



# **SOUTH KOREA SECURITY ANALYSIS REPORT**

## **AI-Assisted Open Source Intelligence Assessment**

Analysis Period: June 19, 2026 - June 26, 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.

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# Security Analysis Report: South Korea (June 19 - June 26, 2026)

## Executive Summary

The period from June 19 to June 26, 2026, saw a significant escalation in tensions on the Korean Peninsula, marked by North Korea's explicit declaration of South Korea as a "permanent hostile state" and subsequent weapons tests. In response, South Korea announced a substantial boost to its drone warfare capabilities, signaling a hardening defense posture. Concurrently, South Korea engaged in crucial diplomatic efforts, including a prime ministerial meeting with China to foster economic and strategic ties, and discussions at the G7 summit to address Korean Peninsula issues. The nation also continued to solidify its role as a burgeoning global defense exporter and faced a notable government data breach, underscoring persistent cybersecurity challenges. Maritime security in the Strait of Hormuz, while still a concern, showed signs of easing.

## Key Security Developments

- North Korea's Heightened Hostility and Weapons Tests

On June 13, 2026, North Korea issued a declaration titled "South Korea Remains an Unchanging Enemy State That Has Internalized Hostility and Confrontation," explicitly rejecting peaceful coexistence and reaffirming its position that South Korea is a permanent hostile state. This statement, reported on June 23, 2026, directly challenges previous peace initiatives. Furthermore, on June 25, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un observed major weapons tests, including a "special mission" warhead for a tactical ballistic missile, an upgraded multiple rocket launch system, and a self-propelled gun-howitzer with an extended firing range, reportedly targeting southern border areas. These actions signify a deepening military and security-focused approach by Pyongyang.

- South Korea's Major Drone Warfare Expansion

In direct response to growing North Korean military threats, South Korea's Defense Ministry announced on June 26, 2026, plans to drastically boost its drone warfare capabilities. This initiative includes training 500,000 "drone warriors" across all military branches, acquiring over 20,000 low-cost reconnaissance and attack drones,

and producing 110,000 drones by 2029. The plan also involves expanding counter-drone systems like laser and high-power microwave weapons, and integrating AI-based swarm systems and loitering munitions.

- US State Department Approves Missile Sale to South Korea

On June 10, 2026, the U.S. Department of State approved the possible sale of 70 AIM-120C-8 advanced medium-range air-to-air missiles and guidance sections to South Korea. Valued at an estimated \$292 million, this proposed sale aims to improve the Republic of Korea's air defense capabilities, deter regional aggression, and ensure interoperability with U.S. Forces.

- South Korea to Command RIMPAC 2026 Maritime Exercise

South Korea is set to take command of the world's largest maritime joint exercise, Rim of the Pacific Exercise (RIMPAC), led by the U.S. in Hawaii at the end of June 2026. This marks the first time since joining the exercise in 1990, and the first for an Asian nation, that a South Korean admiral will serve as the Combined Force Maritime Component Commander. The South Korean Navy plans to deploy elite forces, including the indigenous 3,000-ton submarine Dosan Ahn Chang-ho and the latest Aegis destroyer King Jeongjo, to showcase its operational command capabilities.

- South Korea-China Premiers' Meeting Signals Closer Ties

South Korean Prime Minister Kim Min-seok met with Chinese Premier Li Qiang in Dalian, China, on June 23, 2026, marking the first such meeting between the two nations' premiers in seven years. Both leaders expressed shared support for strengthening exchanges and agreed to pursue higher-level cooperation in political, economic, and cultural fields. Prime Minister Kim also requested China's constructive role in Korean Peninsula issues.

- Government Program Data Breach Investigation

On June 23, 2026, South Korean authorities launched an urgent investigation into a suspected data breach affecting participants in a government support program. Unusual activity was detected on electronic systems, prompting immediate intervention by cybersecurity teams. This incident highlights growing concerns about information security and the protection of personal data amidst a global rise in cyberattacks against government institutions.

- Easing Maritime Security Concerns in Strait of Hormuz

Most South Korea-linked vessels stranded in the Strait of Hormuz following recent Middle East conflicts are expected to clear the strategic waterway within days, as of June 26, 2026. Officials attributed this to improved maritime security conditions after a U.S.-Iran agreement and a coordinated vessel traffic support plan announced by the International Maritime Organization on June 23. Two South Korean-operated vessels successfully transited the strait on June 22.

- Acceleration of KDDX Stealth Destroyer Program

South Korea accelerated its KDDX next-generation destroyer program, with Hanwha Ocean selected in June 2026 as the preferred bidder for the detailed design and lead-ship construction. This approximately US\$5.7 billion project aims to deliver six stealth-guided missile destroyers optimized for multi-domain warfare, ballistic missile defense support, anti-submarine warfare, and long-range precision strike missions. The program is a significant step in enhancing the Republic of Korea Navy's force posture against North Korean and Chinese naval capabilities.

- South Korea Emerges as a Leading Global Arms Exporter

An analysis published by Politico on June 22, 2026, reported that South Korea has become the world's fastest-growing supplier of military equipment. The combined projected revenue of South Korea's largest defense companies, including Hanwha Group, Hyundai Rotem, LIG Nex1, and Korea Aerospace Industries, is expected to reach approximately \$37 billion in 2026. This growth is driven by major defense contracts with European countries like Poland, which has signed agreements worth over \$13.7 billion for tanks, rocket launchers, and howitzers.

- Jeju Forum for Peace and Prosperity Convened

South Korea hosted the Jeju Forum for Peace and Prosperity from June 24 to 26, 2026. The forum addressed critical questions regarding the future of peace on the Korean Peninsula amidst growing geopolitical competition, North Korea's expanding military capabilities, and changing alliance dynamics. India's External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar, delivered the keynote address at the opening session on June 25.

- G7 Summit Discusses Korean Peninsula Issues

During the G7 summit in France on June 17, 2026, South Korean President Lee Jae Myung urged U.S. President Donald Trump to support Seoul's efforts to resume dialogue with North Korea. Trump expressed a willingness to play a constructive role, and the G7 leaders subsequently issued a joint statement calling for North Korea to denuclearize and condemning its cryptocurrency theft and cybercrime activities.

- US-South Korea Alliance as a "Global Pivotal Alliance"

On June 21, 2026, Prime Minister Kim Min-seok stated that the Korea-U.S. alliance has evolved beyond ensuring peace and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula into a "global pivotal alliance" that jointly addresses complex global crises. He highlighted South Korea's growth into an irreplaceable partner in enhancing U.S. competitiveness, emphasizing the deep and enduring nature of the bilateral relationship.

## Geopolitical Impact and Regional Dynamics

The period from June 19-26, 2026, underscored a complex and increasingly volatile geopolitical landscape for South Korea. North Korea's explicit declaration of South Korea as a "permanent hostile state" on June 13, followed by observed weapons tests on June 25, represents a significant deterioration in inter-Korean relations, effectively dismantling the framework of potential reunification and emphasizing a military-first approach from Pyongyang. This hostile posture, coupled with North Korea's deepening military cooperation with Russia and continued advances in nuclear and missile capabilities, intensifies the security dilemma on the peninsula and contributes to growing geopolitical polarization across Northeast Asia.

South Korea's response, including the massive expansion of its drone capabilities and acceleration of the KDDX destroyer program, reflects a hardening of its defense strategy and a commitment to indigenous technological superiority. This is further bolstered by the strengthening of the U.S.-South Korea alliance, evidenced by the approved missile sale and South Korea's unprecedented command role in RIMPAC 2026. Prime Minister Kim Min-seok's characterization of the alliance as a "global pivotal alliance" on June 21 highlights its expanding scope beyond the peninsula to address broader global crises, positioning South Korea as a key U.S. partner in the Indo-Pacific. However, the alliance faces pressures from burden-sharing disputes and the U.S.'s strategic flexibility, which could potentially draw Seoul into conflicts beyond the peninsula, such as those concerning Taiwan.

Simultaneously, South Korea is navigating a delicate balancing act with China. The June 23 meeting between Prime Minister Kim Min-seok and Premier Li Qiang, the first in seven years, signals Seoul's intent to maintain robust economic and diplomatic ties with Beijing, acknowledging China's significant influence on North Korea and its role in regional stability. China, in turn, seeks to expand cooperation and enhance mutual trust. This dual-track approach, balancing its security alliance with the U.S. and its economic interdependence with China, remains a critical and potentially challenging aspect of South Korea's foreign policy, especially given China's past economic coercion and its implicit legitimization of North Korea's nuclear program. The growing alignment between Pyongyang and Moscow, which Beijing has not actively attenuated, further complicates regional dynamics and South Korea's strategic calculations.

## **Military and Defense Analysis**

South Korea's military and defense posture during this period is characterized by a robust drive towards technological superiority and enhanced deterrence against North Korea, while simultaneously expanding its global defense industry footprint. The most significant development is the announced plan on June 26, 2026, to drastically expand its drone and counter-drone capabilities. This initiative aims to train 500,000 "drone

warriors" and acquire over 20,000 low-cost, expendable drones, with a target of producing 110,000 drones by 2029. This shift underscores a move towards a more distributed and technologically advanced warfare doctrine, enabling surveillance and strike missions across all service branches.

In naval modernization, the acceleration of the KDDX next-generation stealth destroyer program is a cornerstone of South Korea's future force posture. The selection of Hanwha Ocean in June 2026 for the detailed design and lead-ship construction of six destroyers, valued at approximately US\$5.7 billion, aims to bolster multi-domain warfare, ballistic missile defense, anti-submarine warfare, and long-range precision strike capabilities. These destroyers, featuring stealth shaping and advanced anti-air warfare systems, are critical for countering North Korea's expanding missile inventories and submarine-launched weapons. Furthermore, South Korea's participation in and command of RIMPAC 2026, deploying the indigenous Dosan Ahn Chang-ho submarine and King Jeongjo Aegis destroyer, highlights its growing naval prowess and operational command capabilities on the international stage.

Defense spending trends are clearly geared towards these modernization efforts and indigenous production. The U.S. approval of a \$292 million sale of AIM-120C-8 advanced medium-range air-to-air missiles on June 10, 2026, further enhances South Korea's air defense capabilities and interoperability with U.S. forces. Beyond domestic needs, South Korea has rapidly emerged as a major global arms exporter, with its defense companies projected to reach \$37 billion in combined revenue in 2026. Significant contracts with European nations like Poland demonstrate Seoul's ability to provide reliable military equipment, including tanks, rocket launchers, and self-propelled howitzers, filling gaps in the global arms market. This not only boosts the defense industry but also strengthens diplomatic ties and strategic influence.

## Outlook and Forecast

Short-term trends (1-3 months): The immediate outlook for South Korea is characterized by continued high tensions with North Korea. Pyongyang's recent hostile declarations and weapons tests suggest a sustained period of provocations, potentially including further missile launches or military drills near the border. South Korea will likely proceed rapidly with its announced drone warfare expansion, with initial training and procurement phases commencing. Diplomatic engagement with China will continue, focusing on economic cooperation and leveraging Beijing's influence on North Korea, while the U.S.-South Korea alliance will remain robust, potentially involving further discussions on burden-sharing and operational control transfer. Cybersecurity threats, as evidenced by the recent government data breach, are expected to persist, necessitating heightened vigilance and investment in digital

defenses.

**Critical flashpoints and risk areas:** The Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) and the Northern Limit Line (NLL) remain critical flashpoints, with North Korea's explicit hostile stance increasing the risk of localized military incidents. Any miscalculation or escalation in rhetoric or military activity could quickly spiral. Cybersecurity infrastructure, particularly government systems and critical national infrastructure, is a persistent risk area, vulnerable to sophisticated attacks, potentially from North Korea. While maritime security in the Strait of Hormuz has shown signs of easing, the broader Middle East remains volatile, posing a potential risk to South Korean shipping and energy supplies if conditions deteriorate unexpectedly.

**Indicators to monitor:** Key indicators to monitor include North Korean state media pronouncements, especially regarding military developments and inter-Korean relations. Any signs of new missile tests, naval activities, or border provocations would be significant. The progress of South Korea's drone program implementation and KDDX destroyer construction will indicate the pace of its defense modernization. Diplomatic exchanges between South Korea, the U.S., and China, particularly regarding the Korean Peninsula, will be crucial. Furthermore, the frequency and sophistication of cyberattacks targeting South Korean entities will serve as a barometer of ongoing digital threats. The stability of global supply chains, especially for critical minerals and energy, will also be important given South Korea's economic vulnerabilities.

**Strategic recommendations:** South Korea should maintain a strong, credible deterrence posture against North Korea, backed by continuous military modernization and robust alliance cooperation with the United States. This includes accelerating the integration of advanced technologies like drones and stealth destroyers into its operational forces. Simultaneously, Seoul must pursue multi-faceted diplomacy, engaging both the U.S. and China to manage regional tensions and seek constructive solutions for denuclearization, even amidst North Korea's hardened stance. Investing heavily in cybersecurity resilience across all government and critical private sectors is paramount to mitigate the growing threat of data breaches and cyberattacks. Finally, South Korea should continue to diversify its defense export markets and strengthen its indigenous defense industry, enhancing both national security and economic stability.

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## ANNEX: COLLECTED ARTICLES BY SOURCE

### Source: Daily NK

- [North Korea's showcase coastal resort is turning into a symbol of inequality](#) (2026-06-26 01:02)

Interest in North Korea's Wonsan Kalma Coastal Tourist Zone is rising sharply ahead of the summer season in 2026, with word-of-mouth praise from visitors spreading across the country — but steep costs are keeping the resort firmly out of reach for most North Korean people. A source in North Pyongan province told Daily NK recently [...]

- [North Korea marks Russia treaty anniversary with lectures glorifying troops killed in Ukraine](#) (2026-06-25 20:49)

North Korea held week-long ideological lectures for officials in June 2026 to mark the second anniversary of its comprehensive strategic partnership treaty with Russia, framing the alliance as an unbreakable achievement of Kim Jong Un's leadership while working to contain growing unease over the deaths of North Korean soldiers deployed to fight in Russia's war [...]

- [North Korea's neighborhood watch units can't find anyone willing to lead them](#) (2026-06-25 14:51)

North Koreans are increasingly refusing to serve as neighborhood watch unit leaders in 2026, and the trend has now reached Pyongyang, where filling the role had previously been less difficult than in the provinces. A source in Pyongyang told Daily NK on Wednesday that in one neighborhood in Pyonchon district, an aging neighborhood watch unit [...]

- [North Korea ramps up phone surveillance, stoking fear among traders](#) (2026-06-25 01:30)

North Korean authorities in North Pyongan province have sharply intensified phone surveillance in 2026, intercepting both landline and mobile calls to crack down on traders conducting business across provincial boundaries, a Daily NK source in the region reported on Wednesday. The crackdown has prompted a growing number of people to avoid phone calls altogether, communicate [...]

- [The Xi-Kim summit's hidden fault lines](#) (2026-06-24 17:51)

When Chinese President Xi Jinping visited North Korea on June 8 and 9, 2026, for a summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, the pageantry on display — welcome ceremonies, state banquets, elaborate artistic performances — appeared carefully staged to send a message of Sino-North Korean solidarity to South Korea, the United States, and [...]

- [Sinuiju unlicensed lodging crackdown drives travelers to state guesthouses](#) (2026-06-24 01:26)

North Korean authorities intensified a crackdown on unlicensed home lodging operations near the border in 2026, threatening expulsion for repeat offenders and pushing travelers toward state-run guesthouses as officials tighten their grip on internal movement. A source in North Pyongan province told Daily NK on Tuesday that repeated directives have been issued through neighborhood watch [...]

- [Kim family fashion drives custom tailoring boom among North Korea's wealthy elite](#) (2026-06-23 20:18)

Wealthy North Koreans are commissioning custom-tailored suits modeled on the outfits worn by Ri Sol Ju and Kim Ju Ae at official state appearances in 2026, with the trend spreading quickly among donju families in South Pyongan province. A source in South Pyongan province told Daily NK on Tuesday that donju — North Korea's emerging [...]

- [Tumen River bridge delay fuels frustration inside North Korea](#) (2026-06-23 17:08)

North Korea is seething over Russia's failure to complete its side of a landmark road bridge across the Tumen River in 2026, with officials in Rason expressing open frustration as the long-awaited crossing sits idle and a new opening date remains uncertain. A source in North Hamgyong province told Daily NK on Tuesday that North [...]

- [North Korean households squeezed by human waste quotas as state touts record fertilizer output](#) (2026-06-23 01:17)

Neighborhood watch units in parts of North Korea have ordered each household to submit 50 kilograms of dried human waste as fertilizer by mid-July 2026, even as state media continues to publicize record output from the country's fertilizer factories. The disconnect has fueled open grumbling among North Korean people, with many concluding that the quotas [...]

- [North Korea intensifies Chinese mobile phone crackdown ahead of half-year performance review](#) (2026-06-22 20:48)

Security agents in North Korea's border regions have intensified efforts to catch people using Chinese mobile phones, enlisting ordinary citizens alongside informants to monitor their neighbors and even deploying sting operations to trap suspects. The crackdown has fueled a climate of mutual suspicion in which people no longer feel they can trust those around them. [...]

- [North Korea's local factory policy failing to reach rural store shelves, students discover](#) (2026-06-22 17:42)

Students from the North Korean city of Sinuiju who were sent to support agricultural work in rural areas have returned home shocked by the state of local stores, where shelves were nearly bare despite state claims that newly built local factories are supplying goods to the population,

a source told Daily NK on Monday. A [...]

- [North Korea tightens ideological grip on border areas ahead of China trade expansion](#) (2026-06-22 10:10)

North Korea issued coordinated directives to party organizations, mass worker groups, and security agencies in border areas in June 2026, ordering them to tighten discipline and intensify ideological work. The move appears designed to pre-empt ideological loosening in border communities ahead of an expected expansion of North Korea-China trade, following a summit between Kim Jong [...]

- [Behind Pyongyang' s showcase streets, satellite images reveal neighborhoods left behind](#) (2026-06-21 20:59)

High-resolution satellite imagery analyzed in 2026 reveals the true condition of two long-neglected neighborhoods in central Pyongyang: Tungme-dong in Sonkyo district and Worrhyang-dong in Moran Hill district. Hidden behind the capital' s gleaming main thoroughfares, both areas are defined by densely packed single-story homes, deteriorating low-rise apartment blocks, and basic infrastructure in a state of serious [...]

- [Before debating how Korea unifies, Seoul needs to decide what it wants](#) (2026-06-19 20:35)

South Korean President Lee Jae-myung recently stated that South Korea would not pursue absorption unification with North Korea. The position is being interpreted as a prioritization of peaceful coexistence and stable relationship management over inter-Korean system competition or a one-sided absorption scenario. Reactions from the political world and academia have varied. Some see it as [...]

- [North Korea police caught singing banned songs and using slang, authorities crack down](#) (2026-06-19 17:30)

North Korean authorities have launched a discipline crackdown on police officers caught singing songs of unknown or unauthorized origin and using crude slang, after finding that officers tasked with policing the public' s behavior were engaging in the very same conduct they were meant to suppress. A source in Ryanggang province said Thursday that the provincial [...]

- [Chinese language tutoring surges in North Korea as Pyongyang and Beijing restore ties](#) (2026-06-19 14:17)

A surge in demand for private Chinese-language tutoring is sweeping North Korea in 2026, driven by rising public expectations that the restoration of North Korea-China relations will open new trade and employment opportunities, Daily NK has learned from a source in North Pyongan province. “The number of people in Sinuiju trying to get private Chinese [...]

- [North Korea officials caught stealing and swapping school equipment in Sunchang township](#) (2026-06-19 11:23)

Officials and enterprise managers in North Korea's South Pyongan province have been caught in a school corruption scheme, stealing and swapping out electronics intended for high school students and undermining the state's education support program. A source in South Pyongan province said on Thursday that after the annual rice-planting mobilization ended and senior middle school [...]

## Source: Hankyoreh

- [The future of work and learning in the AI era depends on human choices](#) (2026-06-25 12:02)
- [Robust safety nets will be key for a just AI transition, argues expert](#) (2026-06-25 12:02)
- [Shincheonji leader detained for alleged plot to have followers join PPP in droves](#) (2026-06-25 12:02)
- [UN Command pulls rank, contradicts Seoul on possible violation of armistice by North in DMZ](#) (2026-06-25 12:02)
- [\[Editorial\] Unity doesn't mean embracing defenders of insurrection](#) (2026-06-25 12:02)
- [\[Column\] Inequality in Korea hits high not seen since colonial era](#) (2026-06-25 12:02)
- [A better AI future for workers won't build itself, says journalist Sarah O' Connor](#) (2026-06-25 12:02)
- [\[Editorial\] Who benefits from tug-of-war over jurisdiction in the DMZ?](#) (2026-06-25 12:02)
- [\[World Cup\] Frustrating defeat to South Africa leaves Korea's fate up in the air](#) (2026-06-25 06:02)
- [Korea is more than ready to regain OPCON. Is the US ready to relinquish it?](#) (2026-06-24 12:03)
- [Korea's OPCON saga: From Rhee's letter to MacArthur to a conditions-based transfer](#) (2026-06-24 12:03)
- [The AI boom is making Taiwan rich. So why do its people feel poor?](#) (2026-06-24 12:03)

- [Semiconductor boom increased economic polarization in Taiwan. Is Korea next?](#) (2026-06-24 12:03)
- [Half of Korea's small-business workforce doesn't plan to have children](#) (2026-06-24 12:03)
- [Ballot shortage triggered 'crisis of democracy' by shattering trust in elections, says scholar](#) (2026-06-24 12:03)
- [North Korean soldier apprehended after crossing into South, says Joint Chiefs](#) (2026-06-24 12:03)
- [Kim Jong-un slams Seoul for 'aggravating' tensions by pursuing nuclear submarines](#) (2026-06-23 12:02)
- [Stock gains and tech bonuses drive up Korean home prices, fueling asset inequality](#) (2026-06-23 12:02)
- [More Koreans disapprove of Lee than approve of him for first time since taking office](#) (2026-06-23 12:02)
- [\[Editorial\] Stiff sentence for ex-justice minister shows abetting insurrection won't go unpunished](#) (2026-06-23 12:02)
- [Top diplomats of S. Korea, Ukraine expected to discuss release of N. Korean POWS next week](#) (2026-06-23 12:02)
- ['Very risky' : Why a US expert warns against a potential summit by Trump and Kim Jong-un](#) (2026-06-23 12:02)
- [\[Reportage\] Starbucks in Korea close shop early for sensitivity training after 'Tank Day' fiasco](#) (2026-06-23 12:02)
- [Asia's climate is warming faster than the global average, WMO report finds](#) (2026-06-23 12:02)
- [\[Interview\] MOU likely to be extended 'indefinitely' by US and Iran, says US expert](#) (2026-06-22 12:03)
- [Lee focuses on reform in major reshuffle of Blue House senior advisers](#) (2026-06-22 12:03)

- [Chip boom creates new class of top earners, widening income gap in Korea](#) (2026-06-22 12:03)
- [Lee-Trump talks fuel hopes for renewed US-North Korea dialogue](#) (2026-06-22 12:03)
- [\[Column\] Bridging the gap between pragmatic policies of North, South Korea](#) (2026-06-22 12:03)
- [Ex-justice minister sentenced to 25 years for role in martial law plot](#) (2026-06-22 12:03)
- [The second China shock is here — and it's bigger, broader and more global](#) (2026-06-21 06:02)
- [\[Column\] North Korea's economic boom](#) (2026-06-19 12:03)
- [\[Exclusive\] US Congress calls for review of CCP's 'malign influence' in South Korea](#) (2026-06-19 12:03)
- [Kim Yo-jong blasts G7 as 'inviting disaster' for demanding N. Korea's denuclearization](#) (2026-06-19 12:03)
- [\[Editorial\] Trump's defeat in Iran raises stakes for Korea](#) (2026-06-19 12:03)
- [\[Column\] America declares its retreat from the Middle East](#) (2026-06-19 12:03)
- [Olympic Park protests grow increasingly extreme in rhetoric and action](#) (2026-06-19 12:03)
- [The rising tide of the semiconductor boom does not lift all boats in Korea](#) (2026-06-19 12:03)
- [\[World Cup\] Match 2 jinx strikes again: Korea loses to Mexico 0-1 on keeper error](#) (2026-06-19 12:03)

## Source: Korea Times

- [Gyeonggi Province moves to close health care gap for uninsured foreign residents](#) (2026-06-26 05:57)

In an ambitious effort to close a gap in its health care system, Korea's most populous province passed a landmark ordinance to provide medical services to undocumented and uninsured

foreign residents, framing the measure as a critical defense for wider public safety. The Gyeonggi Provincial Assembly approved the bill this week, establishing a formal legal framework to connect marginalized foreign workers with regional public health resources. Officials announced the bill's passage Friday, emphasizing that the initiative is designed to prevent preventable medical emergencies and contain potential infectious disease outbreaks before they compromise the broader community. Gyeonggi Province, which surrounds the capital city of Seoul, serves as Korea's industrial and agricultural heartland, relying heavily on a vast network of foreign laborers. Yet, those without valid visas or traditional employment are locked out of the country's National Health Insurance system. For these residents, a routine hospital visit can result in astronomical fees under international billing rates. Combined with

- [Late rescue volunteer recognized as Itaewon disaster victim](#) (2026-06-26 05:57)

The former owner of a store in Itaewon who killed self after suffering from a traumatizing experience of helping others killed in the 2022 crowd crush in the Seoul district was Friday named a victim of the disaster, the government said. The deceased, identified only as Park, operated a bar near the site of the accident that left 159 people killed, according to the interior ministry. Park helped transport injured people to hospitals at the time of the disaster, but had since suffered from physical and psychological trauma before being found dead at the age of 37 in April 2025. "The government will continue to make sure all necessary support is provided to the victims and their bereaved families while protecting their honor and privacy," a ministry official said.

- [Seoul, Hanoi seek to smooth out corporate tax hurdles](#) (2026-06-26 05:57)

The heads of the tax authorities of Korea and Vietnam met in Seoul on Thursday to hammer out cross-border fiscal disputes, highlighting the growing administrative friction that threatens one of Asia's most critical economic corridors. The 25th Korea-Vietnam Bilateral Tax Commissioners' Meeting between Lim Kwang-hyun, commissioner of the National Tax Service, and Mai Xuan Thanh, director general of Vietnam's General Department of Taxation, comes at a high-stakes juncture. Vietnam is Korea's third-largest trading partner, with bilateral commerce reaching \$94.5 billion last year. Meanwhile, Korea remains the single largest foreign direct investor in Vietnam, where more than 2,600 Korean companies operate, a footprint larger than in any other foreign market, according to the state-run Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency. That deep integration, however, has led to complex corporate challenges. During the talks, Lim pressed his Vietnamese counterpart on three systemic issues squeezing Korean multinationals: chronic delays in value-added tax refunds, rising volatility in transfer prices

- [Korea turns to public for next tourism strategy](#) (2026-06-26 05:57)

As Korea grapples with an accelerating demographic crisis that threatens to hollow out its rural provinces, the government is turning to its own citizens to help rescue local economies. The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, alongside the Korea Tourism Organization, recently concluded a fast-paced, three-week public policy competition that drew over 1,100 submissions.

The competition aims to crowdsource novel, actionable ideas to boost inbound international travel and breathe life into the country's quiet regional economies. The initiative follows directives from February's National Tourism Strategy Council, where officials stressed the urgent need to decentralize tourism away from Seoul. Ultimately, judges selected 20 winning proposals, ranging from regulatory overhauls to transit overhauls. Taking the grand prize was Kim Deok-hyeon, a graduate student in his 20s, who proposed expanding Korea's existing tourism resident ID card to foreign visitors. Currently restricted to citizens, the program grants cardholders discounts on lodging and experiences in designated regions with

- [Korea backs 100 small businesses in global export push](#) (2026-06-26 05:57)

Korea is betting that its next generation of global export powerhouses will not come from sprawling family-run conglomerates, but from the kitchens, boutiques and workshops of its neighborhood small business owners. The Ministry of Startups and SMEs said Thursday that it selected 100 small and micro-businesses to receive tailored packaging, regulatory consulting and up to 100 million won (\$72,000) each in commercialization funding. The initiative, dubbed Local to Global, reflects a strategic pivot by Seoul to transform specialized domestic merchants into international consumer brands, capturing growing global demand for Korean food, beauty, fashion and lifestyle products. The final cohort was narrowed down from 649 applicants through a highly competitive 6.5-to-1 audition process. To ensure transparency, the ministry broadcast the proceedings live on YouTube and introduced a public evaluation panel consisting of 15 domestic citizens and five foreign nationals, who vetted products firsthand at the Pangyo Creative Economy Valley startup hub. The selected enterprises relied heavily on dist

- [University of Seoul to dispatch global volunteer team to Kyrgyzstan in July](#) (2026-06-26 05:57)

The University of Seoul will dispatch a summer global volunteer team to Kyrgyzstan on July 4 to provide Korean language and cultural programs as well as sports activities in Bishkek, the university said Wednesday. The university held a ceremony to launch “2026 Summer University of Seoul Global Volunteers: Kyrgyzstan” at the Centennial Memorial Hall on its campus in Seoul, Tuesday. The team, consisting of 25 students and three faculty and staff members, marks the university's 23rd overseas volunteer dispatch to the Central Asian country. During their 12-day stay in Kyrgyzstan, the volunteers will provide Korean language education for local students and ethnic Koreans in Bishkek as well as specialized programs based on their majors and expertise. They will also offer cultural and sports programs, including K-pop dance, cheerleading and taekwondo. In addition, they will provide education programs linked to the Sustainable Development Goals reflecting local conditions. Furthermore, the volunteers plan to engage with local students through cultural and sports activities, including a min

- [Korea mobilizes young diaspora across 8 cities in global networking drive](#) (2026-06-26 05:57)

Seeking to transform a historically scattered diaspora into a tightly woven global network, Korea's Overseas Koreans Agency announced Friday a sweeping expansion of its initiative aimed at empowering the next generation of ethnic Korean leaders living abroad. The program, known as the Future Leader's Conference (FLC) Reunion, will stage successive networking conventions across eight major global hubs this year. Designed for young professionals aged 25 to 45, the initiative marks a concerted effort by Seoul to deepen ethnic identity, amplify geopolitical influence and build robust networks among the millions of ethnic Koreans worldwide. The global tour kicked off in New York this March and will head to Osaka, Japan, this Saturday, before moving to Munich, Germany, on July 4. Subsequent forums are scheduled throughout autumn in Tashkent, Moscow, Atlanta, Pittsburgh and Paris. Unlike traditional top-down government programs, these reunions are conceived, structured and executed directly by local diaspora participants, allowing them to collaboratively tackle localized challenges. The up

- [How Korea's strict waste management confuse new foreign residents](#) (2026-06-26 05:57)

“Are onion skins not food waste?” “Do I have to remove the cap from a glass bottle before throwing it out?” These questions came quickly during a waste sorting workshop for international students at Dongguk University's Hyehwa Hall in central Seoul on June 17. About 20 participants followed the session in Korean and English, learning how to sort general waste, food waste and recyclables, as well as when to put trash out for collection. Many nodded as instructors explained rules that can feel routine to Koreans but confusing to newcomers. Cristina, 31, from Peru, said the system was difficult to understand when she first arrived because waste is not separated the same way in her home country. “In Peru, we don't sort trash, so when I first came to Korea, I didn't know what counted as general waste and what could be recycled,” she said. “I thought I had gotten used to waste sorting after living here for two years, but this was the first time I learned that chicken bones should go into general waste, not food waste.” Tan Yong Xin, 22, from Malaysia, who has been living

- [Lee's approval rating sinks to lowest point since taking office: Gallup poll](#) (2026-06-26 05:57)

President Lee Jae Myung's approval rating dropped to 51 percent, marking its lowest level since he took office in June last year, a poll showed Friday. The survey, conducted by Gallup Korea from Tuesday through Thursday on 1,000 people aged 18 and older, showed that the positive assessment of Lee's performance fell 6 percentage points from the previous survey released two weeks earlier. His negative assessment rose 6 percentage points to 41 percent, marking the first time his disapproval rating exceeded 40 percent in Gallup polls. The economy, housing policies and alleged irregularities involving the National Election Commission, the country's election watchdog, were cited as the main reasons for the negative assessment. Support for the ruling Democratic Party remained the same at 41 percent from the previous survey, while that of the main opposition People Power Party fell 2 percentage points to 27 percent. The survey had a margin of error of plus or minus 3.1 percentage points at a 95 percent confidence level.

- [Gov't to lower cap on fuel prices, freeze utility rates in H2](#) (2026-06-25 23:57)

South Korea will lower the cap on fuel prices to reflect the recent decline in global crude oil prices, the finance minister said Friday, while freezing electricity and gas rates in the second half. Finance Minister Koo Yun-cheol made the remarks during a meeting with economy-related ministers, noting the cap system will remain in place until consumer prices are fully stabilized. In mid-March, the government introduced fuel price caps in a bid to stabilize domestic fuel prices amid supply chain disruptions caused by the conflict in the Middle East. "We will freeze prices of major utilities, such as electricity and gas," Koo said during the meeting. "The government is making proactive efforts to stabilize and improve people's livelihoods, while making full-fledged efforts to normalize and advance the economy following the war in the Middle East," Koo added. "The government will adjust the emergency measures currently in place in phases by closely monitoring developments in the Middle East and the South Korean economy." The finance minister added that the government will seek to keep inflati

- [How one foreign entrepreneur is building a future in Korea — on his own terms](#) (2026-06-25 23:57)

Every summer, thousands of international students across Korea step off the stage at graduation and into a high-stakes countdown. With student visas ticking toward expiration, they find themselves in the race to secure full-time employment in a competitive job market. For many foreign graduates, the transition from campus life to a long-term career in Korea is far more complicated than they expect. While some pursue traditional corporate jobs, others are searching for different ways to build a future here. "There are a lot of talented foreigners in Korea," said Casimir Agossou, a startup founder originally from the West African nation of Benin. "The challenge is helping people understand where they fit best and how they can contribute." Agossou is the founder of Acafo, an artificial intelligence (AI)-based platform designed to help international job seekers better understand and navigate Korea's employment landscape. Drawing from his own experiences studying and working in Korea over the past decade, he hopes the platform can help make the process less overwhelming for other f

- [SeeDevice CEO speaks out on KBS defamation lawsuit, seeks up to \\$1.23 bil. in damages](#) (2026-06-25 11:57)

The founder of a U.S. tech company that has filed a defamation lawsuit against Korean Broadcasting System (KBS) and its U.S. affiliate, KBS America, says false reporting by the broadcaster cost him years of research and a major commercial opportunity and he is seeking up to \$1.23 billion in damages. Kim Hoon, founder and CEO of SeeDevice, told The Korea Times in an interview that the KBS report caused substantial harm to both his reputation and that of his company. "In addition to recovering the economic losses caused by the false report, we are seeking compensation for the reputational harm suffered by me and the company," Kim said. "We are also seeking punitive damages to the maximum extent permitted under U.S. law, as well as a retraction of the false report." A damages expert retained by SeeDevice calculated the company's economic losses at between \$236.25 million and \$1.23 billion, citing business

opportunities that fell through following the KBS report. A trial has been set at the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California to begin in January 2027. The case

- [Finding home between worlds: How Glumroll turned third-culture journey into music](#)  
(2026-06-25 11:57)

Home is a complicated idea for those who grow up between cultures. For artist and songwriter Glumroll, who just dropped her debut EP "Pretty Nabi," it was never defined by a single country. Born in Korea but raised abroad from the age of 4, she spent much of her life moving from place to place before eventually graduating from Berklee College of Music in 2025. Like many third-culture kids, she learned to adapt quickly. Every move brought new communities, expectations and ways of seeing the world. The act of balancing cultures can shape everything from friendships and communication styles to ideas of success, independence and belonging. For years, Korea was not necessarily that place for Glumroll. Although her family had returned to Korea, she never imagined building a life there herself. "Until my last year of university, I never really considered going back," she said. "I didn't grow up there, and I never really saw myself there." Her experience reflects a reality shared by millions of members of the Korean diaspora. While connected to Korea through heritage and family, many spend much of

- [Vietnamese woman sentenced to 10 years in prison for abandoning, killing own baby](#)  
(2026-06-25 11:57)

A Seoul court on Thursday sentenced a Vietnamese woman to 10 years in prison on charges of killing her newborn baby by abandonment. The Seoul Central District Court handed down the sentence for the student in her 20s who had been indicted on charges of abandoning her baby outside a building near Dongguk University in central Seoul in December, resulting in the newborn's death. While the infant had been rushed to the hospital after police and rescue authorities responded to a report of an abandoned baby inside a paper bag, the newborn ultimately died. The court said the infant could have survived if the defendant had not abandoned the newborn out in the cold winter weather. "The healthy baby was denied the opportunity to live by the mother without ever receiving a blessing," the court said. "(The defendant) must bear strict responsibility commensurate with the act." It also convicted another Vietnamese national on charges of helping the mother, and handed down an eight-month prison term suspended for two years.

- [Korea eyes tech-focused noncommissioned officer track amid conscription reform push](#)  
(2026-06-25 11:57)

Korea plans to introduce a noncommissioned officer track focused on advanced military technology as part of its push to reform the conscription-based military service system by augmenting voluntary enlistment, the defense ministry said Thursday. The move comes as the Lee Jae Myung administration pushes for a "selective voluntary enlistment system" designed to attract more young people into military careers while maintaining mandatory military service for men. The "tech-intensive" noncommissioned officers would specialize in areas such as

manned-unmanned systems, cyber operations and artificial intelligence, and serve for four to five years unless they choose to pursue a longer-term military career, ministry spokesperson Chung Binna said in a press briefing. "We plan to gradually expand the number of 'tech-intensive' noncommissioned officers in line with efforts to restructure the military with a focus on advanced science and technology," Chung said. "While maintaining the conscription system, we are considering ways to broaden service options, which is the basic concept behind the select

- [3 contenders, 3 leadership styles compete in DPK chair race](#) (2026-06-25 11:57)

The race to lead the ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) is taking shape as a three-way contest after party chair Jung Chung-rae stepped down Wednesday to seek another term, setting up an expected showdown with outgoing Prime Minister Kim Min-seok and veteran lawmaker Song Young-gil. All three have cast themselves as supporters of the Lee Jae Myung administration. Their political strengths, however, are markedly different. Each is appealing to different factions within the ruling party — Jung to its activist base, Kim to lawmakers seeking close coordination with Cheong Wa Dae and Song to those looking for an alternative should the race extend beyond the first round. Jung, the party man Jung enters the race with perhaps the strongest organizational backing. "No matter what anyone says, I will stand by President Lee Jae Myung until the very end," Jung said as he announced his resignation as party chair. "Lee and I share a political community and a destiny." His remarks followed weeks of speculation about tensions with the presidential office. Differences over the pace of prosecut

- [Seoul revamps OASIS program to turn expat tech startups into global players](#) (2026-06-25 11:57)

When Ravi Pandit Shankar arrived in Korea, navigating the country's dense corporate laws and tax codes felt like an insurmountable hurdle. But after completing a specialized municipal program, his tech startup, Konnect — a "super-app" catering to expatriates — went on to win major domestic startup competitions and secure backing from the prestigious Asan Nanum Foundation. "Now I want to become a mentor for the aspiring foreign entrepreneurs following behind me," Shankar, an Indian national, said. Seeking to replicate such successes on a broader scale, the Seoul Metropolitan Government announced Thursday a major overhaul of its flagship immigrant entrepreneur initiative. Dubbed OASIS 2.0 (Overall Assistance for Startup Immigration System), the program is expanding its curriculum to provide a seamless, end-to-end pipeline from initial business conception to legal incorporation, alongside a newly established alumni mentoring network. The initiative comes as Seoul aggressively positions itself as a global tech incubator, looking to diversify its domestic economy by attracting experts fr

- [Korean captain dead, 2 Indonesian crew members still missing after fishing boat sinks off Busan](#) (2026-06-25 11:57)

ULSAN — A fishing boat sank Thursday in waters off the southeastern city of Busan, leaving the boat's Korean captain dead and two Indonesian crew members missing, maritime authorities said. The 79-ton fishing boat sank after colliding with a 992-ton liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) carrier at 10:10 a.m., according to the Ulsan Coast Guard. The collision threw all eight crew members of the boat — two Koreans and six Indonesians — into the sea. The LPG carrier managed to rescue six of the crew members, but two Indonesian nationals, both in their 30s, remained missing hours after the sinking. The Coast Guard has deployed patrol vessels, helicopters and other pieces of equipment near the site of the accident to locate the two, according to officials. Among the six rescued was the 62-year-old skipper, who was immediately sent to a hospital as he was deemed in serious condition, but was pronounced dead at 1:30 p.m. The other five were also taken to hospitals after showing signs of hypothermia, the officials said. President Lee Jae Myung ordered the mobilization of all available resources to

- [Jongno District opens free pop-up splash parks for families](#) (2026-06-25 05:57)

For families seeking respite from the sweltering summer heat without leaving the capital, a network of free urban splash parks is opening across the historic heart of the city. Jongno District announced plans Thursday to operate four park-based water play areas throughout the summer season, pairing the refreshing splash zones with specialized educational programs for children. The district's flagship facility, the Yeonji Water Playground, opened its gates earlier this month and will operate through Aug. 30. It features an array of interactive installations, including two water slides, giant and miniature tipping buckets, a water tunnel and ground-level fountains. Three additional temporary splash pads — located at Sungin Park, Sanmaru Playground and Sangsang Guldduk Playground — will welcome visitors from July 11 through Aug. 16. The facilities are specifically tailored for elementary school students and younger children, with adult supervision strictly mandated for toddlers aged 7 and under. To ensure maximum accessibility, the parks will transition from weekend-only operations in

- [Kookmin University unveils 2 Korean typefaces to mark 80th anniversary](#) (2026-06-25 05:57)

Kookmin University has developed two Korean typefaces to embody its history and future vision in celebration of its 80th anniversary this year. The university said Wednesday that the development was carried out for nearly a year to establish a consistent design identity across various anniversary projects and to reflect its unique identity in both internal and external communications. It noted that the new typefaces, Sungkok Font and Haeong Font, focus on capturing the university's beginnings and its future vision. Sungkok Font symbolizes the university's founding spirit and the historical legacy of Sungkok Kim Sung-kon, who played a key role in the revival of Kookmin University. Haeong Font, meanwhile, embodies the spirit of challenge and innovation for the future represented by Haeong Kim Suk-won, the eldest son of Kim Sung-kon and former chairman of the SsangYong Group. The fonts were designed to visually embody Kookmin's vision of becoming a university that sets new standards in higher education. "The development of the typefaces is one of the 10 major projects for Kookmin Univ

- [Special counsel again seeks death penalty for ex-President Yoon on insurrection charges](#) (2026-06-25 05:57)

A special counsel team on Thursday again sought the death penalty for former President Yoon Suk Yeol during his appellate trial on charges of leading an insurrection through his failed 2024 martial law bid. Special counsel Cho Eun-suk's team made the request at the Seoul High Court, matching its earlier sentencing recommendation in Yoon's first-instance trial. In February, a lower court sentenced the ousted former president to life imprisonment for the charges. Thursday's hearing marked the resumption of Yoon's appeals trial after a monthlong pause due to his request for a recusal of the appellate court bench. The Supreme Court rejected the request earlier this month. At the hearing, Cho's team called for the death penalty, arguing the lower court's punishment was too lenient. The team also disputed the lower court's ruling that did not recognize the notes of Noh Sang-won, a retired military commander, as evidence for preparations for martial law. Meanwhile, the team sought life imprisonment for former Defense Minister Kim Yong-hyun on charges of playing a key role in the insurrection. Ki

- [Gov't reaches conclusion on completely abolishing prosecution's investigative rights: PM](#) (2026-06-25 05:57)

The government has reached a final conclusion that the prosecution's investigative rights should be completely removed, Prime Minister Kim Min-seok said Thursday. Whether to allow the prosecution to conduct supplementary investigations or scrap all of its investigative power has been a hot issue, with the ruling Democratic Party of Korea calling for completely scrapping the rights and the opposition arguing that it could cause serious negative effects. "The basic principle of the Lee Jae Myung administration's prosecution reform push is the separation of investigation and indictment," Kim told reporters. "Scrapping the prosecution's supplementary investigative right has been finalized as the government's basic position." Kim said the government will deliver its position to the National Assembly without proposing a new bill. "Rather than proposing a separate legislative bill, the government will respect the National Assembly's discussions and decision," he said.

- [2 Indonesian crew members missing after fishing boat capsizes off Busan](#) (2026-06-25 05:57)

ULSAN — Two Indonesian crew members of a fishing boat went missing Thursday after the boat capsized in waters off the southeastern port city of Busan, maritime authorities said. The 79-ton fishing boat capsized after colliding with a 992-ton liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) carrier at 10:10 a.m., according to the Ulsan Coast Guard. The crash threw all eight crew members of the boat — two Koreans and six Indonesians — into the sea. The LPG carrier managed to rescue six of the crew members, but two Indonesian nationals, both in their 30s, remain unaccounted for. The Coast Guard deployed patrol vessels, helicopters and other pieces of equipment to locate the two, according to officials. One of those rescued was said to be in critical condition. President Lee Jae Myung immediately ordered the mobilization of all available resources to rescue those missing and address the aftermath of the accident, a presidential official said. Lee

issued the order after receiving a briefing on the accident, presidential spokesperson KangYu-jung said.

- [Korea University to launch International Summer Campus 2026 Saturday](#) (2026-06-25 05:57)

Korea University is launching International Summer Campus (ISC) 2026, the nation's largest summer university program for international students, at its Seoul campus on Saturday. The university said Wednesday that more than 2,000 students from around 300 universities in some 50 countries will participate in the ISC, which consists of four-week and six-week programs. ISC 2026 offers over 90 courses taught by approximately 40 faculty members. The lineup includes five newly introduced courses delivered by distinguished scholars from around the world. The new courses will be taught by faculty members from leading global universities, including University College London, the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, KU Leuven and the University of Toronto. The courses cover a wide range of fields, including creative industries, life sciences, entrepreneurship, Chinese characters and cultural psychology. Korea University said it has added three new cultural experience programs to the summer program lineup this year, reflecting international students' growing interest in Korean culture, inclu

- [PM nominee calls N. Korea 'threat, compatriot'](#) (2026-06-25 05:57)

Prime Minister nominee Han Seong-sook said Thursday that North Korea is both "a threat and a compatriot" when asked to define South Korea's main enemy, stressing that the key is how to manage relations with the North for peace on the Korean Peninsula. "All that threaten the Republic of Korea is our enemy," Han said during her parliamentary confirmation hearing in response to a question from opposition lawmakers about who South Korea's main enemy is. "It is a very dualistic situation where North Korea is both a threat and a compatriot." Peaceful coexistence on the Korean Peninsula is an objective that everyone can agree on, Han said. "How to forge and manage relations (with North Korea) is important," she said. Han also said there should never be war on the peninsula.

- [PM nominee undergoes confirmation hearing amid controversies over data leak, multiple homes](#) (2026-06-25 05:57)

Prime Minister nominee Han Seong-sook began undergoing a two-day confirmation hearing at the National Assembly on Thursday as the main opposition party questioned her eligibility for the post. Han, who currently serves as minister for small and medium-sized enterprises and startups, has come under scrutiny over a series of controversies, including a personal information leak involving the government's audition-style startup incubation program. "I will become a prime minister who focuses solely on working for the happiness of the people and deliver tangible results," Han said at the hearing. The nominee described the next few years as a critical period that will determine Korea's competitiveness amid the rapid advancement of artificial intelligence (AI), saying she will draw on experiences that she gained over "three decades working on the frontline of technological innovation." "I will make all-out efforts to

drive a bold AI transformation that reshapes the economic structure, help the future generations grow and create a warm safety net for the underprivileged," said the former CEO of

- [Seoul taps overseas students for grassroots global PR campaign](#) (2026-06-25 05:57)

The Seoul Metropolitan Government is shifting its global public relations (PR) strategy away from expatriates and toward digital natives abroad, launching its inaugural Seoul Global Culture Crew initiative to turn overseas college students into cultural ambassadors. The city held an online kickoff ceremony Wednesday for 13 selected undergraduates from SOAS University of London and Hungary's Eötvös Loránd University, all of whom are majoring in Korean studies. Unlike traditional municipal supporter programs that recruit foreign residents living in Korea, this pilot project taps students to generate localized, peer-to-peer buzz in their home countries. The student correspondents will operate through October, producing monthly social media campaigns across Instagram, TikTok and YouTube. By leveraging local perspectives, the city aims to showcase Seoul's culture, tourism and daily lifestyle trends with authentic regional nuance. "The Seoul Global Culture Crew is a novel global PR program that introduces Seoul through the eyes of those living abroad," said Kim Tae-hee, director-general of

- [Lee vows to build peaceful Korean Peninsula free from fear of war](#) (2026-06-25 05:57)

President Lee Jae Myung pledged Thursday to establish a peaceful Korean Peninsula free from the fear of war as South Korea marks the anniversary of the outbreak of the 1950-53 Korean War. Lee made the pledge in his speech at a ceremony marking the 76th anniversary of the outbreak of the war, which was held in Gyeonggi Province and brought together hundreds of war veterans, and government and military officials. "(The government) will safeguard the people and the territory through strong defense capabilities and build a peaceful Korean Peninsula which has neither fear of war nor a need for conflict," Lee said. "I believe that doing so would be the surest reward we can give to the heroes who dedicated their lives and youth to defending this country," he said. The president recalled the sacrifices of those from home and around the world who fought for the country during the Korean War, saying the government "will unwaveringly safeguard this great Republic of Korea built by heroes." The Republic of Korea is the official name of South Korea. "Remembering and commemorating these heroes is the m

- [Vice defense minister calls for US congressional support for nuclear-powered subs, OPCON transfer](#) (2026-06-25 05:57)

Vice Defense Minister Lee Doo-hee has called for U.S. congressional support for Korea's nuclear-powered submarine program and efforts to retake wartime operational control (OPCON) from Washington during his meetings with U.S. lawmakers, the defense ministry said Thursday. Lee made the call when he separately met with Reps. Ryan Zinke (R-MT) and Pat Harrigan (R-NC) in Washington on Wednesday (local time), according to the ministry, as Seoul is pushing to acquire nuclear-propelled naval vessels and source low-enriched uranium for fuel under a summit agreement between the two countries' leaders. Korea is also working to reclaim

wartime OPCON from the U.S. before the Lee Jae Myung government's five-year term ends in 2030. Lee "asked for continued attention to and support at the U.S. congressional level for Seoul's efforts to acquire low-enriched uranium for nuclear-powered submarines," the ministry said in a release. He briefed the lawmakers on the progress of the OPCON transition and its significance, asking them to support the efforts toward the OPCON transfer, the ministry said. Lee also c

- [Investigators question election officials over ballot shortage](#) (2026-06-25 05:57)

Two election officials who oversaw polling stations hit by ballot shortages during the June 3 local elections appeared before investigators on Thursday to undergo questioning over the incident, legal sources said. A joint police and prosecution team called in the Songpa District Election Commission officials to question them about the election watchdog's internal instructions in response to the shortages, according to the sources. The team is probing allegations that the National Election Commission hastily decided to reduce the number of printed ballots and failed to respond effectively to ballot shortages on election day. The team was also set to question nine local government officials who distributed ballots at polling stations in Seoul that ran out of ballot papers. The team plans to question them about the election watchdog's response measures to the shortages. The questioning session comes a day after the joint investigation team raided the offices of 12 election commission officials who oversaw polling stations in Seoul that experienced ballot shortages. Meanwhile, protesters dema

- [\[MORNING CALM TALES\] The day I crashed a Korean War commemorative event](#) (2026-06-24 23:57)

Seoul was already sweltering by midmorning on June 25, 2000. Heat rose in wavering sheets above the broad plaza outside the War Memorial of Korea as buses pulled up one after another, unloading elderly veterans of the Korean War (1950-53) alongside family members and foreign dignitaries arriving for the ceremony. Inside the memorial grounds, ushers guided guests toward rows of reserved seats while security personnel moved briskly through the growing crowd. Everywhere there were flags, cameras, police, military officers and the low murmur of Korean, English and a dozen other languages blending together in the heavy summer air. I was not supposed to be there. A month earlier, I had interviewed Gen. Paik Sun-yup for an article accompanying my review of his autobiography, "From Pusan to Panmunjom." After the interview, I met several members of the 50th anniversary committee organizing the Korean War commemorative ceremony at the War Memorial in Seoul. President Kim Dae-jung was scheduled to speak, along with military dignitaries, diplomats and veterans from around the world. And somehow, the

- [Stray cats or endangered wildlife? YouTuber sparks debate by calling for cat euthanasia](#) (2026-06-24 17:57)

A popular Korean wildlife YouTuber has reignited a long-standing debate over stray cats after arguing that euthanasia is necessary to reduce their population and protect native wildlife. The

controversy began after YouTuber Korean Birder, known for content about Korean wildlife and ecosystems and followed by roughly 500,000 subscribers, uploaded a video on Saturday titled "Cats, we have no choice but to kill them now." The video opens with footage of cats on Mara Island, a small island off Korea's southern coast, hunting a Crested Murrelet, a protected seabird designated as a Natural Monument and classified as an endangered species in Korea. The YouTuber argued that the problem extends far beyond Mara Island and has become a nationwide ecological issue, claiming that stray and feral cats are harming vulnerable wildlife across the country. He also criticized current cat management policies, including shelter placement, adoption programs and trap-neuter-return efforts, in which stray cats are captured, sterilized and released back into the wild. "Current policies being implemented in Korea

- ['Framed in Sound' project brings together photographers, musicians](#) (2026-06-24 12:02)

A collaborative project between Korea-based global photographers and musicians will be presented with a photo exhibition and live music performances celebrating Seoul's international creative scene on Saturday. The project, "Framed in Sound," paired photographers with independent musicians during a photo walk on May 2, giving the photographers a chance to develop their portrait photography skills while providing musicians with professional promotional images. For the exhibition, 10 photographers will share five photographs each of their musician partners, who will perform later in the evening. The initiative was co-created by Filipino musician Nicky Juanite and Indonesian photographer Dhira Noor, who both saw an opportunity to support emerging artists by combining their respective communities. "We invited photographers and musicians to spend a day together at Hangang Park, with the hopes of benefiting from each other's talents," Juanite told The Korea Times. "Musicians received professional photographs they could use for their portfolios, promotional materials and future opportunities.

- [Lee visits front-line Marine Corps unit, stresses strong deterrence against enemy](#) (2026-06-24 12:02)

President Lee Jae Myung visited a front-line Marine Corps unit near North Korea and stressed the importance of strong deterrence against the enemy to ensure peace on Wednesday, the eve of the 76th anniversary of the start of the Korean War. Lee traveled to the Marine Corps unit based on Yeonpyeong Island, just below the Northern Limit Line (NLL) in the Yellow Sea, the de facto inter-Korean maritime border, to mark the anniversary of the outbreak of the 1950-53 war. The war ended on July 27, 1953, with the signing of an armistice, leaving the Korean Peninsula divided into the capitalist South and the socialist North, with the two sides technically still at war. Sharing lunch with the unit's service members, Lee described three stages of ensuring national security: winning a fight, winning without a fight and making a fight unnecessary. The president named making a fight unnecessary as the most important part of all. "This exactly constitutes peace. Peace is the most solid foundation for security," he said. Lee said peace should be based on "strong deterrence to overpower the enemy," pledged

- [\[PHOTO\] Marking 76th anniversary of Korean War](#) (2026-06-24 12:02)

A Korean family from the United States visits the graves of relatives killed during the 1950-53 Korean War at Seoul National Cemetery in Dongjak District, Wednesday, the day before the 76th anniversary of the war's outbreak. Korea Times photo by Yoon Ki-hoon

- [UNC, S. Korean gov't clash over NK's border activity](#) (2026-06-24 12:02)

The South Korean government and the United Nations Command (UNC) are giving conflicting accounts of North Korea's recent move to intensify border fencing, with South Korea viewing the activity as a violation of the armistice agreement and the UNC disputing the framing. It is the second dispute in recent months between the two over border issues, with a previous disagreement taking place over authority to grant approval for nonmilitary access to the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ). The UNC on Wednesday publicly challenged South Korea's assessment in a fact sheet on its website. The fact sheet came after a report that North Korea installed barbed wire fences just 80 meters from the Military Demarcation Line (MDL). The South Korean defense ministry said Monday that the activity is "in clear violation of the armistice agreement," which halted the 1950-53 Korean War. The MDL separates the two Koreas and the DMZ is a buffer zone extending 2 kilometers on either side of the MDL to restrict troops and heavy weapons. In its fact sheet, the UNC wrote, "Recent North Korean construction activities

- [Police identify, summon woman over solo blockade of vote counting center](#) (2026-06-24 12:02)

Police have identified a woman who staged a solo blockade of a vote counting center after the June 3 local elections and issued a summons for her to appear for questioning, sources said Wednesday. On June 16, the woman, said to be in her 30s, stood outside a door to the SK Olympic Handball Gymnasium in southern Seoul, which had been used as a ballot counting center, to prevent anyone from going inside amid an ongoing standoff between protesters demanding a rerun of the elections and sports organization officials trying to enter the gym to access their offices. The protests, which are now on their 20th consecutive day, began after shortages of ballot papers were reported at multiple polling stations on election day, causing some voters to turn back without casting their ballots. To end the standoff, lawmakers of the main opposition People Power Party had negotiated a deal with the protesters to let the sports officials inside, but the agreement fell through after the woman blocked the door and demanded the preservation of ballots and ballot boxes that remain in the gym. Police reportedly

- [Election officials raided over ballot shortage in June 3 local elections](#) (2026-06-24 12:02)

A joint police and prosecution team on Wednesday raided the offices of 12 election officials who oversaw polling stations in Seoul that experienced ballot shortages during the June 3 local elections, officials said. The raids targeted three officials from the Seoul Metropolitan Election Commission and nine from the Songpa District Election Commission, in an effort to reconstruct the events on election day, trace how they reported the ballot shortages up the chain of

command and what specific directives they were given. Launched on June 9 under orders from President Lee Jae Myung, the joint investigation team is probing allegations that the National Election Commission (NEC) hastily decided to reduce the number of printed ballots and failed to respond effectively to ballot shortages on election day. On June 11, investigators raided the NEC and seized internal approval documents and voting logs. The team plans to question the 12 officials after analyzing their seized materials, and is expected to expand their probe to high-level officials of the election watchdog, including former Chairman

- [Seoul city council passes ordinance on free bus rides for people aged over 70](#) (2026-06-24 12:02)

The Seoul Metropolitan Council passed an ordinance Wednesday calling for the introduction of free bus rides for citizens aged 70 and over. The proposal, which calls for subsidizing all or part of city and community bus fares for the senior citizens based on criteria set by the mayor, passed a plenary council session by a 69-1 vote, with five abstentions. Details, such as the extent of the subsidy and its implementation method, will be decided by the city government at a later date. The city government has also been looking to raise the eligible age for free subway rides from the current 65 to 70. The introduction of free bus rides for senior citizens was a campaign pledge of Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon during the June 3 local elections. It aims to expand public transport services for people living in areas without a subway station. The city government has said, however, that to minimize the financial burden the number of free rides could be capped at 14 per month. According to its estimate, providing that many free rides will cost approximately 52.5 billion won (\$34 million) a year, but would be

- [Jeolla region eyed for new semiconductor cluster: presidential policy chief](#) (2026-06-24 12:02)

The government and chip companies are planning to establish a massive semiconductor cluster in the Jeolla region, separate from the current one near the capital, the presidential policy chief said Wednesday, citing abundant electricity and water in the southwestern provinces. He also stressed the need to start public discussion on how to share the benefits of the artificial intelligence (AI) era, saying the issue comprises social networks, labor policy and excess tax revenue generated by the booming AI-related industries. Speaking at a forum hosted by Kwanhun Club, an association of senior journalists, presidential adviser for policy Kim Yong-beom said the AI boom presents an opportunity to redraw Korea's industrial geography, drawing a parallel with how a manufacturing cluster in the southeastern region transformed Korea into an industrial powerhouse decades ago. He said the demand for chips has skyrocketed and companies are being pressed to advance their plans to construct relevant plants and facilities. While Samsung Electronics and SK hynix are currently building massive semiconduct

- [Ballot shortage reignites debate over early voting as PPP pushes to scrap system](#) (2026-06-24 12:02)

Political fallout from the ballot shortage controversy during the June 3 local elections continues, with the main opposition People Power Party's (PPP) push to abolish early voting reviving debate over Korea's election system. The issue resurfaced after PPP lawmaker Park Dae-chul introduced a bill seeking to scrap early voting, extend election day voting to two days and revive the absentee voting system. The proposal was co-sponsored by 24 PPP lawmakers and independent lawmaker Han Dong-hoon, the party's former leader. Han described the proposal as a long-held position. "Replacing early voting with a longer election period has been my position for a long time," Han wrote on social media. He has repeatedly argued that election day voting should be extended instead of maintaining the current early voting system. The move came after the June 3 local elections were marred by ballot shortages at several polling stations, leading to long lines and complaints from voters. The National Assembly has since launched a parliamentary investigation into the incident. While the controversy stem

- [Severed leg found in recycling center: Doctor says there was more to the story](#)  
(2026-06-24 12:02)

A practicing physician has spoken out about a controversial case in which a nursing hospital in Incheon amputated the leg of an elderly patient and later disposed of it improperly, saying the medical staff had tried to save a patient with nowhere else to turn, rather than providing negligent care. The case gained national attention after the severed leg, which had been mistakenly discarded as recyclable waste instead of medical waste by a volunteer worker, was discovered at a recycling facility. While the disposal error sparked outrage, the physician argued that the medical staff's efforts to treat the patient should also be taken into account. 'In a hospital room, with scissors instead of a scalpel?' Yang Sung-gwan, an author and family medicine specialist at Uijeongbu Paik Hospital, said in a Facebook post Monday that he initially found the reports difficult to believe. "When I first heard about the nursing hospital leg amputation case, I could hardly believe it myself," Yang said. "How could a leg be amputated in a hospital room rather than an operating room and with scissors rather t

- [Shincheonji sect leader attends arrest warrant hearing over forced PPP memberships](#)  
(2026-06-24 12:02)

The founder of the Shincheonji Church of Jesus, a nonmainstream religious sect, attended a court hearing Wednesday on his potential arrest over allegations he forced followers to join the main opposition People Power Party (PPP) ahead of elections in 2021 and 2024. Lee Man-hee, 95, arrived at the Seoul Central District Court, using a walking stick, after a prosecution-police task force requested a warrant to arrest him on charges of obstruction of business and violations of the Political Parties Act. Lee is suspected of forcing at least 56,472 church members to join the PPP between July 2021 and January 2024 with the intention of swaying the outcome of the party's presidential primary in 2021 and general election primaries in 2024. In return, he allegedly sought various favors for the church, including the repurposing of the church building. The period of the alleged forced memberships largely overlaps with when the PPP was the ruling party, with former President Yoon Suk Yeol in office. Lee has reportedly denied the

allegations. The court will determine after the hearing whether to grant

- [Everland releases first photos of 3-week-old giant panda cub](#) (2026-06-24 12:02)

She began life just three weeks ago as a hairless, pink scrap of a mammal, weighing a mere 171 grams. But on Wednesday, Korea's newest celebrity resident offered the world a glimpse of her rapidly changing form, debuting the bold, charcoal-colored patches that define her species. Everland, the sprawling resort and theme park south of Seoul, released the latest images of the 3-week-old giant panda cub. Captured during a routine health assessment the previous day, the photos reveal a noticeably plumper cub whose ears, eyes, shoulders and limbs have clearly darkened into the unmistakable silhouette of a giant panda. The female cub, who arrived on the morning of June 3 at 10:53 a.m., represents the fourth giant panda born naturally in Korea. Her lineage is local royalty: She is the offspring of Ai Bao and Le Bao, the beloved resident pair at Everland's Panda World, making her the younger sibling to the nation's darling Fu Bao, born in 2020, and the celebrated twins, Rui Bao and Hui Bao, born in 2023. Park veterinarians and keepers reported that during her 21-day health check, the cub we

- [98% of parents support restricting minors' smartphone use, survey finds](#) (2026-06-24 05:57)

Nearly all parents of school-aged children in Korea support restricting minors' smartphone use, with a large majority willing to switch to a dedicated device that blocks harmful features. According to a survey by Rep. Kim Young-ho of the Democratic Party of Korea, released Wednesday, 98.1 percent of approximately 52,000 parents of elementary, middle and high school students in Seoul, Incheon and South Gyeongsang Province said certain limits on minors' smartphone use were necessary. Respondents also cited a range of other concerns, with 97.5 percent saying smartphones could increase the risk of exposure to harmful or inappropriate content. The majority flagged interference with studying at 96 percent, difficulty controlling screen time at 93.9 percent and family conflict at 90.4 percent. Most parents said they would consider a safer alternative. When asked if they would prioritize a restricted device that still met their child's essential needs, 92.2 percent answered yes. The top reason was prevention of harmful content exposure at 78.6 percent, followed by communication and safety featur

- [Yongsan expands cooling centers for delivery workers as temperatures soar](#) (2026-06-24 05:57)

For the thousands of delivery couriers, postal workers and gig laborers weaving through the dense, steep alleys of Seoul, the arrival of the summer season brings an increasingly perilous threat: severe heat exhaustion. With concrete heat islands accelerating urban temperatures, municipal authorities are transforming civic infrastructure into an active shield for the city's most vulnerable workers. The Yongsan District Office said Wednesday that it launched a coordinated extreme heat safety initiative centered at the Yongsan Workers Support Center. The defensive strategy combines immediate physical relief with an unprecedented expansion of operating hours for municipal cooling centers, specifically targeting "mobile workers" whose

livelihoods depend on continuous outdoor exertion. The district has deployed cooling infrastructure stock-piled with 2,000 bottles of specialized spring water, subsidized through a joint campaign with the Ministry of Employment and Labor and the Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency. Industrial ice chests have been positioned both inside and outside the

- [Incheon opens driving school tailored for migrant workers](#) (2026-06-24 05:57)

For the thousands of temporary industrial workers arriving in Korea, navigating the country's highly automated, dense highway networks can be as perilous as the heavy machinery they operate. Recognizing a growing blind spot in its rapid integration of foreign labor, municipal authorities are taking to the classroom to reinforce the rules of the road. The Incheon Metropolitan Government said Wednesday that it launched an immigrant-focused driver's education program, designed to lower accident rates and help foreign laborers integrate into local society. Run through the Incheon Migrant Workers Support Center, in tandem with the local Nonhyeon Police Department, the initiative directly addresses a rising regional anxiety: the traffic vulnerabilities of a foreign workforce operating without a firm grasp of local transit regulations. The program splits its curriculum into targeted language cohorts. A primary session on June 14 saw 116 workers from Myanmar fill the center's auditorium. A second multinational wave scheduled for Sunday will cater to laborers from the Philippines, Vietnam, Th

- [Viral 'drug zombie' video shocks Korea](#) (2026-06-24 05:57)

A man in his 30s who appeared in a viral video dubbed the "Suwon drug zombie" has been arrested by police on suspicion of drug use. The Suwon Seobu Police Station said Tuesday that it had urgently detained the man, identified only as A, on charges of violating the Narcotics Control Act. A is accused of being under the influence of methamphetamine while wandering around near a bus stop in an apartment complex in Suwon's Gwonseon District at around 12:30 p.m. on Sunday. A witness at the scene filmed A staggering with both arms hanging loosely at his sides and uploaded the footage to social media. In the post, the witness wrote, "This is a bus stop in an apartment complex near our local market," adding, "I never thought I would see something like this in person." The video quickly spread online, prompting reactions from internet users. Some said, "It looks exactly like scenes from American documentaries," while others wrote, "The same thing happened in Korea, right in front of an ordinary apartment complex," and "Isn't that the posture of someone addicted to fentanyl?" Police became aware of

- [Population mobility falls to 52-year low in May amid housing supply decline](#) (2026-06-24 05:57)

The number of Koreans relocating to new regions fell 1.5 percent in May from a year earlier to the lowest level in 52 years, data showed Wednesday, amid a recent decline in housing supply. Around 466,000 people changed residences in May, down 7,000 from a year earlier, according to data from the Ministry of Data and Statistics. It marked the lowest figure for any May month since 415,000 tallied in 1974. The population mobility rate — which refers to the number of

people relocating per 100 residents — fell 0.2 percentage point from a year earlier to 10.8 percent. The ministry attributed the decline to a decrease in the number of new homes on the market. The number of completed housing units in March and April fell 41.5 percent from a year earlier, although the number of homes traded during the period rose 6.8 percent. By region, Seoul posted a net outflow of 4,221 residents, while Gyeonggi Province, which surrounds the capital, recorded a net inflow of 2,433 residents. South Chungcheong Province and Incheon, west of Seoul, added 1,284 and 1,237 residents, respectively.

