Beirut's military said Saturday, as its chief traveled to Pakistan to meet with a key mediator in efforts to end the Middle East war. Israel has launched an operation in Lebanon to root out the Tehran-backed armed group Hezbollah, which drew Lebanon into the wider Middle East war by launching missiles on behalf of its sponsor. A ceasefire meant to have gone into force in April was never observed, and a new conditional truce announced a

- [Colombia's presidential runoff could impact the future of the Amazon rainforest and fossil fuels](#) (2026-06-07 02:24)

The upcoming Colombian presidential election between Sen. Ivan Cepeda, an ally of President Gustavo Petro, and lawyer Abelardo de la Espriella, whom US President Donald Trump has endorsed, is shaping up as a stark choice that could impact the future of the Amazon rainforest, fossil fuel development and the rights of Indigenous communities. The June 21 runoff comes at a pivotal moment for Colombia, which under Petro emerged as one of the world's most vocal advocates for protecting the Amazon and

- [Smilegate doubles down on Crossfire with new AAA title](#) (2026-06-07 02:23)

Smilegate is zeroing in on expanding the intellectual property of Crossfire, a megahit PC shooter with over 1 billion registered players since its release in 2007, unveiling the trailer for a Crossfire spinoff developed by US studio That's No Moon on Friday. That's No Moon, a Los Angeles-based game developer established by a \$100 million investment commitment from Korean game firm Smilegate in 2021, debuted the in-game trailer of Crossfire that bears the same title as the original PC shooter dur

- [Nvidia's Jensen Huang to meet chiefs of S. Korea's 2 major gaming firms](#) (2026-06-07 02:10)

Nvidia Corp. Chief Executive Officer Jensen Huang was scheduled to meet with the heads of South Korea's two major gaming companies Sunday, according to industry sources. On the third day of his four-day trip to South Korea, Huang is expected to visit internet cafes in southern Seoul and hold separate meetings with Krafton Executive Director Chang Byung-gyu and NCSoft CEO Kim Taek-jin, the sources said, while speaking on condition of anonymity. During the meeting with Krafton, the company's chief

- [How Jensen Huang wins over young Koreans](#) (2026-06-07 01:56)

When Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang landed in South Korea last week, he was treated more like a celebrity than a corporate executive. From his visit to a PC bang in Hongdae to his meeting with esports icon Faker and his pork belly-and-soju dinner with Korean business leaders, Huang's every move attracted crowds, cameras and online attention. Some fans even followed his whereabouts through a "Jensen Huang tracker." The Korea Herald spoke to young Korean adults for their take on Huang and why he appears

- [OECD projects S. Korea's potential growth rate to hit record low in 2027](#) (2026-06-07 01:09)

South Korea's potential growth rate is projected to fall to a record low next year, according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development on Sunday, despite robust exports fueled by a semiconductor boom. The OECD's latest data shows the country's potential growth rate at 1.52 percent in 2027, down sharply from 1.66 percent this year. On a quarterly basis, the country's potential growth rate is expected to decline further to 1.46 percent in the fourth quarter of next year. The po

- [Career-best hitting streak reaches 14 games for SF Giants' Lee Jung-hoo](#) (2026-06-07 01:04)

Lee Jung-hoo of the San Francisco Giants has now hit safely in 14 consecutive games. Lee extended his career-best hitting streak by going 2-for-4 with a run and a steal against the Chicago Cubs at Wrigley Field in Chicago on Saturday. The South Korean outfielder raised his batting average from .321 to .324, the fourth-best mark in Major League Baseball with evening games still to be played. Lee flied out in his first two trips to the plate before hitting a single in the top of the seventh inning

- [Court set to rule on ex-President Yoon's drone infiltration charges this week](#) (2026-06-07 00:56)

A court is set to deliver its verdict this week on former President Yoon Suk Yeol's charges of ordering drone incursions into Pyongyang during his tenure as a pretext to declare martial law, officials said Sunday. The Seoul Central District Court will hold the hearing for Yoon on Friday on charges that include benefiting the enemy and abuse of authority, according to judicial officials. Yoon is accused of ordering the South Korean military to fly drones over Pyongyang in October 2024 as a pretext

- [S. Korea coach looking to polish up strategies with World Cup nearing](#) (2026-06-07 00:53)

With precious little time left to train before his team's first match at this year's FIFA World Cup, South Korea head coach Hong Myung-bo said Saturday he will try to mold his squad into a more complete unit. South Korea had their first training session in Mexico, where they will play all three Group A matches, on Saturday. It was a "Community Training Session" organized by FIFA, with hundreds of fans gathered at Chivas Verde Valle in Zapopan, near Guadalajara. The Taeguk Warriors arrived in Me

- [N. Korea's Kim Yo-jong says Pyongyang's nuclear status 'irreversible'](#) (2026-06-07 00:30)

The powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has said her country's status as a nuclear-armed state is "absolutely irreversible" and vowed not to tolerate any threats against it, the North's state media reported Sunday. Kim Yo-jong made the remarks in a statement carried by the Korean Central News Agency, in which she reiterated Pyongyang's position that its nuclear weapons program is nonnegotiable while rejecting international efforts aimed at denuclearization. "Our status as a nuclea

- [\[Photo News\] Korea marks Memorial Day](#) (2026-06-06 07:17)

Various events were held across South Korea on Saturday to commemorate Memorial Day, a national holiday commemorating those who sacrificed themselves while serving the country. A children's drawing contest was held at the War Memorial of Korea in Yongsan-gu, central Seoul. Visitors also enjoyed a variety of hands-on activities, including making rose-of-Sharon-shaped soap and traditional weapons, as well as trying on police uniforms. A motorcycle parade by the Capital Defense Command was also hel

- [IU targeted in online trolling over election disruption](#) (2026-06-06 07:15)

Singer and actress IU has been targeted by online comments urging her to support protesters over election disruptions, in what some describe as coordinated online trolling. Her social media account has recently been flooded with comments requesting that she prepay coffee and snacks for demonstrators who have gathered to protest against ballot paper shortage incident during the June 3 local elections. Some users cited IU's previous actions, when she provided prepaid food and drinks for attendees

- [Gong Myoung looks beyond his rom-com image](#) (2026-06-06 07:00)

Possibly every actor's greatest fear is being reduced to a single persona rather than being recognized as someone capable of disappearing into any role. For Gong Myoung, that fear is very real. Though his puppy-like charm quickly turned him into one of Korean television's most sought-after rom-com leads, the 32-year-old actor admits he is now eager to distance himself from that specific image. "Even I started to feel that I can no longer be seen only as the 'younger guy,'" Gong said during an in

- [\[Gadget Review\] Meta AI glasses bring AI to eye level](#) (2026-06-06 07:00)

"Hey Meta!" The glasses woke up with the short phrase. Then, I looked down and asked how many calories were in the plate of food in front of me. For two or three seconds, nothing much happened. Then a voice came through the open-ear speaker built into the frame. It picked up a croissant, an egg, milk and salad, then offered a rough calorie estimate. There was no phone in hand — just a spoken command and an answer through the glasses. The small moment neatly sums up Meta's pitch for AI glasses. O

- [Making America laugh is no joke](#) (2026-06-06 07:00)

Korean culture has expanded far beyond its borders over the past decade: K-pop is a global phenomenon, while Korean films, television, food, fashion and beauty products continue to attract growing international audiences. Comedian Kim Dong-ha hopes Korean comedy can follow. Kim recently completed the first North American stand-up tour by a Korean comedian, performing in Washington, Toronto and Vancouver under the banner "Made in Korea." The shows were performed entirely in Korean and drew large

- [Why young Koreans are stepping into ballet](#) (2026-06-06 07:00)

What do singer-actresses Bae Suzy, Seo Seohyun and Son Na-eun have in common? All have recently taken up ballet. Bae, who took up ballet last year, said in an interview that she was still a beginner and focused mainly on stretching exercises. She regularly shares glimpses of her ballet practices on social media. "Ballet movements are very graceful, and they help improve posture. I'm really enjoying it because it feels like it's doing a lot of good for my health," she told Elle Korea. Bae is not

- [\[K-Trendsetters\] K-hairstyling is quieter, softer and built for your face](#) (2026-06-06 07:00)

When Jeong Ok visited a busy Tokyo salon recently, she thought she had walked into a Korean shop. K-pop was playing. The hair designers were styled the Korean way. She got a "hello" in Korean before the conversation switched to Japanese. "The styling and the makeup were all K-style. And it was a Japanese salon," said Jeong, an executive overseeing sales at Juno Hair and a 31-year veteran who still cuts hair at the brand's Seoul National University Station store. That visit helped Juno Hair decid

- [Stakeouts after school: A day in the life of Korea's Gen Z private detective](#) (2026-06-06 07:00)

By day, Oh Ji-wan is a history major at Ajou University. By night, he tracks suspected cheaters, fraudsters and missing persons as a private investigator. While many college students spend their evenings studying, socializing or pursuing romance, this one is more likely to be on the road or staking out restaurants or motels, hunting for leads. "There was one time when a family asked me to find their son, who was about my age and had run away from home and cut off all contact," Oh, 24, said in an

- [1st funeral held for victim of Hanwha Aerospace factory blast](#) (2026-06-06 06:04)

The first funeral for one of five people killed in a deadly factory explosion at Hanwha Aerospace, a defense company, was held in the central city of Daejeon on Saturday. A blast at the Hanwha Aerospace facility on Monday killed five people and injured two others, with company officials saying the workers were cleaning propellant powder residue from tools used in the production of propulsion systems at the time of the explosion. The funeral for one of the victims took place at a funeral parlor i

- [Protest over ballot shortage continues after voting disruptions](#) (2026-06-06 05:54)

A protest over voting disruptions caused by a ballot paper shortage during the June 3 local elections continued into Saturday. Protesters remained gathered outside the Handball Gymnasium at Olympic Park in Songpa-gu, eastern Seoul, on Saturday afternoon. The venue was being used as a vote-counting center. Roughly 3,000 demonstrators were present as of 1:30 p.m., according to an unofficial police estimate. The protest initially took place at a polling station in Songpa-gu. It, however, shifted to

- [Two swept away by waves at beach in Gangneung](#) (2026-06-06 03:19)

Two women were swept away by waves at a beach in Gangneung, Gangwon Province, on Saturday, leaving one dead and the other hospitalized. The Gangneung Coast Guard Station said it received a report of two people struggling in the water at 5:09 a.m. A coastal patrol team pulled both women from the water using rescue ropes. One of the victims, a woman in her 30s, was found unconscious and in cardiac arrest and was later pronounced dead. The other woman, in her 20s, is receiving treatment at a hospit

- [Korean won breaches 1,560 per dollar for first time since 2009](#) (2026-06-06 02:03)

The Korean won weakened past the 1,560-per-dollar mark during overnight trading on Saturday for the first time in more than 17 years, sinking to its weakest level since the global financial crisis in 2009. The won was quoted at 1,559 per dollar at the close of overnight trading at 2 a.m. Saturday, weakening 19.9 won from the close of daytime trading. During the session, it weakened to as weak as 1,561.5 per dollar, marking its weakest level since March 6, 2009, when it traded at 1,597 won amid t

- [Lee says paying full respects to those killed in service an important 'social duty'](#) (2026-06-06 01:46)

President Lee Jae Myung said Saturday honoring and paying due respects to those killed while serving the country is a social duty the nation should uphold. Lee made the remarks in a speech at a Memorial Day ceremony, a national holiday commemorating those who sacrificed themselves while serving the country, including those who fought for independence from Japan's 1910-45 colonial rule of Korea. Saturday's ceremony at Seoul National Cemetery was attended by 3,000 uniformed service members, govern

- [When tech titans dine, who picks up the check?](#) (2026-06-05 13:44)

Who pays for dinner when some of the world's wealthiest technology leaders gather around a barbecue table? The question came up Friday as Nvidia Chief Executive Jensen Huang joined SK Group Chairman Chey Tae-won, Naver founder Lee Hae-jin and LG Group Chairman Koo Kwang-mo for dinner at a barbecue restaurant in Seoul's Hongdae neighborhood. With the group reportedly reserving the entire venue, the meal is said to have come to more than 5.67 million won (\$4,100). As the conversation turned to who

- [Samsø summit](#) (2026-06-05 13:15)

Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang capped his first day in Seoul on Friday with a "samsø" gathering — samgyeopsal, or grilled pork belly, washed down with soju — joining SK Group Chairman Chey Tae-won, LG Group Chairman Koo Kwang-mo and Naver Chairman Lee Hae-jin at Hyeongnim Jeoyo, a barbecue restaurant near Hongik University Station in Mapo-gu. Crowds packed the surrounding Hongdae streets for a glimpse of the Nvidia chief, who handed out snacks to onlookers and hammed it up for cameras — at one point pr

- [Navy service member dies after being found unconscious during combat drill in Yellow Sea](#) (2026-06-05 11:59)

A noncommissioned officer of the Navy died Friday after being found unconscious during a combat readiness drill in waters near an inter-Korean border island in the Yellow Sea, the Navy said. The unidentified service member was found unconscious and bleeding from the head aboard a naval vessel operating in waters near Yeonpyeong Island, at around 1:35 p.m., according to the Navy. The service member received emergency treatment at the scene and was transported by a military medical helicopter to t

- [S. Korea condemns threats to U.N. peacekeeping mission after Serbian peacekeeper killed in Lebanon](#) (2026-06-05 11:57)

South Korea on Friday condemned "all acts" threatening the safety of the U.N. peacekeeping mission in Lebanon, following the death of a Serbian peacekeeper serving with the mission. "We express deep concern over the recent casualties, including the death of a Serbian peacekeeper serving with the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), and condemn all acts that threaten the safety and security of UNIFIL personnel," foreign ministry spokesperson Park Il said in a commentary. Park recalled that att

- [Nvidia CEO toasts Korea partners over BBQ, soju in Hongdae](#) (2026-06-05 11:39)

Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang met with some of South Korea's most influential business leaders over Korean barbecue, soju and beer Friday in Seoul, kicking off a closely watched trip with fanfare, selfies and Korean food culture. Huang arrived at Hyeongnim Jeoyo — roughly translated as "Bro, it's me" — a pork belly restaurant in the popular Hongdae neighborhood, where he joined SK Group Chairman Chey Tae-won, LG Group Chairman Koo Kwang-mo and Naver founder and Chairman Lee Hae-jin for dinner. After d

- [What is 'Arirang' without its melody? 'Ballet Arirang' finds the answer in spirit](#) (2026-06-05 10:43)

When BTS chose "Arirang" as an album title and wove the familiar refrain — "Arirang, Arirang, Arariyo" — into its music, the move sparked widespread discussion about meaning, identity and cultural heritage. Now comes "Ballet Arirang." The title invokes Korea's familiar folk song, yet not a single note of the "Arirang" melody will be heard on stage. Instead of borrowing the tune, the production seeks to translate the spirit of "Arirang" into ballet. "There is no 'Arirang' melody in the performanc

- [President Lee calls joint Korean War remains repatriation 'testament' to S. Korea-U.S. alliance](#) (2026-06-05 10:43)

President Lee Jae Myung on Friday called joint efforts by South Korea and the United States to recover and return the remains of troops killed during the 1950-53 Korean War the "most powerful testament" to the alliance. Lee made the remarks during a joint repatriation ceremony for the return of the remains of 10 fallen South Korean service members from Hawaii to Korea and the repatriation of those of three U.S. soldiers back home. "Today's repatriation marks a meaningful milestone that further d

- [Lee heads to Europe for EU and G7 summits, meeting Pope Leo](#) (2026-06-05 09:02)

President Lee Jae Myung heads to Europe next week for a 10-day trip aimed at putting Seoul's European diplomacy into full swing and strengthening its standing as a "global responsible power" seeking a broader role with the G7. Lee will visit Belgium, the European Union, Italy and the Vatican from June 9-18 before attending the Group of Seven summit in Evian, France, National Security Adviser Wi Sung-lac said Friday during a press briefing. Lee's final stop will

be the G7 summit on June 16-17, wh

- [The next AI battle is not over outputs, but control](#) (2026-06-05 08:59)

Korea Herald correspondent Choi Jeong-yoon SAN FRANCISCO, US — Inside what used to be a warehouse along San Francisco's waterfront, hundreds of technology companies, filmmakers, designers, creators and AI startups gathered this week to discuss what many believe is the next chapter of artificial intelligence. As generative artificial intelligence rapidly expands to individuals and enterprises, Upscale Conference focused on a future in which AI is no longer simply a tool for generating images, vid

- [Foreign selling drags Kospi down 5%, sends won to 17-year low](#) (2026-06-05 08:29)

Heavy foreign selling rattled South Korean markets on Friday, dragging the benchmark Kospi down more than 5 percent and driving the won to a 17-year low against the greenback. The Kospi closed down 5.54 percent at 8,160.59 on the day. The benchmark index opened sharply lower, tracking an overnight decline in US semiconductor stocks after Broadcom projected third-quarter AI-related revenue of \$16 billion, falling short of market expectations. It fell as much as 6 percent in early trading to 8,038

- [Jensen Huang and Faker meet, celebrate mutual rise](#) (2026-06-05 08:27)

Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang began his five-day Korea visit Friday not in a boardroom but in a packed Hongdae gaming cafe, paying tribute to the Korean gaming culture he says built his company. Fans clutching phones had massed outside T1 Base Camp, a "PC bang," or internet gaming cafe, run by esports organization T1 in the Hongik University area of western Seoul. Staff held them back from the corridor and EDM pulsed through the venue. Huang, fresh off his 1 p.m. arrival at Gimpo International Airport

- [NEC chair, secretary-general offer to resign over ballot fiasco](#) (2026-06-05 08:18)

Rho Tae-ak, chair of the National Election Commission, offered to resign from the post in the aftermath of the election delays due to ballot shortages at 22 polling stations in the Greater Seoul region. The incident, which unfolded mostly in conservative-leaning districts in Seoul and Incheon, forced some voters to cast their votes after the exit poll results were announced on Wednesday. Also, vote counts for some districts were significantly delayed. "There is no room for excuses for an incident

- [Gap between allies over OPCON transfer 'not that large' : Seoul](#) (2026-06-05 08:10)

The gap between Seoul and Washington over the timing of and conditions needed to complete the transfer of wartime operational control remains "manageable," a senior presidential official said Friday. The remarks came amid concerns about a possible rift between the allies over the issue, which the Lee Jae Myung administration has sought to expedite, possibly as early as next year, before the end of its term. "In reality, the difference in views between Korea and the US regarding wartime operation

- [New Assembly speaker elected; 14 new lawmakers make Assembly debut](#) (2026-06-05 07:41)

The National Assembly on Friday elected six-term liberal lawmaker Rep. Cho Jeong-sik as its new speaker of the country's unicameral legislature. Cho, who was selected in the ruling Democratic Party of Korea's internal contest on May 13, won 267 votes out of 276 at the plenary session held Friday. Cho will hold the post for the 22nd National Assembly until May 2028. Cho, 62, replaces five-term Rep. Woo Won-shik, whose two-year term as the speaker ended on May 29. In his acceptance speech, Cho ple

- [People Power Party faces post-election tension as pressure mounts on Jang](#) (2026-06-05 07:30)

South Korea's main opposition People Power Party is facing mounting internal pressure for leadership change after Wednesday's local elections, as calls grow for Chair Rep. Jang Dong-hyeok to take responsibility despite the party avoiding its worst-case scenario. The People Power Party retained four of the 16 mayoral and gubernatorial races, including Seoul, Daegu, North Gyeongsang Province and South Gyeongsang Province. The ruling Democratic Party of Korea, meanwhile, won 12 of the 16 major race

- [Lee seeks second-year lift from post-election Cabinet reset](#) (2026-06-05 07:03)

South Korea's political landscape is entering a new phase after this week's local elections: President Lee Jae Myung is preparing a Cabinet reshuffle and both major parties are bracing for leadership battles. At the center of the transition is Lee's expected nomination of a new prime minister. The decision will likely serve both as the first major personnel move of his second year in office and as a signal of the direction he wants that year to take. Lee's is expected to nominate a new prime min

- [Gwangju Biennale to select artistic director through open call for first time](#) (2026-06-05 06:58)

The Gwangju Biennale Foundation will select the artistic director of the 17th Gwangju Biennale through an open international call, replacing its longstanding recommendation-based appointment system. Under the previous system, artistic directors were selected from a pool of candidates recommended by a small committee. The foundation said the new approach is intended to create a "more open selection process," while placing greater emphasis on curatorial vision, exhibition content and planning capa

- [Tesla Model Y becomes first foreign vehicle to top Korea' s monthly sales](#) (2026-06-05 06:45)

Tesla' s Model Y SUV has become the first foreign vehicle to top Korea' s monthly passenger car sales, overtaking domestic models in a market long dominated by Hyundai Motor Group. According to recent data by the Korea Automobile Importers & Distributors Association, the

Model Y sold 8,762 units in May. It secured the top spot ahead of Hyundai and Kia's bestselling models, including Kia Sorento SUV (7,836 units), Hyundai Grandeur sedan (5,183 units), Kia Sportage SUV (4,760 units) and Kia Carnival

- [Korean tidal flats set for UNESCO World Heritage expansion listing](#) (2026-06-05 06:34)

South Korea's UNESCO-listed "getbol," or tidal flats, are expected to receive an expanded World Heritage designation, adding coastal wetlands in Yeosu, Goheung and Muan in South Jeolla Province; Seosan in South Chungcheong Province, heritage authorities said Friday. The Korea Heritage Service said the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the advisory body on natural heritage to UNESCO's World Heritage Committee, has recommended the inscription of "Getbol, Korean Tidal Flats Phase II." T

- [We are hard-wired to crave connection. Why is it so hard to unite?](#) (2026-06-05 06:34)

Why are communities so fragile? And why, despite that fragility, do we continue to long for connection? Those are the questions at the heart of "Assembly Hall," the latest work by Canadian choreographer Crystal Pite, winner of the 2025 Olivier Award for Best New Dance Production. The work arrives in Seoul this week for performances Friday through Sunday at the LG Arts Center Seoul, presented by Kidd Pivot, the company Pite founded in 2002. One of the most acclaimed choreographers working today,

- ['Anti-Ilbe Storehouse' bill drafted to enforce removal of online hate speech](#) (2026-06-05 06:30)

A liberal lawmaker has drafted an anti-hate speech in online spaces law that would push operators of online platforms to remove posts containing derision or hate speech. The proposed legislation was prompted by public backlash over a series of perceived mockeries of citizens of the Jeolla provinces and the Korean democratic movement. Starbucks Korea came under fire for its "Tank Day" tumbler promotion on the anniversary of the Gwangju Democratic Uprising on May 18. In 1980, the military, under m

- [Mirae Asset's SpaceX offering sells out in minutes](#) (2026-06-05 06:22)

Mirae Asset Securities' first round of subscription for SpaceX shares sold out minutes after opening Friday, reflecting strong domestic demand for the highly anticipated listing. Mirae Asset is offering \$500 million worth of SpaceX shares to registered professional investors, including individuals and corporations. Individual professional investors are those considered capable of assuming investment risks, taking into account their knowledge and experience in financial instruments and the scale

- ['Teach You a Lesson' is ready for its Netflix debut after years of controversy](#) (2026-06-05 06:09)

"Teach You a Lesson" had already become one of Netflix Korea's most controversial projects long before its release. Now, it's finally heading to screens. The series follows a special

organization established to defend Korea's troubled education system from disruptive students, abusive parents and unethical teachers. It promises a highly cathartic blend of action and social commentary, centered on officials who intervene when conventional systems fail to protect victims. Yet the conversation surr

- [Nvidia CEO touches down in Seoul with 'surprises' for Korea](#) (2026-06-05 05:57)

Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang said Friday he brought "a lot of business (opportunities)" and "surprises" for Korea, raising expectations for deeper cooperation with Korean companies. Speaking to reporters shortly after arriving in Seoul, Huang said he would be meeting with major tech conglomerates here — including Samsung Electronics, SK Group, Hyundai Motor Group, LG Group and Naver — as Nvidia works to align with partners ahead of what he saw as big years for AI infrastructure. "The second half (of

- [PM says 'every measure' will be taken to delve into ballot shortage](#) (2026-06-05 05:49)

Prime Minister Kim Min-seok on Friday said that all possible measures would be employed to investigate the ballot shortage that occurred in Wednesday's local and parliamentary by-election. "The National Election Commission's ballot shortage incident cannot be overlooked. It is a grievous challenge against K-democracy," Kim wrote on his X account. "(I will) order all measures, including criminal investigation, to uncover the truth and hold (those responsible) accountable. If necessary, a parliame

- [Prosecution indicts 27 in 'revenge-for-hire' cases](#) (2026-06-05 05:35)

South Korean prosecutors said Friday they have indicted all 27 individuals accused this year of committing paid revenge crimes. So-called "proxy revenge" is a novel form of crime that has spread among Koreans recently, where individuals pay others to vandalize or harass people with whom they have personal disputes. "We realize the severity of the 'proxy revenge' cases that occurred recently, and have indicted all of those held responsible while seizing the profits that they have earned (through

- [Lee to visit Europe from June 9-18, attend G7 summit in France's Evian](#) (2026-06-05 05:35)

President Lee Jae Myung will travel to Europe this month to take part in the Group of Seven summit in France, a senior presidential official said Friday. Lee's trip will last from Tuesday to June 18 and include visits to Belgium, Italy and the Vatican, according to National Security Adviser Wi Sung-lac. Lee's attendance at the G7 summit, set for June 15-17, comes at the invitation of the grouping, Wi told a press briefing. (Yonhap)

- [Lee Jun-seok calls for National Assembly probe into ballot shortages](#) (2026-06-05 05:31)

Rep. Lee Jun-seok, chair of the minor conservative Reform Party, on Friday called for a parliamentary investigation into ballot shortages reported during Wednesday's local elections. Lee urged both the ruling Democratic Party of Korea and the main opposition People Power Party to take a clear position on the issue, including the possibility of holding reelections. In a

Facebook post, Lee said the ruling party should immediately accept a National Assembly probe, while the People Power Party should

- [Buldak's new face: Peppo the flame-topped chick](#) (2026-06-05 05:29)

Samyang Foods is giving its Buldak noodle franchise a new face — a red chick with a flame atop its head — as the spicy noodle brand notches 10 billion cumulative servings sold worldwide. The company said Friday that its new mascot, Peppo, is set to become the face of not only the Buldak product lineup but also its broader ecosystem spanning content, merchandise and digital experiences. Samyang identified expanding Buldak into a full-fledged intellectual property franchise as a key strategic pillar

- [Korea proposes Hyundai-led W3.4tr hydrogen project for Canada submarine bid](#) (2026-06-05 05:29)

Korea has pitched a 3.4 trillion won (\$2.2 billion) hydrogen truck investment package led by Hyundai Motor Group to the Canadian government as part of its bid to secure the country's next-generation submarine contract. In an interview with Canada-based broadcaster CTV News on Wednesday, Chief Presidential Secretary Kang Hoon-sik revealed details of the initiative, dubbed "Project Beaver," which aims to establish a hydrogen mobility ecosystem in Canada using technology developed by Hyundai Motor

- [Significant drop in Seoul's late-night subway passengers since pandemic](#) (2026-06-05 05:26)

The number of Seoul citizens using the metropolitan subway network after midnight has decreased by 23.7 percent compared to before the pandemic, a Seoul Metro press release revealed Friday. A total of 15,653 people per day rode the subway late at night, according to the operator of Seoul's major subway lines. The figure was substantially lower than the 20,516 recorded in 2019, before the global COVID-19 pandemic. Though the South Korean government lifted most social distancing policies in 2022,

- [Canada, Korea deepen industry partnership with potential CA\\$100 billion economic impact](#) (2026-06-05 05:04)

South Korea and Canada are expanding cooperation in energy security, critical minerals, strategic industries and supply chain resilience, a move that could generate more than 100 billion Canadian dollars (\$71.91 billion) in economic impact for Canada while supporting tens of thousands of jobs. The expanded partnership was announced Tuesday following a meeting between Canada's Minister of Energy and Natural Resources Tim Hodgson and South Korea's Chief of Staff to the President and Special Envoy

- [Michelle Steel clears Senate panel for Seoul envoy post vacant for 1.5 years](#) (2026-06-05 05:02)

The nomination of Michelle Steel, President Donald Trump's pick for US ambassador to South Korea, cleared a Senate committee, leaving only a full Senate vote before she can take up the post in Seoul. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee voted 14-8 to advance Steel's nomination on Thursday, around two months after Trump nominated the former two-term Republican congresswoman from California on April 13. If confirmed by the full Senate and formally appointed, Steel would fill a diplomatic post th

- [Katherine Bradford' s dreamlike paintings arrive in Seoul](#) (2026-06-05 04:52)

Faceless figures swim together in a big universal pool, walk toward a giant yellow moon and drift across evening skies in Katherine Bradford' s dreamlike paintings. The American artist' s first solo exhibition in Korea, "Living a Dream," brings around 20 recent works to Gallery Hyundai through July 12. The exhibition introduces Bradford' s distinctive visual language shaped by recurring motifs such as mothers, superheroes and figures in water. Notable featured works include "Mothers Group," "Sleep

- [Mark to perform at World Environment Day opening ceremony in Azerbaijan](#) (2026-06-05 04:45)

Mark is set to take the stage at this year' s World Environment Day opening ceremony in Baku, Azerbaijan, marking his first official public appearance since launching his creative company, Upper Room, and since departing from NCT in April. The event will take place Thursday at 11 a.m., and is expected to bring together global leaders, environmental advocates and artists to commemorate World Environment Day, which is organized annually by the United Nations Environment Program. This year' s officia

- [Korean won hits 17-year low on foreign outflow](#) (2026-06-05 04:38)

The Korean won weakened sharply Friday, hitting its lowest level since the 2009 global financial crisis as sustained foreign outflows from the benchmark Kospi weighed on the currency. The won was quoted at 1,529 per dollar at the start of onshore trading Friday. It soon weakened past the 1,540 mark after the opening bell, weakening to as low as 1,549.1 per dollar and briefly flirting with the 1,550 threshold. The currency was trading at 1,544.7 per dollar as of noon. It marked the first time the

- [Xiaomi design head Li Tianyuan to give keynote address at FAMS 2026](#) (2026-06-05 04:34)

Li Tianyuan, head of design at Xiaomi EV, will deliver a keynote speech at the Future AI Mobility Summit 2026 in Seoul on June 30, the event's organizing committee and The Korea Herald said Friday. The summit, under the theme of "From Motion to Emotion," is set to be held at the Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry, bringing together industry leaders to discuss the future of artificial intelligence and mobility technologies. Li is a renowned mobility designer who connected the heritage of trad

- [Laneige opens first global flagship store in Myeongdong](#) (2026-06-05 04:33)

Laneige, a beauty brand under AmorePacific, has opened its first global flagship store in Myeongdong on Friday. Laneige Seoul is designed for consumers to experience up-to-date technology and the brand's "Open to Wonder" philosophy. With hyper-personalized beauty services and products, the brand aims to provide a unique consumer experience, the company said. At the Lip Sleeping Mask Swirl experience, inspired by an ice cream bar, consumers can choose two out of ten scents. The machinery — equipp

- [TWS sings for Korean World Cup team](#) (2026-06-05 04:26)

TWS is unveiling a song for Korea's national soccer team participating in the FIFA World Cup 2026, according to agency Pledis Entertainment on Friday. The boy group will sing "Dream With Us" to root for the squad competing in the global match taking place in Canada, Mexico and the US from June 11-19. The upbeat fight song was played for the first time on Thursday at the final friendly match between El Salvador and Korea, held in Salt Lake City. It is officially scheduled for release on June 11.

- [South Korea, US agree to accelerate nuclear cooperation discussions](#) (2026-06-05 03:47)

South Korea and the United States have agreed to accelerate talks, following the first working-level consultations this week on plans for Seoul's acquisition of nuclear-powered submarines. According to Seoul's Foreign Ministry on Friday, the two countries held a two-day meeting in Seoul this week to launch follow-up discussions on nuclear cooperation outlined in a joint fact sheet released after last year's summit between President Lee Jae Myung and US President Donald Trump. The consultations b

- [S. Korea, US Marine Corps chiefs agree to expand training, exchanges](#) (2026-06-05 03:47)

South Korean and US Marine Corps chiefs discussed ways to strengthen their combined operational capabilities and expand military cooperation, Seoul's Defense Ministry said Friday. Marine Corps Commandant Lt. Gen. Ju Il-seok visited Washington and met with US Marine Corps Commandant Gen. Eric M. Smith on Tuesday at Smith's invitation, according to the ministry. During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views on ways to deepen military cooperation, including expanding combined exercises and prom

- [Hongdae buzzes ahead of Jensen Huang's PC bang, pork belly stops](#) (2026-06-05 03:14)

Seoul's Hongdae district was buzzing from early Friday morning, hours before Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang was expected to touch down in Korea for a visit packed with gaming, barbecue and meetings with the country's top business leaders. Huang is expected to arrive at Seoul Gimpo Business Aviation Center at around 1 p.m., according to Nvidia. After briefly speaking to reporters there, he is set to head to his first official stop: an internet cafe, locally known as "PC bang," operated by Korean esports

- [China's Xi to visit North Korea](#) (2026-06-05 03:11)

Chinese President Xi Jinping will visit North Korea on Monday, at the invitation of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, China's Foreign Ministry announced Friday. According to reports citing the ministry, Xi will make a two-day trip to North Korea starting June 8. The meeting comes as North Korea seeks to strengthen ties with China and Russia, both of which have shown signs of providing more support for the reclusive regime. The latest signs came after a summit between Xi and Russian President Vlad

- [Overseas card spending nearly unchanged in Q1](#) (2026-06-05 03:08)

South Koreans' overseas card spending remained nearly unchanged in the first quarter from three months earlier as lower overseas direct purchases offset gains from an increase in outbound travelers, data showed Friday. The amount of money spent overseas by South Koreans with credit and debit cards came to \$6.1 billion in the January-March period, down just 0.1 percent from \$6.11 billion posted three months earlier, according to data from the Bank of Korea. Compared with a year earlier, the figur

- [DAPA chief pays respects to victims of Hanwha Aerospace explosion](#) (2026-06-05 03:06)

The chief of South Korea's defense procurement agency on Friday paid his respects to the victims of a recent explosion at a Hanwha Aerospace factory in the central city of Daejeon, the Defense Acquisition Program Administration said. DAPA Minister Lee Yong-cheol visited the facility in the city, located about 140 kilometers south of Seoul, to inspect ongoing recovery efforts and discuss prevention measures, according to the agency. The explosion occurred Monday, leaving five people dead and two

- [Election watchdog head to apologize over ballot shortages in local elections](#) (2026-06-05 03:02)

The chief of the country's election watchdog will issue a public apology later Friday over an unprecedented shortage of ballot papers that disrupted voting in some areas in Seoul during this week's local elections, according to officials. Roh Tae-ak, chairperson of the National Election Commission, will hold a press briefing at the agency's headquarters in Gwacheon, south of Seoul, at 4 p.m., the commission said in a press notice. During Wednesday's elections, ballot shortages were reported at d

- ['Bro, it's me': Jensen Huang's Korea dinner spot steals spotlight](#) (2026-06-05 03:00)

Many have wondered which pork-belly venue Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang would choose for his Friday dinner with Korea's top business leaders. The restaurant of choice turned out to be Hyeongnim jeoyo — roughly, "Bro, it's me" in Korean — a charcoal-grilled Korean barbecue restaurant in Hongdae, Seoul. Returning to Korea after seven months, Huang is expected to recreate the buzz of October's chicken-and-beer meetup, this time over pork belly and soju with SK Group Chairman Chey Tae-won, LG Group Chairm

- [Samsung's top union loses majority status after chip-heavy bonus deal](#) (2026-06-05 02:57)

Samsung Electronics' largest labor union has lost its majority status just two months after winning legal recognition, as workers in the company's non-chip division quit to protest a wage deal that favored semiconductor employees. The Samsung Electronics branch of the Samsung Group Employees' Union had 58,270 members as of 3 p.m. on Thursday, according to the union. That is down by nearly 18,000 from more than 76,000 at the end of April, when it held a rally to vote on a strike. Samsung Electron

- ['Financially-challenged' former gold medalist vows to pay child support](#) (2026-06-05 02:55)

Former short track speedskating champion Kim Dong-sung pleaded leniency in his ongoing trial over not paying his share of the child-rearing expenses, claiming that his failure to pay was due to not being able to work. The 46-year-old was sentenced to 18 months in jail in December for not paying child support to his ex-wife for three years and 10 months. Kim has claimed that he has been facing financial difficulties, and he has been working as a non-guaranteed construction worker. "I didn't hold

- [Ateez fills 14th EP with self-written songs](#) (2026-06-05 02:49)

Ateez posted the full tracklist for its 14th mini album, "Golden Hour: Part 5," on Friday via agency KQ Entertainment. The upcoming set will comprise five tracks, including the lead single "Bad." Hongjoong and Mingi participated in writing lyrics for all songs that underline the range of the eight-member act's music spectrum. The EP will be released on June 26, about four months after the previous EP, which hit the Billboard 200 at No. 3 and sold over 1.5 million copies in one week. Two days aft

- [Korean Air backs US STEM nonprofit to cultivate global talent](#) (2026-06-05 02:43)

Korean Air said Friday it would sponsor the Center for Excellence in Education, a US nonprofit that provides advanced science, technology, engineering and mathematics education for high-achieving students, under a four-year partnership. The partnership was formalized Wednesday at a signing ceremony in Washington attended by Walter Cho, chairman and CEO of Korean Air and Hanjin Group. Under the agreement, Korean Air will fund scholarships for students selected to the Center's Research Science Ins

- [Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang embarks on packed Seoul visit focused on AI, robotics](#) (2026-06-05 02:24)

Nvidia founder and CEO Jensen Huang is set to touch down in Seoul on Friday afternoon, kicking off a four-day trip focused on deepening ties with South Korea's tech, manufacturing and AI industries. The highly anticipated visit will be Huang's longest stay here in recent years and comes as Nvidia seeks to expand its partnership beyond semiconductors into emerging areas such as robotics, physical AI and AI infrastructure. Huang last visited Korea seven months ago for the APEC summit, where he mad

- [Tears and tributes for Hanwha Aerospace explosion victims](#) (2026-06-05 02:24)

Bereaved family members, friends and colleagues of victims of the explosion at Hanwha Aerospace's Daejeon facility gathered at joint memorial altars on Thursday morning to mourn the loss of their loved ones. Hanwha Aerospace, the defense affiliate of Hanwha Group, has established joint memorial altars across 10 of its business sites nationwide to honor those killed in the explosion, including one at the Yuseong District Office near its Daejeon facility. Other locations include the company's head

- [Cab driver prevents scam worth 140 million won: police](#) (2026-06-05 02:10)

Police recently commended a taxi driver in Ulsan for assistance in stopping a scam that would have inflicted financial damage of around 140 million won (\$90,500), officials said Thursday. Officials at the Ulsan Dongbu Police Station said they have awarded the driver a certificate of appreciation and 1 million won in relation to their May 26 arrest. The taxi driver on that day picked up a passenger who was talking with a woman on the phone and repeatedly checking the other party's location. The d

- [Zerobaseone' s Gunwook apologizes for rigging fan event](#) (2026-06-05 02:05)

Gunwook of Zerobaseone said he regretted manipulating a recent lucky draw event through a fan communication platform on Friday. Questions have arisen among fans over an autograph session, where he gave out Polaroid pictures to a select few. The singer appeared to have called out a different number than the one he pulled, which was caught on participants' cameras, in favor of a certain fan. "I should have exercised greater judgement," he wrote, adding "I take it seriously that my actions have cau

- [BTS tops Billboard Japan' s mid-year album rankings](#) (2026-06-05 01:44)

The fifth studio album from BTS, "Arirang," nabbed the top spot on Billboard Japan' s main albums ranking for the first half of this year, according to the chart published on Friday. Main track "Swim" and B-side track "2.0" made the mid-year Hot 100 chart at No. 38 and No. 87, respectively. On Artist 100, BTS claimed the No. 6 spot as the only international artist in the top ten. "Arirang" logged over 750,000 shipments in the country in 11 days and earned triple platinum certification from the Re

- [Nvidia's Jensen Huang to make Faker his first stop in Seoul](#) (2026-06-05 01:41)

Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang will head straight from the airport to a Seoul gaming cafe Friday to meet Faker, the League of Legends icon he once cheered for from the stage. Huang, set to land at Gimpo International Airport at around 1 p.m., will visit T1 Base Camp, a "PC bang," or internet gaming cafe, run by esports organization T1, according to industry sources — making the gaming powerhouse his first stop ahead of a dinner with the country's top business leaders. There he will meet all five starte

- [Court rejects arrest for business owner accused of assaulting immigrant workers](#) (2026-06-05 01:38)

A police request to arrest a business owner accused of repeated assault on his employees has been turned down by a local court, officials said Friday. The Incheon District Court rejected the warrant request for the suspect in his 30s who allegedly assaulted four Bangladeshi workers, according to the Incheon Seobu Police Station. The court cited that the suspect, who runs a textile business, has a permanent residence and poses no threat of fleeing or destroying evidence. It is believed that the s

- [Police disperse protestors at polling station, acquire ballot boxes](#) (2026-06-05 00:50)

South Korean police on Friday dispersed hundreds of demonstrators at a polling station in southern Seoul who had blocked access to ballot boxes to protest the ballot shortage during Wednesday's local elections. Mobile police units were dispatched at around 7:30 a.m. to Jamsil-dong, Songpa-gu, southern Seoul, where citizens had been at a stand-off with authorities since Wednesday evening. The number of protestors reached as high as 1,400, according to police estimates shared at 11 p.m. Thursday.

