



Leisurely stroll along old Seoul street

Now is the time to take a stroll along Samcheong-dong Street, known as the "charming old" street. (Page 5)

Bryant leads, Woods battles at Tour

American Bart Bryant grabs the lead while Tiger Woods battles at the first round of Tour Championship. (Page 16)



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Roh, Putin to hold talks in Busan on Nov. 19

By Cho Chung-un

President Roh Moo-hyun will hold summit talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Busan on Nov. 19 focusing on efforts to end the North Korean nuclear standoff and strengthening the Seoul-Moscow relationship, Cheong Wa Dae said yesterday.

Putin is coming to South Korea for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Busan Nov. 18-19, and his one-on-one with Roh will follow separate summits Roh will hold Nov. 16 with Chinese President Hu Jintao in Seoul and Nov. 17 with U.S. President George W. Bush in Gyeongju.

Putin's visit will be his second to South Korea since February 2001 and reciprocates Roh's Moscow visits in May this year and September, 2004.

"Putin will have a summit with President Roh on Nov. 19 to discuss ways of peacefully resolving the North Korean nuclear issue, building a regional order for peace and prosperity in Northeast Asia and other issues of mutual concern," said spokesman Kim Man-soo.

Roh and Putin will also likely talk about implementing an action plan for cooperation in trade and investment, stable supplies of gas and oil from East Siberia, joint development of a satellite launcher, participation of a South Korean astronaut in a Russian space mission, and South Korean contributions to Russia's information technology sector.

After their meeting, they will hold a joint news conference, and Putin will then leave for a visit to Japan.

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ANTITERROR EFFORTS — Members of an antiterror squad from the National Police Agency patrol a platform at Seoul Station with bomb-sniffing dogs yesterday as the nation steps up security ahead of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation conference to be held in Busan Nov. 12-19.

The Korea Herald

Over 150 cars torched in Paris riots

LE BLANC-MESNIL, France (Reuters) — Rioters set fire to at least 150 vehicles in an eighth night of unrest in the impoverished suburbs of northeastern Paris as exasperated local officials criticized politicking by national leaders.

Rioting erupted again late on Thursday despite hopes that festivities ending the fasting month of Ramadan would calm rioters, many of them Muslims of North African origin protesting against race bias they say keeps them in a second-class status.

Police said there were fewer confrontations than previous nights when police and fire

crews were fired upon by some rioters. At least 150 vehicles were destroyed overnight according to the latest official figures.

Security officials said the presence of about 1,300 riot police had acted as a deterrent, although rioters set fire to two textile warehouses.

"Why a school, why a car? What can you say about such blind violence," said Trappes mayor Michel Beaumale outside the smoldering ruins of a local primary school. A bus depot in the town, southwest of Paris, was also destroyed.

For the first time disturbances spread to provincial

towns, youths torching cars in Dijon, Rouen and the Bouches-du-Rhone area dominated by Marseille.

Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin met local officials late on Thursday to brief them about an "action plan for the suburbs" he aims to present this month.

"The priority is restoring public order because this violence is unacceptable. But I also want to start a dialogue," he told reporters afterwards.

But local officials complained loudly about dithering and politicking among national leaders.

"Many of us told him this isn't the time for an unimpeachable plan," said Jean-Christophe

Lagarde, mayor of Drancy in the riot-hit region. "All we need is one death and I think it will get out of control."

Manuel Valls, mayor of Evry south of the capital, said: "We're afraid that what's happening in Seine Saint Denis will spread. We have to give these people a message of hope."

Rioting among young men of North African and black African origin began last week after two teenagers of African origin died while apparently fleeing the police.

The rioters are mostly locally born citizens who feel cheated by France's official promises of liberty, equality and fraternity.

Government relaxes plant construction in capital zone

By Kim Min-hee

The government has decided to accept demands by large companies to further ease regulations on building plants in the Seoul metropolitan area, paving the way for the LG Group to follow through on its plan to build a large flat display panel cluster.

Government officials and ruling Uri Party lawmakers agreed at a meeting yesterday to lift the anti-development restrictions on eight sectors that include LCD monitors, in addition to the 14 sectors exempted earlier this year.