- [Childbirths soar to highest level in 7 years in April](#) (2026-06-24 05:57)

The number of babies born in South Korea shot up 18 percent in April from a year earlier, reaching the highest level in seven years, government data showed Wednesday. A total of 24,521 babies were born in April, up from 20,787 a year earlier, according to data from the Ministry of Data and Statistics. It marked the highest figure for any April since 26,104 babies were recorded in 2019. Over the January-April period, the total number of births came to 99,534, also the highest in seven years, up a sharp 15.5 percent from a year earlier. The number of births grew at a record rate for both April and the January-April period. The country's total fertility rate, the average number of children a woman is expected to have in her lifetime, rose by 0.13 from a year earlier to 0.93 in April. The number of newborns has been on an upward trend since July 2024. Experts attribute the recent growth to an increase in the number of marriages, along with a more positive perception of childbirth. The rate still remains well below the 2.1 births per woman needed to maintain a stable population without immigration.

- [Ex-prosecutor general questioned over alleged martial law role](#) (2026-06-24 05:57)

GWACHEON — A special counsel team said Wednesday they were questioning former Prosecutor General Shim Woo-jung over his alleged involvement in former President Yoon Suk Yeol's martial law bid in 2024. The team, led by special counsel Kwon Chang-young, suspects that Shim played a key role in an insurrection by reviewing the potential deployment of prosecutors to a joint martial law investigation headquarters on Dec. 3, 2024, the night Yoon declared martial law. Shim allegedly had three phone calls with then Justice Minister Park Sung-jae at the time, raising suspicions that Park may have instructed him to dispatch prosecutors to the martial law body. On Monday, the Seoul Central District Court sentenced Park to 25 years in prison for his role in the martial law bid, including his instruction to Shim to send prosecutors to the martial law body. Shim is also suspected of abusing his power by ordering his subordinates to not indict Yoon's wife, Kim Keon Hee, over various corruption allegations she faced when her husband was in office.

- [State auditor gathering data to conduct financial audit of NEC over ballot shortage](#) (2026-06-24 05:57)

The Board of Audit and Inspection (BAI) has begun collecting data in preparation for a financial audit next month of the National Election Commission (NEC) in the wake of ballot shortages in the recent local elections, the chief auditor said Wednesday. BAI Chair Kim Ho-cheol made the

remark during a meeting with reporters as criticism of the election watchdog has been mounting over the unprecedented shortage of ballot papers during the June 3 elections that led to the temporary suspension of voting at 26 polling stations. "People are greatly interested and concerned over the unacceptable violation of voting rights. After a decision by the Council of Commissioners yesterday, we started gathering data today," Kim said. "I anticipate we can conduct an actual audit around July after determining the scope and period of the audit." The election watchdog is an independent constitutional organization that is not subject to a full-fledged performance audit, a measure aimed at shielding the agency from political influence. But an accounting audit is deemed permissible because it carries no political

- [Sejong University ranks 6th in Korea, 306th worldwide in Best Global Universities Rankings \(2026-06-24 05:57\)](#)

Sejong University ranked sixth in South Korea and 306th worldwide in the 2026-2027 Best Global Universities Rankings released by U.S. News & World Report, reflecting the university's strong performance in international research collaboration and research impact, the university said Tuesday. The rankings evaluated more than 2,250 universities around the world based on comprehensive indicators including research performance and academic reputation. Sejong University achieved particularly strong results in international collaborative research and highly cited publications. The university ranked 19th worldwide in the "International Collaboration – Relative to the Country" category. This indicator measures the extent of international research collaboration while accounting for differences in national research output, highlighting Sejong's active research partnerships with leading institutions around the world. The university also saw strong results in the "Citation Impact" category, a key measure of research quality. The university ranked 47th worldwide in "Publications among

- [Morning World Cup matches spark row over teacher authority in schools \(2026-06-24 05:57\)](#)

Korean educators are caught between World Cup fever and academic pressures. On June 12, the day of Korea's 2026 FIFA World Cup group-stage match against the Czech Republic, Choi, a 40-year-old high school teacher in Siheung, Gyeonggi Province, condensed his lessons to show the game to his students. "Since the kids were happy, I felt like it was a good idea to show it, but I was nervous because the vice principal was patrolling the hallways during that period," he said. Schools are facing a dilemma as all three of Korea's group-stage matches are scheduled during weekday morning school hours. Since the time of matches overlaps with second to fourth period classes, teachers must choose between hosting watch parties and holding regular classes. The upcoming match against South Africa, scheduled for 10 a.m. on Thursday, is a critical game determining whether Korea will advance to the Round of 32, deepening teachers' concerns. Lee, a 42-year-old elementary school teacher in Cheonan, South Chungcheong Province, showed the recent match during lunch and recess after hearing loud cheering from the

- [US professor accused of defaming Korean president fails to appear for police questioning \(2026-06-24 05:57\)](#)

A Korean American professor accused of defaming President Lee Jae Myung did not appear for a scheduled police questioning session Wednesday, citing his wish to be protected from media exposure. Morse Tan, a professor at U.S.-based Liberty University, was due to undergo questioning over defamation allegations at the Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency at 10 a.m. His lawyers released a notice to the press at 10:20 a.m., however, saying they are asking for the session to be rescheduled due to the police agency's own "violation" of its promise to take "personal information protection measures." Tan had reportedly asked to appear without media exposure, but the exterior of the police agency was already crowded with journalists, supporters and civic groups calling for his arrest, before his scheduled attendance. "The responsibility for the nonexecution of the personal information protection measures lies with the agency," the lawyers said. Tan made claims at a press conference in the United States last year that Lee was involved in murder as a teenager and had been sent to a juvenile detention center.

- [Fine dust is damaging our skin, new study finds](#) (2026-06-24 05:57)

While the hazardous effects of air pollution on the human respiratory and cardiovascular systems have long been documented, groundbreaking new research indicates that the threat extends far beyond the lungs, penetrating the body's largest organ: the skin. In the largest Asia-based population study of its kind, researchers at the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA) and the National Institute of Health discovered a powerful link between ambient particulate matter and psoriasis, a debilitating chronic inflammatory skin condition. Analyzing a massive national health database of approximately 8.4 million adults over an average of 13.6 years, the study underscores how deeply environmental degradation is rewriting human pathology. The numbers paint a troubling portrait of urban exposure. According to the findings published in *The Journal of Dermatology*, long-term exposure to fine particulate matter, known as PM2.5, increases the risk of developing psoriasis by 19 percent for every incremental rise of 10 micrograms per cubic meter in annual concentration. For coarser particles,

- [Culture ministry reports 15 to police over scalping of K-pop, sports tickets](#) (2026-06-24 05:57)

The culture ministry has referred 15 people to police for allegedly reselling large quantities of sports and K-pop concert tickets at inflated prices, including some marked up to eight times their original value, officials said Wednesday. The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism said the cases were identified through an analysis of online reports and monitoring data on illegal ticket resales between Jan. 5 and June 16. The investigation focused on activity on major secondhand trading platforms, where certain accounts repeatedly sold multiple tickets or listed dozens of seats for specific events. One seller allegedly resold 110 professional baseball tickets during the period, while another sold 54 tickets for a single game in April. Among 11 individuals involved in sports ticket resales, total estimated sales reached 36.84 million won (\$23,970). In one case, a ticket with a face value of 150,000 won was resold for 350,000 won. Authorities also

found suspected violations involving high-demand concerts with strict purchase limits, including BTS' "ARIRANG" world tour shows in Busan and S

- [Gov't to strengthen oversight of meal cards for children in need](#) (2026-06-24 05:57)

The government will strengthen oversight of meal cards issued for children in need, officials said Wednesday, as a series of misuse cases were found, including using the cards to buy cigarettes and alcohol. Meal cards are issued to children of low-income or single-parent families and other needy kids younger than 18 to make sure that they are fed without skipping meals. The cards can be used just like debit cards to pay for food at restaurants, bakeries and convenience stores. The office for government policy coordination and the welfare ministry conducted a joint inspection between November and April to see whether the cards are used as intended, and found a series of problems, such as parents using the cards to buy non-food items like detergent and tissues. In some cases, parents used the cards to buy cigarettes and alcohol, as unlike convenience stores, some small independent grocery stores still do not have a system denying payment with meal cards for such restricted items, officials said. Dozens of parents were also found to have made false payments totaling 170 million won (\$110,80

- [Ruling party chief resigns, expected to seek reelection for another term](#) (2026-06-24 05:57)

Rep. Jung Chung-rae of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) resigned as chairman of the party Wednesday in a move widely seen as a step toward seeking reelection at the party's upcoming national convention. "I spent many sleepless nights looking back on myself and my political life for the past few days," Jung said during a meeting of the party's supreme council at the National Assembly. "I am stepping down as party leader today." Jung stressed that he devoted himself to supporting President Lee Jae Myung's administration throughout his term and to ensuring that the ruling party, the government and the presidential office worked as a united team. "Although I never had a single day of peace due to resistance from within and outside the party, I carried out my duties without complaining," he said. Jung's remarks came amid criticism from some pro-Lee party members who argue that he is leading the party in a way that suits his own hard-line supporters, rather than working in tandem with Lee on key issues. The convention is expected to shape up as a three-way race between Jung and two ot

- [Korea hosts conference in Washington on expanding defense cooperation with US](#) (2026-06-24 05:57)

Korea's defense ministry held a conference in Washington this week to discuss ways to expand cooperation with the United States in the defense and arms industries, ministry officials said Wednesday. The conference, hosted by Vice Defense Minister Lee Doo-hee on Tuesday (local time), brought together some 120 people, including Michael Vaccaro, the acting principal deputy assistant secretary of state, according to the officials. During the event, the participants discussed ways to materialize bilateral defense cooperation, including on shipbuilding and maintenance, repair and operations, as an axis of the South Korea-U.S. alliance. The conference also covered deepening cooperation on advanced weapons systems and technologies, such as

artificial intelligence and manned-unmanned teaming systems, to address future warfare. The defense ministry said it plans to develop the conference into a platform to support the entry of domestic companies into overseas markets in coordination with the Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency starting this year.

- [Korea lags in AI workforce readiness despite quality STEM education](#) (2026-06-23 23:57)

LONDON — Korea has high quality education in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and corporate research and development capabilities, but the higher education system is less aligned with workforce needs in the age of artificial intelligence (AI) than many of its global competitors, a new index by QS showed Wednesday. The report underscored a growing mismatch between the country's educational strengths and future labor market needs. In the inaugural QS World Future Skills Index 2027, Korea recorded an overall score of 93.4, ranking sixth globally behind the U.S., Australia, the U.K., Germany and Canada. The new index evaluates how well 89 economies are positioned to develop and deploy talent in the era of AI, digital transformation and the green transition, measuring performance across four areas: skills alignment, academic readiness, future of work and economic transformation. Korea showed competitiveness in skills alignment and economic transformation, placing fifth and fourth, respectively. Speaking to The Korea Times, Matteo Quacquarelli, QS vice president for str

- [4 Korean universities break into global top 20 in THE sustainability rankings](#) (2026-06-23 23:57)

LONDON — Four Korean universities made it to the Times Higher Education (THE) Sustainability Impact Ratings 2026's top 20, with Hanyang University ranking sixth globally in results that underscore the rising international standing of Korean higher education. According to the rankings released Wednesday, Hanyang University was the highest-ranked Korean institution, followed by Korea University at joint 12th, Pusan National University in Busan at joint 16th and Kyungpook National University in Daegu at joint 20th. Hanyang's rise was particularly notable, as it climbed from joint 44th last year to the global top 10. The results were announced as part of THE's newly rebranded Sustainability Impact Ratings, formerly known as the Impact Rankings. The framework evaluates universities' contributions to all 17 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), assessing areas such as poverty reduction, health, education, gender equality, climate action, innovation and partnerships. Unlike traditional university rankings that focus heavily on research output, citations and instit

- [\[RESTAURANT OF THE WEEK\] Good night, Sweet Oak](#) (2026-06-23 23:57)

WONJU, Gangwon Province — I drove out to the city of Wonju, in Gangwon Province, after I received some distressing news. The famed barbecue restaurant Sweet Oak will be going on an indefinite hiatus, starting from June 28. My wife and I have been coming here on an annual pilgrimage for the last five years, and we knew we had to come out to send it off before it closed. Gus Flores and Euna Kim opened the restaurant in 2015, and this isn't the first time it's

shut down for a while. The married couple ended up in Korea in part because of Flores' Korean heritage. He previously visited in 2008 and enrolled in a language course in Seoul, before returning to the U.S. in 2013 to learn how to barbecue. He then went to culinary school in London, where he met Kim. Eventually they returned to Korea together, ending up in Wonju due to family connections on his mother's side and the desire for something "less cramped than Seoul." Less cramped might not fully apply to their restaurant, though, because just a short time after we were seated, Sweet Oak was 90 percent full — a good sign for an

- [S. Korea defends extended deterrence cooperation with US, urges China's constructive role](#) (2026-06-23 11:57)

The foreign ministry on Tuesday countered criticism from China over South Korea's extended deterrence cooperation with the United States and expressed hope that Beijing would play a constructive role in advancing the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and regional peace. The response came after China's foreign ministry recently voiced concerns over extended deterrence cooperation between Seoul and Washington, as well as between the U.S. and Japan, and called on Seoul to act prudently. "At a time when North Korea's illegal nuclear and missile programs continue to advance, maintaining a robust deterrence posture through extended deterrence cooperation between South Korea and the U.S. is a legitimate response aimed at protecting the lives and safety of our people, as well as a fundamental responsibility of any responsible government," foreign ministry spokesperson Park Il said at a press briefing. Park stressed that such cooperation is fully consistent with the objectives and obligations of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, adding that South Korea continues to r

- [Prime minister visits alma mater in Beijing](#) (2026-06-23 11:57)

BEIJING/SEOUL — Korean Prime Minister Kim Min-seok paid a visit to his alma mater, Tsinghua University, in Beijing on the second day of his trip to China on Tuesday and discussed relations between the two countries with University President Qiu Yong. Kim, who earned a Master of Law degree from the prestigious school in 2010, said during the closed-door meeting with Qiu, also a secretary of the Communist Party of China, that studying at the university remains one of his most beautiful memories, according to his office. The university is also an important producer of talent that lead China's present and future, Kim was quoted as saying, adding that he visited the university to encourage Korean students studying there and to think about how to move relations between the two countries forward. Kim said the relations between Korea and China have steadily moved forward, despite various ups and downs, and he hopes the trend will continue in the future, and that exchanges between youths of the two countries are important in further developing the ties. Qiu welcomed Kim, calling him a family me

- [Parliamentary committee questions election watchdog officials over ballot shortages](#) (2026-06-23 11:57)

A parliamentary special committee on Tuesday conducted its first inquiry into the National Election Commission (NEC) over an unprecedented shortage of ballots during the recent local

elections. Last week, the National Assembly launched a special 18-member committee to investigate the cause of the shortage of ballots at more than a dozen polling stations in Seoul during the June 3 local elections. "As the chairperson, I feel a deep sense of responsibility for the shortcomings found in the NEC's oversight," former NEC Chairman Roh Tae-ak said at the session. The special committee is scheduled to receive a second round of reporting from the NEC and its regional offices, as well as the interior ministry and the National Police Agency on July 1. The committee also approved plans to conduct an on-site probe on July 8, followed by two days of hearings on July 14 and July 22. "I offer my sincere apologies to the voters who experienced significant confusion and inconvenience while exercising their precious right to vote, which should have been guaranteed," Wi Chul-hwan, acting chairman of the NEC,

- [S. Korea, Philippines hold joint committee on logistics, defense cooperation](#) (2026-06-23 11:57)

South Korea's state arms procurement agency on Tuesday held a joint committee meeting with the Philippine defense ministry to discuss ways to expand bilateral cooperation in the defense and logistics sectors, according to officials. The meeting took place in Manila, attended by officials from the Naval Ship Program Department at the Defense Acquisition Program Administration (DAPA) and logistics chiefs of the Philippine armed forces, according to DAPA. The two sides discussed exchanges between agencies responsible for naval ship programs and procurement, as well as cooperation on the maintenance, repair and operation of South Korean weapons systems exported to the Philippines. Officials from nine South Korean defense companies, including Korea Aerospace Industries, Hanwha Aerospace and LIG Defense & Aerospace (D&A), also met with a Philippine defense ministry delegation to discuss ongoing defense export projects. The Philippines is one of South Korea's key defense cooperation partners and operates a range of Korean-made weapons systems, including FA-50 fighter jets, four frigates, two co

- [Acquittals of former officials confirmed in NK border murder cover-up case](#) (2026-06-23 11:57)

The prosecution said Tuesday it will not appeal the acquittals of two former government officials accused of covering up North Korea's murder of a South Korean fisheries official in 2020, finalizing the rulings. Former National Security Adviser Suh Hoon and former Coast Guard Commissioner General Kim Hong-hee were acquitted by an appellate court last week of distributing false press releases to make it appear the fisheries official, Lee Dae-jun, was shot and killed while trying to defect to the North. The Seoul High Prosecutors Office said that following a close review and consultations with the Supreme Prosecutors Office, it decided not to appeal the case further. Lee was fatally shot by North Korean troops near the de facto maritime border in the Yellow Sea in September 2020, after going missing while on board a fishery inspection ship. His body was later burned by North Korean soldiers. The then administration of President Moon Jae-in said Lee had sought to defect to the North, but prosecutors and critics accused the government of fabricating a lie to prevent the incident from

hurting

- [Police to question US professor this week over alleged defamation of Korean president](#) (2026-06-23 11:57)

Police plan to question Korean American professor Morse Tan this week over his alleged defamation of President Lee Jae Myung, sources said Tuesday. The questioning will take place at the Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency at 10 a.m. Wednesday over allegations that the professor at U.S.-based Liberty University falsely accused Lee of involvement in murder as a teenager. Tan allegedly made the claim at a press conference in the United States last year. He also claimed Lee had been sent to a juvenile detention center for the crime. It will be the first time he will appear for questioning by the police. Last month, police applied for a travel ban on the professor after he failed to comply with their summonses. The justice ministry accepted the request and have banned him from leaving the country until next Tuesday. A request by Tan to suspend the exit ban was rejected by a court, and an appeal is currently under way. Tan's associates said they will hold a press conference outside the SK Olympic Handball Gymnasium in southern Seoul around 8 p.m. Wednesday to state their position on the investiga

- [New gender-neutral police hiring policy drives surge in female recruits](#) (2026-06-23 11:57)

Korea's first unified, gender-neutral hiring process for entry-level police officers resulted in women comprising a record 37.8 percent of the selected candidates. The National Police Agency (NPA) announced Monday that women accounted for 1,112 of the 2,941 applicants selected in the final round for the first half of 2026. This marks the first time women exceeded 30 percent of new hires, aligning with their 37.1 percent share of all applicants. Men accounted for 62.9 percent of the applicant pool and 1,829 of the final selections, or 62.2 percent. Under the previous system, the agency enforced strict gender quotas that generally capped female recruits near 20 percent. Under the new process, candidates faced identical written exams, interviews and physical fitness tests. The agency also shifted the physical evaluation from graded metrics to a pass-fail standard. The agency fully implemented the unified process following a recommendation from the Police Reform Committee in 2017, a directive from the NPA Gender Equality Committee in 2020 and a formal resolution by the National Police Com

- [Digital sex crimes by intimate partners increase, report finds](#) (2026-06-23 11:57)

Offenses involving digital sex crimes by current or former partners are making up a growing portion of sexual violence in Korea, a new government report showed Tuesday, although the country is experiencing an overall decline in several forms of sexual violence. It also said victim-blaming and secondary victimization remain high. The Ministry of Gender Equality and Family released the results of its comprehensive 2025 survey on sexual violence based on a nationwide study conducted every three years under the Sexual Violence Prevention and Victims Protection Act. The 2025 survey was conducted with 10,151 men and women aged 19 to 64. Findings showed that lifetime victimization rates for several major offenses have fallen compared to the results of the 2022 survey. The lifetime prevalence of sexual violence involving

means of communication — such as phones and online platforms — decreased from 9.8 percent to 7.6 percent, while sexual harassment fell from 3.9 percent to 2.4 percent and rape, including attempted rape, from 0.2 percent to 0.1 percent. Behind the overall decline, however, th

- [PM nominee sells three homes, leaving only one amid criticism](#) (2026-06-23 11:57)

Prime Minister nominee Han Seong-sook has sold off three homes, leaving her with only one house, her office said Tuesday, as she prepares for a parliamentary confirmation hearing where her ownership of multiple homes was expected to be the main target of criticism. Han, a former CEO of online portal giant Naver before joining the government as minister for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and startups last year, had owned three homes in Seoul and another in Gyeonggi Province, a point that the opposition denounces as running counter to President Lee Jae Myung's criticism of owners of multiple homes and real estate speculation. The remaining home is a house in Seoul's central district of Samcheong-dong, the office said. "Prime Minister nominee Han Seong-sook said she feels a heavy responsibility as a high-level civil servant and will take the lead in carrying out the government's real estate policy stance," the office said. Han's parliamentary confirmation hearing is set for Thursday and Friday. Her nomination is expected to be approved as the ruling Democratic Party of Korea holds

- [Industry ministry launches new committee to review US investment projects](#) (2026-06-23 11:57)

Korea launched a project management committee led by the industry minister Tuesday to review the viability of potential projects in the United States under Seoul's \$350 billion investment pledge. The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Resources held the inaugural meeting of the project management committee for potential U.S. investment projects, where participants vowed to conduct a comprehensive review of both commercial viability and strategic interests. "The committee will serve as the first gateway in the domestic approval process for investments in the U.S.," the industry ministry said, noting it will review the commercial viability of projects, as well as their strategic and legal aspects and detailed terms. The steering committee under the Korea-U.S. Strategic Investment Corp. (KUIC), which was launched last week, on the other hand, will be responsible for decision-making and fund management. Projects reviewed by both committees will require additional approval from the National Assembly before consultations with Washington. The National Assembly passed the Special Act on Korea-U.S. S

- [President ramps up regional growth blueprint, putting AI, chips at center](#) (2026-06-23 06:07)

President Lee Jae Myung will introduce a sweeping growth strategy next week to spur balanced regional development in collaboration with the private sector, according to multiple officials from Cheong Wa Dae and business circles, Tuesday. The strategy will be presented at a public briefing on Monday set to be attended by business leaders from Samsung, SK, Hyundai Motor, LG and other major conglomerates. The plan is expected to serve as the Lee administration's

first concrete blueprint for fostering artificial intelligence (AI), semiconductor and other cutting-edge industries beyond the Seoul metropolitan area, under a broader national transformation agenda for Lee's second year in office. The conglomerates are likely to outline domestically focused investment plans tied to their core businesses, including AI, semiconductors, data centers, future mobility, batteries and advanced materials. The government is expected to announce a package of support measures, including tax incentives, regulatory easing and assistance in securing electricity, water supplies and skilled workers for regional

- [Gov't eases tax fears for returning diaspora via anonymous counseling](#) (2026-06-23 05:57)

For many older adults who are members of the global Korean diaspora, the desire to spend their retirement years in their ancestral homeland is often complicated by a daunting, opaque obstacle: the local tax code. Fearing that the wealth they have accumulated overseas will be heavily penalized upon entry, many foreign citizens of Korean descent hesitate to pull the trigger on relocation. To eliminate that anxiety, the National Tax Service (NTS) said Tuesday that it will launch a dedicated, one-on-one online tax counseling service starting in July. The initiative aims to dispel pervasive tax myths and ease the transition for the country's 7 million global diaspora members looking to return to Korea. "Many overseas Koreans hesitate to return due to vague tax anxieties or outright misinformation," a spokesperson for the agency said. Common misconceptions include the belief that the Korean government automatically taxes all historic global income once a person registers as a resident, or confusion over how capital gains taxes apply to foreign real estate. The new program, managed by a special

- [Busan opens 8 km of pet-friendly trails across 5 scenic routes](#) (2026-06-23 05:57)

Korea's second-largest city is putting its best paw forward in an effort to smooth over growing tensions between dog lovers and the rest of the public. The Busan Metropolitan Government announced on Tuesday the completion of five dedicated pet-friendly trails stretching a combined eight kilometers across the coastal metropolis. The project is the latest step in Mayor Park Heong-joon's initiative to transform Busan into a pet-friendly city. As the number of domestic pet owners continues to skyrocket nationwide, municipalities are searching for creative urban planning solutions to minimize friction in shared public spaces. Busan's solution targets five of its most popular scenic spots, retrofitting existing pathways to better accommodate four-legged pedestrians without inconveniencing two-legged ones. The newly minted trails feature clever puns incorporating the word "daengdaengi," from the internet slang for dogs. They include "Haeundaeng-gil," a 1.4-kilometer stretch near the city's famed beach, and "Geumgangdaeng-gil," which winds through the forested slopes of Geumgang Park. The c

- [Seoul forges arts pacts across Europe to boost global soft power](#) (2026-06-23 05:57)

Seeking to transform Korea's capital into a global hub, the Seoul Foundation for Arts and Culture announced Tuesday a sweeping diplomatic push across Europe designed to project the city's "soft power" through major festival partnerships and artistic exchanges. The initiative, led

by the foundation's president Song Hyeong-jong, marks a strategic effort by metropolitan officials to elevate Seoul into the ranks of the world's top cultural cities. Following a diplomatic tour through Singapore earlier this year, Seoul arts officials secured long-term partnerships with civic leaders and cultural institutions in Spain, Romania and the Netherlands. The centerpiece of the European tour came on June 9 in Barcelona, where Song signed a strategic memorandum of understanding with Xavier Marcé, the Spanish city's councillor for culture and creative industries. During the summit, Barcelona officials formally invited Seoul to be the guest of honor at La Mercè in 2028, Spain's largest street arts festival. The agreement establishes a permanent pipeline for performing and visual arts exchanges. Begin

- [Lee calls for policies supporting young people left out of tech, stock boom](#) (2026-06-23 05:57)

President Lee Jae Myung on Tuesday called for state policies supporting young people, pointing out that recent booms in the semiconductor and stock markets have widened asset disparities, leaving many young people behind. The president made the remarks while presiding over a Cabinet meeting amid concerns that the record high stock market boom has widened asset disparities between stock investors and non-investors. The benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index (KOSPI) was trading above 9,100 points Tuesday, a sharp rise from a year ago, when the index was in the mid- to high-2,000 range. Semiconductor shares have driven the upsurge amid increased demand for artificial intelligence-related chips. "The semiconductor boom resulted in a stellar surge in the stock market, but it has also cast a shadow of asset polarization as its flip side," Lee said. The president described younger generations as the largest group left behind by the boom, with fewer opportunities to accumulate assets through stable jobs or income. "The government should painfully acknowledge the sense of isolation voiced by

- [No more baggage claim: Korea, US expand 'luggage-free' transfers to LA, Seattle](#) (2026-06-23 05:57)

People flying from Korea to the United States will soon experience a vastly simplified layover. Starting Tuesday, transit passengers flying from Incheon International Airport to Los Angeles and Seattle will no longer have to collect and recheck their bags during transfers, slicing at least 20 minutes off connection times. The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport said Monday it is expanding its International Remote Baggage Screening (IRBS) program to Los Angeles International Airport and Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. The initiative, built on an aviation security partnership with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, allows for a seamless, "luggage-free" transfer to connecting domestic flights. Under the current system, travelers transferring through Los Angeles or Seattle face a logistical hurdle: They must clear immigration, go to the baggage carousel to claim their checked bags, pass through customs, and then drag their luggage to another check-in counter to re-verify it for their next flight — a process that typically takes 90 minutes. The remote screening progr

- [North Korean UNESCO official to skip Jeju Forum](#) (2026-06-23 05:57)

A North Korean UNESCO official who had been expected to join this year's Jeju Forum remotely will not take part in the event after all, organizers said Tuesday. Chang Gwang-chol, chief of the Education Policy Section at UNESCO, had been scheduled to participate via video in a Friday session titled "UNESCO and the Future of Education: Challenges and Prospects." Had he joined, he would likely have become the first North Korean figure to take part in the annual international forum. According to the Jeju Peace Institute, which organizes the event, UNESCO recently informed the forum that Chang would no longer participate. A Vietnamese education expert is expected to replace him on the panel. Interest in Chang's participation had grown in recent weeks because the event is being jointly hosted by the Foreign Ministry and Jeju Province at a time when inter-Korean relations remain largely frozen. Earlier this month, the Unification Ministry said it had accepted a contact report — required under South Korean law before nationals may contact North Korean citizens — submitted by the organi

- [Mexico fast-tracks Korean drug approvals](#) (2026-06-23 05:57)

In a significant breakthrough for transpacific pharmaceutical trade, Mexico has officially designated Korea's Ministry of Food and Drug Safety as a Reference Regulatory Authority for medicines. The landmark decision is poised to dramatically streamline the entry of Korean pharmaceutical products into Latin America's second-largest market. Under the newly established framework, Korean medical products can now bypass exhaustive local evaluations in Mexico by leveraging an Abbreviated Regulatory Pathway. The Federal Commission for the Protection against Sanitary Risks (COFEPRIS), Mexico's health regulatory body, will significantly simplify technical reviews of the quality, safety and efficacy of these drugs. This fast-track mechanism will slash standard bureaucratic timelines, guaranteeing that final approval decisions are rendered within a maximum of 45 business days. The policy stems from regulatory revisions enacted by COFEPRIS, which grant expedited processing to nations holding elite international standing — specifically, standing members of the International Council for Harmoni

- [American booked for assaulting 2 US soldiers](#) (2026-06-23 05:57)

An American man in his 30s has been booked for allegedly assaulting two U.S. soldiers while intoxicated, police said Tuesday. The man is suspected of punching two U.S. Forces Korea service members in their 20s on a street in Pyeongtaek, some 60 kilometers south of Seoul, on Sunday, local police said. The assailant reportedly told investigators he did not know the victims but was angered when they ignored him and used profanity against him. Police said they are investigating the details of the incident.

- [Police open preliminary probe into data leak from gov't website for startup program](#) (2026-06-23 05:57)

Police said Tuesday they have launched a preliminary investigation into a recent information leak from a government website for an audition-style startup incubation program. The National Office of Investigation said the Daejeon Metropolitan Police Agency has opened a case into the

leak from the "Startup for All" project website, which affected 5,000 people who passed the first round of the program. The office made instructions to open an investigation Thursday when the Korea Institute of Startup and Entrepreneurship Development (KISED) under the startup ministry announced the data leak on the website. The police also received a formal investigation request from KISED into the data leak Monday. The breach came to light after an artificial intelligence solutions company in support of the program was found to have exploited a security vulnerability on the project's website, gaining access to applicants' email addresses, summaries of startup ideas and judges' evaluation comments. On Monday, Prime Minister nominee Han Seong-sook, the incumbent minister of small and medium-sized enterprises announced

- [Industry minister shows confidence in Korea's submarine bid despite geopolitical hurdles](#)  
(2026-06-23 05:57)

Industry Minister Kim Jung-kwan signaled confidence in the competitiveness of Korea's submarine proposal for Canada's multibillion-dollar fleet renewal project. However, he cautioned that rising geopolitical pressures and Ottawa's emphasis on NATO interoperability could cloud the final decision, with Germany as the other contender. Hanwha Ocean is competing with Germany's TKMS for the \$39 billion project to replace the Royal Canadian Navy's aging fleet of four Victoria-class submarines with 12 new 3,000-ton diesel-electric vessels, with the contract also covering long-term maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) services. The project is seen as a pivotal opportunity for Korea's shipbuilding sector and a gateway to expanding its defense footprint in North America. The Canadian government is expected to select a preferred bidder by the end of this month. "If (Korea) wins, it would suggest that Canada placed greater weight on the industrial cooperation package than on NATO considerations," the minister said during a press briefing at Government Complex Sejong, Monday. "Given th

- [Jeonbuk National University positions physical AI at core of global leadership bid](#)  
(2026-06-22 23:57)

JEONJU, North Jeolla Province — Inside a manufacturing test lab at Jeonbuk National University, robots move with synchronized precision across a factory floor designed to mimic a real industrial site. Autonomous mobile robots (AMRs) shuttle components between workstations, weaving through production lines without human guidance. Nearby, robotic arms pick up, assemble and inspect parts in a continuous sequence, while cameras and sensors track every movement in real time. The machines communicate with one another, make decisions based on real-time data and adjust on the fly. It is not a commercial factory — not yet. It is an 846-square-meter manufacturing technology test lab designed to replicate real industrial conditions and determine whether physical artificial intelligence (AI) technologies are ready for deployment on actual production floors. The facility sits at the center of Jeonbuk National University's push into physical AI, a field gaining momentum nationally as President Lee Jae Myung works to position Korea as a global leader in the field. Through its test lab and industry-

- [Kookmin University students win Red Dot Design Award](#) (2026-06-22 18:02)

Two design students from Kookmin University have won the prestigious Red Dot Award: Design Concept 2026 for their innovative insulin pen design, the university said Monday. The winners are Kang Ha-neul and Lee Min-seo, both students in the Department of Industrial Design. They were recognized for their project called “INSPO.” INSPO was first presented at an exhibition co-organized by the product design clubs of Kookmin University and Konkuk University in spring 2025. Kookmin University said the award is meaningful as it demonstrates international recognition of design ideas developed by students through club activities and exhibitions. The Red Dot Design Award, based in Germany, is regarded as one of the world’s top three design awards, along with the IDEA awards in the United States and the iF Design Award in Germany. Among its categories, the Design Concept category focuses on discovering innovative ideas and future-oriented design concepts that have not yet been commercialized. INSPO is a smart insulin care solution designed for people with diabetes. Based on an intuitive user exp

- [Searching for K-Sappho: LGBTQ+ people in Korean history](#) (2026-06-22 12:02)

“I tell you / Someone will remember us / even in another time.” This three-line fragment of a poem is attributed to Sappho of Lesbos, a poet well-known for her wistful yet romantic musings on love. She is also the etymological origin of the term “sapphic,” and the more widely known “lesbian.” Sappho is a rare case of a historical figure that is widely agreed to have been part of the LGBTQ+ community. Historical figures, unless their sexualities are explicitly voiced, are often viewed through a lens of heteronormativity. Even considering shifting societal attitudes toward sexual orientation and gender expression, history yields proof that people have always been more complex than the comfortable binaries many believe in. Though not widely known or referenced, Korean history too features its own half-forgotten Sapphos, often mentioned only in passing but with enough consistent presence that they cannot be entirely overwritten — and when better than now to remember them? Warrior-poets of Silla Surviving records of Silla Kingdom (57 B.C.-A.D. 935) showcase a different set of norms

- [Seoul moves to raise subway free-ride age to 70, include bus access](#) (2026-06-22 12:02)

Public transportation passengers aged 65 and older can ride the subway for free, but that age may soon be raised to 70. The Seoul Metropolitan Government said Monday it will move forward with a public hearing on a proposed plan to raise the age threshold, while expanding transportation support for older residents. City officials said they received an official request from the Korean Seoul Senior Citizens Association earlier in the day to jointly host a public forum on senior transportation welfare policies. The city plans to accept the proposal and organize a hearing that allows broader citizen participation. Details on the schedule and venue will be announced on the city’s website. The plan comes as the city pushes to adjust the current free ride system, which grants unlimited free access to all residents aged 65 and older under the Welfare of Older Persons Act. Making the change was a key pledge by Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon in his recent reelection campaign earlier this month. The move follows a June 19 meeting between Oh and the association’s leadership, where both sides discussed ad

- [Activist calls for school police as alternative to ‘Teach You a Lesson’ agents](#) (2026-06-22 11:57)

An education activist is calling for the introduction of a U.S.-style school police system in Korea, arguing that a recent proposal to create a real-life version of a fictional teacher protection squad from the Netflix series "Teach You a Lesson" is legally infeasible and that only police officers with investigative powers can realistically safeguard teachers and students. Lee Keon-joo, representative of the Citizens' Coalition for the Future of School Education, a Seoul-based nongovernmental organization, said the proposal by Gyeonggi education superintendent-elect Ahn Min-seok — inspired by the Korean Educational Rights Protection Bureau, a fictional squad in the drama that deploys discipline agents, sometimes through vigilante violence, to rescue classrooms from unruly students and difficult parents — fails to address the legal realities teachers face daily. “What’s depicted in the drama is a kind of fantasy, because in reality teachers would face serious legal consequences for human rights violations or child abuse if they did the same,” Lee said during a recent interview.

- [Outgoing PM pledges to revive party ratings, prepares for party leadership race](#) (2026-06-22 11:57)

Outgoing Prime Minister Kim Min-seok pledged efforts to lift public support for the Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) as he prepares to leave his post and focus on party affairs, signaling his intention to run for the party leadership. He implied that current DPK leaders, including Chairman Jung Chung-rae, were responsible for the disappointing results in the June 3 local elections and the downward trend in approval ratings for both the party and President Lee Jae Myung. Kim offered his evaluation of the party’s situation on Monday at a press conference, during which he also reviewed his experience as prime minister over the past year, which he is set to leave as soon as his successor is appointed. He is widely believed to be preparing to run in the party’s leadership race, in a national convention set for August. “Now is the time for the party and the administration to show perfect alignment and cooperation, and for the party to do more than it did before the elections to support the president's governance and work to raise overall support for both the party and the administration,

- [Life sentence confirmed for pizza store murderer](#) (2026-06-22 11:57)

A life sentence has been finalized for a 42-year-old man over fatal stabbings at a Seoul pizza store last year, legal sources said Monday. The Seoul High Court handed down the ruling on Kim Dong-won on June 11. Kim's sentence was finalized Friday after he gave up his final appeal against the appellate court ruling, according to the sources. Kim, who operated a franchise pizza store in southern Seoul, killed an employee of the franchiser, an interior contractor and the contractor's daughter in September following a dispute over repair costs. During the sentencing on June 11, the court rejected his defense, saying, "While he (Kim) appears to have been stressed by interior defects, his response led to murder, which is unacceptable by societal standards." The prosecution had previously demanded the death penalty.

- [Lee' s disapproval rating tops approval for first time amid ruling party tensions](#) (2026-06-22 11:57)

President Lee Jae Myung' s disapproval rating has surpassed his approval rating for the first time since he took office, according to a Realmeter survey released Monday, with analysts pointing to growing tensions within the ruling camp as a key factor behind the decline. Lee' s approval rating fell 4.8 percentage points from the previous week to 46.7 percent, while his disapproval rose 5.5 points to 49.7 percent, marking the first time negative assessments have exceeded positive ones since his inauguration in June 2025. It was also the first time his approval rating fell below 50 percent in a Realmeter survey. Realmeter attributed the decline to public backlash over election management failures and intensified infighting within the ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK). The pollster also said concerns over widening wealth disparities contributed to declining support among moderate voters and those living in the Seoul metropolitan area. Kim Sang-il, a political commentator, said the drop reflected broader concerns about how the governing camp has conducted itself since the June 3 local

- [University of Seoul-supported startup to develop AI-based road safety management model](#) (2026-06-22 11:57)

Mobilintec, a mobility and transportation data startup, plans to develop and demonstrate an agentic artificial intelligence (AI)-based traffic collision prediction and response system for local roads as part of a government-led project to develop innovative AI city technologies. The company said Friday that it will participate as a joint research institution in the “2026 AI City Innovative Technology Discovery Project” organized by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport. Mobilintec, based in the campus town program of the University of Seoul, noted that its role is to address traffic safety issues on local roads closely connected to citizens' daily lives by leveraging AI technologies. The university-supported startup seeks to accelerate the commercialization of agentic AI-based risk situation recognition and prediction technologies and expand urban safety services. According to the firm, the project will enable agentic AI to analyze risk situations in real time and predict traffic collisions on local roads shared by diverse road users, including pedestrians, vehicles, p

- [Ex-justice minister given 25-year prison sentence for martial law role](#) (2026-06-22 11:57)

Former Justice Minister Park Sung-jae was sentenced to 25 years in prison Monday after a district court found him guilty of playing a key role in an insurrection through his involvement in former President Yoon Suk Yeol's martial law bid. The Seoul Central District Court handed down the heavy punishment for Park, which surpassed the 20-year prison term sought by special counsel Cho Eun-suk's team. The court immediately placed Park under custody, citing concerns that he may destroy evidence. Cho's team earlier indicted Park on charges of playing a key role in an insurrection and abusing his power by calling a meeting of senior ministry officials following Yoon's declaration of martial law on Dec. 3, 2024. The court convicted Park on both charges, recognizing the special counsel team's argument that Park had called the meeting to review dispatching prosecutors to a martial law-supporting body, check the capacity of

correctional facilities, allegedly to hold politicians and key figures expected to be arrested under the martial law, and order ministry officials in charge of imposing travel

- [Seoul schools roll out AI-powered college guidance for migrant-background students](#) (2026-06-22 11:57)

As the number of students from migrant backgrounds continues to grow in Korea's classrooms, Seoul education officials are expanding efforts to help them navigate a college admissions system that can be difficult even for native-born students to understand. The Seoul Metropolitan Office of Education said Monday that it will broaden customized career and college admissions support for students with migrant backgrounds through a series of information sessions, consulting programs and career fair services. The initiative is designed to provide practical admissions information while strengthening the college and career planning capabilities of students, parents and teachers. A major admissions briefing will be held Tuesday at the education office's main auditorium. The session will introduce special admissions pathways, including social integration admissions, opportunities for students from multicultural families and admissions programs for foreign nationals. Officials will also present successful admission cases tailored to different student groups, including late-arrival immigrant students

- [AI-fabricated witch hunt against Kim Soo-hyun may be 1st of many](#) (2026-06-22 05:57)

Of the several false allegations made against actor Kim Soo-hyun, the most damaging came with the release of an audio recording purportedly featuring the voice of the late actor Kim Sae-ron, whose relationship with Kim Soo-hyun had become the focus of the controversy. "We began dating when I was in middle school and broke up after I entered college. The first time we had sex was during winter break in my second year of middle school. Looking back now, I realize I was taken advantage of." The recording later turned out to have been generated using artificial intelligence (AI). It was among the false materials cited in the case against YouTuber Kim Se-eui, who was taken into custody on charges of spreading false information about Kim Soo-hyun. In retrospect, things might have unfolded differently had the accusation been presented in another form. Had it been made in a written statement or delivered in person by Kim Se-eui, himself already a controversial figure, the public would likely have reacted with caution and demanded verification. But it came in the form of an audio recording pu

- [Seoul's Jung District launches AI platform for Dongdaemun fashion merchants](#) (2026-06-22 05:57)

Jung District in central Seoul said Monday it has launched PROMAX, a free artificial intelligence (AI) image generation prompt platform developed specifically for merchants in the Dongdaemun fashion market, in what officials say is the first initiative of its kind by a local government in Korea. The platform, developed by the district's Dongdaemun Buyer Lounge, provides ready-made text prompts that merchants can copy and feed into generative AI tools with photos of their clothing to produce professional-quality virtual model images. Prompt writing, the process of composing detailed text instructions to guide AI image generators, had

been a significant barrier for the merchants, who found trial and error too time-consuming. The Dongdaemun Buyer Lounge, a multi-purpose fashion community space on the fourth floor of Dongdaemun Design Plaza Fashion Mall, began offering one-on-one AI training to merchants in September last year. After seeing that merchants were interested in AI but struggled with actually using it, the district began platform development in May and ran a pilot before the official launch.

- [2 Korean-operated vessels exit Strait of Hormuz following US-Iran deal](#) (2026-06-22 05:57)

Two Korean-operated vessels have exited the Strait of Hormuz following last week's ceasefire agreement between the United States and Iran that reopened the strategic waterway, the maritime ministry said Monday. The Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries said the vessels are sailing normally after passing through the strait, but they have yet to completely leave the high-risk part of the passage. No Korean crew members are on board the vessels, and they are not bound for South, the ministry said, declining to disclose further details due to safety concerns. Under the ceasefire agreement reached with Washington, Tehran has agreed to allow vessels to transit the Strait of Hormuz without any fees for 60 days following the signing of the deal. With the departure of the two vessels, the number of Korean-linked ships remaining in the strait has fallen to 22. The ministry said 135 Korean sailors remain in the Persian Gulf, including 102 aboard Korean-operated vessels and 33 serving on foreign-flagged ships.

- [Kookmin University research team's paper accepted for presentation at international robotics conference](#) (2026-06-22 05:57)

A Kookmin University research team has developed a new technology that helps artificial intelligence (AI) better understand 3D environments when objects are hidden from view or visual information is limited. The university said Friday that a paper detailing the technology has been accepted for presentation at the 2026 IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS) set for Sept. 27 to Oct. 1 in Pittsburgh. The team was led by Lee Seong-won, professor at the university's School of Electrical Engineering. The team included Kim Jun-ho, a senior majoring in electrical engineering. Kim is the first author of the paper titled "RayOcc: Occlusion-Agnostic Ray Occupancy Estimation via Gaussian Mixture Intensity," which proposes a robust AI-based method for estimating the occupancy of 3D spaces, helping overcome visibility limitations in complex environments. The university noted that the technology addresses challenges in 3D spatial understanding — essential for autonomous driving and robotics systems — and demonstrates the potential to overcome uncertainties

- [S. Korea slams N. Korea's expanded border fencing as armistice agreement violation](#) (2026-06-22 05:57)

The South Korean military on Monday denounced North Korea's intensified border fencing as a violation of the armistice agreement that halted the 1950-53 Korean War, following a report that the fences have been built very close to the inter-Korean border. The JoongAng Ilbo reported that the North has installed barbed wire fences just 80-90 meters from the Military Demarcation

Line (MDL) separating the two Koreas, clearing land to plant mines as close as 5-10 meters to the MDL, citing military sources and a lawmaker. After the North's leader Kim Jong-un declared inter-Korean ties as those between "two states hostile to each other" in late 2023, the North has been fortifying the border since April 2024 by reinforcing barbed wire fences, planting mines and erecting anti-tank barriers along the MDL. "The North Korean military's installation of barriers along the MDL is a clear violation of the Armistice Agreement and our military will continue to respond in close cooperation with the United Nations Command (UNC)," the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said in a statement. The JCS said the military

- [Sungkyunkwan University jumps 18 spots to 108th in QS World University Rankings](#) (2026-06-22 05:57)

Sungkyunkwan University ranked 108th in the QS World University Rankings 2027, rising 18 places from 126th last year and reaffirming its global competitiveness as a leading institution. The university said Friday that the rise was driven mainly by enhanced research performance. Research-related indicators, including citations per faculty and research impact, showed significant gains, reflecting the university's sustained research achievements accumulated over many years. The institution regards the accomplishment as one of the key outcomes of its Vision 2030 initiative. In September 2021, it announced the initiative with the goal of becoming a global leader in creating value for future society through creative challenges and innovation. At the time, the university set four strategic goals: innovating university education, becoming a leading research-centered university, building mutually beneficial partnerships and enhancing the university brand. The university said the rise in the global rankings represents a tangible result of its continued efforts to achieve the goal of becoming a l

- [Investigators seek arrest warrant for Shincheonji sect leader Lee Man-hee](#) (2026-06-22 05:57)

Investigators said Monday they have filed for an arrest warrant for 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 between 2021 and 2024. Lee Man-hee is accused of violating the Political Parties Act, which bans forcing people to join or quit political parties. He is suspected of forcing church followers to join the PPP with the intention of swaying the outcome of the party's presidential primary in 2021 and the general election primaries in 2024. A joint investigative team between the police and prosecution, charged with investigating allegedly corrupt ties between political and religious groups, has been investigating the allegations surrounding Shincheonji.

- [Korea to sharpen tobacco warnings with blunter labels](#) (2026-06-22 05:57)

Korea is doubling down on its efforts to curb smoking, announcing Monday a sweeping redesign of the graphic warnings plastered across tobacco products. Starting Dec. 23, cigarette packs will feature more visceral imagery and blunter language, a shift intended to shock consumers out of complacency after a six-month grace period for manufacturers. The overhaul marks the sixth

iteration of the nation's warning system since its inception in 2016. Under Korean law, these public health alerts must be refreshed every 24 months to combat "warning fatigue" — a phenomenon where smokers become desensitized to the graphic images. This year's update, however, is less of a routine rotation and more of a strategic escalation. For traditional cigarettes, the Ministry of Health and Welfare is pivoting toward harsher realities. Out is the warning for erectile dysfunction. In is a new, stark depiction of kidney cancer. Five existing graphics have also been redesigned for maximum psychological impact. More notable than the imagery is the linguistic shift. The ministry is abandoning polite, conditional

- [Ex-defense minister booked over alleged attempt to provoke N. Korea for martial law bid](#) (2026-06-22 05:57)

A special counsel team has booked former Defense Minister Kim Yong-hyun on suspicion of attempting to use a military intelligence unit to create a pretext for former President Yoon Suk Yeol's martial law bid, legal sources said Monday. Special counsel Kwon Chang-young has been investigating allegations that the Defense Intelligence Command (DIC) attempted to push for operations against North Korea to foment inter-Korean tensions and establish a justification for Yoon to declare martial law in December 2024. It has been looking into whether anti-North Korea drills conducted by the DIC's covert agents were prepared to provoke Pyongyang for the martial law declaration. Kwon's team believes the exercise cannot be seen as regular training. The team has booked Kim and two former DIC commanders — Noh Sang-won and Moon Sang-ho — as suspects on charges of benefiting the enemy, according to the sources. It questioned former President Yoon over the allegations on June 13. Earlier this month, Kim received a 30-year prison sentence for involvement in orchestrating drone infiltrations into North Ko

- [Lee's disapproval rating exceeds approval rating for 1st time since inauguration](#) (2026-06-22 05:57)

President Lee Jae Myung's disapproval rating has surpassed his approval rating for the first time since he took office in June last year, a survey showed Monday, amid the fallout of ballot shortages reported during the recent local elections. In the poll commissioned by the EKN newspaper and conducted by Realmeter, Lee's approval rating dropped 4.8 percentage points from a week earlier to 46.7 percent, marking the first time his approval rating fell below 50 percent in a Realmeter poll since his inauguration. The negative assessment climbed 5.5 percentage points to 49.7 percent. Realmeter attributed the decline to the recent controversy surrounding poor management of ballot shortages in the June 3 local elections and a deepening internal strife in the ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK). "Despite positive factors, including the outcome of the president's trip to Europe and the benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index topping the historic 9,000-point level, concerns over widening inequality in the asset market intensified, leading to the decline in support among moderates and those

- [PM nominee apologizes for information leak from 'Startup for All' website](#) (2026-06-22 05:57)

Prime Minister nominee Han Seong-sook apologized Monday over a recent information leak from the government's website for an audition-style startup incubation program. An artificial intelligence solution firm serving as a project partner was found to have exploited a security loophole in the website for the "Startup for All" project and collected the emails, summarized startup ideas and judge reviews of 5,000 people that passed the first round of the audition. The leak came to light after the company sent promotional emails to the successful candidates. "I earnestly apologize for the concerns and inconvenience caused by the personal information leak from the Startup for All platform," Han said in her capacity as minister for medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and startups. "I feel heavy responsibility for failing to protect the trust of startup applicants ... and offer words of deep apology." The startup ministry also came under fire for reporting the leak to the Korea Internet and Security Agency (KISA) some 70 hours after learning of the incident. The ministry said it took emergency securi

- [Investigators to question election workers over ballot shortage](#) (2026-06-22 05:57)

Investigators on Monday were set to question a group of civil servants who worked at polling stations that experienced ballot shortages during the June 3 local elections, legal sources said. Eight individuals have been asked to appear before a joint police and prosecution team investigating the ballot shortages that temporarily suspended voting at 26 polling stations across the nation. The civil servants in question are said to have been mobilized to manage two polling stations in Seoul that experienced ballot paper shortages. Investigators plan to question them about the election watchdog's response measures to the shortages at the time, according to the informed sources. The move comes after the joint investigation team raided the National Election Commission (NEC) on June 11 as part of its investigation into the shortages. The shortages have sparked public backlash, leading to continued protests outside a gymnasium in southern Seoul that served as a ballot counting center, with some protesters demanding a rerun of the elections. The protests at the SK Olympic Handball Gymnasium have con

- [Impeachment petition against defense minister tops 75,000 as reform backlash mounts](#) (2026-06-22 00:02)

Defense Minister Ahn Gyu-back is facing growing opposition to his military reform agenda, with a parliamentary petition calling for his impeachment surpassing 75,000 signatures just four days after it was launched. The petition, which has already cleared the 50,000-signature threshold required for referral to a National Assembly committee, cites concerns over the dismantling of the Defense Counterintelligence Command (DCC), the government's handling of a recent reservist death during training and other defense policies pursued under Ahn. At the same time, a separate petition opposing the proposed consolidation and relocation of Korea's service academies is also approaching the threshold for parliamentary review, highlighting broader resistance to Ahn's reform agenda. According to the National Assembly's petition website, the impeachment petition was opened on Thursday and exceeded 75,000 signatures as of Sunday. It crossed the 50,000-signature mark on Saturday, making it eligible for review by the Assembly's National Defense Committee. Petitioners argued that the defense ministry

- [All 6 THAAD launchers return to Seongju from Osan](#) (2026-06-21 11:57)

All six launchers of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) missile system deployed in the southeastern county of Seongju have returned to base following their relocation in the wake of the U.S.-Israeli war against Iran, sources said Sunday. The truck-mounted launchers were reported to have moved from Seongju to Osan Air Base in Pyeongtaek, about 60 kilometers south of Seoul, in March, fueling speculation the U.S. military was planning to transfer THAAD missile interceptors to the Middle East to support the war. The launchers and other parts of the THAAD battery, however, were believed to have remained in South Korea, as some of the trucks were later seen returning to Seongju. U.S. Forces Korea Commander Gen. Xavier Brunson told a Senate hearing in April that THAAD remained in South Korea. "Currently, we are sending munitions forward, and those are sitting right now waiting to move," he said at the time, without elaborating.