- [Unification minister seeks Mongolia's support to bring Pyongyang to dialogue](#) (2026-06-05 00:47)

Unification Minister Chung Dong-young has met with Mongolian President Ukhnaa Khurelsukh to discuss deepening bilateral ties and advancing peace on the Korean Peninsula, the ministry said Friday. Chung is currently in the Mongolian capital for the 11th Ulaanbaatar Dialogue, a forum on security and peace cooperation in Northeast Asia. In his meeting with the president, Chung said Mongolia, one of the few countries that maintains friendly ties with both Koreas, is uniquely positioned to help advan

- [KRX issues sell-side sidecar for KOSPI on sharp fall](#) (2026-06-05 00:40)

The country's bourse operator on Friday activated a sell-side sidecar for the benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index as the index nosedived due to a slump in tech heavyweights. Program trading for the KOSPI was suspended for five minutes at around 9:08 a.m., according to the Korea Exchange. The KOSPI fell sharply as investors took a breather following a recent rally in tech shares amid uncertainty over the US-Iran peace deal. Opening at 3.66 percent lower, the KOSPI fell as low as 8,146.65

- [Seoul shares open sharply lower on tech slump amid Middle East uncertainty](#) (2026-06-05 00:38)

South Korean stocks opened sharply lower Friday as investors took a breather following a recent rally in tech shares amid uncertainty over the U.S.-Iran peace deal. After opening 3.66 percent lower, the benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index fell 449.16 points, or 5.2 percent, to 8,190.25 as of 9:15 a.m. The Korea Exchange suspended program trading for the KOSPI for five minutes at around 9:08 a.m., a measure issued when the KOSPI 200 Futures index decreases 5 percent or more for at least o

- [Kospi plunges 5% on US chip stock rout](#) (2026-06-05 00:34)

South Korea's benchmark Kospi tumbled more than 5 percent in early trading Friday, tracking a sharp selloff in semiconductor stocks on Wall Street after Broadcom's earnings and outlook disappointed investors. The Kospi opened at 8,323.2, down 3.66 percent from the previous session. Losses deepened shortly after the opening bell, with the index falling to 8,190.25 as of 9:15 a.m., down 5.2 percent on-session. The decline pushed the benchmark below the 8,100 mark during trading. A sell-side sideca

- [S. Korea posts second-largest current account surplus in April: BOK](#) (2026-06-05 00:23)

South Korea posted its second-largest monthly current account surplus in April, driven by strong exports of semiconductors, central bank data showed Friday. The current account surplus totaled \$28.29 billion in April, down from an all-time high of \$37.93 billion in March, according to the data from the Bank of Korea. Compared with the same month a year earlier, the figure surged from \$4.51 billion, marking the second-largest monthly surplus on record after the March figure. South Korea has repor

- [Movies in theaters this week](#) (2026-06-05 00:00)

"Wild Sing" (South Korea) Opened June 3 Comedy Directed by Son Jae-gon An old-school K-pop trio that fell apart overnight reunites twenty years later for a desperate comeback. "Backrooms" (US) Opened May 27 Horror Directed by Kane Parsons A furniture store owner falls through a wall into a labyrinthine dimension of endless yellow rooms and finds he is not alone. "Colony" (South Korea) Opened May 21 Horror/Drama Directed by Yeon Sang-ho When a rapidly evolving zombie outbreak locks down a buildin

- [\[Lee Byung-jong\] Global organizations and Korea](#) (2026-06-04 20:30)

As a professor who teaches subjects related to multilateralism — such as international relations, international organizations and public diplomacy — I find myself feeling somewhat uneasy in front of my students these days. Many of them aspire to build careers on the global stage, but opportunities are shrinking as multilateralism declines worldwide. This is especially true in the wake of the second Trump administration, whose unilateral policies have led to the contraction and weakening of major

- [Blast-hit Hanwha facility handled volatile solvents, propellants: report](#) (2026-06-04 12:13)

The building at the center of the deadly explosion at Hanwha Aerospace's Daejeon facility handled large volumes of volatile solvents and materials for rocket propellants, according to safety reports Thursday. Reports submitted by the Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency to Rep. Cho Ji-yeon of the People Power Party show that Building No. 56 — the site of Monday's blast — used roughly 8.2 metric tons of cleaning solvents and 36 metric tons of propellants each month during the second half o

- [Coupang CEO turns up at Korea friendly match](#) (2026-06-04 11:39)

Coupage interim CEO Harold Rogers was spotted in the stands at Brigham Young University South Field in Provo, Utah, Wednesday, as the South Korean national soccer team took on El Salvador in a pre-World Cup friendly. Rogers, wearing a South Korea national team jersey, appeared on Coupage Play's live broadcast while cheering on the national team at the stadium of his alma mater, BYU, where he studied English literature before attending Harvard Law School. South Korea defeated El Salvador 1-0 in i

- [S. Korean, Turkish FMs discuss investment, nuclear energy, regional issues](#) (2026-06-04 10:59)

Foreign Minister Cho Hyun and his Turkish counterpart, Hakan Fidan, discussed regional security issues and ways to bolster cooperation in trade, nuclear energy and infrastructure during their talks in Seoul on Thursday, Seoul's foreign ministry said. The meeting was meant to review progress on follow-up measures from the summit between South Korean President Lee Jae Myung and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan held in November. Fidan's visit marked the first trip by a Turkish foreign ministe

- [S. Korea, New Zealand hold vice-ministerial talks to discuss energy ties, regional security](#) (2026-06-04 10:56)

Vice foreign ministers of South Korea and New Zealand met in Seoul on Thursday and discussed ways to boost cooperation in energy and other fields of mutual interest amid the conflict in the Middle East, Seoul's foreign ministry said. During the meeting, South Korea's First Vice Foreign Minister Park Yoon-joo and New Zealand Deputy Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade Bede Corry exchanged views on major regional and international issues, including the Middle East conflict, and developments on t

- [Top swimmers eye more medals, records at Asian Games](#) (2026-06-04 10:01)

Hwang Sun-woo and Kim Woo-min, the two alpha dogs in South Korean swimming, said Thursday they will chase multiple medals and records at this year's Asian Games. The two swimmers and other members of the national team left for Sydney on Thursday to continue their training for the Sept. 19-Oct. 4 Asian Games in Nagoya, Japan, and also race in the Australian national team trials. The competition is open to foreign-born athletes, though they won't be eligible to race in the finals regardless of the

- [June to spotlight K-pop male acts in wave of comebacks](#) (2026-06-04 09:10)

June is shaping up to be a busy month for men in K-pop, with artists ranging from fifth-generation boy bands to veteran idols returning with new music, as the industry enters the summer. The month has already opened with releases from veteran group Shinee and YG Entertainment's Treasure, both of which returned Monday. Shinee unveiled its sixth EP, "Atmos," while Treasure released its fourth EP, "New Wav," helping set the tone for what is expected to be a packed month of masculine K-pop activity.

- [How ballot shortages disrupt elections in other countries](#) (2026-06-04 09:01)

Seoul's ballot shortage was a rare Election Day failure, but not an unheard-of one. Similar incidents have disrupted voting in the US, Australia and the UK, usually after election authorities underestimated turnout or failed to supply enough ballots to specific polling stations. In the US, during Mississippi's 2023 gubernatorial election, Hinds County, the state's most populous county, ran out of ballots after a tight race between then-incumbent Republican Gov. Tate Reeves and Democratic challenger

- [Website tracking Jensen Huang's Korea itinerary draws over 70,000 visits](#) (2026-06-04 09:00)

A website compiling Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang's projected itinerary in Korea and related Korean stock movements has drawn more than 70,000 visitors, showing how closely investors are watching his visit for clues on Nvidia's next partnerships in the country's AI supply chain. The site, titled "Jensen Huang's Footprints" in Korean, was created by an individual developer using the nickname Jun, according to local media reports. As of late Thursday afternoon, its cumulative visitor count had topped 70

- [Busan chefs join forces for exclusive dining event](#) (2026-06-04 08:51)

Busan restaurants are collaborating to create exclusive dishes for a monthlong culinary event, the 2026 Busan Gourmet Selection. Hosted by the Busan Metropolitan Government and the Busan Tourism Organization from Thursday to June 30, the event is being held in partnership with local restaurants. Chefs from some of the city's popular and established restaurants are teaming up to reinterpret their signature dishes or develop new creative ones. Participating restaurants range from Michelin Guide-listed

- [Israel's defense minister says military operations in Lebanon will continue despite ceasefire](#) (2026-06-04 08:44)

TEL AVIV, Israel (Reuters) -- Israel's military will continue to carry out operations in Lebanon for the time being and will not be withdrawing from the country, Defense Minister Israel Katz said on Thursday, despite the announcement of a new ceasefire. Israel and Lebanon on Wednesday agreed to a new ceasefire following talks mediated by the United States. Under the agreement, Lebanese militant group Hezbollah, which did not participate in the talks, is to stop all attacks on Israel and withdraw

- [Yoon Ina emerges as strong contender ahead of US Women's Open](#) (2026-06-04 07:59)

Yoon Ina, a rising star in South Korean women's golf, is drawing attention as a leading contender in the 81st US Women's Open, the second major championship of the season. American golf magazine Golf Digest included Yoon in its list of "10 Players to Watch" for this week's tournament. She was the only South Korean named alongside top-ranked players such as world No. 1 Nelly Korda and world No. 2 Jeeno Thitikul. The US Women's Open begins Wednesday night local time at Riviera Country Club in Pacific Palisades

- [Kospi snaps 3-day rise on profit-taking; won sharply down](#) (2026-06-04 07:29)

South Korean stocks fell Thursday, snapping a three-session winning streak and retreating from record highs as investors locked in profits. The local currency fell sharply against the US dollar. The benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index dropped 162.08 points, or 1.84 percent, to close at 8,639.41. Trade volume was moderate at 431.77 million shares worth 46.2 trillion won (\$30.2 billion), with winners slightly outnumbering losers 446 to 444. Institutions and individuals bought a net 1.81 tr

- [NK leader inspects new material plant, calls for rapid expansion of arsenal](#) (2026-06-04 07:26)

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un inspected a newly opened nuclear material production facility and called for a faster expansion of the country's nuclear arsenal, state media said Thursday. The move appeared to be the latest indication of Pyongyang's intention to press ahead with its weapons program despite international pressure. The Korean Central News Agency said Kim visited the facility on Wednesday, accompanied by senior officials from the ruling Workers' Party's munitions industry departmen

- [Shohei Ohtani dominates six scoreless innings as starting pitcher](#) (2026-06-04 06:30)

PHOENIX (AP) -- Shohei Ohtani threw six scoreless innings, Kyle Tucker hit a two-run homer into the Chase Field pool and the Los Angeles Dodgers routed the Arizona Diamondbacks 7-0 on Wednesday night. Ohtani (6-2) allowed two hits and struck out six while lowering his major league-best ERA to 0.74. He's allowed one earned run in 24 innings during a four-game winning streak. Ohtani also hit three singles and reached base five times, scoring a run. Tucker hit his homer off Zac Gallen (3-5) in the

- [Ruling party concedes key battlegrounds after tight race](#) (2026-06-04 06:28)

The ruling Democratic Party of Korea largely prevailed in Wednesday's local elections, but it was not a win without costs, as the party lost some key battlegrounds. In particular, the ruling party's narrow yet crucial loss in the Seoul mayoral election prompted a blame game within the liberal camp, raising questions as to whether the results indeed represent a clear victory for the party. The Democratic Party envisioned wins in tight races involving Seoul mayoral candidate Chong Won-o, Daegu may

- [US considers \\$1.85b naval shipbuilding plan with Korea, Japan](#) (2026-06-04 06:27)

The Pentagon is considering tapping Korean or Japanese shipyards to build a US Navy vessel as part of its broader push to strengthen defense ties with allies and address shipbuilding challenges amid growing competition with China. According to a recent report by US-based Breaking Defense, the initiative is part of a proposed \$1.85 billion naval funding request within the Pentagon's \$350 billion reconciliation package. The funding would support both the potential construction project and the navy

- [Oh's win leaves deep doubts on People Power Party leaders](#) (2026-06-04 06:26)

Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon's reelection gave the main opposition People Power Party its most important victory in Wednesday's local elections, but results also revealed the limits of its support in the capital. Oh retained the Seoul mayoralty after a close race against Democratic Party of Korea candidate Chong Won-o. He framed the result as a basis for conservative recovery, saying Seoul would serve as "a platform for conservative revival," "a source of hope for the conservative bloc" and "a basis f

- [Korea Investment bets on Coinone for digital asset push](#) (2026-06-04 06:25)

Korea Investment & Securities is betting that the next phase of finance will be built on digital assets, taking a strategic stake in Coinone to position itself as a hub connecting traditional finance and the crypto economy. Speaking at a joint press conference in Seoul on Thursday, Korea Investment & Securities CEO Kim Sung-hwan said the brokerage joined Coinone as a strategic investor rather than a financial investor, reflecting its conviction that digital assets will become increasingly intert

- [No heirs, no buyers: Korea's SME succession dilemma](#) (2026-06-04 06:22)

As more aging founders of small and midsized companies in South Korea struggle to find heirs willing to take over, business succession is moving beyond inheritance tax planning into a broader challenge of building the financing, valuation and governance structures needed to keep viable firms alive, said Yoon Seong-hoo, general manager at Woori Bank's Corporate Succession Support Center. "Family succession remains the first choice for most business owners," Yoon said in a recent interview with Th

- [Centre Pompidou Hanwha opens in Seoul amid art-washing criticism](#) (2026-06-04 06:22)

Centre Pompidou Hanwha opened its doors Thursday amid controversy over allegations of art-washing, with domestic and international civic groups and arts organizations criticizing Hanwha Group's partnership with the Paris-based Centre Pompidou. The criticism gained momentum after protesters staged a demonstration during the museum's press opening on May 19, raising questions about the defense conglomerate's growing involvement in the cultural sector through the Hanwha Foundation of Culture, estab

- [Oh's fifth-term victory comes down to real estate](#) (2026-06-04 06:15)

Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon secured a historic fifth term Wednesday in one of the closest and most-watched races of South Korea's local elections, with several analysts pointing to housing concerns and property values as decisive factors behind his narrow victory. The conservative People Power Party candidate won 49.15 percent of the vote, edging out Democratic Party of Korea challenger Chong Won-o, who garnered 48.13 percent. The result defied preelection surveys and exit polls that had suggested a

- [Single vote decides local council seat in South Chungcheong Province](#) (2026-06-04 06:15)

The single closest contest in Wednesday's local elections unfolded in South Chungcheong Province, where Democratic Party of Korea candidate Gi Ho-yeop edged out his conservative rival by just one vote in a race for a provincial council seat. According to the National Election Commission on Thursday, Gi received 11,594 votes in the Nonsan City No. 1 constituency for a seat on the South Chungcheong Provincial Council, defeating People Power Party candidate Yoon Gi-hyeong by a single vote. The two

- [NEC under fire for ballot shortage](#) (2026-06-04 06:13)

The controversy surrounding ballot shortages in Wednesday's local elections carried over into Thursday, as pressure mounted for an investigation into the National Election Commission. President Lee Jae Myung joined the criticism, calling the shortage a serious lapse in election management and ordering related agencies to determine the cause and hold those responsible accountable. "I express deep regret over this unacceptable failure in election management," Lee said during a senior aides' meetin

- [From SK On to CATL: Ford reshapes battery strategy](#) (2026-06-04 06:01)

Ford Motor's decision to deepen ties with China's CATL while repurposing assets from its former battery partnership with SK On is drawing scrutiny from South Korea's battery industry as the US automaker pivots aggressively into energy storage. At a time when Washington is seeking to reduce dependence on Chinese battery supply chains, Ford is embracing CATL's battery technology to accelerate its push into the energy storage system, or ESS, market — a sector increasingly fueled by booming demand f

- [Hyundai, Nvidia in talks on Korea AI center: report](#) (2026-06-04 05:59)

Hyundai Motor Group, Nvidia and the South Korean government may establish an artificial intelligence technology center in the country, with a major industrial development zone in North Jeolla Province emerging as a leading candidate for the project, according to local media reports Thursday. The Korea Economic Daily reported that the parties are in the final stages of discussions regarding the timing and location of the proposed facility, citing industry and government sources. If established, t

- [Pianist Sun Youl cut his practice in half — and started asking why](#) (2026-06-04 05:58)

When Sun Youl arrived in France to study, his new teacher had an unusual request: promise not to practice more than three hours a day. The teacher, French pianist Olivier Gardon, had a question for him too: If you play perfectly, without a single mistake, what are you actually getting out of it? What is all the practice even for? "The question landed like a hard blow to the head. I realized I had been running like a machine, without even knowing why I practice," Sun told reporters in a roundtabl

- [The man of the moment: What's next for Koo Kyo-hwan?](#) (2026-06-04 05:56)

The first half of 2026 saw Koo Kyo-hwan everywhere. Previously a fixture of South Korea's independent cinema, the actor transitioned this year into a highly bankable mainstream lead, headlining a trio of tentpole projects that showcased his chameleon-like range. The 43-year-old actor's box office momentum began in late 2025 with "Once We Were Us." It pulled off a major market upset by unseating James Cameron's sci-fi epic "Avatar: Fire and Ash" at the Korean box office, subsequently holding the

- ['I wanted to win for Taiwan': International Booker winner Yang Shuang-zi](#) (2026-06-04 05:56)

This year's International Booker Prize winner, Yang Shuang-zi, fresh from her historic win just two weeks ago, said she wanted to win the award for Taiwan. "In the current international situation, Taiwan is under immense pressure. Through literature, I wanted to show Taiwan in its many different facets, and to tell stories that only Taiwan can tell," Yang said during a press conference in Seoul on Monday. After becoming the first Taiwanese writer to win the prestigious award, the 41-year-old has

- [Karina's social media post draws scrutiny ahead of local elections](#) (2026-06-04 05:53)

Karina of Aespa came under online scrutiny after posting photos on social media one day before South Korea's local elections. The timing led some internet users to revisit political controversy involving the singer last year. On Tuesday, Karina uploaded several Instagram photos in which she wore a bright blue sleeveless top. In some images, she also appeared with blue contact lenses. The timing of the post, however, gradually sparked discussion online, as it was uploaded one day before the June

- [Chey deepens AI alliances as Huang heads to Seoul](#) (2026-06-04 05:49)

SK Group Chairman Chey Tae-won is strengthening alliances with the world's most influential AI chipmakers, holding talks with TSMC Chairman C.C. Wei in Taiwan days after meeting Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang. The meeting, held on Wednesday, was the first in-person talk between Chey and Wei since June 2024, SK hynix said Thursday. It came as global AI chip supply chains face growing bottlenecks amid surging demand from big tech companies. The two leaders discussed expanding cooperation in next-generati

- [Win or lose, local and by-elections leave their mark on ruling, opposition parties](#) (2026-06-04 05:47)

South Korean voters handed the ruling Democratic Party of Korea a decisive victory in the local elections, but kept Seoul and much of the conservative southeast out of its reach, tempering the triumph while giving the battered People Power Party a political lifeline. The Democratic Party won 12 of the country's 16 mayoral and gubernatorial races, while the main opposition People Power Party secured four — Seoul, Daegu and North and South Gyeongsang provinces, the latter three in its traditional

- [In Korea, election night coverage becomes a visual feast again](#) (2026-06-04 05:44)

South Korea's major television networks once again set out to package Wednesday's local elections as prime-time entertainment, layering CGI animation, pop-culture parody and, for the first time on a large scale, generative AI over their live vote counts. In the election for mayors and provincial governors, along with hundreds of lower offices, President Lee Jae Myung's governing Democratic Party won most of the major races, while the conservative People Power Party held Seoul and its traditional

- [Krafton, Nvidia chiefs to discuss physical AI in Seoul](#) (2026-06-04 05:42)

Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang is expected to meet Krafton executives during his visit to Seoul this week, as the two companies explore deeper cooperation in physical AI and next-generation AI computing. According to industry sources Thursday, Huang is scheduled to hold talks with Krafton Chairman Chang Byung-gyu and other senior executives during his six-day stay in Korea. Huang is expected to arrive in Seoul on Friday. The meeting follows discussions held last year at Nvidia's California headquarters

- [Hanwha Aerospace halts production nationwide after deadly blast](#) (2026-06-04 05:41)

Hanwha Aerospace has temporarily shut down production at all of its major domestic facilities and launched safety inspections following a deadly explosion at its Daejeon plant that killed five workers earlier this week. Hanwha Aerospace said that all nonessential domestic production line operations would be suspended from Thursday to Friday, except for essential processes, to conduct special safety inspections and employee safety training. It marked the first time the defense affiliate under Han

- [Jalen Brunson scores 30 and Knicks finish on 11-0 run, steal Game 1 from Spurs with 105-95 win](#) (2026-06-04 05:36)

SAN ANTONIO (AP) -- The New York Knicks' winning streak lives on, and they struck first in the NBA Finals. Jalen Brunson scored 30 points, Karl-Anthony Towns finished with 18 points and 12 rebounds, and the Knicks erased a 14-point second-half deficit to beat the San Antonio Spurs 105-95 in Game 1 of the finals on Wednesday night. OG Anunoby had 17 points for New York -- which has won 12 consecutive playoff games, the seventh team to have such a streak in NBA history. Brunson scored 13 points in

- [Samsung Heavy gets green light for first US FLNG project](#) (2026-06-04 05:31)

Samsung Heavy Industries has received notice to proceed for the first floating liquefied natural gas project in the United States, marking a major milestone for both the company and the emerging North American FLNG market. The shipbuilder said Thursday that it had secured approval to begin construction of the first floating LNG facility for the Delfin LNG project in Louisiana. The project is valued at \$2.9 billion. The Delfin project is the first FLNG development in the US and is viewed as a pot

- [Prosecutor-turned-politician Han Dong-hoon revives political career with by-election win](#) (2026-06-04 05:23)

Han Dong-hoon, who ran as an independent candidate, won the National Assembly by-election in Busan's Buk-A district on Wednesday, defeating rivals from both major parties and securing his first elected office. According to the National Election Commission, Han garnered 42.96 percent of the vote, ahead of Democratic Party of Korea candidate Ha Jung-woo with 41.26 percent and People Power Party candidate Park Min-sik with 15.76 percent. The victory marks Han's first entry into the National Assembly.

- [Former Justice Minister Choo makes history as Korea's first female governor](#) (2026-06-04 05:19)

Veteran liberal politician and former Justice Minister Choo Mi-ae, 67, shattered another political glass ceiling, becoming South Korea's first woman elected to lead a provincial or metropolitan government after winning the Gyeonggi governorship. The Democratic Party of Korea heavyweight secured victory defeating People Power Party candidate Yang Hyang-ja in a rare contest between two female candidates. Choo won 55.04 percent of the vote, comfortably defeating Yang, who secured 39.37 percent. The

- [Could SpaceX, OpenAI IPOs derail Korea's chip rally?](#) (2026-06-04 05:17)

The blockbuster IPOs of SpaceX, OpenAI and Anthropic could trigger a bout of profit-taking in South Korea's soaring chip stocks, as investors rotate capital into some of Wall Street's most anticipated listings. Elon Musk's rocket and satellite maker SpaceX aims to list its shares as early as June 12, in what could become the biggest initial public offering of all time. Anthropic, developer of the Claude AI model, has also recently filed to go public, setting the stage for a closely watched IPO.

- [Hyundai Glovis to build first European auto logistics hub](#) (2026-06-04 05:13)

Hyundai Glovis will establish its first dedicated automotive logistics hub in Europe at the Port of Amsterdam, strengthening its vehicle supply chain network amid growing demand for automotive imports across the region. The company said Thursday it had signed an agreement with the Port of Amsterdam to develop a specialized automotive logistics terminal on a 480,000-square-meter site. The project marks the first time Hyundai Glovis has secured an exclusive port site. The facility will feature ber

- [Oh Se-hoon wins record fifth term as Seoul mayor](#) (2026-06-04 05:04)

Oh Se-hoon is set to become Seoul's first five-term mayor, giving the conservative politician an unmatched chance to set the capital's course for years beyond a single election cycle. His new term, to begin July 1, is expected to extend the agenda he has built since returning to City Hall in 2021: expanding housing supply, improving support for vulnerable residents, strengthening transport links and raising Seoul's profile as a global city. Oh touted his narrow reelection victory as a sign of vo

- [NC AI develops welding AI for Hanwha Ocean](#) (2026-06-04 05:03)

NC AI, the artificial intelligence subsidiary of gaming giant NCSOFT, said Thursday it has won a project from Hanwha Ocean to develop AI-powered autonomous welding technology for shipbuilding sites. The project involves a vision-based welding model and a collaborative robot system designed to identify welding targets and carry out work with minimal human intervention. NC AI said the technology will be applied to Hanwha Ocean's commercial and special-purpose vessel production sites, where welding

- [Mysterious diver in Seoul's Cheonggye Stream identified](#) (2026-06-04 04:51)

Tourists strolling along Seoul's Cheonggye Stream recently found themselves distracted by an unusual sight: a man in a black wetsuit gliding through the shallow water beneath the city's busy downtown streets. Videos of the unidentified man with snorkeling gear have recently spread across social media, triggering curiosity about his identity and what he was doing. One tourist who spotted the man while walking along the stream on May 28 posted a video on Instagram, writing, "Is that guy snorkeling

- [HD Construction Equipment wins first European military contract](#) (2026-06-04 04:16)

HD Construction Equipment has won its first major military procurement contract in Europe, securing a bulldozer supply deal with the Polish military as defense spending rises across the continent. The company said Thursday it had been selected as the final supplier for a crawler dozer procurement project led by Poland's 3rd Regional Logistics Base. Under the contract, HD Construction Equipment will supply 50 Develon 15-ton crawler bulldozers worth about 27 billion won (\$17.7 million), with the p

- [Israel, Lebanon agree to implement ceasefire, boosting hopes for Iran deal](#) (2026-06-04 04:05)

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (Reuters) -- Israel and Lebanon agreed to implement a ceasefire to end hostilities, the Trump administration said on Wednesday, in a boost to hopes for a broader deal to end the US-Israeli war on Iran. Tehran, which had conditioned any deal with the US in part on an end to fighting between Israel and Lebanon, earlier struck Kuwait, damaging its airport and injuring dozens while the US military carried out strikes near the Strait of Hormuz. The Israel-Lebanon ceasefire

- [Lotte Biologics to showcase Songdo plant at BIO USA](#) (2026-06-04 03:44)

Lotte Biologics will use this year's BIO International Convention to showcase its near-complete Songdo production facility and advanced manufacturing capabilities as it seeks to attract global biopharmaceutical clients. The company said Thursday it will participate in BIO International Convention 2026 in San Diego later this month, marking its fifth consecutive appearance at one of the world's largest biotechnology industry events. A highlight will be the first public showcase of Plant 1 at the

- [US House passes resolution to halt military action in Iran in rebuke of Trump](#) (2026-06-04 03:44)

WASHINGTON (Reuters) -- The Republican-led US House of Representatives approved a resolution on Wednesday to block President Donald Trump from continuing the war against Iran, reflecting growing concern among members of his party about the three-month-old conflict. The House voted 215 to 208, as four Republicans voted with Democrats in favor of the war powers resolution, which directs Trump to withdraw US troops from Iran unless Congress declares war or authorizes the use of military force. It w

- [Rubio says Korea's treatment of US firms affected trade talks](#) (2026-06-04 03:08)

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio stated that Korea's treatment of American companies influenced Washington's decision to finalize a trade agreement with Seoul in the wake of the US' proposal to impose an additional 12.5 percent tariff on South Korean imports. The remarks came after Congressman Darrell Issa had said, "The democracy of South Korea has taken a strong bent to the left, opening up more avenues toward China and, in fact, beginning to oppress many of our companies, including Meta, Cou

- [Ukrainian drones hit St. Petersburg oil terminal before city hosts Russian economic forum](#) (2026-06-04 03:05)

Ukrainian long-range drones struck an oil terminal in St. Petersburg and set it ablaze, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Wednesday, sending smoke billowing over the city where Russian President Vladimir Putin was born as it hosts Russia's leading event for attracting foreign capital. The drones flew more than 1,000 kilometers to hit the terminal in Russia's second-largest city, Zelenskyy said on social media, a day after Moscow launched a major drone and missile attack on Kyiv and ot

- [Kard expands tour to Japan](#) (2026-06-04 02:58)

Co-ed group Kard will host a concert in Tokyo on July 4, expanding its tour "Drift" to Japan, its agency DSP Media said Thursday. Before the Tokyo show, the four members are slated to take to the stage in Jakarta on June 27 for its first live gig in Indonesia in about eight years. The quartet kicked off the tour in Seoul last year and visited Bangkok and Taipei as well as six cities across the US. The bandmates also carried on with their individual careers: J.seph brought out his first solo EP "

- [Progressives increase hold on education policy](#) (2026-06-04 02:56)

With progressive candidates increasing their number of education superintendents across the country, the balance of power in education policy is set to shift further toward the progressive bloc. The number of progressive superintendents, which stood at nine after the previous elections four years ago, rose to 11 in Wednesday's election. Incumbent Seoul Metropolitan Education Superintendent Jung Geun-sik was declared the winner at around 8:40 a.m. Thursday, securing a second term after earning 30

- [Former NCT member Mark sets up own agency](#) (2026-06-04 02:48)

Mark, formerly of NCT, hinted at his return to the music scene Wednesday. He shared a video clip from the social media account for Upper Room, which appears to be his one-man agency, and added it to the intro of his personal account. Chenle, his former bandmate, reacted with fireworks under one of the three videos uploaded. The musician left the team and label SM Entertainment in April, after ten years, hinting at going solo. Upper Room is registered under his name, Mark Lee, according to a loca

- [Ballot shortage adds to election watchdog's woes](#) (2026-06-04 02:47)

The country's election watchdog is defending itself against a national furor after a ballot shortage on Wednesday forced a temporary suspension of voting at some polling stations and left some voters waiting for hours. The unprecedented incident was the latest in a series of mishaps and disputes surrounding the National Election Commission, which has faced criticism over what some call poor election management. A separate incident during Wednesday's local elections occurred when a Seoul voter wa

- [San Francisco's Lee Jung-hoo ties career high with 11-game hitting streak](#) (2026-06-04 02:43)

Lee Jung-hoo of the San Francisco Giants has equaled his career high by hitting safely in his 11th straight game. Lee batted 2-for-4 in a 1-0 win over the Milwaukee Brewers at American Family Field in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on Wednesday. Lee raised his batting average to his season-high .310, the sixth-best mark in the National League. Lee, who struck out in his first at-bat, kept his streak going in his second time up with a single in the fourth inning. Lee bunted for a single in the eighth to c

- [From ETFs to AI: Park Hyeon-joo maps Mirae Asset's future](#) (2026-06-04 02:41)

Mirae Asset Group Founder and Global Strategy Officer Park Hyeon-joo has outlined a new vision for the asset management giant's next stage of growth, betting that artificial intelligence, digital assets and innovative investment products will reshape the future of wealth management. Speaking at the Mirae Asset Rally 2026 held in Hongcheon, Gangwon Province, Park unveiled what he called "Mirae Asset 3.0," a strategy aimed at connecting the group's ETF business, AI-powered wealth management capabi

- [Court denies suspension of exit ban against US scholar under probe for defaming Lee](#) (2026-06-04 02:28)

A Seoul court on Thursday rejected a request for a suspension of an exit ban against Morse Tan, a Korean American scholar accused of defaming President Lee Jae Myung, legal sources said. The Seoul Administrative Court rejected Tan's request to suspend the exit ban, which the justice ministry imposed earlier this week, saying that a potential suspension could have a serious impact on the public interest, according to the sources. Tan is suspected of having defamed Lee

by spreading false informati

- [Botswana gateway for critical minerals and K-construction: minister](#) (2026-06-04 02:20)

Botswana represents opportunities for Korean mining, battery and construction firms, with access to critical minerals and fast-growing African markets, Botswana's Foreign Minister Phenyio Butale said in an interview with The Korea Herald. Botswana's pitch comes as Korean companies search for new sources of critical minerals needed for industries such as batteries, semiconductors and renewable energy. According to Butale, Botswana's mineral reserves could support those very industries. The country

- [Sleepless night in Jamsil as angry protesters block ballot box removal](#) (2026-06-04 02:11)

Overnight protests following voting disruptions caused by a ballot paper shortage in Seoul's Songpa-gu continued into Thursday afternoon, with demonstrators physically blocking the transfer of ballot boxes to a counting center. Well past 2 p.m. on Thursday, a day after Election Day, protesters remained gathered outside Jamsil 7-dong's No. 2 polling station, set up at the Woosung Apartment senior citizens' center, continuing to barricade the building. The National Election Commission said the two

- [Defense ministry cites OPCON transfer drive as key achievement marking Lee govt.'s 1st year](#) (2026-06-04 02:06)

The defense ministry on Thursday cited its consistent push for retaking wartime operational control from Washington as a key policy achievement under the President Lee Jae Myung administration in its first year in office. The ministry said South Korea is seeking the OPCON transfer in a "swift" manner at a time when the allies are currently at the second stage of verifying "full operational capability" this year. "(The ministry) is pushing for the restoration of wartime operational control in a s

- [Ive's 4th Japanese album tops Oricon chart](#) (2026-06-04 01:43)

Ive scored No. 1 on Oricon's Weekly and Weekly Combined Album Rankings with its fourth album in Japan, "Lucid Dream," its agency Starship Entertainment said Thursday, citing the chart published Wednesday. This is the third time the group has topped the chart, and it did so with the highest weekly points for a female international artist this year. The mini album was released in May and consists of six tracks, three of which are new, including the title track. Meanwhile, the group is set to go li

- [Zombie thriller 'Colony' hits 4 mln admissions](#) (2026-06-04 01:39)

The Korean film "Colony" continued its upward streak, drawing more than 4 million admissions since its release last month, data showed Thursday. The star-studded blockbuster reported 4,043,762 accumulated admissions as of Wednesday, adding 331,493 admissions from the previous day, according to the data released by the Korean Film Council. The milestone came on the 14th day of its release, marking the fastest pace by a film released in South Korea this year. "

Colony" is the latest zombie thriller

- [Jensen Huang to meet executives from Krafton during Seoul visit: sources](#) (2026-06-04 01:25)

The head of US chip giant Nvidia Corp., Jensen Huang, is expected to meet with executives of Krafton Inc., a local game developer, during his visit to Seoul this week, industry sources said Thursday. Huang is reportedly meeting Krafton's Executive Director Chang Byung-gyu, and other senior managers from the company, though the exact dates have yet to be confirmed, the sources said. The two companies are likely to discuss gaming partnerships related to Nvidia's RTX Spark, a type of semiconductor

- [Jensen Huang to open KBO Game with ceremonial first pitch on Sunday](#) (2026-06-04 01:23)

Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang will take the mound for the ceremonial first pitch at the Doosan Bears' home game against the Kiwoom Heroes on Sunday at the Jamsil Baseball Stadium in Seoul. The club announced Thursday that Huang will do the honors before the game at 5 p.m. with Doosan Group Chairman Park Jeong-won, who will step up to the plate as the ceremonial batter. Park is also the owner of the baseball team. The Nvidia chief will sport a Bears jersey with No. 93 on the back, marking the year he f

- [BTS stays atop Billboard' s global chart with 'Swim'](#) (2026-06-04 01:19)

BTS added yet another week to its chart-topping run on the Billboard Global excl. US chart with "Swim," according to the latest ranking dated June 6. "Swim" has spent 8 weeks at No. 1, tying the record BTS set with 2020 hit "Dynamite" and extending the most weeks atop the chart for a track from this year. The group also has the most No. 1 songs on the chart at eight, which is "double the total of its closest competitors; Bad Bunny, Blackpink and Taylor Swift," according to Billboard. The main tr

- [Oh Se-hoon wins 5th term as Seoul mayor](#) (2026-06-04 01:14)

Oh Se-hoon of the conservative opposition People Power Party is set for a fifth term as Seoul mayor, edging out a liberal rival in the most closely watched contest in South Korea' s local elections. As of 9:54 a.m. Thursday, with 97.7 percent of votes counted, Oh secured 48.94 percent, ahead of Democratic Party of Korea candidate Chong Won-o, who had 48.34 percent. Oh had trailed the liberal candidate since vote counting began the previous day, but rapidly closed the gap on the back of ballots fr

- [Finance minister vows to take 'immediate measures' over excessive FX volatility](#) (2026-06-04 01:04)

South Korea's finance minister on Thursday vowed to take "immediate measures" when necessary to address excessive volatility in the foreign exchange market amid the recent sharp decline of the Korean won against the greenback. Finance Minister Koo Yun-cheol discussed such measures with Bank of Korea Gov. Shin Hyun-song in Seoul, alongside Financial Services

Commission Chairman Lee Eog-weon and Financial Supervisory Service Gov. Lee Chan-jin, according to the Ministry of Finance and Economy. Duri

- [Trade minister calls for protection of balance of profits secured through S. Korea-US tariff deal in meeting with USTR](#) (2026-06-04 01:01)

South Korean Trade Minister Yeo Han-koo has urged the United States to resolve pending trade issues between the two countries, including the latter's recent announcement of the results of the Section 301 probe into imports related to forced labor, within the boundaries of the bilateral tariff agreement finalized last year, Yeo's office said Thursday. Yeo held a meeting with US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer on the sidelines of the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting held in Paris on Wednesday,

- [Hanwha Aerospace to suspend production lines after deadly explosion](#) (2026-06-04 00:57)

Hanwha Aerospace Co., a defense affiliate of Hanwha Group, said Thursday it will suspend operations at all of its production facilities and conduct special safety inspections following a deadly explosion at its Daejeon facility. The company said it will halt operations at its nine business sites nationwide for two days starting Thursday, marking the first companywide production shutdown since its establishment in 2023. Some essential production processes, however, will be exempt from the suspens

- [PM calls for expanding communication with newly elected heads of local governments](#) (2026-06-04 00:54)

Prime Minister Kim Min-seok asked the government Thursday to expand communication and work closely with newly elected heads of local governments in order to deliver policy promises and produce tangible results after the ruling Democratic Party won a resounding victory in Wednesday's elections. Kim made the remark during an economic policy meeting as the DP was projected to win as many as 12 of the 16 metropolitan mayoral and gubernatorial posts at stake in the local elections, according to ballo

- [Seoul shares open sharply lower on Wall Street losses, renewed Iran tension; won falls](#) (2026-06-04 00:39)