- [Protests over ballot shortage continue for 17th day](#) (2026-06-21 11:57)

Protests demanding a rerun of the June 3 local elections marred by ballot paper shortages entered the 17th day Sunday at a ballot counting site in southern Seoul. Protesters continued to chant slogans and hold pickets claiming election fraud outside SK Olympic Handball Gymnasium in Seoul's southern district of Songpa, which was used as a ballot counting site for the elections. As many as 34,000 people were gathered at the venue as of 3:30 p.m., with those in their 20s and 30s accounting for more than half of the total, according to an estimate by the Seoul city government. The protests began June 5, two days after ballot shortages temporarily suspended voting at 26 polling stations. While the National Election Commission (NEC) has apologized for the ballot shortages, it says they do not warrant a rerun under the election law. A joint team of police investigators and prosecutors has been investigating the NEC over the shortages. The government has urged people taking part in the protests to refrain from illegal acts, saying that while peaceful rallies should be protected, illegal acts of v

- [Lee appoints new top aides as approval ratings fall](#) (2026-06-21 11:57)

President Lee Jae Myung appointed five new senior aides, Sunday, in a move aimed at accelerating the implementation of his administration's policy agenda as it enters its second year, with appointments spanning communications, civil affairs, social policy and national security. Presidential chief of staff Kang Hoon-sik announced the appointments during a briefing at Cheong Wa Dae in Seoul, emphasizing that the selections were designed to help realize Lee's vision for the second year of his administration. Seong Ghi-hong, former president and CEO of Yonhap News Agency, was named senior presidential secretary for public relations and communications. Han Chan-sik, a former senior prosecutor, was appointed senior presidential secretary for civil affairs, and is expected to play a key role in advancing the administration's prosecutorial reform agenda. Kim Kyoung-ja, former vice chairperson of the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions and a pharmacist by training, was named senior presidential secretary for social affairs. Former Army commander Kang Gun-jark was appointed first deputy national s

- [Samsung, SK hynix-linked semiconductor majors more competitive than SNU admissions](#) (2026-06-21 11:57)

University departments guaranteeing jobs at Samsung Electronics and SK hynix required more competitive admissions scores than Seoul National University's (SNU) natural sciences track this year — a notable milestone given that SNU, widely regarded as Korea's most prestigious university, has long set the benchmark for top admissions scores — reflecting surging student demand for chipmaker careers amid record bonus packages at the two companies. According to an analysis released Sunday by Jongno Academy, a private university admissions prep institution, five semiconductor departments partnered with the two semiconductor giants averaged 96.2 in admission scores based on Korea's College Scholastic Ability Test, also known as Suneung, outpacing SNU's natural science track by 0.4 points. The university-corporate partnership model, introduced in 2003, pairs companies with universities to shape curricula around industry needs. Companies support tuition costs, and most students are guaranteed jobs upon completing their degrees. SK hynix has contracts with Hanyang University, Korea University

- [Fraud against foreigners quadruples over 2 years, with K-pop scams rising](#) (2026-06-21 11:57)

As a record number of international visitors flock to Korea on the back of the popularity of Korean culture, crimes targeting foreigners have surged sharply, with K-pop merchandise scams emerging as a growing threat among a broader wave of fraud. According to latest data submitted by the National Police Agency to Rep. Kim Joon-hwan of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea, the number of foreign nationals — whether visitors or residents — who fell victim to fraud in Korea nearly quadrupled over the past two years. The number of foreign fraud victims rose from 5,307 in 2023 to 8,671 in 2024, before skyrocketing to 19,907 last year. One of the notable fraud schemes targeting foreigners are scams related to hallyu, or the Korean wave, in which fraudsters approach overseas fans claiming they can purchase and ship merchandise related to K-pop stars or other Korean celebrities. Victims are asked to send money upfront, after which the scammers disappear without delivering the goods. Such complaints have become increasingly common on social media platforms, particularly X, formerly Twitter, wh

- [Red Cross warns of rising global conflicts with 'Wars Have Limits' exhibition in Seoul](#) (2026-06-21 05:57)

Marking the 60th anniversary of Korea's accession to the Geneva Conventions, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) opened a special exhibition, "Wars Have Limits," in the lobby of the Seoul Museum of History, on May 15. Displaying the history of the Geneva Conventions and the humanitarian efforts of the Red Cross during the 1950-53 Korean War, the exhibition highlights the grave dangers posed by modern warfare technologies and examines the challenges they present to international humanitarian law, particularly with the emergence of drones, artificial intelligence (AI) and autonomous weapons. While humanitarian needs are growing as wars continue to devastate lives around the world, the resources that can

help affected populations are shrinking fast. As the world grapples with rising conflicts, the exhibition invites visitors to reflect on a principle the entire world has agreed on — that even in war, there are limits. At a reception event on June 4, David Quesne, head of the ICRC mission in Seoul, said that there are currently over 130 conflicts worldwide, more than dou

- [Gov't approves sanctions against 166 child support defaulters](#) (2026-06-21 05:57)

The Ministry of Gender Equality and Family said Sunday it has approved 184 sanctions against 166 people who failed to meet their child support obligations, including travel bans and driver's license suspensions. The sanctions, approved by the 51st child support enforcement review committee earlier this month, included 120 travel bans, 41 driver's license suspensions and 23 cases of public disclosure of personal information, according to the ministry. The average amount of unpaid child support stood at about 45 million won (\$29,354), while the largest outstanding amount totaled approximately 192 million won. Under the Child Support Act, sanctions may be imposed on individuals who fail to comply with a court order requiring a lump-sum child support payment for more than 30 days, those who miss child support payments at least three times despite a court enforcement order, or those whose unpaid child support exceeds 30 million won. The number of sanctions has risen steadily, from 639 cases in 2023 to 947 in 2024 and 1,389 last year. In the first half of this year alone, 720 sanctions were ap

- [Veteran journalist of 30 years appointed presidential communication secretary](#) (2026-06-21 05:57)

Seong Ghi-hong, the new presidential secretary for public relations and communication, is a veteran newswire journalist with 30 years of experience covering politics, the economy and national news. Seong, 58, is the former CEO and president of Yonhap News Agency, who covered an array of areas after joining the company in 1992. In 2007, he visited North Korea with other reporters covering Cheong Wa Dae to report on inter-Korean talks between late former President Roh Moo-hyun and late North Korean leader Kim Jong-il, the father of incumbent North Korean leader Kim Jong-un. Following his three-day trip to Pyongyang, he co-authored a book on the historic event with other reporters and Cheong Wa Dae officials. In 2016 and 2017, he led political news coverage of allegations surrounding former President Park Geun-hye and her impeachment that eventually resulted in an early presidential election. Prior to his appointment as Yonhap News Agency CEO in 2021, he also worked as the news director of Yonhap News Television from 2019. Seong is described as being trusted from both inside and outside the o

- [Pharmacist-turned-activist appointed presidential secretary for social affairs](#) (2026-06-21 05:57)

New presidential secretary for social affairs Kim Kyoung-ja is a pharmacist-turned labor activist who previously served as a senior leader of Korea's largest umbrella labor federation. Kim, 59, began her career as a labor activist in the healthcare sector in 1995, serving as head of the Inha University Hospital's labor union under the Korean Federation of Hospital Workers' Union

(KHMU) She later led the KHMU's Gyeonggi regional chapter from 1998 to 2005 and served as the union's vice president from 2006 to 2008. Kim went on to serve as a vice president of the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions (KCTU), one of Korea's largest labor federations, in 2009, 2013, and from 2015 to 2017. She was also the federation's senior vice president from 2017 to 2020. Kim has also served as a member of the National Pension Fund Management Committee under the Ministry of Health and Welfare, and worked as a visiting professor at Woosuk University in the southwestern city of Jeonju.

- [World Refugee Day festival brings communities together in Seoul](#) (2026-06-21 05:57)

To mark World Refugee Day, people from different walks of life gathered on Saturday for the fifth "Shall We Walk?" Refugee Festival at Ttukseom Hangang Park beneath Cheongdam Bridge near Jayang Station on Seoul Metro Line 7. Despite the rainy weather, the festival featured refugee performances representing cultures from around the world, where refugees took center stage to share their lives, stories and unique talents. Attendees enjoyed traditional Burundian drumming, Ethiopian and Jumma cultural dance performances, Sudanese, Pakistani and Afghan music, Korean songs, African traditional singing and K-pop, highlighting the cultural diversity that refugees offer to Korean society and showcasing refugee communities living in Korea. Organized by Refugee pNan, a local nongovernmental organization, the festival was designed to foster natural encounters that overcome prejudice. Rather than relying on lectures or formal discussions, the open-space event encourages understanding through shared experiences, aiming to reduce the distance and misconceptions often associated with the term "refugee"

- [Fraud against foreigners quadruples in 2 years, with K-pop scams rising](#) (2026-06-21 05:57)

As a record number of international visitors flock to Korea on the back of the popularity of Korean culture, crimes targeting foreigners have surged sharply, with K-pop merchandise scams emerging as a growing threat among a broader wave of fraud. According to latest data submitted by the National Police Agency to Rep. Kim Joon-hwan of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea, the number of foreign nationals — whether visitors or residents — who fell victim to fraud in Korea nearly quadrupled over the past two years. The number of foreign fraud victims rose from 5,307 in 2023 to 8,671 in 2024, before skyrocketing to 19,907 last year. One of the notable fraud schemes targeting foreigners are scams related to hallyu, or the Korean wave, in which fraudsters approach overseas fans claiming they can purchase and ship merchandise related to K-pop stars or other Korean celebrities. Victims are asked to send money upfront, after which the scammers disappear without delivering the goods. Such complaints have become increasingly common on social media platforms, particularly X, formerly Twitter, wh

- [Ex-veteran prosecutor appointed presidential secretary for civil affairs](#) (2026-06-21 05:57)

New presidential secretary for civil affairs Han Chan-sik, a former senior prosecutor and attorney, is expected to help steer the Lee Jae Myung administration's prosecutorial reform agenda, leveraging his deep knowledge of the prosecution service and legal affairs. Han, 59,

previously served as director-general of the Justice Ministry's Human Rights Bureau and chief prosecutor of the Seoul Eastern District Prosecutors Office. While serving as chief prosecutor, he led the investigation into allegations of a blacklist involving senior officials under the former liberal Moon Jae-in administration. He resigned in 2019 ahead of the inauguration of Yoon Suk Yeol as prosecutor general, who later became president, and joined Kim & Chang, South Korea's largest law firm, as an attorney in August 2022. Han is expected to focus on completing the administration's prosecutorial reform agenda ahead of the planned overhaul of the prosecution system in October, including the creation of separate agencies responsible for public prosecutions and criminal investigations. Attention is also focused on whether

- [Court to deliver ruling on ex-first lady on jobs-for-gifts bribery charges](#) (2026-06-21 05:57)

A Seoul court is set to deliver its verdict this week on former first lady Kim Keon Hee, who has been indicted over receiving luxury gifts in exchange for job appointments and business favors. The Seoul Central District Court will hold the sentencing hearing for Kim, the wife of ousted former President Yoon Suk Yeol, on charges of violating a law on the acceptance of bribes for mediation, at 2 p.m. Friday, according to judicial sources Sunday. Kim was indicted in December on charges of receiving over 100 million won (\$65,231) worth of jewelry, including a Van Cleef & Arpels necklace, from the chairman of a construction company between March and May 2022, along with a request for a government position for the businessman's son-in-law. She also allegedly received a golden turtle ornament from Lee Bae-yong, former head of the National Education Commission, in April that year in exchange for her appointment to the position. In addition, Kim is suspected of receiving a Dior bag worth 5.4 million won from a pastor in 2022, as well as a Vacheron Constantin watch from an entrepreneur that year.

- [Lee appoints new senior secretaries for communication, civil affairs](#) (2026-06-21 05:57)

President Lee Jae Myung has appointed new senior presidential secretaries for communications and civil affairs, along with three other aides, the presidential chief of staff said Sunday. Seong Ghi-hong, former CEO and president of Yonhap News Agency, was appointed presidential secretary for public relations and communication, while Han Chan-sik, a former senior prosecutor, was named presidential secretary for civil affairs, the official said. Kim Kyoung-ja, former vice chairperson of the country's biggest umbrella union, the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions, was appointed presidential secretary for social affairs. Former Army commander Kang Gun-jark and Song Ki-ho, a senior official at the National Security Office, were named the first and third deputy national security advisers, respectively. Presidential chief of staff Kang Hoon-sik described the new presidential secretary for communication, the second person to hold the post under the Lee administration, as a veteran journalist with 30 years of experience who is equipped with a sense of balance and sound judgment. "He will closely

- [Gyeonggi Province launches 1st survey of its 18,000 refugees](#) (2026-06-20 23:57)

Gyeonggi Province, the populous economic engine surrounding Seoul, has launched the first comprehensive provincial investigation into the living conditions of its refugee population. The

initiative marks a significant shift in how Korean local governments manage forced migration, moving beyond generalized immigrant support systems to address the distinct legal and socioeconomic vulnerabilities of displaced people. At an inaugural briefing held Thursday at the Gyeonggi Migration and Integration Support Center in Uijeongbu, officials outlined an ambitious monitoring framework designed to map the structural gaps plaguing the state's refugee safety nets. The investigation comes on the heels of the province's pioneering Ordinance on the Protection of Human Rights and Guarantee of Basic Living for Refugees, enacted last year. As of late March, Gyeonggi Province was home to 18,169 refugees, representing roughly 2.5 percent of the region's long-term foreign residents. While Korea became the first East Asian country to pass a standalone refugee law in 2012, humanitarian groups have long critic

- [Mixed-race daughter Korea tried to send away is now helping adoptees return home](#) (2026-06-20 17:57)

“578 Ganeung 3-dong, Uijeongbu, Gyeonggi Province. 3-tong, 2-ban,” she said in Korean. Meeky Woo Flippen, now 60, still has that address etched into her memory after more than 50 years. “My mother taught me the address when I was 5. ‘I’m not going anywhere,’ she told me. ‘So if someone kidnaps you, make sure you come back here.’” As she recalled, there had indeed been attempts to take her away. Whenever she returned home from school, a “lady” from Holt International waited for her around the corner. “You can’t live here,” the woman told her. “In America, you can eat all the chocolate you want.” She then seized Meeky by the hand and tried to drag her away. Meeky wrenched herself free and ran as fast as her legs could carry her. When she reached her doorstep, her mother rushed outside and roared. “I told you I’m not sending my children away. Get lost!” Meeky smiled as she recalled those memories of her childhood and her mother. She said the hurt of being jeered at as a “dirty Yankee girl” at school would fade whenever she took shelter behind her mother

- [Ex-vice Gyeonggi governor found guilty of perjury over claims of 'drinking party' during interrogation](#) (2026-06-20 05:57)

SUWON — A regional court on Saturday found a former vice governor of Gyeonggi Province guilty of perjury for falsely testifying to parliament that he was provided with alcohol and food during a prosecution interrogation. The Suwon District Court sentenced Lee Hwa-young to four months in prison, convicting him of violating the law on testimony before the National Assembly, according to the court document. The case was tried before a seven-panel citizen jury. Lee was indicted on perjury charges after he testified during a parliamentary hearing in 2024 that he and Kim Seong-tae, former chairman of underwear maker Ssangbangwool, were treated to alcohol and raw salmon during questioning by prosecutors over their involvement in an illegal remittance to North Korea in 2019. Lee claimed that they had talked about getting their stories straight to incriminate President Lee Jae Myung, then the main opposition party leader who had served as Gyeonggi governor when the unauthorized money transfer allegedly took place. The latest court ruling extends the jail term for the former vice governor as he

- [Rain to continue nationwide through evening after heavy downpours](#) (2026-06-20 05:57)

Rain is expected to continue across South Korea through Saturday evening after heavy downpours drenched much of the country overnight, weather officials said. Between 6 p.m. Friday and 6 a.m. Saturday, accumulated precipitation reached 137.5 millimeters on Halla Mountain on Jeju Island, 94 mm in Sangju, 88 mm in Gongju and 60.6 mm in Seoul, according to the Korea Meteorological Administration (KMA). Rain is expected to continue until Sunday morning in mountainous and coastal areas of Gangwon Province. Additional rainfall of 50-120 mm is forecast for the province's mountainous and coastal areas. The Seoul metropolitan area, Gangwon's inland region, Daegu, North Gyeongsang Province and Ulleung Island are also expected to receive 30-80 mm more rain. The KMA warned of rough seas along southern and eastern waters, with waves expected to reach up to 5 meters in the East Sea through Sunday.

- [End of 4 distinct seasons in Korea? Rising temperatures strengthen subtropical climate characteristics](#) (2026-06-19 17:57)

Korea could become almost entirely subtropical by the end of the 21st century, according to a new warning from the Korea Meteorological Administration (KMA). The findings were released Tuesday through an analysis by the KMA, which looked into the current status and future outlook of subtropical climate characteristics in the country. Using observational data — including average temperatures and precipitation — from 66 weather stations nationwide between 1981 and 2025, the agency projected how Korea's climate is likely to change in the coming decades. The analysis found that temperatures in Korea have risen steadily. Over the past 53 years (1973–2025), the country's annual average temperature has increased by 0.3 degrees Celsius per decade. Last year, the national annual average temperature reached 13.7 degrees Celsius, the second-highest on record. The warming trend was especially pronounced during the transitional seasons, with February, March, September and November experiencing larger increases than other months. As temperatures continue to rise, Korea's climate is gradually sh

- [Korea's child protection paradox: Safeguarding children, sidelining teachers](#) (2026-06-19 17:57)

A South Jeolla Province elementary school teacher with two decades of experience spent four months clearing her name last summer after a parent alleged child abuse. The claim arose after the teacher tried to reconcile two fighting students, after which one child falsely told parents that the teacher scolded them unfairly. Even after police cleared her of all charges, the teacher faced continuous malicious complaints from the family, who claimed she would disadvantage the child upon returning from leave. She eventually transferred to another school. "Isn't this like putting a gun in the parents' hands?" an official from a fictional Educational Rights Protection Bureau said in episode five of Netflix' "Teach You a Lesson." Reality closely tracks the show, highlighting an institutional imbalance where parents weaponize unvetted claims while teachers face severe professional trauma. Despite authorities strengthening rights protection systems following the 2023 suicide of a teacher at Seoi Elementary School, educators say indiscriminate

child abuse allegations remain rampant. Over 90 percent

- [Is hair loss a survival issue? Party leader hits insurance coverage proposal](#) (2026-06-19 17:57)

Minor conservative Reform Party leader Lee Jun-seok criticized the government's plan to include hair-loss medication in the national health insurance coverage, arguing that limited resources should instead be prioritized for patients with severe and rare diseases. In a post on Facebook on Tuesday, Lee pushed back against the government's description of access to hair-loss medication as "a matter of survival," stating that the drugs are neither difficult to obtain nor as costly as the government has suggested. "The Lee Jae Myung administration has described access to hair-loss medication as a matter of survival, but with patents on finasteride-based treatments having expired, a flood of generic versions has brought the monthly cost down to between 10,000 won (\$6.60) and 30,000 won," the conservative party leader wrote. He went on to argue that expanding coverage to include hair-loss medication would undermine the basic principles governing the national health insurance system. "The foremost purpose of the national health insurance system is to uphold the social promise that

- [Lee calls inflation top policy priority, urges 'extraordinary' measures to stabilize prices](#) (2026-06-19 11:57)

President Lee Jae Myung said Friday inflation is the government's most urgent policy challenge and urged officials to devise extraordinary measures to stabilize prices and ease the burden on households. Lee made the call during a meeting with senior presidential aides, noting it will take a long time before global energy supply chains return to normal and the Strait of Hormuz is fully reopened despite a ceasefire deal between the United States and Iran aimed at ending the monthslong war in the Middle East. "The high oil prices, inflation and heightened foreign exchange rate volatility triggered by the war have done significant damage to our economy," Lee said. "The most urgent task right now is prices. Both the presidential office and the government must mobilize all available means to stabilize prices and restore the people's livelihoods," he added. Though the pace of price growth has been managed through the oil price cap system and other preemptive responses, there are still many areas that require attention, Lee said, calling for "extraordinary measures" to normalize petroleum produc

- [JoongAng Ilbo files for creditor-led workout program](#) (2026-06-19 11:57)

JoongAng Ilbo, one of Korea's leading newspapers, has filed for a creditor-led workout program, as the liquidity crisis at its parent JoongAng Group deepens to threaten the group's affiliates, including major broadcaster JTBC. According to the newspaper on Friday, it filed for a workout program with its main creditor Hana Bank, in a bid to restructure its debt and improve its financial health through negotiations with creditors. "We will continue discussions with creditors and faithfully devise effective debt restructuring measures and plans to normalize management," the newspaper said in a press release. Earlier this week, five JoongAng Group subsidiaries — JoongAng Holdings, JTBC, Contentree JoongAng, Megabox JoongAng and

JoongAng P&I — filed for court receivership after JTBC defaulted on a 20.6 billion won (\$13.6 million) debt repayment. The groupwide financial crisis also affected JoongAng Ilbo. On Thursday, Hanyang Securities, which holds 22 billion won worth of commercial paper issued by the newspaper, demanded early repayment of the short-term debt, citing heightened credit ri

- [Police investigating alleged break-in at ballot-counting center](#) (2026-06-19 11:57)

Police are investigating an alleged break-in at a ballot-counting center amid weekslong protests calling for a rerun of the June 3 local elections, sports officials said Friday. According to the Korea Sports Industry Development (KSID), which manages the Olympic Park Handball Gymnasium that was used as a vote-counting center for the elections, three unidentified individuals broke into the facility on June 7 after damaging a basement door lock. The KSID reported the case to the police, along with surveillance camera footage showing the individuals entering the gym and filming the interior. After filing the complaint, the KSID welded the basement door shut on June 11. Video of the welding spread online, sparking unverified conspiracy theories that authorities intended to trap protesters inside the gym and start a fire or crowd crush. Protesters were demonstrating outside the gymnasium for the 15th consecutive day Friday after ballot shortages on election day disrupted voting at 26 polling stations. They have blockaded the site to prevent the removal of ballot boxes that were brought there f

- [Lee looks to rebuild political momentum following diplomatic trip](#) (2026-06-19 11:57)

President Lee Jae Myung appears to be trying to restore political momentum after returning from a 10-day diplomatic tour of Europe, Thursday, amid declining approval ratings and tensions within the ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK). On Friday, the president convened a press briefing on the outcome of diplomatic trip, which concluded Thursday, and also a meeting with senior presidential secretaries. The briefing was held amid speculation that the president believed the achievements of his trip had been overshadowed by domestic political issues, leading him to personally present the results instead of delegating the task to aides, as is customary. Meanwhile, Friday's meeting with senior presidential secretaries followed a previous gathering with corresponding aides in Seoul, Sunday, while Lee was in Italy for a state visit. Such a meeting was unprecedented, prompting speculation that Lee remained focused on developments at home even while abroad amid the fallout from the June 3 local elections. The DPK won most of the mayoral and gubernatorial races nationwide but lost the Seoul mayora

- [Defense ministry expands outreach to US Congress over OPCON transfer bill](#) (2026-06-19 11:57)

Korea's defense ministry said Friday it is expanding its outreach to the U.S. Congress in response to a Senate bill that seeks to increase Congress' power to examine the transfer process of wartime Operational Control (OPCON) from Washington to Seoul. The bill, if passed, could be a major challenge to Seoul's plan to take over the OPCON by 2028 or even as early as the end of 2027. A defense ministry official said, "(Korea and the U.S.) are in close consultations based on a shared understanding that OPCON transfer will continue to bolster

the combined defense posture of the Korea-U.S. on the defense on the Korean Peninsula.” While adding that it is inappropriate for the ministry to evaluate pending legislation in the U.S. Congress, the official said, “We are actively expanding outreach to Congress.” The remarks came as the U.S. Senate’s Committee on Armed Services passed the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2027 on June 11, which obliges the Pentagon chief to report on the transfer roadmap to Congress every 90 days. The bill reads, “Not later than Mar

- [Assembly speaker urges diplomatic efforts to ensure safe return of Korean vessels from Hormuz Strait](#) (2026-06-19 11:57)

National Assembly Speaker Cho Jeong-sik called for all-out diplomatic measures Friday to ensure the safe return of Korean vessels stranded in the Strait of Hormuz, following a ceasefire deal reached between the United States and Iran earlier this week. Cho made the call in a meeting at his office with Foreign Minister Cho Hyun, saying “the war in the Middle East has fortunately come to a halt after 106 days.” “I urge you to take all possible diplomatic measures to ensure that the 24 vessels and their crew members stranded in the Strait of Hormuz can return home safely,” the parliamentary speaker said. He also stressed that Korea’s national interests should be fully protected during follow-up measures after a formal end to the war is declared, adding that the National Assembly will do its part to help ensure the success of the country’s pragmatic diplomacy centered on national interests. A large number of vessels, including 24 Korea-linked ships, have been stranded in the vital waterway after commercial shipping was largely halted during the war amid threats of missile and drone attacks. T

- [Amputated leg discovered at Incheon recycling center prompts convalescent hospital probe](#) (2026-06-19 11:57)

Police are investigating a convalescent hospital in Incheon after an amputated leg belonging to an elderly patient turned up at a public recycling facility, raising questions about medical oversight and waste management practices at long-term care facilities. According to police Friday, the convalescent hospital in Jung District bandaged the amputated leg of a patient in their 80s and disposed of it in a medical waste container earlier this month. The following day, a volunteer cleaning a trash mistook the leg for plaster cast debris and placed it in a recyclables bag. The leg was discovered last week by a resource recovery center employee sorting recyclables in Yeonsu District, Incheon. Unable to identify the owner, police mobilized more than 100 personnel and collected DNA from families of adult missing persons in Incheon and Gyeonggi Province. The case was resolved Wednesday when the hospital came forward voluntarily, and the National Forensic Service confirmed a match between the patient and the recovered leg. Police said they plan to consult experts, including the Korean Medical Ass

- [Ex-defense minister sentenced to 3 years in prison for leaking military secrets](#) (2026-06-19 11:57)

A Seoul court on Friday sentenced former Defense Minister Kim Yong-hyun to a three-year prison term for leaking military secrets to a civilian in the lead-up to former President Yoon Suk Yeol's failed martial law bid in December 2024. The Seoul Central District Court found Kim guilty on charges of conspiring with others to hand over a list of more than 40 military intelligence personnel to Noh Sang-won, a retired general and former head of the Defense Intelligence Command (DIC), between October and November of 2024. The court recognized special counsel Cho Eun-suk's argument Kim and Noh had planned to use the list, which included information of covert intelligence agents, to form a special investigation unit under martial law that would probe alleged election-rigging. "The defendant used the military command system to play a decisive role in allowing former commander Noh, a civilian, to get access to personal information of DIC agents," the court said. "It led to the grave result of an unconstitutional and illegal emergency martial law." The ruling fell short of the special counsel team'

- [Jeonbuk National University rises in QS World University Rankings 2027](#) (2026-06-19 11:57)

Jeonbuk National University strengthened its global standing with significant improvements across major indicators in the QS World University Rankings 2027, the university said Thursday. The university ranked 23rd in Korea and third among the country's national flagship universities, while its global ranking rose by 27 places from the previous year to 677th worldwide. It showed growth across research, education and internationalization, with scores improving in six of the nine evaluation indicators. The QS World University Rankings is a globally recognized university evaluation system that assesses institutions across nine indicators in five key areas: research quality, employability, learning environment, internationalization and sustainability. It is widely regarded as one of the key benchmarks for measuring a university's global competitiveness. In the QS evaluation, Jeonbuk National University was found to have further strengthened the quality and global impact of its research performance, with an increase in the citations per faculty indicator, which reflects research competitiv

- [Seoul pitches itself as Asia's quantum gateway to court European tech firms](#) (2026-06-19 05:57)

The Seoul Investment Promotion Agency staged a targeted investment seminar, dubbed "Seoul Forward," at Europe's largest tech conference this week, making a direct pitch to European innovators to view the Korean capital as their primary gateway into the Asian market. The event, held as an official workshop at the Viva Technology conference in Paris, reflects Seoul's intensifying efforts to court foreign tech firms in highly specialized, high-stakes sectors like artificial intelligence and quantum computing. Rather than relying on broad bureaucratic promises, the agency anchored its pitch on a high-profile validation: Pasqal, the French neutral-atom quantum computing heavyweight. Representatives from Pasqal shared their firsthand experience establishing a footprint in Seoul, citing the city's robust tech infrastructure, engineering talent pool and strategic position for regional expansion as critical factors in their successful deployment. Following the case study, Korean investment officials conducted one-on-one intensive consultations with a curated group of European startups spec

- [PM vows to properly honor patriots, fallen heroes](#) (2026-06-19 05:57)

The government of President Lee Jae Myung will do its best to make sure that the sacrifices and dedication that patriots and fallen heroes made for the country will be properly recognized and honored, Prime Minister Kim Min-seok said Friday. Kim made the remark after awarding state decorations to patriots, their families and those credited with promoting the well-being of patriots, saying the freedom, peace and prosperity South Korea enjoys today were made possible by the "earnest dreams and sacrifices of patriotic martyrs for the country." "President Lee Jae Myung said that upholding the spirits of patriotic martyrs and fallen heroes and providing them with due respect is a historical duty that we must fulfill," Kim said, noting a series of measures that the government has taken to help patriots and bereaved families live better lives. "The government will look after the lives of state-honored patriots and their families in a more robust manner," he said. Kim also said the best way to honor the sacrifices of patriots is to build a peaceful and democratic nation where every member of soc

- [Sungkyunkwan University researchers develop technology for brain-like balanced learning](#) (2026-06-19 05:57)

A Sungkyunkwan University research team has developed a technology that can strengthen or weaken the memory of an artificial intelligence (AI) semiconductor device simply by changing the color of light. The university said Thursday that the team has devised a next-generation synapse for artificial neural networks by utilizing the "disorder" and "defect" characteristics — long regarded as inherent challenges of semiconductor materials — as a means of maintaining memory homeostasis. It added that the technology mimics the human brain by allowing important information to be retained for a long time, while weakening access to unnecessary information. The team, led by professors Jo Sae-byeok and Yang Woo-seok at the university's School of Chemical Engineering, said the technology is expected to be applied to next-generation artificial intelligence chips to consume less power, as well as "see-and-remember" artificial eyes. The findings were published May 18 in the international science journal Nature Communications under the title, "Disorder-mediated Non-equilibrium Photocu

- ['Onggi Jonggi' art exhibition features Korea-based global artists who explore beyond social media and algorithms](#) (2026-06-19 05:57)

Six global artists from diverse backgrounds are displaying their work during Insa Art Week at TOPOHAUS Gallery in central Seoul's Insa-dong neighborhood, in group exhibition titled "Onggi Jonggi." Co-curated by Ella Kaill, founder and editor of Half Local magazine, the exhibition's vision is to step outside the frame of social media. "Onggi Jonggi," a term evoking a charming, irregular gathering of people or things, presents photography, paintings, sketches, textile work and pixel art, providing an exploration of Seoul through fresh and often unconventional perspectives. "We wanted to look at Korea in a slightly different way. If you look at social media, everything about Korea is Seongsu, pop-up stores and Olive Young. Those things are fine, but they're not the only things about Korea," she told The Korea Times at an

opening event on June 12. Kaill, who first moved to Korea from England in 2019, was drawn by long-standing fascination with the country. Having studied Korean language, cinema, culture and history at SOAS University of London, she arrived with a deeper understanding of

- [Human rights body calls for detained foreigners' access to outside hospitals](#) (2026-06-19 05:57)

The state human rights watchdog recommended that foreign nationals held in immigration detention who require surgery be allowed to receive surgical treatment at outside hospitals, saying the failure to provide appropriate care amounts to a human rights violation. The National Human Rights Commission of Korea said Friday it recommended to Justice Minister Jung Sung-ho that immigration detainees needing surgery be given access to outside hospitals, following two complaints filed in January. In the first case, a petitioner acting on behalf of a detainee at an immigration detention center alleged that the center director had neglected to provide appropriate care for the detainee's toe and finger injuries, which required surgery. In the second, a detainee at the same facility filed directly with the commission, alleging the center had failed to provide appropriate medical care for a knee injury requiring surgery. The detention center told the commission that outside medical visits require strict approval based on injury severity and flight risk. It added that its medical unit had been providi

- [Election watchdog panel recommends criminal probe into ex-chief over ballot shortage](#) (2026-06-19 05:57)

The National Election Commission's (NEC) fact-finding committee investigating ballot shortages during the recent local elections called for a criminal probe into the commission's former chief Friday, saying the management of the elections was marked by a "total failure." Cho Hyun-wook, chairperson of the committee, made the announcement during a briefing at the NEC headquarters, as the panel wrapped up a weeklong investigation conducted to determine the cause of the ballot shortages. The committee recommended that former NEC Chairman Roh Tae-ak, who stepped down from his post over the debacle, be referred for criminal investigation. It also stressed that the NEC requires a sweeping overhaul tantamount to dismantling the organization. The committee, launched on June 10, consisted of six members recommended by civic organizations, media, legal and academic communities.

- [PM to travel to China next week for Summer Davos Forum](#) (2026-06-19 05:57)

Prime Minister Kim Min-seok will travel to China next week to attend a World Economic Forum (WEF) meeting and hold bilateral meetings with senior Chinese officials, his office said Friday. During the three-day trip starting Monday, Kim is scheduled to deliver a special address at the annual WEF meeting, also known as the Summer Davos Forum, to be held in the Chinese coastal city of Dalian. Kim also plans to meet with senior Chinese officials and attend economic and other events, the office said without elaborating on whom he is scheduled to meet with, including whether Kim's Chinese counterpart, Premier Li Qiang, is among them. "Prime Minister Kim's trip is expected to provide an opportunity to outline our government's innovative

economic vision to the international community and strengthen international cooperation while at the same time carrying on the trend of recent high-level exchanges between Korea and China to accelerate mutually beneficial cooperation," the office said.

- [Severed leg found at recycling center was mistakenly thrown out by hospital worker: police](#) (2026-06-19 05:57)

A severed human leg found at a public recycling facility in Incheon last week was mistakenly thrown out by a hospital volunteer worker, police said Friday. The Incheon Yeosu Police Station has been investigating the origin of the body part, which was discovered during a sorting process at the recycling center in the city west of Seoul on June 10. The leg belonged to an 80-something patient at a nursing hospital in the city, who underwent an amputation surgery two days earlier, according to the police. The leg was wrapped in bandage and placed in a container for medical waste but the volunteer worker mistook it for a cast and threw it out as recyclable waste, they said. The investigation picked up speed after the hospital reported its likely involvement to the police, helped by the head of the nursing department who had seen a news report on the discovery on Wednesday. Police took a DNA sample from the patient and sent it to the National Forensic Service, which confirmed the limb belonged to him. Police said they are looking into possible violations of the medical law related to the hospital.

- [Navy holds fleet exercises in waters off western, southern coasts](#) (2026-06-19 05:57)

The Navy said Friday it conducted live fleet exercises in waters off the western and southern coasts earlier this week as part of efforts to boost combat readiness. The four-day drills that began Tuesday, involving around 20 surface ships and naval aircraft, were aimed at honing responses to various maritime contingencies and regional operational environments to ensure each fleet maintains a firm combat readiness posture, the Navy said in a release. The Second Fleet, in charge of defending the Yellow Sea, deployed the 7,600-ton Aegis-equipped ROKS Yulgok Yi I destroyer, the flagship 3,200-ton Eulji Mundeok warship, and the P-3C and P-8A patrol aircraft, as well as the AW-159 and Lynx naval combat helicopters. Also joining the drills were the KF-16 fighter of the Air Force and the AH-64E Apache attack chopper of the U.S. Forces Korea. The Third Fleet based on the southern coast mobilized the 4,400-ton Chungmugong Yi Sun-sin-class destroyer and the 2,500-ton Jeonbuk frigate, along with patrol aircraft and naval helicopters. The drills in the Yellow Sea focused on countering special operations.

- [Police refer ex-President Yoon to prosecution over his wife's luxury bag case](#) (2026-06-19 05:57)

Police have referred former President Yoon Suk Yeol to the prosecution over allegations of violating the anti-graft law in connection with his wife's alleged receipt of a luxury bag in 2022, sources said Friday. A special police investigation team is said to have sent the case to the prosecution on June 9, accusing the jailed former president of failing to report the Dior bag worth 5.4 million won (\$3,500) to the state auditor. The team believes Yoon was aware that his wife, Kim Keon Hee, accepted the bag from a pastor in June 2022. It marks the latest criminal

case against Yoon, who was sentenced to life imprisonment in February on charges of leading an insurrection through his failed martial law bid in December 2024. He has appealed the ruling. Yoon's wife is currently standing trial on bribery-related charges for her alleged acceptance of the Dior bag and other valuables, including a Van Cleef & Arpels necklace. A special counsel team has sought a prison term of seven years and six months for the former first lady in the case. The sentencing hearing for that trial is scheduled for July

## Source: The Korea Herald

- [Kospi triggers circuit breaker after plunging more than 8%](#) (2026-06-26 05:56)

South Korean stocks triggered a marketwide circuit breaker on Friday after the Kospi plunged more than 8 percent in intraday trading, capping a volatile week marked by sharp swings in chip-heavy shares. The Korea Exchange suspended trading on the Kospi market for 20 minutes from 12:10 p.m. after the benchmark index remained more than 8 percent below the previous session's close for one minute, meeting the conditions for a circuit breaker. Trading in all Kospi-listed shares, as well as stock inde

- [Seoul offers couples up to W3m for public-venue weddings](#) (2026-06-26 05:53)

Seoul will offer up to 3 million won (\$1,940) to couples who hold weddings at selected public venues, as the city seeks to ease competition for conventional wedding halls and help alleviate the financial burden on newlyweds. “We hope this event will help more couples discover the appeal of different urban spaces,” Ma Chae-sook, head of the Seoul Metropolitan Government’s Women and Family Policy Affairs Office, said Friday. “Seoul will continue to find more venues suitable for weddings to ease bo

- [NPS could sell up to W74tr in stocks if Kospi tops 9,000](#) (2026-06-26 05:44)

South Korea's National Pension Service could sell as much as 74 trillion won (\$47.9 billion) of domestic equities if the Kospi rises above 9,000, according to estimates from South Korea's financial investment industry. Potential selling could climb to 121 trillion won, should the benchmark index reach 10,000 points. The estimates come as foreign and retail investors have turned net sellers after the market's sharp rally. According to South Korea's financial investment industry on Friday, domesti

- [Seoul subway to ban e-scooters, large lithium batteries from July 1](#) (2026-06-26 05:18)

Starting July 1, passengers will no longer be allowed to bring lithium battery-powered personal mobility devices onto the Seoul subway, as authorities move to reduce fire hazards linked to battery-powered devices. Seoul Metro announced that it has revised its passenger transportation regulations to ban passengers from bringing such devices into subway stations and on trains. The ban applies to personal mobility devices powered by lithium batteries, including electric scooters, electric bicycles,

- [Korea to spend W1tr to ease living costs, lower fuel price caps](#) (2026-06-26 05:00)

South Korea will deploy 1 trillion won (\$647 million) to ease the burden of high living costs, while lowering fuel price caps and freezing major public utility rates in the second half of the year. "We will inject 1 trillion won in fiscal spending to support small merchants hit by high oil prices and mobilize all available measures to do our utmost to keep consumer inflation below 3 percent in the second half," Finance Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Koo Yun-cheol said Friday. Koo announced t

- [Hyundai unveils all-new Avante with AI, larger cabin](#) (2026-06-26 04:46)

Hyundai Motor has unveiled a fully redesigned Avante compact sedan, bringing more cabin space and its latest software and artificial intelligence features to one of South Korea's best-known passenger cars. The eighth-generation Avante made its global debut on Friday at the 2026 Busan Mobility Show at BEXCO in the southeastern port city of Busan. The all-new model arrives six years after the seventh-generation Avante was released in 2020. The most noticeable change comes inside the cabin. The rev

- [S. Korea to acquire 20,000 low-cost drones, fast-track 'K-Lucas' suicide drones](#) (2026-06-26 04:45)

South Korea will acquire more than 20,000 low-cost drones and accelerate the deployment of a domestically developed long-range loitering munition, dubbed "K-Lucas," as part of a sweeping overhaul of its uncrewed warfare strategy, Defense Minister Ahn Gyu-back said Friday. The initiative comes as militaries around the world race to adapt to a rapidly evolving battlefield shaped by budget drones, following lessons drawn from Russia's war in Ukraine and the recent US-Iran conflict. "The widespread

- [Salt farm slavery cases return amid trade concerns](#) (2026-06-26 04:39)

South Korea's long-running "salt farm slave" problem is again testing the country's human rights safeguards, this time with possible trade consequences, after three salt farm workers were officially recognized as victims of human trafficking. The Ministry of Gender Equality and Family recognized the three workers as human trafficking victims on Tuesday, as recurring labor abuse cases in the country's salt farming industry continue to raise concerns. According to the ministry on Thursday, the thr

- [Court to rule on SK Group chief, ex-wife's asset division case next month](#) (2026-06-26 04:09)

An appellate court said Friday it will deliver its verdict late next month on the high-profile asset division case between SK Group Chairman Chey Tae-won and his former wife, Roh Soh-yeong. The Seoul High Court said it will hand down its ruling on July 24 in a hearing attended by both Chey and Roh, after the Supreme Court remanded the case to the Seoul High Court in October while confirming their divorce. Chey and Roh both left the court without responding to

reporters' questions. The two sides

- [Bourse operator issues circuit breaker for KOSPI on sharp fall](#) (2026-06-26 04:07)

South Korea's bourse operator on Friday activated a circuit breaker for the benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index as stocks crashed due to a slump in tech heavyweights. Trading of KOSPI-listed shares was halted for 20 minutes. The Korea Exchange triggered the measure at around 12:10 p.m. after the KOSPI plummeted more than 8 percent from the previous session's close. The benchmark index came under heavy selling pressure as investors dumped large-cap technology stocks on profit-taking. It m

- [CJ CheilJedang, Lotte Chemical to develop next-generation food packaging materials](#) (2026-06-26 04:02)

CJ CheilJedang said Friday it has signed a memorandum of understanding with Lotte Chemical to jointly develop next-generation food packaging materials that enhance consumer convenience and product safety. The agreement was signed Thursday at CJ Blossom Park in Suwon, Gyeonggi Province, with Eric Soegeyanto, head of global packaging at CJ CheilJedang, and Lee Hyun-seop, senior research engineer of basic materials R&D at Lotte Chemical, in attendance. The partnership combines CJ CheilJedang' s food

- [Big Bang' s August gig sells out in minutes](#) (2026-06-26 03:45)

Big Bang's three-date concert in August sold out in minutes when tickets went on sale Thursday, according to label YG Entertainment. The concert in Goyang, Gyeonggi Province, will mark the beginning of the group' s world tour and is a celebration of its 20th anniversary. The ticket sales drew approximately 210,000 concurrent users. The tour will run until February 2027, and the trio — G Dragon, Taeyang and Daesung — will zip around 18 cities across the world with 31 shows scheduled. The group is

- [P1Harmony to tour 3 cities in Asia this summer](#) (2026-06-26 03:36)

P1Harmony is set to launch a three-city tour in Asia, its agency FNC Entertainment announced Friday. The six members are heading to Taipei, Macao and Bangkok next month for the tour named "Asia Stage Be Unique." The first stop is in Taipei on July 18 and visits to the other two cities are scheduled for August. The tour is slated to follow a fan meetup in Seoul to be held on July 11 and 12. On July 29, the group will release a Japanese-language edition of its ninth EP "Unique," adding two new son

- [And2ble signs with Sony Music ahead of Japan debut](#) (2026-06-26 03:32)

And2ble has signed with Epic Records Japan ahead of its Japanese debut, marking its entry into the Japanese market. YH Entertainment announced Friday that And2ble had signed a contract with Epic Records Japan, a record label under Sony Music Labels, a division of Sony Music Entertainment Japan. And2ble, a five-member boy group, first made its debut in May 2025 with the mini album "Sequence 01: Curiosity." The album surpassed 730,000 sales in its first week on

Hanteo Chart, Korea's real-time album

- [I-dle gives taste of all tracks from 9th EP](#) (2026-06-26 03:27)

Girl group I-dle uploaded a snippet of its ninth EP, “We Made,” via agency Cube Entertainment on Friday. The preview includes parts of all six songs from the forthcoming EP, from the main track “Gimme Dat Love” to B-side tracks “Morning” and “Love is Pain” and prereleases “Mono (feat. skaiwater)” and “Crow.” The mini album is set to be fully unveiled on July 6, fronted by what the group is promoting as a summer song. Meanwhile, the quintet will have two shows at Kai Tak Stadium in Hong Kong June

- [Babymonster tops 100m views with ‘Sugar Honey Ice Tea’ before kicking off tour](#) (2026-06-26 03:19)

Babymonster clocked 100 million plays on YouTube with the music video for its digital single “Sugar Honey Ice Tea” as of Thursday, according to label YG Entertainment. This is the 17th video from the seven-member group to reach the milestone, which came in about 17 days. The video topped the platform’s trending videos worldwide and global daily music videos charts upon its release. The news came a day before Babymonster kicks off its second international tour “Choom” with three shows June 26 to

- [Samsung weighs W1,000tr chip, AI push beyond Seoul](#) (2026-06-26 02:57)

Samsung Group is reportedly drawing up a long-term investment plan worth as much as 1,000 trillion won (\$646 billion), as Korea seeks to turn its semiconductor and AI ambitions into a broader regional growth strategy. The plan, according to a local media report Friday, was discussed during a dinner meeting between President Lee Jae Myung and Samsung Electronics Chairman Lee Jae-yong at Cheong Wa Dae on Thursday. It is said to cover semiconductors, artificial intelligence, next-generation battery

- [Indian FM proposes five-step plan to bridge fragmented world](#) (2026-06-26 02:42)

SEOGWIPO, Jeju Island — India's Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar unveiled a five-step plan to reimagine global cooperation amid growing geopolitical fragmentation, calling for more resilient supply chains, stronger partnerships and reformed multilateralism. In his keynote address at the 21st Jeju Forum for Peace and Prosperity on Thursday, Jaishankar said that the international community must adapt to an increasingly divided world by reducing economic vulnerabilities and expanding cooperation

- [Ateez continues 'Golden Hour' series with 14th EP](#) (2026-06-26 02:39)

Ateez has released its 14th EP, "Golden Hour: Part. 5," continuing the group's ongoing "Golden Hour" series centered on its brightest moments. The new album, released Friday, captures the group's signature high-energy sound while exploring moments driven by instinct and emotion, agency KQ Entertainment said the same day. Members Hongjoong and Mingi participated in writing the lyrics for all tracks. The lead single, "Bad," is a Brazilian funk-inspired dance track

featuring an addictive chorus and

- [\[Bio USA\] Celltrion posts record showing at BIO International Convention](#) (2026-06-26 02:10)

SAN DIEGO — Celltrion has expanded its global partnering efforts with its artificial intelligence-powered drug discovery capabilities and next-generation biologics pipeline at the BIO International Convention 2026 in San Diego this week, the Korean biosimilar company said Thursday. This year's convention, arguably the world's largest biopharmaceutical and biotechnology showcase, drew approximately 20,000 participants from more than 68 countries, including over 1,600 exhibitors. Celltrion reporte

- [Envoys at Jeju Forum see Korea-Central Asia summit opening 'new era'](#) (2026-06-26 02:09)

SEOGWIPO, Jeju Island — Envoys from five Central Asian countries predict that the inaugural Korea-Central Asia Summit in September will open a new phase in relations with South Korea, as both sides seek deeper cooperation in energy, critical minerals, artificial intelligence, infrastructure and cultural exchanges. The summit will mark the first leaders' meeting between South Korea and the five Central Asian nations as a group, elevating a dialogue mechanism launched in 2007 to a summit-level fra

- [Lee's approval rating sinks to lowest point since taking office: Gallup poll](#) (2026-06-26 02:02)

President Lee Jae Myung's approval rating dropped to 51 percent, marking its lowest level since he took office in June last year, a poll showed Friday. The survey, conducted by Gallup Korea from Tuesday through Thursday on 1,000 people aged 18 and older, showed that the positive assessment of Lee's performance fell 6 percentage points from the previous survey released two weeks earlier. His negative assessment rose 6 percentage points to 41 percent, marking the first time his disapproval rating

- [Naver opens AI Tab to all users in push beyond search](#) (2026-06-26 02:01)

Naver on Friday opened its AI Tab to all users on mobile and desktop search, marking a broader push by the Korean internet giant to turn search into a gateway for tasks such as shopping, local discovery and reservations. The AI-powered tab, now available directly on Naver's main search box, is designed to understand what users are trying to do and connect them to relevant services across the company's ecosystem, including shopping, maps, places and bookings. Unlike a conventional search feature

- [S. Korean, Japanese defense chiefs to meet again within a month](#) (2026-06-26 01:50)

South Korean Defense Minister Ahn Gyu-back and Japanese Defense Minister Shinjiro Koizumi are set to hold their second face-to-face meeting in less than a month. The Defense Ministry said Friday that Ahn and Koizumi will hold talks at the ministry's headquarters in Seoul on

Sunday. “Koizumi’s visit to Korea is being carried out as part of shuttle defense diplomacy between the two countries’ defense ministers,” following Ahn’s visit to Japan in January, the ministry said in a statement. In Korea-

- [Naver, Hyundai team up to bring AI services into connected cars](#) (2026-06-26 01:48)

Naver said Friday it is expanding its mobility partnership with Hyundai Motor Group by integrating its flagship services into the automaker's next-generation infotainment system, Pleos Connect. At the 2026 Busan Mobility Show on Friday, Hyundai unveiled the new Grandeur and the all-new Avante, both equipped with Pleos Connect. Starting with the new Grandeur, the companies plan to expand their collaboration to bring Naver's AI-powered services to Hyundai's next-generation connected cars, result in

- [Ecuador's win over Germany pushes S. Korea further from Round of 32 berth](#) (2026-06-26 01:36)

South Korea’s hopes of advancing to the Round of 32 at the World Cup have dimmed after the team slipped to fifth place in the race among third-place teams, with several groups still to complete their final group-stage matches through Sunday (Korea time). Ecuador on Friday secured a 2-1 victory over Germany, the 2014 champions, finishing third in Group E and putting the South American country at the top of the standings among the 12 third-place teams. Under the tournament’s expanded 48-team format

- [Govt. to roll out discount events for agricultural products to tame inflation](#) (2026-06-26 01:27)

South Korea will implement discount events worth 350 billion won (\$226 million) for agricultural and fishery products as the government aims to keep consumer price inflation at around 3 percent, the finance ministry said Friday. Under the plan, the government will support discount events for agricultural and fishery products at local supermarkets without limiting eligible product categories, according to the Ministry of Finance and Economy. Consumers will be eligible for discounts of up to 30,000

- [Cheong Wa Dae denies report of natl. security adviser meeting Russian official in Kazakhstan](#) (2026-06-26 01:19)

Cheong Wa Dae denied a news report Friday that National Security Adviser Wi Sung-lac met with a senior Russian government official during a visit to Kazakhstan last month. According to the Donga Ilbo newspaper, which quoted multiple unnamed diplomatic sources, Wi met the Russian official behind closed doors during his May 28-30 trip, in an apparent effort to manage South Korea-Russia tensions triggered by the war in Ukraine. "The national security adviser's visit to Kazakhstan was intended for b

- [S. Korea to push to field 'K-Lucas' suicide drones to bolster unmanned weapons system](#) (2026-06-26 01:03)

South Korea will push to bring in a long-range suicide drone system for combat use to bolster its unmanned weapons systems amid a changing warfare environment, Defense Minister Ahn Gyu-back said Friday. The plan calls for accelerating efforts to field long-range self-destructive loitering munitions as part of the country's broader drone and counter-drone policy to adapt to changes on the modern battlefield where the use of drones is increasingly becoming a game changer. "Low-cost drones are bein

- [SK Telecom to invest W738b in SK hynix' s US AI unit](#) (2026-06-26 00:59)

SK Telecom will invest 738.4 billion won (\$477 million) in a US-based investment vehicle set up by SK hynix, becoming the latest SK Group affiliate to back the chipmaker' s artificial intelligence push. The mobile carrier said in a regulatory filing on Thursday that it signed an agreement to acquire 1,198 newly issued shares in SK hynix NAND Product Solutions. The deal will give SK Telecom a 0.9 percent stake. The US-based entity was established in January by SK hynix and Solidigm, with SK hynix

- [Defense ministers of S. Korea, Japan to hold talks in Seoul over weekend](#) (2026-06-26 00:39)

Defense ministers of South Korea and Japan will hold talks in Seoul over the weekend, Seoul's defense ministry said Friday, as the two neighbors seek to enhance defense cooperation amid a positive mood in bilateral ties. Defense Minister Ahn Gyu-back will meet one-on-one with Japanese Defense Minister Shinjiro Koizumi for talks on Sunday, less than a month after their previous bilateral meeting on the sidelines of a defense forum in Singapore. Koizumi's two-day visit to Seoul starting Saturday m

- [Seoul shares open lower on US tech losses, profit taking](#) (2026-06-26 00:29)

South Korean stocks started a tad lower Friday following tech losses on Wall Street and a sharp rise the previous session as investors are worried about valuation of artificial intelligence-related shares and a possible rate hike by the Federal Reserve. After opening 1.31 percent lower, the benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index further lost 152.4 points, or 1.71 percent, to 8,777.9 as of 9:15 a.m. The index spiked 5.42 percent the previous day. Overnight, US stocks closed mixed as investor

- [S. Korea coach unable to pinpoint reasons behind deflating loss](#) (2026-06-26 00:26)

Some 24 hours after South Korea finished third in their group with a demoralizing loss at the FIFA World Cup, head coach Hong Myung-bo still couldn't pinpoint reasons behind his team's plight Thursday. Hong instead doubled down on his mea culpa approach, saying it was his fault as head coach that his players failed to execute their game plans. South Korea returned to their base camp in Zapopan, western Mexico, on Thursday, a day after losing to South Africa 1-0 in another Mexican city of Guadalu

- [US lawmakers reintroduce Senate bill to reauthorize N. Korean human rights act](#) (2026-06-26 00:24)

Two US lawmakers have reintroduced a Senate bill to reauthorize the 2004 North Korean Human Rights Act aimed at promoting rights and freedom in the reclusive state, Congress' website showed Thursday, as the act expired in 2022. On Wednesday, Sen. Tim Kaine and Sen. Dan Sullivan submitted the bill to the upper chamber. First adopted in 2004, the North Korean Human Rights Act has been reauthorized periodically. It was extended in 2008, 2012 and 2018 with the last extension having expired in Septem

- [Lee calls for US-N. Korea, inter-Korean dialogue for peace on Korean Peninsula](#) (2026-06-26 00:14)

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung on Thursday called for the resumption of dialogue between the United States and North Korea, as well as between the two Koreas, to achieve lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula. Lee made the call in a written message to a peace forum in Washington, as his administration has sought to restart diplomacy with Pyongyang amid questions over whether the reclusive state would accede to Seoul's peace overtures amid its deepening ties with Russia and China. "For a pea

- [N. Korea's Kim oversees tests of key weapons seen as aimed at S. Korea](#) (2026-06-26 00:12)

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has overseen tests of a new multiple rocket launcher and other weapons, stressing the need to bolster the "deadly and destructive" offensive posture against the enemy, state media reported Friday. North Korea conducted the weapons tests Thursday, the 76th anniversary of the outbreak of the 1950-53 Korean War, in an apparent bid to demonstrate its ability to target major facilities in South Korea, which the North has labeled its "primary foe." The North's leader su

- [Govt. to lower cap on fuel prices, freeze utility rates in H2](#) (2026-06-26 00:06)

South Korea will lower the cap on fuel prices to reflect the recent decline in global crude oil prices, the finance minister said Friday, while freezing electricity and gas rates in the second half. Finance Minister Koo Yun-cheol made the remarks during a meeting with economy-related ministers, noting the cap system will remain in place until consumer prices are fully stabilized. Details of the adjustment to the cap are expected to be announced later Friday. In mid-March, the government introduc

- [School teachers are here to teach a different lesson — through K-pop dance](#) (2026-06-26 00:00)

More than 80 dancers move through a series of shifting formations in a dance challenge video set to Taeyang's latest song, "Live Fast Die Slow." They step briskly across the floor, roll their shoulders to the beat and break into bursts of headbanging. As the group closes into a circle, one dancer drops to the floor for a headspin. The video has drawn more than 420,000 views in two weeks. Taeyang himself liked the clip and shared it on social media. It sounds like a

professional dance crew. In fa

- [Movies in theaters this week](#) (2026-06-26 00:00)

"Supergirl" (US) Opened June 24 Action/Sci-Fi Directed by Craig Gillespie A Kryptonian raised on the ruins of her home planet (Milly Alcock) reluctantly takes up a grieving girl's quest to hunt down the man who murdered her father. "The Eyes" (South Korea) Opened June 24 Horror/Thriller Directed by Yeom Ji-ho A photographer (Shin Min-a) who is slowly losing her sight suspects her twin sister's death was no accident, in this Korean remake of the Spanish film Julia's Eyes (2011). "Toy Story 5" (US

- [Notes from the last row, and the man who sits up front](#) (2026-06-26 00:00)

Ask Choi Min-sik to describe his latest lead role and he reaches, bluntly, for the language of self-loathing. The grumpy literature professor he plays in Netflix's "Notes from the Last Row" is "a man who grinds himself down with a complex that borders on self-abuse," he says, "tormenting himself over it." Then came the confession: "I've got plenty of pathetic in me too. The inferiority, the shame you can't show anybody — everyone's felt that at least once." It's a curious thing to hear from an a

- [Festivals, sights across Korea](#) (2026-06-26 00:00)

The Daegu Chimac Festival, the city's signature summer event, runs July 1-5 at Duryu Park. First held in 2013, the chicken and beer festival has grown steadily and drawn 1 million visitors, boosting the local economy and Daegu's profile abroad. This year's main venue, 2·28 Freedom Square, takes on a theme that blends water play with electronic music and will feature a 360-degree central stage. Themed areas such as Daefrica Waterpia, the Chimac Singalong Club and Chisang Nakwon EGG Island round o

- [Packages and promotions](#) (2026-06-26 00:00)

J.J. Mahoney's marks 38 years with pan-Asian nightlife showcase J.J. Mahoney's, the bar at Grand Hyatt Seoul, celebrates its 38th anniversary on Saturday with "ACT 38," an event linking the nightlife scenes of Seoul, Tokyo and Shanghai. The venue, open since 1988, will stage "On The Rise" in the lounge, with Seoul acts Midnight Breeze, SJSJ and Soleil Collective alongside Samo of Japan and DJ Cavia of China. The lounge revives the bar's signature Showtime program under the theme "Celestial Decad

- [\[Graphic News\] Europe dominates happiest cities; Seoul 26th](#) (2026-06-25 23:00)

European cities overwhelmingly dominated the latest ranking of the world's happiest cities, while Seoul and Incheon were the only South Korean cities to place in the global top 50. According to market intelligence firm Visual Capitalist, the London-based quality-of-life research organization Happy City Hub released its Happy City Index 2026. The ranking evaluated cities with populations above 100,000 across 64 indicators, including quality of life, economy, governance and mobility. Copenhagen to

- [\[Robert J. Fouser,\] Is Seoul turning conservative?](#) (2026-06-25 20:30)

Mayor Oh Se-hoon's surprising election victory on June 3 stirred a wave of commentary on the rise of conservatism in Seoul. Most pundits agreed that interest in real estate redevelopment, particularly in the upscale Gangnam area, was the primary factor behind Oh's victory. The Democratic Party of Korea improved its performance over 2022 in elections for the city council, district mayors and district councils. This contradictory trend leaves the question of where Seoul is headed unanswered. A wal

- [Lee expresses condolences over deadly Venezuela quakes](#) (2026-06-25 11:36)

President Lee Jae Myung on Thursday expressed condolences to Venezuela after powerful earthquakes killed dozens of people, while expressing hope for the safe return of those who went missing. "On behalf of the people and the government of the Republic of Korea, I extend my deepest condolences to the victims and the bereaved families who have lost their loved ones and their homes due to the sudden disaster," Lee said in a social media post. The Republic of Korea is the official name of South Korea

- [Foreign minister vows pragmatic approach to Korean Peninsula denuclearization](#) (2026-06-25 11:35)

South Korea will pursue a phased and practical approach to the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, and stronger cooperation with like-minded countries to advance regional peace and stability, Foreign Minister Cho Hyun said Thursday. Cho outlined South Korea's foreign policy priorities during an official dinner for participants of the 21st Jeju Forum for Peace and Prosperity under way on the southern resort island of Jeju, according to the ministry. "We will pursue sustainable peace and coe

- [Transport ministry approves Korean Air's integration with Asiana Airlines](#) (2026-06-25 11:35)

South Korea's transport ministry on Thursday approved Korean Air Co.'s integration with Asiana Airlines Inc., paving the way for the launch of a combined entity in December. The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport made the decision after Korean Air and Asiana Airlines applied for approval following the signing of an integration agreement last month. In November 2020, Korean Air signed a deal to acquire a controlling stake in Asiana Airlines, aiming to form the world's 10th-largest air

- [Seventeen's Joshua pledges continued support for young people's dreams](#) (2026-06-25 09:00)

Seventeen member Joshua returned to UNESCO headquarters in Paris on Thursday, delivering a speech on behalf of the group that reaffirmed its commitment to supporting young people through creativity, collaboration and well-being. Speaking at the commemorative event "UNESCO x Seventeen: Celebrating Youth, Creativity and Well-Being Together," Joshua

reflected on the group's journey since becoming UNESCO's first Goodwill Ambassador for Youth in 2024 and highlighted the impact of the Global Youth Gra

- [G.Na returns to music 10 years after sex-for-money scandal](#) (2026-06-25 08:39)

Korean Canadian singer and actress G.Na is set to return to music with her first official release since 2016, nearly a decade after a prostitution scandal brought her career to a halt. The singer revealed Tuesday through a social media post that the song she will remake for her comeback, her 2010 debut hit "I'll Back Off So You Can Live Better," was selected by fans. "It's been a long time since I've revisited this chapter of my life, but somehow this feels like the right song to start with," sh

- [A K-drama version of Liam Neeson's 'Taken'?](#) (2026-06-25 08:30)

So Ji-sub, one of Korea's most enduring action stars, channels shades of Liam Neeson in his latest series, "Agent Kim Reactivated," a live-action adaptation of the hit Naver webtoon "Manager Kim." The series centers on a man known only as Manager Kim (So), an unassuming bank employee and devoted single father raising his daughter, Min-ji, on his own. To the outside world, he appears to be an ordinary salaryman. But when Min-ji suddenly vanishes, Kim is forced to reveal a hidden past and unleash

- [Cortis joins F1 Singapore opening lineup as sole K-pop group](#) (2026-06-25 08:25)

Cortis will perform on the opening night of the Formula 1 Singapore Grand Prix race weekend in October. The F1 Singapore GP unveiled an updated concert line-up on Thursday for its race weekend at Marina Bay this fall. Cortis is the only K-pop group named in the announcement. Other newly listed performers include Janet Jackson, James Arthur, Zara Larsson and SNSD's Hyoyeon. Cortis will kick off the F1 weekend event on October 9 along with JJ Lin, Spacey Jane, Borderline, Shingo Nakamura, Split En

- [Red meat may not raise cancer risk for Koreans, study suggests](#) (2026-06-25 08:24)

Red meat has long been regarded as a potential cancer risk, with the World Health Organization classifying it as "probably carcinogenic to humans." But a new Korean study suggests the association might differ depending on population, sex and type of meat consumed. Seoul National University Hospital said Thursday that higher red meat consumption was linked to lower gastric cancer mortality among Korean men in a large cohort study. Men in the highest quartile of red meat consumption had a 52 perce

- [With loss to S. Africa, Hong Myung-bo now Korea's most defeated World Cup coach](#) (2026-06-25 08:15)

Head coach Hong Myung-bo took responsibility for South Korea's 1-0 loss to South Africa in the group-stage finale that left the team's World Cup hopes hanging in the balance on Wednesday. "On a stage as big as this, the head coach is responsible for all the results," Hong said at his post-match press conference. "Ultimately, I made the wrong decisions that led to this outcome."

Following the loss at Monterrey Stadium in Guadalupe, northeastern Mexico, South Korea finished third in Group A with t

- [No Korean casualties reported in Venezuela earthquake: Seoul](#) (2026-06-25 08:14)

South Korea's Foreign Ministry on Thursday expressed condolences to those affected by a recent earthquake in Venezuela, saying it was checking whether any Korean nationals had been affected. Speaking to reporters at the ministry headquarters in Seoul, ministry spokesperson Park Il offered sympathy to the Venezuelan government and people. "We extend our condolences to the government and people of Venezuela over the severe damage caused by the earthquake, and express our deepest sympathy to the vi

- [Vietnamese student gets 10 years for death of abandoned newborn](#) (2026-06-25 08:14)

A Vietnamese university student was sentenced to 10 years in prison by a Seoul court for abandoning her newborn baby near Dongguk University last year, causing the infant's death. The Seoul Central District Court on Thursday convicted the woman, who is in her 20s, of child abuse resulting in death under the Act on Special Cases Concerning the Punishment of Child Abuse Crimes. Another Vietnamese national indicted for helping her give birth and taking part in the abandonment was sentenced to eight

- [Seoul optimistic most South Korean vessels will clear Hormuz within days](#) (2026-06-25 08:11)

Most South Korea-linked vessels stranded in the Strait of Hormuz following the recent Middle East conflict are expected to clear the strategic waterway within days, with the government expressing optimism that the long-running disruption to maritime traffic is nearing an end. A Foreign Ministry official said on condition of anonymity Thursday that vessel movements through the strait are proceeding normally and that the issue appears to be moving toward resolution unless security conditions deter

- [Seoul court upholds prison term for US livestreamer Johnny Somali](#) (2026-06-25 08:07)

A Seoul appeals court upheld a six-month prison sentence for US livestreamer Johnny Somali, who drew public anger in South Korea last year after kissing a statue commemorating victims of Japan's wartime sexual slavery. The Seoul Western District Court on Thursday rejected appeals filed by both Ramsey Khalid Ismael, better known online as Johnny Somali, and prosecutors, leaving intact a lower court ruling that sentenced him to six months in prison. Ismael was convicted on charges including obstru

- [Academy invites 'KPop Demon Hunters' team to be members](#) (2026-06-25 07:17)

The team behind "KPop Demon Hunters" will soon have a vote at the Oscars. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the body behind the Academy Awards, announced Wednesday it has invited 529 people to join for 2026, a class that includes much of the team behind last year's breakout animated hit. Directors Maggie Kang and Chris Appelhans were

invited, along with Ejae, the singer-songwriter who voices lead character Rumi and co-wrote the chart-topping "Golden." In all, seven of the film's c

- [FSS moves to cool single-stock ETF frenzy](#) (2026-06-25 07:09)

South Korea's financial watchdog is preparing to tighten oversight of single-stock leveraged exchange-traded funds tied to Samsung Electronics and SK hynix, amid growing concerns that speculative trading is amplifying volatility in the stock market. According to industry sources Thursday, the Financial Supervisory Service will meet executives from asset management companies to discuss measures to cool the rapidly growing market. The talks are expected to focus on additional safeguards for levera

- [KOSPI spikes over 5%, briefly topping 9,000 level again on chip rally after Micron earnings](#) (2026-06-25 07:09)

South Korean stocks soared by more than 5 percent Thursday, briefly topping the 9,000-point level again, driven by a tech rally ignited by US chip giant Micron Technology's expectation-beating earnings report. The Korean won fell against the US dollar. The benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index gained 459.28 points, or 5.42 percent, to close at 8,930.30, following a 3.26 percent gain the previous day. The index briefly topped the 9,000-point threshold, rising as high as 9,044.04. Finishing

- [LG CNS launches agentic AI ERP testing solution](#) (2026-06-25 06:45)

LG CNS said Thursday it has launched an agentic AI-powered enterprise resource planning, or ERP, testing solution, as it steps up its push into the global SAP market. Called PerfectTwin ERP Edition, the solution automates ERP testing using real transaction data, helping companies detect defects before migrating to SAP's latest ERP platform, S/4HANA, or launching new ERP systems. ERP systems manage core business functions including finance, manufacturing, procurement, logistics and human resources

- [Korea Zinc Chairman, Australia PM deepen critical minerals ties](#) (2026-06-25 06:38)

Korea Zinc Chairman Choi Yun-birm met with Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese on Wednesday to discuss strengthening cooperation in critical minerals supply chains. During the meeting at the Prime Minister's Office in Canberra, Australia, the two agreed to deepen communication on advancing critical minerals value chains and supply chain resilience and explore new areas of collaboration. Addressing challenges in Australia's smelting industry, Albanese highlighted Korea Zinc's Sun Metals Co

- [Experts call for N. Korea strategy rooted in nuclear reality](#) (2026-06-25 06:33)

SEOGWIPO, Jeju Island -- Security experts and policymakers called Thursday for a more pragmatic approach to North Korea's nuclear program, arguing that diplomacy must begin from the reality of Pyongyang's growing nuclear arsenal while maintaining denuclearization as the ultimate objective. Speaking at the Jeju Forum during a session titled "Security Assurances in

Question: Can P3+3 Work When Trust Is Eroding?" the panelists said the rapidly changing security environment in Northeast Asia has mad

- [From fan to co-star: Chase Infiniti stars in Ateez' s 'Bad'](#) (2026-06-25 06:29)

Ateez has released two music video teasers for the main track of its upcoming album "Golden Hour: Part 5" featuring actor Chase Infinity. The first teaser, released on Wednesday, opens at Infinity's wedding. However, eight rings representing the eight members of Ateez are already on her ring finger. As the groom tries to add another ring, one of the members interrupts the ceremony. The second teaser, out Thursday, shows more chemistry between Infiniti and Ateez members. Infiniti is seen with Jon

- [Scholars from 10 countries to explore BTS' cultural influence after military service](#) (2026-06-25 06:25)

Scholars from around the world will gather in South Korea in early July for an international academic conference exploring BTS' cultural influence and the group' s post-military service era. The International Society for BTS Studies announced Thursday that the event, "BTS: A Global Interdisciplinary Conference," will be held July 2-3 at Jeonbuk National University International Convention Center in Jeonju, North Jeolla Province, under the theme "The Next-Generation Hallyu and BTS." The annual con

- [Why are more young Koreans walking away from elite careers?](#) (2026-06-25 06:24)

For generations, South Korea offered young people a clear bargain: study hard, enter a prestigious university, land a secure job at a major conglomerate and climb the corporate ladder. More young Koreans are now questioning whether that bargain still pays off — in money, autonomy, mental well-being and the ability to build a life that feels livable. When Lee Seung-jun graduated from one of South Korea' s top engineering schools and landed a job at Samsung Electronics, he appeared to have achieved

- [Mirae Asset marks 20 years of ETF growth](#) (2026-06-25 06:20)

Mirae Asset Global Investments is marking the 20th anniversary of its exchange-traded fund business, which has become a major growth engine for the asset manager, the company said Thursday. Its first ETF products, the Tiger Semiconductor ETF and the Tiger Banking ETF, were launched in June 2006, meaning 20 years have passed since the products were incorporated into Mirae Asset's business portfolio. Over that period, the asset manager has broadened its lineup to include products tracking major US

- [Govt. backs removal of prosecutors' investigative powers](#) (2026-06-25 06:15)

The South Korean government on Thursday endorsed the abolition of prosecutors' remaining authority to conduct supplementary investigations, backing the full removal of the prosecution's investigative powers as the ruling bloc presses ahead with its judicial overhaul. The decision resolves one of the final outstanding questions surrounding the reform package: Would

prosecutors retain limited authority to conduct "further investigations" in exceptional cases after a new crime investigation agency

- [Ko Seok-hyun eyes third straight UFC victory](#) (2026-06-25 06:14)

South Korean fighter Ko Seok-hyun, nicknamed the "Korean Tyson," will seek his third straight victory in the Ultimate Fighting Championship next month. Ko, 32, is set to face Jean-Paul Lebosnoy in a welterweight bout at UFC Fight Night on July 19 at Paycom Center in Oklahoma City. It will mark Ko's first fight in eight months after defeating Phil Rowe last November. A scheduled February bout against Jacobe Smith was canceled because of a rib injury. The July matchup is expected to showcase co

- [Shinhan Financial chief advances Uzbekistan banking push](#) (2026-06-25 06:11)

Shinhan Financial Group said Thursday it met with Uzbekistan's Minister of Investment, Industry and Trade Laziz Kudratov in Seoul to discuss expanding financial cooperation and supporting Korean companies' investments in the Central Asian country. The meeting, held at Lotte Hotel Seoul on Wednesday, follows a series of high-level exchanges aimed at strengthening financial ties between the two countries. Shinhan Financial Group Chairman Jin Ok-dong visited Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan in April 2025

- [LS Cable begins work on US submarine cable plant](#) (2026-06-25 06:11)

LS Cable & System said Thursday that its US subsidiary, LS GreenLink, has begun constructing a vertical continuous vulcanization tower for its submarine cable manufacturing plant in Chesapeake, Virginia, as it accelerates its expansion in the fast-growing US power infrastructure market. The submarine cable plant, the largest of its kind in the US, is scheduled for completion in the second half of 2027, with commercial production set to begin in the first half of 2028. LS Cable & System President

- [Jinro drops K-pop-themed summer bottles](#) (2026-06-25 06:09)

HiteJinro said Thursday it will launch a limited-edition summer version of its Chamisul Green Grape soju featuring a "K-pop Star Dookkeobi" label, as it looks to boost its global brand appeal by riding the worldwide popularity of K-pop. Chamisul Green Grape is HiteJinro's best-selling fruit-flavored soju in overseas markets. The release is part of the company's broader effort to expand the Dookkeobi character universe. The new labels feature HiteJinro's signature mascot reimagined as a K-pop sta

- [Posco blood donation campaign tops 65,000 participants](#) (2026-06-25 06:09)

Posco said Thursday its long-running employee blood donation campaign has surpassed 65,000 cumulative participants, marking nearly three decades of efforts to support patients in need. Since launching the campaign in 1998, the steelmaker has held regular blood donation drives in Pohang, Gwangyang and Seoul using mobile donation buses. As of June 17, employees had donated 26 million milliliters of whole blood, enough to help save an estimated 200,000

patients requiring transfusions. Employees hav

- [Samsung ADR could spark fresh rerating: KB Securities](#) (2026-06-25 06:06)

With SK hynix shares surging after the chipmaker unveiled plans to list American depository receipts, Samsung Electronics could see a fresh rerating if it pursues a similar move, KB Securities said Thursday. Shares of SK hynix have rallied on optimism surrounding its planned Nasdaq ADR listing, briefly overtaking Samsung Electronics earlier this week to become South Korea's most valuable listed company by market capitalization. Samsung Electronics could also benefit from a US ADR listing, which

- [Korea's AI future hinges on better data, programmable money: GBF speakers](#) (2026-06-25 06:04)

South Korean companies and financial institutions need to prepare for an AI era in which software does not just answer questions but performs tasks and makes payments on its own, speakers said Wednesday at the Global Business Forum in Seoul. At the 11th session of the forum, hosted by The Korea Herald and Herald Business, Park Min-jun of Wrtn Technologies and Korea Insurance Institute President Ha Tae-kyung argued that AI adoption will hinge less on the technology itself than on the systems built

- [Why Seoul, UNC see North Korea's DMZ activities differently](#) (2026-06-25 06:02)

South Korea and the United Nations Command's interpretations of North Korea's recent activities inside the Demilitarized Zone reflect contrasting views of what constitutes a violation of the 1953 Armistice Agreement. The disagreement centers on North Korea's construction of fences, road repairs, land clearing and suspected mine-laying inside the 4-kilometer-wide buffer zone surrounding the Military Demarcation Line, the de facto border between the two Koreas. Seoul says the work, particularly wh

- [Lee to host ex-President Moon for lunch](#) (2026-06-25 06:00)

President Lee Jae Myung will host former President Moon Jae-in for lunch at Cheong Wa Dae next week, according to the presidential office. The meeting is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. on July 1 at the presidential compound, senior presidential spokesperson Kang Yu-jung announced during a briefing Thursday. Former first lady Kim Jung-sook will not attend because she is overseas, and first lady Kim Hea Kyung is also not expected to join, The Korea Herald has learned. The luncheon will be Lee's first on

- [Kakao Bank to buy Mastern Capital in push beyond online banking](#) (2026-06-25 05:58)

Kakao Bank said Thursday it plans to fully acquire Mastern Capital, marking its first major move into nonbank lending as Korea's largest digital-only lender seeks to broaden its financial services portfolio. The bank's board approved the purchase Wednesday of all 5 million shares in Mastern Capital for 24.1 billion won (\$15.6 million), according to a regulatory filing. Founded in 2022 through a joint investment by Mastern Investment Management and NH Investment &

Securities, Mastern Capital is a

- [PM nominee says N. Korea is 'threat and compatriot' to S. Korea](#) (2026-06-25 05:56)

Prime minister nominee Han Seong-sook said Thursday that North Korea is both a threat and a compatriot, as lawmakers questioned her views on inter-Korean relations during her confirmation hearing. One key issue raised during the opening day of the two-day hearing was whether North Korea's regime and military should continue to be designated as South Korea's enemy in the defense white paper. In response to an inquiry by Rep. Kim Sun-gyo of the main opposition People Power Party about whether Nort

- [Lotte Department Store kicks off summer sale Friday](#) (2026-06-25 05:56)

Lotte Department Store said Thursday it will kick off its 2026 Summer Sale on Friday, offering discounts of up to 40 percent across fashion, sports, children's and home products through July 12. About 400 brands will participate in the campaign, with discounts on seasonal bestsellers and Lotte gift certificates worth up to 15 percent of purchases, depending on the product category. Luxury brands including Thom Browne, Jacquemus, Tory Burch and Ami, along with leading Korean fashion labels, will

- [Wimbledon players extend prize money protest](#) (2026-06-25 05:55)

An ongoing dispute over prize money in tennis has now extended to Wimbledon, the third Grand Slam tournament of the season. The Associated Press reported Wednesday that players competing at Wimbledon have decided to limit media interview sessions to 15 minutes as part of an ongoing protest over prize money. The move follows similar actions that began during the French Open, where players had voiced frustration that the tournament's total prize pool accounted for only 14.3 percent of the total ev

- [JPMorgan lifts Kospi target to 12,500, keeps Korea top Asia pick](#) (2026-06-25 05:37)

JPMorgan on Thursday raised its 12-month target for South Korea's benchmark Kospi, keeping the country as its top equity market in Asia on expectations that AI-driven earnings will outweigh heavy foreign selling and volatility. The bank lifted its base-case Kospi target to 12,500, up from its previous target of 10,000 given in May. It also set a bull-case target of 15,000 and a bear-case target of 8,000. In a report released Thursday, JPMorgan strategists said investors should add exposure on pu

- [Hyundai eyes full ownership of Boston Dynamics](#) (2026-06-25 05:36)

Hyundai Motor Group is considering swapping its US artificial intelligence research arm for SoftBank's remaining stake in Boston Dynamics, which would give the automaker full ownership of the robotics company ahead of its planned initial public offering. According to media reports on Thursday, if the deal goes through, Hyundai would acquire the remaining 9.65 percent stake in Boston Dynamics currently held by SoftBank, making the robot maker a wholly owned subsidiary, while transferring its robo

- [Korea launches \\$150b US shipbuilding investment alliance](#) (2026-06-25 05:35)

South Korea on Thursday launched a joint financing alliance with its three biggest shipbuilders and major state policy lenders to drive a \$150 billion Korea-US shipbuilding investment initiative aimed at expanding Korean companies' presence in the US market. The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Resources said the Korea-US Strategic Investment Corp., the Export-Import Bank of Korea, Korea Development Bank, Korea Trade Insurance Corp. and Korea Ocean Business Corp. signed an agreement with HD Hyundai

- [\[Bio USA\] Samsung Biologics steps up CDMO tech race](#) (2026-06-25 05:31)

SAN DIEGO — Samsung Biologics is accelerating research and development efforts to strengthen its position in the contract development and manufacturing organization market by leveraging proprietary platforms, next-generation modalities and strategic technology investments. “Supporting core technology for contract development business is the most important task at (Samsung Biologics’ Bio R&D Center),” Jeong Hyeong-nam, chief of Samsung Biologics’ Bio R&D Center, said at press conference at the BIO

- [How aircraft are still built largely by hand](#) (2026-06-25 05:29)

SACHEON, South Gyeongsang Province — Inside Plant 1 at South Korean aerospace manufacturer Kenco Aerospace, large metal jigs hold aircraft parts in place before they are drilled, riveted and assembled into structures destined for global aerospace supply chains. The factory floor is filled not with finished aircraft but with the painstaking work that comes long before one takes flight. During a media tour on Tuesday, Kenco showcased structures related to Embraer's C-390 military transport aircraft

- [Two Indonesian crew members missing after fishing boat sinks off Busan](#) (2026-06-25 05:22)

Two Indonesian crew members were left missing after a fishing boat sank following a collision with an LPG carrier off the southeastern coast of Busan on Thursday, authorities said. The accident occurred at 10:10 a.m. about 23 nautical miles, or 42.6 kilometers, southeast of Daeyeon Port in Gijang, Busan, when a 79-ton trawler collided with a 992-ton liquefied petroleum gas carrier, according to the Ulsan Coast Guard. Eight crew members aboard the fishing boat — two Koreans and six Indonesians —

- [\[Bio USA\] Korea Exchange courts global biotech IPOs at Bio USA](#) (2026-06-25 05:21)

The Korea Exchange hosted an investor outreach event for global biotech companies at BIO International Convention 2026 in San Diego on Tuesday, stepping up efforts to attract overseas firms to Korea's capital market. BIO International Convention is the world's largest biotechnology exhibition, drawing about 20,000 participants from 72 countries last year. Co-hosted with Invest Seoul, the event introduced the Kosdaq listing process for foreign companies and key initial public offering requirements

- [S. Korea's fate left hanging after defeat to S. Africa](#) (2026-06-25 05:19)

South Korea's hopes of reaching the Round of 32 at the 2026 FIFA World Cup are no longer in their own hands after a costly 1-0 defeat to South Africa left the Taegeuk Warriors third in Group A on Wednesday. The team conceded a goal in the 63rd minute, with Thapelo Maseko scoring for the African nation. Currently sitting at No. 25, South Korea finished third at this stage with three points from one win and two defeats. The team opened the tournament with a 2-1 win over the Czech Republic before s

- [Korea eyes role in NASA's lunar base project](#) (2026-06-25 05:16)

SACHEON, South Gyeongsang Province — The Korea AeroSpace Administration is seeking a role for South Korea in future lunar infrastructure projects with NASA, while trying to reduce its reliance on foreign launch providers as rocket slots become harder to secure worldwide. Oh Tae-seog, administrator of the KASA, said Wednesday that talks with NASA are moving into more concrete areas as the US space agency advances plans for a sustained presence on the Moon. "Our cooperation with NASA is continuing

- [IOC to give all Olympic athletes \\$10,000 grant](#) (2026-06-25 05:14)

The International Olympic Committee has decided to provide athletes competing in the Olympics with a \$10,000 participation grant per person instead of prize money. The move is aimed at offering universal benefits to all athletes who reach the Olympic stage, rather than limiting rewards to medalists. According to the Associated Press, the IOC announced during its 146th Session held Wednesday in Lausanne, Switzerland, that it would create a fund worth up to \$140 million to directly support athlete

- [Kim Gun-mo returns with first new single in 10 years](#) (2026-06-25 05:10)

Legendary singer-songwriter Kim Gun-mo will release a new digital single, "How Far Are You?," on July 1, his first new song in a decade, his agency Guneum Company announced Thursday. The release is Kim's first since his 2016 EP "50," which commemorated the 25th anniversary of his debut. "How Far Are You?" is a remake of the title track from Korean folk singer Jeon Young's 1977 debut album. For the first time in his career, Kim performs while playing the guitar himself, setting aside the piano pe

- [Korea gets its first bisexual dating show. Will queer dating TV survive here?](#) (2026-06-25 04:56)

Though South Korea has aired its first bisexual dating reality show, queer dating programs remain a niche segment in the country. Still, experts say the continued rollout of such shows reflects growing confidence in LGBTQ+ content, fueled in part by the demand for screen adaptations of boys' love (BL) web novels and webtoons. Korean streaming platform Wavve on June 19 launched "Stand Bi Me," the country's first dating reality series centered on bisexual singles. The show's participants move into

- [Byeon Woo-seok named top advertising model in K-Brand Index](#) (2026-06-25 04:53)

Actor Byeon Woo-seok topped the K-Brand Index ranking of advertising models for the first half of 2026, according to the Asia Brand Research Institute on Thursday. The Asia Brand Research Institute, a big data evaluation agency, announced that Byeon Woo-seok ranked No. 1 in the advertising model category of the 2026 first half's K-Brand Index. The research analyzed 3.62 billion pieces of online data of the 30 most-searched celebrities this year. The K-Brand Index was calculated based on multiple

- [Kwon Soon-woo one win away from Wimbledon main draw](#) (2026-06-25 04:52)

Kwon Soon-woo has moved to within one win of reaching the main draw at Wimbledon. Kwon, ranked No. 202 and representing the Korea Armed Forces Athletic Corps, defeated France's Arthur Gea 5-7, 6-3, 6-4 in the second round of the men's singles qualifying match in London on Tuesday. The match lasted 2 hours and 4 minutes. After dropping the opening set despite leading 4-1, Kwon took control with stronger net play and rallied for the win. Gea, 21, world No. 132, won the first singles title of his c

- [Seoul expands visa-linked startup program for foreign nationals](#) (2026-06-25 04:46)

Seoul will expand startup support for foreign residents as more international residents say they want to stay in the city but struggle to find economic opportunities. The Seoul Metropolitan Government said Thursday it will introduce two new programs to support foreign entrepreneurs. One will provide practical education on starting and running a business in Korea, covering taxation, accounting, legal issues and Korean business culture. The other will connect promising foreign entrepreneurs with i

- [Lee pledges greater honors for nations that fought in Korean War](#) (2026-06-25 04:45)

President Lee Jae Myung on Thursday pledged to expand South Korea's veterans diplomacy, saying the country owes a debt of gratitude to nations that fought to defend it during the Korean War. In his speech marking the 76th anniversary of the outbreak of the 1950-53 Korean War, Lee paid tribute to the 22 UN sending states that provided military and medical support to South Korea under the unified flag of the UN Command. Opening his remarks, Lee extended a special acknowledgment to "the diplomatic

- [Seventeen's Jeonghan first member to complete military service](#) (2026-06-25 04:15)

Jeonghan of Seventeen was discharged from mandatory military service Thursday, becoming the first of the group's 13 members to complete his enlistment. The singer had been serving as a social service agent since Sept. 26, 2024. Of the other members, Wonwoo is also currently serving as a social service agent, while Hoshi and Woozi are on active duty. Mingyu, DK, Seungkwan, Vernon and Dino are expected to enlist in the coming months. As the first member to return from military service, attention i

- [Women' s school for second-chance learners faces closure after founder' s death](#) (2026-06-25 03:59)

For many students at Ilsung Women' s Middle and High School, going to school is a dream they had to postpone for decades. The Seoul school, which offers middle and high school-level education to women who missed out on formal schooling, is now facing possible closure after the death of its founder, Lee Seon-jae, in May exposed a legal gap threatening its future. “We hope the government will pay closer attention to the reality faced by people like us, who fall through the cracks,” Ko Yeon-hee, a 6

- [Why Samsung may welcome Apple's most expensive iPhone yet](#) (2026-06-25 03:48)

Samsung Electronics may have an unlikely reason to welcome Apple's first foldable iPhone: The more Apple charges for it, the less shocking Samsung's own prices will look. Ahead of Samsung's expected unveiling of its Galaxy Z Fold 8 series in London in late July, its mobile business is walking into a hard launch. Memory and processor costs are climbing, leaks point to higher Galaxy prices, and Apple, absent from the category for years, is expected to enter in September with what could be the most

- [Ukraine' s latest long-range strikes on Russia hit a major natural gas plant and satellite centers](#) (2026-06-25 03:40)

Ukrainian forces struck a major natural gas processing plant and two key satellite communications centers in their latest nighttime attacks on Russia, Ukraine' s General Staff said Wednesday. The operation was part of Ukraine' s aerial campaign targeting energy facilities and military industries that has intensified as Kyiv builds bigger and better long-range weapons to ward off Russia' s full-scale invasion, now in its fifth year. In response, Moscow has ordered the redeployment of some air defenses

- [Rubio meets Gulf leaders, pledges security amid Iran deal doubts](#) (2026-06-25 03:37)

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio met the leaders of the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait on Wednesday, vowing not to undermine their security as he sought to reassure Gulf allies sceptical of a proposed deal to end the US-Israeli war with Iran. The US-Iran accord reached last week — the first signed by American and Iranian presidents since Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution — includes a proposed \$300 billion fund and the waiver of some sanctions for Tehran. Arriving in the UAE capital Abu Dhabi la

- [US-Iran deal may leave Netanyahu as biggest casualty](#) (2026-06-25 03:36)

BEIRUT (Reuters) -- The biggest casualty of the US-Iran deal may not be Israel's Iran strategy, but the political brand Benjamin Netanyahu spent decades constructing as the Israeli leader who could uniquely bend Washington to his will on Iran, analysts, former US officials and diplomats say. Netanyahu built his political identity on an audacious assertion: that he alone could keep the US and Israel in strategic lockstep on Iran. Cultivating Republican support, he cast himself as the only Israel

- [First global rules adopted for self-driving cars: UN](#) (2026-06-25 03:34)

GENEVA (AFP) -- The first global regulations for fully autonomous vehicles were adopted Wednesday, a UN agency said, establishing uniform international safety requirements that could pave the way for larger-scale rollouts of self-driving cars. Safety concerns and the cost of developing next-level systems have long slowed progress on autonomous vehicles. As self-driving cars have begun to hit the road in a growing number of cities, the fragmented national approaches to regulation have spurred man

- [Trump seeks \\$88b in extra funding, mostly for Iran war](#) (2026-06-25 03:33)

US President Donald Trump asked Congress Wednesday for nearly \$88 billion in extra spending, most of it to cover the cost of the Iran war, at a moment of growing unease in both parties over the conflict and its political price. The White House request for \$87.6 billion in supplemental funding includes tens of billions of dollars for the Pentagon, as well as money for US farmers, Ebola response efforts in central Africa and domestic infrastructure projects. The proposal landed a day after Congress

- [Western Europe bakes under 'heat dome'](#) (2026-06-25 03:32)

LONDON (AP) — Much of western Europe baked under a “heat dome” Wednesday as temperatures soared toward 40 degrees Celsius in places, and weather agencies warned that the extreme conditions could endanger lives across countries, many of which have limited air conditioning. France recorded its hottest-ever day for the second day running. The Meteo France weather agency said the country's national thermal indicator — an average of temperatures measured at 30 weather stations — hit a new record of

- [Busan's ambitious 110-billion won Pompidou project on brink of collapse](#) (2026-06-25 03:00)

The future of the proposed Centre Pompidou Busan has become increasingly uncertain as the project remains stalled nearly two years after the signing of a memorandum of understanding with the renowned French institution. The city's new administration is now reviewing whether to move forward with the plan. The delay has fueled speculation that the project may struggle to move forward, particularly after Centre Pompidou successfully opened its first Korean outpost, Centre Pompidou Hanwha, in Seoul

- [\[Bio USA\] Lotte Biologics eyes more CDMO orders with Songdo Plant 1](#) (2026-06-25 03:00)

SAN DIEGO -- Lotte Biologics is zeroing in on securing more orders and expanding its global presence with the completion of Plant 1's construction and approval for use at its Songdo Bio Campus in Incheon. “Lotte Biologics has now secured a dual-site production system in the United States and Korea,” said James Park, CEO of Lotte Biologics, in a press conference held on the sidelines of the BIO International Convention in San Diego on Tuesday. “Based on the Songdo Bio Campus' Plant 1 and the Syra

- [Stray Kids top iTunes chart in 41 regions with prerelease](#) (2026-06-25 02:58)

Stray Kids' prerelease track "Run It" hit the iTunes Top Songs Chart in 41 regions upon release, according to label JYP Entertainment on Thursday. Rolled out as a digital single, "Run It" was written by the group's songwriting trio — Bang Chan, Changbin and Han — and depicts the Stray Kids' rise and musical journey. It gives fans a sample of the tenth EP, "This & That," slated for release on Aug. 7. Stray Kids will launch their "Run It" tour next month with five shows in Seoul. The tour will con

- [Man in 'drugged zombie' video released after drug test comes back negative](#) (2026-06-25 02:58)

The man featured in a widely shared social media video who was detained Tuesday on suspicion of drug use was released Wednesday, after the National Forensic Service found no evidence of illegal substance use, police said. The man, who is in his 30s, was captured in the video standing limply with a hunched posture and his arms hanging down as if he were drunk in Gwonseon-gu, Suwon, on Sunday. The footage quickly spread online, with commentators dubbing him the "Suwon drugged zombie." The police,

- [Zerobaseone to drop 2nd EP in Japan](#) (2026-06-25 02:28)

Zerobaseone is set to release its second EP in Japan on Aug. 19, agency WakeOne Entertainment announced Thursday. EP "回歸LOVE" consists of three tracks, including "Existence," for which it teamed up with a member of Japanese trio Omoi-notake. Also included in the upcoming set are the new song "Aphrodite" and a Japanese-language version of "Top 5," which fronted the group's most recent endeavor, sixth EP "Ascend-." The August release will mark the boy group's return in Japan after ten months since

- [Senior US diplomat to visit S. Korea, Japan this month: State Dept.](#) (2026-06-25 02:24)

A senior US diplomat in charge of global public affairs will visit South Korea and Japan this month as part of efforts to promote the US administration's foreign policy priorities, a State Department spokesperson said Wednesday. Dylan Johnson, assistant secretary of state for global public affairs, will visit the two Asian countries and Thailand during his eight-day trip that runs through July 1, the spokesperson said. "During his visit, Assistant Secretary Johnson will meet with government coun

- [South Korea loses 1-0 to S. Africa, knockout stage hopes hang in balance](#) (2026-06-25 02:21)

South Korea fell 1-0 to South Africa in their final group match at the 2026 FIFA World Cup on Thursday, missing a chance to secure automatic qualification for the Round of 32. At Monterrey Stadium in Guadalupe, Mexico, Teboho Maseko scored the lone goal of the match in the 63rd minute, finishing a swift counterattack with a left-footed shot into the bottom-right corner. Chepang Moremi provided the assist with a through ball that split the South Korean defense. South Korea entered the match needi

- [Lee vows to build peaceful Korean Peninsula free from fear of war](#) (2026-06-25 02:15)

President Lee Jae Myung pledged Thursday to establish a peaceful Korean Peninsula free from the fear of war as South Korea marks the anniversary of the outbreak of the 1950-53 Korean War. Lee made the pledge in his speech at a ceremony marking the 76th anniversary of the outbreak of the war, which was held in Gyeonggi Province and brought together hundreds of war veterans, and government and military officials. "(The government) will safeguard the people and the territory through strong defense

- [S. Korea, South Africa goalless at halftime](#) (2026-06-25 02:01)

South Korea and South Africa were goalless in the first half of their crucial Group A showdown at the FIFA World Cup in northeastern Mexico on Wednesday. South Korea were in control early before South Africa pushed back, though neither side found the back of the net in the opening 45 minutes at Estadio Monterrey in Guadalupe. Captain Son Heung-min was not in the starting lineup for South Korea, with Oh Hyeon-gyu taking over as the striker. Lee Kang-in and Hwang Hee-chan were the attacking midfie

- [Le Sserafim goes platinum in Japan with ‘Crazy’](#) (2026-06-25 02:01)

Le Sserafim earned platinum certification from the Recording Industry Association of Japan with “Crazy,” the group's agency Source Music said Thursday. “Crazy” is the title track from Le Sserafim's fourth EP, which was released in 2024. It exceeded 100 million streams in the country, becoming the group's sixth song to reach the milestone. The EDM tune spent two weeks on Billboard's Hot 100, peaking at No. 76. The EP spent four weeks on Billboard 200, entering the chart at No. 7. Meanwhile, the g

- [Privacy watchdog fines Bithumb W210m for violating overseas data transfer rules](#) (2026-06-25 01:57)

South Korea's privacy watchdog said Thursday it has fined Bithumb, a major crypto exchange in the country, 210 million won (\$135,700) for violating rules on the overseas transfer of users' personal information. The Personal Information Protection Commission decided to levy the penalty and order corrective measures against the company over the violations in a plenary session the previous day. The regulator said its investigation found Bithumb transferred the personal information of users overseas

- [Trump, Republican senator in shouting match over unpopular Iran war](#) (2026-06-25 01:57)

US President Donald Trump faced pointed criticism over the Iran war Wednesday in a closed-door meeting with fellow Republicans, shortly before his administration asked Congress for tens of billions of dollars to pay for the conflict. Several Republicans in the closed-door meeting said Trump engaged in a shouting match with Republican Sen. Bill Cassidy, who said the administration needs to explain a framework deal Trump signed last week that provides financial incentives for Iran but does not a

- [\[Photo News\] K-pop stars heat up Paris Fashion Week](#) (2026-06-25 01:50)

BTS' Jimin attended the Dior Homme Menswear Spring/Summer 2027 show on Wednesday, joined by Cortis' members Seonghyeon, Juhoon and Keonho. Dior's new ready-to-wear collection was designed by the brand's creative director Jonathan Anderson and was presented at the Musee Nissim de Camondo on the second day of Paris Fashion Week. Anderson's creativity reimagines the French fashion house's creations as modern pieces. Tuxedos feature a more relaxed fit, with houndstooth translated into a print instead

- [Unification minister renews call for multilateral dialogue to foster peace on Korean Peninsula](#) (2026-06-25 01:39)

South Korea's Unification Minister Chung Dong-young on Thursday renewed his call for multilateral dialogue to restore inter-Korean trust and foster lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula, stressing the need for support from the international community, including the United States. Chung made the call in a written message delivered at a peace forum in Washington. The renewed call comes after he proposed a four-way dialogue involving the two Koreas, the US and China on the denuclearization of the p

- [BTS' 'Arirang' nabs double crown on Oricon's first-half rankings](#) (2026-06-25 01:29)

BTS nabbed two top spots on Oricon's First-Half Rankings 2026, published on Thursday. Its fifth studio album "Arirang" topped both the Album Ranking and Combined Album Ranking charts. The septet topped the Album Ranking chart for the second time, a first for an international group. The album also surpassed 700,000 in sales, a first for an international male artist in 22 years since Queen's compilation album "Jewels." BTS is the first-ever non-Japanese musician to sit atop the Combined Album Rank

- [20,000 expected to gather at Gwanghwamun to cheer for S. Korea in final group match vs. S. Africa](#) (2026-06-25 01:28)

Up to 20,000 fans were expected to gather in Seoul's Gwanghwamun Square on Thursday to cheer for South Korea in its final group stage match against South Africa, the organizers of the watch party said. With the game scheduled to kick off at 10 a.m., fans began gathering early in the morning, with 68-year-old Kim Ik-su saying he woke up at 3 a.m. to come to the watch party while another fan, 20-year-old Han Jee-ah, arrived at Gwanghwamun at 7:30 a.m. Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon and South African Amba

- [N. Korea again claims US started Korean War under 'well-crafted' script](#) (2026-06-25 01:25)

North Korea on Thursday reiterated its claim that the 1950-53 Korean War was the result of invasion by the United States under a "well-crafted script," while highlighting its resolve to confront South Korea and the US. The Rodong Sinmun, North Korea's most widely read newspaper, issued the claim in an editorial in commemoration of the 76th anniversary of the Korean War. "In the early hours of June 25, 1950, the South Korean puppet army launched an armed invasion against our republic," the Rodong

- [5 more S. Korean-operated vessels exit Strait of Hormuz](#) (2026-06-25 01:14)

Five more South Korean-operated vessels have exited the Strait of Hormuz following last week's ceasefire agreement between the United States and Iran, bringing the total number of vessels that have left the region to 11, the maritime ministry said Thursday. The Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries said the ships safely passed through the strategic waterway and are sailing normally. A total of 21 South Korean sailors were aboard the vessels, with one vessel bound for South Korea, the ministry said. W

- [Investigators question election officials over ballot shortage](#) (2026-06-25 00:36)

Two election officials who oversaw polling stations hit by ballot shortages during the June 3 local elections appeared before investigators on Thursday to undergo questioning over the incident, legal sources said. A joint police and prosecution team called in the Songpa District Election Commission officials to question them about the election watchdog's internal instructions in response to the shortages, according to the sources. The team is probing allegations that the National Election Commis

- [Shincheonji sect leader arrested in election influence investigation](#) (2026-06-24 23:40)

A Seoul court on Wednesday issued an arrest warrant for the founder of the Shincheonji Church of Jesus, a nonmainstream religious sect, over allegations he forced followers to join the main opposition People Power Party ahead of elections. The Seoul Central District Court granted the warrant for Lee Man-hee, citing concerns of destruction of evidence, after a prosecution-police task force requested the warrant on charges of obstruction of business and violations of the Political Parties Act. The

- [Rubio says tolls on Strait of Hormuz will not happen](#) (2026-06-24 23:15)

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Wednesday that charging tolls on the Strait of Hormuz will not happen, amid reports that Iran seeks to establish a mechanism with Oman to regulate traffic in the crucial waterway. Rubio made the remarks during a press availability in Kuwait, reiterating US President Donald Trump's opposition to the idea of Iran imposing a fee on shipping through the strait, which the secretary has called an "international waterway." Concerns have continued that Tehran could

- [Senior US diplomat to visit S. Korea, Japan this month: State Dept.](#) (2026-06-24 23:13)

A senior State Department official in charge of global public affairs will visit South Korea and Japan this month, the department said Wednesday. Dylan Johnson, assistant secretary of state for global public affairs, will visit the two Asian countries from Wednesday through July 1, it said without elaboration. In his bureau, Johnson has overseen the department's strategic communications, public messaging, and engagement with domestic and international media. Johnson previously served as special

- [\[Graphic News\] Korea's alcohol consumption sees record decline](#) (2026-06-24 23:00)

South Koreans' spending on alcoholic beverages posted its steepest decline on record in the first quarter, extending a prolonged downturn in alcohol consumption. Average monthly household spending on alcoholic beverages, adjusted for inflation, fell 9 percent on-year to 13,000 won (\$8.60) in the January-March period, according to data from the Korean Statistical Information Service. The decline was the largest since comparable quarterly data became available in 2019. Real spending on alcohol has

- [\[Andrew Sheng\] Summer bubbles, autumn blues](#) (2026-06-24 20:30)

We never had it so good. The S&P 500 and Nikkei 225 just hit record highs. SpaceX had its spectacular initial public offering, raising an eye-popping \$75 billion (the largest IPO in history) with a sharp rise in share price to a mind-blowing valuation of \$2.5 trillion. The possibility of a US-Iran deal to reopen the Strait of Hormuz has caused gasoline prices to drop back to below \$4 per gallon, or about \$1 per liter. Global stock markets are creating wealth for portfolio investors that seems un

- [\[Wang Son-taek\] Suez moment vs. Hormuz moment](#) (2026-06-24 20:30)

The agreement to end the Iran war has triggered intense debate over its lessons. Among the many interpretations, one of the interesting approaches is a comparison with the Suez Crisis. According to this view, just as Britain was forced by American pressure to withdraw from Suez in 1956, the United States may now be entering a period of decline in which it loses its position as the hegemonic power. But does the analogy really offer the most useful insight into the Iran crisis? Probably not. The t

- [Trump says assured by Iran no tolls to be charged at Hormuz](#) (2026-06-24 12:41)

US President Donald Trump said Wednesday he has been assured by Iran that no fees will be collected from ships in the Strait of Hormuz, as negotiations continue to secure a lasting end to the war in the Middle East. "Iran has informed the US that... there are 'NO TOLLS, NO INSURANCE COSTS, & NO OTHER CHARGES OF ANY KIND BEING SOUGHT OR RECEIVED BY IRAN ON SHIPS TRAVELING THE STRAIT OF HORMUZ'," Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform, without specifying whether those assurances would remain in

- [Security must extend beyond defense in fragmented world: ex-US ambassador](#) (2026-06-24 12:19)

Former US Ambassador to South Korea Harry Harris said traditional notions of defense are no longer enough, arguing that security must extend beyond military cooperation to include the economy, technology and supply chains. "Self-defense and collective defense remain indispensable, but collective security must encompass not only military cooperation, but also cooperation in economics, technology, especially AI and big data, supply chains, and cyber resilience," he said at a session titled "Betwee

- [Gov't to seek disciplinary measures for 17 fire officials over death of female firefighter](#) (2026-06-24 11:39)

The government decided to seek disciplinary measures against 17 fire officials after confirming that a female firefighter in the southern city of Gwangju had been forced into unwanted after-work dinners and drinking before killing herself last year, officials said Wednesday. Officials at the fire station were also found to have ignored a request from her family for an investigation into workplace harassment allegations and released without permission the content of counseling she had before her

- [Hanwha Aerospace to produce K9 Howitzers in UAE](#) (2026-06-24 11:38)

Hanwha Aerospace is partnering with a defense company from the United Arab Emirates to pursue local production of its K9 self-propelled howitzer, strengthening its presence in the Middle East defense market. The company said Wednesday that it signed a memorandum of understanding with Generation 5 Holding, a UAE-based defense and technology firm, during the Eurosatory 2026 defense exhibition held in Paris last week. Under the agreement, the two parties will collaborate to start production of the

- [Police identify, summon woman over solo blockade of vote counting center](#) (2026-06-24 11:06)

Police have identified a woman who staged a solo blockade of a vote counting center after the June 3 local elections and issued a summons for her to appear for questioning, sources said Wednesday. On June 16, the woman, said to be in her 30s, stood outside a door to the SK Olympic Handball Gymnasium in southern Seoul, which had been used as a ballot counting center, to prevent anyone from going inside amid an ongoing standoff between protesters demanding a rerun of the elections and sports organ

- [SK hynix seeks up to W45.5tr in July Nasdaq debut](#) (2026-06-24 09:27)

SK hynix said Wednesday it plans to begin trading American depositary receipts on the Nasdaq Stock Market on July 10, potentially raising up to 45.5 trillion won (\$33 billion) to fund a major expansion of its artificial intelligence chip production capacity. The Korean memory chipmaker said its board approved the issuance of ADRs backed by newly issued common shares. The proceeds will be used to finance key semiconductor projects, including the first fabrication plant at the Yongin semiconductor

- [Hyundai Motor union's 30% bonus push gains momentum](#) (2026-06-24 09:00)

Hyundai Motor Co.'s labor union has voted to secure the right to strike, with its longstanding demand for a "30 percent of net profit" bonus gaining fresh momentum following Samsung Electronics' recent landmark agreement. Hyundai Motor's union, involving 39,668 members, held a strike authorization vote on Wednesday, with 92.03 percent agreeing to go on strike. After securing the legal right to strike in a vote that has never failed to pass, the union will decide whether to proceed with a walkout

- [\[Best Brand\] Seoul Cyber University leads online education with AI-driven innovation](#) (2026-06-24 08:59)

Online university Seoul Cyber University is strengthening its position as Korea's leading online university by combining artificial intelligence education with an advanced digital learning system. The school is the first cyber university in Korea to receive the highest A grade in all three official evaluations of remote universities conducted by the Ministry of Education. It was named an excellent university in the 2007 comprehensive evaluation of remote universities, received an A grade in the

- [Korea gives stalking victims real-time access to suspects' location](#) (2026-06-24 08:58)

South Korea on Wednesday launched a new mobile alert system designed to better protect stalking victims by providing real-time information on suspected stalkers wearing electronic ankle monitors. Operated by the Ministry of Justice through a mobile application, the system allows victims to see a suspected stalker's current location and direction of movement. The government said the measure was introduced after concerns grew over the effectiveness of existing protections. Since 2024, electronic m

- [Twice's Jeongyeon in talks with Byeon Woo-seok's agency](#) (2026-06-24 08:12)

Twice member Jeongyeon is reportedly in talks with Varo Entertainment, the management agency behind breakout actor Byeon Woo-seok and actress Gong Seung-yeon, her older sister, as the K-pop singer prepares for her big-screen debut. According to local media reports Wednesday, Jeongyeon recently held a private meeting with Varo Entertainment to discuss potential acting activities. A company official confirmed the meeting but said no decision has been made regarding an exclusive contract. "It is tr

- [\[Bio USA\] Samsung Biologics to open first European sales office in Amsterdam](#) (2026-06-24 08:00)

SAN DIEGO – Samsung Biologics will establish its first official European sales office in Amsterdam, as the leading Korean contract development and manufacturing organization, or CDMO, looks to continue expanding its global presence. “We are planning to open the European sales office in the third quarter of this year,” said John Rim, CEO of Samsung Biologics, in a press conference held on the sidelines of the BIO International Convention in San Diego on Tuesday. “Located at the center of Europe,

- [Video of police responding to Changwon stabbing sparks outrage](#) (2026-06-24 07:53)

Surveillance footage of police responding to a fatal stabbing at a motel in Changwon last year has drawn public scrutiny after it was released online by the victims' family. The video shows officers ascending a stairwell at what many viewers described as an unhurried pace after receiving emergency calls from the victims, who contacted police twice during the assault. According to authorities, the incident occurred on Dec. 3, 2025, when a man in his 20s fatally

stabbed two teenagers and seriously

- [Lisa avoids dating talk, opens up about privacy concerns in Vanity Fair](#) (2026-06-24 07:29)

Blackpink member Lisa spoke about privacy concerns while largely steering clear of questions about her personal life in an interview with Vanity Fair published on Tuesday. The cover story, "The Life of a K-Pop Showgirl," sheds light on the 29-year-old, who was born in Thailand as Pranpriya Manobal, not only as a successful singer and actor but also as a person. The story notes that Lisa "will not discuss her personal life in interviews" and that "her publicist warned (the interviewer) twice not

- [Samsung financial affiliates top W100tr in capital for first time](#) (2026-06-24 07:26)

Samsung's financial affiliates surpassed 100 trillion won (\$65 billion) in capital for the first time at the end of 2025, accounting for most of the capital growth among South Korea's major financial groups as a stock market rally boosted investment gains. According to data released Wednesday by the Financial Supervisory Service, Samsung's capital rose to 100.5 trillion won from 69.5 trillion won a year earlier, while its capital adequacy ratio improved to 191.2 percent from 185.1 percent. The 3

- [Kospi rebounds 3.26% in volatile trading on bargain hunting](#) (2026-06-24 07:07)

South Korean stocks rebounded more than 3 percent Wednesday as investors snapped up major semiconductor shares following one of the market's steepest declines on record in the previous session. The local currency weakened against the US dollar. After choppy trading, the benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index gained 267.18 points, or 3.26 percent, to close at 8,471.02. The Kospi, which had opened higher, briefly fell into negative territory on heavy foreign selling and dropped close to the 8

- [Hyundai founder tribute concert to air on CNN's 'Showtime'](#) (2026-06-24 06:48)

Hyundai Motor Group said Wednesday that a memorial concert marking the 25th anniversary of the passing of founder Chung Ju-yung will be featured on CNN's "Showtime," bringing the tribute to a global audience. The episode, scheduled to air on CNN International on June 27 at 4:30 p.m., will spotlight the commemorative concert held at the Seoul Arts Center in February, while also offering a behind-the-scenes look at the months of preparation that went into the performance. CNN's "Showtime" series e

- [Can't Be Blue rejects indie label](#) (2026-06-24 06:34)

Asked to name the hottest rookie band in South Korea's indie scene today, many music fans point to Can't Be Blue. But the five-member group does not necessarily see itself as an indie band. "We don't really think of ourselves as indie," lead singer Lee Do-hun told The Korea Herald in an interview Monday. "Whether it's our sound or the way we work, we've always had the mindset of a pop band." That philosophy has helped fuel the band's rapid rise. Just over two years after debuting in June 2024, C

- [\[Bio USA\] Korean biotech has innovation. Now it needs capital](#) (2026-06-24 06:30)

SAN DIEGO – Korea’s biotechnology industry has rapidly emerged as one of Asia’s most promising innovation ecosystems, but industry experts say securing global capital and adopting more flexible business models remain critical challenges if the country hopes to position itself as a global biotech powerhouse. “Korea is already an innovation hub,” said Hwang Jurie, director of public and international affairs at the Korea Biotechnology Industry Organization, or KoreaBIO, during a panel discussion t

- [Fans or thieves? Webtoon piracy makes artists question global readers](#) (2026-06-24 06:26)

Rena, a webtoon artist in her 20s whose work is available on global platforms, used to see overseas comments as proof that her stories had crossed borders. These days, they make her uneasy. “I used to be genuinely happy whenever I saw comments from overseas readers,” said Rena, who asked to be identified with a pseudonym. “But now, when someone talks about my work, I can’t help wondering whether they read it through an illegal site.” For creators like Rena, overseas piracy is not only a question

- [At front-line base, Lee calls for shift away from conscription](#) (2026-06-24 06:23)

President Lee Jae Myung on Wednesday renewed his pledge to reduce South Korea’s reliance on conscription and expand the role of professional military personnel during a visit to a front-line Marine Corps unit. During the trip to Yeonpyeongdo near the western maritime border with North Korea, Lee inspected key Marine Corps weapons systems, climbed aboard a K9A1 self-propelled howitzer and fired rifles while wearing a bulletproof vest and helmet. Lee’s trip came during the week marking the anniver

- [SC Bank expands lifestyle offerings for wealthy clients](#) (2026-06-24 06:13)

Standard Chartered Bank Korea is broadening its private banking services beyond traditional wealth management and offering exclusive art and education programs for affluent clients and their families. As part of the initiative, the bank hosted an art-focused event on June 18 for private banking clients and prospective customers with at least 1 billion won (\$649,000) in deposits. The program, titled 2026 Master Class: The Beginning of Art Collecting and held at Seoul Auction’s Gangnam Center in C

- [Why Korea missed MSCI watchlist again](#) (2026-06-24 06:13)

South Korea has again failed to make MSCI’s developed market watchlist, delaying Seoul’s long-running campaign to move beyond emerging market status. The decision comes despite a sweeping reform drive aimed at improving foreign investor access. MSCI, in its annual market classification review released early Wednesday Korea time, kept Korea in its emerging market category and left the country off the watchlist for a potential upgrade to developed market status. The decision pushes back Korea’s up

- [Korea’s AI treasure is its factory data: Siemens top executive](#) (2026-06-24 06:05)

South Korea is uniquely positioned in shaping the future of artificial intelligence, owing to its robust manufacturing sectors and the vast amounts of data generated by its factories, according to a top executive at Siemens. “The treasure we are sitting on as industrial countries is industrial data,” Cedrik Neike, member of the managing board at Siemens and CEO of Digital Industries, said in an interview with The Korea Herald on Tuesday in Seoul, referring to manufacturing powerhouses such as Ko

- [Lee, chipmakers discuss W100tr-plus regional chip investment](#) (2026-06-24 06:01)

President Lee Jae Myung is expected to meet Samsung Electronics Chairman Lee Jae-yong on Thursday as the government enters the final stage of discussions on a major semiconductor investment package outside the Seoul metropolitan area, according to industry sources on Wednesday. The meeting is expected to focus on Korea's semiconductor strategy, artificial intelligence and regional development, including potential investments in new chip manufacturing and advanced semiconductor facilities in the

- ['Teach You a Lesson' rules Netflix' s non-English TV chart for third week](#) (2026-06-24 05:59)

"Teach You a Lesson" is the most-watched non-English TV series on Netflix globally. The breakout Netflix original, which follows the fictional Educational Rights Protection Bureau as it tackles a range of incidents in schools, has topped Tudum' s global top 10 chart for non-English TV series for three consecutive weeks since its June 5 debut. According to the Netflix companion site, the 10-part series has amassed 126 million hours viewed. Also appearing on the non-English TV chart is SBS romantic

- [Korea nears unveiling of next chip hub outside Seoul area](#) (2026-06-24 05:51)

South Korea is nearing an announcement on a new semiconductor production cluster outside the greater Seoul area as the government and the country's two largest chipmakers move to expand capacity for the AI era. Kim Yong-beom, President Lee Jae Myung's chief policy adviser, said Wednesday that the government, Samsung Electronics and SK hynix had been engaged in "serious discussions" over a second semiconductor cluster, including its location and the power and water infrastructure needed to support

- [BoyNextDoor earns career-best Billboard 200 ranking with first LP](#) (2026-06-24 05:47)

Boy band BoyNextDoor has achieved a new career high on Billboard' s main albums chart with its first full-length album, “Home.” According to the latest Billboard charts dated June 27, released Tuesday, “Home” debuted at No. 16 on the Billboard 200. The ranking marks the group' s highest placement on the chart to date, surpassing the No. 40 peak achieved by its previous EP, “The Action.” The achievement extended BoyNextDoor' s streak of Billboard 200 entries to six consecutive releases. Previous cha

- [Korea expands malpractice safety net for doctors in high-risk specialties](#) (2026-06-24 05:46)

South Korea will cover the full cost of malpractice insurance premiums for doctors in critical medical fields, as the government seeks to ease the legal risks blamed for driving physicians away from high-risk specialties such as obstetrics and emergency medicine. The Ministry of Health and Welfare said medical institutions employing eligible physicians can apply for the high-cost medical liability insurance support program starting Thursday. Under the program, the government will fully cover ins

- [Opposition steps up pressure on defense minister as impeachment petition gains traction](#) (2026-06-24 05:36)

The main opposition People Power Party on Wednesday stepped up pressure on Defense Minister Ahn Gyu-back, calling for his dismissal as two public petitions opposing his reform drive gained traction at the National Assembly. One petition, posted on the National Assembly's public petition system on June 18, calls for Ahn's impeachment over his push to dissolve the Defense Counterintelligence Command and the ministry's handling of the death of a reservist during training in May. It had drawn more t

- [Shinsegae Duty Free launches installment payments for foreign tourists](#) (2026-06-24 05:36)

Shinsegae Duty Free said Wednesday it launched a payment service that allows foreign visitors to pay in installments using Visa cards issued overseas. Developed in partnership with Korean fintech company DealMe, the NanuPay service has been introduced at the retailer's Myeong-dong store. NanuPay enables customers with overseas-issued Visa cards to select installment payments at checkout without downloading a separate app or applying for a new card. Previously, purchases made with foreign-issued

- [HanmiGlobal eyes US SMR market with development arm](#) (2026-06-24 05:36)

HanmiGlobal, South Korea's largest construction management firm, plans to establish a project development company for the US small modular reactor market as it seeks a larger role in the country's growing nuclear power sector. As part of the effort, the company hosted a seminar in Washington on Monday with the Global America Business Institute to introduce its SMR business strategy and explore potential partnerships. Representatives from major US power and infrastructure companies, including Edg

- [\[Best Brand\] Miracell secures FDA 510\(k\) clearance for stem cell processing system](#) (2026-06-24 05:26)

STEM CELL PROCESSING SYSTEM MIRACELL SMART M-CELL Stem cell technology firm Miracell has secured US Food and Drug Administration 510(k) clearance for its integrated cell-processing system, marking a significant milestone in the company's efforts to expand its presence in the global regenerative medicine market. The FDA granted 510(k) clearance in April for a system comprising the Smart M-Cell cell concentration device, the BSC blood kit and the BmSC bone marrow kit. The clearance followed a subs

- [North Korea deploys new destroyer, stresses push for nuclear-capable navy](#) (2026-06-24 05:25)

North Korea has deployed a new destroyer, state media reported Wednesday, with leader Kim Jong-un stressing that the push to establish a nuclear-armed navy was on course. According to the North's state-run newspaper Rodong Sinmun, the 5,000-ton destroyer Choe Hyun was deployed into active service on Tuesday. The paper quoted Kim as saying that the North Korean navy is growing into a branch that has "strategic assets" and that its nuclear armament was advancing according to plan. "This makes (Nor

- [Sports day, senior edition](#) (2026-06-24 05:21)

More than 3,500 senior citizens gathered in Busan on Wednesday for the annual Senior Sports Day, competing in events such as giant-ball rolling, mini basketball, ring toss and the traditional Korean game of yutnori. According to the Busan Metropolitan Government, the competition offered both recreation and friendly rivalry, with participants from 16 districts and counties across the city vying for the Busan Mayor's Trophy. Jointly organized by the city government and the Busan chapter of the Kor

- [Enhyphen's Sunoo donates ₩50m to pediatric patients on birthday](#) (2026-06-24 05:12)

Enhyphen's Sunoo donated 50 million won (\$32,400) to support pediatric patients in celebration of his birthday, Samsung Medical Center said Wednesday. Marking his 22nd birthday, Sunoo made the donation to help cover treatment costs for children receiving care at the hospital. Sunoo has been donating to Samsung Medical Center since 2024. His cumulative contributions have reportedly reached 200 million won. "Since making his first donation, Sunoo has consistently extended a helping hand to those i

- [Samsung, Alcedis team up on wearable-based clinical research](#) (2026-06-24 04:50)

Samsung Electronics said Wednesday it has partnered with German digital clinical research organization Alcedis to develop ways of turning health data collected by wearable devices into evidence that can be used in pharmaceutical clinical trials. The collaboration aims to address one of the biggest challenges in digital health: converting the vast amount of biometric data generated by wearables into clinically meaningful indicators that can help evaluate the safety and effectiveness of new drugs.

- [HD Construction Equipment eyes Indian market with new 20-ton excavator](#) (2026-06-24 04:50)

HD Construction Equipment said Wednesday that it had launched a new 20-ton Develon excavator in India, aiming to strengthen its presence in fast-growing markets including the Middle East and Africa. The company recently held a launch ceremony for the model at its production subsidiary in Pune, India, where it also showcased the plant's manufacturing capabilities to key dealers from the Middle East. Designed for price-sensitive markets, the new excavator is the largest Develon model HD Constructi

- [\[Bio USA\] SK Biopharmaceuticals doubles down on AI, open innovation](#) (2026-06-24 04:47)

Korea Herald correspondent SAN DIEGO — SK Biopharmaceuticals has bet big on artificial intelligence and open innovation as the two core pillars that will drive the Korean drugmaker's future growth. "It took us almost 30 years to launch Xcopri as we did everything from development to commercialization and sales, unlike other firms," said Lee Dong-hoon, CEO of SK Biopharmaceuticals, in a press conference at the BIO International Convention in San Diego on Monday. The growing sales of Xcopri, which

- [Dongguk University professor dismissed over sexual harassment allegations](#) (2026-06-24 04:40)

A professor at Dongguk University has been dismissed over allegations that he repeatedly made sexually inappropriate remarks and engaged in unwanted physical contact with students during drinking gatherings, the university said. According to Dongguk University, its faculty disciplinary committee voted on June 16 to dismiss the professor from the Department of Cultural Heritage Studies. The dismissal took effect Sunday. The case first came to public attention in November, when the department's st

- [North Korean soldier under investigation after crossing MDL overnight: JCS](#) (2026-06-24 04:33)

A North Korean soldier is under investigation after crossing the Military Demarcation Line into South Korea on Tuesday night, Seoul's military said Wednesday. The Joint Chiefs of Staff said it secured custody of the North Korean soldier along the central section of the inter-Korean border on Tuesday night. "Relevant details are under investigation by related authorities," the JCS said in a statement. The soldier is believed to have expressed a wish to defect to South Korea, according to military

- [Oil extends slide on expectations of smoother crude flows via Hormuz](#) (2026-06-24 04:29)

Oil prices fell more than 1 percent on Wednesday, extending this week's losses and trading near four-month lows, on signs that more oil tankers stranded in the Gulf are set to move out of the Strait of Hormuz. Brent crude futures fell 78 cents, or 1.0 percent, at \$76.30 a barrel as of 0350 GMT. US West Texas Intermediate slipped 78 cents, or 1.1 percent, to \$72.43 a barrel. Both benchmarks settled down around 1 percent on Tuesday, touching their lowest levels since early March. "Positive signa

- [How did conceptual art take shape in Korea?](#) (2026-06-24 04:26)

Conceptual art emerged in the West in the 1960s, emphasizing artist ideas or concepts over the appearance or form of an artwork. It shifted attention from the visual to the realms of language and ideas. "Language-based conceptual art began in New York, but when it arrived in different countries, it became connected to each country's political and social situation and was understood in different ways," curator Bae Myung-ji said on June 18 at the National Museum of

## Modern and Contemporary Art, Kor

- [Lee Kang-in reportedly nears Atletico move, raising prospect of Seoul debut in August](#) (2026-06-24 04:24)

As he pursues World Cup glory with South Korea, Lee Kang-in could also be closing in on a major club move. Reports in Europe suggest that Atletico Madrid is nearing an agreement to sign the midfielder from Paris Saint-Germain, raising the prospect that Lee could make his debut for the Spanish club in Seoul later this summer if the transfer is completed in time. Fabrizio Romano, an Italian sports journalist, reported Wednesday that Lee is closing in on a move from Paris Saint-Germain to the Spani

- [PGA Tour revamped to feature promotion and relegation from 2028](#) (2026-06-24 04:23)

The PGA Tour will introduce promotion and relegation in a revamped structure beginning in 2028. The Tour announced a new two-tier system, with top-level tournaments featuring purses of \$20 million and fields of about 120 players. The details were confirmed Tuesday at a press conference involving former world No. 1 Tiger Woods, marking his first public appearance since a car accident in March. The upper tier, called the Championship Series, will consist of 23 to 24 events, including the majors an

- [TXT adds another song to 100m Spotify streams list](#) (2026-06-24 03:04)

Tomorrow X Together has generated 100 million hits on Spotify with “Devil by the Window,” the group’s label Big Hit Music said Wednesday. It is the 19th song from the group to reach the milestone. “Devil by the Window” is a track from fifth EP “The Name Chapter: Temptation” which was released in 2023. The mini album made a chart-topping debut on Billboard 200. The five members are set to conclude a run of fan concerts in Japan in Kobe on Wednesday. They greeted fans in four cities in the country

- [4 more S. Korean-operated vessels clear Hormuz, 18 remain](#) (2026-06-24 02:56)

Four additional vessels operated by South Korean shipping companies have exited the Strait of Hormuz, authorities said Wednesday. With four vessels having left the area, 18 South Korean-linked ships remain in the strategic waterway, according to the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries. The vessels safely transited the strait and are sailing normally, according to the ministry. A total of 26 South Korean sailors were aboard the four ships, including one vessel bound for South Korea. The latest depar

- [S. Korea, US discuss broader defense industry cooperation in Washington](#) (2026-06-24 02:53)

South Korea’s Defense Ministry held an industry conference in Washington on Tuesday to explore broader cooperation with the United States in defense technologies and industrial supply chains. The event marked the first South Korea-US defense and defense industry cooperation conference held in the United States, according to the ministry. The conference,

hosted by Seoul's Vice Defense Minister Lee Doo-hee, was attended by about 120 officials and experts, including Michael Vaccaro, acting principal

- [Taeyeon kicks off J-pop remake project](#) (2026-06-24 02:50)

Taeyeon is offering fans a remake of Japanese musician Tuki's mega hit "Bansanka" on June 29, her label SM Entertainment announced Wednesday. It is the first release of the "J-Pop Remake" project, which invites major Korean vocalists to reinterpret well-known Japanese songs. "Bansanka" fronted the debut studio set from singer-songwriter Tuki., which came out last year. The single was unveiled in advance, in 2024, and topped Billboard Japan's Hot 100 and Oricon's Combined Singles Ranking. It also

- [US Senate joins House to halt war](#) (2026-06-24 02:40)

The US Senate backed legislation on Tuesday directing US President Donald Trump to halt US military action against Iran, the latest rebuke of the Republican president from an increasingly restive Congress. The Senate voted 50-48 in favor of the war powers resolution, which passed the House of Representatives early this month, reflecting growing concern even among some of Trump's Republicans about the unpopular conflict that began on Feb. 28. It was the first time both chambers of Congress had

- [Europe wilts under record heat, AC sales soar](#) (2026-06-24 02:40)

Europe braced Wednesday for another day of an unprecedented heat wave that has smashed records in many countries and sent air conditioner sales zooming in a continent unused and ill-equipped to handle searing heat. The extreme weather is being driven by atmospheric and circulation patterns that keep hot air trapped in place for days, causing the mercury to slowly rise, with these factors exacerbated by global warming, experts say. France's national temperature indicator -- an average of daytime

- [Trains halted across Germany with glitch](#) (2026-06-24 02:39)

A problem with a communications system forced Germany's railway network to halt all trains late Tuesday, leaving passengers stranded across the country. Trains were held at stations and would-be travelers stood in long lines at information desks as they tried to figure out how to get to their destinations. The main national railway operator, Deutsche Bahn, said shortly before 1 a.m. — nearly 2 1/2 hours after it first reported the outage — that the problem had been resolved and service was resumed

- [US slaps new sanctions on Cuba](#) (2026-06-24 02:37)

The US hit Cuban state companies Tuesday with new sanctions that analysts say are expected to spook foreign investors and deepen a severe economic crisis. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the sanctions target five Cuban entities, including three linked to Grupo de Administracion Empresarial S.A., a business conglomerate run by Cuba's Revolutionary Armed Forces. Best known as GAESA, it is believed to command nearly 40 percent of Cuba's gross domestic

product. As of early 2024, it held \$14.