South Korean stocks opened sharply lower Thursday, tracking overnight losses on Wall Street caused by uncertainty over negotiations between the United States and Iran to end their war in the Middle East. After starting 2.02 percent lower, the benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index lost 180.03 points, or 2.05 percent, to 8,621.46 as of 9:15 a.m. The Kospi closed at an all-time high of 8,801.49 on Tuesday. The local stock market was closed Wednesday for the election. Overnight, US stocks ende

- [S. Korea, China agree to add 70 flights per week amid growing exchanges](#) (2026-06-04 00:35)

South Korea and China have agreed to increase the frequency of flights between the two countries amid growing bilateral exchanges, the transport ministry said Thursday. For the first time since 2019, the two countries agreed to expand bilateral traffic rights by 70 weekly flights during the South Korea-China aviation talks held in Seoul last month, according to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport. Under the agreement, passenger flights will be increased to 664 per week, while cargo

- [Seoul mayoral race decided by razor-thin margin](#) (2026-06-04 00:20)

Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon on Thursday barely edged out his rival Chong Won-o in the Seoul mayoral election, winning his fifth term after having been behind for all of the previous night. Oh of the main opposition People Power Party was ahead of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea's Chong, 48.95 percent to 48.33 percent, with 97.92 percent of the votes counted as of 10:05 a.m. Polls released after voting closed had projected Chong to win by a margin of between 5.4 and 10.6 percentage points, a prediction

- [Ballot shortage not grounds for reelection: election watchdog](#) (2026-06-04 00:00)

The National Election Commission said Thursday that the shortage of ballot papers during Wednesday's Seoul mayoral election does not invalidate the results, saying it was not one of the grounds that would suspend or nullify the final outcome. Some voters at 14 polling stations, particularly in the southern part of Seoul — eight in Songpa-gu, two in Gangnam-gu, two in Seocho-gu, one in Gwangjin-gu and one in Dongjak-gu — reported that they were unable to vote because NEC officials had run out of

- [Election watchdog says ballot shortage not grounds for revote or postponement](#) (2026-06-03 23:41)

The election watchdog said Thursday a shortage of ballots in parts of Seoul during the June 3 local elections does not constitute grounds for postponing the election or conducting a revote under the election law. The National Election Commission made the remarks after holding an emergency meeting early Thursday, as a shortage of ballots at some polling stations in Seoul, mostly from Songpa Ward, prompted the temporary suspension of voting in the local elections. The main opposition People Power

- [Kim Jong-un inspects new nuclear material production facility](#) (2026-06-03 23:29)

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has visited a newly launched nuclear material production facility, state media reported Thursday, as he vowed to press ahead with expanding the country's nuclear arsenal. Kim made the visit the previous day, accompanied by key party officials, the Korean Central News Agency said, where he outlined plans to "exponentially" bolster the country's nuclear forces. The report did not disclose the facility's location or other details. Kim said the country's "weapons-grade

- [Incumbent mayor Oh Se-hoon leads Seoul race in dramatic late surge](#) (2026-06-03 23:16)

People Power Party candidate and incumbent Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon is leading the closely contested Seoul mayoral race in Wednesday's local elections. As of 8:00 a.m. Thursday, with 95.83 percent of votes counted, Oh secured 48.77 percent, narrowly ahead of Democratic Party of Korea candidate Jung Won-oh, who had 48.51 percent. Oh, who had trailed the liberal candidate since vote counting began the previous day, rapidly closed the gap as ballots from conservative-leaning districts south of the Ha

- [DP bags 9 by-election wins in 14 districts as Han Dong-hoon enters Assembly](#) (2026-06-03 23:11)

The ruling Democratic Party of Korea claimed victory in nine constituencies out of 14 in the parliamentary by-elections on Thursday. As 13 out of 14 were previously held by the Democratic Party in the 22nd National Assembly, People Power Party flipped seats in three electoral districts, while the Democratic Party also conceded one more district to prosecutor-turned-politician Han Dong-hoon, who ran as an independent candidate. As the vote count was over 99 percent complete as of 6:30 a.m. Thursd

- [Foreign reserves drop in May on FX market-stabilizing measures](#) (2026-06-03 22:12)

South Korea's foreign reserves fell slightly last month amid efforts by authorities to manage exchange rate volatility, the central bank said Thursday. The country's foreign reserves stood at US\$426.99 billion as of end-May, down \$880 million from a month earlier, according to data from the Bank of Korea (BOK). The figure had risen \$4.22 billion in April, following a \$3.97 billion decline in March, which was the sharpest monthly drop in about a year. The BOK attributed the on-month decline to au

- [\[Richard Haass\] Building alliances of US allies](#) (2026-06-03 20:30)

US President Donald Trump's second administration has been clear from the outset that it would recast American foreign policy in fundamental ways. Its National Security Strategy, released last November, declared that “The days of the United States propping up the entire world order like Atlas are over” — a shift that is especially significant for America's many allies and partners, which have long made dependence on the US the central tenet of their national security. The most recent articulatio

- [\[Minju Chung\] Korea's Carbon Neutrality Act reforms](#) (2026-06-03 20:30)

As a teenager, imagining the world 30 years from now no longer stirs the familiar anxiety of whether I'll land a good job or build a loving family. The fear runs deeper than that — whether the world will even be livable. With the threats of climate change mounting and political commitment to address them steadily eroding, the lives of future generations are genuinely at stake. Korea is currently attempting to protect the fundamental rights of those future generations through an ongoing reform of

- [\[Wang Son-taek\] A hope for a Hormuz coalition](#) (2026-06-03 20:30)

Nearly two months have passed since the April 7 ceasefire in the Iran war. Yet negotiations aimed at turning that pause into a durable settlement remain stalled. The fighting may have slowed, but a viable political endgame remains elusive. That reality deserves not only frustration but sober recognition. Why has diplomacy become trapped? One clear reason appears to be the negotiating style of US President Donald Trump. His approach toward Iran has relied on a familiar formula: maximalist demands

- [Democratic Party wins big nationwide, but suffers setbacks in key races](#) (2026-06-03 18:22)

The ruling Democratic Party is on course for a sweeping victory in Wednesday's nationwide local elections. But setbacks in closely watched races, including the still-undecided Seoul mayoral contest, are likely to overshadow its wins. As vote counting continues Thursday morning, the Democratic Party has won 12 of the 16 mayoral and gubernatorial races, while the People Power Party has secured victories in Daegu and North Gyeongsang Province and is leading in South Gyeongsang Province. The project

- [Han Dong-hoon clinches assembly seat in Busan](#) (2026-06-03 17:31)

Independent candidate Han Dong-hoon, the former leader of the main opposition People Power Party, clinched a National Assembly seat in a Wednesday by-election, taking Busan's Buk-A district. With 99.51 percent of ballots counted, 43 percent went to Han, narrowly ahead of Ha Jung-woo who got 41.2 percent. Ha is a former senior secretary to President Lee Jae Myung for artificial intelligence who quit his post to run in the by-election. Exit polls had indicated that Ha had a narrow lead over Han. H

- [Ballot chaos prompts legal doubts over NEC's late-night voting extension](#) (2026-06-03 16:15)

The National Election Commission's decision to extend voting hours in Seoul after polling stations ran out of ballot papers is expected to face legal scrutiny, legal experts said Wednesday, though they view a revote as unlikely. NEC Secretary-General Huh Cheol-hoon apologized, saying the commission had caused "great confusion and concern" after ballot shortages forced voting to be suspended at some sites during the June 3 local elections. He said the NEC immediately sent additional ballot papers

- [Police deployed to Songpa polling station amid standoff over ballot box removal](#) (2026-06-03 16:10)

Dozens of police officers were deployed early Thursday to a polling station in Seoul's Songpa District where citizens continued to block the removal of a ballot box after voting hours were extended due to a ballot paper shortage. According to police and other authorities, several dozen riot police officers were sent to the No. 2 polling station in Jamsil 7-dong at around 12:30 a.m. Thursday as the standoff continued. The deployment came as citizens at the site tried to prevent election officials

- [AI creators, tech leaders gather in San Francisco for Upscale Conf](#) (2026-06-03 16:08)

Korea Herald correspondent Choi Jeong-yoon SAN FRANCISCO, US — Upscale Conf, a two-day event on artificial intelligence and creative production, opened Wednesday in San Francisco, bringing together creators, filmmakers, technologists and business leaders to discuss how generative AI is changing industries from design and advertising to filmmaking and marketing. Held at The Midway and organized by AI image upscaling company Magnific, the conference features speakers from technology companies, med

- [Exit polls put Jung Geun-sik on course for second term as Seoul education chief](#) (2026-06-03 16:06)

Incumbent Seoul Superintendent Jung Geun-sik was projected to secure a second term Wednesday, leading the city's education chief race as vote counting continued. "I don't think this is my victory. Rather, it was possible because Seoul citizens understood and trusted the major policies of the Seoul Metropolitan Office of Education over the past year and a half," Jung said after learning of the exit poll results Wednesday. "I believe I will have to build an integrated Seoul education curriculum th

- [Voter turnout comes to second-highest for local election at 61%](#) (2026-06-03 15:34)

South Korea's voter turnout in Wednesday's local elections was provisionally tallied at 61 percent, marking the second-highest turnout in the country's local election history, according to the National Election Commission. The NEC said around 27.25 million out of around 44.65 million eligible voters cast ballots in the elections held from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. nationwide. The figure includes ballots cast during the two-day early voting period held May 29-30, which recorded a turnout of 23.51 percent,

- [Cheong Wa Dae urges NEC to take 'responsible measures' over ballot shortages](#) (2026-06-03 15:14)

The presidential office urged the election watchdog Wednesday to take "responsible measures" after the agency acknowledged ballot shortages at 14 polling stations in Seoul during the local elections and issued a public apology. The National Election Commission admitted that ballots had run short at 12 polling stations in Songpa-gu and one each in Gangnam-gu and Gwangjin-gu, while issuing a public apology over the incident. "As a constitutional institution tasked with guaranteeing the people's ri

- [Ballot shortage sparks protest at Seoul polling station](#) (2026-06-03 14:05)

A ballot shortage at multiple polling stations in Seoul's Songpa-gu triggered a tense standoff late Wednesday, turning an election management failure into a dispute over voting rights as counting got underway in Korea's local elections. A crowd gathered at No. 2 polling station in Jamsil 7-dong after voting there was extended because of a shortage of ballots. They demanded that ballots cast at the station be invalidated and that the ballot box not be removed from the site. At around 12:30 a.m.,

- [Democratic candidates lead major mayoral contests, exit poll shows](#) (2026-06-03 13:58)

The ruling Democratic Party of Korea appeared poised for a sweeping victory in South Korea's June 3 local elections, according to exit polls released Wednesday, with the liberal party projected to win most major mayoral and gubernatorial races nationwide. As of 10:13 p.m., 15.88 percent of the votes had been counted. A joint exit poll conducted by KBS, MBC and SBS showed Democratic Party candidates leading in 11 of the country's 16 metropolitan mayoral and gubernatorial contests. The main opposi

- [June election victory to buoy Lee administration](#) (2026-06-03 13:34)

As Wednesday's exit poll suggested a landslide win for the ruling Democratic Party of Korea in the local and parliamentary by-elections, all eyes are on what ramifications the outcome would have on the incumbent Lee Jae Myung administration. The liberal bloc has won the last two major elections — the 2024 general election and 2025 presidential election — and Wednesday's predicted local election wins would only extend the party's dominance in central and local governments and the parliament. On t

- [National Assembly by-elections carry weighty implications for conservative, liberal blocs](#) (2026-06-03 12:18)

The political fates of two major figures on the left and right of Korean politics hung in the balance in Wednesday's National Assembly by-elections, with the outcomes carrying implications for the conservative and progressive blocs alike. Of the 14 by-elections, Busan's Buk-A district and Pyeongtaek-B drew the most attention. Busan pits a former aide of President Lee Jae Myung against a former leader of the conservatives; Pyeongtaek brings a minor liberal opposition leader against established pa

- [What Seoul mayorship means for Korean politics](#) (2026-06-03 12:02)

As an exit poll projected Democratic Party of Korea candidate Chong Won-o would defeat incumbent Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon on Wednesday, political analysts said the race underscored Seoul Mayorship's outsized role in Korean politics. The powerful local office can serve either as a national launchpad or as a counterweight to the sitting administration. The exit poll conducted by KBS, MBC and SBS for this year's local elections showed Chong leading with 51.4 percent support, compared with 46.0 percen

- [Ruling party set for landslide with wins in Seoul, Busan: exit polls](#) (2026-06-03 12:00)

The ruling Democratic Party of Korea is projected to take at least 11 top executive posts out of the 16 for metropolitan cities and provinces that were at stake, exit polls showed Wednesday. Only one People Power Party incumbent of 12 was clearly projected to be reelected in the key municipalities. Nationwide exit polls put the left-leaning party's candidates ahead of conservative rivals in the mayoral races for Daejeon, Gwangju, Incheon, Seoul, Sejong and Ulsan. For gubernatorial elections, the

- [Time to open ballots](#) (2026-06-03 11:58)

After voting concluded in South Korea's local elections Wednesday evening, election workers began sorting ballots at a counting center set up in Hoban Gymnasium, located in Chuncheon, Gangwon Province.

- [Fire breaks out near National Election Commission during vote counting](#) (2026-06-03 11:47)

A fire broke out on a hillside near the National Election Commission headquarters in Gwacheon, Gyeonggi Province, at around 7:50 p.m. Wednesday, about an hour and a half after polls closed in the local elections. The Gyeonggi Fire and Disaster Headquarters said it received a report of a fire near the NEC, with the caller saying flames could be seen halfway up a nearby mountain. Fire authorities dispatched 11 pieces of equipment and 33 personnel to the scene and arrived at around 7:55 p.m. They b

- [Chong Won-o projected to win Seoul mayoral race: exit poll](#) (2026-06-03 11:47)

Chong Won-o of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea was projected Wednesday to unseat four-term Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon, putting the capital on course for its first liberal mayor in six years. The ruling party was projected to score a nationwide victory over the PPP in local elections, but victory in Seoul, the country's most politically important local administration, would be a symbolic win for President Lee Jae Myung's party. Chong led Oh of the main opposition People Power Party 51.4 percent

- [2026 local elections in numbers](#) (2026-06-03 10:16)

South Korea's local elections on Wednesday stood out not only for their scale, but also for record figures that point to changing demographics, uneven competition and the sheer cost of running nationwide local polls. Voters cast ballots to choose leaders across multiple levels of local government, including governors, mayors, education superintendents and local council members. The number of foreign nationals eligible to vote in this year's local elections reached a record 151,532, up 18.7 per cent

- [Ballot shortage delays poll closing in parts of Seoul](#) (2026-06-03 10:09)

A digital watch shows 6:54 p.m. on Wednesday as voters line up at a polling station in Garak-dong, Songpa-gu, Seoul, where ballot shortages delayed voting past the scheduled 6 p.m. closing time. (Yonhap)

- [Jung Geun-sik projected to win second term as Seoul education chief: exit polls](#) (2026-06-03 09:47)

Liberal candidate Jung Geun-sik was projected to win Seoul's education superintendent race Wednesday, exit polls showed, securing a second term as head of the city's education office. Polls closed at 6 p.m., with exit polls giving Jung 39 percent of the vote, ahead of conservative candidate Cho Chun-hyuk, who received 21.2 percent. The exit polls were conducted by

Korea's three major broadcasters, KBS, MBC and SBS, at 595 polling stations nationwide. They surveyed every fifth voter who cast a ballot.

- [\[Breaking\] Ha, Han locked in tight race in Busan by-election: exit poll](#) (2026-06-03 09:22)

Democratic Party of Korea candidate Ha Jung-woo and independent candidate Han Dong-hoon were locked in a tight race in the National Assembly by-election for Busan's Buk-A district, according to a joint exit poll released Wednesday, shortly after voting ended. The exit poll showed Ha with 42.6 percent support, narrowly ahead of independent candidate Han Dong-hoon at 41.6 percent. People Power Party candidate Park Min-sik garnered 15.8 percent. The exit poll covered 595 polling stations nationwide.

- [\[Breaking\] Exit polls point to ruling party win at least 11 of 16 for chiefs of municipalities](#) (2026-06-03 09:19)

The ruling Democratic Party of Korea is likely to take at least 11 posts out of 16 for the chiefs of South Korean metropolitan cities and provinces, according to exit polls. According to nationwide exit polls Wednesday, the liberal party looked set for victories in mayoral races in Daejeon, Gwangju, Incheon, Seoul, Sejong and Ulsan. The Democratic Party is also expected to win in gubernatorial elections in Gyeonggi Province, Chungcheong Provinces, South Gyeongsang Province and Jeju Province. The

- [\[Breaking\] Cho Kuk leads tight three-way race in Pyeongtaek by-election: exit poll](#) (2026-06-03 09:16)

Cho Kuk, chair of the Rebuilding Korea Party, was projected to narrowly win a National Assembly seat in Pyeongtaek B, edging out rivals from both major parties in a three-way race, a joint exit poll showed Wednesday shortly after polling stations closed at 6 p.m. The poll showed Cho with 31.1 percent support, followed by main opposition People Power Party candidate Yoo Eui-dong at 30.6 percent and ruling Democratic Party of Korea candidate Kim Yong-nam at 30.3 percent. The exit poll covered 595

- [\[Breaking\] Former PM, ex-finance minister in neck and neck race for Daegu mayor: exit poll](#) (2026-06-03 09:15)

People Power Party candidate Choo Kyung-ho was slightly ahead in the race in the conservative stronghold of Daegu, according to exit polls. The former finance minister was up against Democratic Party of Korea candidate Kim Boo-kyum, a former four-time lawmaker and prime minister. According to exit polls conducted after polls closed in nationwide local elections Wednesday, Kim won 49.1 percent of votes in Daegu, with Choo 0.8 percentage point ahead of him. The exit poll was run by the Korea Elect

- [\[Breaking\] Ruling party heavyweight to be elected Gyeonggi governor: exit poll](#) (2026-06-03 09:15)

Democratic Party of Korea candidate Choo Mi-ae, who has served six terms as a lawmaker in the National Assembly, is expected to win the election for governor of Gyeonggi Province, according to an exit poll on Wednesday. The survey showed Choo on course to beat People Power Party candidate Yang Hyang-ja and Reform Party candidate Cho Eung-cheon, with 60.4 percent of votes. The exit poll was run by the Korea Election Pool, a body comprising representatives of the Korean Broadcasters Association and

- [\[Breaking\] Former oceans minister likely to become Busan mayor: exit poll](#) (2026-06-03 09:15)

Chun Jae-soo, former oceans minister and three-term lawmaker of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea, is projected to win the Busan mayoral race against Park Heong-joon, right-wing incumbent, according to an exit poll Wednesday. Chun, 55, was ahead of Park in the election with 50.2 percent of votes, up by 1.9 percentage points, according to an exit poll conducted at select polling stations nationwide Wednesday. The exit poll was run by the Korea Election Pool, a body comprising representatives of

- [\[Breaking\] Exit poll points to Chong Won-o as winner in Seoul mayor race](#) (2026-06-03 09:15)

The Democratic Party of Korea's Chong Won-o is projected to win the Seoul mayoral race, a joint exit poll of three major TV networks showed Wednesday, shortly after polling stations for the local elections closed at 6 p.m. Chong, 57, was expected to win 51.4 percent of votes, 5.4 percentage points ahead of the conservative incumbent Oh Se-hoon, who was seeking a fifth term, according to an exit poll conducted at select polling stations nationwide and augmented by a telephone poll. The exit poll

- [World Cup final rosters set as 1,248 players prepare for expanded tournament](#) (2026-06-03 08:50)

The 2026 FIFA World Cup, to be co-hosted by the United States, Mexico and Canada, is accelerating preparations after finalizing rosters totaling 1,248 players from 48 nations. With the tournament expanded from 32 teams to 48, the number of matches has increased to 104, bringing significantly more countries and players to soccer's biggest stage. Global stars are among those heading to North America. FIFA announced Tuesday that all participating nations had submitted their final rosters, confirmin

- [Allies seek early ‘tangible outcomes’ on nuclear submarines, fuel autonomy](#) (2026-06-03 08:43)

South Korea and the United States have agreed to move quickly to produce “tangible outcomes” from their nuclear cooperation initiatives after holding their first launch meeting in Seoul, South Korea’s Foreign Ministry said Wednesday. The announcement came after the two countries held the inaugural two-day meeting starting Tuesday to officially kick off discussions on Seoul’s pursuit of nuclear-powered submarines and greater autonomy over the nuclear

fuel cycle, as outlined in the Nov. 14 Joint F

- [Some Seoul polling stations face ballot shortages amid high turnout](#) (2026-06-03 08:40)

Several polling stations in Seoul temporarily ran short of ballots during Wednesday's local elections, forcing some voters to cast their ballots after official voting hours and drawing harsh criticism from the main opposition party. The National Election Commission confirmed that the shortages at polling stations in Seoul's Songpa-gu were caused by higher-than-expected voter turnout, adding that additional ballots had been dispatched to the affected stations. Voting continued past the official 6

- [South Korea has 70% chance of reaching World Cup knockout stage](#) (2026-06-03 08:39)

Will South Korea become the first Korean team to reach the knockout stage at consecutive World Cups played outside the country? According to projections from Opta's supercomputer, the odds are in its favor. Opta, a sports analytics company, said Monday it ran 10,000 simulations of the 2026 FIFA World Cup and projected the expected performance of all 48 teams in the tournament. The simulations gave South Korea a 70.35 percent chance of advancing from the group stage and a 33.52 percent chance of

- [South Korea's full 26-man squad trains together for first time in Utah](#) (2026-06-03 08:13)

All 26 players on the South Korea squad trained together on the field for the first time ahead of the 2026 FIFA World Cup. The South Korean national team, led by head coach Hong Myung-bo, worked up a sweat Tuesday at the Zions Bank Training Center in Herriman, near Salt Lake City, Utah. South Korea has been holding a two-week pre-World Cup camp in Salt Lake City, which sits at an elevation of 1,460 meters, to help players adjust to the high altitude of Guadalajara, Mexico, the team's base camp a

- [OECD revises up S. Korea's 2026 growth outlook to 2.6%](#) (2026-06-03 08:02)

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development on Wednesday raised South Korea's economic growth outlook for this year to 2.6 percent from 1.7 percent three months earlier, citing the country's robust chip exports amid the artificial intelligence boom. The Paris-based organization said the country's outbound shipments of chips are expected to continue driving economic growth. South Korea's exports surged 53 percent from a year earlier to a new monthly high of \$87.8 billion in May, dri

- [Lee's X posts on Election Day urging voters draw opposition backlash](#) (2026-06-03 07:55)

President Lee Jae Myung's repeated appeals on Election Day for South Koreans to exercise their right to vote, delivered through a series of social media posts, triggered backlash from the opposition party on Wednesday. Lee had posted four times on X encouraging voter participation as of 3 p.m. Wednesday, as South Korea was holding local elections and by-elections for National Assembly seats. Lee pointed to the country's excessively high housing and real estate prices as one factor behind the und

- [At polling stations, voters look beyond local pledges](#) (2026-06-03 06:48)

At polling stations across Seoul on Wednesday, voters lined up to choose local leaders. But for many, the issues on their minds reached far beyond city hall or district offices. From martial law and party rivalry to real estate policy and taxes, voters interviewed by The Korea Herald said national politics played a major role in their choices in races meant to decide mayors, governors, education superintendents and local council members. Before the early summer heat had fully set in, residents i

- [\[Photo News\] Korean celebs, including BTS' Jin, cast votes for municipalities' head](#) (2026-06-03 06:44)

Korean celebrities joined voters across the country in casting their ballots Wednesday in South Korea's local elections and parliamentary by-elections, while encouraging fans to vote through social media. Among them was Jin of BTS, who visited a polling station in Seoul's Hannam-dong after briefly returning to Korea from the group's world tour in support of its new album "Arirang." Broadcaster Jang Young-ran and actors So Yoo-jin and Yoon Jong-hoon also shared voting photos and urged fans to par

- [Superintendent races leave voters with few clear choices as policy takes a back seat](#) (2026-06-03 06:29)

Seoul's crowded education superintendent race laid bare growing doubts over whether the current direct-election system helps voters choose education leaders based on policy. In the capital, both conservative and liberal blocs failed to field unified candidates, leaving eight contenders on the ballot for Wednesday's local elections in the most crowded superintendent race in the city's history. Although education superintendent candidates do not run under party banners, they are widely grouped by

- [Hanwha safety oversight under scrutiny after deadly blast](#) (2026-06-03 06:24)

Police have identified all five workers killed in Monday's explosion at Hanwha Aerospace's Daejeon plant, as investigators examine whether shortcomings in the company's safety management system contributed to the accident. Authorities said Wednesday that the victims included two contract workers in their 20s and three full-time employees — two in their 50s and one in his 30s. The bodies were expected to be returned to their families later in the day. The explosion occurred Monday at Hanwha Aeros

- [Kospi rally fuels market swings unseen since financial crisis](#) (2026-06-03 06:18)

South Korea's stock market is swinging at a pace not seen since the global financial crisis, as a record-setting Kospi rally collides with rising leverage and forced selling. Sidecars, which halt program trading for five minutes when futures move more than 5 percent for at least one minute, were triggered 20 times in the first five months of the year. Of those, 11 were triggered on the buy side and nine on the sell side. This year's tally already accounts for a quarter of the

80 sidecars since t

- [By-elections for 14 Assembly seats held alongside local elections](#) (2026-06-03 06:13)

South Korean voters headed to the polls Wednesday not only to choose local leaders, but also to fill 14 vacant seats in the National Assembly, with the contests carrying varying stakes for the rival parties. The by-elections were triggered by a combination of resignations and court rulings. One vacancy was created after President Lee Jae Myung took office. Three others resulted from court decisions that invalidated election results or stripped lawmakers of their eligibility to hold office. The r

- [Why Nvidia is betting on Korea for physical AI](#) (2026-06-03 06:13)

Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang is putting South Korea's physical AI potential in the spotlight, with robotics set to top the agenda during his planned visit to Seoul from Thursday. "I think that robotics is very important to Korea, and I hope to be able to contribute to robotics in Korea," Huang said during Nvidia's "Korea Partner Night," held for the first time on the sidelines of the Computex event in Taiwan on Tuesday. "We would always consider investments in Korea, (it has) such a great ecosystem,

- [Hackers breach Tving database, exposing user data](#) (2026-06-03 05:54)

South Korean streaming platform Tving said Wednesday that it had identified a data breach involving unauthorized access to users' personal information. In a notice posted on its website, the company said the compromised data may include user IDs, names, dates of birth, gender, mobile phone numbers and email addresses. Resident registration numbers and payment-related information were not exposed, according to the company. Tving did not disclose the number of affected users. According to Tving, t

- [N. Korea criticizes USFK commander's 'dagger' remark on South Korea](#) (2026-06-03 05:47)

North Korea on Wednesday denounced recent remarks by the commander of US Forces Korea, who described South Korea as a "dagger in the heart of Asia" from China's perspective, arguing that Washington's regional strategy would only deepen security concerns and drive closer cooperation among countries seeking to counter the United States. The criticism came in a commentary carried by the Korean Central News Agency, which cited comments made by Gen. Xavier Brunson during a podcast interview last week

- [Ji Chang-wook of 'Colony' hit by tax probe](#) (2026-06-03 05:39)

Actor Ji Chang-wook has been assessed billions of won in additional taxes following an audit by South Korea's National Tax Service, the latest in a series of high-profile tax disputes involving popular Korean entertainers, including Cha Eun-woo and Kim Seon-ho. According to local reports published Tuesday, the Seoul Regional Tax Office imposed additional taxes after allegedly identifying issues related to underreported or improperly handled taxes during a

nonroutine audit conducted around March.

- [Can't wait to see Neukgu? Daejeon O-World reopens Friday](#) (2026-06-03 05:27)

Fans of Neukgu won't have to wait much longer. The young wolf that broke out of a zoo in April and became a national sensation during its nine days on the lam is set to greet visitors again as Daejeon O-World prepares to reopen Friday. The reopening comes nearly two months after the zoo and amusement park suspended operations following the animal's escape to reinforce safety measures. Among the improvements are reinforced fencing, electric barriers and newly installed concrete foundations beneath

- [Kia starts Sportage Hybrid production at new Georgia plant](#) (2026-06-03 05:23)

Kia has begun producing its flagship Sportage Hybrid SUV in the US, aiming to capture growing demand for hybrid vehicles in North America while navigating looming auto tariffs. Kia America held a ceremony Tuesday to mark the launch of mass production of the vehicle. The event was attended by key figures, including Heo Tae-yang, executive vice president and CEO of Hyundai Motor Group Metaplant America, Yoon Seung-kyu, president of Kia North America and CEO of Kia America, and Georgia Gov. Brian K

- [KB begins chair selection amid governance overhaul](#) (2026-06-03 05:16)

KB Financial Group has started the process of choosing who will lead the group after incumbent Chair Yang Jong-hee's term ends in November, with a final nominee expected in September. The company said Tuesday its chairman candidate recommendation committee approved detailed rules for the selection process and narrowed its longlist of 20 candidates to 12, evenly split between internal and external contenders. The process is starting about one month earlier than last time. KB said the longer timeline

- [South Korea votes for metropolitan, regional heads](#) (2026-06-03 05:12)

South Korean voters on Wednesday went to the polls to elect leaders of autonomous governments and councilors, as well as local education chiefs and 14 lawmakers at the National Assembly. This year's comprehensive local elections and the parliamentary by-elections are the first nationwide votes since the presidential election in 2025. Polling stations opened at 6 a.m. Wednesday, with 4,241 posts up for grabs. According to the National Election Commission, a total of 7,767 people registered as can

- [AI boom reshapes Korea's status ladder](#) (2026-06-03 05:11)

South Korea's AI chip boom is creating a new class of corporate elite. Jobs at Samsung Electronics and SK hynix, long prized for their salaries and stability, are increasingly being treated as status symbols in everything from college admissions and job searches to dating and marriage, as soaring AI-driven profits transform perceptions of the semiconductor industry. Online, the phenomenon has been dubbed "Samjeon-nix," a portmanteau of "Samjeon," Korean shorthand for Samsung Electronics and SK h

- [Jeweled floral pots of auspicious blossoms recreated](#) (2026-06-03 04:58)

Peonies symbolizing wealth and honor, pine trees expressing wishes for longevity, lotus blossoms representing prosperity, orchids and plum blossoms evoking nobility and the ideal spirit of the scholar — all auspicious meanings are brought together in a single ornamental floral pot. When King Gojong sought to strengthen ties with France in 1888, among the treasures he dispatched to French President Marie Francois Sadi Carnot was a pair of "banhwa," elaborate ornaments fashioned as flowering plant

- [Iran fires missiles and US strikes Iran facility after reports of faltering peace talks](#) (2026-06-03 04:56)

The US military said Tuesday that Iran fired missiles at Kuwait and Bahrain that failed or were shot down, and that the US launched strikes on an Iranian facility in response. Iran fired missiles toward Kuwait and Bahrain, but failed to hit their targets, the US said. The two fired at Kuwait fell apart en route, while US and Bahraini forces intercepted the missiles aimed at Bahrain. US Central Command said it responded with strikes on an Iranian military ground control station on Qeshm Island in

- [How Setlog became Korea' s unexpected new blind date tool](#) (2026-06-03 04:22)

Dating in South Korea once followed a familiar playbook: a friend or colleague arranged a blind date, profiles and photos were exchanged over KakaoTalk, a few polite messages followed and two strangers met over coffee or dinner to decide whether there was chemistry. Now, some young Koreans are trying a different route: watching short clips of each other' s daily lives before deciding whether to meet at all. The trend is known as "Setlog blind dating," a matchmaking format built around Setlog, a s

- [Korea to triple oil imports, secure more LNG from Canada amid energy shock](#) (2026-06-03 04:15)

South Korea and Canada have agreed to deepen their partnership in energy and critical minerals as war in Iran and disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz reshape global supply chains. Under the agreement, Seoul plans to more than triple Canadian crude oil imports while securing additional LNG supplies through expanded investment in Canadian LNG projects. The agreement was reached Tuesday at a Korea-Canada forum on energy, resources and supply-chain cooperation in Ottawa, jointly hosted by South Korea

- [UN urges world to ready for extreme heat risk from El Nino](#) (2026-06-03 04:08)

The United Nations weather agency forecast on Tuesday a moderate or possibly a strong El Nino that could drive up global temperatures and increase the risk of extreme weather over the coming months. El Nino is a periodic warming of sea surface temperatures in the central and eastern Pacific Ocean, which typically lasts between nine and 12 months, according to the World Meteorological Organization. The WMO said warm ocean waters were driving El Nino' s

development and predicted above-average temp

- ['Crazy': Trump-Netanyahu relationship under growing strain](#) (2026-06-03 04:07)

They went to war together against Iran, but Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu's relationship is under strain after the US president reportedly called the Israeli premier "crazy." Trump unleashed a profane tirade over the phone at Netanyahu over Israel's threats to bomb the Lebanese capital Beirut, fearing it would undermine talks with Tehran, the Axios news outlet and ABC News reported. It underscored the increasingly shaky ties between two right-wing allies with lots to lose politically from

- [Bangladesh's foreign minister defeats Cyprus' ambassador to be UN General Assembly president](#) (2026-06-03 04:06)

Bangladesh's Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman won a hotly contested race Tuesday to be the next president of the 193-member UN General Assembly. In a secret-ballot vote, Rahman defeated Cyprus' Ambassador Andreas Kakouris 99-91, with three countries not voting. He will succeed Germany's former Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock, whose one-year term ends in September. The presidency of the world body rotates by region and this year it was the Asia-Pacific region' s turn. While the presidency of th

- [Foreign hotel bookings in Busan surge ahead of BTS concert](#) (2026-06-03 04:02)

The number of hotel reservations booked by foreign tourists in the southeastern port city of Busan rose sharply ahead of next week's concert by K-pop sensation BTS, industry sources said Wednesday. According to Hanwha Hotels & Resorts, foreigners accounted for 42 percent of the rooms booked at its Matie Osiria hotel in the port city from June 11 to 13, up sharply from 0.2 percent during the same period last year. BTS' performances in Busan will take place June 12-13. Hanwha Hotels added that the

- [Snapshots from the polls](#) (2026-06-03 03:20)

Voting in South Korea' s local elections began at 6 a.m. Wednesday, kicking off a nationwide vote that will shape local leadership for the next four years. People of all ages turned out to cast their ballots, including a 110-year-old woman in Gwangju. Children accompanying their parents to polling stations were also a common sight. While polling stations are typically set up at schools and community centers, a range of everyday venues were transformed into voting sites — from badminton courts and

- [\[Treasures from National Museum of Korea\] Seogam-ri Gold Buckle of Pyongyang](#) (2026-06-03 02:41)

Period - Nangrang Commandery Materials - Gold Category - Buckle Dimensions - 9.4 cm in length Designation - National Treasure This pure gold belt buckle is a 1st-century National Treasure crafted during the Nangrang (Lelang) period, following the fall of Gojoseon. Hundreds of tiny gold granules have been meticulously attached to a thin gold plate, while the rim is

embellished with twisted gold wire. A total of 53.6 grams of gold was used in its creation. At the center is a large dragon surrounded

- [Rui Bao and Hui Bao to return to China this winter](#) (2026-06-03 02:41)

South Korea may soon be preparing to say goodbye to its beloved panda twins, again. Rui Bao and Hui Bao, the giant panda sisters born at Everland in 2023, are expected to return to China this winter, according to their zookeeper Kang Cheol-won, setting the stage for another emotional farewell for fans. In a video uploaded to Everland's YouTube channel on Wednesday, Kang said experts from Korea and China are in discussions to determine when the panda twins should return to China. "Fu Bao had a di

- [Hotter summers may force more trail restrictions at national parks](#) (2026-06-03 02:31)

Extreme heat could replace cold waves as the main weather risk leading to trail restrictions at Korea's national parks as climate change accelerates, according to a new study. The Korea National Park Service and the Global Sustainable Tourism Council on Wednesday published a study projecting how climate change could affect the number of days when mountain-type national parks meet weather-related criteria for restricting trail access. The study analyzed 18 mountain national parks, including Jirisan

- [Winners likely to emerge around midnight; tight races may extend to 3-4 a.m.](#) (2026-06-03 02:16)

The outcome of most races in Wednesday's local elections and parliamentary by-elections is expected to become clear by midnight, while tightly contested races could remain undecided until around 3 a.m. or 4 a.m. Thursday, according to the National Election Commission. Voting, which began nationwide at 6 a.m., will continue until 6 p.m., after which exit poll results will be announced. Ballot counting is expected to begin in earnest about 20 minutes after polls close. Results from metropolitan an

- [Korea's beloved sci-fi story is hitting the screen. Is the animation up to it?](#) (2026-06-03 02:14)

"Pilgrims" is built on the two things Korean cinema just can't seem to pull off. On paper, that's a recipe for disaster; on screen, it gets about halfway to proving otherwise. Start with the sci-fi problem. Koreans have proven time and again they can do period epics, gangster pictures, zombie thrillers — you name it — but science and speculative fiction remains the white whale. Homegrown titles of the past few years, from the lavishly mounted "Space Sweepers" to the 28-billion-won belly-flop "Th

- ['Koreans are the Italians of Asia' : Italian ambassador](#) (2026-06-03 02:14)

South Korea and Italy are "similar and complementary" countries, Italian Ambassador to Korea Emilia Gatto said as the two nations celebrated Italy's Republic Day in Seoul on Tuesday. "Korea truly loves 'Made in Italy,' and Italy truly loves K-culture," Gatto said, highlighting the strong

cultural affinity between the two countries. At the event, marking the 80th anniversary of the Italian Republic, Gatto noted that bilateral ties continue to deepen, adding that President Lee Jae Myung is expected

- [From Goryeo celadon to Dior bag, what gifts have Korea and France exchanged?](#)  
(2026-06-03 02:14)

"Your Excellency, I have the honor to inform you that I received yesterday the three crates containing the vases produced at the National Sevres Manufactory and presented by the President of the French Republic to His Majesty the King of Korea." So wrote French envoy Victor Collin de Plancy in a letter to King Gojong on June 22, 1888. The correspondence documented the arrival of a historic diplomatic gift: three pieces of Sevres porcelain — one Salamina vase and two Clodion vases — sent by Presi

- [Lee urges public to vote, says Korea's future hangs on choosing capable and loyal civil servants](#) (2026-06-03 02:12)

President Lee Jae Myung on Wednesday urged voters not to give up their ballots, arguing that South Korea's future depends on choosing capable and loyal public servants. In a message posted on social media, Lee said that he will make it impossible to profit from actions that violate the law and harm others, and that giving opportunities to capable individuals in a transparent manner is the foundation of such change. "As South Korea transforms from a country of real estate speculation into a premi

- [Trump administration drops \\$1.8 billion 'weaponization' fund after Republican backlash](#)  
(2026-06-03 02:08)

The Trump administration is abandoning the president's \$1.8 billion "weaponization" fund, US Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche told lawmakers Tuesday, after a rare backlash from Republican senators. "We are not moving forward with the fund," Blanche said. "Period." But Blanche also told lawmakers that an agreement with Trump to bar future audits of his or his family's past tax records will remain in place. The fund emerged from a legal settlement between the US president and the Justice Depa

- [Defense minister resigns as protests rock Bolivia](#) (2026-06-03 02:08)

Bolivia's defense minister resigned on Tuesday after more than a month of protests demanding President Rodrigo Paz's ouster, a government source told Agence France-Presse. The departure signals a deepening political crisis that has paralyzed major cities and threatens Paz's government. Workers, farmers, miners, transport workers, and teachers are demanding measures to address the country's worst economic crisis in four decades. Paz, who was backed by US President Donald Trump, has warned that Bo

- ['It really feels like a homecoming': Yepoda returns to its K-beauty roots in Seoul](#)  
(2026-06-03 01:52)

Most K-beauty brands are heading west nowadays. This one found its way back to its roots. Founded in Germany by Dutch Korean entrepreneur Sander Joonyoung van Bladel and his German wife Veronika Strotmann, Yepoda opened its first Asian flagship last Saturday in Seongsu, Seoul. “The opening of our first store in Seoul's Seongsu district represents not only a new leap forward for the brand, but also a symbolic return to the Korean culture and market that form Yepoda's roots,” Sander said in an int

- [Africa needs tech transfer, not just aid, Egyptian FM says](#) (2026-06-03 01:46)

Egypt-Korea partnership for sustainable development needs technology transfer and joint defense production African countries need technology transfer, investment and industrial cooperation from South Korea rather than aid-based ties, Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty said Tuesday, calling for “a real partnership based on mutual respect and win-win cooperation” and concrete outcomes for the 2029 Korea-Africa Summit. Technology transfer was a central theme of the discussions, with Abdelatty

- [SK chief looks beyond chips to AI factories](#) (2026-06-03 01:45)

SK Group Chairman Chey Tae-won said Tuesday that the conglomerate aims to move beyond supplying AI memory chips and eventually build "AI factories," while doubling wafer production capacity within five years to meet surging demand from the artificial intelligence boom. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of Computex 2026 in Taipei, Chey said SK's ambitions extend beyond its current role as a key supplier of memory chips for AI systems. "Today we produce memory chips for AI, but I want to chal

- [Samsung leveraged ETFs outtrade underlying shares; Tesla's never have](#) (2026-06-03 01:23)

South Korea's newly launched single-stock leveraged exchange-traded funds tied to Samsung Electronics and SK hynix are trading at levels rarely seen in major global markets, with turnover in some products already exceeding that of the underlying shares themselves. The development has raised concerns that trading in the products akin to derivatives could begin influencing the stocks they are designed to track — a dynamic that industry officials often describe as the "wag the dog" effect. Accordin

- [Teen turns himself in after stabbing another teen on bus](#) (2026-06-03 01:23)

A 17-year-old was arrested on Wednesday after allegedly stabbing another teen aboard a bus in Daejeon. Local police said that the suspect stabbed a passenger, a 14-year-old boy, on a bus traveling through Songgang-dong in Yuseong-gu on Tuesday at 9:47 p.m. and later fled the scene. The victim was taken to a nearby hospital for treatment. Further details on his condition were not immediately available. After the incident, the suspect turned himself in to the police. Authorities believe the stabbi

- [Korea's milk dilemma: Less demand, more imports](#) (2026-06-03 01:17)

Korea's dairy industry is approaching a pivotal moment as domestic milk consumption falls and more tariff-free milk imports are set to enter the country. According to the Korea Dairy Committee, the country's yearly milk consumption per person decreased to 22.9 kilograms last year, down 9.5 percent from 2024 and the lowest in about four decades. Despite weakening consumption, Korea's milk prices are among the highest in the world. According to Global Product Prices a liter of reduced-fat milk ret

- [Local election turnout hits 48.9% as of 2 p.m., higher than previous elections](#) (2026-06-03 01:05)

Nearly half of eligible voters had cast their ballots in Wednesday's local elections in South Korea by 2 p.m., pushing turnout to 48.9 percent — well above the level seen in previous local elections. According to the National Election Commission, the 2 p.m. turnout was 8.2 percentage points higher than the 40.7 percent recorded at the same point in the 2022 elections. Unlike morning tallies, the figure includes early voting ballots cast on May 29 and 30. Of the country's 44.65 million eligible v

- [Veteran midfielder gearing up for final World Cup](#) (2026-06-03 00:51)

Midfielder Lee Jae-sung is preparing for his third FIFA World Cup, which kicks off next week in Mexico for South Korea. The 33-year-old believes it will also be his last one. Lee, 33, previously represented the country at the 2018 and 2022 World Cups. Captain Son Heung-min, another 33-year-old and a close friend of Lee's, hasn't ruled out the possibility of playing in another World Cup. But Lee was adamant Tuesday that he won't be around for another. "I think this will be my final World Cup as a

- [Police identify all 5 victims killed in Hanwha plant explosion](#) (2026-06-03 00:33)

Police said Wednesday they have identified all five victims killed in the Hanwha Aerospace factory explosion and plan to return their bodies to their families. The Daejeon Metropolitan Police Agency said the identities of the five victims were confirmed through DNA analysis by the National Forensic Service. "We cross-referenced the victims' DNA with that of their family members to identify them," a police official said. "We plan to return the bodies to the families." A funeral is expected to be

- [\[Graphic News\] S. Korea TOEIC ranking rises to 5th in Asia](#) (2026-06-02 23:00)

South Korea's average TOEIC score rose to 682 last year, up four points from a year earlier and ranking 17th among 39 countries and fifth in Asia, according to the Korea TOEIC Committee under YBM. The Test of English for International Communication, better known as TOEIC, is a standardized English-language test widely used to assess workplace English proficiency among non-native speakers. Germany recorded the highest average score at 851, followed by Lebanon at 850, Belgium at 780, Italy at 776

- [When AI becomes doctor, therapist and confidant](#) (2026-06-02 22:00)

A post about a woman seeking repeated reassurance from an artificial intelligence chatbot over health concerns has sparked debate in South Korea over how deeply generative AI is infiltrating people's emotional lives and decision-making. The post, shared on the workplace community platform Remember, said the writer's girlfriend, who has health anxiety, spends up to three hours talking to Gemini and often worries that minor physical discomfort could be a sign of serious illness. "She asks Gemini t

- [S. Koreans head to polls in local elections](#) (2026-06-02 21:07)

South Koreans hit the polls Wednesday to elect mayors, governors, local council members and regional education chiefs in crucial local elections that could set the path for the Lee Jae Myung administration in its second year in office. Voting kicked off at 6:00 a.m. and will continue until 6:00 p.m. at 14,288 polling stations nationwide, according to the National Election Commission. More than 44.6 million people are eligible to vote, among whom 10.4 million already cast their ballots during the

- [Earth is likely to break another heat record](#) (2026-06-02 21:00)

The world has an 86 percent chance of experiencing its hottest year on record between 2026 and 2030, according to a new report released by the World Meteorological Organization. The report, known as the Global Annual to Decadal Climate Update 2026-2035, was led by the UK Met Office and incorporated 250 climate model projections from 13 institutions worldwide, including the Korea Meteorological Administration. The WMO projected that the global average near-surface temperature from 2026 to 2030 wi

- [\[Kim Seong-kon\]What are we actually voting for?](#) (2026-06-02 20:30)

In a democracy, people vote to make a difference. Indeed, voters can decide whether their government deserves to be reelected or replaced. Without an electoral system, incompetent or even tyrannical leaders could remain in power indefinitely. Therefore, voting is a prerequisite for any democratic country. Naturally, politicians are uneasy about elections. As election day approaches, many politicians become anxious and restless because they may either be reelected or voted out of office, dependin

- [\[Jim Nowlan\]Dark money in US elections](#) (2026-06-02 20:30)

American political party organizations have imploded in the post-World War II era, largely replaced by dark money from unknown donors. The party vacuum is ominous for a healthy democracy, because voters are left without stable cues about how to vote. There are options that could — it won't be easy — strengthen parties and diminish the impact of dark money. The traditional political party has four roles: establish and promote a platform; recruit candidates to seek election on that platform; condu

- [Nvidia chief, SK Group's Chey meet in Taipei to discuss AI memory chip cooperation](#) (2026-06-02 12:34)

Jensen Huang, chief executive officer of US chip giant Nvidia, met with SK Group Chairman Chey Tae-won in Taipei to discuss the future of cooperation in artificial intelligence memory, SK Group said Tuesday. The meeting took place in Taipei on Monday, according to a post on SK Group's Facebook account. Both executives were in the Taiwanese capital to attend Computex, one of Asia's largest technology trade shows. "With SK hynix reaching a market capitalization of US\$1 trillion, the executives of

- [National security adviser meets US under secretary of state for talks on security](#) (2026-06-02 11:55)

National Security Adviser Wi Sung-lac met with visiting US Under Secretary of State Allison Hooker on Tuesday, welcoming the launch of follow-up negotiations on an agreement reached by their countries' leaders last year. "We hope that two days of productive talks will help accelerate progress on the matter," Cheong Wa Dae said in a press release. "Both sides reaffirmed the ROK-US alliance as a central pillar of peace and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula and in the Indo-Pacific, and pledged to

- [Korea's bestselling soju lowers alcohol content](#) (2026-06-02 11:42)

South Korean liquor-maker HiteJinro announced Tuesday that it will lower the alcoholic content of its flagship soju brand, Chamisul Fresh, from 16 percent to 15.7 percent to better align with changing consumer preferences. Chamisul Fresh is the No. 1 soju brand by domestic sales. This update follows the brand's last reformulation two years and four months ago. The refreshed Chamisul Fresh will be available nationwide through distribution channels starting in mid-June. The company stated that thi

- [World No. 3 Kim Hyo-joo headlines South Korean contingent at LPGA major](#) (2026-06-02 11:12)

Kim Hyo-joo, world No. 3 in women's golf with two LPGA titles this season, will lead the South Korean contingent at the second major tournament of the year this week in California. Kim will be one of 23 South Korean players in the field of 156 at the 81st U.S. Women's Open at Riviera Country Club in Pacific Palisades, near Los Angeles, starting Thursday. Kim is one of four players to win multiple times this LPGA season. World No. 1 Nelly Korda has won three times, while Kim, second-ranked Jeeno

- [Psy referred to prosecutors over alleged proxy drug pickup](#) (2026-06-02 10:22)

Psy, the singer behind 2012 K-pop megahit "Gangnam Style," has been referred to prosecutors over allegations he had a manager collect psychotropic medication on his behalf. According to local media reports Tuesday, the Seoul Western District Prosecutors' Office received the case from police on Monday and is investigating Psy, his manager, a professor at a university hospital in Seoul and another individual on suspicion of violating the Medical Service Act. Psy is accused of receiving prescriptio

- [Meow looks beyond genres with Bach-inspired new EP](#) (2026-06-02 10:22)

Meow is betting that one of classical music's most recognizable melodies can help define the rookie girl group's future. The five-member act returned Monday with its second EP, "Bite Now," led by "Ddi Ro Ri," a main track built around a reinterpretation of Johann Sebastian Bach's "Toccatina and Fugue in D minor." Rather than treating the classical piece as a novelty, the group said it saw the song as an opportunity to showcase its evolving musical identity and willingness to experiment across genres.

- [BTS to release special vinyl edition of 'Arirang' for 13th debut anniversary](#) (2026-06-02 08:51)

BTS will celebrate 13 years since its debut with a special limited-edition vinyl release of its fifth LP, "Arirang." According to Big Hit Music, the vinyl version of the album will be released on June 12, a day before the group's anniversary. The vinyl will feature all the tracks from "Arirang" that were released on March 20, along with two bonus tracks: "Voice Message: Love Song" and "Normal (Korean Ver.)," bringing the total number of tracks on the record to 16. "Voice Message: Love Song" expands

- [TripleS opens new chapter with brighter full-group comeback](#) (2026-06-02 08:51)

Girl group TripleS returned Monday with its first full-group comeback in roughly a year, unveiling "Love & Pop Pt. 1" as the opening chapter of a new trilogy that aims to deliver comfort, solidarity and encouragement to young people still reaching their potential. The 24-member act introduced the album during a showcase in central Seoul as a new chapter for the group that will unfold across three releases. "Love & Pop Pt. 1" marks the beginning of a new full-group trilogy," explained member Yeo

- [Swim, bike, run, chill by the Han River this weekend](#) (2026-06-02 08:43)

Seoul will hold a three-day noncompetitive triathlon event along the Han River this weekend, inviting residents and visitors to swim, cycle and run at their own pace. The third annual My Pace Hangang Triathlon Festival will take place from Friday to Sunday around Ttukseom and Jamsil Han River parks, the Seoul Metropolitan Government said Tuesday. The city expects a large turnout after last year's festival drew 650,000 visitors. The festival centers on three activities — swimming, cycling and run

- [Cabinet approves bill to support defense semiconductor industry](#) (2026-06-02 08:24)

South Korea's Cabinet on Tuesday approved a bill aimed at fostering the country's defense semiconductor industry, the Ministry of National Defense said. The bill on nurturing and supporting defense semiconductors is expected to be promulgated later this month and could take effect as early as the fourth quarter, after related enforcement decrees and regulations are prepared. Defense semiconductors are key components of advanced weapons systems, but the sector has lacked a dedicated legal framework

- [1967 Korea Herald edition to be acquired as Korean War artifact](#) (2026-06-02 08:18)

The Ministry of Unification is acquiring Korean War-related artifacts, including a 1967 edition of The Korea Herald, for research at the National Memorial for Abductees during the Korean War in Paju. The ministry unveiled a list of 125 historical items it plans to purchase for research and exhibition, ranging from historical documents and publications to everyday goods. The collection includes printed materials, such as a copy of the Korean War Armistice Agreement, estimated to date back to 1953

- [NIS to draw up rules on tackling transnational crime](#) (2026-06-02 08:11)

South Korea's spy agency plans to establish new rules to respond to growing transnational crimes, including drug trafficking, scams and cyber gambling. The National Intelligence Service said Tuesday it has issued an advance notice of a proposed decree on response procedures against international criminal organizations and will collect public opinions until July 13. The NIS said the measure aims to strengthen its response to crimes that increasingly threaten public safety and national security. T

- [Lee says he hopes to regularize Korea-Africa summits](#) (2026-06-02 08:10)

President Lee Jae Myung on Tuesday voiced hope for the Korea-Africa summit to be held on a regular basis, saying his government is paying special attention to Africa's potential for growth and development. Lee made the remarks at Cheong Wa Dae during a meeting with foreign ministers from 19 African countries and representatives of the African Union, the African Continental Free Trade Area and the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The meeting came a day after Seoul hosted the inau

- [Yes to grasshoppers, no to ants: How does Korea decide which bugs can be grub?](#) (2026-06-02 07:30)

Grasshoppers have made it onto South Korea's dinner tables, at least legally. Ants and cockroaches, however, remain off the menu. On Tuesday, South Korea approved *Parapodisma mikado*, a species of grasshopper, as a food ingredient, expanding the country's short list of edible insects. The decision has renewed attention on a question that may sound simple but is tightly regulated: Why are some insects approved as food while others are not? The answer lies in a regulatory system that requires years

- [Kospi rally is real, but Korea's rerating has only begun: Shinyoung strategist](#) (2026-06-02 07:28)

The Kospi's historic rally may have changed the way investors talk about the Korea Discount, but it has not erased the deeper valuation gap that still weighs on Korean equities, according to Kim Hak-kyun, head of research at Shinyoung Securities. "(The) Korea Discount has been fully resolved if you are talking about whether stock prices failed to rise," Kim said in an interview with The Korea Herald in Yeouido, Seoul, on Monday. "But if the term refers more precisely to how undervalued Korean co

- [Seoul shares again end at record high on Samsung's performance](#) (2026-06-02 07:11)

South Korean stocks closed at a fresh high of above the landmark 8,800-point level Tuesday as tech shares continued to advance on optimism over artificial intelligence, led by chip giant Samsung Electronics, offsetting a market-wide profit-taking mode. The local currency fell sharply against the US dollar. The benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index added 13.11 points, or 0.15 percent, to close at 8,801.49. The index opened higher and climbed to a record intraday high of 8,933.62 before reve

- [Who's who in key election battlegrounds?](#) (2026-06-02 07:01)

With 4,241 posts up for grabs in Wednesday's elections, including 16 key executive seats and 14 parliamentary seats being contended in by-elections, several races stand out as key battles. The outcomes could have significant ramifications for either of the two main parties, as well as the Lee Jae Myung administration itself. Chong Won-o, the Democratic Party of Korea's Seoul mayoral candidate, has consistently been ahead in opinion polls, but his lead over incumbent Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon has be

- [James Milner retires after 24-year career](#) (2026-06-02 06:58)

James Milner, one of English soccer's most durable and respected veterans, has officially retired after a professional career spanning 24 years. The 40-year-old announced his retirement Sunday on social media, bringing his playing days to an end after his contract with Brighton & Hove Albion expired. He spent the final three seasons of his career with the club. Born in 1986, Milner made his Premier League debut for Leeds United in November 2002 at just 16 years old. At the time, he was the secon

- [Park Min-ji Jumps in world rankings after 20th KLPGA Tour Victory](#) (2026-06-02 06:58)

Park Min-ji, who recently became just the third player in KLPGA history to reach 20 career victories, made a significant leap in the women's world golf rankings. In the latest women's rankings released Sunday, Park climbed 57 spots from the previous week to No. 104. Park secured her milestone 20th KLPGA Tour title by winning the SH Suhyup Bank MBN Women's Open, which concluded on Sunday. The victory made her only the third player in KLPGA Tour history to reach the 20-win mark. Since earning her

- [Rival parties make final push for support on eve of local elections](#) (2026-06-02 06:53)

The ruling and opposition parties made last-ditch appeals for support Tuesday, the eve of nationwide local elections, a vote widely seen as a test of public sentiment toward President Lee Jae Myung's first year in office. Up for grabs in the June 3 elections are 16 mayoral and gubernatorial posts, along with 227 heads of local governments and some 4,000 members of local councils. This year's elections carry added significance as 14 National Assembly seats are also at stake in parliamentary by-el

- [TCK wins WealthBriefingAsia award for third straight year](#) (2026-06-02 06:48)

TCK Investments said Monday it had won a WealthBriefingAsia Award for the third consecutive year, earning recognition for its wealth management services for high-net-worth individuals in South Korea. The award, presented by UK-based company ClearView Financial Media, recognizes excellence and innovation in private banking, family office and wealth management services across Asia. TCK was named the winner in the Multi-Family Office, Private Bank or External Asset Manager (South Korea) category. T

- [Seoul shares again end at record high on Samsung's performance](#) (2026-06-02 06:48)

South Korean stocks closed at a fresh high of above the landmark 8,800-point level Tuesday as tech shares continued to advance on optimism over artificial intelligence, led by chip giant Samsung Electronics, offsetting a market-wide profit-taking mode. The local currency fell sharply against the US dollar. The benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index added 13.11 points, or 0.15 percent, to close at 8,801.49. The index opened higher and climbed to a record intraday high of 8,933.62 before reve

- [Genesis marks Marilyn Monroe centennial with New York exhibition](#) (2026-06-02 06:46)

Genesis, the luxury brand of Hyundai Motor Group, said Tuesday it is hosting a special exhibition on Marilyn Monroe at its New York cultural space, Genesis House, to mark the 100th anniversary of the Hollywood icon's birth. Titled "Manifesting Marilyn," the two-month exhibition, which opened June 1, explores Monroe's life beyond her public image through immersive storytelling and interactive experiences. The exhibition opens with "The Headline Room," featuring newspaper clippings and photographs

- [Hanwha Aerospace halts production after deadly Daejeon blast](#) (2026-06-02 06:31)

Hanwha Aerospace has halted part of its production operations at its Daejeon facility following a deadly explosion that killed five workers and injured two others, as authorities launch a joint investigation into the cause of the accident. The Hanwha Group defense affiliate said in a regulatory filing Tuesday that it suspended parts of production at its Daejeon site from Monday, after receiving a suspension order from the Daejeon Regional Employment and Labor Office. The company said the order w

- [A sleepless Korean won: Will 24-hour trading pay off?](#) (2026-06-02 06:23)

The Korean won is about to lose its bedtime as the country introduces round-the-clock trading of the currency against the US dollar next month. While trading of the won against the greenback, the world's dominant reserve currency, already operates for longer hours than exchanges involving other currencies, it will be extended to run 24 hours on weekdays starting July 6. The shift comes at a time when the local won is facing sustained depreciation pressure. On Tuesday, the currency was quoted at

- [Hyosung supports descendants of independence fighters in Uzbekistan](#) (2026-06-02 06:13)

Hyosung Group said Tuesday it has donated to the international children's rights organization Good Neighbors to support descendants of Korean independence activists living in Uzbekistan. The donation, made ahead of Korea's National Patriots and Veterans Month in June, is intended to honor independence fighters who devoted their lives to the nation's liberation and support their descendants. The program will assist 33 descendants and ethnic Koreans from 13 households in Uzbekistan. Hyosung and Go

- [Homeplus sounds out Alibaba, Temu in survival sale](#) (2026-06-02 05:55)

Homeplus has put its remaining operations up for sale after agreeing to dispose of its supermarket arm, industry sources said Tuesday, courting domestic and foreign buyers as the debt-laden retailer seeks funding ahead of a court-imposed restructuring deadline. According to the sources, Homeplus's sales adviser, PwC Korea, has sent teaser materials to more than 10 domestic and overseas strategic investors as part of a sale process for the retailer's hypermarket and online businesses. Potential b

- [Korea, Africa seek deeper economic ties at business forum in Seoul](#) (2026-06-02 05:54)

Business leaders and government officials from South Korea and across Africa gathered in Seoul on Tuesday to explore ways to expand trade, investment and industrial cooperation. The Korea-Africa Business Forum, held a day after the inaugural Korea-Africa Foreign Ministers' Meeting, brought together roughly 300 participants from South Korea and 50 African countries under the theme, "Korea-Africa Business Partnership: The Future of Shared Prosperity and Joint Growth." The event comes as Seoul seek

- [Nvidia's Vera Rubin uses 182% more capacitors, boosting Samsung Electro-Mechanics](#) (2026-06-02 05:46)

Nvidia's Vera Rubin rollout is creating a new winner in the artificial intelligence supply chain: multilayer ceramic capacitors. A Morgan Stanley analysis estimates the MLCC content of Nvidia's next-generation VR200 NVL72 server rack at about \$4,320, up 182 percent from roughly \$1,530 in the previous-generation GB300 system. The sharp increase is tightening supply in a market where demand is already outpacing production, allowing manufacturers such as Samsung Electro-Mechanics to raise prices an

- [Doosan Robotics extends rally on Huang's Korea robotics push](#) (2026-06-02 05:46)

Doosan Robotics shares jumped again Tuesday after Nvidia chief executive Jensen Huang singled out robotics as a focus for the chipmaker's possible investment in South Korea. The stock was trading at 157,900 won (\$104.12) per share by midday Tuesday on the Korea Exchange, up 14.09 percent from the previous session. The gain came on top of a 29.95 percent surge Monday, when the stock hit its daily price ceiling. Korean exchanges cap single-day moves at 30 percent. Speaking late Monday at a dinner

- [What to know about South Korea's June 3 local elections](#) (2026-06-02 05:40)

South Korea is set to hold nationwide local elections on Wednesday, with voters choosing governors, mayors, local council members and education superintendents across the country. The elections mark the ninth nationwide local elections since the restoration of local autonomy in 1995. Local elections are held every four years, midway between National Assembly elections, a schedule designed to prevent the two major electoral events from overlapping and to allow voters to assess local and national

- [Seoul to streamline regulations for imports of key semiconductor manufacturing equipment](#) (2026-06-02 05:31)

The government will streamline import procedures for extreme ultraviolet, key equipment used for semiconductor manufacturing, as part of a broader effort to help the booming chip industry maintain its manufacturing competitiveness, the industry ministry said Tuesday. Under the revised enforcement decree of the High-Pressure Gas Safety Control Act endorsed by the Cabinet, imports of EUV equipment are expected to take about nine days from now on, shortened from the current 34 days, according to th

- [Classical Bridge turns theme of connection into a family affair](#) (2026-06-02 05:30)

This year's Classical Bridge International Music Festival turns its founding idea —connection — into something the audience can watch unfold onstage. Cellist Mischa Maisky will perform alongside his son and daughter, and Geneva-born violist Lyda Chen will watch her teenage son make his Korean debut. "I'll have the privilege to listen to my own son perform for the first time in Korea. It's his debut," said Chen, the daughter of pianist Martha Argerich. The festival, she added, is "that bridge for

- [Seoul shares sharply down late Tue. morning on profit-taking](#) (2026-06-02 05:30)

South Korean stocks traded lower late Tuesday morning as investors rushed to cash out market heavyweights, bucking overnight gains on Wall Street. Opening a tad higher, the benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index was down 188.63 points, or 2.15 percent, to 8,599.75 as of 11:20 a.m. Overnight, US stocks finished higher, with major indexes reaching fresh record highs as a rally in tech shares lifted market sentiment. US chip giant Nvidia surged more than 6 percent after CEO Jensen Huang unvei

- ['Supergirl' sets June 24 Korean release, with a Le Sserafim single onboard](#) (2026-06-02 05:30)

The wait for "Supergirl," the latest entry in DC Studios' rebooted superhero slate, now has a date attached — and for K-pop fans, a soundtrack to go with it. Warner Bros. Korea said Tuesday that "Supergirl" will open in local theaters June 24, two days ahead of its North American bow. Directed by Craig Gillespie, the film stars Milly Alcock as Kara Zor-El, Superman's cousin and the film's title hero, and Jason Momoa as the bounty hunter Lobo. For a sizable slice of viewers, though, the bigger dr

- [Who is Heo Nam-jun, the latest heartthrob from 'My Royal Nemesis'?](#) (2026-06-02 05:29)

For K-drama fans, "My Royal Nemesis" is the clear watercooler show of the season. The unlikely courtship between a woman from 300 years ago and a modern-day chaebol has pulled off a rare dual triumph, topping both domestic linear broadcast ratings and Netflix's viewership charts. But the drama's most notable success story may be the emergence of its leading man, Heo Nam-jun. A relative newcomer who has morphed into one of the market's hotly sought-after talents, Heo's rapid rise may suggest a bo

- [Alex Katz's studies reveal how fleeting moments are transformed into paintings](#) (2026-06-02 05:29)

Alex Katz' s pursuit of the fleeting present takes center stage at the exhibition "Studies" at Thaddaeus Ropac gallery in Seoul, unveiling how the American painter captures a passing moment before refining it into his signature large-format canvases. The exhibition offers a rare glimpse of the working process of the celebrated artist, now 97, whose career spans more than seven decades. Rather than focusing solely on the monumental portraits and landscapes that made him internationally renowned, t

- [Samsung reveals HBM5 mockup in bid to regain AI memory lead](#) (2026-06-02 05:28)

Samsung Electronics unveiled a mockup of its HBM5 memory and a new heat-management technology at Computex 2026, signaling its ambition to regain momentum in the artificial intelligence memory race as competition with SK hynix intensifies. At the annual technology exhibition in Taiwan on Tuesday, Samsung showcased the planned architecture of its seventh-generation high-bandwidth memory, or HBM5, featuring a new thermal solution called Heat Path Block designed to improve heat dissipation in increa

- [SK, Nvidia chiefs meet again as AI memory race intensifies](#) (2026-06-02 05:06)

SK Group Chairman Chey Tae-won met Nvidia Chief Executive Officer Jensen Huang in Taipei, Taiwan on Monday for talks on artificial intelligence memory cooperation, as high bandwidth memory becomes increasingly central to the global AI supply chain. SK hynix, the chipmaking arm of SK Group, posted photos of the meeting on its official social media account, showing Chey and Huang with senior executives from both companies, including SK hynix CEO Kwak Noh-jung. The meeting took place on the sidelin

- [S. Korea, US begin nuclear talks on Seoul' s submarine, fuel-cycle bids](#) (2026-06-02 04:50)

South Korea and the US have formally launched interagency talks on nuclear cooperation centered on Seoul' s pursuit of nuclear-powered submarines and greater autonomy over the nuclear fuel cycle. First Vice Foreign Minister Park Yoon-joo and US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Allison Hooker convened the launch meeting Tuesday morning at the Foreign Ministry in Seoul, after a delay of several months. The talks, which will continue through Wednesday will focus on how to implement sec

- [Unexpected polling stations awaiting voters on Election Day](#) (2026-06-02 04:37)

Across South Korea, a variety of spaces — from barbecue restaurants to wedding halls — are serving as polling stations for Wednesday's local elections and parliamentary by-elections. In Gwangmyeong, Gyeonggi Province, Sangsang Chowoel Dwaegi Galbi, a Korean barbecue restaurant known for its pork ribs, will again open to voters as a polling station, a role it has served for more than a decade. "We have enough room to separate the polling area from the restaurant, so business can continue as usual

- [In South Korea, even tteokbokki can carry political meaning](#) (2026-06-02 04:33)

Even the color of tteokbokki can take on political significance during election season in Korea. A viral post on X on Saturday showed a meal that included tteokbokki in its original red color alongside an edited version in which the dish had been turned blue. The post was captioned: "I voted and now I'm eating tteokbokki." Because red and blue are associated with South Korea's two main political camps, many interpreted the edited image as a lighthearted attempt to avoid appearing partisan. "Ah.

- [LA students turn K-pop class into pitches](#) (2026-06-02 04:19)

US students taking K-pop classes in Los Angeles visited Korean content industry sites in the city to pitch projects, the South Korean Consulate General in Los Angeles said Tuesday. During the visit on May 20, the students worked in teams to present global marketing plans, fandom strategies, music trend analyses and concepts for K-pop groups to industry experts, who provided feedback on their projects. The students came from four middle and high schools in Los Angeles that currently offer K-pop c

- [Zambia looking for concrete gains from Korea-Africa talks: deputy secretary](#) (2026-06-02 04:02)

Zambia is urging South Korea to move beyond pledges and deliver financing commitments, industrial investment and technology partnerships as Seoul expands its engagement with African countries, says Siazongo Siakalenge, Zambia's deputy secretary to the cabinet for finance and economic development. In an interview with The Korea Herald, Siakalenge said that Lusaka hopes the meeting will deliver practical partnerships in infrastructure, digital transformation, green growth and industrial developmen

- [Scott Pelley of '60 Minutes' accuses CBS News head Bari Weiss of 'murdering' the show, report says](#) (2026-06-02 02:49)

NEW YORK (AP) -- In a remarkable sign of the turmoil at CBS's top-rated "60 Minutes," correspondent Scott Pelley said CBS News head Bari Weiss was "murdering the show" and accused its new producer of having "slender qualifications" for the job, according to reports. Pelley made his accusations in an introductory meeting Monday between the newsmagazine's staff and Nick Bilton, the new executive producer named by Weiss last week, according to a detailed report on the Status website, which said it

- [Families name slain loved ones to keep cases from fading](#) (2026-06-02 02:46)

The parents of Lee Chae-won, a 17-year-old high school student killed in a stabbing attack on Children's Day, have shared their daughter's story with local media this week. Lee was described as a kindhearted teenager who dreamed of becoming a paramedic. The coverage gave a face and a life to a girl who had previously been known to the public only as a victim of a violent crime in Gwangju on May 5. Her parents are among a growing number of bereaved families who have voluntarily revealed the ident

- [And2ble's debut album scores record 1st-week sales](#) (2026-06-02 02:41)

The first EP from And2ble sold more than 730,000 copies in its first week, the group's agency YH Entertainment said Tuesday, citing a local tally. "Sequence 01: Curiosity" exceeded half a million in sales in three days before becoming the fourth most sold album for a K-pop group debut. The mini album was released on May 26 and ranked among the top 10 on the iTunes Top Albums Chart in 23 regions, hitting No. 2 on the Worldwide iTunes Albums Chart. The main track "Curious" topped the iTunes Top So

- [Forget elite universities. Semiconductor high schools are the new hot ticket](#) (2026-06-02 02:40)

Admission to a prestigious university is no longer seen as the only path to success for some students in South Korea, as semiconductor-focused high schools gain popularity on the expectation that they can lead directly to jobs at major chipmakers. Korea Semiconductor Meister High School in Gyeongju, North Gyeongsang Province, decided to hold a second admissions information session on June 20 after turnout at the initial session held May 30 exceeded the 120 seats prepared by the school. "More stu

- [S. Korea's content industry exports hit record \\$14.9b in 2025](#) (2026-06-02 02:36)

South Korea's content industry exports hit a record high last year, buoyed by government policies to nurture the "K-content" industry into a key growth sector, the culture ministry said Tuesday. Content exports tentatively reached \$14.9 billion in 2025, compared with \$14.1 billion the previous year, according to the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism. The number of overseas tourists who visited South Korea also rose to a new high of 18.9 million last year, up from 16.3 million a year earlie

- [Meet the marten: Forest hunter named June's endangered species of the month](#) (2026-06-02 02:35)

A forest predator known for hunting in packs and navigating rugged mountain terrain has been named South Korea's endangered wildlife species of the month for June, the Ministry of Energy, Climate and Environment said Tuesday. Known in Korea as "dambi," the marten is a Class II endangered mammal recognizable by its dark brown coat and distinctive yellow neck fur. The species is found in forested areas across much of the Korean Peninsula, though it is

absent from Jeju Island and some outlying isla

- [SK Bioscience wins first UNICEF flu vaccine contract](#) (2026-06-02 02:35)

SK Bioscience said Tuesday it had been selected as a supplier of influenza vaccines to UNICEF, securing its first procurement contract with the United Nations agency and expanding its presence in the global public vaccine market. The agreement covers vaccine supplies for both the Southern and Northern Hemispheres. The company has already begun shipments to Southern Hemisphere countries and plans to start deliveries for Northern Hemisphere vaccination programs in September. SK Bioscience expects

- [Egypt unveils a striking trove of ancient artifacts as the country tries to boost tourism industry](#) (2026-06-02 02:33)

CAIRO (AP) -- Archaeologists unearthed a set of ancient artifacts in Egypt including Pharaonic funerary furniture, remains of a Roman basilica and a marble head of Aphrodite, the ancient Greek goddess of love and beauty. The discoveries, announced Sunday, are part of the Egyptian government's efforts to boost the country's tourism industry and bring cash to the troubled economy. At the center of these efforts was the November inauguration of the long-delayed Grand Egyptian Museum, a megaproject

- [Police launch joint inspection of Hanwha Aerospace plant after deadly explosion](#) (2026-06-02 02:31)

Police launched a joint inspection Tuesday of a Hanwha Aerospace factory as part of a probe into a deadly explosion at the facility the previous day. The blast at the defense company's facility in Daejeon, some 140 kilometers south of Seoul, killed five people and injured two others. The joint inspection involved officials from the Daejeon Metropolitan Police Agency, the fire service, the National Forensic Service, the labor ministry and the Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency. The polic

- [Sentry to take over as title sponsor of PGA Torrey Pines](#) (2026-06-02 02:23)

Wisconsin-based Sentry Insurance is the new title sponsor at Torrey Pines, taking over another tournament with expansive views of the Pacific Ocean after eight years at Kapalua. The Sentry will be played Jan. 27-30 next year on the North and South courses at Torrey Pines, the municipal course in San Diego that has been part of the PGA Tour schedule since 1968. The tournament will end on Saturday to avoid a conflict with the NFL 's conference championship games. Still to be determined is where The

- [The latest K-food export star: Sesame oil](#) (2026-06-02 02:21)

South Korea's sesame oil exports hit a record high in the first four months of 2026, driven by growing demand for healthy foods and the global popularity of Korean cuisine. According to the Korea Customs Service on Tuesday, sesame oil exports rose 37 percent on-year to \$6.14 million between January and April, while export volume jumped 47.6 percent to 657 metric tons. The

United States remained the largest market for Korean sesame oil for the 14th consecutive year, accounting for 41.7 percent of

- [TWS to drop 2nd single in Japan in August](#) (2026-06-02 02:16)

TWS will release its second physical single in Japan, “Soda Soda,” on Aug. 4, according to its agency Pledis Entertainment on Monday. The album will consist of three tracks and comes about a year after the group of six debuted in the country with the single “Nice to See You Again.” The previous single made a chart-topping debut on Oricon’s Weekly and Weekly Combined Single Rankings and reached over 250,000 shipments, certifying platinum from the Recording Industry Association of Japan. The upcoming

- [S. Korea, US begin inaugural talks on security initiatives from summit agreements](#) (2026-06-02 02:08)

South Korea and the United States launched their first round of talks Tuesday to implement a set of security agreements reached by their leaders last year, including Seoul's push to acquire nuclear-powered submarines, officials said. The inaugural two-day talks began at around 10 a.m. at the foreign ministry building in Seoul, focusing on security-related provisions in a bilateral joint fact sheet issued following a summit between President Lee Jae Myung and US President Donald Trump in October.

- [Woman fined for assaulting man who secretly filmed her in bathroom](#) (2026-06-02 01:55)

A South Korean court said Monday it has fined a woman 300,000 won (\$200) for hitting a man more than a dozen times after he secretly filmed her in a public bathroom. The woman, in her 40s, was found guilty of assault by the Changwon District Court over an incident that occurred around 5:40 a.m. on Dec. 8, 2024. She was using a public bathroom in Changwon, South Gyeongsang Province, when she discovered that a man in his 20s was filming her. She was accused of punching him 15 to 17 times in retaliation.