- [Ruling party chair steps down ahead of convention](#) (2026-06-24 02:31)

Rep. Jung Chung-rae, chair of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea, has resigned from his post in apparent preparation to stand again for the chair position at the August party convention. The four-term lawmaker announced his intentions at the party's Supreme Council meeting on Wednesday. Some speculate that the future of South Korea's liberal bloc — in the midst of dropping approval ratings and interfactional power struggles — could hinge on the outcome of the party convention. Jung has chaired

- [Koreans back male parental leave, but not for colleagues](#) (2026-06-24 02:27)

Most South Koreans support the idea of fathers taking parental leave, but more than half are reluctant to recommend that their own male colleagues do so, according to a recent report by a state-affiliated think tank. Researchers at the Korea Institute of Public Finance conducted the study to explore ways to expand men's use of parental leave. Men accounted for 36.5 percent of parents taking leave in 2025. The survey was conducted from Sept. 12 to 19 that year with 900 workers across the country

- [Presidential policy chief calls for aggressive investment in AI infrastructure](#) (2026-06-24 02:26)

The presidential policy chief said Wednesday that the advent of a new artificial intelligence era requires new state infrastructure, calling for aggressive investment to bolster the country's potential growth trajectory in AI. Kim Yong-beom, presidential chief of staff for policy, made the point at a discussion hosted by the Kwanhun Club, a senior journalists' association, amid a stock market boom in South Korea driven by record profits and stock gains by AI-related chipmakers. "If the ongoing s

- [Street assault on two USFK service members by American man caught on video](#) (2026-06-24 02:20)

A foreign national is under investigation following an assault of two US Forces Korea personnel in Pyeongtaek, Gyeonggi Province, local police said Wednesday. The attack occurred around 6 a.m. on Sunday in Sinjang-dong, a neighborhood adjacent to Osan Air Base, where the suspect, an American national in his 30s, allegedly assaulted the US service members and threatened their female companion. Police arrested him at the scene after responding to reports from witnesses. Investigators found that th

- [BTS' surprise single makes Billboard' s Hot 100](#) (2026-06-24 02:17)

BTS placed another single on Billboard' s Hot 100, label Big Hit Music announced Wednesday, citing the latest chart published on Tuesday in the US. "Come Over," which entered the chart at No. 69, is the septet' s 39th song to make the main singles chart. The group took fans by surprise earlier this month when it released the single that was originally a bonus track from

the special edition of its fifth studio album, “Arirang.” “Come Over” entered BillboardGlobal excl. US and Global 200 as well, r

- [Gangwon international school plan faces setback after superintendent change](#) (2026-06-24 02:17)

A plan to establish an international school in Gangwon Province could face delays after the province’s newly elected education superintendent signaled a shift away from building new international schools and toward strengthening public education. “International schools may shake the broader framework of public education and could therefore require a public deliberation process to listen to different views,” Kang Sam-young, Gangwon’s superintendent-elect, said on June 18. Kang’s transition commit

- [Two summer festivals, two routes into the season's classical music](#) (2026-06-24 02:10)

Roughly 450 kilometers separate Daehangno in the heart of Seoul from Jeju Island off the southern coast. This summer, two music festivals — modest in public profile but firm in their convictions — return to those two places, linked this year by a common banner. Both are part of 2026 ARKO SUM FESTA, a brand run by Arts Council Korea (ARKO) that connects 15 theater, dance, music and traditional-arts festivals selected for its national performing-arts festival support program. Staged across the cou

- [UNC reaffirms N. Korea's border-hardening measures not in violation of Armistice Agreement](#) (2026-06-24 02:07)

North Korea's recent fencing and landmine operations along the inter-Korean border do not constitute violations of the Armistice Agreement that halted the 1950-53 Korean War, the United Nations Command said Wednesday, countering South Korea's claim that the North is breaching the agreement. The US-led UNC, which oversees and enforces the Armistice Agreement, made the case in a fact sheet on the North's activities, saying they are "explicitly exempt" from being considered armistice violations as

- [Trot singer Kim Ho-joong granted parole, set for release on June 30](#) (2026-06-24 02:04)

Trot singer Kim Ho-joong has been granted parole and will be released on June 30, an aide to the singer said Tuesday. He will be released around five months ahead of schedule after serving 767 days in prison for a hit-and-run incident. Prosecutors said he crashed into a taxi in an oncoming lane in Seoul's Gangnam district on May 9, 2024, while driving under the influence, then fled the scene. He later instructed his manager to falsely claim responsibility for the crash and purchased additional a

- [Culture ministry reports 15 to police over scalping of K-pop, sports tickets](#) (2026-06-24 01:59)

The culture ministry has referred 15 people to police for allegedly reselling large quantities of sports and K-pop concert tickets at inflated prices, including some marked up to eight times

their original value, officials said Wednesday. The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism said the cases were identified through an analysis of online reports and monitoring data on illegal ticket resales between Jan. 5 and June 16. The investigation focused on activity on a major secondhand trading platform

- [Four more S. Korean-operated vessels exit Strait of Hormuz](#) (2026-06-24 01:55)

Four more South Korean-operated vessels have exited the Strait of Hormuz following last week's ceasefire agreement between the United States and Iran, bringing the total number of vessels that have left the region to six, the maritime ministry said Wednesday. The Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries said the ships safely passed through the strategic waterway and are sailing normally. A total of 26 South Korean sailors were aboard the vessels, with one vessel bound for South Korea, the ministry said.

- [Messi mania overtakes Argentina](#) (2026-06-24 01:53)

BUENOS AIRES (AP) -- Argentina's passion for Lionel Messi has taken monumental form during the 2026 World Cup : A statue stands 26 meters tall in a remote town in Patagonia, and a mural signed by over 1,300 fans celebrates the captain who continues to inspire devotion across the country. A 26-meter-tall figure of Messi made of 70 tons of steel and iron towers over the outskirts of Cutral Co, a remote southern town in Patagonia. The player is kneeling, with the World Cup trophy he won in 2022

- [Hybe girl groups' collaboration hits Billboard' s Hot 100 at No. 38](#) (2026-06-24 01:49)

The collaborative single from Le Sserafim, Illit and Katseye debuted on Billboard' s Hot 100 at No. 38, the highest spot for a K-pop girl group this year on the main songs chart. The three groups under Hybe teamed up to drop the digital single "Iconic By Mistake" on June 12. The track ranked No. 25 and No. 22 on Billboard Global 200 and Global excl. US. On Spotify' s Weekly Top Songs Global, it sat at No. 25, and in the UK, it landed on the Official Singles Top 100 at No. 22. Meanwhile, Katseye' s

- [Govt. to strengthen oversight of meal cards for children in need](#) (2026-06-24 01:47)

The government will strengthen oversight of meal cards issued for children in need, officials said Wednesday, as a series of misuse cases were found, including using the cards to buy cigarettes and alcohol. Meal cards are issued to children of low-income or single-parent families and other needy kids younger than 18 to make sure that they are fed without skipping meals. The cards can be used just like debit cards to pay for food at restaurants, bakeries and convenience stores. The office for gov

- [Mark apologizes after controversy over Confederate flag shirt](#) (2026-06-24 01:34)

Former NCT member Mark apologized after photos surfaced online showing him wearing a shirt featuring the Confederate flag, a symbol associated with white supremacy in the United States. On Wednesday, Mark' s newly established agency Upper Room released a statement on social

media, apologizing to fans who may have felt hurt or disappointed by the incident. “We would like to extend our sincere apologies for the concern, discomfort and disappointment caused by the vintage T-shirt that appeared in a

- [Ronaldo becomes first player to score in six World Cups](#) (2026-06-24 01:26)

HOUSTON (AP) -- Cristiano Ronaldo had a simple but strong message as the final whistle sounded after Portugal's big win at the World Cup on Tuesday. "I'm back," he said directly into the television camera. "I'm back." Ronaldo became the first player to score in six different World Cup tournaments by getting two goals in Portugal's 5-0 win over Uzbekistan, quieting critics after his forgettable performance in the team's 1-1 draw with Congo in the opener. Even though criticism isn't anything new t

- [Ruling party chief resigns, expected to seek reelection for another term](#) (2026-06-24 01:20)

Rep. Jung Chung-rae of the ruling Democratic Party resigned as chairman of the party Wednesday in a move widely seen as a step toward seeking reelection at the party's upcoming national convention. "I spent many sleepless nights looking back on myself and my political life for the past few days," Jung said during a meeting of the party's supreme council at the National Assembly. "I am stepping down as party leader today." Jung stressed that he devoted himself to supporting President Lee Jae Myun

- [JTBC says 'no disruption' in World Cup broadcast despite financial issues](#) (2026-06-24 01:19)

South Korean broadcaster JTBC said Wednesday it will broadcast all rounds of the ongoing FIFA World Cup without disruption, dismissing a media report on such a possibility amid a liquidity crisis. "In addition to matches involving the South Korean national team through the final stages of the tournament, we will bring vivid coverage of the World Cup," the broadcaster said in a statement, asking viewers not to be misled by "inaccurate information." The statement came in response to a report by Ja

- [Foreign arrivals in S. Korea surpass 10 million, on course to new annual high](#) (2026-06-24 01:17)

South Korea has welcomed more than 10 million foreign visitors so far this year, a provisional tally by the tourism ministry showed Wednesday, suggesting the country may be headed for a new annual high. Foreign arrivals exceeded 10 million during the third weekend of this month, about a month earlier than last year, when the mark was reached in mid-July, according to the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism. It is the first time the figure has been achieved within the first half of any year.

- [S. Korea hosts conference in Washington on expanding defense cooperation with US](#) (2026-06-24 00:53)

South Korea's defense ministry held a conference in Washington this week to discuss ways to expand cooperation with the United States in the defense and arms industries, ministry officials said Wednesday. The conference, hosted by Vice Defense Minister Lee Doo-hee on Tuesday, brought together some 120 people, including Michael Vaccaro, the acting principal deputy assistant secretary of state, according to the officials. During the event, the participants discussed ways to materialize bilateral d

- [South Africa coach says team will exploit S. Korea's weaknesses in crucial match](#) (2026-06-24 00:41)

South Africa head coach Hugo Broos said Tuesday his players will be ready to pounce on the weaknesses of South Korea when the teams collide in a crucial Group A match of the FIFA World Cup this week. South Africa and South Korea will play their final group stage match at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Estadio Monterrey in Guadalupe, northeastern Mexico. South Korea, currently in second place with three points, only need a draw to progress to the knockouts. South Africa, on the other hand, are in last place

- [When Korea became one giant public square, and what came after](#) (2026-06-24 00:00)

In summer 2002, South Korea became one giant public square. Corporate workers poured into city plazas after work. Families gathered in front of giant outdoor screens. College students wrapped themselves in red flags and painted Korean flags on their cheeks, dressing as the “Red Devils,” or the South Korean national football team’s iconic supporters. Strangers hugged, cried and screamed together in the streets as South Korea advanced to the semifinals of the 2002 FIFA World Cup, turning city cent

- [S. Korea remains at emerging market status under MSCI](#) (2026-06-23 23:53)

South Korea will continue its push for inclusion in the developed-market category under the Morgan Stanley Capital International index after the provider decided to keep Asia's No. 4 economy in the emerging-market category, the finance ministry said Wednesday. Overnight, MSCI said South Korea will remain in the emerging-market category despite Seoul's efforts to gain inclusion in the developed-market category, citing limited convertibility of the Korean won in the offshore currency market. "If w

- [S. Korea coach says team won't settle for draw in final group match](#) (2026-06-23 23:49)

South Korea will only need a draw against South Africa in their final group stage match this week to advance to the knockouts of the FIFA World Cup, but head coach Hong Myung-bo doesn't want his players to settle for anything less than a victory. "The moment we start thinking a draw will be good enough, we will be in trouble," Hong said at his prematch press conference at Estadio Monterrey in Guadalupe, northeastern Mexico, on Tuesday, the eve of South Korea's Group A showdown against South Afri

- [N. Korea's Kim unveils plans for 10,000-ton warships, nuclear navy](#) (2026-06-23 23:19)

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un said his country was "equipping the Navy with nuclear weapons," state media reported Wednesday, as he also unveiled plans to build 10,000-ton warships. The remarks came at the commissioning of the Choe Hyon -- one of two 5,000-ton class warships the nuclear-armed state launched last year -- in the port city of Nampo on Tuesday, the official Korean Central News Agency reported. "The programme of equipping the Navy with nuclear weapons is following its planned course"

- [Seoul to continue push for MSCI developed market status after remaining in emerging category](#) (2026-06-23 23:10)

South Korea will continue its push for inclusion in the developed-market category under the Morgan Stanley Capital International index after the provider decided to keep Asia's No. 4 economy in the emerging-market category, the finance ministry said Wednesday. Overnight, MSCI said South Korea will remain in the emerging-market category despite Seoul's efforts to be placed on the watch list for inclusion in the developed-market category, citing the limited convertibility of the Korean won in offshore

- [\[Graphic News\] Hong Kong tops offshore wealth rankings](#) (2026-06-23 23:00)

Hong Kong has overtaken Switzerland to become the world's largest offshore wealth hub, according to Boston Consulting Group. The city's cross-border wealth reached \$2.9 trillion last year, up 10.7 percent from a year earlier, narrowly surpassing Switzerland, the offshore wealth of which grew 7.6 percent. The growth was driven largely by capital inflows from mainland China, which accounted for about 60 percent of Hong Kong's offshore assets. BCG expects the gap between Hong Kong and Switzerland to

- [\[Catherine Thorbecke\] The hottest Gen-Z tech trend?](#) (2026-06-23 20:30)

My favorite tech trend so far this year has nothing to do with artificial intelligence. It's the cool girls making their own "cyberdecks," — strange, DIY and highly customizable personal computers that explicitly reject AI. They look like props from a cyberpunk movie, usually built on a Raspberry Pi base and spare parts. As one tinkerer, whose "mermaid cyberdeck" videos have drawn tens of millions of views, puts it, "What we should do with cyberdecks is gatekeep them from AI and megacorp." The c

- [\[Kim Seong-kon\] The true Legacy of the Korean War](#) (2026-06-23 20:30)

This week, we commemorate the 76th anniversary of the Korean War, which lasted three years from 1950 to 1953 until the truce. Technically speaking, therefore, the Korean War has not ended yet. In fact, it is still ongoing invisibly, not only between the North and the South but also between the left and the right in South Korea. Perhaps the Korean War stemmed from the incompetence of the late Joseon era, which was ignorant of the radical changes sweeping across the world at that time. Not knowing

- [Over chimaek and cheers, Lee hosts ambassadors at Cheong Wa Dae](#) (2026-06-23 13:27)

President Lee Jae Myung hosted foreign ambassadors at Cheong Wa Dae on Tuesday evening over chimaek — the popular Korean pairing of fried chicken and beer — calling for closer cooperation to deepen ties with partner countries and address shared global challenges. The gathering brought together ambassadors and other representatives from all 112 resident diplomatic missions in South Korea — including Moroccan Ambassador to Korea Chafik Rachadi, dean of the diplomatic corps — as well as representati

- [South Korea's PM Kim meets with China's Li, seeks closer cooperation](#) (2026-06-23 12:07)

South Korean Prime Minister Kim Min-seok and Chinese Premier Li Qiang agreed Tuesday to work toward improving bilateral relations and expanding economic cooperation. “Korea and China need to advance exchanges to a higher level in political affairs, economic cooperation, cultural exchanges and youth interactions,” Kim said in his opening remarks during talks held in Dalian, China. He was in the northeastern city to attend the World Economic Forum meeting, also known as the Summer Davos Forum. It

- [Foreign minister, MPA chairman discuss cooperation in content industry](#) (2026-06-23 10:57)

Foreign Minister Cho Hyun on Tuesday met with the head of an American trade association representing major film studios and discussed ways to enhance bilateral cooperation in the cultural sector, the ministry said. During the meeting with Charles Rivkin, chairman of the Motion Picture Association, Cho said Korea-related content, including "KPop Demon Hunters" and "Squid Game," has gained global popularity, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He asked Rivkin to encourage MPA members, in

- [Women in electronic music face long-term career hurdles, panelists say](#) (2026-06-23 09:26)

Sustainability remains a major challenge for women seeking long-term careers in electronic music, speakers said during a panel discussion Monday as part of Fete de la Musique+, a monthlong event hosted by the French Embassy. Moderated by French musician Oriane Dessaux, the discussion examined the role of women in contemporary culture and the obstacles they face in sustaining music careers. Panelists included artists Oh Sung-eun, known as S.Telecom, and Haihm; Alexis Leger, founder of Posture Clu

- [How a Swedish drinking song turned into K-pop](#) (2026-06-23 09:13)

When Rose and Bruno Mars' "Apt." became a global hit last year, millions of listeners around the world found themselves singing along to a phrase they did not fully understand. To many Koreans, however, the song's central hook required no explanation. It was a chant used in a popular Korean drinking game played at university orientations, company dinners and late-night gatherings with friends. The song's success sparked an unexpected question in Sweden. If a Korean drinking-game chant could beco

- [Questions answered: Korean bedding, sizes and overseas shipping](#) (2026-06-23 08:26)

Korean bedding has gained international attention over the past few years, fueled by social media exposure and word-of-mouth hype for its quality. Here are answers to some of the most frequently asked questions following The Korea Herald's recent feature on Korean bedding. Korean bedding is highly seasonal. Lightweight blankets made from rayon, such as 'ingyeon' made from wood pulp, or cooling fabrics are popular during the hot and humid summer months. For spring and autumn, comforters made from

- [Lee to mark Korean War anniversary week](#) (2026-06-23 08:09)

President Lee Jae Myung will mark the anniversary of the Korean War this week with a series of engagements, including visits to military units, commemorative events and meetings with defense industry officials, according to Cheong Wa Dae. Lee is scheduled to visit a Marine Corps unit and inspect security operations on the ground on Wednesday, senior presidential spokesperson Kang Yu-jung said Tuesday. On Thursday, Lee will attend a ceremony marking the 76th anniversary of the outbreak of the 195

- [Korea, Shanghai airports team up to expand regional air links](#) (2026-06-23 08:00)

Korea Herald correspondent SHANGHAI, China -- Korea Airports Corporation is seeking closer ties with Shanghai Airport Authority, known as Avinex, to expand the aviation network connecting Korean regional airports and Shanghai amid the rapid recovery of Korea-China air travel demand. According to KAC, it signed a memorandum of understanding with Avinex on Tuesday at Shanghai Hongqiao Airport, one of two airports the state-owned operator manages in Shanghai alongside Pudong Airport. Under the agree

- [6-year-old Singaporean boy struck by airport buggy at Incheon Airport](#) (2026-06-23 07:52)

A 6-year-old Singaporean boy was injured after being struck by an airport buggy at Incheon Airport on Wednesday, according to the child's family. The incident gained widespread attention after the boy's father, Kayden Khoo, shared details on social media and requested witnesses. Khoo said that the accident took place near the entrance to a restroom at Gate 221 while the family was waiting to board flight KE645 to Singapore. He explained that his son went to the restroom alone, and neither he nor

- [Man in viral 'drugged zombie' video tests positive for meth](#) (2026-06-23 07:49)

A man seen in the so-called "Suwon drugged zombie" video that went viral online has been taken into custody on drug allegations, police said Tuesday. Officials at Suwon Gwonseon Police Station in Suwon, Gyeonggi Province, said they detained the man, who is in his 30s, at around 10:30 a.m. after he tested positive for methamphetamine. He was not carrying drugs at the time. The man was seen wandering near a bus stop by an apartment complex in Gwonseon-gu, Suwon, around 12:30 p.m. Sunday. A video o

- [Lee to unveil regional investment strategy with business leaders next week](#) (2026-06-23 07:31)

President Lee Jae Myung will meet with the heads of South Korea's largest conglomerates next week to unveil a regional investment strategy centered on artificial intelligence, semiconductors and other advanced industries, sources said Tuesday. The meeting, reportedly set for early next week, comes as his administration seeks to spread growth beyond the Seoul metropolitan area and make balanced national development a key agenda in its second year in office. According to political and industry sou

- [Kospi crashes nearly 10% on massive tech sell-offs](#) (2026-06-23 07:13)

South Korean stocks tumbled nearly 10 percent Tuesday as foreign investors dumped major semiconductor shares and other market heavyweights amid profit-taking, tracking overnight losses in US technology stocks. The local currency weakened against the US dollar. After choppy trading, the benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index plunged 910.71 points, or 9.99 percent, to close at 8,203.84. The index hit an intra-day high of 9,175.45. The Korea Exchange, the bourse operator, activated a circuit b

- [K-pop reunion wave gains momentum as nostalgia becomes driving market force](#) (2026-06-23 06:42)

A growing number of K-pop acts from the past are reuniting years after their disbandment, as an expanding market of older fans creates new demand for nostalgia-driven projects. Groups including I.O.I, Secret and SeeYa have recently returned with reunion activities, joining a trend that industry officials say is being fueled by fans who had followed the artists as teenagers and now have greater purchasing power as adults. Among the latest examples is Secret, which released the special EP “Secret

- [Masked Tongyeong murder suspect still at large after 2 weeks](#) (2026-06-23 06:42)

A masked assailant suspected of killing a woman in Tongyeong, South Gyeongsang Province, two weeks ago remains at large. South Korean police as of Tuesday had yet to identify the man who stabbed a woman in her 60s at her home in the city, some 370 kilometers south of Seoul, on the morning of June 10. Surveillance footage from the building showed the suspect entering the premises at around 2 a.m. The victim’s body was found by her husband at 6:24 a.m. Police believe the suspect broke into the hom

- [Hearts2Hearts returns with summer-themed 'Lemon Tang'](#) (2026-06-23 06:36)

Hearts2Hearts returned Monday with its second EP "Lemon Tang," marking the group's first album in eight months and its first-ever summer-themed release. The six-track EP includes the title track and "Rude!," released in February. "Lemon Tang" is a dance-pop song built around bright summer energy and lively sounds. Its title combines "lemon" with "tang," referring to a sharp, fizzy flavor. The song compares the members' chemistry to lemons, conveying the message that they shine even brighter when

- [Lee set to host ambassadors over chimaek at Cheong Wa Dae](#) (2026-06-23 06:35)

President Lee Jae Myung is set to host foreign ambassadors and representatives of international organizations at Cheong Wa Dae on Tuesday, serving Korean-style barbecue and chimaek, the popular pairing of fried chicken and beer. According to the presidential office in Seoul, the guest list for the dinner reception includes ambassadors from 118 resident diplomatic missions, led by Dean of the Diplomatic Corps Shafik Rachadi, Morocco's ambassador to South Korea, as well as representatives from 30

- [Assembly meeting highlights lack of NEC oversight](#) (2026-06-23 06:33)

Lack of oversight of the National Election Commission came into the spotlight Tuesday in the meeting of a special parliamentary committee looking into nationwide ballot shortages and delays for voters on Election Day early this month. The meeting centered around why the NEC decided to reduce ballot paper printing, whether its former chair's overseas trips that cost tens of millions of won each were justifiable and whether NEC contracts sealed without public procurement were questionable. Rho Tae

- [Divorced men fear asset split, women fear losing freedom: survey](#) (2026-06-23 06:29)

Divorced men considering remarriage tend to worry most about the division of assets if they divorce again, while divorced women are more concerned about losing their newfound freedom, a survey by matchmaking agencies showed Tuesday. The two agencies, Only You and Bien Aller, conducted a joint survey of 648 divorced men and women, asking them what they saw as the biggest obstacle to remarriage. Men tended to be more concerned about the potential failure of a new marriage, particularly financial i

- [Opposition leadership rift deepens over Jang' s postelection strategy](#) (2026-06-23 06:24)

The rift in People Power Party leadership appears to be widening, with two top officials repeatedly clashing over postelection strategy and how to assess the conservative party' s performance in the June 3 local elections. The tension between party Chief Jang Dong-hyeok and Floor Leader Jeong Jeom-sig has surfaced three times over the past week, even as Jang remains hospitalized due to exhaustion. The latest dispute was triggered by a party report released Sunday under the official name of the Pe

- [Kospi suffers biggest selloff since March](#) (2026-06-23 06:22)

The South Korean benchmark Kospi dived nearly 10 percent on Tuesday, marking the second-largest daily decline of the year. The Kospi fell 9.99 percent to close at 8,203.84. After opening at 9,083.54, down 0.34 percent from the previous session, it traded flat in early dealings before turning sharply lower around noon, eventually closing at its intraday low as losses deepened. The nearly 10 percent decline was the second-largest daily fall on the Kospi this year, after a 12.06 percent drop on Mar

- [Korea's bid to bring ETF money home falls short](#) (2026-06-23 06:21)

South Korea's attempt to lure money back home by approving domestic single-stock leveraged exchange-traded funds has shown little impact: Korean investors continue to hold large positions in competing Hong Kong-listed products. According to data released Tuesday by the Korea Securities Depository, Korean investors' holdings of Hong Kong-listed single-stock leveraged ETFs surged in May and remained elevated through June 21, even after Korea introduced competing products on May 27. At the end of A

- [What Mirae Asset's SpaceX miss really says about Korea](#) (2026-06-23 06:13)

Mirae Asset Securities, the South Korea-based brokerage that has long sought to expand its global footprint, hit a setback in its ambitions when it failed to secure SpaceX shares for local investors earlier this month for its initial public offering. The miss came as a surprise to the Korean market, given Mirae Asset's close ties with SpaceX. The market deemed Mirae Asset Securities had an upper hand in the IPO allocation, as Mirae Asset Financial Group was an early investor in the rocket compan

- [List of top 5 foods that make us 'unattractive' goes viral](#) (2026-06-23 06:05)

A Korean plastic surgeon's social media post has gone viral for ranking everyday foods that he says can make the face look "uglier," not by changing facial structure, but by contributing to puffiness, breakouts and faster skin aging. Ramyeon and salty snacks made the list. But what took the No. 1 spot? According to Dr. Choi Hyun-nam, salty foods such as instant noodles, potato chips and seasoned crackers ranked fifth, with excess sodium linked to water retention that can leave the face looking s

- [LS Electric chief highlights Utah-Korea bond](#) (2026-06-23 05:58)

LS Electric Chairman Koo Ja-kyun on Tuesday underscored the historical bond between Utah — the company's strategic base for expanding its North American power business — and Korea, calling for deeper engagement with the local community as the company accelerates its US market push. Since acquiring LS Electric Utah in Cedar City in 2022, Koo has personally overseen a major capacity expansion while strengthening the company's ties with the local community through shared history. During the Korean

- [Korea secures softer EU steel quota cut, minister says](#) (2026-06-23 05:51)

South Korea has made progress in talks with the European Union over steel tariff-rate quotas, Industry Minister Kim Jung-kwan said, raising hopes that Korean exporters may face a smaller cut than the bloc's planned overall reduction. In a wide-ranging briefing in Sejong on Monday, Kim also discussed corporate bonus dispute, chip-related tax revenue, Canada's submarine tender and possible new semiconductor production sites. Kim said the biggest outcome of his recent trip to Kazakhstan, Europe and

- [AI breaks Korea memory's boom-bust cycle: CLSA](#) (2026-06-23 05:50)

South Korea's memory chip industry is moving beyond its traditional boom-and-bust cycle as artificial intelligence demand pushes major customers to lock in long-term supply at high prices, according to CLSA. Memory has long been highly cyclical: profits rise when supply is tight and fall when capacity catches up. But the rapid growth of high-bandwidth memory, or HBM, and AI servers is changing that pattern, said Sanjeev Rana, head of Korea research at CLSA. "The fact that major memory customers

- [North Korea's Kim doubles down on nuclear buildup](#) (2026-06-23 05:47)

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un on Tuesday doubled down on Pyongyang's nuclear weapons buildup and confrontational stance toward Seoul. Experts believe the move is aimed at foreclosing future denuclearization talks and reframing any potential negotiations with Washington around arms control rather than disarmament. According to the Korean Central News Agency on Tuesday, the ruling Workers' Party of Korea convened the second plenary meeting of its ninth Central Committee for three days beginning

- [Women account for 37.8% of new police recruits in first quota-free hiring round](#) (2026-06-23 05:25)

Women accounted for 37.8 percent of successful applicants in this year's police recruitment exam, nearly doubling their share of around 20 percent under the previous gender quota system, the Korean National Police Agency said Tuesday. Of 29,972 applicants, 2,941 passed the exam, including 1,829 men (62.2 percent) and 1,112 women (37.8 percent), according to the agency. Police officials attributed the increase in female recruits to the removal of gender-specific hiring limits. It was the first re

- [Sewol survivor dies after years of survivor's guilt](#) (2026-06-23 05:21)

A survivor of the 2014 Sewol ferry disaster has recently died, according to a former representative of the victims' bereaved families. The survivor had been student of Danwon High School in Ansan, Gyeonggi Province, which lost 248 students in the sinking. Yoo Kyung-geun, former executive director of the group representing the bereaved families of Sewol victims, said Sunday that one of the surviving students had recently died. He did not disclose the cause of death, but said the student had "gone

- [How visible is the Taegeukgi at Seoul landmarks?](#) (2026-06-23 05:21)

A Seoul city councilor has called on two major cultural facilities in the capital to improve the visibility of the Taegeukgi, saying the national flag is too small or placed out of public view. According to the Seoul Metropolitan Council on Tuesday, Kim Hyung-jae, acting chair of the council's culture, sports and tourism committee and a member of the main opposition People Power Party, criticized a report on improving Taegeukgi flagpoles at the Sejong Center for the Performing Arts and the Seoul

- [Inside China's race for tech self-reliance](#) (2026-06-23 05:19)

Korea Herald correspondent HEFEI, China — Far from slowing China's technological rise, US sanctions and export controls have accelerated Beijing's drive for self-reliance, pushing Chinese companies to build domestic alternatives across industries. Landlocked Anhui province, west of Shanghai, has emerged as one of the clearest examples of that effort. Home to a growing cluster of artificial intelligence, electric vehicle, battery and renewable energy companies, the province has transformed itself

- [\[Bio USA\] Korea biotech under pressure from China's rapid rise](#) (2026-06-23 05:12)

Korea Herald correspondent SAN DIEGO — Korea's biotechnology sector faces a shrinking window of opportunity as China's surge in new drug development accelerates on the global stage, an industry expert warned Tuesday. "The center of gravity in biotech is clearly shifting toward Asia," said Lee Seung-gyu, vice chair at the Korea Biotechnology Industry Organization (KoreaBio), in a press conference at the BIO International Convention in San Diego. "The question is whether Korea can secure enough co

- [\[Bio USA\] Korean biotechs bolster AstraZeneca partnership](#) (2026-06-23 05:12)

SAN DIEGO — Korean biotechnology firms have advanced their partnerships with AstraZeneca, bolstering efforts toward open innovation and technological cooperation for eventual entrance into the global market. Under the name Project NOVA, the Korea Health Industry Development Institute on Monday held AstraZeneca partnering sessions for 13 Korean companies on the sidelines of the BIO International Convention taking place this week in San Diego. "We have a very good track record of doing excellent p

- [Looking for a Son Heung-min cup? Karrot has it for \\$65](#) (2026-06-23 05:09)

The 2026 World Cup might be generating excitement on the pitch, but a Son Heung-min collectible is stirring up a frenzy off of it. A limited edition of McDonald's reusable cup featuring the South Korea captain has become one of the most coveted items among Korean football aficionados, with several resellers asking more than 100,000 won (\$65) for the item, which is 10 times more than the price of the meal set it originally came with. The craze follows the global popularity of the World Cup meal s

- [Security guard finds gold in discarded rice cooker. What follows surprises many](#) (2026-06-23 05:06)

A typical workday turned into an unexpected treasure hunt for a security guard in Geoje, South Gyeongsang Province, after he discovered nearly 100 grams of gold tucked inside a discarded electric rice cooker, according to the National Police Agency on Tuesday. The incident occurred on the evening of April 12 while the guard in his 70s was sorting recyclable waste at an apartment complex in Geoje's Okpo-dong. Inside the abandoned rice cooker was a black plastic bag containing several gold bars, c

- [Through sand, slime, fog and light, Jalet and Nawa test limits of human body](#) (2026-06-23 04:56)

The word "planet" traces its roots to the ancient Greek "planetes," meaning wanderer. To ancient astronomers, planets appeared as wandering lights drifting across the night sky. This image of perpetual wandering through unfamiliar landscapes, uncertain futures and forces beyond one's control became the starting point for Belgian choreographer Damien Jalet and Japanese visual artist Kohei Nawa's "Planet [Wanderer]" (2021), one of the defining works of their decadelong artistic partnership. This w

- [Trump signs orders calling for quantum computer](#) (2026-06-23 04:54)

US President Donald Trump on Monday ordered a push to build a powerful quantum computer for scientific research and speed efforts to protect government systems from related cyber threats, bolstering US efforts in its race with China for a technology that could upend science and cybersecurity. "We believe this can happen by 2028," Michael Kratsios, director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, said in a call previewing the moves and referring to the quantum computer. Tru

- [India marks Yoga Day in Seoul](#) (2026-06-23 04:46)

About 1,000 people gathered at Seoul's Gwanghwamun Square on Sunday for the International Day of Yoga, as India continued efforts to promote the practice abroad. Yoga originated in ancient India and was systematized in the Yoga Sutras, a foundational text traditionally attributed to the sage Patanjali. The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed June 21 as the International Day of Yoga in 2014 through Resolution 69/131, which was co-sponsored by 175 member states. Since then, Indian missions

- [Lebanon building damage in latest Israel war estimated at \\$1.38b: survey](#) (2026-06-23 04:43)

BEIRUT (AFP) -- Direct damage to buildings in south Lebanon in the latest war between Israel and Hezbollah is estimated at around \$1.38 billion, a UN agency and a Lebanese research center said Monday. "In total, 11,095 buildings were completely destroyed, impacting 17,891 housing units, while 2,242 buildings sustained partial damage ... and 9,311 buildings incurred minor damage," the United Nations Development Program and Lebanon's government-linked National Council for Scientific Research said.

- [Russian strikes injure six in Ukraine as fuel crisis deepens into Siberia](#) (2026-06-23 04:41)

Six people were wounded in Russian airstrikes on Ukraine overnight, local authorities said, and the capital of Kyiv briefly issued an air raid alert telling residents to seek shelter in the early hours of Tuesday. The strikes came in the wake of a Ukrainian attack on a plant producing electronics for missiles in Russia's border Voronezh region Monday that the local governor said had killed five people and injured dozens. Russia and Ukraine have continued to exchange strikes as the war has drag

- [LG Chem to invest W15tr in chips, robotics, biotech by 2035](#) (2026-06-23 04:41)

LG Chem will invest 15 trillion won (\$9.8 billion) in research and development by 2035, allocating 70 percent of the spending to semiconductor, mobility and robotics materials, as the company accelerates efforts to expand into high-growth sectors. CEO Kim Dong-choon announced the plan during a company-wide town hall meeting on Monday, outlining LG Chem's strategy to focus on materials for semiconductors, mobility and robotics alongside oncology therapeutics as key future business areas. This com

- [Faster response or privacy concern? Police seek digital access to apartment gates](#) (2026-06-23 04:33)

In an emergency, police can reach an apartment complex within minutes — only to lose crucial time at its locked entrance. That delay is what the National Police Agency hopes to reduce with a new digital access system for apartment buildings. The agency is developing a feature for the police 112 mobile application that uses Bluetooth technology to unlock communal apartment entrances, granting access to officers responding to emergency calls. The plan, aimed at shortening response times in violent

- [Stray Kids unveil new world tour ‘Run It,’ set to launch with five Seoul concerts](#) (2026-06-23 04:26)

Stray Kids will embark on a new world tour beginning this summer, launching the trek with five concerts in Seoul before heading to major venues across Asia. JYP Entertainment announced the first leg of the group’s upcoming world tour, “Stray Kids World Tour ‘Run It,’ ” on Tuesday through the group’s official social media channels. The tour will kick off with five performances at Kspo Dome in Seoul on July 25, 26 and 29, followed by Aug. 1 and 2. The group will then continue the tour across Japan,

- [Lee orders election watchdog probe to expand beyond ballot shortages](#) (2026-06-23 04:23)

President Lee Jae Myung called for a sweeping investigation into South Korea's election watchdog, urging authorities to scrutinize a range of alleged irregularities beyond the ballot shortages that marred the June 3 local elections. Lee told acting Prosecutor General Ku Ja-hyeon to investigate "indirect corruption-related issues and other outrageous problems that have come to light," including alleged wasteful spending and unfair hiring practices within the National Election Commission. "Whether

- [TirTir enters India's largest beauty platform Nykaa](#) (2026-06-23 04:20)

Korean makeup brand TirTir has joined Nykaa, India's largest beauty platform, expanding its presence in a market where Korean cosmetics are drawing growing interest. The listing plugs TirTir into Nykaa's combined online and offline network, according to the company. The platform operates more than 260 stores across India alongside its e-commerce business and carries a mix of global and local beauty labels, making it one of the country's most prominent

beauty retailers, it added. TirTir had alrea

- [At least 18 dead in France, including two children in hot car, as Europe bakes](#) (2026-06-23 04:18)

At least 18 people died in France, including two children left in a hot car, as a heat wave hung over Europe, smashing temperature records in several cities Monday. As schools in France closed or modified timetables, forecasters in Britain predicted temperatures could break records for June this week. The temperature in Bordeaux in France's western wine country rose to 41.9 degrees Celsius, breaking a record set last August. In Poitiers in central France it reached 41.2 C, beating a previous h

- [Tourism sector floats raising departure levy as fund shrinks](#) (2026-06-23 04:18)

Travel industry groups, lawmakers and tourism scholars have called for raising South Korea's departure levy, warning that a 2024 cut has drained the country's main tourism fund at a time when the industry is struggling with high oil prices and global uncertainty. The appeal was floated during a roundtable at the National Assembly on Monday concerning whether now is the time to raise the charge. The session was hosted by Rep. Cho Gye-won of the assembly's Culture, Sports and Tourism Committee and

- [Andy Burnham: 'King of the North' with Downing Street in his sights](#) (2026-06-23 04:17)

The man who appears destined to be Britain's next Labour prime minister received a hero's welcome in parliament Monday, after incumbent Keir Starmer announced his resignation. Veteran politician Andy Burnham, fresh from his UK by-election victory last week, was sworn in as a member of Parliament. Afterward he greeted supporters in parliament's medieval Westminster Hall with a fist pump and snapped a selfie in front of a group of around 200 Labour colleagues. The newly-elected member of Parliamen

- [Romanian parliament rejects liberal PM-designate](#) (2026-06-23 04:16)

BUCHAREST, Romania (AFP) -- Romania's parliament on Monday rejected liberal politician Adrian Vestea as prime minister-designate, a fresh political upset following months of turmoil in the EU and NATO country bordering Ukraine. Nominated by the president, Vestea needed 233 votes across both houses of parliament to form a government but only received 189, the official vote count indicated. Some deputies left the chamber before the vote started, after a day of debate on Vestea's proposed Cabinet l

- [Scorching Monterrey heat looms over S. Korea-S. Africa showdown](#) (2026-06-23 04:13)

South Korea is set to face South Africa in its final Group A match Wednesday, but Monterrey's extreme heat may add an extra challenge. Monterrey is located about 650 kilometers northeast of Guadalajara, where South Korea played its opening two matches of the 2026 FIFA World Cup. It is known for its intense summer heat and humidity. Among the tournament's 16 stadiums, Monterrey is the second-hottest venue in this year's World Cup in terms of average

temperature. According to the weather forecast

- [BTS' 'Arirang' named one of best albums this year so far](#) (2026-06-23 04:11)

BTS' fifth studio album "Arirang" has been chosen as one of the best albums released in the first half of this year by a series of major music media outlets in the US and UK, according to label Big Hit Music on Tuesday. "The biggest news has got to be the return of BTS," Rolling Stone magazine said in its list of "The Best Albums of 2026 So Far," adding that the septet "showcased their Korean roots with the excellent Arirang." The album is "an apt characterization of what they've always done — m

- [Super Junior' s Ryeowook drops single to mark solo milestone](#) (2026-06-23 04:10)

Ryeowook of Super Junior released "Runaway" on Tuesday to celebrate the tenth year of his solo career, said label SM Entertainment. The single conveys a message of consolation and encouragement, reminding listeners that they can take time for a breather before carrying on with their lives. It will be part of a three-track physical album along with B-side tracks, "Defined" and "Chamomile." "I put a lot of effort into every single track and am confident that everything from the album jacket to the

- [Who should save Homeplus? MBK faces growing accountability questions](#) (2026-06-23 03:59)

MBK Partners is facing renewed questions over its responsibility as the largest shareholder of Homeplus, as the private equity firm clashes with Meritz Financial Group over the terms of emergency financing for the struggling retailer. Meritz recently approved 100 billion won (\$65 million) in debtor-in-possession financing to support Homeplus' rehabilitation, on the condition that the funding is backed by legally valid guarantees from MBK and MBK Chairman Michael Byung-ju Kim. Meritz argues that

- [North Korean UNESCO official withdraws from Jeju Forum](#) (2026-06-23 03:25)

North Korean UNESCO official Chang Gwang-chol has withdrawn from this week's Jeju Forum, organizers said Monday, canceling what would have been a rare appearance by a North Korean national at a South Korean government-hosted international event. The 21st Jeju Forum, jointly hosted by South Korea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Jeju Province, will take place from Wednesday to Friday under the theme "Reinventing Cooperation in a Fragmented World." The Jeju Peace Institute, organizer of the annua

- [S. Korean golfers eye title at richest LPGA tournament ever](#) (2026-06-23 03:12)

Since the turn of the century, South Korea has never gone two straight years without producing an LPGA major champion. After being shut out at five LPGA majors in 2025, South Korea didn't have a winner at the first two majors in 2026, with the American star Nelly Korda winning both the Chevron Championship and the US Women's Open. Led by a pair of top-10 players, the 21-deep South Korean contingent will try to deny Korda her third straight major and end the

country's drought at this week's KPMG

- [Cortis tops Spotify Korea for record 50 times](#) (2026-06-23 02:48)

Cortis banked its 50th No. 1 on Spotify's Daily Top Songs Korea, setting a record for a boy group, according to label Big Hit Music on Tuesday. The rookie band accomplished the feat with "Redred," the main track from the group's second EP "Greengreen," which garnered 100 million streams on the platform in less than two months. As of last week, the five-member act amassed 200 million plays on Spotify with its second EP, and logged 800 million overall. It is yet to celebrate its first anniversary.

- [Defense Ministry raises concerns with UNC over North Korea's DMZ activity: sources](#) (2026-06-23 02:48)

South Korea's Defense Ministry has lodged concerns with the United Nations Command over its handling of North Korea's activity inside the Demilitarized Zone, sources said Tuesday. The move came after the South Korean military detected signs that North Korean troops had expanded border fortification work to areas within 100 meters of the Military Demarcation Line, including the installation of fences and land-clearing activity believed to be linked to mine-laying operations. A Defense Ministry of

- [Big Bang's Daesung denies Hur Young-ji dating rumor](#) (2026-06-23 02:21)

Big Bang member Daesung's agency on Monday denied dating rumors involving the artist and Kara's Hur Young-ji. In a statement, RND Company said the two are "close colleagues." "They became friends through Daesung's YouTube channel 'Zip Daesung' and attended the concert together," an RND Company official said. Dating rumors began circulating online Monday after photos of the two together at Mamamoo's "4WARD" world tour concert on Saturday drew attention. Oh My Girl's Hyojung was also spotted sitting

- [APR's elusive leader brings K-beauty story to BoF forum](#) (2026-06-23 02:16)

Kim Byung-hoon, founder and CEO of APR, will make an appearance this week at the Business of Fashion's beauty forum in the US, becoming the first Korean beauty leader on the event's lineup to speak on K-beauty's global rise. The Business of Fashion, which described APR as "Korea's hottest beauty company," announced Kim as part of its Business of Beauty Global Forum lineup, where he will appear in an exclusive fireside chat. The forum runs Wednesday and Thursday in Napa Valley, California. Kim is

- [S. Korea reaches broad consensus with EU on steel import policy](#) (2026-06-23 01:53)

Seoul has reached a broad consensus with the European Union regarding the economic bloc's planned implementation of a new steel import quota system that could adversely affect South Korean steelmakers, the industry minister said Monday. "Our quota is about 2.58 million tons, and there was a consensus that the volume would not be reduced by as much as 46 percent," Industry Minister Kim Jung-kwan told reporters during a press briefing held in the central city of

Sejong, without elaborating on the

- [BTS' Jungkook hits record 3b on Spotify, 1st in Asia](#) (2026-06-23 01:49)

Jungkook of BTS has exceeded 3 billion streams on Spotify with his solo single “Seven (feat. Latto),” the first time an Asian artist has reached the milestone in the platform’s history.

“Seven” ranks at No. 64 on Spotify’s most streamed singles chart and has stayed on its Weekly Top Songs Global chart for 153 weeks, the longest run for a solo single from an Asian singer. The single debuted atop Billboard’s Hot 100, logged 15 weeks on the main songs chart, and dominated both the Global 200 and GI

- [LG Chem to invest W15tr in R&D; by 2035 to develop advanced materials](#) (2026-06-23 01:48)

LG Chem Ltd. has outlined plans to invest 15 trillion won (\$9.74 billion) in research and development by 2035 to foster new growth drivers in semiconductor, mobility and robotics materials as well as anticancer drugs. Chief Executive Officer Kim Dong-chun unveiled the plan during a town hall meeting on Monday, as the company seeks to diversify its portfolio beyond its traditional petrochemical business and expand into high-value-added sectors. "We will upgrade our business portfolio by fostering

- [\[팟캐스트\] \(803\) 월드컵 경기 중 멕시코 관객의 ‘찔어진 눈’ 제스처 논란](#) (2026-06-23 01:22)

진행자: 홍유, Tannith Kriel Mexican guild chief apologizes for racist 'slant-eye' gesture at World Cup  
 기사요약: 월드컵 경기 도중 한국인 유튜버 뒤에서 동양인을 비하하는 ‘찔어진 눈’ 제스처를 한 멕시코 엔지니어링 협회장이 거센 비판 끝에 공개 사과했으며, 소속 단체는 그의 해임 절차를 검토 중이다. [1] Ulises Fernando Bernal Miramontes, the president of a Mexican engineering guild, issued a public apology over the weekend for his controversial slant-eye gesture during a World Cup match days earlier. guild: 협회 slant: 기울기, 경사, 비스듬한 방향 / slant eyes, slant-eyed: 동양인의 눈을 비하하거나 고정관념적으로 묘사하

- [Lionel Messi becomes World Cup top scorer](#) (2026-06-23 01:03)

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) -- Scoring goals and breaking records is what Lionel Messi does, and he is already doing that again in his sixth World Cup. The Argentina captain now has the World Cup scoring record all to himself after another standout performance, one that began with frustration after missing a penalty kick and ended in pure elation with another victory. Messi, who many consider the greatest player of all time, scored both goals in his team's 2-0 victory over Austria on Monday. That gave

- [N. Korea's Kim calls for expanding nuclear arsenal to 'overtake the world'](#) (2026-06-23 01:00)

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has called for efforts to further increase his country's nuclear arsenal "with a goal of overtaking the world," Pyongyang's state media reported Tuesday.

According to the Korean Central News Agency, the ruling Workers' Party of Korea convened the second plenary meeting of its ninth central committee for three days from Saturday, presided over by leader Kim, to assess how the country's policies have fared in the first half of the year and review the agenda set at a

- [Goals are being scored at a record pace at the World Cup](#) (2026-06-23 00:40)

GUADALAJARA, Mexico (AP) -- It's been goals galore so far at the World Cup. The tournament has been one of the highest-scoring in history so far and produced nearly 25 percent more scoring than the same span of games in the previous World Cup. One reason for the increase in scoring might be the ball that FIFA is using for this tournament. FIFA says the ball has been designed with deep seams to produce "optimal in-flight stability," and players and coaches say it has been rocketing toward goalkee

- [Seoul shares open lower on U.S. tech losses](#) (2026-06-23 00:33)

South Korean stocks opened slightly lower Tuesday, tracking overnight losses on Wall Street as a decline in US tech firms outweighed optimism over progress in peace talks between the United States and Iran. After starting 0.34 percent lower, the benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index went down 3.17 points, or 0.03 percent, to 9,111.38 as of 9:15 a.m. Overnight, US Vice President JD Vance said a "very good foundation" had been established for negotiations toward a final agreement with Iran,

- [S. Korea chasing knockout berth in final Group A match vs. South Africa](#) (2026-06-23 00:17)

South Korea will close out their Group A play at the FIFA World Cup against South Africa this week in northeastern Mexico, with a spot in the knockout phase at stake. The kickoff at Estadio Monterrey in Guadalupe, near Monterrey, is 7 p.m. Wednesday, or 10 a.m. Thursday. South Korea will try to reach the knockouts for the fourth time in their World Cup history, following 2002, 2010 and 2022. The two other teams in the group, Mexico and Czechia, will go toe-to-toe at the same time in Mexico City.

- [Consumer sentiment rises for 2nd month in June on strong exports, stock rally](#) (2026-06-23 00:13)

Consumer sentiment rose for the second consecutive month in June on strong exports and the stock market rally, the central bank said Tuesday. The composite consumer sentiment index stood at 106.6 this month, up 0.5 points from May, according to a survey by the Bank of Korea. It followed a 6.9-point gain in May, the sharpest on-month rise in a year, rebounding from a two-month losing streak in March and April. The index also stayed over the 100-point mark for the second straight month. A reading

- [US panel makers seek trade probe into Hanwha Qcells' cell imports](#) (2026-06-23 00:09)

Three solar panel makers asked US trade officials to investigate cell imports from South Korea, saying producers including Hanwha's Qcells are using them to evade longstanding US tariffs on

Chinese products, according to a petition seen by Reuters. The petition was filed with the Department of Commerce on June 18 on behalf of Canadian Solar, SEG and Heliene, which all operate solar panel factories in the United States. The group, calling itself American Manufacturers for Energy Resilience, is

- [Bessent: Iran commits to 'free, open' Hormuz transit, return of IAEA inspectors in Switzerland talks](#) (2026-06-23 00:04)

Iran has committed to allow "free and open" transit in the crucial Strait of Hormuz and the return of International Atomic Energy Agency inspectors to the country, US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said Monday, following negotiations between Washington and Tehran over the weekend. Bessent made the remarks in a social media post after the United States and Iran, along with Pakistani and Qatari mediators, held the first round of high-level talks to negotiate a final peace agreement in Switzerland

- [Samsung's HBM4 sales top \\$1b 4 months after launch](#) (2026-06-23 00:00)

Samsung Electronics Co.'s sales of sixth-generation high bandwidth memory chips, known as HBM4, surpassed US\$1 billion, industry sources said Tuesday. The milestone comes just four months after the South Korean tech giant became the first company in the world to begin mass production and shipments of HBM4 chips in February. Industry sources expect Samsung's HBM4 revenue to exceed \$1.2 billion by the end of June. Samsung has rapidly expanded HBM4 shipments since the product's launch, helping it g

- [Seoul Science High students publish black hole research in international journal](#) (2026-06-22 21:00)

Three students at Seoul Science High School have published a paper on black hole thermodynamics in an international science journal, a rare achievement for high school researchers working without university or outside institutional support. The paper, titled "A Constraint-Free Formulation of Black Hole Thermodynamics from the Field Equations," was published in the International Journal of Modern Physics D. It examines the relationship between black hole thermodynamics and gravitational field equ

- [\[Vitit Muntarbhorn\] New cogs in international law](#) (2026-06-22 20:30)

Recently, a conference on international law was held by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bangkok to provide space to a young generation of lawyers. It was a timely reminder that even though the international system is fragile, Thailand should engage actively with what remains of that system. There are also new cogs in the wheel of that spectrum. International law is basically the set of rules to guide the conduct between states and between states and other international actors. Traditionally,

- [\[Lim Woong\] What Korea's school crisis is really about](#) (2026-06-22 20:30)

When Netflix's new K-drama "Teach You a Lesson" started climbing global ratings charts this month, it did what good television is supposed to do: It made a country argue with itself. The show follows a fictional government unit called the Teachers' Rights Protection Bureau as it descends on bullies and corrupt adults to rescue schools from violence. Forbes hailed it as "one of the smartest, best-written and most addictive" dramas of the year. While critics have praised its emotional acting and m

- [Stocks Drift Despite Drop in Oil on US-Iran Talks: Markets Wrap](#) (2026-06-22 12:17)

US stocks are heading for a quiet open after the long weekend, with equities finding little support from lower oil prices amid signs of diplomatic headway between the US and Iran. S&P 500 futures fell 0.1%. Brent crude dropped 1.9% toward \$79 a barrel as Vice President JD Vance said US negotiators made a lot of progress in their talks with Iran. Treasuries fell across the curve after Friday's cash-market holiday. The dollar edged 0.1% higher. Traders also followed the latest developments in UK p

- [Ex-lawmaker Ihn Yohan named chief of Korean Red Cross](#) (2026-06-22 11:40)

Ihn Yohan, a former lawmaker of the main opposition People Power Party, has been named chief of the Korean Red Cross, the organization said Monday. Ihn was chosen through a vote by the organization's central committee and will take office for a three-year term upon approval from President Lee Jae Myung, honorary president of the Korean Red Cross. "Ihn served in the medical field for a long time and was considered the right person to lead the Red Cross' projects based on his activities in the pub

- [Zambian, Korean firms sign deal for 500MW solar plant](#) (2026-06-22 11:00)

Zambia's state-owned power utility ZESCO and South Korea's KS Eco Solutions Holdings have signed a purchase agreement for a 500-megawatt solar plant and battery storage project, as Zambia seeks to diversify its energy mix after recent electricity shortages. Zambia plans to expand its power generation capacity to about 10,000 MW by 2030, up from the current 3,500-3,900 MW, to address a power deficit of more than 1,600 MW and support economic growth. Solar energy is viewed as a key renewable energ

- [EU reaffirms opposition to death penalty](#) (2026-06-22 10:59)

The European Union on Monday urged renewed global efforts to abolish the death penalty at a conference in Seoul, as South Korea continues to maintain a decadeslong moratorium on executions. South Korea has not carried out an execution since 1997 and is considered an "abolitionist in practice" by international human rights groups, although capital punishment remains legal. The Seoul conference was held ahead of the 9th World Congress Against the Death Penalty, one of the largest international gat

- [Ex-justice minister given 25-yr prison sentence for martial law role](#) (2026-06-22 10:57)

Former Justice Minister Park Sung-jae was sentenced to 25 years in prison Monday after a district court found him guilty of playing a key role in an insurrection through his involvement in former President Yoon Suk Yeol's martial law bid. The Seoul Central District Court handed down the heavy punishment for Park, which surpassed the 20-year prison term sought by special counsel Cho Eun-suk's team. The court immediately placed Park under custody, citing concerns that he may destroy evidence. Cho'

- [Concentration in chips 'natural'; efforts to improve foreigners' market access under way: KRX chief](#) (2026-06-22 10:32)

The head of South Korea's bourse operator assessed Monday that the current concentration in semiconductors is "natural," considering various factors, such as the operating profits of Samsung Electronics Co. and SK hynix Inc. "I think (the market concentration) is a result of the natural price-setting process driven by supply and demand, taking into consideration various factors," Jeong Eun-bo, chairman of the Korea Exchange (KRX), said at a press conference with foreign media in Seoul. The comme

- [Jin Seon-kyu knows you might not be laughing at this one](#) (2026-06-22 09:43)

"Honestly, I'm my daughter's servant these days," Jin Seon-kyu says. "Whatever she asks for, she gets." It's a disarming thing to hear from the actor who once put a chill into 2017's "The Outlaws" as a Chinese-Korean mob enforcer, the breakout turn that earned him a Blue Dragon. Sitting across from him at a cafe in central Seoul on a recent Monday afternoon and that gangster is nowhere to be found. Jin is soft-spoken to the point of self-effacement, and by his own account, a passive sort, more i

- [Won seen strengthening toward 1,450 in second half, but volatility persists: FKI seminar](#) (2026-06-22 09:33)

South Korea's currency is forecast to strengthen modestly toward 1,450 won per dollar in the second half of the year, though the exchange rate is expected to remain relatively high and volatility is likely to stay elevated, according to experts on Monday. Speaking at a seminar hosted by the Federation of Korean Industries, economists said that robust export performance and a record current-account surplus should provide support for the won. However, persistent dollar demand from overseas investm

- [Dive in to summer swimwear](#) (2026-06-22 08:55)

Women's swimwear is having a confident season. This summer's standout pieces pull back on logos and lean into bold color, with metal hardware and crochet adding the finishing touches. Demand is climbing ahead of the main vacation stretch. According to 29CM, swimwear sales rose more than 34 percent from June 1 to 14 compared with the same period a year earlier. Bikini sales more than doubled over the same window, a sign that body-conscious cuts are leading the category. This season favors pared-b

- [Xiaomi chief designer, China mobility leaders to headline FAMS 2026](#) (2026-06-22 08:29)

Eight leading figures from China's automotive, battery, manufacturing, design, media and mobility sectors will take part in Future AI Mobility Summit 2026 scheduled for June 30 at the International Conference Hall of the Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Seoul. Co-hosted by The Korea Herald and the Korea Future Mobility Service Association, this year's forum will be held under the theme, "Beyond the Evolution of Technology, Toward Sustainable Inspiration for Humanity." Among the headline

- [Former UAE general Obaid Al Ketbi to keynote FAMS 2026](#) (2026-06-22 08:11)

H.E. Obaid Al Ketbi, founder and CEO of Dr. O Group Holding and a former UAE major general, will visit Korea to attend the Future AI Mobility Summit 2026 on June 30 at the Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Seoul. A veteran of the UAE military, government and diplomatic sectors, Al Ketbi spent 44 years in public service, including as chief of logistics for the UAE Armed Forces and a member of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council. He is best known internationally for helping build the Internati

- [Ex-Justice Minister gets 25 years in prison for playing key role in Yoon's martial law](#) (2026-06-22 07:59)

Former Justice Minister Park Sung-jae was sentenced to 25 years in prison on Monday in connection with former President Yoon Suk Yeol's failed martial law attempt in 2024. The Seoul Central District Court found Park guilty of ordering Justice Ministry officials to review plans to dispatch prosecutors to a joint investigation headquarters and inspect correctional facilities after Yoon declared martial law. Park was also found guilty of drafting a document justifying Yoon's martial law declaration

- [Seoul shares close at fresh peak above 9,100 on chip gains amid US-Iran talks](#) (2026-06-22 07:59)

South Korean stocks finished at an all-time high Monday on a continued rally in semiconductor shares amid signs of progress in US-Iran talks to end their monthslong war in the Middle East. The local currency lost against the U.S. dollar. After opening 1.08 percent lower, the benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index (KOSPI) added 62.13 points, or 0.69 percent, to 9,114.55 after rising as high as 9,253.00. Trade volume was moderate at 377.2 million shares worth 41.4 trillion won (\$26.9 billion)

- [Evan says solo debut is part of finding his 'true self'](#) (2026-06-22 07:57)

Evan, formerly Heeseung of Enhypen, has shared his first thoughts on life as a solo artist following the release of his debut single "Ride or Die" on Monday. While he did not directly address why he left the boy group to pursue an independent career — a move some fans continue to dispute, arguing Belift Lab forced his departure — Evan suggested he is focused on discovering his authentic self through music. In a written Q&A released through Belift Lab on the same day, Evan reflected on what he lo

- [Seoul seeks swift transfer of captured N. Korean soldiers from Ukraine](#) (2026-06-22 06:58)

South Korea is seeking the swift transfer of two North Korean soldiers captured by Ukrainian forces while fighting for Russia, a senior Foreign Ministry official said Monday, marking the government's clearest indication yet that Seoul is actively pursuing their relocation to the South. "We are trying to facilitate their transfer to South Korea as quickly as possible in accordance with their free will," the official told reporters on condition of anonymity. The official said Seoul and Kyiv have a

- [Govt. to provide trade secret certification for startup program applicants following data leak](#) (2026-06-22 06:58)

The Ministry of SMEs and Startups said Monday it will provide trade secret original certification services to applicants of a government-backed startup program to help safeguard their business ideas following a major data leak. First Vice Minister Roh Yong-seok announced the measure as he apologized for a data breach involving 5,000 applicants who passed the first round of the "Startup for All" program, an audition-style startup incubation project launched earlier this year. "We will mobilize al

- [Ex-justice minister given 25-year prison sentence for martial law role](#) (2026-06-22 06:49)

Former Justice Minister Park Sung-jae was sentenced to 25 years in prison Monday after a district court found him guilty of playing a key role in an insurrection through his involvement in former President Yoon Suk Yeol's martial law bid. The Seoul Central District Court handed down the heavy punishment for Park, which surpassed the 20-year prison term sought by special counsel Cho Eun-suk's team. The court immediately placed Park under custody, citing concerns that he may destroy evidence. Cho'

- [S. Korean, Indian FMs to discuss economy, AI, defense ties this week](#) (2026-06-22 06:45)

Foreign Minister Cho Hyun plans to meet his Indian counterpart in Seoul this week to discuss ways to enhance bilateral cooperation in the economy, defense, artificial intelligence and other key areas, Seoul's foreign ministry said Monday. Cho is scheduled to hold talks with Indian External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar in Seoul on Wednesday during the top Indian diplomat's official visit to South Korea following his trip to Mongolia, according to the ministry. At the upcoming meeting,

- [Why more South Koreans are becoming 'full-time children'](#) (2026-06-22 06:43)

Job scarcity and climbing housing costs have fueled the emergence of a new family role: young adults who stay home, help run the household and, in some cases, care for aging parents. For years, achieving success in South Korea has been associated with a familiar life trajectory: graduate, find a stable job, move out, marry, start a family. For a growing number of young adults, however, that sequence is breaking down. Instead, some are embracing a new identity that has recently gained traction on

- [PM vows to renew push for constitutional amendment](#) (2026-06-22 06:31)

Prime Minister Kim Min-seok said Monday that he will revive the push for a constitutional amendment once he returns to the National Assembly. "Upon returning to the National Assembly and the party, I will begin full-scale discussions on a one-time constitutional amendment regarding the reform of the National Election Commission," Kim told reporters. The momentum for the amendment, which failed in May due to the resistance of the main opposition People Power Party, could be reignited as both part

- [Watchdog chief expresses concerns over overheated single-stock leveraged ETF trading](#) (2026-06-22 06:31)

The chief of the country's financial watchdog said Monday that the newly introduced single-stock leveraged exchange-traded funds has been generating many side effects, and his agency is drawing up measures to protect investors. In a press conference, Lee Chan-jin, governor of the Financial Supervisory Service said the overheated rush to the single-stock leveraged ETFs with underlying assets -- Samsung Electronics and SK hynix -- have shown extreme turnover since their introduction in late May. "

- [Toss Bank partners with Solana Foundation on blockchain remittances](#) (2026-06-22 06:24)

Toss Bank said Monday it signed a memorandum of understanding with the Solana Foundation to explore blockchain-based financial infrastructure, becoming the first South Korean internet-only bank to partner with the organization behind the Solana network. The agreement focuses on developing next-generation cross-border payment infrastructure using blockchain technology. The two sides will conduct a phased proof of concept for international remittances on the Solana network, evaluate blockchain-bas

- [Lee warns against revenge-for-hire crimes](#) (2026-06-22 06:24)

President Lee Jae Myung on Monday warned against involvement in so-called "private revenge-for-hire" crimes, stressing that such acts are serious offenses that can lead to arrest and detention. "Under no circumstances should anyone engage in revenge-for-hire," Lee wrote in a post on X. "It is a serious crime that can result in detention." Lee made the remarks while sharing a report from acting National Police Agency Commissioner Yoo Jae-seong on police investigations into crimes involving privat

- [Seventeen says goodbye for now, promises return within 3 years](#) (2026-06-22 06:17)

INCHEON — Seventeen's 10th "Carat Land" fan meeting brought the warmth fans have come to expect from the annual event, but this year's gathering carried added emotional weight. Held Saturday and Sunday at Incheon Asiad Main Stadium, it marked one of the group's last major collective events before more members begin mandatory military service. With Jeonghan, Wonwoo, Hoshi and Woozi already enlisted, nine members took the stage. Mingyu, DK, Seungkwan, Vernon and Dino are expected to enlist in the

- [BMW's new iX3 offers first taste of Neue Klasse future](#) (2026-06-22 06:08)

BMW has unveiled The New iX3 SUV, the first vehicle built on its Neue Klasse platform, marking the beginning of the software-defined vehicle era. Replacing the fragmented electronic architectures of conventional vehicles, the new platform unifies critical functions through centralized computing, improving performance, agility and efficiency. The latest iX3 is the first of more than 40 new and facelifted BMW models set to launch across gasoline, diesel, plug-in hybrid and fully electric lineups.