- [T.O.P to host fan meetup in Japan next month](#) (2026-06-02 01:45)

T.O.P will meet and greet fans in Japan at a fan meeting slated to be held in Yokohama on July 9, his agency TopSpot Pictures announced Tuesday. The singer and actor invited members of his Japanese fandom community to the event that will accommodate approximately 10,000 with free admission, out of gratitude for supporting him through thick and thin. The singer and actor is expected to perform songs from his first solo studio album and first musical endeavor in 13 years, “Another Dimension,” which

- [\[Contribution\] Why next phase of equity rally matters](#) (2026-06-02 01:34)

By Sundeep Gantori Global equity markets have delivered a dramatic start to 2026. A sharp correction in the first quarter was swiftly followed by a V-shaped recovery, underscoring both the fragility and resilience of investor sentiment. Yet, beneath the volatility lies a more constructive story of robust corporate fundamentals. According to LSEG I/B/E/S, 83 percent of

S&P500 companies beat earnings expectations in the first quarter of 2026 as of 1 May — a striking testament to underlying earning

- [Nvidia's Jensen Huang to make Korean TV debut during Seoul visit](#) (2026-06-02 01:33)

Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang will appear on the popular Korean television talk show "You Quiz on the Block," adding another high-profile event to a week that includes meetings with some of South Korea's most influential business leaders. TvN said Tuesday that Huang had confirmed his appearance on the program hosted by Yoo Jae-suk. The episode is scheduled to air in June. The announcement comes as Huang prepares to visit Korea later this week following Nvidia's GTC Taipei conference. He is expected to

- [Lebanon says Hezbollah accepted US proposal to stop attacks](#) (2026-06-02 01:30)

BEIRUT (AFP) -- Lebanon said Monday Hezbollah had accepted a US proposal to stop attacking Israel in exchange for Israel halting attacks on south Beirut, after US President Donald Trump reported having a "very good call" with the Iran-backed group. Under the arrangement, which Hezbollah has accepted, according to a statement from the Lebanese embassy in Washington shared by the Lebanese presidency, "Israeli strikes on Dahiyeh" -- Beirut's southern suburbs -- "would cease in exchange for Hezbolla

- [Moderna and other groups get \\$60 million to develop Ebola vaccine](#) (2026-06-02 01:29)

Global health organization CEPI will give roughly \$60 million to Moderna and two other groups to accelerate the development of shots against Ebola Bundibugyo, the deadly virus that has swept through eastern Congo. The Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations was one of the early investors that helped to develop a vaccine at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Richard Hatchett, head of CEPI, told Reuters on Monday it was possible to get Ebola Bundibugyo (BDBV) vaccines ready for trials

- [Senegal president names government, excluding rival's party](#) (2026-06-02 01:28)

Senegal's President Bassirou Diomaye Faye on Monday announced a new government, excluding the party led by his former ally Ousmane Sonko, whom he sacked as prime minister over political disputes. Faye's announcement came in a live television broadcast less than two weeks after he fired Sonko, his former mentor, and dismissed the cabinet following disagreements including over the troubled economy. A popular figure, Sonko was promptly elected speaker of parliament by allies in a vote boycotted by

- [Serena Williams is coming back to tennis at 44, returning to the sport she dominated for decades](#) (2026-06-02 01:25)

PARIS (AP) -- Serena Williams is coming back to professional tennis at the age of 44, returning to the sport she dominated for two decades before famously "evolving" away from the daily grind of competition. First up for the 23-time Grand Slam singles champion is the doubles tournament at Queen's Club. But Wimbledon and the US Open could be next. "It seems like

she's trying to work her way up maybe to the US Open, and those fans would be so ready to see her back on a singles court there," former

- [Cortis announces 1st tour](#) (2026-06-02 01:20)

Cortis is set to launch its first international tour this summer, label Big Hit Music announced Tuesday. The group kicks off its “Put Your Phone Down” tour with two shows in Incheon on July 18-19. In the following month, Cortis will visit six cities across Canada and the US, including Toronto, New York and Los Angeles. The group is scheduled to perform in Seoul on Aug. 22-23, which will also mark its debut anniversary, before wrapping up the tour with three shows in Yokohama, Japan. Before the N

- [National security adviser to meet US under secretary of state](#) (2026-06-02 01:17)

National Security Adviser Wi Sung-lac was set to meet with visiting US Under Secretary of State Allison Hooker on Tuesday, informed sources said, with the two likely to discuss Seoul's push to build nuclear-powered submarines. Wi and Hooker, under secretary of state for political affairs, will meet at Cheong Wa Dae at 2 p.m. to discuss a range of pending issues, likely including Seoul's push to secure greater authority to enrich uranium and reprocess spent nuclear fuel for its envisioned nuclear

- [EU paves way to allow migrant deportations to centers outside bloc](#) (2026-06-02 01:07)

BRUSSELS (Reuters) -- European Union lawmakers and governments agreed Monday on new rules allowing countries to send migrants ordered to leave the bloc to centers in third countries, a move that has drawn sharp criticism from rights groups that warn it could enable abuses. The deal is part of a broader tightening of EU migration policy amid pressure from right-wing parties, even as irregular arrivals fell 26 percent last year to their lowest level since 2021. The legislation, which still requir

- [Inflation expected to stay above 3% amid prolonged Middle East tensions: BOK](#) (2026-06-02 00:58)

Inflation is projected to remain above the 3 percent level for the time being as the impact of high oil prices spills over into other sectors of the economy amid prolonged Middle East tensions, the central bank said Tuesday. "The inflation rate for June is expected to remain at a level similar to that of May, as the pace of petroleum product prices remains elevated," said Lee Ji-ho, director of the research department at the Bank of Korea, during a meeting to review inflation trends. "The rise i

- [Sesame oil exports hit new record high through April on Korean food popularity](#) (2026-06-02 00:54)

Exports of sesame oil soared 37 percent in the first four months of 2026 from a year earlier to set a new record amid the growing popularity of Korean food around the world, data showed Tuesday. Outbound shipments of sesame oil reached \$6.14 million in the January-April period,

with the shipment volume jumping 47.6 percent to 657 tons over the period, according to data compiled by the Korea Customs Service. "Following higher demand for vegetable oil products driven by the global popularity of he

- [N. Korea's Kim visits key political school for party cadres on its 80th founding anniv.](#) (2026-06-02 00:47)

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has visited a key political school of the ruling Workers' Party of Korea to mark its 80th founding anniversary, calling it a "strategic fortress" ensuring the party's existence, state media reported Tuesday. Kim paid a "congratulatory" visit to the Central Cadres Training School of the WPK the previous day, accompanied by senior party officials, according to the Korean Central News Agency. The Central Cadres Training School is North Korea's top political education

- [S. Korea, Canada discuss stronger space, defense cooperation amid submarine bidding race](#) (2026-06-02 00:45)

South Korea and Canada have discussed deeper partnership in advanced industries, including space and defense, Seoul's industry ministry said Tuesday, as the country is making last-minute efforts to win Canada's submarine project. The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Resources and the Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency jointly hosted a business roundtable in Toronto on Monday to promote cooperation between Korean and Canadian companies. The event was attended by presidential chief of staff Ka

- [Alcohol spending falls for 10th straight quarter](#) (2026-06-02 00:41)

The average household in South Korea spent 13,000 won (\$8.60) per month on alcoholic beverages in the first quarter of this year, as alcohol consumption continued to lose momentum, government data showed Tuesday. According to Statistics Korea, the figure was down 9 percent from a year earlier, marking the 10th consecutive quarterly decline and the steepest annual drop since the agency resumed compiling the data on a quarterly basis in 2019. The sustained decline reflects changing drinking habits

- [Nvidia chief, SK Group Chey meet in Taipei to discuss AI memory chip cooperation](#) (2026-06-02 00:15)

Jensen Huang, chief executive officer of US chip giant Nvidia Corp., met with SK Group Chairman Chey Tae-won in Taipei to discuss the future of cooperation in artificial intelligence memory, SK Group said Tuesday. The meeting took place in Taipei on Monday, according to a post on SK Group's Facebook account. Both executives were in the Taiwanese capital to attend Computex, one of Asia's largest technology trade shows. "With SK hynix reaching a market capitalization of \$1 trillion, the executives

- [S. Korea seeking momentum-building win vs. El Salvador in final World Cup tuneup](#) (2026-06-02 00:10)

Fresh off a comfortable win over Trinidad and Tobago, South Korea will try to keep building momentum ahead of the FIFA World Cup in their final tuneup against El Salvador. World No. 25 South Korea will take on 100th-ranked El Salvador at BYU South Field in Provo, Utah, at 7 p.m. Wednesday, or 10 a.m. Thursday (South Korean time). South Korea cruised to a 5-0 win over Trinidad and Tobago on Saturday at the same venue on the campus of Brigham Young University. Captain Son Heung-min netted twice in

- [Seoul shares open at record high above 8,800 as tech rally continues](#) (2026-06-02 00:09)

South Korean stocks opened at a fresh record high Tuesday, tracking overnight gains on Wall Street as investor optimism surrounding artificial intelligence-related stocks continued. The benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index added 94.81 points, or 1.08 percent, to a record high of 8,893.19 at the opening bell. The KOSPI closed at an all-time high of 8,788.38 on Monday. Overnight, US stocks finished higher, with major indexes reaching fresh record highs as a rally in tech shares lifted marke

- [Consumer prices up 3.1% in May on soaring fuel prices](#) (2026-06-01 23:44)

South Korea's consumer prices rose more than 3 percent in May from a year earlier amid global energy price volatility following the Middle East war, data showed Tuesday. Consumer prices, a key gauge of inflation, increased 3.1 percent last month from a year earlier, according to data from the Ministry of Data and Statistics. It marked the fastest growth in 26 months after rising at the same pace in March 2024. Prices of industrial products rose 4.2 percent, driven largely by higher fuel prices.

- [\[Graphic News\] 3 in 4 young Koreans have no religion](#) (2026-06-01 23:00)

About 3 out of 4 South Koreans in their 20s have no religious affiliation, underscoring rising disinterest among younger generations and a broader trend of religious aging, according to survey data. A Gallup Korea survey found that 40 percent of Korean adults currently identify as religious -- 18 percent Protestant, 16 percent Buddhist and 6 percent Catholic. The share of religious adults rose from 44 percent in 1983 to a peak of 54 percent in 2004, before declining to 37 percent in 2022 and reb

- [\[Man-Ki Kim\] OPCON transfer needs economic test](#) (2026-06-01 20:30)

Markets do not wait for war before pricing risk. They move when uncertainty increases. That is why South Korea's debate over wartime operational control, or OPCON, should not be treated only as a military or political issue. It is also a question of how global investors, credit-rating agencies, insurers, banks and multinational companies will read Korea's future economic security environment. President Lee Jae Myung's renewed push for the OPCON transfer has reignited a sensitive debate. The usua

- [\[Grace Kao\]BTS Army sojourners bring freebies to Las Vegas](#) (2026-06-01 20:30)

What a week. I just returned from days 3 and 4 of BTS' s concerts in Las Vegas. BTS performed in Allegiant Stadium to sold-out crowds of approximately 65,000 for four nights (May 23, 24, 27 and 28). The concerts were amazing and, notably, BTS danced more than they did when I saw them in Goyang, Gyeonggi Province. Unlike the Korean shows, it was an indoor concert, so there were no fireworks. While one can watch concert fancams on YouTube, I' ll share what the experience was like in person. These sh

- [S. Korea, Africa agree to bolster strategic cooperation amid global challenges](#) (2026-06-01 13:03)

South Korea and African nations agreed Monday to strengthen economic and strategic cooperation, including in supply chains and critical minerals, amid mounting global challenges, Seoul's foreign ministry said. Foreign ministers and representatives from South Korea and 50 African countries made the pledge in a joint statement after holding the Korea-Africa Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Seoul. The meeting discussed geopolitical instability and its impact on the global economy amid the conflict in

- [Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang expected to visit Korea this week for talks with industry leaders](#) (2026-06-01 12:05)

Nvidia Chief Executive Jensen Huang is expected to visit Korea this week to meet with the heads of major South Korean companies, including SK Group, LG Group, Naver and Hyundai Motor Group, for talks on cooperation in AI chips, robotics and physical artificial intelligence. According to reports from Yonhap News Agency, Huang is to arrive in Seoul on Thursday after attending Nvidia' s annual AI conference, GTC Taipei, in Taiwan. He is expected to begin meeting Korean industry leaders from Friday.

- [Pro-Trump candidate takes lead in Colombia's presidential race with promise of crime crackdown](#) (2026-06-01 12:01)

Bombastic pro-Trump lawyer Aberaldo de la Espriella pulled ahead as a leader in Colombia' s race for the presidency in the first round of elections over the weekend, capitalizing on a growing appetite for heavy-handed crackdowns on criminal groups across Latin America. But the second-place finisher, progressive senator Ivan Cepeda, and his ally President Gustavo Petro questioned the results of the election Sunday night without providing evidence. De la Espriella rapidly gained traction in the lea

- [Israel's Netanyahu orders attacks in Beirut's southern suburbs](#) (2026-06-01 12:01)

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ordered attacks on the Hezbollah-controlled southern suburbs of Beirut on Monday, signalling further escalation of a war that has complicated mediation towards resolving the US-Iran conflict. Iran's foreign ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said that Israeli attacks in Lebanon were among factors causing a delay to the diplomatic process to end the US-Iran war, reiterating that a Lebanon ceasefire was an integral part of any deal. People began fleein

- [Construction firm chief booked over Seosomun overpass collapse](#) (2026-06-01 11:36)

The Ministry of Employment and Labor has booked the head of the engineering company involved in last week's Seosomun Overpass collapse on charges of violating the Serious Accidents Punishment Act, local news broadcaster YTN reported Monday. Under South Korean law, labor inspectors have the authority of special judicial police officers and can directly book suspects over alleged violations of labor and industrial safety laws. An official told YTN that the ministry had also booked the construction

- [Colombia opens first Korean classes for schoolchildren](#) (2026-06-01 09:32)

Colombia will offer its first Korean-language classes for middle and high school students starting in August, Korea's Education Ministry said Monday. The classes will be available at three schools in Bogota: Instituto Pedagogico Arturo Ramirez Montufar, Colegio Nueva Granada and Fundacion Hogar Nueva Granada. They will be open to students from the seventh to ninth or 10th grades, depending on the school. Current Korean classes in Colombia are offered by the King Sejong Institute, local Korean-la

- [Bedding maker's best performer? Samsung and SK hynix](#) (2026-06-01 09:26)

For Allerman, a South Korean maker of bedding, its most profitable product last year was not a duvet or mattress cover. It was semiconductor stocks. The company's investments in Samsung Electronics and SK hynix generated unrealized gains of about 37.6 billion won (\$27.7 million), exceeding the operating profit it earned from its core bedding business. According to Allerman's latest audit report, the company purchased 30,000 Samsung Electronics shares and 17,132 SK hynix shares last year for a co

- [Desire exposed at National Gallery Singapore show](#) (2026-06-01 09:24)

SINGAPORE — The entrance to the exhibition tucked away on Level 4 of the sprawling National Gallery Singapore is closed, its doors covered in what appears to be red tape printed with the exhibition title: "Passion is Volcanic: Desire in Southeast Asian Art." It is an effective marketing ploy; when something is prohibited, people often desire it more. As you open the door to the museum's first-ever age-restricted exhibition (rated 18), a guide gives you a cursory look to check if you are eligible

- [GM Korea's May sales fall 5.9% on weak demand](#) (2026-06-01 09:23)

GM Korea, the South Korean unit of General Motors, said Monday its sales backtracked in May from a year earlier due to weak demand at home and abroad. The company sold 47,081 vehicles last month, down 5.9 percent from a year earlier, GM Korea said in a press release. Exports contracted 4.8 percent on-year to 46,273 units in May, while domestic sales plunged 42.6 percent to 808 units. The Chevrolet Trax Crossover SUV led the overseas sales with 28,988 units sold, followed by the Trailblazer compa

- [Hyundai Mobis' India plant damaged by fire, raising supply concerns](#) (2026-06-01 09:18)

Hyundai Mobis, Hyundai Motor's auto parts affiliate, said Monday a fire broke out at its parts plant in India, raising concerns about potential disruptions to supplies for Hyundai Motor and Kia manufacturing facilities in the country. The fire occurred Sunday afternoon at its Chennai plant, in southeastern India, destroying one of the facility's buildings that produces automotive electronics components, such as audio systems and chassis safety parts. No casualties were reported. In a regulatory

- [Fun, inclusivity stand out at Singapore arts fest](#) (2026-06-01 09:07)

SINGAPORE — Art and fun ruled at this year's Singapore International Festival of Arts, which ended its 16-day run at the Festival Village and various venues across the city on Saturday. Titled "Legacy" with a tagline "Let's Play," this year's edition of the annual festival organized by Arts House Group saw productions from home and abroad entertaining audiences with everything from comedy and lightworks to dance and drama. Commissioned by SIFA, "Makan Culture," by playwright Jo Tan and director

- [Agricultural, fisheries firms to hire more skilled foreign workers](#) (2026-06-01 08:50)

Businesses in the agriculture and fisheries sectors will be able to hire more foreign workers under the E-7-4 visa, after the Justice Ministry said Monday it would raise the employment cap for skilled foreign workers in the two sectors to 50 percent of each firm's Korean workforce, up from the current 30 percent. The ministry said it decided to introduce the special quota increase starting in June, citing chronic labor shortages in the agriculture and fisheries sectors. Small businesses with few

- [A YouTube horror series took over US theaters. Now it's quietly winning over Korea.](#) (2026-06-01 08:43)

A sheet of mono-yellow wallpaper, an empty office hallway, the hum of fluorescent lights: In a certain corner of the internet, that mundane image has been shorthand for dread for years. The concept comes from the "Backrooms," a creepypasta that originated on the message board 4chan in 2019 and became a wildly viral YouTube series by American creator Kane Parsons, who began posting the episodes as a teenager. The 20-year-old has now carried the concept to the big screen. His feature debut, from i

- [Korea steps up support for war veterans as monthly allowance reaches W490,000](#) (2026-06-01 08:40)

South Korea's Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs said Monday it is expanding support for Korean War and Vietnam War veterans, as the country marks Patriots and Veterans Month in June. According to the ministry, veterans of the Korean and Vietnam wars receive a monthly honorary allowance of 490,000 won (\$324) this year. The allowance, first introduced in 2002 at 50,000 won, has steadily increased. Local governments also provide separate monthly allowances for war veterans, averaging 263,00

- [Lee says ‘republic of unearned real estate income’ will come to an end](#) (2026-06-01 08:30)

President Lee Jae Myung on Monday warned against tax evasion in real estate transactions, reiterating his administration’s drive to keep the market in check. “Illegal real estate speculation and tax evasion can no longer be tolerated. We must break free from this ruinous republic of unearned real estate income,” he wrote on his X account, sharing a link to a news article about real estate tax evasion. The Lee administration has stressed the need to contain the country’s real estate market from t

- [Will Lee Kang-in leave PSG?](#) (2026-06-01 08:22)

Two seasons after first arriving at the UEFA Champions League final stage, Lee Kang-in's future at Paris Saint-Germain appears more uncertain than ever, with speculation growing that a summer transfer could be on the horizon. PSG defeated Arsenal in the 2025–26 UEFA Champions League final on Saturday at Puskas Arena in Budapest, Hungary. After a grueling 120-minute battle ended 1–1, PSG prevailed 4–3 in the penalty shootout. Although Nuno Mendes missed one of PSG's penalties, Arsenal's Eberechi

- [Hanwha brings Pompidou to Seoul with 63 Building makeover](#) (2026-06-01 08:22)

Hanwha Life Insurance said Monday that it would open Pompidou Center Hanwha at Seoul's iconic 63 Building on Thursday, kicking off a broader project to turn the landmark skyscraper into a cultural hub. The project is part of Hanwha's strategy to reposition the building beyond its traditional role as a financial office tower and establish it as a mixed-use destination for art, dining, retail and leisure. Pompidou Center Hanwha was established through a partnership between the Hanwha Foundation an

- [Eric Thames happy to be back in 'second home'](#) (2026-06-01 08:22)

You can take Eric Thames out of South Korea, but you cannot take South Korea out of the former slugger. Thames, the 2015 MVP for the NC Dinos in the Korea Baseball Organization, is back in a country he calls "my second home" this week. On Monday, he helped launch MLB Breakfast Club, a new big league initiative targeting MLB fans in South Korea watching big league action in the morning, thanks to the time difference. Thames was one of three former players with dual MLB and KBO ties, joined by Sou

- [Joo Soo-bin blows lead in bid for maiden LPGA win](#) (2026-06-01 08:21)

Joo Soo-bin has blown a big final-round lead in the pursuit of her maiden LPGA title, settling for her first top-five finish instead. Joo ended in a four-way tie for fourth place at the ShopRite LPGA at Seaview Hotel & Golf Club's Bay Course in Galloway, New Jersey, on Sunday after carding a two-over 73 for a three-round total of six-under 207. Joo finished three shots back of the champion, Celine Boutier of France, who shot a five-under 66 to win this tournament for the second time. Joo, who jo

- [Man arrested for threatening to demolish ex-girlfriend's home](#) (2026-06-01 08:16)

Jeju police said Monday they had arrested a man in his 60s for allegedly threatening his former girlfriend and assaulting her son. The man first visited the home of his ex-girlfriend — a woman in her 60s — around 6:10 p.m. in Jeju City, Jeju Island. He had reportedly sought to resume their relationship, but was turned away by police, who arrived at the victim's request. The man allegedly returned to the victim's home around 9:40 p.m. while drunk and driving an excavator. He threatened to demolish

- [Lee Young-ji re-dyes hair, apologizes after red hair reveal sparks election controversy](#) (2026-06-01 07:46)

A casual hair-color reveal quickly turned into a political controversy for South Korean rapper Lee Young-ji, prompting her to hastily dye her hair black again and issue a public apology. On Saturday, the 23-year-old posted pictures of her newly dyed red hair on Instagram, captioning them "Isn't my hair color pretty?" She paired the post with the song "Redred" by boy group Cortis and later shared more pictures of herself in a red top. Red is typically the color for the conservative bloc, while bl

- [Feed pigeons, face a fine](#) (2026-06-01 07:39)

Signs warning against feeding pigeons have appeared across major squares and parks in Seoul as the city launches a monthlong crackdown on the practice. The Seoul Metropolitan Government said Monday it will carry out intensive enforcement throughout June in designated no-feeding zones before shifting to periodic inspections. People caught feeding pigeons in the restricted areas can face fines of up to 1 million won (\$665). Originally native to mountainous and natural habitats, feral pigeons have

- [Korea's newest property premium: The chipmaker shuttle stop](#) (2026-06-01 07:25)

"Most of the couples who came to see homes today were Samsung Electronics or SK hynix employees. Buyer inquiries have clearly increased, and chip-sector bonuses seem like a major driver in this area," a real estate agent in Yongin's Suji-gu, a Gyeonggi Province area served by chipmakers' commuter buses, said Saturday. Several young buyers had lined up that day to view well-maintained homes in large apartment complexes in the area, the agent said. Homeowners are also sensing the shift, becoming l

- [Rescene rides YouTube buzz to chart resurgence](#) (2026-06-01 07:22)

Rescene is enjoying an unlikely chart resurgence as "Love Attack," the lead track from the group's first EP "Scenedrome," released in August 2024, continues to climb major Korean music charts nearly two years after its release. The renewed interest follows the viral success of member Woni's personal YouTube channel, "Hello I am Woni Nice To Meet You." Videos featuring fellow members Minami and Zena taking on gyaru, Japanese fashion subculture, and regional dialect concepts, respectively, have re

- [No sleep for some candidates on campaign trail](#) (2026-06-01 07:15)

As the local and parliamentary by-elections draw near, candidates are going all out to appeal to voters, with a handful choosing so-called "sleepless" campaign appearances. Some candidates have announced that they will hit the campaign trail without sleep for multiple days, while others have said they will not go home until election day. The latest to do so was Lee Kwang-jae, the ruling Democratic Party of Korea's candidate for the parliamentary by-election in Hanam-A constituency in Gyeonggi Pr

- [Seoul shares close at new high on tech rally amid AI optimism](#) (2026-06-01 07:07)

South Korean stocks extended a rally to a fresh all-time high Monday, driven by strong gains in stocks related to artificial intelligence. The local currency rose against the US dollar. The benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index added 311.85 points, or 3.68 percent, to close at 8,788.38, after hitting a new intraday high of 8,874.16. The index opened at a record high and extended its gains, prompting the Korea Exchange to activate a buy-side sidecar, which suspended program trading of Kospi

- [Hanwha Aerospace CEO apologizes after deadly explosion at Daejeon plant](#) (2026-06-01 06:19)

Hanwha Aerospace CEO Son Jae-il apologized Monday after a deadly explosion at the company's Daejeon facility killed five workers, pledging full cooperation with authorities and a thorough investigation into the cause of the accident. "I bow my head in apology to those who lost their perilous lives in the accident that occurred at the Daejeon facility and to their bereaved families," Son said at a media briefing held at the site Monday afternoon. "As CEO. I feel a heavy sense of responsibility fo

- [Kospi rally drains momentum from Korea's crypto market](#) (2026-06-01 06:17)

Amid the benchmark Kospi's record-breaking rally, South Korea's cryptocurrency market has slowed, with trading volumes falling sharply as investors rotate into equities. Retail investors have been shifting funds from cryptocurrencies into equities as the Kospi extends its rally, hitting an intraday record high of 8,874.16 before closing at an all-time high of 8,788.38 on Monday. Investor appetite for virtual assets, on the other hand, has been dampened by bitcoin's decline from last year's peak

- [Huang confirms Vera Rubin in full production with Korean memory](#) (2026-06-01 06:16)

Nvidia Chief Executive Jensen Huang said Monday that the company's next AI accelerator, Vera Rubin, was in full production, confirming at his GTC Taipei keynote that high-bandwidth memory from Samsung Electronics, SK hynix and Micron will go into the platform. The three suppliers were already expected. What the keynote, held alongside the Computex trade show in Taipei, settled is that the accelerator has moved to volume production, which fixes the order each maker has actually won. That order le

- [BYD overtakes Japanese rivals in Korea sales](#) (2026-06-01 06:09)

Chinese automakers are making strong inroads into South Korea, ranking third place in the country's imported vehicle market in April, overtaking Japan for the first time. According to data from the Korea Automobile Importers & Distributors Association, new vehicle registrations by region came to 16,385 units from Europe, 13,611 from the US, 2,023 from China and 1,974 from Japan in April. This is the first time Chinese-made vehicles have outsold Japanese brands in South Korea's imported car market.

- [Why Korea's new leveraged ETFs are under scrutiny](#) (2026-06-01 06:07)

South Korea's financial regulator has launched a fact-finding review of newly listed single-stock leveraged exchange-traded funds tied to Samsung Electronics and SK hynix after signs of unusually heavy trading raised questions about how the products generated more than 10 trillion won (\$6.65 billion) in turnover on their first day. According to industry sources Monday, the Financial Supervisory Service recently contacted several brokerages acting as liquidity providers, or LPs, and asset manager.

- [Samsung Electronics becomes Korea's first W2,000tr company](#) (2026-06-01 06:06)

Samsung Electronics' market capitalization exceeded 2,000 trillion won (\$1.32 trillion) for the first time Monday, marking a new milestone to cement its position as Korea's most valuable listed company and widening its gap with crosstown rival SK hynix. Samsung opened trading at 318,000 won, up 0.31 percent from the previous session, before extending gains shortly to touch 354,500 won after the market opened. The stock closed up 10 percent 349,000 won, giving the company a market value of about

- [Lee becomes ballot question in local elections' final stretch](#) (2026-06-01 05:55)

Wednesday's local elections have become an assessment of President Lee Jae Myung's administration, as rival parties recast the vote as a choice between strengthening the Lee administration and checking its power. The ruling Democratic Party of Korea and the main opposition People Power Party have increasingly turned the June 3 local elections — the first nationwide vote since Lee took office — into a broader political battle over his administration. The Lee-centered campaign has overshadowed reg

- [LG stocks soar on Nvidia partnership hopes](#) (2026-06-01 05:53)

LG Group stocks extended their sharp rally Monday, led by another surge in LG Electronics, as investors piled into shares seen as potential beneficiaries of Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang's expected visit to Korea and a possible first meeting with LG Group Chairman Koo Kwang-mo. LG Electronics jumped 29.86 percent to 380,500 won (\$251), hitting the daily upper limit shortly after the market opened and setting a fresh 52-week high. The stock also closed at the daily ceiling Friday, extending a steep run

- [Seoul, Washington defense chiefs strike different notes on OPCON transfer at Shangri-La](#) (2026-06-01 05:45)

Seoul and Washington appear to be moving with different priorities in their approach to the transfer of wartime operational control in South Korea. One side eyes speed while the other stresses balance and caution. During the Shangri-La Dialogue over the weekend, Defense Minister Ahn Gyu-back stressed Seoul's push for a South Korea-led defense posture, underscoring the Lee Jae Myung administration's drive to accelerate the transfer of wartime operational control from the United States. Speaking a

- [Giving false reason for dismissal makes firing unlawful: court](#) (2026-06-01 05:39)

A South Korean court sided with a doctor who charged their former boss with wrongful dismissal, saying the employer had not disclosed the true reason for terminating the employment contract. According to court officials on Monday, the Seoul Administrative Court ruled against a hospital administrator who requested that the National Labor Relations Commission reject the doctor's lawsuit for unlawful firing. The commission had in 2025 concluded that the dismissal was illegal, but the plaintiff chal

- [Global hotel booking apps under fire over hidden costs](#) (2026-06-01 05:39)

More than half of consumers who used global accommodation booking platforms reported financial losses, according to a Seoul city government survey released Monday. The survey found that 55 percent of 1,000 respondents who had used overseas lodging platforms within the past three years suffered financial losses when booking accommodations through services including Agoda, Airbnb, Expedia, Booking.com, Trip.com and Hotels.com. The findings come as Seoul seeks stronger oversight of overseas booking

- [SK hynix workers to seek Samsung-level housing loans](#) (2026-06-01 05:37)

SK hynix is expected to open its 2026 wage negotiations this month with employees pressing the company to match the housing loans that rival Samsung Electronics granted its own staff last month, worth up to 500 million won (\$330,000) per worker. Samsung's home loan, which its union ratified last Wednesday after a five-month standoff, set a new benchmark for the chip industry. The company will lend nonhomeowner employees up to 500 million won to buy a home at a fixed interest rate of 1.5 percent,

- [S. Korea, African foreign ministers launch first ministerial meeting amid global uncertainty](#) (2026-06-01 05:34)

South Korea on Monday hosted its first ministerial meeting with 50 African nations, bringing representatives from the countries together as Seoul seeks to strengthen ties with a continent of growing strategic importance amid global supply chain disruptions and geopolitical uncertainty. Held under the theme "Partnership for Joint Responses to Global Challenges," the gathering drew delegates from 50 out of 54 African countries as well as four regional organizations, including the African Union and

- [Men and women in the same hospital room? Many Koreans say no](#) (2026-06-01 05:31)

The Ministry of Health and Welfare on Monday withdrew a proposed amendment that would have lifted the long-standing requirement for hospital rooms to be separated by sex, following backlash over privacy and safety concerns. Since 2012, hospital rooms in Korea have been required to be segregated by sex under Article 35 of the Enforcement Rule of the Medical Service Act. Violations can result in administrative penalties, including a corrective order and a 15-day suspension of operations. The latest

- [Naver launches defense AI task force in Palantir-style push](#) (2026-06-01 05:31)

Naver Cloud, the cloud computing arm of Korea's IT giant Naver, is creating a dedicated task force for defense artificial intelligence, as the company moves to expand its presence in the sovereign AI market. According to industry sources on Monday, Naver Cloud will launch a defense AI transformation task force the same day. The move marks Naver's first separate organization dedicated solely to defense AI. The task force will be led directly by Naver Cloud CEO Kim Yu-won. It will seek AI and cloud

- [Woman blames stress at work after admitting to starting apartment fires](#) (2026-06-01 05:30)

A woman in her 20s has been arrested on suspicion of starting several fires inside her apartment building after complaining of trash left in common areas and workplace stress, police said Monday. According to Eumseong Police Station in North Chungcheong Province, the woman allegedly set fire to paper and cardboard boxes in five locations inside an 18-story apartment building in Eumseong on Friday. Residents quickly extinguished the fires, preventing major damage. Three people were treated at hospital

- [BTS wraps up first leg of 'Arirang' tour in North America, drawing 840,000](#) (2026-06-01 05:30)

BTS has concluded the first leg of its "Arirang" North American tour, drawing some 840,000 concertgoers across five cities, demonstrating its cultural and economic impact in the continent. The group launched the "Arirang" tour in North America on April 25 in Tampa, Florida, going on to perform 15 sold-out shows across Tampa, El Paso in Texas, Mexico City, the San Francisco Bay Area and Las Vegas. Additional dates were added in Tampa, California and Las Vegas due to overwhelming demand, with all

- [Woori Bank bets on SME succession as new growth pillar](#) (2026-06-01 05:28)

Woori Bank is pushing into corporate succession for small and medium-sized companies as a new banking frontier, casting it as an economic issue tied to jobs, technology and supply chain stability as Korea's first-generation founders age without clear successors. At a press conference Monday in Seoul, CEO Jung Jin-wan said the bank would support what it calls "productive corporate succession" to prevent viable companies from closing or downsizing. "Corporate

succession is not just a priority for

- [Will K-dramas get more seasons?](#) (2026-06-01 05:27)

The multiseason model has historically struggled to gain traction in the K-drama industry outside of global streaming anomalies like "Squid Game." Typically, skyrocketing talent fees for returning stars and unpredictable, live-shoot schedules derail potential sequels, forcing producers to recast or abandon projects altogether. Yet, despite these financial and logistical hurdles, domestic broadcasters are increasingly chasing the lucrative long-tail revenue and premium ad rates of franchise-style

- [Hanmi inks \\$1.26b licensing deal with Eli Lilly](#) (2026-06-01 05:25)

Hanmi Pharmaceutical said Monday it has clinched an outlicensing contract with Eli Lilly for sonefpegglutide, its long-acting glucagon-like peptide 2, or GLP-2, drug candidate, in a deal potentially worth up to \$1.26 billion. According to the Korean drugmaker, it will receive an upfront payment of \$75 million and could earn up to \$1.19 billion in additional milestone payments depending on clinical development, regulatory approvals and commercialization. Hanmi Pharmaceutical will also be eligible

- [Olive Young draws long lines at first US store](#) (2026-06-01 05:12)

CJ Olive Young said Monday that its first US offline store drew strong crowds on opening day, underscoring growing demand for K-beauty products in the world's largest cosmetics market. The store, located in Pasadena, California, opened on May 29. Customers began lining up a day earlier, with the queue stretching about 400 meters across four blocks along Colorado Boulevard. "We sincerely welcome Olive Young to Pasadena," Pasadena Mayor Victor Gordo said. "Olive Young will not only enhance the cit

- [Bill aims to expand honors for families of UN Korean War veterans](#) (2026-06-01 05:01)

A bill has been proposed to codify scholarship programs for the grandchildren of Korean War veterans from UN participating nations and designate separate commemorative dates for each country's role in the war. The bill, proposed by Rep. Jung Hee-yong of the main opposition People Power Party, is a revision to the Act on the Elevation of Honor of UN Korean War Veterans. It would designate 20 dates to commemorate the participation of 22 UN nations. The dates would mark the day on which troops from

- [Xi-Putin summit signals stronger backing for North Korea, puts focus on Tumen River: expert](#) (2026-06-01 04:41)

Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin's criticism of international sanctions and pressure on North Korea is effectively a message that Beijing and Moscow are prepared to provide greater political backing to Pyongyang, an expert here recently said. The assessment, by Korea Institute for National Unification research fellow Lee Jae-young, also suggested that a potential summit between Xi and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un in the near

future could reinforce the emerging

- [Will military logistics pact become next step in South Korea-Japan defense ties?](#) (2026-06-01 04:38)

South Korea and Japan have discussed the possibility of a military logistics-sharing agreement, according to Seoul's defense minister, hinting at growing momentum for deeper defense cooperation despite lingering public unease over unresolved historical issues with Japan. South Korean Defense Minister Ahn Gyu-back revealed the discussion during a press briefing on Sunday in Singapore, where he was in attendance at the Shangri-La Dialogue security forum. The issue was raised during Ahn's meeting w

- [Lee' s chief of staff visits Canada as submarine bid nears decision](#) (2026-06-01 04:33)

Seoul is intensifying joint public-private efforts behind its bid for Canada' s next-generation submarine project, with presidential chief of staff Kang Hoon-sik traveling to Canada as a special envoy. Kang said Sunday he was leaving for Canada as President Lee Jae Myung' s special envoy for strategic economic cooperation. The delegation includes officials from the Ministry of Trade, Energy and Resource and Foreign Ministry, along with companies and industry groups in energy, resources, supply cha

- [Over 130,000 Koreans appeal exclusion from fuel price aid](#) (2026-06-01 04:21)

The government has received 134,000 complaints from Koreans appealing their exclusion from a nationwide subsidy program rolled out last month to help households cope with higher fuel costs caused by the Middle East conflict. The Ministry of the Interior and Safety said it had processed 106,000 appeals filed between May 18 and 27, approving 90,300 requests for the subsidy as of Sunday. About 34.6 percent of the complaints were filed by people whose status as financially vulnerable had not yet bee

- [Air travel takes hit from record-high fuel surcharges](#) (2026-06-01 04:21)

Korea' s air transport output fell in April by the sharpest margin since the COVID-19 pandemic, as higher fuel surcharges driven by the Middle East conflict weighed on demand for air travel, government data showed Monday. According to the Ministry of Data and Statistics' industrial activity data, the production index for the air transport industry stood at 468.5 in April, down 13.5 percent from a month earlier. It marked the steepest monthly decline since December 2021, when the index fell 14.2 p

- ['Remember her as Lee Chae-won': Family reveals name, portrait of Gwangju stabbing victim](#) (2026-06-01 04:17)

The family of the high school girl killed in May's stabbing attack in Gwangju disclosed her name and portrait to local media, saying they hoped she would be remembered as Lee Chae-won, a 17-year-old who dreamed of becoming an emergency responder, rather than as an unnamed victim. According to multiple local media reports, Lee' s father chose to reveal his daughter' s

identity in the hope that her death would help prevent similar tragedies in the future. Lee was fatally stabbed at 12:10 a.m. on May

- [Dream wedding at Korean palace? More couples will get the chance](#) (2026-06-01 04:10)

Dreaming of a wedding at a royal palace? More couples will be able to tie the knot at Korea's royal palaces as the Korea Heritage Service expands its outdoor wedding program from Gyeongbokgung to include Deoksugung next year. The agency launched the initiative in April to help reduce wedding costs for young couples while bringing historic palace spaces closer to everyday life. A total of 293 couples from 15 countries applied for 16 spots. Following strong interest in the program, the agency incr

- [Ukraine hits Russian energy targets and denies striking Kremlin-occupied nuclear plant](#) (2026-06-01 04:03)

Kyiv on Sunday launched new strikes overnight on Russian energy sites. It has also denied Moscow's claims that a Ukrainian drone struck the Russian-controlled Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant. Ukraine's General Staff said Ukrainian drones struck the Saratov oil refinery in southwestern Russia, causing a large-scale fire. It claimed the refinery has been supplying Moscow's war effort. The refinery belongs to Russia's state oil enterprise, Rosneft. Local Russian Gov. Roman Busargin said Ukrainian drones

- [Palestinian man is shot and killed at a West Bank barrier near Jerusalem](#) (2026-06-01 04:00)

A Palestinian man was shot and killed by Israeli forces on Sunday at a concrete barrier separating the occupied West Bank from Jerusalem, the Palestinian Health Ministry said. The ministry identified him as 26-year-old Imad Haroun Ishtayeh from the village of Salem, east of Nablus. It said Israeli forces shot him in a thigh in al-Ram town, and he was pronounced dead at the Palestinian Medical Complex in Ramallah. Footage circulating online showed people carrying his body and climbing down a ladd

- [Guinea holds parliament election](#) (2026-06-01 02:52)

Guineans voted Sunday in legislative and municipal elections marking a new step toward a return to democratic rule after a 2021 coup, despite severe restrictions on civil liberties and an opposition boycott. The authorities pushed back the close of polling stations 90 minutes to 7:30 p.m. before counting started. The day was marked by a low turnout at polling stations visited by Agence France-Presse journalists in the capital, Conakry, and the central city of Labe, and according to election moni

- [Emergency response delays Han River bus routes](#) (2026-06-01 02:50)

Han River ferry services were temporarily delayed after a man in his 70s jumped into the river from a bridge on Sunday, according to Yongsan Fire Station. Rescue workers recovered the man from the water and transported him to Apgujeong pier, where CPR was administered. He was

later pronounced dead. The deceased reportedly jumped from Hannam Bridge at around 1:45 p.m. The rescue operation disrupted services on the Hangang Bus, Seoul's ferry-based public transit system launched last year, with bot

- [Indigenous leader Brooklyn Rivera dies in Nicaragua after nearly 3 years of detention](#) (2026-06-01 02:50)

Brooklyn Rivera, a renowned Indigenous leader from Nicaragua who spent years fighting for the rights of his community and was imprisoned by the government in September 2023, has died. The Nicaraguan government issued a statement Sunday saying that Rivera died from a bacterial infection after his health had declined following a case of COVID-19, which led to his physical and neurological deterioration. Human rights activists and groups worldwide denounced his death and an earlier statement by the

- [Police investigate online threat targeting Faker' s grandmother](#) (2026-06-01 02:50)

A threatening online post targeting the family of Korean esports star Lee "Faker" Sang-hyeok has prompted a police investigation, authorities said Monday. Faker is a professional League of Legends player for T1 and a multiple-time world champion and MVP. He is widely recognized as one of the most prominent figures in esports. According to Seoul's Dobong Police Station, a post was uploaded to an online community around 11 p.m. on Saturday, threatening harm to the player' s grandmother. Minutes lat

- [Justice Ministry launches team to protect migrant workers' rights](#) (2026-06-01 02:47)

South Korea has launched a new unit to protect migrant workers from abuses such as unpaid wages, verbal and physical abuse, illegal brokerage, and poor housing conditions, the Justice Ministry said Monday. The Migrant Human Rights and Interests Team, which began operations June 1 under the Korea Immigration Service, will be the central body monitoring and responding to rights violations involving foreign workers. "Migrant workers are a valuable part of our society," Justice Minister Jeong Seong-

- [Samsung overtakes Micron in chips for cars](#) (2026-06-01 02:46)

Samsung Electronics has overtaken Micron Technology to become the world' s top automotive memory chip supplier, marking a shift in a market where Korean firms had long trailed their US rival despite their strength in the memory sector. Samsung' s share of the global automotive memory market rose to 40 percent last year from 35 percent in 2024, according to S&P Global Mobility. Micron, the longtime leader in the segment, fell to 36 percent from 40 percent over the same period. The gain gives Samsun

- [Eligible foreign voters can take time off to cast ballots](#) (2026-06-01 02:45)

Foreign nationals eligible to vote in South Korea's June 3 local elections are entitled to request time off work to cast their ballots if they are scheduled to work on Election Day, the Seoul Foreign Resident Center said in a recent notice. The notice comes as the number of foreign

voters eligible to participate in local elections has reached a record high of 151,532. Some foreign residents have reportedly expressed concern that they may not be granted time to vote, even though Election Day is d

- [NYC Mayor Zohran Mamdani skips annual parade celebrating Israel](#) (2026-06-01 02:44)

New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani did not attend an annual parade honoring Israel Sunday, breaking with a decades-long political custom because of his support of Palestinian rights. Though it has gone by different names over the years, the Israel Day parade has always been a must-attend event for mayors, governors and other political leaders eager to win over the throngs of flag-waving revelers who congregate on Fifth Avenue to celebrate the birth of the Jewish state in 1948. Not so for Mamdani

- [Trump fan through to Colombia runoff](#) (2026-06-01 02:42)

Tough-on-crime lawyer Abelardo de la Espriella and peace-builder Ivan Cepeda were leading the vote count in the first round of Colombia's presidential election Sunday, and are to face off in a runoff in the South American nation later in June. De la Espriella — a newcomer known as “El Tigre, or “The Tiger” — has sought to portray himself as a supporter of US President Donald Trump, vowing to crack down on criminal groups. He leads the race with nearly 44 percent of the votes, Colombia's electora

- [5 killed in explosion at Hanwha Aerospace facility in Daejeon](#) (2026-06-01 02:37)

Five people were killed and two other suffered injuries after an explosion at a Hanwha Aerospace facility in Daejeon, fire authorities said Monday. Daejeon fire authorities said they received about 30 reports at around 10:59 a.m. from callers who said they heard a loud blast and saw smoke coming from the site. Fire authorities sent 44 pieces of equipment and about 100 firefighters to the facility, bringing the main fire under control at 11:49 a.m. President Lee Jae Myung was briefed on the accid

- [Stray Kids hit milestones with ‘Miroh,’ ‘Easy’ music videos](#) (2026-06-01 02:31)

Stray Kids reached 200 million views on YouTube with its “Miroh” music video as of May 29, said label JYP Entertainment on Sunday. It is the group's ninth video to exceed the milestone. The group's music video for “Easy” reached 100 million the following day, becoming the 21st music video from Stray Kids to achieve the feat. “Miroh” is the main track from the group's fourth EP, “Cle 1: Miroh,” which was released in 2019. “Easy” is a B-side track from its first full-length album, “Go Live,” relea

- [Otoki enters Japan to expand global footprint](#) (2026-06-01 02:30)

Otoki is entering the Japanese market as part of efforts to diversify its overseas business and secure new growth opportunities, the leading South Korean food company said Monday. The company established a local sales subsidiary in Tokyo on May 15 and plans to begin full-scale operations after September. The Japanese unit will become Otoki's fourth overseas base,

following operations in New Zealand, the US and Vietnam. Otoki said Japan will play a strategic role in its global expansion plans, as

- [Daewoo E&C; launches AI translator for foreign workers](#) (2026-06-01 02:30)

Daewoo Engineering & Construction said Monday it has developed a real-time AI translation system for construction sites, aiming to improve communication and safety for foreign national workers as it expands the use of digital technologies across its operations. The platform supports up to 180 languages and features a construction-specific glossary containing industry terminology and technical expressions commonly used at worksites, helping improve translation accuracy. The system also allows use

- [StayC readies for June comeback](#) (2026-06-01 02:16)

StayC is bringing out its sixth physical single, “2:Love,” on June 16, its agency HighUp Entertainment said Sunday. The group of six will demonstrate the maturity it achieved over the last 11 months, since the release of its special single “I Want It,” and portray the range of love with its signature upbeat vibe, the company added. During the relatively long pause between album releases, there were questions about whether the group would disband. Yun, however, denied the rumor recently, saying s

- [Mirae Asset's global ETF assets top W400tr](#) (2026-06-01 02:15)

Mirae Asset Global Investments said Monday that assets under management across its global exchange-traded fund platform surpassed 400 trillion won (\$264 billion), underscoring the rapid growth of its ETF business in Korea and overseas markets. As of the end of May, the asset manager oversaw about 421 trillion won in ETF assets across 13 markets, including Australia, Canada, Korea and the US. According to industry tracker ETFGI, the figure ranks Mirae Asset as the world's 12th-largest ETF manager

- [BTS brings back 'Run BTS,' will officially release 'Come Over' for Festa](#) (2026-06-01 02:13)

BTS will bring back its popular variety series "Run BTS" and officially release "Come Over" as part of its annual Festa celebration marking the group's June 13 debut anniversary, according to a schedule unveiled Monday. Festa is BTS' annual festival commemorating its debut, featuring a mix of online and offline events. This year's celebration will coincide with the group's "BTS World Tour 'Arirang' in Busan" concerts at Busan Asiad Main Stadium on June 12 and 13. The festivities will begin on Th

- [S. Korea, Africa can turn challenges into opportunities through closer cooperation: FM](#) (2026-06-01 02:10)

Foreign Minister Cho Hyun on Monday called for South Korea and Africa to boost cooperation in a bid to better address global challenges and turn them into new opportunities for growth. Cho made the remarks in an opening speech at the Korea-Africa Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Seoul as the two sides are exploring ways to strengthen partnership amid growing global uncertainty. "

The world is facing multifaceted challenges across various sectors, including supply chains, energy and food security. Th

- ['Colony' stays atop box office, nears 4m admissions](#) (2026-06-01 02:10)

Yeon Sang-ho's "Colony" held the top spot at the Korean box office over the weekend, extending a run that has gone unchallenged since the film's May 21 opening. The latest zombie thriller from the "Train to Busan" director drew 971,034 admissions from Friday through Sunday, according to the box-office tally compiled by the state-run Korean Film Council. As of Monday morning, its cumulative total stood at 3,474,933. "Colony" played in the Midnight Screenings section of this year's Cannes Film Fes

- [Le Sserafim' s 2nd LP hits Billboard 200 at No. 10](#) (2026-06-01 01:47)

Le Sserafim' s second LP debuted on Billboard 200 at No. 10, according to the chart preview published on Sunday in the US. "Pureflow pt. 1" is the group' s fifth consecutive album to make it among the top 10 on the main albums chart, a first for a fourth-generation K-pop girl group. The streak began with the LP "Unforgiven" (No. 6) and was carried on through the third to fifth EPs: "Easy" (No. 8), "Crazy" (No. 7) and "Hot" (No. 9). The group is promoting the new set without Kim Chaewon, who has su

- [What Seoul superintendent hopefuls promise migrant-background students](#) (2026-06-01 01:39)

Eight candidates are vying to lead the Seoul Metropolitan Office of Education in the June 3 elections. Among the challenges the winner will have to grapple with is how schools should respond to globalization and serve a growing diverse student body. More than 38,000 foreign residents are eligible to vote in Seoul, and candidates have outlined policies to strengthen language skills, expand international programs and support migrant and multicultural students. The Korea Herald asked all eight cand

- [Seventeen ranks No. 7 on Billboard' s top tour list](#) (2026-06-01 01:36)

Seventeen claimed the No. 7 spot on the biannual top tours ranking published by Billboard on Wednesday, banking the highest rank for a K-pop artist, according to agency Pledis Entertainment on Monday. The group' s "New\_" world tour raked in \$88 million with 25 shows between October and March, drawing over 574,000 in attendance, placing the 13-member act at No. 9 on the Top Ticket Sales Chart. The tour ran from September until April and attracted more than 900,000 fans on- and offline. Separately,

- [French capital hosts Paris Saint-Germain parade after clashes marred Champions League win](#) (2026-06-01 00:53)

PARIS (AP) -- A huge crowd of supporters gathered peacefully near the Eiffel Tower on Sunday to celebrate Paris Saint-Germain's second Champions League title victory, which was marred by violent clashes overnight across France and led police to detain hundreds of people. Interior

Minister Laurent Nunez said 780 people were detained in Paris and other cities and 57 officers were wounded, with most suffering minor injuries, as football fans set off fires and vandalized shops overnight. Nunez said

- [\[Lee Kyong-hee\] Tumen delta development for geopolitical impetus](#) (2026-06-01 00:52)

Chinese President Xi Jinping may visit Pyongyang in the near future. Media reports about his prospective state visit to North Korea, following his high-profile summit meetings in Beijing in May with US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin just four days apart, have fueled speculation about the timing and purpose of the trip. While Beijing remains tight-lipped about the possibility, multiple sources have reported that Chinese security and protocol officials have recently be

- [Unionized members at Kakao to stage partial walkout next week](#) (2026-06-01 00:43)

Kakao Corp.'s labor union said Monday it will initiate a partial walkout next week, after a second round of wage talks mediated by the government fell through last month. Unionized members made the announcement in an official statement, saying the collective action is to secure employment stability and improve the company's compensation structure, which it claimed allows Kakao's executives to "monopolize excessive rewards." The union added it plans to increase the scale of the strike, depending

- [Lee's approval rating inches down to 59.1%: poll](#) (2026-06-01 00:41)

President Lee Jae Myung's approval rating fell slightly from a week earlier partly due to negative sentiment over the deadly collapse of an overpass in central Seoul last week, a survey showed Monday. In the poll commissioned by EKN newspaper and conducted by Realmeter, the positive assessment of Lee's job performance slipped 0.2 percentage point from a week before to 59.1 percent. The weekly survey was conducted on 2,008 people aged 18 and older from Tuesday through Friday. The negative assessm

- [S. Korea's monthly exports up 53% to record high of \\$87.8b in May](#) (2026-06-01 00:05)

South Korea's exports jumped more than 50 percent from a year earlier to a new monthly high of \$87.8 billion in May, driven by the semiconductor supercycle, government data showed Monday. It marked the third consecutive month the country's monthly outbound shipments surpassed the \$80 billion mark, according to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Resources. Imports rose 20.8 percent on-year to \$60.8 billion, resulting in a trade surplus of \$26.95 billion. (Yonhap)

- [Defender Cho Yu-min ruled out of World Cup with foot injury](#) (2026-06-01 00:03)

Defender Cho Yu-min was ruled out of the FIFA World Cup on Sunday due to a foot injury suffered during a friendly match the previous day. The Korea Football Association announced Cho will miss the tournament due to a partial tear of the plantar fascia in his right foot. "He will be out for eight weeks, and we decided he won't be able to play in the World Cup," a national

team official told reporters Sunday in Salt Lake City, Utah, where the Taeguek Warriors have been training since mid-May ahead

- [Why ambiguity matters to German painter Andi Fischer](#) (2026-05-31 23:15)

For German painter Andi Fischer, some of the most important moments in painting happen when things do not go according to plan. "Failure is not the opposite of success, but part of the same process," Fischer said in a recent written interview with The Korea Herald. The artist's latest exhibition in Seoul, "Feil Good" at Gallery Baton in the spring, reflected a philosophy that embraces uncertainty, mistakes and unexpected outcomes. Rather than treating failure as something negative, Fischer sees

- [\[Graphic News\] South Korea finalizes 26-man World Cup squad](#) (2026-05-31 23:00)

South Korea coach Hong Myung-bo unveiled his final 26-man squad for the 2026 FIFA World Cup, pledging that the Taeguek Warriors would enter the tournament with the mentality of "challengers." Son Heung-min, Asia's top striker and a South Korean soccer icon, was named to the squad alongside key Europe-based players including Lee Kang-in of Paris Saint-Germain, Kim Min-jae of Bayern Munich and Lee Jae-sung of Mainz. Son is set to appear in his fourth consecutive World Cup following the 2014 Brazil

- [Cut from a musical, kept by the ballet: how Korea's two stage worlds reacted to one actor's photo at Starbucks](#) (2026-05-31 21:29)

Musical theater actor and ballet dancer Jung Min-chan lost a role in a musical and won a public defense from his ballet company all within six days -- after a social media post about a recent visit to Starbucks Korea triggered an angry reaction from fans. The 38-year-old uploaded the post to his Instagram on May 20, during the controversy over Starbucks Korea's "Tank Day" marketing campaign. Two days later the musical's producer, Showplay, announced his exit from "Diaghilev," where he played Vas

- [Over 150 people evacuate after Busan department store ceiling collapse](#) (2026-05-31 12:46)

Over 150 people have reportedly been evacuated from a department store in Busan after a section of its ceiling as large as 25 square meters collapsed. No casualties were reported in the accident at Lotte Department Store Centum City in Haeundae-gu, Busan. At around 3 p.m., a fragmented part of the ceiling of the first basement floor fell and water from the ceiling poured onto the floor, affecting food halls there and forcing the department store to close at around 4:15 p.m. A coolant leak in the

- [Love for golf grows deeper for Niemann after LIV victory in S. Korea](#) (2026-05-31 12:05)

Joaquin Niemann is a golfer deeply in love with the sport and all the challenges that it brings. The humbling game has made grown men cry in frustration and devastation, but on this warm Sunday in the southeastern part of South Korea, the Chilean golfer was all smiles after winning

LIV Golf Korea. Niemann defeated Talor Gooch of the United States with a birdie on the firstplayoff hole at the par-70 Asiad Country Club in Busan. The two shared the 54-hole lead at nine-under and finished regulation

- ['Give him a kiss' on campaign trail stirs backlash](#) (2026-05-31 11:56)

A man shouting "Give him a kiss" while the ruling Democratic Party of Korea's Seoul mayoral candidate Chong Won-o was holding a baby on the campaign trail has sparked backlash from the liberal party's political opponents. A viral video shows the man telling the baby in Chong's arms to give the mayoral hopeful a kiss multiple times, as he is held back by campaign staff. Chong was visiting Yangcheon-gu of western Seoul. The shouted order was coming from Woo Hyung-chan, a Seoul city council member

- [Presidential chief of staff departs for Canada ahead of submarine deal](#) (2026-05-31 11:51)

Kang Hoon-sik, chief of staff for President Lee Jae Myung, flew to Canada on Sunday as a special envoy of the president. Kang said via Facebook just before his departure from Seoul that his trip to Canada is intended to expand strategic cooperation between the two countries in the field of energy, resources, supply chain and advanced technologies. He added that he was leading a delegation of the Lee administration, comprising officials from the Industry Ministry and Foreign Ministry, as well as

- [Lee vows zero tolerance for those who defame disaster victims](#) (2026-05-31 11:15)

President Lee Jae Myung said Sunday he will not tolerate those who insult victims and bereaved families of social disasters. "I will order authorities to thoroughly investigate and sternly punish" anyone who does so, he said, citing a recent case in which a man in his 50s was arrested for allegedly posting more than 3,000 defamatory messages targeting victims and their families of the 2014 Sewol ferry sinking, the 2022 Itaewon crowd crush and the 2024 Jeju Air crash. "Why on earth would someone

- [Little to cheer in big win: S. Korean soccer fans question World Cup warmup](#) (2026-05-31 09:41)

The South Korean national team beat Trinidad and Tobago 5-0 on Saturday in the first of two US-based friendlies ahead of the 2026 FIFA World Cup, but the lopsided victory did little to silence criticism from fans who questioned whether the match offered meaningful preparation ahead of the tournament. "They bring a team ranked 102nd in the FIFA rankings and call it a World Cup warmup match," one user wrote on X. "Other teams don't play warmups against sides ranked lower than 100th. The Korea Foot

- [Korea to offer 24-hour won-dollar trading from July](#) (2026-05-31 08:55)

South Korea's foreign exchange market will move to round-the-clock won-dollar trading from July, marking a major step in efforts to improve market accessibility. Seoul authorities approved revisions to the code of conduct for the onshore forex market at a meeting held Friday, the

Finance Ministry announced through a statement released Sunday. The change will take effect from July 6. Under the revised code, won-dollar trading hours, currently set from 9 a.m. to 2 a.m. the following day, will be e

- [Can Korean milk survive the era of tariff-free imports?](#) (2026-05-31 08:51)

As tariff-free milk products from the United States and Europe begin to arrive, South Korea's dairy industry is raising concerns that domestic products may not survive competition due to high pricing and excessive local production compared to demand. Koreans consumed 22.9 kilograms of fresh milk per person last year, down 9.5 percent from the previous year and the lowest level recorded in more than four decades, according to data from the Korea Dairy Committee. This trend is thought to reflect b

- [Justice Ministry expands 'top-tier visa' program to attract foreign science and tech talents](#) (2026-05-31 08:04)

More science and technology talent will become eligible for South Korea's "top-tier visa" starting in June, as part of a government policy aimed at attracting more than 2,000 foreign researchers and professionals by 2030. The Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Science and ICT announced Sunday that they would expand eligibility for the visa to include professors and researchers in science and technology. The visa had previously been available only to those hired in advanced technology sector

- [Opposition slams president for showing stamped ballot paper to public](#) (2026-05-31 06:42)

The main opposition People Power Party is keeping the pressure on President Lee Jae Myung and the ruling bloc, slamming the president for showing his marked ballot paper in public. The main opposition party claimed that Lee had intentionally "waved" the marked ballot in front of the media when he appeared at a polling station Friday during the early voting period to cast his vote with his wife, Kim Hea Kyung. People Power Party chair Jang Dong-hyeok said at a press conference that Lee was engagi

- [Campaigns offer differing views on record early voting](#) (2026-05-31 06:42)

South Korea's rival parties are offering different interpretations of record-high early voter turnout for the June 3 local elections, with both parties spinning the high turnout in their favor. Rep. Kang Jun-hyeon, senior spokesperson of the Democratic Party of Korea, thanked more than 10 million voters in a press briefing Sunday for going to the polls during the previous two days of early voting. "I deeply thank the citizens for taking part in early voting," Kang said, urging those who had not

- [Local election campaigns push cash-based pledges](#) (2026-05-31 06:20)

South Korea is seeing a surge in cash-based campaign pledges ahead of the June 3 local elections, as candidates seek to attract voters with promises of direct financial benefits, despite growing concerns over the sustainability of the plans. The trend has emerged across party lines,

with candidates from both the ruling Democratic Party of Korea and the main opposition PeoplePower Party proposing a variety of direct payment programs aimed at easing living costs and stimulating local economies. O

- [Russia, China mark 30 years of partnership](#) (2026-05-31 06:16)

Russia and China on Friday underscored their strategic partnership and commitment to what they described as “win-win cooperation” rather than a “zero-sum game,” at a joint reception in Seoul. The Chinese and Russian embassies in South Korea held the event to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the China-Russia Strategic Partnership of Coordination and the 25th anniversary of the Treaty of Good-Neighborliness and Friendly Cooperation. The event highlighted the development of bilateral ties since

- [Korea weighs how to use Samsung, SK hynix-driven tax windfall](#) (2026-05-31 06:15)

South Korea is facing a growing debate over how to use an unprecedented windfall from the semiconductor boom, as surging chip profits feed into tax revenue, employee bonuses and broader calls for redistribution. The immediate focus is on how the government should handle the expected tax increase — whether to use it for fiscal spending, save it as a buffer or invest it for future generations. Finance Minister Koo Yun-cheol said the government plans to channel a significant portion of future excess

- [Foreign investors unload record \\$30b from Kospi in May](#) (2026-05-31 06:10)

Foreign investors offloaded a record 45 trillion won (\$30 billion) worth of Kospi shares in May, marking the largest monthly sell-off on record, as they locked in gains from a sharp rally in the country's top chipmakers, Samsung Electronics and SK hynix. Overseas investors net sold stocks amounting to 44.71 trillion won on the benchmark Kospi in May, according to data from the Korea Exchange. The figure marks the largest monthly sell-off, surpassing the previous record of 35.75 trillion won set

- [Foreign tourist arrivals in Seoul top 1.5 million in April](#) (2026-05-31 06:04)

Foreign tourists spent more than 1.15 trillion won (\$762 million) in Seoul in April, as the number of overseas visitors to the capital surpassed 1.5 million and continued to outpace pre-pandemic recovery levels, according to data released by the Seoul Metropolitan Government on Sunday. The number of foreign visitors surged by 18.8 percent from 1.3 million in the same month in 2025. During the first four months of the year, cumulative arrivals reached 5.2 million, a 21.4 percent increase from 4.2

- [S. Korea, Singapore defense chiefs discuss stronger defense, arms industry cooperation](#) (2026-05-31 06:04)

South Korean Defense Minister Ahn Gyu-back met with his Singaporean counterpart Chan Chun Sing on Sunday in Singapore to discuss ways to strengthen bilateral defense and arms industry cooperation, Seoul's Defense Ministry said. The talks took place on the sidelines of the 23rd

Shangri-La Dialogue, a major annual security forum held in Singapore. During the meeting, the two ministers agreed to further deepen cooperation in the defense and defense industry sectors, in line with the two countries'

- [Will votes align with party support?](#) (2026-05-31 06:03)

As South Korea heads into its June 3 local elections, rival parties are entering the race with sharply different expectations. The ruling Democratic Party of Korea believes it is leading in most races and remains competitive in nearly all of the rest. The main opposition People Power Party, meanwhile, is focused on holding its traditional strongholds while remaining within striking distance in several key battlegrounds. The contrasting outlooks reflect different readings of recent political history

- [US says capable of resuming war with Iran as deal remains elusive](#) (2026-05-31 05:46)

The US warned Saturday it was "more than capable" of resuming its war with Iran after US President Donald Trump said any peace deal must adhere to his red lines, including Tehran never being able to develop nuclear weapons. The White House had signaled Trump was close to a decision on a potential deal, though Tehran denied there was a final agreement on ending the conflict. US sources had told Agence France-Presse the deal was waiting on Trump's sign-off, but he made no decision after a White House

- [Japan defense chief takes swipe at China](#) (2026-05-31 05:41)

Japan's defense minister took a veiled swipe at China Sunday, pledging to keep strengthening the military despite Beijing's criticism of Tokyo's increasingly muscular security stance. Under Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, Japan has quickened its pivot toward a more proactive defense policy, further shaking off -- with US encouragement -- its pacifist outlook in place since the end of World War II. The change has drawn frequent rebukes from Beijing, which has accused Tokyo of following a reckless

- [Hanwha Aerospace in arms export talks with Germany, UK](#) (2026-05-31 05:30)

Hanwha Aerospace is reportedly in discussions with Germany, the UK and other European countries on potential arms deal, accelerating its defense push amid rising military spending in the region. According to Bloomberg on Saturday, Alex Wong, global chief strategy officer at Hanwha Group, said Hanwha Aerospace is holding talks with potential European customers beyond existing partners such as Poland and Romania. The discussions cover not only defense procurement but also opportunities to establish

- [CJ chair eyes bigger play at Olive Young's US debut](#) (2026-05-31 05:22)

CJ Group Chairman Lee Jae-hyun visited Olive Young's first US store in Pasadena, California, to take stock of the beauty retailer's overseas operations and the conglomerate's larger play to build a Korean lifestyle presence in North America. According to the company on Sunday, Lee visited the location ahead of its Friday opening and discussed the group's regional growth plans

with executives, including CJ Corp. CEO Kim Hong-ki and Lee Sun-ho, head of future planning at CJ Corp. "The opening of O

- [Labor minister's calls for redistribution of chip profits stirs backlash](#) (2026-05-31 05:20)

Labor Minister Kim Young-hoon's call for discussions on the potential redistribution of major conglomerates' "excess" profits has sparked controversy, after he described semiconductors as a "public good" when speaking about recent debate concerning the distribution of the profits of Samsung Electronics, South Korea's largest company. Kim on Wednesday told reporters that there should be talks over a "Korean social solidarity wage" involving the distribution of the company's remaining profits after

- [Art group's ex-chief jailed for sexual harassment of members](#) (2026-05-31 04:57)

The former chief of a Gangwon Province art group has been convicted by the Supreme Court of sexually harassing three group members. The court upheld an earlier ruling that found the defendant guilty of performing an indecent act by compulsion and sentenced him to one year in prison. The defendant had denied the charges and appealed the lower court's ruling, but the top court said the verdict was justified. The defendant was found to have committed seven acts of sexual harassment against the three

- [Dog rescued from garbage-filled home in Jeju](#) (2026-05-31 04:28)

A dog was rescued from a trash-filled apartment unit on Jeju Island after being left alone for an extended period, news reports said Sunday. A local animal welfare group, Hangbok, and police officers discovered the dog amid piles of garbage inside a fifth-floor residence in a low-rise apartment building, locally known as a villa, in Seogwipo on Tuesday. The dog was alone in the unit when rescuers arrived. Covered in filth and weighed down by severely matted fur, the animal was unable to walk properly

- [Architect Lee Jang-hwan named curator of Korean Pavilion at 2027 Venice Biennale](#) (2026-05-31 04:22)

The Arts Council Korea (Arko) has appointed Architect Lee Jang-hwan as the artistic director of the Korean Pavilion at the 2027 Venice Biennale. Centered on the theme of hyper-shrinkage, the planned exhibition combines research on contemporary regional cities with proposals for future architectural and urban models. According to Arko, commissioner of the Korean Pavilion at the Venice Biennale, Lee focuses on abandoned spaces and aging residential structures left in the wake of rapid population decline

- [NC AI, Posco DX join hands in robot AI model development](#) (2026-05-31 04:19)

NC AI said Sunday it signed a strategic business agreement with Posco DX on the joint development of a robot foundation model and for broader technical cooperation. The signing ceremony was attended by Kim Min-jae, chief technology officer at NC AI, and Yoon Suk-june, head of the robot automation center of Posco DX, along with senior officials from both

companies. The two sides discussed long-term cooperation plans to enhance competitiveness in robot intelligence technologies and industrial AI.

- [South Korea routs Trinidad and Tobago 5-0 in pre-World Cup friendly](#) (2026-05-31 03:43)

South Korea handled Trinidad and Tobago 5-0 in the first of its two pre-World Cup friendly matches in US training camp Saturday, with captain Son Heung-min and striker Cho Gue-sung each netting twice. After Son's brace in the first half, world No. 25 South Korea got two from Cho and another from Hwang Hee-chan in the second half against 102nd-ranked Trinidad and Tobago at BYU South Field in Provo, Utah, on the campus of Brigham Young University. South Korea will next play 100th-ranked El Salvador

- [Car in last week's deadly crash was going 161kph: police](#) (2026-05-31 03:22)

The car involved in Wednesday's deadly accident was speeding at 161 kilometers per hour just before the crash, according to officials of the Changwon Jungbu Police Station on Sunday. Investigators analyzed the vehicle's event data recorder and found the car's speed 3.5 seconds before the fatal accident in Changwon, South Gyeongsang Province. The speed limit for the road was 60 kph. Evidence suggested that the driver had attempted to brake and turn the steering wheel just before the accident. The

- [Korea's suicide fix starts with answering calls](#) (2026-05-31 03:00)

"If you're thinking about self-harm or suicide, contact the Ministry of Health and Welfare's helpline at 109, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Please request a translator for English-language services." In Korea, news articles about suicide often end with this public service notice directing readers in crisis to call 109, the government's 24-hour suicide prevention hotline. But the hotline answered fewer than half of its daily calls in the first quarter of 2026, even as the country conti

- [Korea should join frontier AI race dominated by US, China: Science minister](#) (2026-05-31 03:00)

South Korea should now try to build frontier artificial intelligence models on par with those of the US and China, Deputy Prime Minister and ICT Minister Bae Kyung-hoon said Friday, calling for a broader AI strategy that goes beyond industrial applications. "We have reached a point where Korea, too, should take on the challenge of building frontier AI models at a level comparable to those of the US and China," Bae said at a press conference in Seoul marking the government's first year in office.

- [Hanwha Ocean highlights potential \\$68b GDP impact in Canada submarine bid](#) (2026-05-31 02:51)

Hanwha Ocean is advancing its efforts to win a 60 trillion won (\$39.8 billion) submarine bid from Canada, proposing an ambitious plan to boost the Canadian economy at CANSEC 2026, the country's largest defense and security trade show. During the event — held from

Wednesday to Thursday — the company engaged with Canadian government officials and industry leaders, emphasizing that it could generate more than 22,500 jobs and contribute 94 billion Canadian dollars (\$68 billion) in GDP impact if it i

- [HD Hyundai chair pays respects at national cemetery ahead of National Veterans' Month](#) (2026-05-31 02:50)

To mark the upcoming National Veterans' Month, HD Hyundai Chair Chung Ki-sun and HD Construction Equipment CEO Moon Jae-young joined 200 employees to pay tribute to national heroes at the Seoul National Cemetery, the Yeongcheon National Cemetery, and the Geosan National Cemetery on Friday. Chung laid flowers and burned incense at the memorial tower at the Seoul National Cemetery. He then moved on to Section 25 — a burial area designated for a HD Hyundai volunteer program — where he cleaned the t

- [A hot night, a cool morning swim](#) (2026-05-31 02:45)

A midsummer-like heat lingered Saturday night in Gangneung, Gangwon Province, as the city recorded its first tropical night of the year. A tropical night refers to a weather phenomenon in which the temperature does not fall below 25 degrees Celsius between 6 p.m. and 9 a.m. the following day. Early Sunday morning, members of a sea swimming club enjoyed a morning swim at Gyeongpo Beach in Gangneung. As the blazing sun rose over the horizon after a night of lingering heat, they dived into the sea

- [Hana Financial holds group-wide wealth management seminar](#) (2026-05-31 02:43)

Hana Financial Group hosted the Hana Financial Money Show on Thursday, a group-wide wealth management seminar showcasing integrated asset management solutions from across its banking, securities and insurance affiliates. The event marked the first time the group's affiliates had come together to host a joint seminar on asset management. While such events had previously been organized separately by each affiliate, this year's seminar brought experts from the group together under one roof. The gro

- [Fate of Chinese dissident at crossroads, between expulsion and refugee status](#) (2026-05-31 02:36)

Dong Guangping, the Chinese dissident who arrived in South Korea on a rubber boat, is drawing attention nationwide, as some legal experts say he is unlikely to be immediately repatriated to China and speculate he may apply for refugee status. Dong was found on a rubber boat off the coast of Taean, South Chungcheong Province, on Tuesday, according to the Coast Guard. The 68-year-old former police officer and human rights activist has spent decades trying to flee China over his political activism,

- [Korean cellist Kim Tae-yeon claims second prize at Queen Elisabeth Competition](#) (2026-05-31 02:34)

Korean cellist Kim Tae-yeon won second prize in the cello division of the 2026 Queen Elisabeth Competition, which concluded Saturday in Brussels, according to the Kumho Cultural Foundation on Sunday. Kim will receive a cash prize of 20,000 euros (\$23,300). First prize was awarded to Ettore Pagano of Italy, while Leland Ko of the US and Canada took third place. The 2026 competition, dedicated to the cello, was open to cellists ages 18 to 30. Out of 185 applicants worldwide, 64 advanced from video

- [Credit loans at local banks sharply rise in May amid stock rally](#) (2026-05-31 02:29)

Credit loans at major South Korean banks surged in May at the fastest pace in more than five years, data showed Sunday, as investors increasingly took out loans to buy stocks amid a record-breaking market rally. Outstanding credit loans at five major lenders -- KB Kookmin, Shinhan, Hana, Woori and NH Nonghyup -- stood at 107 trillion won (\$70.9 billion) as of Friday, according to data compiled by the banks. The total increased by 2.65 trillion won from the end of April, or 2.55 percent on a month

- [N. Korean FM says Pyongyang shares common position with Russia on all strategic issues: report](#) (2026-05-31 02:25)

North Korea's Foreign Minister Choe Son-hui said her country shares "a common position" with Russia on all strategic issues at an event commemorating a late Russian ambassador, a Russian report has said. Choe made the remarks the previous day at a ceremony unveiling a memorial plaque at the Russian Embassy dedicated to former Ambassador Alexander Matsegora, the Tass news agency said. Matsegora, who had served as Russia's ambassador to North Korea for more than 10 years, died suddenly at the age

- [366 absentee parents had their info posted by gov't in past 3 years](#) (2026-05-31 02:22)

The government said Sunday that it revealed the identities of 366 individuals over the past three years as punishment for the parents' failure to pay child support. The individuals withheld due payments in the accumulated amount of 17.3 billion won (\$11.48 million), averaging 47.3 million won per person, according to the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family. By age, nearly half of them (168) were in their 40s, 94 were in their 50s, 92 in their 30s, eight in their 20s, and four were in their 60

- [Rival parties focus on battleground regions in last-minute campaigns for June 3 elections](#) (2026-05-31 02:21)

Rival parties were to stage last-minute campaigns Sunday, the last weekend before this week's nationwide elections, focusing on battleground regions, including Seoul. Up for grabs in the June 3 elections are 16 mayoral and gubernatorial posts, along with 227 heads of local governments and some 4,000 members of local councils. On Sunday, Rep. Jung Chung-rae, leader of the ruling Democratic Party (DP), may visit Seoul, North Jeolla Province and the southeastern city of Ulsan to rally support for D

- [CJ chairman visits 1st Olive Young store in US](#) (2026-05-31 02:16)

CJ Group Chairman Lee Jae-hyun visited CJ Olive Young Corp.'s first US store in California and called for efforts to promote healthy and stylish lifestyles among American consumers, the company said Sunday. During the visit, Lee described the launch of the health and beauty retailer's first US outlet as a "first step" toward expanding in the United States, the world's largest consumer market, according to the retail and entertainment conglomerate. The 803-square-meter store is located in a major

- [Obi nomination sets up Nigeria's three-way election rematch](#) (2026-05-31 02:08)

LAGOS, Nigeria (AFP) -- Nigerian opposition leader Peter Obi will stand as a candidate in the country's next presidential election, setting up a rematch of the three-way contest that defined the last poll. The former two-term governor of southeastern Anambra state was named as the candidate by an upstart political party Nigeria Democratic Congress Saturday. The party officially registered in February. "No nation can thrive when citizens can no longer sleep with their eyes closed," Obi said after

- [Rights groups sue US detention center](#) (2026-05-31 02:04)

Civil rights groups have filed a lawsuit over alleged human rights abuses at the US' largest immigration detention center in El Paso, Texas, where three people have died in the nine months since it opened. The American Civil Liberties Union, and other groups, brought the complaint on behalf of four people currently held at Camp East Montana, a sprawling tent encampment set up under US President Donald Trump's mass-deportation strategy. The action, filed in US District Court Western District of

- [Baemin to open Apple Pay to foreign-issued cards](#) (2026-05-31 01:56)

South Korean food delivery platform Baemin, operated by Woowa Brothers, is set to accept overseas Apple Pay cards, becoming the first such platform in the country to do so as foreign demand for its services surges. According to the company on Sunday, the move will open Apple Pay, previously limited to Korean-issued cards, to those on global networks including Visa, Mastercard, JCB and American Express, starting June 2. "The addition of overseas Apple Pay card support, combined with our multiling

- [Lebanon denounces Israeli campaign in south](#) (2026-05-31 01:55)

Lebanon's prime minister accused Israel Saturday of pursuing a "scorched-earth policy" in his country's south, urging a halt to the fighting as Israel carried out fresh airstrikes and issued evacuation warnings for more than a dozen locations. A day after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said his forces had advanced deeper into Lebanon, his counterpart Nawaf Salam warned the country was facing a "dangerous" escalation, and called for "a swift and real ceasefire." In a televised address,

- [WHO chief visits Congo in Ebola outbreak](#) (2026-05-31 01:41)

BUNIA, Congo (AP) — The head of the World Health Organization on Saturday visited eastern Congo's Bunia, a city at the heart of an outbreak of a rare type of Ebola, where the virus is spreading faster than the response despite better-organized health facilities and new aid arrivals. WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus stressed the importance of building community trust, ensuring safe burials to prevent the spread of the outbreak and urged countries to reconsider travel bans and border

- [Samsung Electronics tops automotive memory chip market in 2025: report](#) (2026-05-31 01:12)

Samsung Electronics Co. became the world's leading supplier of automotive memory chips last year, surpassing US chipmaker Micron, an industry report showed Sunday. Samsung's share of the global automotive memory chip market rose to 40 percent last year from 35 percent in 2024, according to a report by S&P Global Mobility. Over the same period, Micron's market share fell to 36 percent from 40 percent, placing it at No. 2. Samsung's gains were driven in part by its expanding presence in China, one

- [Foreign net selling of Kосpi stocks hit record high in May](#) (2026-05-31 01:08)

Foreign selling of South Korean stocks listed on the benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index reached a record high in May, while foreign investors poured a record amount into the tech-heavy Kosdaq market, data showed Sunday. Offshore investors sold a net 44.71 trillion won (\$29.66 billion) worth of local stocks in May, surpassing the previous record of 35.74 trillion won in net selling set in March, according to data from the Korea Exchange. Foreign investors remained net sellers for 16 consecutive

- [PSG wins back-to-back Champions League titles after shootout victory against Arsenal](#) (2026-05-31 00:57)

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) -- Winning the Champions League was so nice, Paris Saint-Germain had to do it twice. PSG became back-to-back European champion by beating Arsenal 4-3 on penalties in a dramatic final in Budapest that ended 1-1 after extra time on Saturday. "It's incredible," captain Marquinhos said. "From the very first day of this season, the coach said it's hard to win, and winning twice is even more difficult. So we all had to get back to work. That was the mentality." Arsenal defender

- [From niche hobby to public courts — pickleball gains ground in Korea](#) (2026-05-31 00:40)

The sharp "pop" of plastic balls bouncing off paddles echoed across a Seoul park, where courts once mostly used for jokgu, Korean foot volleyball, are increasingly being taken over by players of the fast-growing racket sport pickleball. Once seen largely as a niche sport favored by older players, pickleball is now attracting younger office workers, foreign residents and former tennis players, pushing the sport further into Korea's mainstream recreational culture. The trend has grown visible enough

## Source: Yonhap

- [\(profile\) IT pioneer Han tapped as next prime minister](#) (2026-06-07 05:57)

SEOUL, June 7 (Yonhap) -- Han Seong-sook, the incumbent minister of small and me...

- [\(LEAD\) Lee nominates SME Minister Han Seong-sook as new prime minister](#) (2026-06-07 05:45)

SEOUL, June 7 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung has nominated Han Seong-sook, ...

- [Thousands rally for 3rd day demanding new election over ballot shortages](#) (2026-06-07 05:13)

SEOUL, June 7 (Yonhap) -- Thousands of protesters continued to stage a rally nea...

- [Lee nominates SME Minister Han Seong-sook as new prime minister](#) (2026-06-07 05:10)

SEOUL, June 7 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung has nominated Han Seong-sook, ...

- [\(URGENT\) Lee nominates SME Minister Han Seong-sook as new prime minister](#) (2026-06-07 05:01)

(END)

- [Today in Korean history](#) (2026-06-07 05:00)

June 8

- [More stocks fall despite KOSPI rally amid chip-sector concentration](#) (2026-06-07 03:01)

SEOUL, June 7 (Yonhap) -- More stocks listed on the benchmark Korea Composite St...

- [S. Korean retail investors sell over 1 tln won in overseas stocks in 1st week of June](#) (2026-06-07 02:42)

SEOUL, June 7 (Yonhap) -- South Korean retail investors sold over 1 trillion won...

- [Cosmetic exports top US\\$5.6 bln in Jan.-May, Seoul's top consumer export item](#) (2026-06-07 02:30)

SEOUL, June 7 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's outbound shipments of cosmetics jumped s...

- [Nvidia's Jensen Huang to meet chiefs of S. Korea's 2 major gaming firms](#) (2026-06-07 01:53)

SEOUL, June 7 (Yonhap) -- Nvidia Corp. Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Jensen Huan...

- [\(2nd LD\) N.K. leader's sister says Pyongyang's nuclear status 'irreversible'](#) (2026-06-07 01:40)

SEOUL, June 7 (Yonhap) -- The powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un...

- [N. Korea exports 1.5 mln tons of coal in 2025 despite sanctions: lawmaker](#) (2026-06-07 01:23)

SEOUL, June 7 (Yonhap) -- North Korea continued illegal exports of coal and mine...

- [OECD projects S. Korea's potential growth rate to hit record low in 2027](#) (2026-06-07 01:02)

SEOUL, June 7 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's potential growth rate is projected to fa...

- [Career-best hitting streak reaches 14 games for SF Giants' Lee Jung-hoo](#) (2026-06-07 00:58)

SEOUL, June 7 (Yonhap) -- Lee Jung-hoo of the San Francisco Giants has now hit s...

- [Court set to rule on ex-President Yoon's drone infiltration charges this week](#) (2026-06-07 00:51)

SEOUL, June 7 (Yonhap) -- A court is set to deliver its verdict this week on for...