- [Song Se-ra wins bronze at Asian Fencing Championships](#) (2026-06-22 06:07)

South Korean fencing star Song Se-ra captured a bronze medal in the women's individual epee event at the 2026 Asian Fencing Championships on Sunday. Competing in New Delhi, Song finished third behind Irina Bakaldina of Kazakhstan and Kaylin Hsieh of Hong Kong. Ranked No. 3 in the world in women's individual epee — the highest-ranked Asian athlete in the discipline — Song had been aiming to defend the Asian championship title she won last year. However, her bid for back-to-back titles ended in th

- [PM nominee apologizes for data leak in state-sponsored startup contest](#) (2026-06-22 06:05)

Han Seong-sook, prime minister nominee and current minister of SMEs and startups, apologized for a data leak involving some 5,000 participants in the ministry's flagship startup contest. "I sincerely apologize to all participants who suffered discomfort due to the personal information leak," Han told reporters on her way to the office in Seoul to prepare for the confirmation hearing. "We failed to live up to the trust of citizens who believed in the government and participated in the contest. As

- ['Tail wagging the dog': FSS chief warns on leveraged ETF boom](#) (2026-06-22 06:01)

Financial Supervisory Service Gov. Lee Chan-jin signaled possible regulatory measures on single-stock leveraged exchange-traded funds Monday, saying the products have delivered limited benefits while exposing retail investors to growing risks. "The effect has been minimal, but the side effects have become too significant," Lee said during a media briefing at the FSS headquarters in Seoul. Single-stock leveraged ETFs tied to Samsung Electronics and SK hynix were introduced last month to encourage

- [South Korea turns to AI as personnel shortage strains military medical system](#) (2026-06-22 05:59)

South Korea's military has begun work on a plan to incorporate artificial intelligence into its medical system, as a sharp decline in military doctors raises concerns over the sustainability of its professional personnel-driven healthcare structure. According to military officials Monday, the Armed Forces Medical Command recently commissioned a policy research project to draw up a long-term development plan for AI-based military medicine. The move comes as the military faces growing pressure to

- [Craftsmanship, elegance of Thai masterpieces on show at National Museum of Korea](#) (2026-06-22 05:53)

A Buddha stands upon a lotus pedestal, stepping forward with the left foot while the right heel is slightly raised. His left hand is lifted near the chest with the palm facing forward. The bronze sculpture from the 14th century in Thailand is named “pang-li-la,” meaning graceful posture. " If I had to pick one work in the exhibition that captures Thailand's unique artistic identity, it is the ‘Walking Buddha.’ For Koreans, it may be comparable to the iconic Pensive Bodhisattva shown at the ‘room

- [Starbucks closes all stores early](#) (2026-06-22 05:50)

Starbucks Korea will close all of its stores early on Monday to conduct history training for employees following backlash over its "Tank Day" promotion in May. All 2,160 stores were due to close at 3 p.m., marking the first nationwide early closure since Starbucks opened its first outlet in 1999. Employees are to participate in the training by watching prerecorded lectures at their respective stores. The program is designed to strengthen historical awareness and social sensitivity. Two professor

- [Seoul says North Korea’ s MDL fortification violates 1953 armistice](#) (2026-06-22 05:50)

South Korea’ s Ministry of National Defense on Monday said North Korea’ s recent installation of barriers near the Military Demarcation Line constitutes a violation of the armistice agreement. The remarks followed reports that North Korean troops had been installing fences close to the MDL, the de facto border that has separated the two Koreas since the 1953 armistice suspended active hostilities in the Korean War. “The North Korean military’ s installation of obstacles near the MDL is a clear viol

- [Kang Min-ji ties for fifth at Meijer LPGA Classic](#) (2026-06-22 05:44)

Kang Min-ji recorded her best finish of the season at the Meijer LPGA Classic on Sunday. Kang fired a 6-under 66 in the final round of the tournament at Blythefield Country Club in Belmont, Michigan, carding one eagle, five birdies and one bogey. She finished tied for fifth at 14-under 274 alongside Cassie Porter. The result marked Kang's best performance of the 2026 LPGA Tour season. Her previous best finish was a tie for ninth at the Riviera Maya Open in April. Japan's Miyu Yamashita claimed t

- [SK hynix seeks AI premium with Nasdaq listing](#) (2026-06-22 05:32)

SK hynix could float shares on the Nasdaq as soon as August, a move that would rank among the largest US listings in years and put one of the most important names in the artificial intelligence supply chain in front of American investors for the first time. The South Korean chipmaker, the main supplier of high-bandwidth memory to Nvidia, filed confidentially with the US Securities and Exchange Commission in March and has lined up Citigroup, JPMorgan, Goldman Sachs and Bank of America to manage t

- [AI boom lifts SK hynix above Samsung in market value](#) (2026-06-22 05:26)

SK hynix briefly overtook Samsung Electronics as South Korea's most valuable listed company in intraday trading Monday, challenging Samsung's long-held dominance of the stock market for the first time in nearly 26 years. Shares of SK hynix rose as much as 6.5 percent to a record 2.95 million won (\$1,900), lifting its market capitalization to 208.1 trillion won. That surpassed Samsung Electronics' market value of 207.3 trillion won by about 8.6 trillion won at the session high. As of 1 p.m., SK h

- [Police who fled stabbing scene ordered to pay victims](#) (2026-06-22 05:23)

Two former police officers who fled the scene of a 2021 knife attack in Incheon have been ordered to pay compensation, along with the state, to the victim's family over their botched response. The Incheon District Court recently ruled partially in favor of the family of a woman injured in the attack in a civil damages suit filed against the state. The court ordered the dismissed officers and the government to pay about 350 million won (\$228,000) in compensation. The family had sought more than 2

- [Song drives in run, Lee and Kim held hitless](#) (2026-06-22 05:22)

Song Seong-mun delivered a hit and an RBI in a rare starting appearance, but fellow South Korean major leaguers Lee Jung-hoo and Kim Ha-seong were held quiet at the plate. Song went 1-for-4 with an RBI double during the San Diego Padres' road game against the Texas Rangers on Sunday at Globe Life Field in Arlington, Texas. The double marked Song's second two-base hit since reaching MLB, while his fifth RBI of the season lifted his batting average to .200 (10-for-50). Starting at second base and

- [2 South Korean-linked vessels clear Strait of Hormuz after US-Iran deal](#) (2026-06-22 05:20)

Two vessels operated by South Korean shipping companies have safely exited the Strait of Hormuz, becoming the first South Korean-linked ships to pass through since Washington and Tehran agreed to reopen it last week, Seoul said Monday. The Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries said the vessels that had been waiting near the strait successfully made their way through it and are now continuing their course. However, they have yet to fully clear the surrounding area, which is still considered high-risk.

- [Lee says politics is about responsibility, not power](#) (2026-06-22 05:09)

Politics is about taking responsibility for the nation, not about seizing power, President Lee Jae Myung wrote on his X account Monday, in an apparent continuation of his criticism of conflict within and among political parties. “The purpose of politics goes beyond merely taking power. It is to take responsibility for the fate of the nation and the lives of 50 million citizens,” Lee wrote. “The position held by a person in power is not something to take as an opportunity for happiness, but an en

- [Court backs firing of Coast Guard officer who abused infant son: report](#) (2026-06-22 05:06)

A court has rejected the request of a former Korea Coast Guard officer who was seeking to overturn his dismissal after he was convicted of child abuse. According to local daily Herald Business on Monday, an appellate court on June 6 upheld a lower court ruling that found the dismissal was justified. The plaintiff has decided not to appeal, making the ruling final. The Busan District Court last month dismissed the plaintiff's request, saying his crime and the resulting media coverage had seriousl

- [S. Korea slams N. Korea's expanded border fencing as armistice agreement violation](#) (2026-06-22 04:57)

The South Korean military on Monday denounced North Korea's intensified border fencing as a violation of the armistice agreement that halted the 1950-53 Korean War, following a report that the fences have been built very close to the inter-Korean border. The JoongAng Ilbo reported that the North has installed barbed wire fences just 80-90 meters from the Military Demarcation Line separating the two Koreas, clearing land to plant mines as close as 5-10 meters to the MDL, citing military sources a

- [Foreign shoppers increasingly planning Korea trips around Olive Young sales](#) (2026-06-22 04:54)

The number of foreign tourists who returned to Korea for Olive Young's sale season in both its March and June rounds this year was 11 times higher than three years ago, retailer CJ Olive Young said Monday. The company based the figure on an analysis of foreign customer data conducted with Global Tax Free, Korea's largest tax refund operator. Foreign visitors who come to Korea two or more times a year to coincide with the sales have grown roughly twofold annually on average since 2023, according

- [Seoul offers AI-assisted career counseling for migrant-background students](#) (2026-06-22 04:53)

Migrant-background students in Seoul will be offered customized career and college admissions counseling from the Seoul Metropolitan Office of Education starting this summer. Officials will visit schools with large migrant student populations and use artificial intelligence-based interpretation to support consultations. According to the Seoul education office, the city has seen a steady rise in the number of students with multicultural backgrounds, increasing demand for customized counseling and

- [DNA, RNA blood test may help detect Alzheimer's earlier: study](#) (2026-06-22 04:52)

A blood test that looks at both DNA and RNA information may help identify Alzheimer's disease patients more accurately, according to a study led by researchers from Seoul National University Bundang Hospital and Indiana University. The researchers sought to develop a more practical way to screen people at high risk of Alzheimer's disease, the most common cause of dementia. Current precision tests, such as positron emission tomography scans and cerebrospinal fluid tests, can be costly or invasive

- [\[Uzbekistan Forum\] Uzbekistan looks to Korea for airport city, data center development](#) (2026-06-22 04:49)

TASHKENT, Uzbekistan — Uzbekistan's Deputy Prime Minister Jamshid Khodjaev and Jung Won-ju, chairman of Herald Media Group, Jungheung Group and Daewoo Engineering & Construction, discussed potential cooperation on data centers near the planned Tashkent Airport and set up a possible project agenda ahead of the Korea-Central Asia summit in Seoul in September. During a meeting in Tashkent on June 17, Khodjaev proposed that Daewoo E&C review ways to develop data centers within the airport-linked urb

- [Seo Chae-hyun wins bronze at IFSC Innsbruck event](#) (2026-06-22 04:42)

South Korea's leading women's sport climber Seo Chae-hyun captured a bronze medal in the women's lead event at the sixth stop of the 2026 IFSC World Climbing Series. Competing in Innsbruck, Austria, on Sunday, Seo posted a score of 36+ in the women's lead final to finish third behind Janja Garnbret, who won gold with 44 points, and Annie Sanders, who claimed silver with 38+. The result marked Seo's third consecutive podium finish in lead competition this season, having reached the podium at all

- [Lovebugs are back in Seoul](#) (2026-06-22 04:33)

“A lovebug flew into my house yesterday, and I completely panicked. I guess it's that time of year again,” said Park Jin-ju, who lives in Gwangjin-gu, Seoul, on Sunday. Park is right. It's that time of year when lovebugs, also called *Plecia nearctica*, reach maturity in large numbers and start showing up all over Seoul and nearby areas. On Monday, people shared reports of lovebug sightings on social media and online communities in Seoul, Incheon and Gyeonggi Province.

“They were clinging to my cl

- [What to know before Korea' s last group stage match against South Africa](#) (2026-06-22 04:32)

South Korea will take the field against South Africa on Wednesday (Thursday morning Korean time) with hopes of advancing to the round of 32 at the World Cup. With one win and one defeat from their opening two matches, the Taegeuk Warriors need only to avoid a defeat to book their spot in the knockout stage without relying on other results. The odds appear to be in their favor. Opta Football Predictions on Monday gave Korea a 91.22 percent chance of reaching the World Cup round of 32. (see relate

- [SK hynix beats Samsung Electronics in market cap](#) (2026-06-22 04:24)

SK hynix has surpassed Samsung Electronics in terms of market capitalization for the first time, the bourse operator said Monday. The market capitalization of SK hynix reached 2,091 trillion won (\$1,358 billion) at 12:42 p.m., surpassing Samsung Electronics' 2,090 trillion won, according to the Korea Exchange. It marked the first time that Samsung Electronics has given up its throne on the benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index since steadfastly remaining at the top

since 2000. It first ran

- [Where are Seoul's most Instagrammable outdoor pools this summer?](#) (2026-06-22 04:24)

As the capital heats up, several of Seoul's luxury hotels have opened or are preparing to open their outdoor pools. Each offers its own version of a summer escape without leaving the city, and each comes with a backdrop worth a photo or two. Mondrian Seoul Itaewon The Altitude Pool & Lounge at Mondrian Seoul Itaewon, the five-star lifestyle hotel in Yongsan-gu, returns as one of the city's most photographed summer spots. Pink tiles, sky-blue sunbeds and a blue-and-white striped awning give the p

- [Defense minister faces growing backlash over military reform plans](#) (2026-06-22 04:21)

South Korea's defense minister is facing mounting criticism that his military reform plans are more focused on settling political scores than pursuing structural reform. According to the National Assembly's public petition system, a petition calling for the impeachment of Defense Minister Ahn Gyu-back had drawn more than 92,000 signatures as of Monday, just four days after it was posted on June 18. Under the Assembly's petition rules, a public petition that receives at least 50,000 signatures wi

- [Trump-backed candidate wins razor-tight Colombia presidential election](#) (2026-06-22 04:09)

A flamboyant US-backed lawyer who has never held public office narrowly won Colombia's presidential runoff Sunday, swinging the country hard right with a promise to wage war against drug-running guerrilla groups. With almost all polling centers reporting, Abelardo de la Espriella won 49.66 percent of the vote versus left-wing Sen. Ivan Cepeda's 48.70 percent. The 47-year-old's victory is set to improve strained relations with Washington and extends a wave of rightist candidates who have swept to

- [GS E&C, I Squared Capital target 1.5GW renewable energy portfolio by 2035](#) (2026-06-22 04:06)

GS E&C said Monday it signed a memorandum of understanding with global infrastructure investment firm I Squared Capital to establish a joint venture focused on renewable energy projects in South Korea. Under the agreement, the two companies aim to secure 1.5 gigawatts of energy transition assets by 2035, targeting solar power generation and battery energy storage system projects. Founded in 2012, I Squared Capital manages approximately \$60 billion in assets and has invested in renewable energy p

- [Woori chief pitches growth strategy in Japan, Taiwan](#) (2026-06-22 04:06)

Woori Financial Group said Monday that Chairman Yim Jong-yong will visit Japan and Taiwan this week for an investor-relations campaign to expand its global shareholder base and highlight the group's growth strategy and shareholder return policy. During the four-day trip through Thursday, Yim will hold one-on-one meetings with major institutional investors,

outlining Woori Financial's mid- to long-term growth plans, capital policy and efforts to enhance corporate value. The chairman is expected t

- [When G-Dragon meets 'Toy Story'](#) (2026-06-22 03:01)

The Walt Disney Company Korea is launching a collaborative collection inspired by the beloved "Toy Story" franchise in partnership with G-Dragon's fashion label, Peaceminusone. "The First Fan" collection is built around the idea that toys were the earliest companions and supporters of G-Dragon's journey toward his dreams. "The collaboration blends Peaceminusone's distinctive design language with the themes that 'Toy Story' has championed for decades — imagination, the special bond between toys a

- [Ethiopia's ruling party retains parliamentary majority in election marred by insecurity](#) (2026-06-22 02:54)

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP) — Ethiopia's ruling party has maintained an overwhelming majority in parliament following the June 1 election, according to final results on Sunday. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's Prosperity Party won 438 seats out of 501 in the House of Representatives, the National Election Board of Ethiopia said. The new parliament is expected to convene in October to reelect Abiy for another five-year term. The election was marred by a crackdown on dissent. Insecurity in the Oromia an

- [Seoul, Beijing to hold 15th round of FTA follow-up talks on services](#) (2026-06-22 02:54)

South Korea and China kicked off a new round of follow-up negotiations on services and investment under their bilateral free trade agreement, Seoul's trade ministry said Monday. Trade delegations from the two sides will hold the 15th round of follow-up negotiations throughout this week in Beijing from Monday to Friday, according to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Resources. Seoul and Beijing implemented their bilateral FTA in December 2015, eliminating tariffs on a wide range of products. Th

- [Illit claims more trophies with 'It's Me'](#) (2026-06-22 02:53)

Illit came in first place yet again on a television music chart show with "It's Me," despite wrapping up promotions for the single last month, said agency Belift Lab. The group has received four music show trophies over three consecutive weeks, thanks to the single and title track from its fourth EP, "Mamihlapinatapai." The single peaked at No. 32 on Billboard's Global 200 and No. 67 on Global excl. US, while the mini album hit Billboard 200 at No. 26, a career-best for the fivesome. Illit perfo

- [Europe sweats through heat, worse to come](#) (2026-06-22 02:51)

France banned alcohol in red-alert areas Sunday, Spain and Germany canceled or postponed sports events and Britain warned of "tropical nights" as Europe sweltered through a heatwave threatening to break June temperature records. Less than a month after a May heat wave that set records in several European countries, the continent is facing a new bout of extreme

weather, with temperatures set to rise even further in coming days. Scientists have shown that recurring heat waves are a clear marker of

- [Shincheonji leader sought for arrest over alleged party sign-up pressure](#) (2026-06-22 02:46)

South Korean investigators sought an arrest warrant for Lee Man-hee, the leader of the Shincheonji Church of Jesus, in a probe into allegations that the religious group forced followers to join a political party. The request brings the investigation to the top of one of South Korea's most controversial religious groups, accused of mobilizing believers to influence internal contests of the conservative People Power Party. According to investigators, the joint team of prosecutors and police filed

- [LG Energy showcases AI data center power solutions in Europe](#) (2026-06-22 02:41)

LG Energy Solution will showcase its battery-powered solutions for AI data centers at Electrical Energy Storage Europe 2026, highlighting its European manufacturing footprint and compliance capabilities as demand for AI infrastructure accelerates. The exhibition, which runs from June 23-25 at Messe Munich in Germany, is being held under the theme "Powering the Future of AI," reflecting growing interest in stable power infrastructure to support AI-driven growth. At the event, LG Energy Solution w

- [Ex-defense minister booked over alleged attempt to provoke N. Korea for martial law bid](#) (2026-06-22 02:40)

A special counsel team has booked former Defense Minister Kim Yong-hyun on suspicion of attempting to use a military intelligence unit to create a pretext for former President Yoon Suk Yeol's martial law bid, legal sources said Monday. Special counsel Kwon Chang-young has been investigating allegations that the Defense Intelligence Command attempted to push for operations against North Korea to foment inter-Korean tensions and establish a justification for Yoon to declare martial law in December

- [LG OLEDs certified for real-world image accuracy](#) (2026-06-22 02:40)

LG Display said Monday its full lineup of large OLED panels for TVs and monitors has received Intertek certification for color and brightness accuracy under everyday lighting conditions, marking the first such recognition for OLED products. The certification, formally called Perfect Color and Brightness Accuracy up to 500 lux, measures how closely a display reproduces the color and brightness intended by content creators in a typical viewing environment. Instead of conventional picture-quality t

- [Middle school girl critically injured after rooftop jump attempt](#) (2026-06-22 02:37)

A middle school student was critically injured Sunday during an attempt to jump from the roof of a six-story residential building to a neighboring building in Siheung, Gyeonggi Province, local media reported Monday. The accident occurred at around 5:45 p.m. on Sunday in Dochang-dong, Siheung, while the student was playing with her friends. Authorities did not

disclose the distance between the buildings, though residential buildings in the area are known to stand close together with narrow gaps.

- [Budget minister discusses policy direction with experts amid sharp tax gains](#) (2026-06-22 02:29)

South Korea's budget minister on Monday discussed fiscal policy directions with experts amid the country's robust tax revenue growth driven by the artificial intelligence boom. Budget Minister Park Hong-keun met with fiscal experts from academia as the country has seen a sharp increase in tax revenue from technology companies. Tax revenue reached 164.1 trillion won (\$106 billion) in the January-April period, up 21.9 trillion won from a year earlier. "While the South Korean economy is maintaining

- [Twice's 'Cheer Up' music video garners 600m views](#) (2026-06-22 02:27)

Twice generated 600 million plays on YouTube with the music video for "Cheer Up," said label JYP Entertainment on Monday. It is the group's fifth video to exceed the mark, after "TT," "What is Love?," "Likey" and "Fancy." "Cheer Up" is a pop dance tune that fronted the nine-member act's second EP "Page Two," which was released in 2016. The mini album sold close to 180,000 copies by the end of the year, making Twice the first K-pop girl group that debuted after 2010 to sell over 100,000 units. Se

- [GS E&C; I Squared Capital to team up for renewable energy projects](#) (2026-06-22 02:05)

GS Engineering & Construction said Monday it will partner with US-based infrastructure investment firm I Squared Capital to develop renewable energy and battery energy storage systems in South Korea. The South Korean builder signed a memorandum of understanding with I Squared Capital to establish a joint venture focused on solar power and energy storage projects. Through the joint venture, the two companies aim to develop and secure a total of 1.5 gigawatts of energy-transition assets by 2035, i

- [BTS returns to top 10 on Billboard 200](#) (2026-06-22 02:04)

BTS' fifth full-length album climbed back up to No. 10 on the Billboard 200, according to the chart preview published Sunday in the US. The LP "Arirang" had fallen to No. 11 last week but inched back up a rung, charting 11 weeks among the top ten in the 13th week on the main albums ranking. Meanwhile, the group's new single "Come Over" debuted at No. 52 on the UK Official Singles Top 100, at No. 20 on Spotify's Weekly Top Songs Global, and at No. 1 on Oricon's Weekly Digital Single Ranking. BTS

- [Negative views of Lee overtake positive for first time: poll](#) (2026-06-22 02:04)

President Lee Jae Myung's approval rating dropped for the fifth consecutive week, with negative views of Lee surpassing positive views for the first time since he took office, according to a poll released Monday. The survey by local pollster Realmeter found that 46.7 percent of respondents approved of Lee's job performance, down 4.8 percentage points from the

previous week. Monday marked the first time his approval rating has fallen below the 50 percent threshold since he assumed office on June

- [S. Koreans travel to site of Group A finale](#) (2026-06-22 02:00)

South Korea arrived at the site of their final group stage match of the ongoing FIFA World Cup in northeastern Mexico on Sunday. South Korean players and their staff checked into their hotel in Monterrey, greeted by dozens of fans at the entrance. Fans yelled players' names as they entered the hotel, with captain Son Heung-min drawing the loudest cheers. The Taeguk Warriors had been training near Guadalajara, south of Monterrey, for the past two-plus weeks, as they played their first two Group

- [Dance like a K-pop trainee](#) (2026-06-22 01:55)

Seoul residents can join a free K-pop dance class at the Seoul Foreign Resident Center in Yeongdeungpo-gu. The class is open to adult Korean and foreign residents living in Seoul. It will run from July 2 to Aug. 13, with 13 sessions held every Tuesday and Thursday from 11 a.m. to noon. Participants should bring clean-soled sneakers and a water bottle. The class will be conducted in Korean. Applications are accepted by phone inquiry, followed by an in-person visit to the center. Applicants should

- [Level up your Korean small talk](#) (2026-06-22 01:54)

Foreign residents and international students in Seoul can sign up for a free Korean conversation class at Yeonnam Global Village Center. The 10-week program will run from July 6 to Sept. 12. Classes will be held in person at the center's classroom. The program offers beginner, intermediate and advanced classes. Intermediate and advanced classes meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays, while the beginner class meets on Saturdays. Applications are open online through July 3. Selected applicants will receive

- [N. Korea blames US, West for 'revival of Nazism,' defends Russia over Ukraine war](#) (2026-06-22 01:44)

North Korea condemned the United States and other Western countries Monday, accusing them of fueling concerns over the revival of Nazism, on the anniversary of Nazi Germany's invasion of the Soviet Union. In an article carried by the Korean Central News Agency, the North claimed that "modern-day Nazi forces" have reemerged, heightening global concern over what it described as a challenge to the future of humanity. "The danger of neo-Nazism is being highlighted more seriously through the current

- [Stray Kids to drop single ahead of August return](#) (2026-06-22 01:33)

Stray Kids will release a digital single on Wednesday, giving fans a taste of the group's upcoming album, label JYP Entertainment announced Monday. "Run It" is part of "This & That" — likely the group's tenth EP — set for release on Aug. 7. The album will comprise eight tracks and follows Stray Kids' mixtape "Do It," released in November. "Do It" hit atop the Billboard

200 chart as its eighth release to do so, and sold over 2.2 million copies in the first week. The group also confirmed that it w

- [Exports up 60% in first 20 days of June on robust chip sales](#) (2026-06-22 01:28)

South Korea's exports jumped 60.4 percent from a year earlier in the first 20 days of June, data showed Monday, setting a new fresh high for the period amid robust shipments of semiconductors. Outbound shipments reached \$62 billion in the June 1-20 period, compared with \$38.6 billion tallied in the same period last year, according to the data from the Korea Customs Service. It marked the highest 20-day figure on record, surpassing the previous high of \$54.3 billion posted in March this year. Imp

- [Uzbekistan unveils six-point plan for foreign investment](#) (2026-06-22 01:26)

TASHKENT, Uzbekistan — Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev unveiled a six-point investment agenda at Tashkent International Investment Forum that includes a financial center based on English common law, an international commercial court and incentives for artificial intelligence projects, as Uzbekistan seeks to attract more foreign capital. The three-day forum, regarded as Central Asia's largest investment gathering, was held from June 16, attracting more than 8,000 participants from 99 countries

- [PM nominee apologizes for information leak from 'Startup for All' website](#) (2026-06-22 01:16)

Prime Minister nominee Han Seong-sook apologized Monday over a recent information leak from the government's website for an audition-style startup incubation program. An artificial intelligence solution firm serving as a project partner was found to have exploited a security loophole in the website for the "Startup for All" project and collected the emails, summarized startup ideas and judge reviews of 5,000 people that passed the first round of the audition. The leak came to light after the com

- [Iran draw strength from adversity after holding Belgium to draw](#) (2026-06-21 23:22)

Iran's players said adversity has forged a stronger sense of unity in the squad after they held heavily favoured Belgium to a 0-0 draw in their Group G World Cup match on Sunday, giving them a chance to reach the knockout stage for the first time. The result was another display of resilience from a team whose tournament has unfolded under extraordinary circumstances. Due to measures imposed by the American government, the Team Melli squad have been forced to stay outside the US between matche

- [Trump threatens new attacks as US-Iran peace talks open in Switzerland](#) (2026-06-21 23:14)

US President Donald Trump threatened to restart war with Iran on Sunday even as Vice President JD Vance met Iranian officials for the first talks under an interim peace deal that was overshadowed by Tehran's announcement it had again closed the Strait of Hormuz. The talks in

the Qatari-owned Swiss mountaintop resort of Buergenstock were the first to be held under the terms of a memorandum of understanding reached between the two enemies last week to end their war, extending a tenuous ceasefire

- [Heo Nam-jun's breakout moment: How 'My Royal Nemesis' changed everything](#) (2026-06-21 22:00)

For years, Heo Nam-jun was a familiar face in supporting roles. Now, he finds himself at the center of one of Korea's streaming hits. The actor recently wrapped "My Royal Nemesis," a fantasy romantic comedy that climbed to No. 2 on Netflix's weekly non-English TV chart during the June 8-14 tracking period. Heo stars as Cha Se-gye, a chaebol heir whose cool exterior begins to crack after he meets a Joseon-era woman, played by Lim Ji-yeon, who has inexplicably time-slipped into modern-day Seoul. S

- [\[Yoo Choon-sik\] AI is no cure-all for Korea's economy](#) (2026-06-21 20:30)

It has been more than three years since the use of generative artificial intelligence tools such as ChatGPT became widespread in everyday life, and they have already become indispensable for many workers. Using artificial intelligence to draft reports or analyze complex data is no longer uncommon. According to a Bank of Korea report published earlier this month, 51.8 percent of workers in South Korea were using generative AI for their jobs as of 2025. While the pace of adoption is eight times as

- [\[Man-ki Kim\] Foster dual-use defense tech](#) (2026-06-21 20:30)

For much of the 20th century, defense technology was developed within a closed military-industrial system. Governments set requirements, contractors built platforms and civilian industries later benefited from spillover effects. That world is changing. Today, technologies first developed or scaled in the civilian economy — artificial intelligence, semiconductors, robotics, batteries, cloud computing, autonomous systems, synthetic-aperture radar satellites and commercial drones — are central to m

- [How AI is rewriting future of project management](#) (2026-06-21 15:00)

HanmiGlobal, South Korea's leading construction project management company, marked its 30th anniversary Friday by convening global industry leaders to discuss how artificial intelligence will transform project management and the construction sector. The 2026 Global PM Summit, held at the Posco Center Art Hall in Seoul under the theme "Rewriting the Future of Global PM in the AI Era," focused on how emerging technologies can address mounting challenges facing the industry, including stagnant prod

- [\(Uzbekistan Forum\) Uzbek textile industry presents major opportunities for Korea](#) (2026-06-21 10:50)

TASHKENT — Uzbekistan's textile and apparel industry has grown into a major pillar of the country's economy, one that presents major opportunities for Korean manufacturers and

retailers, Uzbek officials said at the Korea-Uzbekistan Business Forum on Tuesday. Ruhullo Zikrilayev, deputy director of the Agency for the Development of Light Industry of Uzbekistan, said the sector has become “one of the key pillars” of the national economy. More than 10,000 enterprises operate in Uzbekistan’s light in

- [\[Uzbekistan Forum\] KoCham Uzbekistan to launch at Korea-Central Asia Summit](#) (2026-06-21 10:45)

TASHKENT, Uzbekistan — Plans to launch a Korea Chamber of Commerce branch in Uzbekistan were unveiled Tuesday at the Uzbekistan-Korea Business Forum in Tashkent. The body, set to open during the Korea-Central Asia Summit in September, will be the first Korean Chamber of Commerce in Uzbekistan. "Economic cooperation between Korea and Uzbekistan has expanded rapidly across many sectors," said Yoo Bo-young, an executive member for KoCham Uzbekistan and executive director of Dasan D&C. The associati

- [LG executives to meet Nvidia officials in US for AI, robotics talks](#) (2026-06-21 10:44)

Senior executives from LG Group will visit Nvidia’s headquarters in California this week for talks on physical AI and robotics, in a follow-up to a recent meeting between LG Chairman Koo Kwang-mo and Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang. Industry sources said Sunday that executives from LG’s major affiliates are scheduled to meet Nvidia officials on Monday at the US chipmaker’s headquarters in Santa Clara, California. The LG delegation will include LG CNS CEO Hyun Shin-gyoon, LG Sciencepark President Chung S

- [\[Uzbekistan Forum\] Lee highlights Korea, Uzbekistan strengths, calls for closer cooperation](#) (2026-06-21 10:40)

South Korea and Uzbekistan can turn crisis into opportunity and achieve great advancements if the two countries cooperate and combine their strengths, President Lee Jae Myung said in congratulatory remarks for the Uzbekistan-Korea Business Forum held in Tashkent on Tuesday. “I sincerely congratulate you on the Korea-Uzbekistan Business Forum. I would like to express my deep gratitude to everyone at Herald Media Group who prepared this meaningful event, as well as to officials from the Government

- [\[Uzbekistan Forum\] Korea is a vital partner in modernizing Uzbek transport infrastructure: Deputy minister](#) (2026-06-21 10:32)

TASHKENT, Uzbekistan — Korea has become one of Uzbekistan's most important partners in modernizing transport infrastructure, Deputy Minister of Transport of Uzbekistan Ilhomjon Abdugafarov said at Tuesday’s Korea-Uzbekistan Business Forum held in Tashkent. "The Republic of Korea is one of Uzbekistan's most important and reliable partners in implementing modern infrastructure projects, introducing advanced technologies, and developing the aviation, railway transport and logistics sectors," Abduga

- [Secret bets on nostalgia, reinvention in comeback](#) (2026-06-21 10:30)

Former hit girl group Secret is embarking on a new chapter, returning with its first new music for the first time in 12 years and introducing a new member in place of two original members. The comeback has drawn attention not only because of the group's lengthy hiatus, but also because it reflects a growing trend in K-pop. As the cost of launching rookie groups continues to rise, more companies are finding value in reviving familiar brands. "Secret Flavor," released Thursday, marks Secret's first

- [\[Uzbekistan Forum\] Uzbekistan envisions a new future through ‘New Tashkent’ project](#) (2026-06-21 10:29)

TASHKENT, Uzbekistan — Uzbekistan's "New Tashkent" project presents opportunities for South Korean investors and companies through the transformation of the country's capital, Uzbek officials highlight. Speaking at the Korea-Uzbekistan Business Forum in Tashkent on Tuesday, Sharaf Radjabov, deputy director of the New Tashkent City Development Project, introduced New Tashkent as "one of the most ambitious urban development projects in the history of Uzbekistan." The project forms part of Uzbek Pre

- [It's splash o'clock along the Han River](#) (2026-06-21 09:03)

Six swimming pools and water playgrounds across Seoul's Hangang parks — Yeouido, Ttukseom, Jamsil, Gwangnaru, Nanji and Yanghwa — reopened on June 19, transforming parts of the Han River into the city's seasonal cooling zone. The facilities will operate through Aug. 30, offering everything from family-friendly pools and fountains to larger swimming areas for those looking to escape the summer heat without leaving the city. Yeouido, Ttukseom, Jamsil and Nanji operate from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., while

- [Have THAAD launchers returned to Seongju base?](#) (2026-06-21 09:01)

All six launchers of the US' Terminal High Altitude Area Defense interceptors have reportedly been returned to the South Korean military base where they were originally deployed. Photos of truck-mounted, US-made THAAD launchers positioned in the military base in the southeastern region of Seongju, North Gyeongsang Province, were released Sunday by Yonhap News Agency. Speculations have persisted as to whether the United States had been seeking to move THAAD-related defense assets in South Korea —

- [Elite student club leader convicted of drug distribution](#) (2026-06-21 08:56)

The man accused of distributing drugs to members of an elite inter-university student club has received a final 18-month prison sentence from the Supreme Court. The defendant, a 32-year-old man surnamed Yeom, was convicted of purchasing and using several types of illegal drugs, including LSD, ketamine, ecstasy and methamphetamine, and distributing drugs among club members for about a year from late 2022, local media reported Sunday. Yeom was arrested at a hotel in Seoul in December 2023 and indi

- [\[Uzbekistan Forum\] Korea, Uzbekistan map next phase of economic cooperation](#) (2026-06-21 08:36)

TASHKENT, Uzbekistan — South Korea and Uzbekistan moved to deepen their economic partnership beyond infrastructure cooperation, as some 500 government officials, lawmakers and business leaders gathered for a business forum last week. The Korea-Uzbekistan Business Forum, jointly organized by Herald Media Group — publisher of The Korea Herald and The Herald Business — and Uzbekistan's Ministry of Investment, Industry and Trade, was held Tuesday as both countries seek to broaden cooperation in tran

- [Seoul reiterates call for free navigation after Trump's Hormuz toll remarks](#) (2026-06-21 08:30)

South Korea on Sunday reaffirmed its position that freedom of navigation and the safety of maritime traffic in the Strait of Hormuz must be guaranteed, after US President Donald Trump suggested Washington could impose tolls on vessels transiting the strategic waterway if negotiations with Iran fail. "Our basic position is that freedom of navigation and the safety of all vessels, including South Korean ships, in the Strait of Hormuz should be guaranteed as soon as possible," a Foreign Ministry of

- [\[Uzbekistan Forum\] Uzbekistan eyes tech ecosystem on global standards](#) (2026-06-21 08:18)

TASHKENT — Uzbekistan is building a tech ecosystem that will enable global corporations to expand operations, reduce costs and enter new markets, Uzbekistan IT Park Korea Office head Nodirbek Berdiqobilov said at Tuesday's Korea-Uzbekistan Business Forum held in Tashkent. According to Berdiqobilov, Uzbekistan is building an ecosystem where global companies can expand operations, reduce costs and enter new markets. "Uzbekistan is no longer simply an emerging market," Berdiqobilov said. "It is rap

- [J-pop streaming in Korea jumps 30%](#) (2026-06-21 08:15)

Streaming of J-pop on Korean music platform Genie Music rose 30 percent in the first half of the year from the same period a year earlier, according to a report released by the company Sunday. The most-streamed J-pop track was Kenshi Yonezu's "Iris Out," the theme song for the upcoming anime film "Chainsaw Man: Reze Arc." It was followed by Official Hige Dandism's "Pretender" and Yuuri's "Betelgeuse." A KT Genie Music official attributed the growth to the increasing number of ways Korean audienc

- [\[Uzbekistan Forum\] Korea calls Uzbekistan key partner in Central Asia push](#) (2026-06-21 08:15)

TASHKENT, Uzbekistan — South Korea sees Uzbekistan as its most important partner in Central Asia as Seoul seeks to deepen regional cooperation ahead of the first Korea-Central Asia Summit later this year, a South Korean Industry Ministry official said. "The year 2026 is significant for Korea and Central Asia, with the inaugural summit set to mark a new stage in our

relationship," Kim Young-man, director general for trade policy coordination at the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Resources, said

- [Lee aide hints at tougher taxes on homeowners amid AI boom](#) (2026-06-21 08:11)

An aide to President Lee Jae Myung has hinted at imposing more taxes on homeowners to stop the housing market from further overheating. This prompted the right-wing opposition People Power Party's call to hold the presidential aide accountable for causing confusion in the property market, as it claimed the tax hike on the wealthy would wind up hurting the poor. On Saturday, Kim Yong-beom, chief secretary for national policy for the liberal president, wrote via Facebook that it would be plausible

- [\[Uzbekistan Forum\] Korean lawmakers seek next phase in Uzbekistan ties through minerals, AI](#) (2026-06-21 08:08)

TASHKENT, Uzbekistan — Korean lawmakers pledged parliamentary support for expanding Korea-Uzbekistan economic ties beyond infrastructure and manufacturing into supply chains, advanced industries and cultural exchange, as the two countries prepare for a Seoul summit in September. At the Korea-Uzbekistan Business Forum on Tuesday, Rep. Kim Kyo-heung of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea and Rep. Yoon Jae-ok of the main opposition People Power Party said the two countries' partnership has become

- [\[Uzbekistan Forum\] KIND eyes airport, smart city projects in Uzbekistan](#) (2026-06-21 08:06)

TASHKENT, Uzbekistan -- Korea Overseas Infrastructure and Urban Development Corp. (KIND) said it was pushing ahead with airport, bio-cluster and smart city projects in Uzbekistan, as the Korean state-backed infrastructure investor seeks to expand its role in the fast-growing Central Asian market. Speaking at the Korea-Uzbekistan Business Forum 2026 on Tuesday, KIND CEO Kim Bok-hwan said Uzbekistan's strategic location — at the heart of Central Asia and along the Silk Road — meant that infrastruc

- [\[Uzbekistan Forum\] Eximbank Korea eyes bigger role as Uzbekistan seeks Korean capital](#) (2026-06-21 08:05)

TASHKENT, Uzbekistan — South Korea's state export lender said it was ready to finance a new wave of Korea-Uzbekistan projects, as Tashkent seeks to draw more Korean capital into infrastructure, supply chains and technology-driven industries on the back of economic reforms. Speaking at the Korea-Uzbekistan Business Forum 2026 in Tashkent, Seo Jung-hwa, senior executive director of the Export-Import Bank of Korea, said Eximbank aimed to help convert government-level cooperation between the two cou

- [\[Uzbekistan Forum\] Incheon Airport backs Uzbekistan's aviation hub ambitions](#) (2026-06-21 08:04)

TASHKENT, Uzbekistan — Incheon International Airport Corp. is moving to turn Uzbekistan's rapidly growing air travel demand into its next overseas growth engine, joining major airport

development projects in Tashkent and Urgench as country seeks to make itself a regional aviation hub. Speaking at the Korea-Uzbekistan Business Forum in Tashkent, Lee Sang-yong, executive director of IIAC's new business division, said the Korean airport operator aimed to apply its experience in developing and running

- [\[Uzbekistan Forum\] Youngone bets on Uzbekistan's cotton strength for apparel expansion](#) (2026-06-21 08:01)

TASHKENT, Uzbekistan — Youngone Corporation seeks to expand its presence in Uzbekistan by building a broader textile and apparel value chain, betting on the Central Asian nation's cotton resources, export access and growing manufacturing base. Speaking at the Korea-Uzbekistan Business Forum 2026 in Tashkent, Youngone President Park Jae-yong said Uzbekistan offers both trade advantages and long-term growth potential for the Korean textile and apparel company. "Uzbekistan has strong appeal, includ

- [\[Uzbekistan Forum\] BoMI E&C; builds Uzbekistan foothold with Tashkent business tower](#) (2026-06-21 07:58)

TASHKENT, Uzbekistan — BoMI Engineering & Construction is expanding its presence in Uzbekistan through both its own projects and public-private partnership opportunities, positioning its Tashkent business tower as a platform for Korean companies entering the Central Asian market. Speaking at the Korea-Uzbekistan Business Forum in Tashkent, Lee Dong-yup, head of BoMI E&C's overseas business division, said the company had been seeking to showcase Korean construction capabilities through locally ro

- [\[Uzbekistan Forum\] Zyx Technology pitches AI digital twin tools for Uzbekistan's urban projects](#) (2026-06-21 07:56)

TASHKENT, Uzbekistan — Zyx Technology is seeking to bring its artificial intelligence-based digital twin solutions to Uzbekistan's urban development and smart construction markets, as Korean tech firms look to play a larger role in the Central Asian country's infrastructure projects. Speaking at the Korea-Uzbekistan Business Forum in Tashkent on Tuesday, Zyx Technology Chairman Choi Jong-bok introduced the company's AI-powered design and construction management tools, saying they could support f

- [On this day in Korea - June 22, 2002: S. Korea makes historic World Cup semifinal](#) (2026-06-21 07:49)

World Cup co-host South Korea defeated Spain in a penalty shootout, becoming the first Asian team to advance to the semifinals of the tournament. Massive crowds gathered in streets across Seoul and other cities to celebrate the historic achievement, with supporters dressed in red and waving national flags late into the night. Goalkeeper Lee Woon-jae became a national hero after key saves during the tense shootout. Under Dutch coach Guus Hiddink, the team's disciplined play and relentless energy

- [Advance Korean projects through reforms, new platforms: Uzbek deputy minister](#) (2026-06-21 07:38)

TASHKENT, Uzbekistan — Uzbekistan's Deputy Minister of Investment, Industry and Trade on Tuesday urged South Korean companies to expand their presence in the Central Asian nation by taking advantage of economic reforms and new industrial and investment initiatives. Speaking at the Korea-Uzbekistan Business Forum, Ilzat Kasymov said the Uzbek government has eliminated more than 200 licensing and permit requirements, reduced taxes, liberalized the foreign exchange market, and simplified procedures

- [Can South Korea move from G7 guest to member?](#) (2026-06-21 06:14)

President Lee Jae Myung's appearance at this year's Group of Seven summit has revived a longstanding question in South Korean diplomacy: Can the country move beyond being a guest and become part of an expanded G7 framework? Lee returned from Europe on Thursday after attending the summit in Evian-les-Bains, France, as an invited leader, holding talks with major counterparts and meeting US President Donald Trump. The trip showed how far South Korea's diplomatic profile has risen, but also made cle

- ['Toy Story 5' leads Korean box office for fourth day](#) (2026-06-21 06:08)

Disney and Pixar's "Toy Story 5" held the No. 1 spot at the Korean box office for four straight days. The animated sequel sold 335,740 tickets on Saturday, according to the box-office tally compiled by the state-run Korean Film Council. That brought its cumulative total to 585,524 since it opened Wednesday, two days ahead of its North American release. Directed by Andrew Stanton, "Toy Story 5" finds Woody, Buzz, Jessie and the rest of Bonnie's toys facing a new kind of rival in Lilypad, a smart

- [How an indie shorts festival keeps drawing the biggest stars](#) (2026-06-21 05:37)

When the Mise-en-scene Short Film Festival opened its 22nd edition on Thursday, the jury on hand for the ceremony read like a who's who of Korean entertainment. Actors Jung Hae-in ("I, the Executioner"), Lee Min-ho ("Omniscient Reader"), Jo Jung-suk ("Exit"), Shim Eun-kyung ("Miss Granny") and Choi Sooyoung of Girls' Generation all signed on as honorary judges this year, each assigned to one of the festival's five sections. Past editions have drawn the likes of Song Kang-ho ("Parasite"), Lee Jun

- [Woori Financial boosts growth, inclusive finance funding by W10tr](#) (2026-06-21 05:36)

Woori Financial Group said Sunday it will expand funding for its "Future Shared Growth Project" by 10 trillion won (\$6.5 billion), stepping up support for strategic industries, small businesses and financially vulnerable borrowers. Of the additional funding, 9.4 trillion won will be allocated to productive financing over the next two years, including 5.7 trillion won this year and 3.7 trillion won in 2027. The funds will be used to support strategic industries, exporters and regional economies,

- [Lee names former Yonhap chief, ex-prosecutor to senior presidential posts](#) (2026-06-21 05:35)

President Lee Jae Myung's office on Sunday announced a new lineup of senior staff in a broad reshuffle, as Lee begins the second year of his five-year term. The new Cheong Wa Dae staff appointments, which are equivalent to vice ministerial-level posts, are aimed at "speedy implementation" of the Lee administration's second-year policy goals, building on the achievements made since Lee's inauguration in June 2025, Lee's chief of staff Kang Hoon-sik said at a press briefing. Lee tapped Seong Ghi-h

- ['Whale' author worries society is losing its empathy](#) (2026-06-21 05:33)

When Cheon Myeong-kwan was shortlisted for the International Booker Prize in 2023 for "Whale," judges praised the novel as "a magical and grotesque epic," highlighting its whirlwind narrative in which reality and fantasy, past and present, intertwine. His latest novel "Accordion" takes a different path. "When I wrote 'Whale,' I didn't know exactly what I was writing," Cheon said at a press conference last week. "I let my imagination run free without trying to control it. This time, I did the opp

- [LG to host descendants of Ethiopian war veterans](#) (2026-06-21 05:22)

LG Group said Sunday it will sponsor a 36-day visit to Korea by the Kagneu Choir, made up of descendants of Ethiopian veterans who fought in the 1950-53 Korean War, as part of efforts to honor their service and strengthen cultural ties. The delegation, which includes 34 choir members and 95-year-old Korean War veteran Tesfaye Asmamaw, arrives Monday. LG is covering airfare, accommodations and other travel expenses in partnership with the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs. The visit is or

- [Korea's US stock boom is only getting started: Toss strategist](#) (2026-06-21 05:18)

South Korean investors have emerged as an increasingly influential force in US equities, boosting their holdings of American stocks to nearly \$200 billion and becoming some of the world's most aggressive buyers of leading artificial intelligence companies. Yet despite their growing presence on Wall Street, the country's investors are still in the early stages of investing in US equities, according to Lee Young-gon, head of research at Toss Securities. "Korean retail investors have only been inve

- [Half of S. Korean elementary teachers feel helpless dealing with parents](#) (2026-06-21 05:04)

Nearly half of elementary school teachers in South Korea say they feel helpless in dealing with parents, a new report showed, nearly three years after the death of a young teacher in Seoul sparked nationwide debate over teachers' rights. According to an issue paper published in May by the Korea Education Development Institute, 49.4 percent of elementary school teachers surveyed in 2023 felt helpless in their relationships with parents. The figure was significantly higher than the 31.7 percent re

- [Scams targeting foreign nationals soar amid K-culture tourism boom](#) (2026-06-21 04:56)

As more fans from overseas travel to South Korea for concerts, merchandise and other cultural experiences, police data has shown a sharp rise in fraud reports filed by foreign nationals. According to data from the National Police Agency released Sunday, the number of foreign nationals who reported fraud in Korea nearly quadrupled in a year, rising from 5,307 cases in 2023 to 19,907 last year. Some cases have involved Korean cultural content, including K-pop merchandise and concert ticket purchases

- [Why Korea keeps returning to soccer every four years](#) (2026-06-21 04:45)

Every four years, something shifts — almost overnight. People who rarely follow soccer start checking kickoff times. Office chatter turns from deadlines to defensive lines. Group chats fill with lineup predictions, referee complaints and late-night watch plans. This is the pull of the FIFA World Cup. Arguably the world's biggest single-sport spectacle, it has a way of transforming South Korea every four years. Streets grow louder, emotions run higher and a shared sense of national pride takes over

- [Le Sserafim, Illit, Katseye's 'Iconic By Mistake' breaks into UK chart](#) (2026-06-21 04:26)

The collaboration single "Iconic By Mistake" by Le Sserafim, Illit and Katseye continues to gain traction globally, entering the UK Official Singles Chart and posting strong performances on Spotify's worldwide rankings. According to the latest UK Official Charts released Friday, "Iconic By Mistake" debuted at No. 22 on the Official Singles Top 100 chart for the week of June 19-25. The chart combines audio and video streaming, downloads and physical sales into a single ranking system. Songs that

- [Sung Si-kyung, Raisa release first duet ballad 'Heaven Knows'](#) (2026-06-21 04:25)

Korean ballad singer Sung Si-kyung teamed up with Indonesian singer Raisa for their first duet, "Heaven Knows," a romantic ballad released Friday. According to E2W Group, the collaboration brings together two artists from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds whose voices help convey the song's message of love and hope with sincerity. The track marks another first: Raisa performs in Korean for the first time, while Sung delivers English lyrics. The duet follows a social media collaboration

- [Samsung sharpens HBM strategy at global meeting](#) (2026-06-21 03:54)

Samsung Electronics reviewed plans to expand high-bandwidth memory shipments and secure long-term supply agreements with major AI customers at its global strategy meeting last week, as tightening memory supply and soaring AI demand boost the strategic importance of HBM, industry sources said Sunday. Samsung's Device Solutions division, which oversees its semiconductor business, held its session Thursday under Vice Chairman Jun Young-hyun. According to the sources, executives discussed supply plans

- [Investors weigh cost of Korea's inclusive finance push](#) (2026-06-21 03:46)

Korean banks are ramping up debt relief for troubled borrowers as Seoul intensifies its inclusive-finance push, prompting closer scrutiny of how far lenders will be expected to shoulder social policy objectives. According to industry estimates Sunday, the five major commercial banks carried out over 4,600 in-house debt restructuring cases in the first four months of this year, nearly quadruple the 1,180 cases recorded a year earlier. The amount more than tripled to 35.9 billion won (\$23.5 million).

- [Bolivia declares emergency to clear gridlock](#) (2026-06-21 03:40)

Tensions soared in Bolivia Saturday after President Rodrigo Paz declared a state of emergency, allowing security forces to begin clearing protesters' roadblocks that have paralyzed the economy over the past 50 days and left at least 14 people dead. In an early morning address, Paz said the anti-government blockades were no longer a social protest but an organized attempt to destabilize Bolivia's democracy. "There comes a moment when failing to act ceases to be prudence and becomes irresponsible."

- [Albanian protests against resort swell](#) (2026-06-21 03:40)

Thousands of protesters marched through Albania's capital Saturday, one of the largest demonstrations since rallies against a planned resort linked to US President Donald Trump's family began almost three weeks ago. Since late May, protesters have gathered every evening to oppose the construction of a luxury hotel linked to Trump's daughter Ivanka and her husband Jared Kushner, planned in a nature reserve on the Balkan nation's coast. Opposition to the development has become a flash point for frustration.

- [Russia frees 24 Filipinos after Marcos talks with Putin](#) (2026-06-21 03:38)

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Russia has freed 24 Filipinos who were detained for months without charges in a Siberian city, after Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. raised concern for them in a meeting with President Vladimir Putin, Philippine officials said Saturday. The 24 arrived in Manila aboard two flights early Sunday, and the first batch was welcomed by Philippine Foreign Secretary Theresa Lazaro, who accompanied Marcos in his talks with Putin Wednesday in the Russian city of Kazan,

- [Israeli strikes in Gaza kill 6, including 2 children and an Al Jazeera cameraman](#) (2026-06-21 03:35)

Israeli strikes in Gaza on Saturday killed at least six people, including two children and a cameraman with broadcaster Al Jazeera, according to Palestinian health officials. Despite an October ceasefire between Israel and the militant group Hamas, the enclave has seen near-daily Israeli attacks that have killed over 1,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. The first strike on Saturday hit an apartment in Gaza City around 2 a.m., according to the ministry. At the site, an Associated Press reporter said,

- [Ukraine's Zelenskyy says he returned state decoration to Polish president](#) (2026-06-21 03:32)

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Saturday he had returned a state decoration a day after Poland's president said he had stripped him of the award in connection with a dispute over events in World War II. Three former Ukrainian presidents said they were also returning their state awards to Poland, as did other senior officials. Polish President Karol Nawrocki said Friday he had revoked the Order of the White Eagle awarded to Zelenskyy in 2023 after the Ukrainian president renamed a m

- [Report says UK PM Starmer ready to quit, but source says he is still focused on the job](#) (2026-06-21 03:28)

Britain's Observer newspaper said Prime Minister Keir Starmer was expected to resign this week and set out a timetable for his departure, though a government source said Starmer remained focused on getting on with the job of governing. The threat to Starmer's position, which has been building for months, increased sharply Friday when his rival Andy Burnham won a seat in parliament that would allow him to launch a formal leadership challenge. The Observer report said Starmer was discussing the m

- [Lee Jung-hoo continues surge, eyes MLB batting lead](#) (2026-06-21 03:03)

Lee Jung-hoo of the San Francisco Giants continued his strong offensive form on Friday, collecting two doubles and moving within striking distance of the National League batting lead. Lee started in right field and batted fifth as San Francisco visited the Miami Marlins at LoanDepot Park, finishing 2-for-4 with two runs scored. The two-hit outing lifted Lee's season batting average to .331 (86-for-260), while his on-base plus slugging percentage rose to .823. League batting leader Otto Lopez, me

- [Chun In-gee tied for fourth place at Meijer LPGA](#) (2026-06-21 03:03)

Chun In-gee climbed into a tie for fourth place at the Meijer LPGA Classic, putting herself in contention for the title. Chun carded a 7-under-par 65 in the third round at Blythefield Country Club on Saturday, recording seven birdies and no bogeys. She moved to a 10-under total of 206 after three rounds. Chun had been tied for 36th place after the second round but surged up the leaderboard with a strong performance in the third round. Chun, who won the 2022 KPMG Women's PGA Championship, had pre

- [Korean biotech eyes deals, partnerships at BIO 2026](#) (2026-06-21 02:34)

A flock of Korean biopharmaceutical and biotechnology companies are heading to San Diego this week with their eyes on expanding global partnerships and securing contracts at the BIO International Convention, one of the world's largest exhibitions in the biotechnology industry. Samsung Biologics, which will take part in the annual event for the 14th consecutive year, said it will once again set up a large booth with a floor space of 140 square meters at the center stage. The Korean contract devel

- [Court to deliver ruling on ex-first lady on jobs-for-gifts bribery charges](#) (2026-06-21 02:29)

A Seoul court is set to deliver its verdict this week on former first lady Kim Keon Hee, who has been indicted over receiving luxury gifts in exchange for job appointments and business favors. The Seoul Central District Court will hold the sentencing hearing for Kim, the wife of ousted former President Yoon Suk Yeol, on charges of violating a law on the acceptance of bribes for mediation, at 2 p.m. Friday, according to judicial sources Sunday. Kim was indicted in December on charges of receiving

- [Can Seoul afford free bus rides for seniors?](#) (2026-06-21 02:27)

Seoul is considering free or subsidized bus rides for senior citizens aged 70 and older, expanding the decades-old system of free subway use for those aged 65 and above. The proposal cleared a Seoul Metropolitan Council committee on June 15 and is scheduled for a vote at the council's plenary session on Wednesday. The subsidy would cover city and neighborhood buses, but exclude express and intercity buses. But the plan has drawn opposition from those concerned about the financial burden on a cit

- [South Korea claims two bronze medals in Guiyang](#) (2026-06-21 02:26)

The South Korean national boxing team won two bronze medals at the semifinals of the Boxing World Cup, held in Guiyang, China, Saturday. Shin Jae-yong and Kim Min-seong were both defeated in their semifinal matches, finishing the tournament with bronze medals in their respective weight classes. Competing in the men's 55kg division, Shin defeated Japan's Yamaguchi Rui by a 5-0 unanimous decision in the quarterfinals, controlling the bout throughout to advance to the semifinals. The result drew at

- [Samsung, SK hynix chip majors top SNU in admissions](#) (2026-06-21 02:25)

Semiconductor majors run jointly with Samsung Electronics and SK hynix have overtaken Seoul National University's natural sciences programs in 2026's entrance scores. The shift puts a guaranteed chip-industry job, for the first time at this scale, in the same tier as the two destinations Korea's top science students have long prized above all others: medical school and Seoul National itself. The five contract departments posted an average entrance cutoff of 96.2 in the 2026 regular admissions cy

- [Won-dollar rate averages 1,520 through June, reaching crisis-era levels](#) (2026-06-21 02:14)

South Korea's currency has averaged above 1,520 won per US dollar in June, the highest level since February 1998, extending a period of currency weakness associated with times of crisis. According to the Bank of Korea's Economic Statistics System, the won-dollar exchange rate averaged 1,521.4 won in daytime trading through June 19. Compared with historical monthly averages, that is the highest level since February 1998, when the exchange rate averaged 1,626.7 won during the Asian financial crisi

- [McIlroy fades at the US Open with 5 bogeys late after a three-hole run of birdies](#)

(2026-06-21 01:42)

SOUTHAMPTON, New York (AP) -- When Rory McIlroy knocked in a 66-footer during a run of three straight birdies Saturday, he looked set for a big move at the US Open. The magic was quickly gone. And once his miserable back nine was over, McIlroy was, too. The Masters champion made five bogeys and shot 40 on the back, finishing with a 3-over 73 that severely damaged, if not entirely ended, his chances of winning. It was a stunning collapse after his birdies on Nos. 5-7 -- the first time he made thr

- [Samsung reviews HBM sales strategy, long-term agreements with key customers](#)

(2026-06-21 01:39)

Samsung Electronics Co. discussed ways to expand sales of high-bandwidth memory chips and reviewed long-term supply agreements with major customers at a recent global strategy meeting, industry sources said Sunday. The world's largest memory chipmaker held its semiannual global strategy meeting last week to review first-half performance and outline business strategies for the second half of the year, amid surging demand for high-performance chips used in artificial intelligence applications. Dur

- [Jing Yan maintains lead in the wind-swept Meijer LPGA Classic](#) (2026-06-21 01:27)

BELMONT, Michigan (AP) -- Jing Yan shot a 4-under 68 on Saturday to maintain a one-shot lead in the wind-swept Meijer LPGA Classic, the final event before the major KPMG Women's PGA Championship next week at Hazeltine. Yan birdied the par-5 18th to cap her second straight bogey-free round at Blythefield Country Club. Winless on the LPGA Tour, the 30-year-old American had a 14-under 202 total. "I just tried to enjoy it," Yan said. "I knew I was going to be a little bit nervous not having really b

- [Lee appoints new senior secretaries for communication, civil affairs](#) (2026-06-21 01:23)

President Lee Jae Myung has appointed new senior presidential secretaries for communications and civil affairs, along with three other aides, the presidential chief of staff said Sunday. Seong Ghi-hong, former CEO and president of Yonhap News Agency, was appointed presidential secretary for public relations and communication, while Han Chan-sik, a former senior prosecutor, was named presidential secretary for civil affairs, the official said. Kim Kyoung-ja, former vice chairperson of the country

- [Household lending at banks jumps in Q2 on leveraged investing, mortgage demand](#)

(2026-06-21 01:07)

Household loans at major South Korean banks increased in the second quarter as borrowers took out more credit for stock investments and to finance home purchases, data showed Sunday. Outstanding household loans at five major lenders -- KB Kookmin Bank, Shinhan Bank, Hana Bank, Woori Bank and NH Nonghyup Bank -- stood at 646.19 trillion won (\$421.5 billion) as of Thursday, up 824.1 billion won from the end of last year, according to data compiled by

the banks. Household loan balances had fallen b

- [Sports analytics firm gives S. Korea 90% chance of reaching knockouts](#) (2026-06-21 00:26)

With one match remaining in the group stage at the ongoing FIFA World Cup, South Korea have more than a 90 percent chance of reaching the next knockout phase, a sports analytics firm said Saturday. According to Opta Analyst, South Korea have a 91.08 percent chance to advance to the round of 32. In Group A, South Korea sit in second place with three points, after a 2-1 win over Czechia and a 1-0 loss to Mexico. With six points, Mexico have already clinched the top spot in Group A and thus a place

- [How Korean bedding became a coveted souvenir](#) (2026-06-20 07:00)

At Seoul's Gwangjang Market, a destination long associated with textiles and fabrics, a growing number of foreign visitors are shopping for something unexpected: Korean bedding. Inside one bedding store, stacks of colorful quilts and blankets lined the walls while recently purchased items were being vacuum-packed for travelers preparing to take them overseas. "About 70 percent of our customers are foreigners these days," said the owner, surnamed Kim, of the bedding store at the market. "Many for

- [5 things to look out for at Seoul Book Fair](#) (2026-06-20 07:00)

This year's Seoul International Book Fair is shaping up to be another bustling edition, with online tickets selling out ahead of its June 24 opening. At peak times, online queues reportedly reached nearly 30,000 people. The fair runs June 24-28 at Coex in Seoul and brings together about 530 publishers, literary organizations and agencies from 18 countries, including South Korea. In the international exhibition hall, around 180 publishers and organizations from 17 countries, including France, Ger

- [To the land's end, through stone and clouds: Walking Korea's southwest coast](#) (2026-06-20 07:00)

GANGJIN, HAENAM, MOKPO, SOUTH JEOLLA PROVINCE — Have you walked any of the Korea Dulle Trail, the 4,500-kilometer route that rings the country's coastline and border? The trail strings together four routes: the Haeparang Trail along the east coast, the Namparang Trail across the south, the Seohaerang Trail up the west coast and the DMZ Peace Trail near the northern border. At 5.7 times the length of Spain's Camino de Santiago, it would take about eight months to finish at a pace of 20 kilometers

- [\[Weekender\] How squishies and nostalgia revived Seoul's old markets](#) (2026-06-20 07:00)

The line outside a toy wholesaler in Seoul's Dongdaemun Stationery and Toy Street on a recent weekend looked more like one outside a trendy cafe than a decades-old market. Shoppers crowded around bins of squishies, comparing textures and squeezing them before making their choice. Nearby, others tested clicking keycap toys and cracked the wax shells of stress balls, delighting in the crisp popping sound. Most of the customers were not children.