- [S. Korea coach looking to polish up strategies with World Cup nearing](#) (2026-06-07 00:46)

ZAPOPAN, Mexico, June 6 (Yonhap) -- With precious little time left to train befo...

- [\(LEAD\) N.K. leader's sister says Pyongyang's nuclear status 'irreversible'](#) (2026-06-06 22:24)

SEOUL, June 7 (Yonhap) -- The powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un...

- [N.K. leader's sister says Pyongyang's nuclear status 'irreversible'](#) (2026-06-06 21:44)

SEOUL, June 7 (Yonhap) -- The powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un...

- [\(URGENT\) N. Korean leader's sister says country's nuclear status irreversible, vows not to tolerate any threats](#) (2026-06-06 21:27)

(END)

- [\(3rd LD\) Ex-President Yoon questioned over messages to justify failed imposition of martial law](#) (2026-06-06 12:19)

SEOUL, June 6 (Yonhap) -- Former President Yoon Suk Yeol was questioned by a spe...

- [BTS tops Billboard Japan's H1 album sales chart; 6 K-pop acts make Top 20](#) (2026-06-06 10:15)

SEOUL, June 6 (Yonhap) -- K-pop sensation BTS's fifth studio album was the bests...

- [\(2nd LD\) Ex-President Yoon questioned over messages to justify failed imposition of martial law](#) (2026-06-06 09:03)

SEOUL, June 6 (Yonhap) -- Former President Yoon Suk Yeol was questioned by a spe...

- [\(LEAD\) Ex-President Yoon questioned over messages to justify failed imposition of martial law](#) (2026-06-06 08:15)

SEOUL, June 6 (Yonhap) -- Former President Yoon Suk Yeol was questioned by a spe...

- [Protest against ballot paper shortages enters 2nd day, demanding new election](#) (2026-06-06 05:50)

SEOUL, June 6 (Yonhap) -- Protests over ballot shortages entered their second da...

- [1st funeral held for victim of Hanwha Aerospace factory blast](#) (2026-06-06 05:46)

DAEJEON, June 6 (Yonhap) -- The first funeral for one of five people killed in a...

- [Today in Korean history](#) (2026-06-06 05:05)

June 7

- [\(LEAD\) Lee says paying full respects to those killed in service an important 'social duty'](#) (2026-06-06 02:18)

SEOUL, June 6 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung said Saturday honoring and pay...

- [Ex-President Yoon questioned over messages to justify failed imposition of martial law](#) (2026-06-06 02:17)

SEOUL, June 6 (Yonhap) -- Ex-President Yoon Suk Yeol on Saturday appeared before...

- [\(URGENT\) Lee says punishing those who betray society also an important duty](#) (2026-06-06 01:28)

(END)

- [Lee says paying full respects to those killed in service an important 'social duty'](#) (2026-06-06 01:27)

SEOUL, June 6 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung said Saturday honoring and pay...

- [\(URGENT\) Lee says will improve assistance for those wounded during military service](#) (2026-06-06 01:26)

(END)

- [\(URGENT\) Lee says honoring those killed in service is 'social duty'](#) (2026-06-06 01:24)

(END)

- [Giants' Lee Jung-hoo extends career-best hitting streak to 13 games](#) (2026-06-06 01:04)

SEOUL, June 6 (Yonhap) -- Lee Jung-hoo of the San Francisco Giants has stretched...

- [N. Korea's Kim attends navigation test of Kang Kon destroyer](#) (2026-06-06 01:02)

SEOUL, June 6 (Yonhap) -- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has attended the navig...

- [Navies of S. Korea, Canada hold joint drill](#) (2026-06-06 00:53)

SEOUL, June 6 (Yonhap) -- The navies of South Korea and Canada held a joint drill...

- [Landers sign new pitcher Thomas Hatch](#) (2026-06-06 00:26)

SEOUL, June 6 (Yonhap) -- The SSG Landers announced Saturday they have signed fo...

- [S. Korean players arrive in Mexico base camp ahead of World Cup](#) (2026-06-06 00:18)

GUADALAJARA, Mexico, June 5 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean men's national football...

- [Top headlines in major S. Korean newspapers](#) (2026-06-06 00:04)

SEOUL, June 6 (Yonhap) -- The following are the top headlines in major South Kor...

- [\(Yonhap Interview\) Korean American chef Austin Kang bringing MLB food culture to S. Korean fans](#) (2026-06-05 23:00)

SEOUL, June 6 (Yonhap) -- Born and raised in Los Angeles, Korean American chef A...

- [U.S. approves potential sale of JDAM precision bombs to S. Korea](#) (2026-06-05 17:52)

WASHINGTON, June 5 (Yonhap) -- The U.S. government has authorized a potential sa...

- [U.S. highlights Trump, Xi's shared goal of denuclearizing N. Korea ahead of Xi's Pyongyang trip](#) (2026-06-05 16:33)

WASHINGTON, June 5 (Yonhap) -- The State Department said Friday that U.S. Presid...

- [Xi's planned N.K. trip partly driven by desire to weaken Russia-N.K. ties, U.S. calls for Chinese cooperation: expert](#) (2026-06-05 16:21)

WASHINGTON, June 5 (Yonhap) -- Chinese President Xi Jinping's upcoming trip to N...

- [\(3rd LD\) Nvidia's Jensen Huang holds 'samgyeopsal' dinner with Korean biz leaders](#) (2026-06-05 12:17)

SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- Nvidia Corp. Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Jensen Huan...

- [S. Korea condemns threats to U.N. peacekeeping mission after Serbian peacekeeper killed in Lebanon](#) (2026-06-05 11:48)

SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- South Korea on Friday condemned "all acts" threatening...

- [\(3rd LD\) Angry protesters block vote-counting facility over ballot shortages](#) (2026-06-05 11:12)

SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- Thousands of protesters encircled a vote-counting faci...

- [\(2nd LD\) Nvidia's Jensen Huang holds 'samgyeopsal' dinner with Korean biz leaders](#) (2026-06-05 10:43)

SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- Nvidia Corp. Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Jensen Huan...

- [\(2nd LD\) Election watchdog chief offers to resign over ballot shortages in local elections](#) (2026-06-05 09:41)

SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- The chief of the country's election watchdog offered t...

- [Navy service member dies after being found unconscious during combat drill in Yellow Sea](#) (2026-06-05 09:40)

SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- A noncommissioned officer of the Navy died Friday afte...

- [S. Korea maintains goal of building nuclear-powered submarines at home: official](#) (2026-06-05 09:36)

SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- South Korea remains committed to its original goal of ...

- [Lee calls joint Korean War remains repatriation 'testament' to S. Korea-U.S. alliance](#) (2026-06-05 08:56)

SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Friday called joint efforts...

- [\(2nd LD\) Lee to visit Europe from June 9-18, attend G7 summit in France's Evian](#) (2026-06-05 08:04)

SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung will travel to Europe this mon...

- [\(LEAD\) Election watchdog chief offers to resign over ballot shortages in local elections](#) (2026-06-05 08:03)

SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- The chief of the country's election watchdog offered t...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-06-05 08:00)

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

- [\(4th LD\) China's Xi to visit N. Korea next week for 1st time since 2019](#) (2026-06-05 07:47)

SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- Chinese President Xi Jinping will make a state visit t...

- [\(2nd LD\) Seoul shares sink over 5 pct on tech losses amid Iran uncertainty; won sharply down](#) (2026-06-05 07:47)

SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks dipped by more than 5 percent as i...

- [\(LEAD\) Six-term lawmaker Cho Jeong-sik elected new Nat'l Assembly speaker](#) (2026-06-05 07:46)

SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- The National Assembly voted Friday to elect Rep. Cho J...

- [Final tally for local elections completed after counting omitted ballots](#) (2026-06-05 07:35)

SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- The final vote count for this week's local elections w...

- [\(LEAD\) S. Korea's currency tumbles to 17-year low on foreign stock selloff](#) (2026-06-05 07:32)

SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean won tumbled to the lowest level since...

- [\(2nd LD\) Police secure ballot boxes from Seoul polling station after dispersing protesters](#) (2026-06-05 07:20)

SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- Police on Friday secured remaining ballot boxes at a p...

- [\(URGENT\) Election watchdog chief offers to step down over ballot shortages in local elections](#) (2026-06-05 07:17)

(END)

- [\(LEAD\) Nvidia's Jensen Huang sees robotics as next major sector for S. Korea](#) (2026-06-05 07:14)

SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- Nvidia Corp. Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Jensen Huan...

- [Summary of inter-Korean news this week](#) (2026-06-05 07:00)

SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- The following is a summary of inter-Korean news this w...

- [Summary of external news of North Korea this week](#) (2026-06-05 07:00)

SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- The following is a summary of external news on North K...

- [Summary of domestic news in North Korea this week](#) (2026-06-05 07:00)

SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- The following is a summary of domestic news in North K...

- [Key developments on North Korea this week](#) (2026-06-05 07:00)

SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- The following are key developments regarding North Kor...

- [\(LEAD\) Seoul shares sink over 5 pct on tech losses amid Iran uncertainty; won sharply down](#) (2026-06-05 06:53)

SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks dipped by more than 5 percent as i...

- [S. Korean opponents win final friendlies before World Cup](#) (2026-06-05 06:46)

SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- Two of South Korea's opponents in the group stage at t...

- [\(3rd LD\) China's Xi to visit N. Korea next week for 1st time since 2019](#) (2026-06-05 06:36)

SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- Chinese President Xi Jinping will make a state visit t...

- [Seoul shares sink over 5 pct on tech losses amid Iran uncertainty; won sharply down](#) (2026-06-05 06:35)

SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks dipped by more than 5 percent as i...

- [PM office forms confirmation hearing preparation team for incoming PM nominee](#) (2026-06-05 06:33)

SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- The prime minister's office has formed a team to help ...

- [\(URGENT\) Seoul shares tumble over 5 pct on tech losses amid Iran uncertainty; won sharply down](#) (2026-06-05 06:31)

(END)

- [Six-term lawmaker Cho Jeong-sik elected new Nat'l Assembly speaker](#) (2026-06-05 06:23)

SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- The National Assembly voted Friday to elect Rep. Cho J...

- [\(LEAD\)\(News Focus\) Jensen Huang's S. Korea visit signals Nvidia's broader bet on AI ecosystem](#) (2026-06-05 05:48)

SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- Nvidia Corp. Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Jensen Huan...

- [\(LEAD\) Lee to visit Europe from June 9-18, attend G7 summit in France's Evian](#) (2026-06-05 05:47)

SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung will travel to Europe this mon...

- [PPP floor leader offers to resign over local elections defeat](#) (2026-06-05 05:44)

SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- The floor leader of the main opposition People Power P...

- [PM visits weather agency to check on readiness for heavy rains, heat waves](#) (2026-06-05 05:43)

SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- Prime Minister Kim Min-seok paid a visit to the state ...

- [Nvidia's Jensen Huang sees robotics as next major sector for S. Korea](#) (2026-06-05 05:38)

SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- Nvidia Corp. Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Jensen Huan...

- [More S. Korean tidal flats expected to join UNESCO World Heritage list](#) (2026-06-05 05:33)

SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- Four more South Korean tidal flats are expected to be ...

- [ADOR reduces damages claim against ex-CEO, ex-NewJeans member by 10 bln won](#) (2026-06-05 05:32)

SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- K-pop label ADOR has reduced its damages claim against...

- [School drama 'Teach You a Lesson' aims to add reality, depth to original webtoon](#) (2026-06-05 05:27)

SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- At a time when news reports about problematic students...

- [S. Korea expects China to play 'constructive' role over Xi's visit to N. Korea](#) (2026-06-05 05:26)

SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean foreign ministry said Friday that it ...

- [Lee to visit Europe from June 9-18, attend G7 summit in France's Evian](#) (2026-06-05 05:23)

SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung will travel to Europe this mon...

- [\(URGENT\) Lee to visit Belgium, Italy, Vatican during European trip](#) (2026-06-05 05:07)

(END)

- [\(URGENT\) Lee to visit Europe from June 9-18, attend G7 summit in France's Evian](#) (2026-06-05 05:05)

(END)

- [Today in Korean history](#) (2026-06-05 05:00)

June 6

- [Samyang's Buldak ramyeon tops 10 bln units sold, 7 tln won in cumulative sales](#) (2026-06-05 04:41)

SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- Samyang Foods Inc. said Friday that cumulative sales o...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-06-05 04:30)

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

- [PM highlights need for probe, if necessary, to look into ballot shortage](#) (2026-06-05 04:22)

SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- Prime Minister Kim Min-seok said Friday that a parliam...

- [\(2nd LD\) China's Xi to visit N. Korea next week for 1st time since 2019](#) (2026-06-05 03:43)

SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- Chinese President Xi Jinping will make a state visit t...

- [S. Korea diversifying LNG imports to ease Middle East dependence: KOGAS chief](#) (2026-06-05 03:00)

SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- South Korea is pushing to ease its dependence on the M...

- [Overseas card spending nearly unchanged in Q1](#) (2026-06-05 03:00)

SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- South Koreans' overseas card spending remained nearly ...

- [Election watchdog head to apologize over ballot shortages in local elections](#) (2026-06-05 02:32)

SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- The chief of the country's election watchdog will issu...

- [Seoul shares down nearly 4 pct late Fri. morning as tech shares slide](#) (2026-06-05 02:29)

SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- Seoul shares traded nearly 4 percent lower as investor...

- [\(LEAD\) China's Xi to visit N. Korea next week: KCNA](#) (2026-06-05 02:28)

SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- Chinese President Xi Jinping will visit North Korea ne...

- [China's Xi to visit N. Korea next week: KCNA](#) (2026-06-05 02:12)

SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- Chinese President Xi Jinping will visit North Korea ne...

- [\(URGENT\) China's Xi to visit N. Korea on June 8-9: KCNA](#) (2026-06-05 02:05)

(END)

- [S. Korea's currency drops to weakest level since 2009 on renewed Middle East tension, foreign stock selling](#) (2026-06-05 02:02)

SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean won dropped to the lowest level since...

- [DAPA chief pays respects to victims of Hanwha Aerospace explosion](#) (2026-06-05 02:00)

SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- The chief of South Korea's defense procurement agency ...

- [S. Korea strikes free trade deal with Serbia, first with Balkan nation](#) (2026-06-05 02:00)

SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and Serbia struck a comprehensive economic...

- [Vice industry minister discusses energy security cooperation with Aramco exec](#) (2026-06-05 02:00)

SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's industry ministry said Friday that it ha...

- [Lee calls for joint efforts to fight climate change on World Environment Day](#) (2026-06-05 01:46)

SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Friday called for joint eff...

- [S. Korea to hold Memorial Day ceremony](#) (2026-06-05 01:30)

SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- South Korea will hold its annual Memorial Day ceremony...

- [S. Korea elected to U.N. Economic and Social Council for 2027-2029 term](#) (2026-06-05 01:16)

SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- South Korea has been elected as a member of the United...

- [\(LEAD\) S. Korea posts 2nd-largest current account surplus in April: BOK](#) (2026-06-05 01:13)  
SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- South Korea posted its second-largest monthly current ...

- [Vice FM discusses energy, supply chain cooperation with IEA, OECD](#) (2026-06-05 01:01)  
SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- Second Vice Foreign Minister Kim Jina has discussed co...

- [Gov't vows to lower barriers for foreign investors with 24-hour FX market](#) (2026-06-05 01:00)  
SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- South Korea will continue efforts to lower barriers fo...

- [\(News Focus\) Jensen Huang's S. Korea visit signals Nvidia's broader bet on AI ecosystem](#) (2026-06-05 00:51)  
SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- Nvidia Corp. CEO Jensen Huang is expected to hold a se...

- [\(LEAD\) Police secure ballot boxes from Seoul polling station after dispersing protesters](#) (2026-06-05 00:43)  
SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- Police on Friday secured remaining ballot boxes at a p...

- [\(LEAD\) Seoul shares open sharply lower on tech slump amid Middle East uncertainty](#) (2026-06-05 00:29)  
SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks opened sharply lower Friday as inv...

- [KRX issues sell-side sidecar for KOSPI on sharp fall](#) (2026-06-05 00:21)  
SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- The country's bourse operator on Friday activated a se...

- [\(URGENT\) KRX issues sell-side sidecar for KOSPI on sharp fall](#) (2026-06-05 00:09)  
(END)

- [Seoul shares open sharply lower on tech slump amid Middle East uncertainty](#) (2026-06-05 00:04)  
SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks opened sharply lower Friday as inv...

- [\(URGENT\) Seoul shares open 3.66 pct lower on tech slump amid Middle East uncertainty](#) (2026-06-05 00:01)  
(END)

- [Unification minister seeks Mongolia's support to bring Pyongyang to dialogue](#) (2026-06-04 23:58)  
SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- Unification Minister Chung Dong-young has met with Mon...

- [\(LEAD\) Gov't taking 'extra vigilance' on FX volatility: finance minister](#) (2026-06-04 23:55)

SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- The government is taking "extra vigilance" over the re...

- [Gov't taking 'extra vigilance' on FX volatility: finance minister](#) (2026-06-04 23:49)

SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- The government is taking "extra vigilance" over the re...

- [Police begin dispersing protesters at Seoul polling station](#) (2026-06-04 23:42)

SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- Police on Friday began dispersing protesters at a poll...

- [Giants' Lee Jung-hoo pushes hitting streak to career-best 12 games](#) (2026-06-04 23:39)

SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- Lee Jung-hoo of the San Francisco Giants is on a heate...

- [S. Korea posts 2nd-largest current account surplus in April: BOK](#) (2026-06-04 23:00)

SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- South Korea posted its second-largest monthly current ...

- [\(URGENT\) S. Korea posts 2nd-largest current account surplus in April: BOK](#) (2026-06-04 23:00)

(END)

- [Senate panel approves nomination for U.S. ambassador to S. Korea](#) (2026-06-04 22:27)

WASHINGTON, June 4 (Yonhap) -- A Senate committee approved U.S. President Donald...

- [\(EDITORIAL from Korea JoongAng Daily on June 5\)](#) (2026-06-04 22:07)

The People Power Party (PPP) emerged from this local election with a far more co...

- [\(EDITORIAL from The Korea Times on June 5\)](#) (2026-06-04 22:07)

The ballot paper shortage that disrupted voting at multiple polling stations acr...

- [\(EDITORIAL from The Korea Herald on June 5\)](#) (2026-06-04 22:06)

In local elections, voters granted power but demand results, restraint, reform

- [Top headlines in major S. Korean newspapers](#) (2026-06-04 22:06)

SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- The following are the top headlines in major South Kor...

- [Trade minister shares Seoul's industrial policies at OECD ministerial meeting](#) (2026-06-04 21:00)

SEOUL, June 5 (Yonhap) -- Trade Minister Yeo Han-koo shared South Korea's indust...

- [\(LEAD\) U.S. open to dialogue with N. Korea, committed to complete denuclearization: State Dept.](#) (2026-06-04 19:19)

WASHINGTON, June 4 (Yonhap) -- The United States remains open to dialogue with N...

- [U.S. open to dialogue with N. Korea, committed to complete denuclearization: State Dept.](#) (2026-06-04 19:07)

WASHINGTON, June 4 (Yonhap) -- The United States remains open to dialogue with N...

- [\(LEAD\) Ex-U.S. diplomat says wartime OPCON transfer not end of S. Korea-U.S. alliance](#) (2026-06-04 19:04)

WASHINGTON, June 4 (Yonhap) -- A former U.S. diplomat said Thursday the envision...

- [USTR says U.S. will respect tariff caps in trade deals with EU, Japan, other countries: reports](#) (2026-06-04 18:24)

WASHINGTON, June 4 (Yonhap) -- U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Jamieson Greer s...

- [Ex-U.S. diplomat says wartime OPCON transfer not end of S. Korea-U.S. alliance](#) (2026-06-04 16:47)

WASHINGTON, June 4 (Yonhap) -- A former U.S. diplomat said Thursday the envision...

- [Defense minister highlights S. Korea's submarine bid in call with Canadian counterpart](#) (2026-06-04 14:22)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- Defense Minister Ahn Gyu-back held a phone call with h...

- [S. Korea sweetens Canada submarine bid with hydrogen truck proposal: report](#) (2026-06-04 13:48)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- South Korea has proposed a hydrogen-powered truck proj...

- [\(2nd LD\) Nvidia's Huang to arrive in S. Korea on Friday for 4-day trip](#) (2026-06-04 11:47)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- Jensen Huang, chief executive officer (CEO) of U.S. ch...

- [Japanese auteur Kore-eda wants viewers to imagine through 'Sheep in the Box'](#) (2026-06-04 10:24)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- Japanese filmmaker Hirokazu Kore-eda said Thursday he ...

- [S. Korean, Turkish FMs discuss investment, nuclear energy, regional issues](#) (2026-06-04 10:07)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- Foreign Minister Cho Hyun and his Turkish counterpart,...

- [S. Korea, New Zealand hold vice-ministerial talks to discuss energy ties, regional security](#) (2026-06-04 09:46)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- Vice foreign ministers of South Korea and New Zealand ...

- [Top swimmers eye more medals, records at Asian Games](#) (2026-06-04 09:43)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- Hwang Sun-woo and Kim Woo-min, the two alpha dogs in S...

- [Minor party leader Cho Kuk offers to step down over election defeat](#) (2026-06-04 08:21)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- Cho Kuk, leader of the minor Rebuilding Korea Party, s...

- [PPP floor leader calls for parliamentary probe into shortage of ballots in local elections](#) (2026-06-04 08:03)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- The floor leader of the main opposition People Power P...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-06-04 08:00)

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

- [Senior gov't official discusses vaccine cooperation with GAVI chair](#) (2026-06-04 07:56)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- First Vice Minister of Government Policy Coordination ...

- [Payments at Starbucks down over 10 bln won in May, after 'Tank Day' event](#) (2026-06-04 07:34)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- Payments at Starbucks Korea plunged over 10 billion wo...

- [\(LEAD\) S. Korea's currency hits over 2-month low on renewed tension in Middle East](#) (2026-06-04 07:31)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean won sharply weakened against the U.S....

- [\(2nd LD\) KOSPI snaps 3-day rise on profit-taking; won sharply down](#) (2026-06-04 07:31)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks fell Thursday, snapping a three-se...

- [\(4th LD\) N. Korea's Kim inspects new nuclear facility, vows to 'exponentially' bolster nuclear forces](#) (2026-06-04 07:28)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has visited a newly la...

- [S. Korean, U.S. Marine chiefs discuss expanding military cooperation, joint drills](#) (2026-06-04 07:24)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- The chiefs of the South Korean and U.S. Marine Corps h...

- [Former NCT member Mark co-founds K-pop agency](#) (2026-06-04 07:22)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- Mark, a former member of K-pop supergroup NCT, has est...

- [Climate minister stresses need to lower industrial electricity rates to boost S. Korea's competitiveness](#) (2026-06-04 07:20)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- Climate Minister Kim Sung-whan on Thursday called for ...

- [\(LEAD\) KOSPI snaps 3-day rise on profit-taking; won sharply down](#) (2026-06-04 07:07)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks fell Thursday, snapping a three-se...

- [\(LEAD\) S. Korea assesses nuclear cooperation consultations with U.S. as success](#) (2026-06-04 06:57)

SEOUL/WASHINGTON, June 4 (Yonhap) -- South Korea on Thursday assessed this week'...

- [\(LEAD\) Lee says will humbly accept public sentiment reflected in local election results](#) (2026-06-04 06:44)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung said Thursday he would "humbly...

- [KOSPI snaps 3-day rise amid renewed Iran tensions; won sharply down](#) (2026-06-04 06:35)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks dipped Thursday to end their rise ...

- [\(URGENT\) Seoul shares snap 3-day winning streak amid renewed Iran tensions; won sharply down](#) (2026-06-04 06:33)

(END)

- [Gov't to compensate family of N. Korean defector-turned journalist abducted by Pyongyang](#) (2026-06-04 06:33)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- The family of a North Korean defector-turned-journalis...

- [Distressed discount retailer Homeplus to shutter 37 stores](#) (2026-06-04 06:22)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- Financially troubled discount chain Homeplus Co. is sh...

- [\(LEAD\) Jensen Huang to arrive in S. Korea on Friday for 4-day trip](#) (2026-06-04 06:09)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- Jensen Huang, chief executive officer (CEO) of U.S. ch...

- [Tesla tops imported car sales for 4th month in May](#) (2026-06-04 06:03)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- Tesla remained at the top of South Korea's imported ca...

- [S. Korea to inject 22.5 bln won until 2029 to develop AI models for R&D;](#) (2026-06-04 06:01)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- South Korea plans to invest 22.5 billion won (US\$14.7 ...

- [Regulator to set up AI-backed insurance fraud prevention system](#) (2026-06-04 06:00)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- The country's financial regulator said Thursday that i...

- [S. Korea wins \\$2.8 bln deal for U.S. LNG offshore plant project](#) (2026-06-04 05:43)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- South Korea has won a US\$2.8 billion deal to develop a...

- [Unification minister floats 4-way peace talks involving 2 Koreas, U.S., China](#) (2026-06-04 05:38)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- Unification Minister Chung Dong-young on Thursday prop...

- [Lee says will humbly accept public sentiment reflected in local election results](#) (2026-06-04 05:33)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung said Thursday he would "humbly...

- [Investigators question Shincheonji sect leader over suspicious ties to opposition party](#) (2026-06-04 05:25)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- Investigators on Thursday questioned the founder of th...

- [\(URGENT\) Lee says will actively cooperate with new local governments regardless of political affiliation](#) (2026-06-04 05:17)

(END)

- [\(URGENT\) Lee says will humbly accept public sentiment reflected in local election results](#) (2026-06-04 05:16)

(END)

- [\(URGENT\) Lee expresses regret over ballot shortage in local elections; calls for accountability](#) (2026-06-04 05:13)

(END)

- [\(LEAD\) U.S. reaffirms tariff rate no greater for S. Korea than agreed under bilateral trade deal: minister](#) (2026-06-04 05:12)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- Industry Minister Kim Jung-kwan said Thursday his U.S....

- [Hanwha Aerospace raided over deadly factory fire](#) (2026-06-04 05:11)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- Labor authorities raided defense company Hanwha Aerosp...

- [Gov't to create 2 tln won worth of public sector demand for drones](#) (2026-06-04 05:05)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- The government will create 2 trillion won (US\$1.3 bill...

- [Hyundai, Kia's U.S. sales up 2.7 pct in May on eco-friendly vehicles](#) (2026-06-04 05:03)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- Hyundai Motor Group said Thursday its U.S. sales rose ...

- [Today in Korean history](#) (2026-06-04 05:00)

June 5

- [Gov't vows to utilize tariff-rate quotas, reserve releases to tackle inflation](#) (2026-06-04 05:00)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- South Korea will utilize tariff-rate quotas and reserv...

- [S. Korea to expand supply chain for laver exports amid rising global demand](#) (2026-06-04 05:00)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- The government unveiled Thursday a set of measures aim...

- [S. Korea neutralized by pressing defense of El Salvador in last World Cup tuneup](#) (2026-06-04 04:39)

PROVO, United States, June 3 (Yonhap) -- Only days after enjoying a goal fest, S...

- [\(LEAD\) K League MVP announces presence with free kick goal in World Cup tuneup](#) (2026-06-04 04:31)

PROVO, United States, June 3 (Yonhap) -- Before leaving for the national team's ...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-06-04 04:30)

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

- [Watchdog sharply cuts penalties on 5 banks over mis-selling of HK-tied derivatives](#) (2026-06-04 04:13)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- Five banks were slapped with some 600 billion won (US\$...

- [Coach sees narrow win in tuneup as important learning experience for World Cup](#) (2026-06-04 03:54)

PROVO, United States, June 3 (Yonhap) -- After South Korea escaped with a narrow...

- [K League MVP announces presence with free kick goal in World Cup tuneup](#) (2026-06-04 03:32)

PROVO, United States, June 3 (Yonhap) -- Before leaving for the national team's ...

- [\(LEAD\) S. Korea beat El Salvador in final match before World Cup](#) (2026-06-04 03:06)

PROVO, United States, June 3 (Yonhap) -- South Korea edged out El Salvador 1-0 o...

- [S. Korea beat El Salvador in final match before World Cup](#) (2026-06-04 02:59)

PROVO, United States, June 3 (Yonhap) -- South Korea edged out El Salvador 1-0 o...

- [\(ROUNDUP\) Ruling party wins landslide in local elections despite losing Seoul to incumbent mayor](#) (2026-06-04 02:47)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- The ruling Democratic Party (DP) clinched a resounding...

- [S. Korea, U.S. commit to pursuing 'tangible' outcomes on nuclear cooperation as quickly as possible: State Dept.](#) (2026-06-04 02:42)

WASHINGTON, June 3 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and the United States agreed to pursu...

- [San Francisco's Lee Jung-hoo ties career high with 11-game hitting streak](#) (2026-06-04 02:38)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- Lee Jung-hoo of the San Francisco Giants has equaled h...

- [Seoul shares sharply down late Thu. morning on renewed Iran tensions; won sharply down](#) (2026-06-04 02:30)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks traded sharply lower Thursday morn...

- [Police identify over 4,000 election law suspects in local election crackdown](#) (2026-06-04 02:28)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- Police have identified more than 4,000 people suspecte...

- [\(3rd LD\) N. Korea's Kim inspects new nuclear facility, vows to 'exponentially' bolster nuclear forces](#) (2026-06-04 02:27)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has visited a newly la...

- [\(LEAD\) \(News Focus\) Lee gains stronger mandate as ruling party scores landslide victory in local elections](#) (2026-06-04 02:18)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung received a significant boost t...

- [\(4th LD\) Ruling party wins landslide in local elections despite losing Seoul to incumbent mayor](#) (2026-06-04 02:15)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- The ruling Democratic Party (DP) clinched a resounding...

- [\(3rd LD\) Incumbent Seoul Mayor Oh wins reelection to secure 5th term](#) (2026-06-04 02:12)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- Incumbent Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon of the People Power P...

- [Court denies suspension of exit ban against U.S. scholar under probe for defaming Lee](#) (2026-06-04 02:05)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- A Seoul court on Thursday rejected a request for a sus...

- [Defense ministry cites OPCON transfer drive as key achievement marking Lee gov't's 1st year](#) (2026-06-04 02:03)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- The defense ministry on Thursday cited its consistent ...

- [\(LEAD\) Hanwha Aerospace to suspend production lines after deadly explosion](#) (2026-06-04 01:58)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- Hanwha Aerospace Co., a defense affiliate of Hanwha Gr...

- [Jensen Huang to meet executives from Krafton during Seoul visit: sources](#) (2026-06-04 01:21)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- The head of U.S. chip giant Nvidia Corp., Jensen Huang...

- [\(2nd LD\) Incumbent Seoul Mayor Oh wins reelection to secure 5th term](#) (2026-06-04 01:16)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- Incumbent Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon of the People Power P...

- [Zombie thriller 'Colony' hits 4 mln admissions](#) (2026-06-04 01:14)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- The Korean film "Colony" continued its upward streak, ...

- [\(URGENT\) Ruling DP wins 9 parliamentary seats, main opposition PPP takes 4, independent claims 1 in by-elections](#) (2026-06-04 01:11)

(END)

- [\(URGENT\) Ruling DP wins 12 mayoral, gubernatorial seats; main opposition PPP takes 4](#) (2026-06-04 01:09)

(END)

- [S. Korea's currency hits over 2-month low on renewed tension in Middle East](#) (2026-06-04 01:08)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean won sharply weakened against the U.S....

- [\(LEAD\) Finance minister vows to take 'immediate measures' over excessive FX volatility](#) (2026-06-04 00:52)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's finance minister on Thursday vowed to ta...

- [Trade minister calls for protection of balance of interests secured through S. Korea-U.S. tariff deal in meeting with USTR](#) (2026-06-04 00:50)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- South Korean Trade Minister Yeo Han-koo has urged the ...

- [PM calls for expanding communication with newly elected heads of local governments](#) (2026-06-04 00:48)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- Prime Minister Kim Min-seok asked the government Thurs...

- [\(LEAD\) Incumbent Seoul Mayor Oh leads in local election race; DP's Chong concedes defeat](#) (2026-06-04 00:45)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- Incumbent Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon narrowly led Democrat...

- [Hanwha Aerospace suspends operations at all plants after deadly explosion](#) (2026-06-04 00:35)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- Hanwha Aerospace Co., a defense affiliate of Hanwha Gr...

- [\(URGENT\) DP Seoul Mayor candidate Chong concedes defeat in local election race](#) (2026-06-04 00:34)

(END)

- [Finance minister vows to take 'immediate measures' over excessive FX volatility](#) (2026-06-04 00:32)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's finance minister on Thursday vowed to ta...

- [\(LEAD\) Election watchdog rules out postponing election, revote after ballot shortage in Seoul](#) (2026-06-04 00:31)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- The election watchdog said Thursday a shortage of ball...

- [\(LEAD\) Seoul shares open sharply lower on Wall Street losses, renewed Iran tension; won falls](#) (2026-06-04 00:28)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks opened sharply lower Thursday, tra...

- [Trade minister calls for 'favorable' treatment to S. Korean firms under EU steel safeguard scheme](#) (2026-06-04 00:25)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- Trade Minister Yeo Han-koo has called on the European ...

- [Nvidia's Jensen Huang to throw out ceremonial 1st pitch at KBO game](#) (2026-06-04 00:21)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- Nvidia Corp. CEO Jensen Huang will throw out the cerem...

- [Incumbent Seoul Mayor Oh leads DP's Chong in tight local election race](#) (2026-06-04 00:21)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- Incumbent Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon narrowly led Democrat...

- [S. Korea, China agree to add 70 flights per week amid growing exchanges](#) (2026-06-04 00:10)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and China have agreed to increase the freq...

- [Seoul shares open sharply lower on Wall Street losses, renewed Iran tension](#) (2026-06-04 00:02)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks opened sharply lower Thursday, tra...

- [\(URGENT\) Seoul shares open 2.02 pct lower on Wall Street losses, renewed Iran tension](#) (2026-06-04 00:01)

(END)

- [Presidential chief of staff, 2 incumbent ministers being considered as next PM: sources](#) (2026-06-03 23:59)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung was in the final stage of sele...

- [\(2nd LD\) N. Korea's Kim inspects new nuclear facility, vows to 'exponentially' bolster nuclear forces](#) (2026-06-03 23:59)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has visited a newly la...

- [Election watchdog says ballot shortage not cause for postponing election](#) (2026-06-03 23:23)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- The election watchdog said Thursday a shortage of ball...

- [KBO reaches 5 mln fans in record-breaking fashion](#) (2026-06-03 23:18)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean baseball league has topped 5 million ...

- [\(3rd LD\) Ruling DP headed for landslide victory in local elections; Seoul mayoral race too close to call](#) (2026-06-03 22:44)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- The ruling Democratic Party (DP) was poised for a domi...

- [\(LEAD\) N. Korea's Kim inspects new nuclear material production facility: KCNA](#) (2026-06-03 22:27)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has visited a newly la...

- [\(URGENT\) PPP's Oh Se-hoon overtakes DP's Chong Won-o in Seoul mayoral race, leading 48.66 pct to 48.62 pct as over 93 pct of votes counted](#) (2026-06-03 22:24)

(END)

- [\(EDITORIAL from Korea JoongAng Daily on June 4\)](#) (2026-06-03 22:01)

The local government leaders elected Wednesday face difficult challenges. The sa...

- [\(EDITORIAL from The Korea Times on June 4\)](#) (2026-06-03 22:00)

A year after Lee Jae Myung won the presidency in a snap election, voters cast ba...

- [\(EDITORIAL from The Korea Herald on June 4\)](#) (2026-06-03 21:59)

Domestic consumer prices continue to rise amid the fallout from the Middle East ...

- [Top headlines in major S. Korean newspapers](#) (2026-06-03 21:59)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- The following are the top headlines in major South Kor...

- [N. Korea's Kim inspects new nuclear material production facility: KCNA](#) (2026-06-03 21:23)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has visited a newly la...

- [\(URGENT\) N. Korea's Kim says Pyongyang finalized plan to strengthen nuclear forces exponentially: KCNA](#) (2026-06-03 21:17)

(END)

- [\(URGENT\) N. Korea's Kim inspects nuclear material production facility Wednesday: KCNA](#) (2026-06-03 21:06)

(END)

- [S. Korea's foreign reserves drop in May on FX market-stabilizing measures](#) (2026-06-03 21:00)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's foreign reserves fell slightly last mont...

- [\(2nd LD\) Ruling DP headed for landslide victory in local elections](#) (2026-06-03 18:35)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- The ruling Democratic Party (DP) was poised for a swee...

- [\(News Focus\) Lee gains stronger mandate as ruling party scores landslide victory in local elections](#) (2026-06-03 18:25)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung received a significant boost t...

- [\(LEAD\) Ruling DP headed for landslide victory in local elections](#) (2026-06-03 17:25)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- The ruling Democratic Party (DP) was poised for a swee...

- [Ruling DP projected to win high-stakes local elections seen as key test for president](#) (2026-06-03 15:32)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- The ruling Democratic Party (DP) was poised to win Wed...

- [Turnout in local elections tentatively tallied at 61 pct, 2nd highest to date](#) (2026-06-03 15:30)

SEOUL, June 4 (Yonhap) -- Turnout in the local elections was tentatively tallied...

- [\(URGENT\) Tentative final turnout in local elections tallied at 61 pct: NEC](#) (2026-06-03 14:58)

(END)

- [\(2nd LD\) Election watchdog apologizes to public for ballot shortage in local elections](#) (2026-06-03 14:11)

SEOUL, June 3 (Yonhap) -- The National Election Commission (NEC) issued a public...

- [\(LEAD\) Election watchdog apologizes to public for ballot shortage in local elections](#) (2026-06-03 13:05)

SEOUL, June 3 (Yonhap) -- The National Election Commission (NEC) issued a public...

- [Personal info of Tving users leaked](#) (2026-06-03 13:01)

SEOUL, June 3 (Yonhap) -- Tving, the streaming platform of content giant CJ ENM ...

- [Lee's chief of staff makes all-out efforts to support Seoul's push to win Canadian submarine deal](#) (2026-06-03 11:46)

SEOUL, June 3 (Yonhap) -- Presidential chief of staff Kang Hoon-sik said Wednesd...

- [\(3rd LD\) Ruling DP projected to win high-stakes local elections seen as key test for president](#) (2026-06-03 11:09)

SEOUL, June 3 (Yonhap) -- The ruling Democratic Party (DP) was poised to win Wed...

- [\(4th LD\) Turnout in local elections surpasses 60 pct: NEC](#) (2026-06-03 10:34)

SEOUL, June 3 (Yonhap) -- Turnout in Wednesday's local elections surpassed 60 pe...

- [\(URGENT\) Turnout in local elections surpasses 60 pct: NEC](#) (2026-06-03 10:21)

(END)

- [Ballot shortages prompt voting to halt at some polling stations in Songpa Ward](#) (2026-06-03 10:16)

SEOUL, June 3 (Yonhap) -- Voting in Wednesday's local elections was temporarily ...

- [\(2nd LD\) Ruling DP projected to win at least 10 of 16 key local election races: exit polls](#) (2026-06-03 10:13)

SEOUL, June 3 (Yonhap) -- The ruling Democratic Party (DP) was projected to win ...

- [\(LEAD\) Ruling DP projected to win at least 10 of 16 key local election races: exit polls](#) (2026-06-03 09:36)

SEOUL, June 3 (Yonhap) -- The ruling Democratic Party (DP) was projected to win ...

- [\(URGENT\) Ruling DP wins 11 key races against main opposition PPP's 1: KBS-MBC-SBS exit poll](#) (2026-06-03 09:14)

(END)

- [\(URGENT\) Former PPP leader Han Dong-hoon wins parliamentary by-election in Busan: JTBC exit poll](#) (2026-06-03 09:11)

(END)

- [Ruling DP projected to win 10 of 16 key local election races: JTBC exit poll](#) (2026-06-03 09:10)

SEOUL, June 3 (Yonhap) -- The ruling Democratic Party (DP) was projected to win ...

- [\(URGENT\) DP candidate Jeon Jae-soo wins Busan mayoral race against PPP's Park Heong-joon: JTBC exit poll \(2026-06-03 09:09\)](#)

(END)

- [\(URGENT\) DP candidate Chong Won-o wins Seoul mayoral race against incumbent Oh Se-hoon of PPP: JTBC exit poll \(2026-06-03 09:06\)](#)

(END)

- [\(URGENT\) Ruling DP wins 10 key local election races against main opposition PPP's 1: JTBC exit poll \(2026-06-03 09:03\)](#)

(END)

- [Police receive 312 voting-related reports on election day \(2026-06-03 09:02\)](#)

SEOUL, June 3 (Yonhap) -- Police said Wednesday they received a total of 312 vot...

- [S. Korea vows to protect trade interests after U.S. proposes forced labor-linked tariffs \(2026-06-03 08:49\)](#)

SEOUL, June 3 (Yonhap) -- Cheong Wa Dae said Wednesday the government will do it...

- [\(LEAD\) S. Korea, U.S. discuss 'timeline' for talks on nuclear-powered subs, nuclear energy cooperation \(2026-06-03 08:18\)](#)

SEOUL, June 3 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and the United States on Wednesday discuss...

- [OECD revises up S. Korea's 2026 growth outlook to 2.6 pct \(2026-06-03 07:00\)](#)

SEOUL, June 3 (Yonhap) -- The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Developm...

- [\(3rd LD\) Voter turnout hits 51.9 pct as of 3 p.m. \(2026-06-03 06:29\)](#)

SEOUL, June 3 (Yonhap) -- Turnout in Wednesday's local elections reached 51.9 pe...

- [\(2nd LD\) S. Koreans vote in high-stakes local elections seen as key test for Lee \(2026-06-03 05:10\)](#)

SEOUL, June 3 (Yonhap) -- South Koreans voted Wednesday in high-stakes local ele...

- [\(2nd LD\) Voter turnout hits 46 pct as of 1 p.m., highest on record \(2026-06-03 05:05\)](#)

SEOUL, June 3 (Yonhap) -- Turnout in Wednesday's local elections reached 46 perc...

- [Today in Korean history \(2026-06-03 05:00\)](#)

June 4

- [\(LEAD\) Voter turnout at 15 pct as of 11 a.m. \(2026-06-03 04:21\)](#)

SEOUL, June 3 (Yonhap) -- Turnout in Wednesday's local elections stood at 15 per...

- [S. Korea, U.S. continue security talks for 2nd day with uranium enrichment rights in focus](#) (2026-06-03 04:20)

SEOUL, June 3 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and the United States continued talks on t...

- [KBO-leading Twins sign new pitcher Rios, cut Chirinos](#) (2026-06-03 02:24)

SEOUL, June 3 (Yonhap) -- The defending South Korean baseball champions LG Twins...

- [\(LEAD\) S. Koreans head to polls in local elections](#) (2026-06-03 01:42)

SEOUL, June 3 (Yonhap) -- South Koreans hit the polls Wednesday to elect mayors,...

- [Foreign hotel bookings in Busan surge ahead of BTS concert](#) (2026-06-03 01:33)

SEOUL, June 3 (Yonhap) -- The number of hotel reservations booked by foreign tou...

- [Voter turnout at 7.4 pct as of 9 a.m.](#) (2026-06-03 01:16)

SEOUL, June 3 (Yonhap) -- Turnout in Wednesday's local elections stood at 7.4 pe...

- [Sidecar activations on main bourse hit highest since 2008 financial crisis](#) (2026-06-03 01:13)

SEOUL, June 3 (Yonhap) -- The total number of buy- and sell-side sidecars trigge...

- [4 robot-related firms' stocks jump 155 pct this year amid physical AI boom](#) (2026-06-03 00:57)

SEOUL, June 3 (Yonhap) -- Four robot-related companies listed on South Korea's m...

- [N. Korea slams USFK commander's 'dagger' remark on S. Korea](#) (2026-06-03 00:50)

SEOUL, June 3 (Yonhap) -- North Korea on Wednesday criticized a recent remark by...

- [Police identify all 5 victims killed in Hanwha plant explosion](#) (2026-06-03 00:31)

DAEJEON, June 3 (Yonhap) -- Police said Wednesday they have identified all five ...

- [Veteran midfielder gearing up for final World Cup](#) (2026-06-03 00:25)

HERRIMAN, United States, June 2 (Yonhap) -- Midfielder Lee Jae-sung is preparing...

- [\(EDITORIAL from Korea JoongAng Daily on June 3\)](#) (2026-06-02 23:40)

Today is Election Day for Korea's June 3 local elections. Voters will choose gov...

- [\(EDITORIAL from The Korea Times on June 3\)](#) (2026-06-02 23:40)

Less than a week after three died when a section of the Seosomun Overpass collap...

- [\(EDITORIAL from The Korea Herald on June 3\)](#) (2026-06-02 23:40)

A record can flatter. The 23.51 percent early voting turnout ahead of South Kore...

- [Top headlines in major S. Korean newspapers](#) (2026-06-02 23:40)

SEOUL, June 3 (Yonhap) -- The following are the top headlines in major South Kor...

- [S. Koreans head to polls in local elections](#) (2026-06-02 21:00)

SEOUL, June 3 (Yonhap) -- South Koreans hit the polls Wednesday to elect mayors,...

- [Unification Minister Chung heads to Ulaanbaatar Dialogue for security talks](#) (2026-06-02 21:00)

SEOUL, June 3 (Yonhap) -- Unification Minister Chung Dong-young will travel to M...

- [USTR points to S. Korea's steel industry as he defends Trump's tariff policy](#) (2026-06-02 20:15)

WASHINGTON, June 2 (Yonhap) -- U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Jamieson Greer c...

- [USTR says U.S. will release results of Section 301 trade investigations over coming weeks](#) (2026-06-02 18:38)

WASHINGTON, June 2 (Yonhap) -- U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Jamieson Greer s...

- [\(4th LD\) Nvidia chief, SK Group's Chey meet in Taipei to discuss AI memory chip cooperation](#) (2026-06-02 12:21)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- Jensen Huang, chief executive officer of U.S. chip gia...

- [\(LEAD\) Nat'l security adviser meets U.S. under secretary of state for talks on security](#) (2026-06-02 11:12)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- National Security Adviser Wi Sung-lac met with visitin...

- [\(3rd LD\) Nvidia chief, SK Group Chey meet in Taipei to discuss AI memory chip cooperation](#) (2026-06-02 10:09)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- Jensen Huang, chief executive officer of U.S. chip gia...

- [World No. 3 Kim Hyo-joo headlines S. Korean contingent at LPGA major](#) (2026-06-02 08:49)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- Kim Hyo-joo, world No. 3 in women's golf with two LPGA...

- [Cabinet passes bill to strengthen self-reliance of semiconductors in defense systems](#) (2026-06-02 08:39)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- The Cabinet on Tuesday approved a bill aimed at suppor...

- [\(2nd LD\) S. Korea, U.S. wrap up 1st day of security talks on nuclear-powered submarine](#) (2026-06-02 08:38)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and the United States launched new high-pr...

- [JCS chief inspects readiness posture at coastal, riverine units](#) (2026-06-02 08:19)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) Chairman Gen. Jin Yong-sun...

- [\(2nd LD\) Nvidia chief, SK Group Chey meet in Taipei to discuss AI memory chip cooperation](#) (2026-06-02 08:07)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- Jensen Huang, chief executive officer of U.S. chip gia...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-06-02 08:06)

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

- [\(LEAD\) S. Korea, Canada discuss stronger space, defense cooperation amid submarine bidding race](#) (2026-06-02 08:02)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and Canada have discussed deeper partnersh...

- [Lee meets African FMs, expresses hope for regular summit with African leaders](#) (2026-06-02 08:01)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Tuesday met with foreign mi...

- [SK Group to double wafer production cap over next 5 yrs, says chairman](#) (2026-06-02 07:50)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- SK Group Chairman Chey Tae-won said during his visit t...

- [\(2nd LD\) Seoul shares again end at record high on Samsung's performance](#) (2026-06-02 07:47)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks closed at a fresh high of above th...

- [U.S. scholar under probe for defaming Lee files suit against travel ban](#) (2026-06-02 07:33)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- Morse Tan, a Korean American professor accused of defa...

- [S. Korean, Turkish FMs to hold talks this week on bilateral ties, regional issues](#) (2026-06-02 07:18)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- Foreign Minister Cho Hyun is scheduled to meet with hi...

- [\(2nd LD\) Lee orders prompt action to stabilize prices, warns against market cornering](#) (2026-06-02 06:59)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Tuesday instructed official...

- [\(LEAD\) Seoul shares again end at record high on Samsung's performance](#) (2026-06-02 06:59)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks closed at a fresh high of above th...

- [\(LEAD\) S. Korea, U.S. begin talks on nuclear-powered submarine, other security initiatives from summit agreements](#) (2026-06-02 06:57)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and the United States launched their first...

- [Senior U.S. diplomat voices optimism over security cooperation talks with S. Korea](#) (2026-06-02 06:52)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- A senior U.S. diplomat visiting Seoul expressed optimi...

- [Seoul shares again end at record high on Samsung's performance](#) (2026-06-02 06:46)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks closed at a fresh high of above th...

- [Rival parties make final push for support on eve of local elections](#) (2026-06-02 06:41)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- The ruling and opposition parties made last-ditch appe...

- [\(URGENT\) Seoul shares again end at record high on Samsung](#) (2026-06-02 06:33)

(END)

- [Cabinet approves revised labor law allowing hourly use of paid annual leave](#) (2026-06-02 06:18)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- The Cabinet approved Tuesday a revised labor law allow...

- [\(LEAD\) Gov't extends public-private crude oil swap system until end-June](#) (2026-06-02 06:12)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- The government extended the operation of its crude oil...

- [Second vice finance minister heads to Paris for OECD meeting](#) (2026-06-02 06:00)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- Second Vice Finance Minister Huh Chang departed for Pa...

- [\(LEAD\) Nvidia chief, SK Group Chey meet in Taipei to discuss AI memory chip cooperation](#) (2026-06-02 05:44)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- Jensen Huang, chief executive officer of U.S. chip gia...

- [\(LEAD\) S. Korea asks Libya to support greater presence of Korean firms in African nation](#) (2026-06-02 05:43)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- South Korea has asked Libya to support the expansion o...

- [Gov't extends public-private crude oil swap system until end-June](#) (2026-06-02 05:36)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- The government extended the operation of its crude oil...

- [S. Korean FM holds talks with 11 African counterparts on cooperation, development issues](#) (2026-06-02 05:36)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- Foreign Minister Cho Hyun has held a series of one-on-...

- [BTS to release special vinyl to mark 13th anniversary](#) (2026-06-02 05:22)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- K-pop sensation BTS will release a limited-edition vin...

- [\(LEAD\) Singer Psy referred to prosecution over alleged medical law violation](#) (2026-06-02 05:14)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- Singer-rapper Psy has been referred to prosecutors on ...

- [Today in Korean history](#) (2026-06-02 05:00)

June 3

- [Samsung Heavy secures 4.3 trillion-won FLNG deal](#) (2026-06-02 04:46)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Heavy Industries Co., a major South Korean shi...

- [Gov't to streamline regulations for imports of key semiconductor manufacturing equipment](#) (2026-06-02 04:42)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- The government will streamline import procedures for e...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-06-02 04:30)

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

- [S. Korea selected as chair of 2027 Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting](#) (2026-06-02 02:59)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- South Korea will host the Antarctic Treaty Consultativ...

- [Hanwha Aerospace partially suspends Daejeon factory following deadly explosion](#) (2026-06-02 02:58)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- Hanwha Aerospace Co., a defense affiliate under Hanwha...

- [\(LEAD\) Lee orders prompt action to stabilize prices, warns against market cornering](#) (2026-06-02 02:54)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Tuesday instructed official...

- [Arrest warrant sought for factory owner over alleged assault of foreign workers](#) (2026-06-02 02:48)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- Police and labor authorities said Tuesday they have fi...

- [Singer Psy referred to prosecution over alleged medical law violation](#) (2026-06-02 02:45)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- Singer-rapper Psy has been referred to prosecutors on ...

- [Naver Cloud, Nvidia to join hands to build global AI factory: CEO](#) (2026-06-02 02:41)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- The cloud subsidiary of Naver Corp. will join hands wi...

- [Arms agency to provide technical support for probe into Hanwha factory blast](#) (2026-06-02 02:39)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- The arms procurement agency said Tuesday its affiliate...

- [\(LEAD\) N. Korea's Kim visits key political school for party cadres on its 80th founding anniv.](#) (2026-06-02 02:37)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has visited a key poli...

- [S. Korea asks Libya to support greater presence of Korean firms in African nation](#) (2026-06-02 02:36)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- South Korea has asked Libya to support the expansion o...

- [S. Korea, Africa hold biz forum to discuss economic cooperation](#) (2026-06-02 02:34)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- Hundreds of business leaders and government officials ...

- [Seoul shares sharply down late Tue. morning on profit-taking](#) (2026-06-02 02:28)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks traded lower late Tuesday morning ...

- [\(Yonhap Interview\) Egyptian FM proposes Korean industrial zone on Suez Canal](#) (2026-06-02 02:27)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- Egypt's top diplomat on Tuesday proposed South Korean ...

- [Police launch joint inspection of Hanwha Aerospace plant after deadly explosion](#) (2026-06-02 02:23)

DAEJEON/SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- Police launched a joint inspection Tuesday of ...

- [S. Korea's content industry exports hit record US\\$14.9 bln in 2025](#) (2026-06-02 02:12)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's content industry exports hit a record hi...

- [Lee orders prompt action to stabilize prices, warns against market cornering](#) (2026-06-02 02:11)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Tuesday instructed official...

- [S. Korea, U.S. begin inaugural talks on security initiatives from summit agreements](#) (2026-06-02 01:45)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and the United States launched their first...

- [Civil rights commission recommends gov't agencies share English test scores for hiring](#) (2026-06-02 01:22)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- The state civil rights commission has recommended that...

- [Nvidia's Jensen Huang to appear on 'You Quiz on the Block'](#) (2026-06-02 01:08)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- Jensen Huang, chief executive officer (CEO) of U.S. ch...

- [National security adviser to meet U.S. under secretary of state](#) (2026-06-02 01:06)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- National Security Adviser Wi Sung-lac was set to meet ...

- [\(3rd LD\) Consumer prices rise 3.1 pct in May on soaring fuel prices](#) (2026-06-02 01:00)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's consumer prices rose more than 3 percent...

- [Inflation expected to stay above 3 pct amid prolonged Middle East tensions: BOK](#) (2026-06-02 00:51)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- Inflation is projected to remain above the 3 percent l...

- [Lee urges stern punishment for intentional spreading of false information](#) (2026-06-02 00:35)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Tuesday called for stern pu...

- [N. Korea's Kim visits key political school for party cadres on its 80th founding anniv.](#) (2026-06-02 00:33)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has visited a key poli...

- [\(LEAD\) Seoul shares open slightly lower on profit-taking](#) (2026-06-02 00:31)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks opened a tad lower Tuesday, as inv...

- [Sesame oil exports hit new record high through April on Korean food popularity](#) (2026-06-02 00:29)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- Exports of sesame oil soared 37 percent in the first f...

- [S. Korea, Canada discuss stronger space, defense cooperation amid submarine bidding race](#) (2026-06-02 00:27)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and Canada have discussed deeper partnersh...

- [\(2nd LD\) Consumer prices rise 3.1 pct in May on soaring fuel prices](#) (2026-06-02 00:20)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's consumer prices rose more than 3 percent...

- [Seoul shares open at record high above 8,800 as tech rally continues](#) (2026-06-02 00:04)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks opened at a fresh record high Tues...

- [Nvidia chief, SK Group Chey meet in Taipei to discuss AI memory chip cooperation](#) (2026-06-02 00:03)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- Jensen Huang, chief executive officer of U.S. chip gia...

- [S. Korea seeking momentum-building win vs. El Salvador in final World Cup tuneup](#) (2026-06-02 00:02)

Herriman, United States, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Fresh off a comfortable win over Tri...

- [\(URGENT\) Seoul shares open at record high of above 8,800 as tech rally continues](#) (2026-06-02 00:01)

(END)

- [Alcohol spending posts sharpest decline in 7 yrs in Q1 amid changing drinking culture](#) (2026-06-01 23:51)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- Alcohol expenditures in South Korea fell at the fastes...

- [Unheralded defender goes from 2nd division to final World Cup squad](#) (2026-06-01 23:46)

HERRIMAN, United States, June 1 (Yonhap) -- This time a year ago, defender Cho W...

- [\(LEAD\) Consumer prices rise 3.1 pct in May on soaring fuel prices](#) (2026-06-01 23:33)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's consumer prices rose more than 3 percent...

- [Consumer prices rise 3.1 pct in May on soaring fuel prices](#) (2026-06-01 23:00)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's consumer prices rose more than 3 percent...

- [\(URGENT\) Consumer prices up 3.1 pct in May amid Middle East war, highest in more than 2 years](#) (2026-06-01 23:00)

(END)

- [\(EDITORIAL from Korea JoongAng Daily on June 2\)](#) (2026-06-01 22:07)

Union demands for profit-sharing bonuses are spreading rapidly following Samsung...

- [\(EDITORIAL from The Korea Times on June 2\)](#) (2026-06-01 22:07)

Defense Minister Ahn Gyu-back, right, shakes hands with U.S. Defense Secretary P...

- [\(EDITORIAL from The Korea Herald on June 2\)](#) (2026-06-01 22:07)

Minister of Employment and Labor Kim Young-hoon said at a press briefing on May ...

- [Top headlines in major S. Korean newspapers](#) (2026-06-01 22:07)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- The following are the top headlines in major South Kor...

- [Corporate direct financing spikes over 13 pct in April on increased debt sale](#) (2026-06-01 21:00)

SEOUL, June 2 (Yonhap) -- Corporate direct financing increased sharply in April ...

- [\(LEAD\) Trump says Iran talks continuing 'at rapid pace,' Israel, Hezbollah won't attack each other](#) (2026-06-01 18:15)

WASHINGTON, June 1 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump said Monday that peac...

- [Trump says Iran deal will be 'good' for U.S., berates critics for 'negatively chirping'](#) (2026-06-01 14:35)

WASHINGTON, June 1 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Donald Trump said Monday peace tal...

- [\(2nd LD\) Nvidia's Jensen Huang cites robotics as potential area of investment in S. Korea](#) (2026-06-01 13:58)

TAIPEI/SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Jensen Huang, chief executive officer (CEO) of ...

- [Full text of joint statement of S. Korea-Africa Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Seoul](#) (2026-06-01 12:48)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- The following is the full text of a joint statement ad...

- [S. Korea, Africa agree to bolster strategic cooperation amid global challenges](#) (2026-06-01 12:47)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and African nations agreed Monday to stren...

- [\(5th LD\) 5 killed, 2 injured in Hanwha Aerospace explosion](#) (2026-06-01 10:18)

DAEJEON, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Five people were killed Monday while two others were...

- [\(4th LD\) 5 killed, 2 injured in Hanwha Aerospace explosion](#) (2026-06-01 09:25)

DAEJEON, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Five people were killed Monday while two others were...

- [\(Yonhap Interview\) Benin courts foreign investment with political stability, access to broader African market](#) (2026-06-01 08:44)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Benin seeks to position itself as a stable gateway to ...

- [GM Korea's May sales fall 5.9 pct on weak demand](#) (2026-06-01 08:20)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- GM Korea Co., the South Korean unit of General Motors ...

- [Hyundai Mobis' India plant damaged by fire, raising supply concerns](#) (2026-06-01 08:17)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Hyundai Mobis Co., Hyundai Motor's auto parts affiliat...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-06-01 08:00)

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

- [Booker Prize winner Yang says hopes literature will serve as lasting force in changing society](#) (2026-06-01 07:50)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Yang Shuang-zi, the 2026 winner of the prestigious Int...

- [\(2nd LD\) Seoul shares close at new high on tech rally amid AI optimism](#) (2026-06-01 07:50)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks extended a rally to a fresh all-ti...

- [Renault Korea's May sales drop 40 pct on weak demand](#) (2026-06-01 07:48)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Renault Korea Motors Co., the South Korean unit of Fra...

- [Defense minister vows assistance in probe into Hanwha Aerospace plant explosion](#) (2026-06-01 07:39)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Defense Minister Ahn Gyu-back said Monday his ministry...

- [Global sales of Hyundai Motor down in May amid production decline](#) (2026-06-01 07:37)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Hyundai Motor Co. said Monday its global sales decline...

- [Ex-President Yoon made preparations for martial law since late 2023: special counsel](#) (2026-06-01 07:33)

GWACHEON, South Korea, June 1 (Yonhap) -- A special counsel team has determined ...

- [Kia's global sales rise in May on robust overseas demand](#) (2026-06-01 07:24)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Kia Corp. said Monday its global sales rose in May fro...

- [S. Korea, U.S. to begin inaugural talks on security initiatives from summit agreements on Tues.](#) (2026-06-01 07:20)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and the United States will launch formal n...

- [Police seek exit ban on U.S. scholar for allegedly defaming Lee](#) (2026-06-01 07:14)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Police are pushing to impose a travel ban on Morse Tan...

- [Over 23,000 drug offenders rounded up last year](#) (2026-06-01 07:06)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- The government rounded up a total of 23,403 drug offen...

- [\(LEAD\) Seoul shares close at new high on tech rally amid AI optimism](#) (2026-06-01 07:02)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks extended a rally to a fresh all-ti...

- [Industry minister discusses energy, logistics cooperation with Oman official](#) (2026-06-01 07:00)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Industry Minister Kim Jung-kwan on Monday discussed wa...

- [Seoul shares close at new high on AI-driven tech rally](#) (2026-06-01 06:35)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks extended their rally to close at a...

- [\(URGENT\) Seoul shares close at new high on AI-driven tech rally](#) (2026-06-01 06:35)

(END)

- [\(2nd LD\) Lee calls for all-out efforts for rescue operations after Hanhwa Aerospace factory explosion](#) (2026-06-01 06:31)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Monday instructed governmen...

- [Political parties scale back campaigning after deadly factory explosion](#) (2026-06-01 06:31)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- The leaders of the ruling and main opposition parties ...

- [4 suspects booked in police probe into Seoul overpass collapse](#) (2026-06-01 06:21)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Four engineering company officials have been booked as...

- [Ex-KBO MVP Eric Thames says happy to be back in 'my second home'](#) (2026-06-01 06:03)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- One can take Eric Thames out of South Korea. But they ...

- [Hanwha Aerospace vows full investigation into deadly explosion at Daejeon facility](#) (2026-06-01 05:55)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Hanwha Aerospace Co., a defense affiliate of Hanwha Gr...

- [Workers at Celltrion launch first union in company's history](#) (2026-06-01 05:47)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Workers at Celltrion Inc., a South Korean bio firm, la...

- [Samsung Electronics to move U.S. headquarters from New Jersey to Texas](#) (2026-06-01 05:39)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Electronics Co. plans to relocate the headquar...

- [\(3rd LD\) Death toll rises to 5 in Hanwha Aerospace explosion](#) (2026-06-01 05:22)

DAEJEON, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Five people were killed Monday while two others were...

- [Korea Exchange to roll out weekly options on single heavyweight stocks](#) (2026-06-01 05:17)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- The Korea Exchange, South Korea's main bourse operator...

- [\(LEAD\) Nvidia's Jensen Huang to meet S. Korean executives this week](#) (2026-06-01 05:16)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Jensen Huang, chief executive officer (CEO) of U.S. ch...

- [\(LEAD\) Lee calls for all-out efforts for rescue operations after Hanhwa Aerospace factory explosion](#) (2026-06-01 05:09)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Monday instructed governmen...

- [PM reportedly preparing to offer resignation after local elections](#) (2026-06-01 05:00)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Prime Minister Kim Min-seok is preparing to offer his ...

- [Today in Korean history](#) (2026-06-01 05:00)

June 2

- [HD KSOE wins 1.4 tln-won order to build 8 gas carriers](#) (2026-06-01 04:56)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- HD Korea Shipbuilding & Offshore Engineering Co. (...)

- [Institutions' foreign securities holdings fall in Q1: BOK](#) (2026-06-01 04:46)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- South Korean institutions' investment in foreign secur...

- [Ex-MLB players with S. Korea ties help launch new campaign for fans](#) (2026-06-01 04:37)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- A trio of former Major League Baseball (MLB) players w...

- [Samsung Electronics' market cap surpasses 2 quadrillion won](#) (2026-06-01 04:33)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- The market capitalization of top-cap Samsung Electroni...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-06-01 04:30)

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

- [BOK chief says strong growth gives more room to focus on inflation](#) (2026-06-01 04:19)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Bank of Korea (BOK) Gov. Shin Hyun-song said Monday th...

- [\(URGENT\) Death toll rises to 5 in Hanwha Aerospace explosion: authorities](#) (2026-06-01 04:10)

(END)

- [PM orders full mobilization of resources for rescue efforts in Hanhwa Aerospace factory explosion](#) (2026-06-01 03:47)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Prime Minister Kim Min-seok on Monday ordered the full...

- [\(2nd LD\) Death toll rises to 4 in Hanwha Aerospace explosion: police](#) (2026-06-01 03:28)

DAEJEON, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Four people were killed and two others injured Monda...

- [\(URGENT\) Death toll rises to 4 in Hanwha Aerospace explosion: police](#) (2026-06-01 03:18)  
(END)
- [\(LEAD\) 2 dead, 2 injured in explosion at Hanwha Aerospace's facility in Daejeon](#)  
(2026-06-01 03:12)  
DAEJEON, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Two people were killed and two others injured Monday...
- [Nvidia's Jensen Huang to visit Naver next week during trip to Seoul](#) (2026-06-01 03:11)  
SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Jensen Huang, the head of U.S. chip giant Nvidia Corp....
- [\(URGENT\) 2 dead, 2 injured in explosion at Hanwha Aerospace Daejeon facility](#)  
(2026-06-01 03:01)  
(END)
- [Online shopping sales up 10 pct to new record high in April on EV sales](#) (2026-06-01 03:00)  
SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Online shopping sales in South Korea jumped 10 percent...
- [Watchdog slaps fines on Trip.com on e-commerce law violations](#) (2026-06-01 03:00)  
SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- South Korea slapped a combined fine of 10 million won ...
- [Seventeen ranks 7th on Billboard's midyear top tours chart](#) (2026-06-01 02:44)  
SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- K-pop boy band Seventeen ranked seventh among the worl...
- [KRX issues buy-side sidecar for KOSPI on steep rise](#) (2026-06-01 02:42)  
SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- The Korea Exchange (KRX) on Monday activated a trading...
- [Explosion reported at Hanwha Aerospace's facility in Daejeon](#) (2026-06-01 02:35)  
DAEJEON, June 1 (Yonhap) -- An explosion was reported at Hanwha Aerospace's faci...
- [\(2nd LD\) S. Korea's monthly exports up 53 pct to record high of US\\$87.8 bln in May](#)  
(2026-06-01 02:34)  
SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's exports surged 53 percent from a year ea...
- [\(URGENT\) KRX issues buy-side sidecar on KOSPI's spike](#) (2026-06-01 02:33)  
(END)
- [Seoul shares sharply up late Mon. morning on extended tech rally](#) (2026-06-01 02:30)  
SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks traded sharply higher late Monday ...
- [\(LEAD\) S. Korean, African FMs hold meeting to discuss cooperation amid global challenges](#)  
(2026-06-01 02:21)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Foreign ministers from South Korea and dozens of Afric...

- [\(URGENT\) Explosion reported at Hanwha Aerospace's Daejeon facility](#) (2026-06-01 02:20)

(END)

- [Aegis destroyer Jeongjo the Great leaves for RIMPAC exercise](#) (2026-06-01 02:18)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- The Navy's Aegis destroyer Jeongjo the Great was set t...

- [Customs agency seizes 3,233 kg of drugs since June 2025](#) (2026-06-01 02:00)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- South Korea has seized 3,233 kilograms of drugs since ...

- [Ex-NIS chief grilled over suspected martial law role](#) (2026-06-01 01:58)

GWACHEON, South Korea, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Cho Tae-yong, a former head of the Nat...

- [S. Korea, Africa can turn challenges into opportunities through closer cooperation: FM](#) (2026-06-01 01:47)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Foreign Minister Cho Hyun on Monday called for South K...

- [Justice ministry launches new team to protect foreign workers' rights](#) (2026-06-01 01:32)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- The Ministry of Justice said Monday it has established...

- [\(LEAD\) Unionized members at Kakao to stage partial walkout next week](#) (2026-06-01 01:21)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Kakao Corp.'s labor union said Monday it will initiate...

- [DAPA successfully develops key part in laser-based anti-drone system](#) (2026-06-01 01:06)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- The state arms procurement agency said Monday it has s...

- [Otoki establishes Japan branch as part of global expansion](#) (2026-06-01 00:52)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Otoki Corp., a major South Korean food company, said M...

- [Landers looking to snap 12-game slide in KBO during 6-game home stand](#) (2026-06-01 00:49)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Having lost a franchise-worst 12 straight games, the S...

- [\(LEAD\) S. Korea's monthly exports up 53 pct to record high of US\\$87.8 bln in May](#) (2026-06-01 00:43)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's exports surged 53 percent from a year ea...

- [Unionized members at Kakao to stage partial walkout next week](#) (2026-06-01 00:38)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Kakao Corp.'s labor union said Monday it will initiate...

- [Lee's approval rating inches down to 59.1 pct: poll](#) (2026-06-01 00:26)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung's approval rating fell slightl...

- [\(LEAD\) Seoul shares open at record high on extended tech rally](#) (2026-06-01 00:24)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks opened at a fresh record high Mond...

- [N. Korea's Kim inspects Sinuiju greenhouse complex](#) (2026-06-01 00:10)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has visited a large-sc...

- [Seoul shares open at record high on extended tech rally](#) (2026-06-01 00:06)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks opened at a fresh record high Mond...

- [\(URGENT\) S. Korea's monthly chip exports soar to all-time high of US\\$37.2 bln in May](#) (2026-06-01 00:03)

(END)

- [S. Korea's monthly exports up 53 pct to record high of US\\$87.8 bln in May](#) (2026-06-01 00:02)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's exports jumped more than 50 percent from...

- [\(URGENT\) Seoul shares open at record high amid U.S.-Iran deal uncertainty](#) (2026-06-01 00:02)

(END)

- [\(URGENT\) S. Korea's monthly exports up 53 pct to record high of US\\$87.8 bln in May](#) (2026-06-01 00:00)

(END)

- [Aviation output falls at sharpest pace in 52 months in April due to higher fuel surcharges](#) (2026-05-31 23:51)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's aviation sector output fell at the sharp...

- ['Colony' tops weekend box office, breaking 3 mln admissions](#) (2026-05-31 23:43)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- The zombie thriller "Colony" topped the weekend box-of...

- [Giants' Lee Jung-hoo enjoys 1st 5-hit game in rout of Rockies](#) (2026-05-31 23:36)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Lee Jung-hoo of the San Francisco Giants has put toget...

- [Defender Cho Yu-min ruled out of World Cup with foot injury](#) (2026-05-31 23:03)

SALT LAKE CITY, United States, May 31 (Yonhap) -- Defender Cho Yu-min was ruled ...

- [S. Korean, African FMs set to hold meeting to discuss cooperation amid global challenges](#) (2026-05-31 22:58)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Foreign ministers from South Korea and dozens of Afric...

- [Joo Soo-bin blows 4-shot lead in bid for maiden LPGA win](#) (2026-05-31 22:47)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Joo Soo-bin has blown a big final-round lead in her pu...

- [\(EDITORIAL from Korea JoongAng Daily on June 1\)](#) (2026-05-31 22:01)

Early voting turnout for the June 3 local elections reached 23.51 percent, the h...

- [\(Yonhap Interview\) Tunisian FM urges S. Korean firms to expand into Africa amid supply chain disruptions](#) (2026-05-31 22:01)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- Investments in Africa will offer new and evolving busi...

- [\(EDITORIAL from The Korea Times on June 1\)](#) (2026-05-31 22:01)

The high turnout rate for the June 3 elections is good news for Korean politics....

- [\(EDITORIAL from The Korea Herald on June 1\)](#) (2026-05-31 22:00)

In April, South Korea's economy delivered a neat symmetry and an uneasy message....

- [\(Yonhap Interview\) Vilacesti chief eyes smart tech hub in Ghana linking S. Korea, Africa](#) (2026-05-31 22:00)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's prowess in smart infrastructure and inno...

- [Top headlines in major S. Korean newspapers](#) (2026-05-31 22:00)

SEOUL, June 1 (Yonhap) -- The following are the top headlines in major South Kor...

- [Senior officials of S. Korea, 50 African nations gather in Seoul to explore joint responses to global challenges](#) (2026-05-31 13:24)

SEOUL, May 31 (Yonhap) -- Senior officials from South Korea and 50 African count...

- [Love for golf grows deeper for Niemann after LIV victory in S. Korea](#) (2026-05-31 11:37)

BUSAN, May 31 (Yonhap) -- Joaquin Niemann is a golfer deeply in love with the sp...

- [\(2nd LD\) Joaquin Niemann wins LIV Golf Korea in playoff](#) (2026-05-31 10:58)

BUSAN, May 31 (Yonhap) -- Joaquin Niemann captured LIV Golf Korea in a playoff f...

- [Presidential envoy visits Canada to expand ties, back submarine bid](#) (2026-05-31 10:55)

SEOUL, May 31 (Yonhap) -- Presidential chief of staff Kang Hoon-sik departed for...

- [\(LEAD\) Joaquin Niemann wins LIV Golf Korea in playoff](#) (2026-05-31 10:05)

BUSAN, May 31 (Yonhap) -- Joaquin Niemann captured LIV Golf Korea in a playoff f...

- [Song Young-han tops S. Korean players at LIV Golf tourney at home](#) (2026-05-31 09:52)

BUSAN, May 31 (Yonhap) -- Song Young-han finished as the top South Korean at the...

- [Lee vows zero tolerance for those who defame disaster victims](#) (2026-05-31 09:50)

SEOUL, May 31 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung said Sunday he will not tolera...

- [Joaquin Niemann wins LIV Golf Korea in playoff](#) (2026-05-31 09:39)

BUSAN, May 31 (Yonhap) -- Joaquin Niemann captured LIV Golf Korea in a playoff f...

- [\(News Focus\) S. Korea seeks to highlight efforts for 'self-reliant' defense at key security forum](#) (2026-05-31 09:17)

SINGAPORE, May 31 (Yonhap) -- At a key defense forum in Singapore, Defense Minis...

- [\(LEAD\) Rival parties focus on battleground regions in last-minute campaigns for June 3 elections](#) (2026-05-31 07:32)

SEOUL, May 31 (Yonhap) -- Rival parties staged last-minute campaigns Sunday, the...

- [\(2nd LD\) S. Korea discussed bilateral military logistics support pact with Japan: defense minister](#) (2026-05-31 07:14)

SINGAPORE, May 31 (Yonhap) -- South Korea has discussed a Japan-proposed bilater...

- [Defense minister seeks U.S. congressional support for S. Korea's nuclear-powered sub project](#) (2026-05-31 06:59)

SINGAPORE, May 31 (Yonhap) -- Defense Minister Ahn Gyu-back on Sunday sought bip...

- [\(LEAD\) S. Korea discussed bilateral military logistics support pact with Japan: defense minister](#) (2026-05-31 06:32)

SINGAPORE, May 31 (Yonhap) -- South Korea has discussed a Japan-proposed bilater...

- [Police accelerate probe into deadly overpass collapse in Seoul](#) (2026-05-31 06:21)

SEOUL, May 31 (Yonhap) -- Police on Sunday accelerated their probe into last wee...

- [S. Korea discussed bilateral military logistics support pact with Japan: defense minister](#) (2026-05-31 05:47)

SINGAPORE, May 31 (Yonhap) -- South Korea has discussed a Japan-proposed bilater...

- [\(URGENT\) S. Korea discussed bilateral military logistics support pact with Japan: defense minister](#) (2026-05-31 05:29)

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- [Foreign tourists visiting Seoul jump 19 pct on-year in April](#) (2026-05-31 05:25)

SEOUL, May 31 (Yonhap) -- A total of 1.56 million foreign tourists visited Seoul...

- [\(LEAD\) S. Korean attack comes to life for win in pre-World Cup tuneup](#) (2026-05-31 05:06)

PROVO, United States, May 30 (Yonhap) -- It took South Korea more than half an h...

- [Today in Korean history](#) (2026-05-31 05:00)

June 1

- [S. Korea coach pleased with process, outcome in World Cup tuneup win](#) (2026-05-31 04:59)

PROVO, United States, May 30 (Yonhap) -- South Korea may not have been tested mu...

- [\(LEAD\) Sonny silences detractors with brace in pre-World Cup friendly](#) (2026-05-31 04:43)

PROVO, United States, May 30 (Yonhap) -- South Korean captain Son Heung-min arri...

- [S. Korean attack comes to life for win in pre-World Cup tuneup](#) (2026-05-31 04:35)

PROVO, United States, May 30 (Yonhap) -- It took South Korea more than half an h...

- [Sonny silences detractors with brace in pre-World Cup friendly](#) (2026-05-31 03:47)

PROVO, United States, May 30 (Yonhap) -- South Korean captain Son Heung-min arri...

- [\(LEAD\) S. Korea rout Trinidad and Tobago 5-0 in pre-World Cup friendly](#) (2026-05-31 03:19)

PROVO, United States, May 30 (Yonhap) -- South Korea handled Trinidad and Tobago...

- [S. Korea rout Trinidad and Tobago 5-0 in pre-World Cup friendly](#) (2026-05-31 03:05)

PROVO, United States, May 30 (Yonhap) -- South Korea handled Trinidad and Tobago...

- [N. Korea's spy chief meets chief Russian security official in Moscow](#) (2026-05-31 03:03)

SEOUL, May 31 (Yonhap) -- The chief of North Korea's spy agency has attended an ...

- [Science minister vows support to foster S. Korea as 'full-stack' AI provider](#) (2026-05-31 03:00)

SEOUL, May 31 (Yonhap) -- Science Minister Bae Kyung-hoon vowed to double down o...

- [6th S. Korean oil tanker successfully transits through Red Sea](#) (2026-05-31 02:38)

SEOUL, May 31 (Yonhap) -- A South Korean vessel has successfully transited the R...

- [CJ chairman visits 1st Olive Young store in U.S.](#) (2026-05-31 02:12)

SEOUL, May 31 (Yonhap) -- CJ Group Chairman Lee Jae-hyun visited CJ Olive Young ...

- [N. Korean FM says Pyongyang shares common position with Russia on all strategic issues: report](#) (2026-05-31 01:40)

SEOUL, May 31 (Yonhap) -- North Korea's Foreign Minister Choe Son-hui said her c...

- [Credit loans at local banks sharply rise in May amid stock rally](#) (2026-05-31 01:33)

SEOUL, May 31 (Yonhap) -- Credit loans at major South Korean banks surged in May...

- [Rival parties focus on battleground regions in last-minute campaigns for June 3 elections](#) (2026-05-31 01:09)

SEOUL, May 31 (Yonhap) -- Rival parties were to stage last-minute campaigns Sund...

- [Samsung Electronics tops automotive memory chip market in 2025: report](#) (2026-05-31 01:04)

SEOUL, May 31 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Electronics Co. became the world's leading sup...

- [Foreign net selling of KOSPI stocks hit record high in May](#) (2026-05-31 00:42)

SEOUL, May 31 (Yonhap) -- Foreign selling of South Korean stocks listed on the b...

- [\(Yonhap Interview\) Ex-MLB pitcher Park Chan-ho sees similarities between baseball and golf](#) (2026-05-31 00:40)

BUSAN, May 31 (Yonhap) -- In the days leading up to and during LIV Golf Korea, f...