They were adults in their 20s and 30s. Just a few su

- [Ulleungdo, Dokdo offer cliffs, history and Korea's wild eastern edge](#) (2026-06-20 07:00)

ULLEUNG, North Gyeongsang Province — After a six-hour overnight boat ride from Pohang across some of South Korea's roughest waters, the first glimpse of Ulleungdo comes quietly into view: the sun rising over a misty sea, lighting up sheer cliffs, deep-blue waters and vegetation that feels almost alien. "We don't run boats in the winter because of high waves and difficult sea conditions," said an executive at Ulleung Cruise, which operates the only multistory ship on the Pohang-Ulleung route. "It

- [Tour bus overturns near DMZ border lookout, injuring 10](#) (2026-06-20 06:01)

A tour bus overturned near a DMZ observation post in Paju, northwest of Seoul, on Saturday, injuring 10 people. The 45-seat bus was carrying 21 tourists when it tipped over around 11:27 a.m. on a road in Paju's Jangdan area, police said. It was headed to the Dora Observatory, a popular lookout where visitors can peer across the heavily fortified border into North Korea. The bus toppled onto the left side of the road just before reaching a parking lot partway up to the lookout, according to polic

- [Nurse dies after being found unresponsive at Anyang clinic](#) (2026-06-20 05:43)

A nurse who was found unresponsive Friday at a fertility clinic in Anyang, south of Seoul, has died, police said Saturday. The woman, reportedly in her 20s, was found by a co-worker around 4 p.m. Friday in a storage room at the clinic in the city's Dongan District, local authorities said. She was given CPR at the scene and was later pronounced dead at a hospital. She had no apparent injuries, police said. An investigation into the cause of death is underway.

- [Ex-vice Gyeonggi gov. found guilty of perjury over 'drinking party' claims](#) (2026-06-20 02:57)

A regional court on Saturday found a former vice governor of Gyeonggi Province guilty of perjury for falsely testifying to parliament that he was provided with alcohol and food during a prosecution interrogation. The Suwon District Court sentenced Lee Hwa-young to four months in prison, convicting him of violating the law on testimony before the National Assembly, according to the court document. The case was tried before a seven-panel citizen jury. Lee was indicted on perjury charges after he t

- [Rain to continue nationwide through evening after heavy downpours](#) (2026-06-20 02:51)

Rain is expected to continue across South Korea through Saturday evening after heavy downpours drenched much of the country overnight, weather officials said. Between 6 p.m. Friday and 6 a.m. Saturday, accumulated precipitation reached 137.5 millimeters on Halla Mountain on Jeju Island, 94 mm in Sangju, 88 mm in Gongju and 60.6 mm in Seoul, according to the Korea Meteorological Administration (KMA). Rain is expected to continue until Sunday morning in mountainous and coastal areas of Gangwon Pro

- [Who needs a nightclub?](#) (2026-06-20 02:36)

Early Saturday morning, while most of the city was still asleep, a crowd was already on its feet and dancing — stone-cold sober, no booze in sight. A social club centered on early-morning gatherings, the Seoul Morning Coffee Club has built a following by upending the city's after-hours drinking culture, swapping the first round of shots for the first sip of an Americano. Founded by Park Jae-hyun, the club draws a mixed crowd — teenagers, foreign residents, even dancers in their 60s and 70s — to

- [RM is now the face of Korea's national museum](#) (2026-06-20 02:03)

BTS leader RM has a new title to add to a growing list of art-world credits: global ambassador for the National Museum of Korea. The country's flagship museum announced the appointment Saturday, citing the singer's longtime interest in Korean traditional culture and art. It marks the first time the Seoul-based institution has named a global ambassador under its banner. A serious collector in his own right, RM has been an active supporter of Korean art and cultural heritage. The rapper, whose rea

- [How a Korean 'Turandot' traveled to Europe and came home a decade on](#) (2026-06-19 13:31)

When the 20th Daegu International Musical Festival raised its curtains on June 19, it opened with a homecoming. The festival's flagship production — a musical reimagining of Giacomo Puccini's opera "Turandot" — returned to the stage for the first time in seven years, this time refracted through the European staging it inspired abroad. DIMF first premiered "Turandot" in 2011, as the opening work of the festival's fifth edition. The reception was bruising. "When we first unveiled 'Turandot' 15 yea

- [Lee calls inflation top policy priority, urges 'extraordinary' measures to stabilize prices](#) (2026-06-19 13:19)

President Lee Jae Myung said Friday inflation is the government's most urgent policy challenge and urged officials to devise extraordinary measures to stabilize prices and ease the burden on households. Lee made the call during a meeting with senior presidential aides, noting it will take a long time before global energy supply chains return to normal and the Strait of Hormuz is fully reopened despite a ceasefire deal between the United States and Iran aimed at ending the monthslong war in the M

- [Lee says reform of election watchdog needed through constitutional amendment if necessary](#) (2026-06-19 10:36)

President Lee Jae Myung said Friday that a fundamental reform of the state election watchdog is needed through a constitutional amendment if necessary, after the institution exposed serious flaws in its handling of the recent local elections. Lee made the remark during a press briefing at Cheong Wa Dae, referring to how the National Election Commission (NEC) did not prepare

enough ballot papers for the June 3 local elections, disrupting voting at 26 polling stations. "The NEC issue is really abs

- [Unification ministry vows to find 'phased, viable' path to denuclearization](#) (2026-06-19 10:36)

South Korea's Unification ministry said Friday its stance on the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula remains unchanged, vowing to seek "phased, viable" solutions. The ministry made the remarks a day after North Korea reiterated the stance of not giving up its nuclear weapons. "The government has no change in its position to seek phased, viable solutions for denuclearization, which are mutually acceptable based on the reality," Chang Yoon-jeong, deputy spokesperson at the ministry, told a pr

- [Army to allow long-term service transition for more noncommissioned officers](#) (2026-06-19 10:36)

The Army said Friday it will allow qualified noncommissioned officers to transition to long-term service starting in 2028 in a personnel overhaul plan in an effort to help enhance their job security. The move comes as the Army has been struggling to attract noncommissioned officers, who make up the backbone of the military, amid a shrinking number of newly appointed officers and the country's population decline. The Army previously only selected the top 20 percent of noncommissioned officers who

- [Police investigating alleged break-in at ballot-counting center](#) (2026-06-19 10:36)

Police are investigating an alleged break-in at a ballot-counting center amid weekslong protests calling for a rerun of the June 3 local elections, sports officials said Friday. According to the Korea Sports Industry Development (KSID), which manages the Olympic Park Handball Gymnasium that was used as a vote-counting center for the elections, three unidentified individuals broke into the facility on June 7 after damaging a basement door lock. The KSID reported the case to the police, along with

- [Korean Air says Asiana integration costs could reach 1 tln won, offset by 2028](#) (2026-06-19 10:36)

Korean Air Co. said Friday the cost of integrating Asiana Airlines Inc. could reach as much as 1 trillion won (\$654 million), with synergies from the merger expected to offset the expense as early as the end of 2028. During an investor relations session in Seoul, the flag carrier said an analysis of its post-merger integration strategy estimated integration costs at between 900 billion won and 1 trillion won, while annual synergy effects from the merger are projected to reach around 300 billion

- [JoongAng Ilbo applies for debt workout program, pledges restructuring efforts](#) (2026-06-19 10:36)

Major newspaper JoongAng Ilbo Co. said Friday it had formally applied for a creditor-led debt workout program amid liquidity problems across its parent group. The company said it had officially filed for a debt restructuring program with its main creditor bank, Hana Bank, after failing to honor a request for the early repayment of 22 billion won (\$14.38 million) worth of commercial paper. "We will continue consultations with creditor banks, and faithfully prepare effective debt restructuring and

- ['Fail Better' explores reality, illusion, art of misalignment](#) (2026-06-19 09:28)

At first glance, artists Yee Soo-kyung and Yangachi appear to inhabit entirely different artistic worlds: One works with roses, crowns and religious iconography, while the other investigates radio frequencies, magnetic fields and invisible infrastructures. Yet "Fail Better," the exhibition at Forum and Space in Seoul held from April 30 to June 13, brought the two together in an exploration of reality, perception and the uncertain future shaped by rapidly evolving technologies. Curated by Kim Yoo

- [Margin debt hits record as retail investors pile into Samsung Electronics, SK hynix](#) (2026-06-19 09:19)

Debt-funded stock investing by South Korean retail investors is showing signs of overheating as the Kospi climbed to a record 9,000 mark, pushing outstanding margin loans to a record 38 trillion won (\$24.8 billion) and prompting some brokerages to tighten margin lending rules. According to the Korea Financial Investment Association, outstanding margin loans in the domestic stock market stood at 38 trillion won as of Thursday, up 200 billion won from a day earlier. The balance has increased by mo

- [US keeps North Korea denuclearization high on agenda, official says](#) (2026-06-19 08:52)

The Trump administration continues to place North Korea's denuclearization high on its policy agenda, a senior US State Department official said Thursday. David Wilezol, deputy assistant secretary of state for Korea, Japan and Mongolia, said at a forum in Washington that discussions on North Korea within the administration remain centered on denuclearization. He cited a recent fact sheet issued after a summit between US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping, as well as a joint

- [Seoul expects favorable EU response on steel quota concerns: Lee](#) (2026-06-19 08:50)

President Lee Jae Myung said Friday that Seoul expects a favorable outcome from the European Union over concerns about the bloc's planned steel tariff-rate quota measures, which could affect South Korea's steel industry. Lee said he raised the issue directly with EU leaders during his recent visit to Brussels. Earlier, a senior presidential official said Brussels had responded that it would take Seoul's request into full consideration. He made the remarks during a briefing at Cheong Wa Dae on th

- [Lee highlights US role in breaking North Korea deadlock](#) (2026-06-19 08:21)

President Lee Jae Myung said Friday he told US President Donald Trump that Washington needs to play a central role in reviving diplomacy with North Korea. Stressing the need to first freeze Pyongyang's nuclear and missile development, he explained that leaving the current deadlock unresolved would only allow the North to advance its weapons programs, making future talks more difficult. Lee made the remarks during a press briefing at Cheong Wa Dae in Seoul, a day after returning from his 10-day t

- [Male K-pop acts revive early-2000s dance-pop in latest wave of releases](#) (2026-06-19 08:02)

A growing number of K-pop boy groups are looking to the dance-pop's past as they shape its future. In recent years, many idol releases have been built around short-form-friendly hooks, easy-listening melodies and highly segmented song structures optimized for social media consumption. But some of K-pop's leading male acts are increasingly embracing a more traditional approach to dance-pop — one characterized by strong melodic lines, dramatic song progression and clear verse-chorus-bridge structu

- [Lee asks Pope Leo XIV to visit South Korea, DMZ for World Youth Day](#) (2026-06-19 07:53)

President Lee Jae Myung said Friday that he asked Pope Leo XIV to visit South Korea for World Youth Day 2027 and suggested that the pontiff consider visiting the Demilitarized Zone during the trip. Speaking about his visit to the Vatican, Lee said he had paid a courtesy call on the pope and pledged cooperation with the Holy See for the successful hosting of the Catholic youth event, which is scheduled to take place in Seoul from Aug. 3-8, 2027. Lee visited the Vatican on June 14 and 15, and met

- [Assembly speaker urges diplomatic efforts to ensure safe return of S. Korean vessels from Hormuz Strait](#) (2026-06-19 07:46)

National Assembly Speaker Cho Jeong-sik called for all-out diplomatic measures Friday to ensure the safe return of South Korean vessels stranded in the Strait of Hormuz, following a ceasefire deal reached between the United States and Iran earlier this week. Cho made the call in a meeting at his office with Foreign Minister Cho Hyun, saying "the war in the Middle East has fortunately come to a halt after 106 days." "I urge you to take all possible diplomatic measures to ensure that the 24 vessel

- [JoongAng Ilbo enters first default status after missing repayment](#) (2026-06-19 07:39)

South Korean newspaper publisher JoongAng Ilbo was classified as being in first default after failing to meet an early repayment demand on 22 billion won (\$14.4 million) worth of commercial paper, according to a regulatory filing Friday. According to the Financial Supervisory Service's electronic disclosure system on Friday, JoongAng Ilbo said in a filing that it failed to make payment on Thursday due to insufficient deposits in its account. "A creditor presented the note for payment on June 18,

- [Kumho Tire ramps up Europe push at Tire Cologne 2026](#) (2026-06-19 07:38)

Kumho Tire highlighted its latest premium and future mobility tire technologies at the world's largest tire exhibition in Germany, underscoring its push to expand in the European market. The South Korean tiremaker participated in The Tire Cologne 2026 from June 9-11 in Cologne, Germany, Kumho said Friday. Under this year's theme "Innovation to Build the Future," Kumho presented a comprehensive lineup of products, including the ultra high performance tires ECSTA Sport S, ECSTA Sport, and ECSTA HS

- [Canada submarine bid hopeful but remains unclear: Lee](#) (2026-06-19 07:32)

South Korea's bid for Canada's submarine project remains unclear, President Lee Jae Myung said Friday. "I met the German chancellor first, and then met the Canadian prime minister, but (I) could not get a sense about the outcome (of the bid)," Lee said during a briefing on his trip to Europe. Lee met with German Chancellor Friedrich Merz on the sidelines of the Group of Seven summit held in Evian-les-Bains, France, on Tuesday, and then with Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney later that day. "We

- [World Cup's No. 2 dribbler Lee Kang-in stands out in defeat](#) (2026-06-19 07:21)

If you watched South Korea's match against Mexico, one moment probably stood out. Young player Lee Kang-in made a feisty "yapping" hand gesture at an opponent, seemingly telling him to stop talking. South Korea came away empty-handed against Mexico in a 1-0 loss, but Lee's standout performance and fiery attitude gave Korean fans a reason for optimism ahead of the team's crucial final Group A match against South Africa next week. With the top spot in Group A potentially on the line, the two sides

- [Seoul stocks take breather after 6-day rise on profit-taking](#) (2026-06-19 07:20)

Seoul stocks took a breather Friday after enjoying a surge for the past six consecutive days, as investors cashed out their gains built on an artificial intelligence boom amid revived Iran uncertainties. After choppy trading, the benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index fell 11.42 points, or 0.13 percent, to 9,052.42 after rising as high as 9,385.59. Trade volume was heavy at 511.1 million shares worth 65.3 trillion won (\$42.7 billion). Losers outnumbered winners 115 to 784. Retail investors

- [Step into this season's styling point: Open-toe socks and leg warmers](#) (2026-06-19 07:00)

Bare feet feel too plain. Full socks feel too warm. For shoppers caught between the two this summer, retailers say the answer is open-toe socks. The cropped socks, which cover the top of the foot but leave the toes exposed, are gaining ground alongside flip-flop socks and sheer leg warmers this summer. An early heat wave has brought the season for sandals and flip-flops forward, lifting demand for the items. Summer shoes such as mules, slides, and flip-flops saw sales rise 80 percent from May 31

- [Trump expressed regret for not resolving NK nuke issue sooner: Lee](#) (2026-06-19 06:52)

US President Donald Trump expressed regret for not taking steps before North Korea became effectively a nuclear-armed state, South Korean President Lee Jae Myung said Friday. “(Trump said) it is regrettable that measures were not taken before North Korea effectively possessed nuclear weapons,” Lee said during a briefing on his trip to Europe. Lee and Trump met during the gala dinner for the G7 summit in Evian-les-Bains, France. According to Lee, Trump also told him that he had posted the photogr

- [Ex-defense minister gets 3 years for leaking military secrets tied to martial law bid](#) (2026-06-19 06:47)

Former Defense Minister Kim Yong-hyun was sentenced to three years in prison Friday for leaking a list of military intelligence personnel, in a case tied to former President Yoon Suk Yeol’s botched martial law bid in 2024. The Seoul Central District Court found Kim guilty of leaking personal information to former Defense Intelligence Command chief Noh Sang-won — who had been dishonorably discharged six years earlier — after conspiring with then-Defense Intelligence Commander Moon Sang-ho and oth

- [Gov't to seek dismissal of heads of 2 public firms following review](#) (2026-06-19 06:37)

South Korea will seek to replace the heads of two public institutions following a regular performance review while issuing warnings to those whose organizations experienced fatal workplace accidents, the finance ministry said Friday. The Ministry of Finance and Economy decided to seek the removal of the heads of the Government Employees Pension Service and the Korea International Cooperation Agency, based on the evaluations made by the Ownership Steering Committee, tasked with assessing the perf

- [For Korean singles, cleanliness matters most in a future spouse](#) (2026-06-19 06:21)

When it comes to choosing a future spouse, cleanliness may matter more than a stable job or a healthy bank account for many young South Koreans, a survey indicated Friday. Some 32.5 percent of the respondents said cleanliness is the most important lifestyle factor they consider in a potential marriage partner, according to a recent survey by marriage agency Gayeon. The survey was conducted on 163 unmarried adults, 72 men and 91 women. Attitudes toward sharing household chores came next at 26.4 p

- [ETF trading tops 30% of market turnover on strong retail demand](#) (2026-06-19 06:19)

Exchange-traded funds now account for 30 percent of trading value on the Korean stock market, driven by surging demand from retail investors, according to a report by the Korea Investment Securities on Friday. Retail investors were net buyers of 64.3 trillion won (\$41.9 billion) worth of listed shares and 55.3 trillion won worth of ETFs so far this year. By contrast, foreign investors were net sellers of about 111 trillion won worth of listed shares and ETFs combined. The scale of retail investo

- [L'Oreal, OpenAI team up to advance AI-powered beauty](#) (2026-06-19 06:05)

L'Oreal Group said Friday it had unveiled a strategic collaboration with OpenAI at Europe's Viva Technology conference on Thursday, aiming to use artificial intelligence across beauty shopping, research and marketing. According to the French beauty giant, the collaboration will center on two areas: AI-powered consumer experiences and accelerating innovation across research, product development and content creation. Consumers will be able to discover and interact with beauty products more natural

- [Intel hires former SK hynix chief Lee Seok-hee to lead advanced packaging](#) (2026-06-19 06:04)

Intel has appointed former CEO of SK hynix and SK On Lee Seok-hee as a senior vice president in its foundry business, amid the US chipmaker's push into advanced semiconductor packaging. Intel announced Thursday that Lee will oversee advanced packaging, system integration, back-end technology development and back-end manufacturing at Intel Foundry. He will report directly to CEO Lip-Bu Tan. Intel Foundry is establishing advanced packaging as a focused business with dedicated leadership, a directi

- [Not over yet. South Korea's route to round of 32 explained](#) (2026-06-19 05:52)

South Korea's 1-0 defeat to Mexico on Thursday may have ended their perfect start to the World Cup, but it has done little to dent the team's chances of reaching the knockout stage. With only one group-stage match left against South Africa on Wednesday at 7 p.m., the Taeguk Warriors have three points from two games after opening their campaign with a 2-1 victory over Czechia, leaving them in contention for a place in the round of 32. Mexico's second straight win sealed first place in Group A, I

- [Lee asks Pope Leo XIV to visit N. Korea](#) (2026-06-19 05:47)

President Lee Jae Myung said Friday that he asked Pope Leo XIV to visit North Korea and the Demilitarized Zone, a buffer area between the two Koreas, when he met with the pope this week at the Vatican. Lee unveiled the request at a press briefing on the results of his 10-day trip to Europe that ended Thursday. Lee met with the pope Monday at the Vatican. The president said that Pope Leo XIV responded that he would actively pursue the proposal. (Yonhap)

- [S. Korean goalkeeper shoulders blame for costly miscue](#) (2026-06-19 05:42)

South Korean goalkeeper Kim Seung-gyu pointed a finger at himself for a miscue that cost his team in a 1-0 loss to Mexico in Group A action at the FIFA World Cup on Thursday. The match's lone goal, scored by Luis Romo in the 50th minute at Estadio Guadalajara in Zapopan, came off a preventable misplay inside the South Korean box. Kim jumped to grab an innocuous header by Raul Jimenez but then crashed into the back of his own defender Lee Gi-hyuk on his way down. The ball was poked loose toward R

- [Police confirm human leg found in Incheon was mistakenly discarded by hospital](#) (2026-06-19 05:34)

Incheon police officials said Friday that a leg found last week at a recycling center had been mistakenly disposed of as recyclable waste by a local hospital, confirming a report submitted by hospital staff two days earlier. Officials at the Incheon Yeonsu Police Station told reporters that the leg had been amputated from a female patient in her 80s at a nursing hospital in Jung-gu, Incheon. The leg was initially categorized as medical waste, but a member of the cleaning staff in their 60s disca

- [Riize earns 4th million-seller with 2nd EP ‘II’](#) (2026-06-19 05:09)

Riize has added another million-selling album to its growing catalog, as the group’s second EP, “II,” surpassed 1 million copies sold within four days of its release. According to SM Entertainment on Friday, Hanteo Chart revealed the day before that the six-member group’s latest release exceeded 1 million cumulative sales, marking the fourth million-selling album of Riize’s career. The achievement follows Riize’s 2023 debut single, “Get A Guitar,” their first 2024 EP “Riizing” and the group’s fi

- [North Korea says treaty with Russia ‘essential legal weapon’ for stability](#) (2026-06-19 04:57)

North Korea has reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening cooperation with Russia, describing their treaty on a “comprehensive strategic partnership” as an “essential legal weapon” for securing strategic stability, as the two countries marked the second anniversary of the pact. In an article titled “The power of the DPRK-Russia alliance is being demonstrated more strongly,” Rodong Sinmun on Friday said that their ties have strengthened through the treaty that provides “a powerful legal framewor

- [Otoki expands export capacity with Ulsan logistics hub](#) (2026-06-19 04:48)

South Korean food company Otoki said Friday it has completed a new automated logistics center in southeastern Korea that is designed to strengthen its supply chain as international demand for its products grows. The five-story facility in Ulsan can store nearly 10,000 pallets and is built to handle the full logistics process — inbound and outbound handling, labeling and order picking — with warehouse management and control systems intended to reduce processing times and improve operational accur

- [Navy drills near NLL, major ports to bolster combat readiness](#) (2026-06-19 04:36)

South Korea’s Navy concluded a four-day fleet combat drill Friday in the Yellow Sea and southern waters, involving about 20 surface vessels and air assets. The drills are aimed at sharpening combat readiness near the Northern Limit Line and around major ports. The Yellow Sea, which borders North Korea and China, has long been a sensitive maritime theater for South Korea, as it includes the de facto inter-Korean sea border repeatedly challenged by Pyongyang: the Northern Limit Line. The area has

- ['The Legend of Kitchen Soldier' director denies alleged comments on dating rumors involving main cast, including Park Ji-hoon](#) (2026-06-19 04:17)

Jo Nam-hyung, the director behind hit drama "The Legend of Kitchen Soldier," has publicly denied rumors that he made comments about alleged romances between cast members Park Ji-hoon and Jeon So-young, and Lee Sang-yi and Han Dong-hee. Jo addressed the controversy on social media, writing, "Stop fabricating things. I have never sent a DM (direct message)." His statement came after a social media user on Thursday shared what they said was a screenshot of a private conversation with the director.

- [Can a hotel bring you good fortune? Some Koreans think this one can.](#) (2026-06-19 04:08)

People preparing for a crucial job interview, launching a business or planning a wedding have been visiting one hotel in particular. Grand Hyatt Seoul has drawn attention on social media as a spot said to bring good fortune, with some posts drawing hundreds of thousands of views. One post went much further. A user who visited after hearing that a cup of tea in the hotel lounge brings luck with work posted a video saying four work offers came in afterward. The post drew more than 3 million views

- [When AI remakes images, photographers turn back to reality at Kukje Gallery](#) (2026-06-19 04:08)

What can photography still do in the age of artificial intelligence? Two exhibitions at Kukje Gallery offer a chance to contemplate the question, bringing together nine Korean photographers and the late American photographer Robert Mapplethorpe in a broad exploration of photography's enduring relationship with form, observation and material reality. The centerpiece is "Objects in Oscillation," a group exhibition curated by acclaimed Korean photographer Koo Bohn-chang, featuring works by nine con

- [Hyundai Rotem secures electric train maintenance project in Morocco](#) (2026-06-19 04:06)

Hyundai Rotem signed an agreement with Moroccan national railway operator ONCF on electric train maintenance on Thursday. Hyundai Rotem CEO Lee Yong-bae and ONCF Director General Mohamed Rabie Khlie participated in a signing ceremony held on the same day in Rabat, Morocco. Prior to the agreement, Hyundai Rotem had secured a 2 trillion won (\$1.3 billion) electric car supply project from ONCF in February. The cars supplied by Hyundai will connect key areas in Morocco to Casablanca ahead of the 203

- [Doosan, LG CNS link up for data centers, robotics and AI](#) (2026-06-19 04:06)

Doosan Corp. said Friday it has signed a memorandum of understanding with LG CNS to secure global competitiveness in data centers, hydrogen drone logistics and the artificial intelligence and robot transformation sectors. Doosan Corp. President Yoo Seung-woo and LG CNS President Hyun Shin-gyoon participated in a signing ceremony held at LG Science Park in western Seoul, Thursday. Under the agreement, the two companies will partner on data center and cloud businesses. They are to establish a busi

- [Korea expands insurance coverage for treatment of severe hair loss](#) (2026-06-19 03:26)

The state insurance program will start covering prescriptions for Olumiant tablets, used to treat spot baldness (alopecia areata), for specific severe cases next month, the South Korean government said Friday. The Ministry of Health and Welfare said the revision for the National Health Insurance benefits will be effective on July 1, regarding the medication baricitinib, acting as an inhibitor of janus kinase. Patients using this specific product for hair loss treatment can now be covered by thei

- [Le Sserafim's Chaewon to resume activities](#) (2026-06-19 03:26)

Kim Chaewon of Le Sserafim will rejoin her bandmates from next week, Source Music said Friday. The artist has taken a month off to treat neck pains, and has recovered enough to resume activities, according to the agency. The leader of the group has been absent from promoting “Boompala,” the focus track from the group's second studio album “Pureflow Pt. 1.” The LP has been on the Billboard 200 for three weeks, having entered at No. 10. The single ranked No. 176 and No. 108 on the Global 200 and G

- [Monsta X's Minhyuk releases 1st solo music](#) (2026-06-19 03:22)

Minhyuk of Monsta X will put out the solo digital single “Reaching” on Friday, Starship Entertainment has announced. This marks the first official solo music he is publishing, although he dropped mixtape “Ongshimi,” produced by bandmate Jooheon, in 2019. The performer portrays taking one step at a time to reach his fans through the modern rock tune. Singer and songwriter Ha Hyunsang participated in the lyrics and melody of the song. Meanwhile, Monsta X concluded the Latin American leg of “The X:

- [TXT Yeonjun's 2nd solo EP to serve up 'Ice Cream'](#) (2026-06-19 03:19)

Yeonjun of Tomorrow X Together disclosed the title of the main track from his second solo set through a short video clip via Big Hit Music on Friday. He appeared with an ice cream truck and gazed into the camera before the song title filled the screen in the 16-second video, titled “Ice Cream Is Coming.” The singer is bringing out the EP “No Labels: Part 02” on July 10, with the lead single dubbed “Ice Cream,” hinting at an ambition for a summer anthem. The upcoming extended play is expected to

- [S. Korea falls to host Mexico 1-0 in World Cup group stage](#) (2026-06-19 03:15)

South Korea lost to Mexico 1-0 in its second Group A match at the 2026 FIFA World Cup on Thursday (local time), falling to second place behind the host nation in the race for the knockout stage. Luis Romo of Mexico eluded Korean defenders to net the match's first and only goal five minutes into the second half at the game held in Zapopan, near Guadalajara in western Mexico. After a scoreless first half, South Korean goalkeeper Kim Seung-gyu collided with his teammate Lee Gi-hyuk and lost the bal

- [Taeguk Warriors don purple mugunghwa jerseys for Mexico clash](#) (2026-06-19 03:02)

The Taeguk Warriors brought a touch of Korea to the World Cup stage, taking the field against Mexico on Thursday night in purple uniforms adorned with the country's national flower, known as the mugunghwa, or rose of Sharon. The game, which was widely expected to be the de facto Group A decider, kicked off Thursday night — or 10 a.m. Friday in Korea time — at Estadio Guadalajara in Zapopan, western Mexico. Mexico was leading the group on goal difference after beating South Africa 2-0 in its ope

- [From public squares to pubs, Korea cheers as one](#) (2026-06-19 02:53)

National flags fluttered and chants rang out, from city squares to pubs and parks across South Korea on Friday, as fans rallied behind the Taeguk Warriors against Mexico. With the top spot in Group A up for grabs, Thursday night's match being played in Zapopan, western Mexico, kicked off locally at 10 a.m. on Friday. Seoul's Gwanghwamun Square was awash in red on Friday, as nearly 20,000 supporters gathered to cheer on the national team, waving national flags and chanting “Daehan Minguk,” a pop

- [S. Korea, Mexico goalless at halftime](#) (2026-06-19 02:25)

South Korea and co-host Mexico went scoreless in the first half of their Group A battle at the FIFA World Cup in western Mexico on Thursday. The teams traded some jabs without either side landing a big blow in the opening 45 minutes at Estadio Guadalajara in Zapopan. The winner of this match will win Group A with one match to spare and book a ticket to the knockout stage. South Korea head coach Hong Myung-bo made one lineup change from the previous match, with wingback Kim Moon-hwan drawing in f

- [Crunchyroll launch could reshape Korea's anime market](#) (2026-06-19 02:02)

Crunchyroll, one of the world's leading anime streaming platforms, is set to launch in South Korea later this year, a move industry observers say could reshape the country's anime distribution landscape. The expansion was revealed by Crunchyroll President Rahul Purini during a keynote conversation at the APOS entertainment and technology summit in Bali, Indonesia. Purini said the service will officially launch in Taiwan this summer, followed by Korea later in the year, although a specific launch

- [SK hynix tops W2,000tr market cap as Kospi hits record](#) (2026-06-19 02:00)

SK hynix's market capitalization surpassed 2,000 trillion won (\$1.32 trillion) for the first time Friday, becoming the second South Korean company after Samsung Electronics to reach the milestone, as a semiconductor-led rally pushed the benchmark Kospi to another record high. Shares of SK hynix opened trading at 2.77 million won, up 3.17 percent from the previous session, before rising as much as the stock's new high of 2,858,000 won, lifting its market value to about 2,038 trillion won. Samsung

- [TWS teases 2nd single in Japan](#) (2026-06-19 01:46)

TWS released a series of teaser visuals for its second single in Japan, "Soda Soda," set to drop Aug. 4, via agency Pledis Entertainment on Friday. The three-track single album comes after its fifth EP, "No Tragedy," claimed the No. 1 spot on Oricon's Daily Album Ranking in Japan. The mini album logged 250,000 shipments and was certified platinum by the Recording Industry Association of Japan. It ranked No. 10 in the midyear top album sales ranking compiled by Billboard Japan. "Soda Soda" marks

- [Rain expected across nationwide; won't be start of monsoon season](#) (2026-06-19 01:24)

South Korea is expecting rain in the southern region that will spread across the country later Friday, with showers anticipated for much of the weekend, according to the weather authorities. The Korea Meteorological Administration forecast cloudy day across the country, with rainfall that starts at Jeju Island expanding to the North and South Jeolla provinces. By nightfall, most of the country is expecting rain. Around 50 to 150 milliliters of accumulated precipitation is expected for Friday and

- [Seoul launches Korea's first map for local school swimmers](#) (2026-06-19 00:49)

The Seoul Metropolitan Office of Education has launched a comprehensive online map providing information on school swimming pools across the city, including their locations, ownership and operating entities. On Thursday, the office said the new service is intended to help people easily access information on school swimming pools and is the first platform of its kind launched by a local education office in Korea. The information is expected to help users make informed choices and identify the res

- [From veterans to newcomers, Taeguk Warriors pass the torch at 2026 World Cup](#) (2026-06-19 00:44)

When Park Ji-sung handed his captain's armband to Ki Sung-yeung and bid farewell to the South Korean men's national soccer team in 2011, soccer fans saw a symbolic passing of the torch from one generation to the next. Now at the 2026 World Cup, fans may be witnessing a similar moment. Perhaps one that could shape Korean soccer for the next decade. This year's World Cup has brought together two generations of Korean soccer talent. On one side of the field are the veterans who have defined Korean

- [US-Iran MOU poses new opportunities, challenges for S. Korea: finance minister](#) (2026-06-19 00:32)

The recent memorandum of understanding between Washington and Tehran aimed at ending their conflict presents both opportunities and challenges for South Korea, the finance minister said Friday, noting the government will implement post-conflict economic policies. Finance Minister Koo Yun-cheol made the remark during a ministerial meeting on international economic affairs, saying the government will seek to create long-term opportunities while strengthening its economic security and enhancing sup

- [Seoul stocks open at fresh record high on continued chip rally](#) (2026-06-19 00:32)

Seoul stocks opened at a fresh record high Friday after surging past a new milestone of above 9,000, boosted by a continued chip rally amid a boom in artificial intelligence. The benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index opened up 225.05 points, or 2.48 percent, at 9,288.89. The market got a boost from overnight gains on Wall Street, led by major chipmakers, such as Intel, Nvidia and Micron Technology. US President Donald Trump said that Intel had agreed to a deal with Apple to design and build

- [Movies in theaters this week](#) (2026-06-19 00:00)

"Toy Story 5" (US) Opened June 17 Animation/Comedy Directed by Andrew Stanton Jessie (Joan Cusack) fights to keep Bonnie's attention as a new frog-shaped tablet pulls the child away from her toys for good, in this fifth installment of Pixar's franchise. "Disclosure Day" (US) Opened June 10 Sci-fi/Thriller Directed by Steven Spielberg A TV meteorologist (Emily Blunt) and a whistleblower (Josh O'Connor) go on the run after uncovering evidence of decadeslong government contact with extraterrestrial

- [Festivals, sights across Korea](#) (2026-06-19 00:00)

The Muan Lotus Festival, South Jeolla Province's signature summer event, runs June 26 to 28 at Muan Hoesan White Lotus Pond. Launched in 1997, it is the country's largest festival devoted to a single flower, the white lotus. The festival is set against the backdrop of one of Asia's largest stretches of lotus beds, roughly 330,000 square meters, and invites visitors to walk among white blooms rising from green leaves and take in the summer scenery. The lineup includes an opening concert and a res

- [Packages and promotions](#) (2026-06-19 00:00)

Four Seasons Hotel Seoul presents one-night Cantonese collaboration dinner Four Seasons Hotel Seoul presents a one-night Four Hands Collaboration dinner with Four Seasons Hotel Macao on Friday, uniting two Michelin-starred Cantonese kitchens. The dinner brings together chef To Kwok Wai of Zi Yat Heen in Macao and chef Anthony Ho of Yu Yuan in Seoul. The seven-course menu connects Macao's Cantonese heritage with Seoul's contemporary fine-dining approach, drawing on premium seafood and seasonal pr

## Source: Yonhap

- [8 more S. Korean-operated vessels exit Strait of Hormuz](#) (2026-06-26 05:27)

SEOUL, June 26 (Yonhap) -- Eight more South Korean-operated vessels have exited ...

- [Gov't launches interagency consultative body to combat AI-powered crimes](#) (2026-06-26 05:22)

SEOUL, June 26 (Yonhap) -- South Korea on Friday launched an interagency consult...

- [\(World Cup\) S. Korea in 6th among 3rd-place teams with 2 matchdays left](#) (2026-06-26 05:04)

GUADALAJARA, Mexico, June 25 (Yonhap) -- South Korea remained in position to sne...

- [U.S. nuclear expert calls for patience, caution on Seoul-Washington nuclear submarine cooperation](#) (2026-06-26 05:02)

JEJU, South Korea, June 26 (Yonhap) -- Nuclear submarine cooperation between Sou...

- [S. Korea, Uzbekistan discuss closer trade ties amid geopolitical uncertainties](#) (2026-06-26 05:00)

SEOUL, June 26 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and Uzbekistan exchanged opinions on forg...

- [Today in Korean history](#) (2026-06-26 05:00)

June 27

- [Late rescue volunteer recognized as Itaewon disaster victim](#) (2026-06-26 04:44)

SEOUL, June 26 (Yonhap) -- The former owner of a store in Itaewon who killed sel...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-06-26 04:30)

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

- [Bourse operator issues circuit breaker for KOSPI on sharp fall](#) (2026-06-26 03:16)

SEOUL, June 26 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's bourse operator on Friday activated a c...

- [\(URGENT\) Bourse operator issues circuit breaker for KOSPI on sharp fall](#) (2026-06-26 03:13)

(END)

- [Foreign currency deposits rise for 2nd month in May](#) (2026-06-26 03:00)

SEOUL, June 26 (Yonhap) -- Foreign currency deposits in South Korea rose for the...

- [Banks' household mortgage lending rates rise in May on higher market interest](#) (2026-06-26 03:00)

SEOUL, June 26 (Yonhap) -- Banks' household mortgage loan rates rebounded in May...

- [S. Korea to dispatch public-private delegation to Europe to expand space cooperation](#) (2026-06-26 02:47)

SEOUL, June 26 (Yonhap) -- South Korea plans to dispatch a public-private delega...

- [Court to rule on SK Group chief, ex-wife's asset division case next month](#) (2026-06-26 02:36)

SEOUL, June 26 (Yonhap) -- An appellate court said Friday it will deliver its ve...

- [\(LEAD\) Hyundai Motor unveils revamped Avante sedan at Busan mobility show](#) (2026-06-26 02:34)

SEOUL, June 26 (Yonhap) -- Hyundai Motor Co. on Friday unveiled the all-new Avan...

- [Seoul shares sharply down late Fri. morning on profit taking](#) (2026-06-26 02:30)

SEOUL, June 26 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks extended losses late Friday morni...

- [\(LEAD\) N. Korea's Kim oversees tests of key weapons seen as aimed at S. Korea](#) (2026-06-26 02:17)

SEOUL, June 26 (Yonhap) -- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has overseen tests of...

- [KRX activates sell-side sidecar for KOSPI on sharp fall](#) (2026-06-26 02:16)

SEOUL, June 26 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's bourse operator on Friday activated a s...

- [\(URGENT\) KRX activates sell-side sidecar for KOSPI on sharp fall](#) (2026-06-26 02:15)

(END)

- [\(LEAD\) S. Korea to push to field 'K-Lucas' suicide drones to bolster unmanned weapons system](#) (2026-06-26 02:00)

SEOUL, June 26 (Yonhap) -- South Korea will push to bring in a long-range suicid...

- [\(LEAD\) \(World Cup\) S. Korea coach unable to pinpoint reasons behind deflating loss](#) (2026-06-26 01:57)

ZAPOPAN, Mexico, June 25 (Yonhap) -- Some 24 hours after South Korea finished th...

- [Lee's approval rating sinks to lowest point since taking office: Gallup poll](#) (2026-06-26 01:50)

SEOUL, June 26 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung's approval rating dropped to ...

- [Gov't to roll out discount events for agricultural products to tame inflation](#) (2026-06-26 01:23)

SEOUL, June 26 (Yonhap) -- South Korea will implement discount events worth 350 ...

- [Cheong Wa Dae denies report of nat'l security adviser meeting Russian official in Kazakhstan](#) (2026-06-26 01:14)

SEOUL, June 26 (Yonhap) -- Cheong Wa Dae denied a news report Friday that Nation...

- [Hyundai Motor unveils revamped Avante sedan at Busan mobility show](#) (2026-06-26 01:12)

SEOUL, June 26 (Yonhap) -- Hyundai Motor Co. on Friday unveiled the all-new Avan...

- [\(LEAD\) Defense ministers of S. Korea, Japan to hold talks in Seoul over weekend](#) (2026-06-26 01:11)

SEOUL, June 25 (Yonhap) -- Defense ministers of South Korea and Japan will hold ...

- [S. Korea to push to field 'K-Lucas' suicide drones to bolster unmanned weapons system](#) (2026-06-26 00:52)

SEOUL, June 26 (Yonhap) -- South Korea will push to bring in a long-range suicid...

- [\(URGENT\) S. Korea to push for deployment of 'K-Lucas' suicide drones: defense minister](#) (2026-06-26 00:37)

(END)

- [Defense ministers of S. Korea, Japan to hold talks in Seoul over weekend](#) (2026-06-26 00:36)

SEOUL, June 25 (Yonhap) -- Defense ministers of South Korea and Japan will hold ...

- [\(URGENT\) Japan's Defense Minister Koizumi to visit S. Korea on June 27-28](#) (2026-06-26 00:29)

(END)

- [\(LEAD\) Seoul shares open lower on U.S. tech losses, profit taking](#) (2026-06-26 00:26)

SEOUL, June 26 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks started a tad lower Friday follow...

- [Gov't unveils logo commemorating renowned independence fighter Kim Koo](#) (2026-06-26 00:23)

SEOUL, June 26 (Yonhap) -- The government unveiled a logo honoring renowned inde...

- [\(World Cup\) S. Korea coach unable to pinpoint reasons behind deflating loss](#) (2026-06-26 00:17)

ZAPOPAN, Mexico, June 25 (Yonhap) -- Some 24 hours after South Korea finished th...

- [Seoul shares open lower on U.S. tech losses, profit taking](#) (2026-06-26 00:02)

SEOUL, June 26 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks started a tad lower Friday follow...

- [\(URGENT\) Seoul shares open 1.31 pct lower on U.S. tech losses, profit taking](#) (2026-06-26 00:01)

(END)

- [Court set to rule on ex-first lady on jobs-for-gifts bribery charges](#) (2026-06-25 23:59)

SEOUL, June 26 (Yonhap) -- A Seoul court was set to deliver its verdict Friday f...

- [Foreigner sell-offs of Korean stocks reach new record high in May](#) (2026-06-25 23:54)  
SEOUL, June 26 (Yonhap) -- Foreign investors offloaded a record amount of South ...
- [\(2nd LD\) Gov't to lower cap on fuel prices, freeze utility rates in H2](#) (2026-06-25 23:52)  
SEOUL, June 26 (Yonhap) -- South Korea will lower the cap on fuel prices to refl...
- [N. Korea's Kim inspects new facilities at Wonsan-Kalma resort on east coast](#) (2026-06-25 23:46)  
SEOUL, June 26 (Yonhap) -- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has inspected newly b...
- [\(LEAD\) Gov't to lower cap on fuel prices, freeze utility rates in H2](#) (2026-06-25 23:37)  
SEOUL, June 26 (Yonhap) -- South Korea will lower the cap on fuel prices to refl...
- [N. Korea's Kim oversees tests of key weapons seen as aimed at S. Korea](#) (2026-06-25 23:29)  
SEOUL, June 26 (Yonhap) -- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has overseen testing ...
- [Gov't to lower cap on fuel prices, freeze utility rates in H2](#) (2026-06-25 23:15)  
SEOUL, June 26 (Yonhap) -- South Korea will lower the cap on fuel prices to refl...
- [Lee calls for U.S.-N. Korea, inter-Korean dialogue for peace on Korean Peninsula](#) (2026-06-25 23:07)  
WASHINGTON, June 25 (Yonhap) -- South Korean President Lee Jae Myung on Thursday...
- [Yonhap to hold forum on shifting alliances, economic security challenges](#) (2026-06-25 22:54)  
SEOUL, June 26 (Yonhap) -- Yonhap News Agency, South Korea's key newswire, was s...
- [\(EDITORIAL from Korea JoongAng Daily on June 26\)](#) (2026-06-25 21:57)  
The National Assembly's confirmation hearing for Prime Minister nominee Han Seon...
- [\(EDITORIAL from Korea Times on June 26\)](#) (2026-06-25 21:57)  
Korea's latest failure to secure a place on the watch list for inclusion in the ...
- [\(EDITORIAL from Korea Herald on June 26\)](#) (2026-06-25 21:57)  
In politics, age thresholds often survive long after the realities that produced...
- [Top headlines in major S. Korean newspapers](#) (2026-06-25 21:56)  
SEOUL, June 26 (Yonhap) -- The following are the top headlines in major South Ko...

- [\(LEAD\) U.S. lawmakers reintroduce Senate bill to reauthorize N. Korean human rights act](#) (2026-06-25 20:32)

WASHINGTON, June 25 (Yonhap) -- Two U.S. lawmakers have reintroduced a Senate bi...

- [Bill to reauthorize N. Korean human rights act reintroduced to Senate](#) (2026-06-25 20:02)

WASHINGTON, June 25 (Yonhap) -- A U.S. lawmaker has reintroduced a Senate bill t...

- [\(LEAD\) U.S. focused on ensuring OPCON transfer conditions will be met 'as soon as possible': senior official](#) (2026-06-25 17:41)

WASHINGTON, June 25 (Yonhap) -- The United States is focused on ensuring that ne...

- [U.S. focused on ensuring OPCON transfer conditions will be met 'as soon as possible': senior official](#) (2026-06-25 16:24)

WASHINGTON, June 25 (Yonhap) -- The United States is focused on ensuring that ne...

- [\(LEAD\) Senior U.S. official hails S. Korea as punching far above its weight in chip production, expertise](#) (2026-06-25 15:56)

WASHINGTON, June 25 (Yonhap) -- A senior U.S. official on Thursday hailed South ...

- [Senior U.S. official hails S. Korea as punching far above its weight in chip production, expertise](#) (2026-06-25 14:18)

WASHINGTON, June 25 (Yonhap) -- A senior U.S. official on Thursday hailed South ...

- [Seoul to thoroughly monitor impact of Britain's new steel import policy](#) (2026-06-25 13:53)

SEOUL, June 25 (Yonhap) -- South Korea will thoroughly monitor the impact of Bri...

- [Foreign minister vows pragmatic approach to Korean Peninsula denuclearization](#) (2026-06-25 10:28)

SEOUL, June 25 (Yonhap) -- South Korea will pursue a phased and practical approa...

- [\(LEAD\) Lee expresses condolences over deadly Venezuela quakes](#) (2026-06-25 10:25)

SEOUL, June 25 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Thursday expressed condole...

- [\(LEAD\) President, Samsung Electronics chief discuss chip cluster investment in southern region](#) (2026-06-25 10:11)

SEOUL, June 25 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung met with Samsung Electronics ...

- [\(LEAD\) \(World Cup\) S. Korea stuck awaiting fate after falling to South Africa](#) (2026-06-25 09:00)

GUADALUPE, Mexico, June 24 (Yonhap) -- Once in the driver's seat to advance to t...

- [At Jeju Forum, U.N. chief candidates vow to reclaim relevance](#) (2026-06-25 09:00)

JEJU, South Korea, June 25 (Yonhap) -- Five candidates to lead the United Nation...

- [\(LEAD\) Lee highlights need to 'drastically' expand advanced industry investment outside capital region](#) (2026-06-25 08:33)

SEOUL, June 25 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Thursday stressed the impo...

- [Transport ministry approves Korean Air's integration with Asiana Airlines](#) (2026-06-25 08:29)

SEOUL, June 25 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's transport ministry on Thursday approved...

- [Vietnamese woman sentenced to 10 yrs in prison for abandoning, killing own baby](#) (2026-06-25 08:27)

SEOUL, June 25 (Yonhap) -- A Seoul court on Thursday sentenced a Vietnamese woma...

- [S. Korea to commemorate remembrance day of Korean War abductees this weekend](#) (2026-06-25 08:27)

SEOUL, June 25 (Yonhap) -- The unification ministry on Thursday said it will hol...

- [President, Samsung Electronics chief discuss chip cluster investment in southern region](#) (2026-06-25 08:26)

SEOUL, June 25 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung met with Samsung Electronics ...

- [Half of stranded S. Korean ships exit Strait of Hormuz as transit gains pace](#) (2026-06-25 08:25)

SEOUL, June 25 (Yonhap) -- Half of the South Korean vessels stranded inside the ...

- [Lee highlights need to 'drastically' expand advanced industry investment outside capital region](#) (2026-06-25 08:18)

SEOUL, June 25 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Thursday stressed the impo...

- [\(2nd LD\) 1 dead, 2 missing after fishing boat sinks off Busan](#) (2026-06-25 08:18)

ULSAN, June 25 (Yonhap) -- A fishing boat sank Thursday in waters off the southe...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-06-25 08:00)

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

- [\(2nd LD\) KOSPI spikes over 5 pct, briefly topping 9,000 level again on chip rally after Micron earnings](#) (2026-06-25 07:33)

SEOUL, June 25 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks soared by more than 5 percent Thu...

- [\(LEAD\) PM nominee undergoes confirmation hearing amid controversies over data leak, multiple homes \(2026-06-25 07:31\)](#)

SEOUL, June 25 (Yonhap) -- Prime Minister nominee Han Seong-sook began undergoin...

- [Foreign minister of East Timor to make 1st official visit to S. Korea \(2026-06-25 07:26\)](#)

SEOUL, June 25 (Yonhap) -- East Timor's top diplomat plans to visit Seoul next w...

- [\(World Cup\) Son Heung-min sorry to teammates for not helping prevent loss to South Africa \(2026-06-25 07:11\)](#)

GUADALUPE, Mexico, June 25 (Yonhap) -- For the first time in his international c...

- [\(LEAD\) Arms agency holds launch ceremony for submarine tugboat \(2026-06-25 07:03\)](#)

SEOUL, June 25 (Yonhap) -- A launch ceremony was held in southeastern South Kore...

- [\(LEAD\) KOSPI spikes over 5 pct, briefly topping 9,000 level again on chip rally after Micron earnings \(2026-06-25 07:02\)](#)

SEOUL, June 25 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks soared by more than 5 percent Thu...

- [Arms agency holds launch ceremony for submarine tugboat \(2026-06-25 07:00\)](#)

SEOUL, June 25 (Yonhap) -- A launch ceremony was held in southeastern South Kore...

- [S. Korea expresses condolences over deadly Venezuela quakes; no Korean casualties reported \(2026-06-25 06:49\)](#)

SEOUL, June 25 (Yonhap) -- The foreign ministry on Thursday expressed condolence...

- [KOSPI spikes over 5 pct, briefly topping 9,000 level again on chip rally after Micron earnings \(2026-06-25 06:37\)](#)

SEOUL, June 25 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks soared by more than 5 percent Thu...

- [\(URGENT\) Seoul shares spike over 5 pct to near 9,000 on chip rally after Micron earnings \(2026-06-25 06:33\)](#)

(END)

- [\(2nd LD\) Investigators question election officials over ballot shortage \(2026-06-25 06:25\)](#)

SEOUL, June 25 (Yonhap) -- Two election officials who oversaw polling stations h...

- [S. Korea eyes tech-focused noncommissioned officer track amid conscription reform push \(2026-06-25 06:22\)](#)

SEOUL, June 25 (Yonhap) -- South Korea plans to introduce a noncommissioned offi...

- [\(LEAD\) Gov't reaches conclusion on scrapping prosecution's right to supplementary investigations: PM](#) (2026-06-25 06:20)

SEOUL, June 25 (Yonhap) -- The government has reached a final conclusion that th...

- [Special counsel again seeks death penalty for ex-President Yoon on insurrection charges](#) (2026-06-25 05:36)

SEOUL, June 25 (Yonhap) -- A special counsel team on Thursday again sought the d...

- [\(LEAD\) 2 Indonesian crew members missing after fishing boat capsizes off Busan](#) (2026-06-25 05:34)

ULSAN, June 25 (Yonhap) -- Two Indonesian crew members of a fishing boat went mi...

- [\(LEAD\) Lackluster S. Koreans show little urgency in loss to South Africa](#) (2026-06-25 05:33)

GUADALUPE, Mexico, June 24 (Yonhap) -- South Korea could not have picked a worse...

- [Gov't reaches conclusion on abolishing prosecution's right to supplementary investigations: PM](#) (2026-06-25 05:28)

SEOUL, June 25 (Yonhap) -- The government has reached a final conclusion that th...

- [Lee to have lunch meeting with ex-President Moon at Cheong Wa Dae next Wed.](#) (2026-06-25 05:17)

SEOUL, June 25 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung will have a lunch meeting wit...

- [2 Indonesian crew members missing after fishing boat capsizes off Busan](#) (2026-06-25 05:14)

ULSAN, June 25 (Yonhap) -- Two Indonesian crew members of a fishing boat went mi...

- [K-pop rookie Cortis' debut album racks up 600 mln Spotify streams](#) (2026-06-25 05:12)

SEOUL, June 25 (Yonhap) -- K-pop boy band Cortis' debut album, "Color Outside th...

- [\(World Cup\) S. Korea coach shoulders blame for loss to South Africa](#) (2026-06-25 05:11)

GUADALUPE, Mexico, June 24 (Yonhap) -- South Korea head coach Hong Myung-bo blam...

- [Today in Korean history](#) (2026-06-25 05:00)

June 26

- [Former leaders call for renewed cooperation amid fragmented global order](#) (2026-06-25 04:55)

JEJU, South Korea, June 25 (Yonhap) -- A group of former global leaders, includi...

- [\(World Cup\) Lackluster S. Koreans show little urgency in loss to South Africa](#) (2026-06-25 04:44)

GUADALUPE, Mexico, June 24 (Yonhap) -- South Korea could not have picked a worse...

- [PM nominee calls N. Korea 'threat, compatriot'](#) (2026-06-25 04:37)

SEOUL, June 25 (Yonhap) -- Prime Minister nominee Han Seong-sook said Thursday t...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-06-25 04:33)

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

- [S. Korea to launch 4th medium-sized multipurpose satellite on July 9: space agency](#) (2026-06-25 04:00)

SACHEON, South Korea, June 25 (Yonhap) -- South Korea plans to launch its fourth...

- [\(World Cup\) Final Group A standings](#) (2026-06-25 03:37)

GUADALUPE, Mexico, June 24 (Yonhap) -- Below are the final Group A standings at ...

- [\(LEAD\) \(World Cup\) S. Korea lose to South Africa to finish 3rd in group; knockout status in limbo](#) (2026-06-25 03:36)

GUADALUPE, Mexico, June 24 (Yonhap) -- South Korea finished third in their group...

- [\(World Cup\) S. Korea stuck awaiting fate after falling to South Africa](#) (2026-06-25 03:33)

GUADALUPE, Mexico, June 24 (Yonhap) -- Once in the driver's seat to advance to t...

- [\(World Cup\) S. Korea lose to South Africa to finish 3rd in group; knockout status in limbo](#) (2026-06-25 03:07)

GUADALUPE, Mexico, June 24 (Yonhap) -- South Korea finished third in their group...

- [S. Korea's financial assets in U.S. hit fresh all-time high in 2025: BOK](#) (2026-06-25 03:00)

SEOUL, June 25 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's financial assets in the United States r...

- [Seoul, Beijing agree on simplified origin certification](#) (2026-06-25 03:00)

SEOUL, June 25 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and China have agreed Thursday to simplif...

- [\(World Cup\) South Korea 0 South Africa 1](#) (2026-06-25 02:58)

GUADALUPE, Mexico, June 24 (Yonhap) -- Result of Group A match on Wednesday betw...

- [Samsung Electronics maintains No. 1 spot in global DRAM market in Q1](#) (2026-06-25 02:58)

SEOUL, June 25 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Electronics Co. maintained its position as th...

- [PM nominee undergoes confirmation hearing amid controversies over data leak, multiple homes](#) (2026-06-25 02:56)

SEOUL, June 25 (Yonhap) -- Prime Minister nominee Han Seong-sook began undergoin...

- [\(LEAD\) Investigators question election officials over ballot shortage](#) (2026-06-25 02:44)

SEOUL, June 25 (Yonhap) -- Two election officials who oversaw polling stations h...

- [Senior officials of S. Korea, U.S. discuss AI supply chains, economic cooperation](#) (2026-06-25 02:36)

SEOUL, June 25 (Yonhap) -- Second Vice Foreign Minister Kim Jina has met with a ...

- [BTS tops 2 categories on Japan's Oricon music chart in 1st half](#) (2026-06-25 02:32)

SEOUL, June 25 (Yonhap) -- K-pop supergroup BTS clinched two top spots on Japan'...

- [Korea Exchange delays planned listing of weekly options on single heavyweight stocks](#) (2026-06-25 02:30)

SEOUL, June 25 (Yonhap) -- The Korea Exchange, South Korea's main bourse operato...

- [Seoul shares extend gains late Thu. morning on tech rally](#) (2026-06-25 02:27)

SEOUL, June 25 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks extended their gains late Thursda...

- [\(World Cup\) Thapelo Maseko scores for South Africa vs. S. Korea](#) (2026-06-25 02:25)

GUADALUPE, Mexico, June 24 (Yonhap) -- South Korea 0 South Africa 1 (Thapelo Mas...

- [\(LEAD\) Senior U.S. diplomat to visit S. Korea, Japan this month: State Dept.](#) (2026-06-25 02:09)

WASHINGTON, June 24 (Yonhap) -- A senior U.S. diplomat in charge of global publi...

- [\(LEAD\) Lee vows to build peaceful Korean Peninsula free from fear of war](#) (2026-06-25 02:05)

SEOUL, June 25 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung pledged Thursday to establish...

- [Policy lenders, shipbuilders sign MOU to implement Seoul's U.S. investment initiative](#) (2026-06-25 02:00)

SEOUL, June 25 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's policy lenders and major shipbuilders o...

- [\(World Cup\) S. Korea, South Africa goalless at halftime](#) (2026-06-25 01:59)

GUADALUPE, Mexico, June 24 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and South Africa were goalles...

- [Privacy watchdog fines Bithumb 210 mln won for violating overseas data transfer rules](#) (2026-06-25 01:45)

SEOUL, June 25 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's privacy watchdog said Thursday it has f...

- [Lee vows to build peaceful Korean Peninsula free from fear of war](#) (2026-06-25 01:27)

SEOUL, June 25 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung pledged Thursday to establish...

- [\(URGENT\) Lee vows to build peaceful Korean Peninsula free from fear of war](#) (2026-06-25 01:27)

(END)

- [\(World Cup\) 20,000 expected to gather at Gwanghwamun to cheer for S. Korea in final group match vs. S. Africa](#) (2026-06-25 01:21)

SEOUL, June 25 (Yonhap) -- Up to 20,000 fans were expected to gather in Seoul's ...

- [Unification minister renews call for multilateral dialogue to foster peace on Korean Peninsula](#) (2026-06-25 01:11)

WASHINGTON, June 24 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's Unification Minister Chung Dong-yo...

- [N. Korea again claims U.S. started Korean War under 'well-crafted' script](#) (2026-06-25 01:09)

SEOUL, June 25 (Yonhap) -- North Korea on Thursday reiterated its claim that the...

- [Vice defense minister calls for U.S. congressional support for nuclear-powered subs, OPCON transfer](#) (2026-06-25 01:06)

SEOUL, June 25 (Yonhap) -- Vice Defense Minister Lee Doo-hee has called for U.S....

- [5 more S. Korean-operated vessels exit Strait of Hormuz](#) (2026-06-25 00:55)

SEOUL, June 25 (Yonhap) -- Five more South Korean-operated vessels have exited t...

- [Finance chief vows all-out efforts to fight inflation](#) (2026-06-25 00:45)

SEOUL, June 25 (Yonhap) -- The country's top economic policymaker said Thursday ...

- [Investigators to question 4 more election workers over ballot shortage](#) (2026-06-25 00:32)

SEOUL, June 25 (Yonhap) -- A joint police and prosecution team on Thursday was s...

- [\(LEAD\) Seoul shares start sharply higher on tech gains led by Micron's strong earnings](#) (2026-06-25 00:24)

SEOUL, June 25 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks opened sharply higher Thursday, d...

- [KRX issues buy-side sidecar for KOSPI on sharp rise](#) (2026-06-25 00:10)

SEOUL, June 25 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's bourse operator on Thursday activated a...

- [\(URGENT\) Bourse operator issues buy-side sidcar on KOSPI's sharp rise.](#) (2026-06-25 00:08)

(END)

- [Number of stock accounts hits record high on bull run](#) (2026-06-25 00:07)

SEOUL, June 25 (Yonhap) -- The number of stock trading accounts in South Korea h...

- [Seoul shares start sharply higher on tech gains led by Micron's strong earnings](#) (2026-06-25 00:02)

SEOUL, June 25 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks opened sharply higher Thursday, d...

- [\(URGENT\) Seoul shares open 2.74 higher on tech gains driven by Micron's strong earnings](#) (2026-06-25 00:01)

(END)

- [\(World Cup\) Son Heung-min benched at start of key match vs. South Africa](#) (2026-06-24 23:58)

GUADALUPE, Mexico, June 24 (Yonhap) -- Captain Son Heung-min will begin South Ko...

- ['I'm not special': new Twins reliever wants to blend in with rest of bullpen](#) (2026-06-24 23:43)

SEOUL, June 25 (Yonhap) -- Yacksel Rios has only been pitching for the LG Twins ...

- [\(EDITORIAL from Korea JoongAng Daily on June 25\)](#) (2026-06-24 22:03)

With Democratic Party leader Jung Chung-rae stepping down on Wednesday to seek a...

- [\(EDITORIAL from Korea Times on June 25\)](#) (2026-06-24 22:02)

An unrepentant National Election Commission (NEC) is drawing the ire of lawmaker...

- [\(EDITORIAL from Korea Herald on June 25\)](#) (2026-06-24 22:01)

The recent leak of ideas submitted by aspiring entrepreneurs applying for a gove...

- [\(Yonhap Interview\) Mongolia can do more than mediate in bringing peace to Korean Peninsula: ex-PM](#) (2026-06-24 22:00)

SEOUL, June 25 (Yonhap) -- Mongolia is well placed to serve as a bridge in broad...

- [Top headlines in major S. Korean newspapers](#) (2026-06-24 21:57)

SEOUL, June 25 (Yonhap) -- The following are the top headlines in major South Ko...

- [Biz sentiment falls in June for 1st time in 3 months: BOK survey](#) (2026-06-24 21:00)

SEOUL, June 25 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's business sentiment worsened for the fir...

- [Senior U.S. diplomat to visit S. Korea, Japan this month: State Dept.](#) (2026-06-24 20:08)

WASHINGTON, June 24 (Yonhap) -- A senior State Department official in charge of ...

- [Rubio says tolls on Strait of Hormuz will not happen](#) (2026-06-24 20:07)

WASHINGTON, June 24 (Yonhap) -- U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Wednesd...

- [\(LEAD\) Court grants arrest warrant for Shincheonji sect leader over forced PPP memberships](#) (2026-06-24 14:22)

SEOUL, June 24 (Yonhap) -- A Seoul court on Wednesday issued an arrest warrant f...

- [Protests over ballot shortage continue for 20th day](#) (2026-06-24 14:00)

SEOUL, June 24 (Yonhap) -- Protests demanding a rerun of the June 3 local electi...

- [Security must extend beyond defense in fragmented world: ex-U.S. ambassador](#) (2026-06-24 11:59)

JEJU, South Korea, June 24 (Yonhap) -- Former U.S. Ambassador to South Korea Har...

- [Hyundai Motor union votes in favor of strike plan](#) (2026-06-24 11:20)

ULSAN, June 24 (Yonhap) -- Unionized workers of Hyundai Motor Co. on Wednesday v...

- [Hanwha Aerospace partners with UAE defense firm for expansion into Middle East](#) (2026-06-24 10:14)

SEOUL, June 24 (Yonhap) -- Hanwha Aerospace Co., South Korea's leading defense c...

- [\(LEAD\) SK hynix says to raise 45 tln won via stock offering for Nasdaq debut](#) (2026-06-24 08:48)

SEOUL, June 24 (Yonhap) -- SK hynix Inc. said Wednesday it plans to raise up to ...

- [SK hynix says to raise 45 tln won via stock offering for Nasdaq debut](#) (2026-06-24 08:38)

SEOUL, June 24 (Yonhap) -- SK hynix Inc. said Wednesday it plans to raise up to ...

- [\(LEAD\) Lee visits front-line Marine Corps unit, stresses strong deterrence against enemy](#) (2026-06-24 08:29)

SEOUL, June 24 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung visited a front-line Marine C...

- [Bears catcher Yang Eui-ji tops KBO All-Star voting with record total](#) (2026-06-24 08:27)

SEOUL, June 24 (Yonhap) -- Doosan Bears catcher Yang Eui-ji has topped the All-S...

- [Gov't to seek disciplinary measures for 17 fire officials over death of female firefighter](#) (2026-06-24 08:12)

SEOUL, June 24 (Yonhap) -- The government decided to seek disciplinary measures ...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-06-24 08:00)

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

- [\(2nd LD\) Seoul Int'l Book Fair kicks off amid 'text-hip' boom](#) (2026-06-24 07:59)

SEOUL, June 24 (Yonhap) -- The Seoul International Book Fair, the country's larg...

- [S. Korea to commemorate 76th anniv. of Korean War this week](#) (2026-06-24 07:59)

SEOUL, June 24 (Yonhap) -- South Korea will hold a ceremony marking the 76th ann...

- [\(LEAD\) Seoul city council passes ordinance on free bus rides for people aged over 70](#)  
(2026-06-24 07:44)

SEOUL, June 24 (Yonhap) -- The Seoul Metropolitan Council passed an ordinance We...

- [S. Korea aims to host Interpol's drug response center](#) (2026-06-24 07:40)

SEOUL, June 24 (Yonhap) -- South Korea will try to host a drug response center o...

- [Lee visits front-line Marine Corps unit, stresses strong deterrence against enemy](#)  
(2026-06-24 07:39)

SEOUL, June 24 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung visited a front-line Marine C...

- [\(2nd LD\) KOSPI rebounds 3.26 pct in volatile trading on bargain hunting](#) (2026-06-24 07:30)

SEOUL, June 24 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks rebounded more than 3 percent Wed...

- [Police identify, summon woman over solo blockade of vote counting center](#) (2026-06-24  
07:08)

SEOUL, June 24 (Yonhap) -- Police have identified a woman who staged a solo bloc...

- [\(LEAD\) KOSPI rebounds 3.26 pct in volatile trading on bargain hunting](#) (2026-06-24 07:02)

SEOUL, June 24 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks rebounded more than 3 percent Wed...

- [S. Korean, Indian FMs discuss bilateral cooperation, Middle East situation](#) (2026-06-24  
06:59)

SEOUL, June 24 (Yonhap) -- The top diplomats of South Korea and India on Wednesd...

- [Special exhibition to be held in U.S. to mark 150th birth anniv. of pivotal Korean independence hero Kim Koo](#) (2026-06-24 06:57)

SEOUL, June 24 (Yonhap) -- A special exhibition will be held in the United State...

- [DAPA streamlines regulations on exports of spare parts of arms product](#) (2026-06-24 06:48)

SEOUL, June 24 (Yonhap) -- The government will extend a five-year exemption for ...

- [Election officials raided over ballot shortage in June 3 local elections](#) (2026-06-24 06:40)

SEOUL, June 24 (Yonhap) -- A joint police and prosecution team on Wednesday raid...

- [KOSPI rebounds 3.26 pct in volatile trading on bargain hunting](#) (2026-06-24 06:35)

SEOUL, June 24 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks rebounded more than 3 percent Wed...

- [\(URGENT\) KOSPI rebounds 3.26 pct in volatile trading on bargain hunting](#) (2026-06-24 06:34)

(END)

- ['Dynamite' tops 2.1 bln YouTube views to become most-watched BTS music video](#) (2026-06-24 06:18)

SEOUL, June 24 (Yonhap) -- The music video of K-pop superband BTS' 2020 megahit ...

- [Seoul city council passes ordinance on free bus rides for people 70 and over](#) (2026-06-24 06:13)

SEOUL, June 24 (Yonhap) -- The Seoul Metropolitan Council passed an ordinance We...

- [\(2nd LD\) Presidential policy chief calls for aggressive investment in AI infrastructure](#) (2026-06-24 06:05)

SEOUL, June 24 (Yonhap) -- The presidential policy chief said Wednesday that the...

- [Shincheonji sect leader attends arrest warrant hearing over forced PPP memberships](#) (2026-06-24 05:46)

SEOUL, June 24 (Yonhap) -- The founder of the Shincheonji Church of Jesus, a non...

- [\(LEAD\) 1 N. Korean soldier in custody after crossing border into S. Korea on Tues.: JCS](#) (2026-06-24 05:30)

SEOUL, June 24 (Yonhap) -- One North Korean soldier has been taken into South Ko...

- [Lee Jung-hoo homers in San Francisco victory, keeps pace in batting race](#) (2026-06-24 05:23)

SEOUL, June 24 (Yonhap) -- Lee Jung-hoo has hit his fifth home run of the season...

- [\(LEAD\) N. Korea commissions 5,000-ton destroyer; Kim expects dramatic boost in naval power](#) (2026-06-24 05:17)

SEOUL, June 24 (Yonhap) -- North Korea has commissioned a new 5,000-ton destroye...

- [Today in Korean history](#) (2026-06-24 05:00)

June 25

- [\(LEAD\) Seoul Int'l Book Fair kicks off amid 'text-hip' boom](#) (2026-06-24 04:59)

SEOUL, June 24 (Yonhap) -- The Seoul International Book Fair, the country's larg...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-06-24 04:30)

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

- [Korean American lawmakers stress commitment to deepening partnerships with S. Korea](#) (2026-06-24 03:38)

WASHINGTON, June 23 (Yonhap) -- Two Korean American lawmakers on Tuesday highlig...

- [BOK chief to attend BIS, ECB meetings](#) (2026-06-24 03:00)

SEOUL, June 24 (Yonhap) -- Bank of Korea (BOK) Gov. Shin Hyun-song will travel t...

- [Population mobility falls to 52-year low in May amid housing supply decline](#) (2026-06-24 03:00)

SEOUL, June 24 (Yonhap) -- The number of South Koreans relocating to new regions...

- [Childbirths soar to highest level in 7 years in April](#) (2026-06-24 03:00)

SEOUL, June 24 (Yonhap) -- The number of babies born in South Korea shot up 18 p...

- [Korean War veteran revisits battlefield memories by donating handwritten wartime records](#) (2026-06-24 03:00)

SEOUL, June 24 (Yonhap) -- Han Hee-na, a 96-year-old Korean War veteran, wiped a...

- [1 N. Korean soldier in custody after crossing border into S. Korea on Tues.: JCS](#) (2026-06-24 02:49)

SEOUL, June 24 (Yonhap) -- One North Korean soldier has been taken into South Ko...

- [\(LEAD\) Presidential policy chief calls for aggressive investment in AI infrastructure](#) (2026-06-24 02:48)

SEOUL, June 24 (Yonhap) -- The presidential policy chief said Wednesday that the...

- [Ex-prosecutor general questioned over alleged martial law role](#) (2026-06-24 02:47)

GWACHEON, South Korea, June 24 (Yonhap) -- A special counsel team said Wednesday...

- [State auditor gathering data to conduct financial audit of NEC over ballot shortage](#) (2026-06-24 02:44)

SEOUL, June 24 (Yonhap) -- The Board of Audit and Inspection (BAI) has begun col...

- [\(URGENT\) 1 N. Korean soldier in custody after crossing border into S. Korea: JCS](#) (2026-06-24 02:39)

(END)

- [Seoul stocks extend gains late Wed. morning on bargain hunting](#) (2026-06-24 02:30)

SEOUL, June 24 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks extended their gains late Wednesd...

- [U.S. professor accused of defaming President Lee fails to appear for police questioning](#) (2026-06-24 02:26)

SEOUL, June 24 (Yonhap) -- A Korean American professor accused of defaming Presi...

- [Presidential policy chief calls for aggressive investment in AI infrastructure](#) (2026-06-24 02:09)

SEOUL, June 24 (Yonhap) -- The presidential policy chief said Wednesday that the...

- [\(LEAD\) Ruling party chief resigns, expected to seek reelection for another term](#) (2026-06-24 02:07)

SEOUL, June 24 (Yonhap) -- Rep. Jung Chung-rae of the ruling Democratic Party (D...

- [Retail sales rise 9 pct in May amid improving consumer sentiment](#) (2026-06-24 02:00)

SEOUL, June 24 (Yonhap) -- Sales at major retailers rose 9 percent in May from a...

- [Seoul, Beijing discuss easing technical barriers to trade](#) (2026-06-24 02:00)

SEOUL, June 24 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and China discussed measures to reduce te...

- [Rising leveraged investments pose threats to financial stability: BOK](#) (2026-06-24 02:00)

SEOUL, June 24 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's financial system remains stable, but ri...

- [Culture ministry reports 15 to police over scalping of K-pop, sports tickets](#) (2026-06-24 01:56)

SEOUL, June 24 (Yonhap) -- The culture ministry has referred 15 people to police...

- [Hyundai Motor launches cybersecurity working group under trilateral economic dialogue](#) (2026-06-24 01:55)

SEOUL, June 24 (Yonhap) -- Hyundai Motor Group said Wednesday it has established...

- [UNC reaffirms N. Korea's border-hardening measures not in violation of Armistice Agreement](#) (2026-06-24 01:50)

SEOUL, June 24 (Yonhap) -- North Korea's recent fencing and landmine operations ...

- [Four more S. Korean-operated vessels exit Strait of Hormuz](#) (2026-06-24 01:39)  
SEOUL, June 24 (Yonhap) -- Four more South Korean-operated vessels have exited t...
- [Jeju Forum kicks off amid calls to reinvent global cooperation](#) (2026-06-24 01:29)  
JEJU, South Korea, June 24 (Yonhap) -- An annual international peace forum was s...
- [Gov't to strengthen oversight of meal cards for children in need](#) (2026-06-24 01:27)  
SEOUL, June 24 (Yonhap) -- The government will strengthen oversight of meal card...
- [Ruling party chief resigns, expected to seek reelection for another term](#) (2026-06-24 01:14)  
SEOUL, June 24 (Yonhap) -- Rep. Jung Chung-rae of the ruling Democratic Party (D...
- [\(World Cup\) JTBC says 'no disruption' in World Cup broadcast despite financial issues](#)  
(2026-06-24 01:09)  
SEOUL, June 24 (Yonhap) -- South Korean broadcaster JTBC said Wednesday it will ...
- [Foreign arrivals in S. Korea surpass 10 million, on course to new annual high](#) (2026-06-24 01:07)  
SEOUL, June 24 (Yonhap) -- South Korea has welcomed more than 10 million foreign...
- [S. Korea hosts conference in Washington on expanding defense cooperation with U.S.](#)  
(2026-06-24 00:41)  
SEOUL, June 24 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's defense ministry held a conference in W...
- [\(World Cup\) South Africa coach says team will exploit S. Korea's weaknesses in crucial match](#) (2026-06-24 00:33)  
GUADALUPE, Mexico, June 23 (Yonhap) -- South Africa head coach Hugo Broos said T...
- [\(LEAD\) Seoul shares open higher despite U.S. chip sell-offs](#) (2026-06-24 00:31)  
SEOUL, June 24 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks opened higher Wednesday despite m...
- [N. Korea commissions 5,000-ton destroyer; Kim expects dramatic boost in naval power](#)  
(2026-06-24 00:15)  
SEOUL, June 24 (Yonhap) -- North Korea has commissioned a new 5,000-ton destroye...
- [Seoul shares open 1.86 pct higher despite U.S. chip sell-offs](#) (2026-06-24 00:04)  
SEOUL, June 24 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks opened higher Wednesday despite m...
- [\(URGENT\) Seoul shares open 1.86 pct higher despite U.S. chip sell-offs](#) (2026-06-24 00:02)  
(END)

- [Collaboration single by 3 Hybe girl groups debuts at No. 38 on Billboard Hot 100](#) (2026-06-24 00:02)

SEOUL, June 24 (Yonhap) -- Le Sserafim, Illit and Katseye -- girl groups under K...

- ['Teach You a Lesson' tops Netflix's weekly non-English chart for 3rd week](#) (2026-06-23 23:42)

SEOUL, June 24 (Yonhap) -- The Korean school drama "Teach You a Lesson" reigned ...

- [\(World Cup\) Defender Kim Min-jae wary of skilled, speedy South African players](#) (2026-06-23 23:05)

GUADALUPE, Mexico, June 23 (Yonhap) -- South Korean center back Kim Min-jae said...

- [\(LEAD\) Seoul to continue push for MSCI developed market status bid after remaining in emerging category](#) (2026-06-23 22:52)

SEOUL, June 24 (Yonhap) -- South Korea will continue its push for inclusion in t...

- [\(World Cup\) S. Korea coach says team won't settle for draw in final group match](#) (2026-06-23 22:39)

GUADALUPE, Mexico, June 23 (Yonhap) -- South Korea will only need a draw against...

- [S. Korea remains at emerging market status under MSCI](#) (2026-06-23 22:21)

SEOUL, June 24 (Yonhap) --South Korea will continue its push for inclusion in th...

- [\(EDITORIAL from Korea JoongAng Daily on June 24\)](#) (2026-06-23 22:12)

Negotiations between business and labor over next year's minimum wage formally b...

- [\(EDITORIAL from The Korea Times on June 24\)](#) (2026-06-23 22:12)

Starbucks Korea's decision to close more than 2,000 stores early nationwide on M...

- [\(EDITORIAL from The Korea Herald on June 24\)](#) (2026-06-23 22:11)

Housing markets have a way of tempting governments into believing that taxes can...

- [Top headlines in major S. Korean newspapers](#) (2026-06-23 22:11)

SEOUL, June 24 (Yonhap) -- The following are the top headlines in major South Ko...

- [Seoul Int'l Book Fair set to open amid 'text-hip' boom](#) (2026-06-23 22:00)

SEOUL, June 24 (Yonhap) -- The Seoul International Book Fair, the country's larg...

- [Rubio says no country allowed to charge tolls on Strait of Hormuz](#) (2026-06-23 21:14)

WASHINGTON, June 23 (Yonhap) -- U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Tuesday...

- [U.S. official cites network separation, data localization policies as 'barriers' to S. Korea's AI rise](#) (2026-06-23 20:57)

WASHINGTON, June 23 (Yonhap) -- A senior U.S. official on Tuesday cited South Ko...

- [\(2nd LD\) Lee hosts foreign envoys for K-barbecue dinner at Cheong Wa Dae](#) (2026-06-23 14:34)

SEOUL, June 23 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Tuesday hosted foreign amb...

- [\(LEAD\) Lee hosts foreign envoys for K-barbecue dinner at Cheong Wa Dae](#) (2026-06-23 13:41)

SEOUL, June 23 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Tuesday hosted foreign amb...

- [\(LEAD\) PM calls for China's role to foster conditions for inter-Korean, U.S.-N.K. talks](#) (2026-06-23 12:23)

DALIAN/SEOUL, June 23 (Yonhap) -- Prime Minister Kim Min-seok called Tuesday for...

- [PM calls for taking bilateral exchanges to next level in talks with China's premier](#) (2026-06-23 11:36)

DALIAN/SEOUL, June 23 (Yonhap) -- Prime Minister Kim Min-seok called Tuesday for...

- [\(2nd LD\) Samsung's HBM4 sales top US\\$1 bln 4 months after launch](#) (2026-06-23 11:30)

SEOUL, June 23 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Electronics Co.'s sales of sixth-generation h...

- [Ex-Pentagon official calls for greater strategic flexibility of USFK for deterrence in Indo-Pacific](#) (2026-06-23 11:03)

SEOUL, June 23 (Yonhap) -- A former Pentagon official said Tuesday that expanded...

- [Foreign minister, MPA chairman discuss cooperation in content industry](#) (2026-06-23 09:30)

SEOUL, June 23 (Yonhap) -- Foreign Minister Cho Hyun on Tuesday met with the hea...

- [Late Army officer killed in 1979 coup to be posthumously awarded top military honor](#) (2026-06-23 08:52)

SEOUL, June 23 (Yonhap) -- A late Army officer who was killed while fighting reb...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-06-23 08:00)

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

- [S. Korea seeks int'l support for UNESCO heritage committee session in Busan](#) (2026-06-23 07:57)

SEOUL, June 23 (Yonhap) -- The foreign ministry said Tuesday it briefed diplomat...

- [Acquittals of former officials confirmed in N.K. border murder cover-up case](#) (2026-06-23 07:52)

SEOUL, June 23 (Yonhap) -- The prosecution said Tuesday it will not appeal the a...

- [\(LEAD\) American booked for assaulting 2 U.S. soldiers](#) (2026-06-23 07:48)

PYEONGTAEK, South Korea, June 23 (Yonhap) -- An American man in his 30s has been...

- [\(2nd LD\) KOSPI crashes nearly 10 pct on massive tech sell-offs](#) (2026-06-23 07:38)

SEOUL, June 23 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks tumbled nearly 10 percent Tuesday...

- [Homeplus ordered by court to submit 200 bln-won funding plan by next week](#) (2026-06-23 07:36)

SEOUL, June 23 (Yonhap) -- A Seoul court has ordered hypermarket chain Homeplus ...

- [\(LEAD\) Korean won slumps against U.S. dollar on expectations of Fed rate hike](#) (2026-06-23 07:34)

SEOUL, June 23 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean won weakened against the U.S. dollar...

- [Vice FM to attend U.S.-hosted AI summit to discuss supply chain cooperation](#) (2026-06-23 07:32)

SEOUL, June 23 (Yonhap) -- Second Vice Foreign Minister Kim Jina plans to attend...

- [S. Korea, Philippines hold joint committee on logistics, defense cooperation](#) (2026-06-23 07:27)

SEOUL, June 23 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's state arms procurement agency on Tuesda...

- [Parliamentary committee questions election watchdog officials over ballot shortages](#) (2026-06-23 07:15)

SEOUL, June 23 (Yonhap) -- A parliamentary special committee on Tuesday conducte...

- [Prime Minister Kim visits alma mater in Beijing](#) (2026-06-23 07:15)

BEIJING/SEOUL, June 23 (Yonhap) -- South Korean Prime Minister Kim Min-seok paid...

- [S. Korea defends extended deterrence cooperation with U.S., urges China's constructive role](#) (2026-06-23 07:07)

SEOUL, June 23 (Yonhap) -- The foreign ministry on Tuesday countered criticism f...

- [\(LEAD\) KOSPI crashes nearly 10 pct on massive tech sell-offs](#) (2026-06-23 07:05)

SEOUL, June 23 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks tumbled nearly 10 percent Tuesday...

- [Police to question U.S. professor this week over alleged defamation of Lee](#) (2026-06-23 07:03)

SEOUL, June 23 (Yonhap) -- Police plan to question Korean American professor Mor...

- [Lee set to host banquet with foreign ambassadors at Cheong Wa Dae](#) (2026-06-23 07:00)

SEOUL, June 23 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung was set to host a banquet din...

- [S. Korea, Turkey discuss closer economic ties building on FTA](#) (2026-06-23 07:00)

SEOUL, June 23 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and Turkey on Tuesday kicked off discussi...

- [KOSPI crashes nearly 10 pct on massive tech sell-offs](#) (2026-06-23 06:38)

SEOUL, June 23 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks tumbled nearly 10 percent Tuesday...

- [Lee to visit Marine Corps unit this week to mark Korean War anniversary](#) (2026-06-23 06:37)

SEOUL, June 23 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung plans to visit a Marine Corps...

- [\(URGENT\) KOSPI crashes nearly 10 pct on massive tech sell-offs](#) (2026-06-23 06:33)

(END)

- [Ivy hopes U.S. audiences will open their hearts to Korean musicals with Broadway debut](#) (2026-06-23 06:31)

SEOUL, June 23 (Yonhap) -- South Korean singer-actor Ivy said Tuesday she hopes ...

- [BTS' Jungkook tops 3 bln Spotify streams with 'Seven,' first for Korean artist](#) (2026-06-23 06:14)

SEOUL, June 23 (Yonhap) -- "Seven," a hit solo track by BTS member Jungkook, has...

- [LIG D&A; opens photo exhibition to commemorate sacrifices of Korean War veterans](#) (2026-06-23 06:07)

SEOUL, June 23 (Yonhap) -- South Korean defense firm LIG Defense & Aerospace...

- [European sales of Hyundai, Kia vehicles fall 2.4 pct in May](#) (2026-06-23 05:53)

SEOUL, June 23 (Yonhap) -- European sales of Hyundai Motor Co., South Korea's le...

- [K-pop, beauty, food and more to converge at annual MyK Festa](#) (2026-06-23 05:46)

SEOUL, June 23 (Yonhap) -- A sprawling showcase of Korean pop culture ranging fr...

- [All listed firms required to disclose details on treasury stocks](#) (2026-06-23 05:41)

SEOUL, June 23 (Yonhap) -- The country's financial regulator said Tuesday that a...

- [\(LEAD\) Lee calls for policies supporting young people left out of tech, stock boom](#) (2026-06-23 05:41)

SEOUL, June 23 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Tuesday called for state p...

- [Bourse operator issues circuit breaker for KOSPI on sharp fall](#) (2026-06-23 05:36)

SEOUL, June 23 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's bourse operator on Tuesday activated a ...

- [\(URGENT\) Bourse operator issues circuit breaker for KOSPI on sharp fall](#) (2026-06-23 05:35)

(END)

- [N. Korean UNESCO official's online participation at Jeju Forum falls through](#) (2026-06-23 05:33)

SEOUL, June 23 (Yonhap) -- An attempt to bring a North Korean education expert a...

- [PM nominee sells three homes, leaving only one amid criticism](#) (2026-06-23 05:31)

SEOUL, June 23 (Yonhap) -- Prime Minister nominee Han Seong-sook has sold off th...

- [Industry ministry launches new committee to review U.S. investment projects](#) (2026-06-23 05:30)

SEJONG, June 23 (Yonhap) -- South Korea launched a project management committee ...

- [Today in Korean history](#) (2026-06-23 05:00)

June 24

- [Samsung develops industry's fastest UFS 5.0 memory for on-device AI](#) (2026-06-23 04:40)

SEOUL, June 23 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Electronics Co. said Tuesday it has developed...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-06-23 04:30)

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

- [30 pct of illegal filming, deepfake sexual violence victims identify ex-partners as perpetrators](#) (2026-06-23 03:34)

SEOUL, June 23 (Yonhap) -- About 30 percent of victims of illegal filming and de...

- [Corporate sales, profit growth accelerate in Q1: BOK](#) (2026-06-23 03:00)

SEOUL, June 23 (Yonhap) -- South Korean companies' sales and profitability impro...

- [FTC approves Coupang's corrective measures on unfair deals with subcontractors](#) (2026-06-23 03:00)

SEJONG, June 23 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's fair trade watchdog on Tuesday approve...

- [FTC begins deliberations on lubricant makers' price-fixing case](#) (2026-06-23 03:00)  
SEJONG, June 23 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's fair trade watchdog said Tuesday it ha...
- [KRX activates sell-side sidecar for KOSPI on sharp fall](#) (2026-06-23 02:56)  
SEOUL, June 23 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's bourse operator on Tuesday activated a ...
- [N. Korea's border reinforcement move not violation of Armistice Agreement: ex-UNC official](#) (2026-06-23 02:45)  
SEOUL, June 23 (Yonhap) -- A former United Nations Command (UNC) official has sa...
- [Kim Mu-yeol, Jung Ryeo-won cast in Netflix medical drama series 'First Doctor'](#) (2026-06-23 02:45)  
SEOUL, June 23 (Yonhap) -- Kim Mu-yeol and Jung Ryeo-won have been cast in Netfl...
- [\(URGENT\) KRX activates sell-side sidecar for KOSPI on sharp fall](#) (2026-06-23 02:44)  
(END)
- [Lee calls for policies supporting young people left out of tech, stock boom](#) (2026-06-23 02:26)  
SEOUL, June 23 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung on Tuesday called for state p...
- [Seoul stocks sharply down late Tues. morning on tech slide](#) (2026-06-23 02:22)  
SEOUL, June 23 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks extended losses late Tuesday morn...
- [Lim Yunchan wins Instrumentalist of the Year at Germany's top classical awards](#) (2026-06-23 02:02)  
SEOUL, June 23 (Yonhap) -- South Korean pianist Lim Yunchan has been named Instr...
- [American booked for assaulting 2 U.S. soldiers](#) (2026-06-23 01:53)  
PYEONGTAEK, South Korea, June 23 (Yonhap) -- An American man in his 30s has been...
- [Police open preliminary probe into data leak from gov't website for startup program](#) (2026-06-23 01:36)  
SEOUL, June 23 (Yonhap) -- Police said Tuesday they have launched a preliminary ...
- [BTS' 'Arirang' named among best albums of early 2026](#) (2026-06-23 01:32)  
SEOUL, June 23 (Yonhap) -- "Arirang," the latest album of K-pop supergroup BTS, ...
- [LG Chem to invest 15 tln won in R&D; by 2035 to develop advanced materials](#) (2026-06-23 01:28)

SEOUL, June 23 (Yonhap) -- LG Chem Ltd. has outlined plans to invest 15 trillion...

- [Loss rate for auto insurance up through May](#) (2026-06-23 01:23)

SEOUL, June 23 (Yonhap) -- Non-life insurers' loss rate for their auto insurance...

- [Regulator to draw up roadmap by Oct. for "T+1" stock settlement](#) (2026-06-23 01:12)

SEOUL, June 23 (Yonhap) -- The country's financial regulator said Tuesday that i...

- [Korean won slumps against U.S. dollar on expectations of Fed rate hike](#) (2026-06-23 01:10)

SEOUL, June 23 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean won weakened against the U.S. dollar...

- [Stray Kids to kick off new world tour in Seoul next month](#) (2026-06-23 01:08)

SEOUL, June 23 (Yonhap) -- K-pop boy group Stray Kids will launch a new world to...

- [S. Korea reaches broad consensus with EU on steel import policy](#) (2026-06-23 01:00)

SEJONG, June 23 (Yonhap) -- Seoul has reached a broad consensus with the Europea...

- [\(LEAD\) N. Korea's Kim calls for expanding nuclear arsenal to 'overtake the world'](#) (2026-06-23 00:52)

SEOUL, June 23 (Yonhap) -- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has called for effort...

- [\(LEAD\) Samsung's HBM4 sales top US\\$1 bln 4 months after launch](#) (2026-06-23 00:49)

SEOUL, June 23 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Electronics Co.'s sales of sixth-generation h...

- [\(LEAD\) Seoul shares open lower on U.S. tech losses](#) (2026-06-23 00:26)

SEOUL, June 23 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks opened slightly lower Tuesday, tr...

- [Seoul shares open lower on U.S. tech losses](#) (2026-06-23 00:03)

SEOUL, June 23 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks opened slightly lower Tuesday, tr...

- [\(URGENT\) Seoul shares open 0.34 pct lower on U.S. tech losses](#) (2026-06-23 00:01)

(END)

- [S. Korean stars to continue LPGA major quest at richest tournament ever](#) (2026-06-22 23:38)

SEOUL, June 23 (Yonhap) -- Since the turn of the century, South Korea has never ...

- [Samsung's HBM4 sales top US\\$1 bln 4 months after launch](#) (2026-06-22 23:35)

SEOUL, June 23 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Electronics Co.'s sales of sixth-generation h...

- [\(World Cup\) S. Korea chasing knockout berth in final Group A match vs. South Africa](#) (2026-06-22 23:18)

MONTERREY, Mexico, June 22 (Yonhap) -- South Korea will close out their Group A ...

- [\(World Cup\) S. Korean defender ready to shut down South Africa](#) (2026-06-22 22:43)

SAN NICOLAS, Mexico, June 22 (Yonhap) -- Defender Lee Han-beom feels South Korea...

- [N. Korea vows to expand nuclear arsenal at key party meeting: KCNA](#) (2026-06-22 22:42)

SEOUL, June 23 (Yonhap) -- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has called for effort...

- [\(EDITORIAL from Korea JoongAng Daily on June 23\)](#) (2026-06-22 22:01)

North Korea has expanded fortification work to within meters of the military dem...

- [\(EDITORIAL from The Korea Times on June 23\)](#) (2026-06-22 22:01)

The two-party system that has dominated Korean politics for decades is largely r...

- [\(EDITORIAL from The Korea Herald on June 23\)](#) (2026-06-22 22:00)

The annual US defense bill recently submitted to the full Senate by the Senate A...

- [Top headlines in major S. Korean newspapers](#) (2026-06-22 22:00)

SEOUL, June 23 (Yonhap) -- The following are the top headlines in major South Ko...

- [Consumer sentiment rises for 2nd month in June on strong exports, stock rally](#) (2026-06-22 21:00)

SEOUL, June 23 (Yonhap) -- Consumer sentiment rose for the second consecutive mo...

- [U.S. official: China's new sanctions on U.S. firms show Chinese suppliers are 'unreliable'](#) (2026-06-22 19:58)

WASHINGTON, June 22 (Yonhap) -- China's new sanctions on some American firms rea...

- [\(LEAD\) Bessent: Iran commits to 'free, open' Hormuz transit, return of IAEA inspectors in Switzerland talks](#) (2026-06-22 17:23)

WASHINGTON, June 22 (Yonhap) -- Iran has committed to allow "free and open" tran...

- [Bessent: Iran commits to 'free, open' Hormuz transit, return of IAEA inspectors in Switzerland talks](#) (2026-06-22 16:21)

WASHINGTON, June 22 (Yonhap) -- Iran has committed to allow "free and open" tran...

- [\(LEAD\) PM meets Chinese businesspeople in Beijing](#) (2026-06-22 13:55)

SEOUL/BEIJING, June 22 (Yonhap) -- Prime Minister Kim Min-seok met with a group ...

- [Election watchdog says accepts 'with heavy heart' results of panel investigation into ballot shortages](#) (2026-06-22 13:36)

SEOUL, June 22 (Yonhap) -- The National Election Commission (NEC) said Monday it...

- [Ex-lawmaker Ihn Yohan named chief of Korean Red Cross](#) (2026-06-22 11:29)

SEOUL, June 22 (Yonhap) -- Ihn Yohan, a former lawmaker of the main opposition P...

- [\(2nd LD\) Ex-justice minister given 25-yr prison sentence for martial law role](#) (2026-06-22 10:50)

SEOUL, June 22 (Yonhap) -- Former Justice Minister Park Sung-jae was sentenced t...

- [Concentration in chips 'natural'; efforts to improve foreigners' market access under way: KRX chief](#) (2026-06-22 10:10)

SEOUL, June 22 (Yonhap) -- The head of South Korea's bourse operator assessed Mo...

- [Injury replacement pitcher sidelined with quad problems](#) (2026-06-22 09:00)

SEOUL, June 22 (Yonhap) -- An injury replacement pitcher for the Kiwoom Heroes h...

- [Kakao Map garners online attention for showing details on N. Korean locations](#) (2026-06-22 08:51)

SEOUL, June 22 (Yonhap) -- Kakao Map, the mobile map service provided by South K...

- [KBO-leading Twins looking to pull away from pack](#) (2026-06-22 08:34)

SEOUL, June 22 (Yonhap) -- Having opened up a three-game lead atop the South Kor...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-06-22 08:00)

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

- [Assembly speaker tells rival parties to nominate standing committee chiefs by Wednesday](#) (2026-06-22 07:59)

SEOUL, June 22 (Yonhap) -- National Assembly Speaker Cho Jeong-sik told the riva...

- [\(LEAD\) Tom Kim finishes 3rd at U.S. Open](#) (2026-06-22 07:58)

SEOUL, June 22 (Yonhap) -- Tom Kim celebrated his birthday with his third career...

- [\(2nd LD\) Seoul shares close at fresh peak above 9,100 on chip gains amid U.S.-Iran talks](#) (2026-06-22 07:37)

SEOUL, June 22 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks finished at an all-time high Mond...

- [Hearts2Hearts aims to extend chart success with summery track 'Lemon Tang'](#) (2026-06-22 07:34)

SEOUL, June 22 (Yonhap) -- Rising K-pop girl group Hearts2Hearts said Monday it ...

- [\(LEAD\) SK hynix beats Samsung Electronics in market cap to become most valuable company](#) (2026-06-22 07:02)

SEOUL, June 22 (Yonhap) -- SK hynix Inc. on Monday surpassed Samsung Electronics...

- [\(LEAD\) Seoul shares close at fresh peak above 9,100 on chip gains amid U.S.-Iran talks](#) (2026-06-22 06:58)

SEOUL, June 22 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks finished at an all-time high Mond...

- [Ukrainian FM to visit S. Korea next week for talks on ties, N.K. POWs](#) (2026-06-22 06:57)

SEOUL, June 22 (Yonhap) -- Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha plans to vis...

- [Life sentence confirmed for pizza store murderer](#) (2026-06-22 06:55)

SEOUL, June 22 (Yonhap) -- A life sentence has been finalized for a 42-year-old ...

- [\(LEAD\) Ex-justice minister given 25-yr prison sentence for martial law role](#) (2026-06-22 06:53)

SEOUL, June 22 (Yonhap) -- Former Justice Minister Park Sung-jae was sentenced t...

- [Seoul shares close at fresh peak above 9,100 on chip gains amid U.S.-Iran talks](#) (2026-06-22 06:34)

SEOUL, June 22 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks finished at a fresh all-time high...

- [\(URGENT\) Seoul shares close at fresh peak above 9,100 on chip gains amid U.S.-Iran talks](#) (2026-06-22 06:33)

(END)

- [PM heads to China for Summer Davos Forum, meetings with senior Chinese officials](#) (2026-06-22 06:30)

SEOUL, June 22 (Yonhap) -- Prime Minister Kim Min-seok left for China on Monday ...

- [Gov't to provide trade secret certification for startup program applicants following data leak](#) (2026-06-22 06:27)

SEOUL, June 22 (Yonhap) -- The Ministry of SMEs and Startups said Monday it will...

- [Ex-justice minister given 25-yr prison sentence for martial law role](#) (2026-06-22 06:16)

SEOUL, June 22 (Yonhap) -- Former Justice Minister Park Sung-jae was sentenced t...

- [S. Korean, Indian FMs to discuss economy, AI, defense ties this week](#) (2026-06-22 06:12)

SEOUL, June 22 (Yonhap) -- Foreign Minister Cho Hyun plans to meet his Indian co...

- [\(URGENT\) Court sentences ex-Justice Minister Park Sung-jae to 25 yrs in prison for martial law role](#) (2026-06-22 06:04)

(END)

- [Watchdog chief expresses concerns over overheated single-stock leveraged ETF trading](#) (2026-06-22 06:00)

SEOUL, June 22 (Yonhap) -- The chief of the country's financial watchdog said Mo...

- [\(LEAD\) S. Korea identifying country-specific post-war reconstruction needs in Middle East: FM](#) (2026-06-22 05:29)

SEOUL, June 22 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean government has established a task fo...

- [\(LEAD\) Investigators to question election workers over ballot shortage](#) (2026-06-22 05:15)

SEOUL, June 22 (Yonhap) -- Investigators on Monday were set to question a group ...

- [Today in Korean history](#) (2026-06-22 05:00)

June 23

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-06-22 04:30)

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

- [SK hynix beats Samsung Electronics in market cap](#) (2026-06-22 04:11)

SEOUL, June 22 (Yonhap) -- SK hynix Inc. has surpassed Samsung Electronics Co. i...

- [\(URGENT\) SK hynix beats Samsung Electronics in market cap](#) (2026-06-22 03:46)

(END)

- [S. Korea identifying country-specific post-war reconstruction needs in Middle East: FM](#) (2026-06-22 03:19)

SEOUL, June 22 (Yonhap) -- The Seoul government has established a task force to ...

- [\(LEAD\) Investigators seek arrest warrant for Shincheonji sect leader Lee Man-hee](#) (2026-06-22 03:01)

SEOUL, June 22 (Yonhap) -- Investigators said Monday they have filed for an arre...

- [\(Movie Review\) 'The Eyes' paints obsession, fear of fading sight with classical touch](#) (2026-06-22 02:56)

SEOUL, June 22 (Yonhap) -- Losing one's sight may be one of the most unbearable ...

- [\(LEAD\) Lee's disapproval rating exceeds approval rating for 1st time since inauguration](#) (2026-06-22 02:47)

SEOUL, June 22 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung's disapproval rating has surp...

- [2 S. Korean-operated vessels exit Strait of Hormuz following U.S.-Iran deal](#) (2026-06-22 02:31)

SEOUL, June 22 (Yonhap) -- Two South Korean-operated vessels have exited the Str...

- [Seoul shares sharply up late Mon. morning amid uncertainty over U.S.-Iran talks](#) (2026-06-22 02:27)

SEOUL, June 22 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks traded higher late Monday morning...

- [Investigators seek arrest warrant for Shincheonji sect leader Lee Man-hee](#) (2026-06-22 02:24)

SEOUL, June 22 (Yonhap) -- Investigators said Monday they have filed for an arre...

- [S. Korea slams N. Korea's expanded border fencing as armistice agreement violation](#) (2026-06-22 02:23)

SEOUL, June 22 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean military on Monday denounced North K...

- [Outgoing PM says ruling party should 'perfectly align' with gov't](#) (2026-06-22 02:22)

SEOUL, June 22 (Yonhap) -- The ruling Democratic Party (DP) should "perfectly al...

- [Man sentenced to 4 yrs in prison for defrauding existing fraud victims](#) (2026-06-22 02:16)

INCHEON, June 22 (Yonhap) -- A court on Monday sentenced a 30-year-old man to fo...

- [\(URGENT\) Investigators seek arrest warrant for Shincheonji sect leader Lee Man-hee](#) (2026-06-22 02:08)

(END)

- [Kakao Games says no decision made on merger with Line Games](#) (2026-06-22 02:01)

SEOUL, June 22 (Yonhap) -- Kakao Games Corp. said no decision has been made rega...

- [Seoul, Beijing to hold 15th round of FTA follow-up talks on services](#) (2026-06-22 02:00)

SEOUL, June 22 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and China kicked off a new round of follo...

- [Budget minister discusses policy direction with experts amid sharp tax gains](#) (2026-06-22 02:00)

SEOUL, June 22 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's budget minister on Monday discussed fis...

- [Ex-defense minister booked over alleged attempt to provoke N. Korea for martial law bid](#) (2026-06-22 01:29)

SEOUL, June 22 (Yonhap) -- A special counsel team has booked former Defense Mini...

- [GS E&C, I Squared Capital to team up for renewable energy projects](#) (2026-06-22 01:20)

SEOUL, June 22 (Yonhap) -- GS Engineering & Construction (E&C) Corp. sai...

- [Man City, Atletico Madrid to play summer exhibitions in Seoul](#) (2026-06-22 01:13)

SEOUL, June 22 (Yonhap) -- The Premier League giants Manchester City and the 11-...

- [\(World Cup\) S. Koreans travel to site of Group A finale](#) (2026-06-22 01:05)

MONTERREY, Mexico, June 21 (Yonhap) -- South Korea arrived at the site of their ...

- [Stray Kids to drop new album in Aug., announces new world tour](#) (2026-06-22 00:58)

SEOUL, June 22 (Yonhap) -- Popular boy group Stray Kids will release a new album...

- [\(LEAD\) PM nominee apologizes for information leak from 'Startup for All' website](#) (2026-06-22 00:43)

SEOUL, June 22 (Yonhap) -- Prime Minister nominee Han Seong-sook apologized Mond...

- [Lee's disapproval rating exceeds approval rating for 1st time since inauguration](#) (2026-06-22 00:43)

SEOUL, June 22 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung's disapproval rating has surp...

- [N. Korea blames U.S., West for 'revival of Nazism,' defends Russia over Ukraine war](#) (2026-06-22 00:39)

SEOUL, June 22 (Yonhap) -- North Korea condemned the United States and other Wes...

- [Former Enhypen member Heeseung re-debuts as Evan](#) (2026-06-22 00:37)

SEOUL, June 22 (Yonhap) -- Heeseung, a former member of K-pop boy group Enhypen,...

- [\(LEAD\) Exports up 60 pct in first 20 days of June on robust chip sales](#) (2026-06-22 00:28)

SEOUL, June 22 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's exports jumped 60.4 percent from a year...

- [PM nominee apologizes for information leak from 'Startup for All' website](#) (2026-06-22 00:27)

SEOUL, June 22 (Yonhap) -- Prime Minister nominee Han Seong-sook apologized Mond...

- [\(LEAD\) Seoul shares open lower amid Iran peace talks uncertainty](#) (2026-06-22 00:23)

SEOUL, June 22 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks opened lower Monday as uncertaint...

- [Investigators to question election workers over ballot shortage](#) (2026-06-22 00:23)  
SEOUL, June 22 (Yonhap) -- Investigators on Monday were set to question a group ...
- [BTS' 'Arirang' returns to top 10 on Billboard 200](#) (2026-06-22 00:14)  
SEOUL, June 22 (Yonhap) -- "Arirang," the fifth studio album of K-pop supergroup...
- [Exports up 60 pct in first 20 days of June](#) (2026-06-22 00:11)  
SEOUL, June 22 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's exports jumped 60.4 percent from a year...
- [Seoul shares open lower amid Iran peace talks uncertainty](#) (2026-06-22 00:02)  
SEOUL, June 22 (Yonhap) -- South Korean stocks opened lower Monday as uncertain...
- [\(URGENT\) Seoul shares open 1.08 pct lower amid Iran peace talks uncertainty](#) (2026-06-22 00:01)  
(END)
- [\(LEAD\) KEPCO to keep electricity rates frozen for Q3 amid financial troubles](#) (2026-06-21 23:59)  
SEOUL, June 22 (Yonhap) -- The state-run Korea Electric Power Corp. (KEPCO) said...
- [Starbucks Korea to close all stores early to carry out history training after 'Tank Day' promotion backlash](#) (2026-06-21 23:56)  
SEOUL, June 22 (Yonhap) -- Starbucks Korea will close all of its stores nationwi...
- ['Toy Story 5' tops weekend box office, dethroning 'Colony'](#) (2026-06-21 23:35)  
SEOUL, June 22 (Yonhap) -- The Hollywood animation "Toy Story 5" debuted atop th...
- [KEPCO to keep electricity rates frozen for Q3](#) (2026-06-21 23:34)  
SEOUL, June 22 (Yonhap) -- The state-run Korea Electric Power Corp. (KEPCO) said...
- [Tom Kim finishes 3rd at U.S. Open](#) (2026-06-21 23:07)  
SEOUL, June 22 (Yonhap) -- Tom Kim celebrated his birthday with his third career...
- [Asset managers' Q1 net nearly doubles on commission income gains](#) (2026-06-21 22:07)  
SEOUL, June 22 (Yonhap) -- Asset management firms in South Korea saw their combi...
- [\(EDITORIAL from Korea JoongAng Daily on June 22\)](#) (2026-06-21 22:06)  
Former Gyeonggi Province Vice Gov. Lee Hwa-young, who was indicted on charges in...
- [\(EDITORIAL from The Korea Times on June 22\)](#) (2026-06-21 22:05)

The decision by the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee to tighten congressiona...

- [\(EDITORIAL from The Korea Herald on June 22\)](#) (2026-06-21 22:05)

Democracies are accustomed to worrying about interference. South Korea's problem...

- [Top headlines in major S. Korean newspapers](#) (2026-06-21 22:05)

SEOUL, June 22 (Yonhap) -- The following are the top headlines in major South Ko...

- [All 6 THAAD launchers return to Seongju from Osan](#) (2026-06-21 08:53)

SEOUL, June 21 (Yonhap) -- All six launchers of the Terminal High Altitude Area ...

- [Protests over ballot shortage continue for 17th day](#) (2026-06-21 07:47)

SEOUL, June 21 (Yonhap) -- Protests demanding a rerun of the June 3 local electi...

- [\(2nd LD\) Lee appoints new senior secretaries for communication, civil affairs](#) (2026-06-21 05:43)

SEOUL, June 21 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung has appointed new senior pres...

- [\(World Cup\) N. Korea skips reports on World Cup matches involving S. Korea, U.S., Japan](#) (2026-06-21 05:14)

SEOUL, June 21 (Yonhap) -- North Korea's state media excluded games involving So...

- [Today in Korean history](#) (2026-06-21 05:00)

June 22

- [Gov't approves sanctions against 166 child support defaulters](#) (2026-06-21 04:59)

SEOUL, June 21 (Yonhap) -- The Ministry of Gender Equality and Family said Sunda...

- [\(profile\) Veteran journalist of 30 yrs appointed presidential communication secretary](#) (2026-06-21 04:36)

SEOUL, June 21 (Yonhap) -- Seong Ghi-hong, the new presidential secretary for pu...

- [\(profile\) Pharmacist-turned-activist appointed presidential secretary for social affairs](#) (2026-06-21 04:14)

SEOUL, June 21 (Yonhap) -- New presidential secretary for social affairs Kim Kyo...

- [\(profile\) Ex-veteran prosecutor appointed presidential secretary for civil affairs](#) (2026-06-21 02:51)

SEOUL, June 21 (Yonhap) -- New presidential secretary for civil affairs Han Chan...

- [Court to deliver ruling on ex-first lady on jobs-for-gifts bribery charges](#) (2026-06-21 02:17)

SEOUL, June 21 (Yonhap) -- A Seoul court is set to deliver its verdict this week...

- [Hyundai Motor, Kia post solid growth in India through May on strong SUV sales](#) (2026-06-21 01:56)

SEOUL, June 21 (Yonhap) -- Hyundai Motor Co. and Kia Corp. posted robust sales g...

- [\(LEAD\) Lee appoints new senior secretaries for communication, civil affairs](#) (2026-06-21 01:47)

SEOUL, June 21 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung has appointed new senior pres...

- [Samsung reviews HBM sales strategy, long-term agreements with key customers](#) (2026-06-21 01:29)

SEOUL, June 21 (Yonhap) -- Samsung Electronics Co. discussed ways to expand sale...

- [Lee appoints new senior secretaries for communication, civil affairs](#) (2026-06-21 01:17)

SEOUL, June 21 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung has appointed new senior pres...

- [\(URGENT\) Lee appoints new senior secretaries for communication, civil affairs](#) (2026-06-21 01:05)

(END)

- [Household lending at banks jumps in Q2 on leveraged investing, mortgage demand](#) (2026-06-21 01:01)

SEOUL, June 21 (Yonhap) -- Household loans at major South Korean banks increased...

- [Scams targeting foreigners rise nearly 4-fold over 2 yrs: lawmaker](#) (2026-06-21 00:57)

SEOUL, June 21 (Yonhap) -- The number of foreigners who fell victim to fraud in ...

- [\(World Cup\) Sports analytics firm gives S. Korea 90 pct chance of reaching knockouts](#) (2026-06-21 00:17)

GUADALAJARA, Mexico, June 20 (Yonhap) -- With one match remaining in the group s...

- [\(2nd LD\) Heavy rain soaks Gangwon Province, southern regions](#) (2026-06-20 13:35)

SEOUL/GANGNEUNG, South Korea, June 20 (Yonhap) -- Heavy rain hit Gangwon Provinc...

- [\(LEAD\) Heavy rain soaks Gangwon Province; access to Mt. Seorak restricted](#) (2026-06-20 11:28)

SEOUL/GANGNEUNG, South Korea, June 20 (Yonhap) -- Heavy rain fell in Gangwon Pro...

- [\(LEAD\) Ex-vice Gyeonggi gov. found guilty of perjury over claims of 'drinking party' during interrogation](#) (2026-06-20 07:56)

SUWON, South Korea, June 20 (Yonhap) -- A regional court on Saturday found a for...

- [Today in Korean history](#) (2026-06-20 05:00)

June 21

- [Ex-vice Gyeonggi gov. found guilty of perjury over claims of 'drinking party' during interrogation](#) (2026-06-20 02:36)

SUWON, South Korea, June 20 (Yonhap) -- A regional court on Saturday found a for...

- [Rain to continue nationwide through evening after heavy downpours](#) (2026-06-20 01:56)

SEOUL, June 20 (Yonhap) -- Rain is expected to continue across South Korea throu...

- [BTS' RM named global ambassador of Nat'l Museum of Korea](#) (2026-06-20 00:49)

SEOUL, June 20 (Yonhap) -- RM, the leader of K-pop supergroup BTS, has been name...

- [\(World Cup\) Midfielder blames S. Korean loss on bad luck](#) (2026-06-20 00:20)

ZAPOPAN, Mexico, June 19 (Yonhap) -- For a fleeting moment during the late stage...

- [Top headlines in major S. Korean newspapers](#) (2026-06-20 00:03)

SEOUL, June 20 (Yonhap) -- The following are the top headlines in major South Ko...

- [Lee calls inflation top policy priority, urges 'extraordinary' measures to stabilize prices](#) (2026-06-19 11:29)

SEOUL, June 19 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung said Friday inflation is the ...

- [JoongAng Ilbo applies for debt workout program, pledges restructuring efforts](#) (2026-06-19 09:22)

SEOUL, June 19 (Yonhap) -- Major newspaper JoongAng Ilbo Co. said Friday it had ...

- [Korean Air says Asiana integration costs could reach 1 tln won, offset by 2028](#) (2026-06-19 08:54)

SEOUL, June 19 (Yonhap) -- Korean Air Co. said Friday the cost of integrating As...

- [\(LEAD\) Army to allow long-term service transition for more noncommissioned officers](#) (2026-06-19 08:42)

SEOUL, June 19 (Yonhap) -- The Army said Friday it will allow qualified noncommi...

- [Police investigating alleged break-in at ballot-counting center](#) (2026-06-19 08:24)

SEOUL, June 19 (Yonhap) -- Police are investigating an alleged break-in at a bal...

- [Army to allow long-term service transition for more noncommissioned officers](#) (2026-06-19 08:23)

SEOUL, June 19 (Yonhap) -- The Army said Friday it will allow qualified noncommi...

- [\(LEAD\) Lee says reform of election watchdog needed through constitutional amendment if necessary](#) (2026-06-19 08:18)

SEOUL, June 19 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung said Friday that a fundamenta...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-06-19 08:01)

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

- [\(LEAD\) Unification ministry vows to find 'phased, viable' path to denuclearization](#) (2026-06-19 07:59)

SEOUL, June 19 (Yonhap) -- The unification ministry said Friday its stance on th...

- [\(3rd LD\) Lee says told Trump cannot deal with N. Korean nuclear issue the same way as others](#) (2026-06-19 07:41)

SEOUL, June 19 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung said Friday he told U.S. Pres...

- [\(2nd LD\) Seoul stocks take breather after 6-day rise on profit-taking](#) (2026-06-19 07:32)

SEOUL, June 19 (Yonhap) -- Seoul stocks took a breather Friday after enjoying a ...

- [\(2nd LD\) Lee says told Trump cannot deal with N. Korean nuclear issue the same way as others](#) (2026-06-19 07:24)

SEOUL, June 19 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung said Friday he told U.S. Pres...

- [Lee says reform of election watchdog needed through constitutional amendment if necessary](#) (2026-06-19 07:24)

SEOUL, June 19 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung said Friday that a fundamenta...

- [Assembly speaker urges diplomatic efforts to ensure safe return of S. Korean vessels from Hormuz Strait](#) (2026-06-19 07:03)

SEOUL, June 19 (Yonhap) -- National Assembly Speaker Cho Jeong-sik called for al...

- [S. Korea says in close talks with U.S. after Senate bill signals tougher OPCON transfer oversight](#) (2026-06-19 07:02)

SEOUL, June 19 (Yonhap) -- South Korea remains in close talks with the United St...

- [\(LEAD\) Seoul stocks take breather after 6-day rise on profit-taking](#) (2026-06-19 07:01)

SEOUL, June 19 (Yonhap) -- Seoul stocks took a breather Friday after enjoying a ...

- [\(LEAD\) Ex-defense minister sentenced to 3 yrs in prison for leaking military secrets](#) (2026-06-19 06:50)

SEOUL, June 19 (Yonhap) -- A Seoul court on Friday sentenced former Defense Mini...

- [Seoul stocks take breather after 6-day rise on profit-taking](#) (2026-06-19 06:41)

SEOUL, June 19 (Yonhap) -- Seoul stocks took a breather Friday after enjoying a ...

- [\(URGENT\) Seoul stocks snap 6-day winning streak on profit-taking, Iran uncertainty](#) (2026-06-19 06:33)

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- [\(URGENT\) Lee voices need for constitutional amendment to reform election watchdog following ballot shortage](#) (2026-06-19 06:20)

(END)

- [\(LEAD\) Gov't to seek dismissal of heads of 2 public firms following review](#) (2026-06-19 06:12)

SEOUL, June 19 (Yonhap) -- South Korea will seek to replace the heads of two pub...

- [\(LEAD\) Lee says told Trump cannot deal with N. Korean nuclear issue the same way as others](#) (2026-06-19 06:10)

SEOUL, June 19 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung said Friday he told U.S. Pres...

- [Ex-defense minister sentenced to 3 yrs in prison for leaking military secrets](#) (2026-06-19 05:59)

SEOUL, June 19 (Yonhap) -- A Seoul court on Friday sentenced former Defense Mini...

- [Gov't to seek dismissal of heads of 2 public firms following review](#) (2026-06-19 05:53)

SEOUL, June 19 (Yonhap) -- South Korea will seek to replace the heads of two pub...

- [\(URGENT\) Court sentences ex-Defense Minister Kim Yong-hyun to 3 yrs in prison for leaking military secrets](#) (2026-06-19 05:53)

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- [\(LEAD\) \(World Cup\) Unlucky S. Korea lack precision in loss to Mexico](#) (2026-06-19 05:40)

ZAPOPAN, Mexico, June 18 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's 1-0 loss to Mexico in their G...

- [\(URGENT\) Lee says Trump expressed regret over failing to address N. Korea's nuclear ambitions prior to development](#) (2026-06-19 05:39)

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- [\(URGENT\) Lee says told Trump cannot deal with N. Korea the same way as others](#) (2026-06-19 05:35)

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- [\(World Cup\) S. Korea in good position to reach knockouts despite loss to Mexico](#) (2026-06-19 05:33)

ZAPOPAN, Mexico, June 18 (Yonhap) -- South Korea will not win Group A of the ong...

- [Lee asks Pope Leo XIV to visit N. Korea; Pope says will 'actively' try](#) (2026-06-19 05:32)

SEOUL, June 19 (Yonhap) -- President Lee Jae Myung said Friday that he asked Pop...

- [New 3,600-ton frigate delivered to Navy after sea trials](#) (2026-06-19 05:30)

SEOUL, June 19 (Yonhap) -- A new 3,600-ton frigate was delivered to the Navy fol...

- [\(World Cup\) S. Korean goalkeeper shoulders blame for costly miscue](#) (2026-06-19 05:20)

ZAPOPAN, Mexico, June 18 (Yonhap) -- South Korean goalkeeper Kim Seung-gyu point...

- [\(URGENT\) Lee says asked Pope Leo XIV to visit N. Korea, Demilitarized Zone during meeting this week](#) (2026-06-19 05:15)

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- [\(URGENT\) Lee says he and Trump shared importance of cooperation in shipbuilding at G7 summit](#) (2026-06-19 05:13)

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- [PM vows to properly honor patriots, fallen heroes](#) (2026-06-19 05:03)

SEOUL, June 19 (Yonhap) -- The government of President Lee Jae Myung will do its...

- [Today in Korean history](#) (2026-06-19 05:00)

June 20

- [Global memory chip market to quadruple in 2026: data](#) (2026-06-19 04:40)

SEOUL, June 19 (Yonhap) -- The global memory chip market is expected to more tha...

- [Yonhap News Summary](#) (2026-06-19 04:30)

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

- [\(World Cup\) S. Korea coach implores players to hold heads high after loss to Mexico](#) (2026-06-19 04:21)

ZAPOPAN, Mexico, June 18 (Yonhap) -- South Korea head coach Hong Myung-bo praise...

- [\(2nd LD\) \(World Cup\) S. Korea fall to Mexico for 1st loss in Group A](#) (2026-06-19 03:57)  
ZAPOPAN, Mexico, June 18 (Yonhap) -- South Korea fell to co-host Mexico 1-0 on T...
- [\(World Cup\) Unlucky S. Korea lack precision in loss to Mexico](#) (2026-06-19 03:56)  
ZAPOPAN, Mexico, June 18 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's 1-0 loss to Mexico in their G...
- [Unification ministry vows to find 'phased, viable' path to denuclearization](#) (2026-06-19 03:32)  
SEOUL, June 19 (Yonhap) -- The unification ministry said Friday its stance on th...
- [\(LEAD\) Election watchdog panel recommends criminal probe into ex-chief over ballot shortage](#) (2026-06-19 03:27)  
SEOUL, June 19 (Yonhap) -- The National Election Commission's (NEC) fact-finding...
- [\(LEAD\) \(World Cup\) S. Korea fall to Mexico for 1st loss in Group A](#) (2026-06-19 03:16)  
ZAPOPAN, Mexico, June 18 (Yonhap) -- South Korea fell to co-host Mexico 1-0 on T...
- [\(World Cup\) S. Korea fall to Mexico for 1st loss in Group A](#) (2026-06-19 03:02)  
ZAPOPAN, Mexico, June 18 (Yonhap) -- South Korea fell to co-host Mexico 1-0 on T...
- [S. Korea's current account surplus with U.S. slips in 2025: data](#) (2026-06-19 03:00)  
SEOUL, June 19 (Yonhap) -- South Korea posted a drop in its current account surp...
- [\(World Cup\) South Korea 0-1 Mexico](#) (2026-06-19 02:58)  
ZAPOPAN, Mexico, June 18 (Yonhap) -- Result of Group A match on Thursday between...
- [Election watchdog panel recommends criminal probe into ex-chief over ballot shortage](#) (2026-06-19 02:37)  
SEOUL, June 19 (Yonhap) -- The National Election Commission's (NEC) fact-finding...
- [Seoul stocks sharply up late Fri. morning on chip rally](#) (2026-06-19 02:32)  
SEOUL, June 19 (Yonhap) -- Seoul stocks traded sharply higher late Friday mornin...
- [PM to travel to China next week for Summer Davos Forum](#) (2026-06-19 02:18)  
SEOUL, June 19 (Yonhpa) -- Prime Minister Kim Min-seok will travel to China next...
- [\(World Cup\) Romo scores for Mexico vs. S. Korea](#) (2026-06-19 02:12)  
ZAPOPAN, Mexico, June 18 (Yonhap) -- South Korea 0, Mexico 1 (Luis Romo 50) (END...
- [Gov't to expand supply of imported eggs amid price hikes](#) (2026-06-19 02:00)

SEOUL, June 19 (Yonhap) -- South Korea will supply around 4.48 million imported ...

- [\(World Cup\) S. Korea, Mexico goalless at halftime](#) (2026-06-19 01:58)

ZAPOPAN, Mexico, June 18 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and co-host Mexico went scorele...

- [\(World Cup\) Fans gather at Gwanghwamun to root for S. Korea in World Cup match against Mexico](#) (2026-06-19 01:37)

SEOUL, June 19 (Yonhap) -- Thousands of fans were gathered in Seoul's Gwanghwamu...

- [Severed leg found at recycling center was mistakenly thrown out by hospital worker: police](#) (2026-06-19 01:20)

INCHEON, June 19 (Yonhap) -- A severed human leg found at a public recycling fac...

- [Yonhap to host forum on security strategy next week](#) (2026-06-19 01:18)

SEOUL, June 19 (Yonhap) -- Yonhap News Agency, South Korea's key newswire, will ...

- [Hyundai Rotem secures 748.2 bln-won railway maintenance project in Morocco](#) (2026-06-19 00:46)

SEOUL, June 19 (Yonhap) -- Hyundai Rotem Co. said Friday it has secured a railwa...

- [Police refer ex-President Yoon to prosecution over his wife's luxury bag case](#) (2026-06-19 00:41)

SEOUL, June 19 (Yonhap) -- Police have referred former President Yoon Suk Yeol t...

- [Navy holds fleet exercises in waters off western, southern coasts](#) (2026-06-19 00:41)

SEOUL, June 19 (Yonhap) -- The Navy said Friday it conducted live fleet exercise...

- [\(LEAD\) Seoul stocks open at fresh record high on continued chip rally](#) (2026-06-19 00:30)

SEOUL, June 19 (Yonhap) -- Seoul stocks opened at a fresh record high Friday aft...

- [Seoul stocks open at fresh record high on continued chip rally](#) (2026-06-19 00:05)

SEOUL, June 18 (Yonhap) -- Seoul stocks opened at a fresh record high Friday aft...

- [U.S.-Iran MOU poses new opportunities, challenges for S. Korea: finance minister](#) (2026-06-19 00:04)

SEOUL, June 19 (Yonhap) -- The recent memorandum of understanding (MOU) between ...

- [\(URGENT\) Seoul stocks open 2.48 pct higher on continued chip rally](#) (2026-06-19 00:01)

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