Since 1994, Korea has barred large companies from building new plants or expanding existing ones in and around Seoul to lessen the concentration of population and economic power in the country.

The decision is good news for LG Group, which can now go ahead with its plan to create an LCD industry belt around Paju, northwest of Seoul.

The conglomerate has already broken ground for a huge flat display panel cluster in Paju through LG.Philips LCD Co., its joint venture with Netherlands-based Royal Philips Electronics, but had hoped to involve other affiliates in the project to complement the main LCD plant.

However, with the exception of LG.Philips LCD, which is regarded as a foreign enter-

prise, most LG companies are subject to regulations banning them from expanding or setting up factories in Gyeonggi Province.

The decision will mean an immediate green light for LG Electronics, LG Chem Ltd., LG Innotek, and LG Micon Ltd. to build factories, as well as Daeduck Electronics Co.

The government and the ruling party said the measure will sharpen Korea's LCD competitiveness and is worth 1.8 trillion won in investments while generating output worth 6.5 trillion won and exports worth 3.5 trillion won.

The deregulation will be temporary through the end of next year to prevent reckless development, officials said.

Korea's business community welcomed the development.

"The government's restrictions on the metropolitan area has meant a loss of 6 trillion won in investment," the Federation of Korean Industries said.

The federation said the development has also solved reverse discrimination against domestic companies by lifting restrictions for a total of 22 sectors, similar to 25 for foreign investors.

However, it expressed regrets that the exemption has only been confined to the information technology sector.

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Eight-year-old physics genius enters university

By Hwang Si-young

Song Yoo-geun, 8, wants to build flying cars, defying Newton's law of gravity, and the physics genius which has made him Korea's youngest university student may very well drive him to that dream.

Amid scholastic achievements that have confounded experts, the public spotlight is squarely on the child prodigy and his parents, both 46 and both former teachers. What has made Yoo-geun — born late November 1997 and actually just shy of 8 years old — so special?

His parents differ from the vast majority of Korean parents who show a passion approaching zeal for their children's education.

"No fixed daily routines for our boy," said Yoo-geun's parents. "Yoo-geun has a monthly schedule only. Rather than being confined by a rigid timetable, Yoo-geun has the freedom to explore every field he wants to."

While other children his age are first graders at elementary school, he is a freshman at the Physics Department of Inha University in Incheon, west of Seoul.

He set a record by completing elementary, junior-high and high school curricula in just nine months — a progression that normally takes Koreans 12 years — before being admitted to university.

With no school record to rely



Song Yoo-geun

on for screening Yoo-geun's qualifications, the university tested him through an interview in October. He surprised professors by explaining the Schrödinger equation, which is of central importance to the theory of quantum mechanics.

Experts say the equation, proposed by the Austrian physicist Erwin Schrödinger in 1925, plays a role analogous to Newton's second law in classical mechanics.

It's no wonder then that Yoo-geun is now a national figure and the focus of media attention. People are curious about his mental capabilities and

how he will be taught at university. They also want to know how he is different from ordinary children and how he has been brought up.

"Once we took Yoo-geun to a zoo. There he was looking at animals for four and a half hours straight. It was when he was three or four years old. We thought then that he was either a prodigy or the opposite," his father Song Soo-jin said in an interview with The Korea Herald at his apartment in Guri, Gyeonggi Province.

The interview was conducted mainly with the senior Song since Yoo-geun is lacking in his

ability to communicate with adults.

"I think it's good to let my son do whatever he wants," the father said. According to him, when Yoo-geun is engrossed in solving math problems or doing games, he often concentrates on them for up to 14 or 15 hours. "He likes to reach conclusions, even it takes a long time."

He said his son wants his to undertake research at CERN, the world's largest particle physics laboratory near Geneva.

Yoo-geun's dream is to make flying cars, based on the super-

string theory — an attempt by science to explain all particles and forces of nature by representing them as vibrations of tiny strings.

"It goes against Newton's law. Everything on earth gets drawn to the surface by gravity, but in the case of flying cars, it's different," Song said. "There should exist the same opposite magnitude of power as the earth's gravity-pull. So, a balance is formed between gravity and reaction, which makes flying cars float in the atmosphere," he explained.

"To study more on flying cars and the super-string theory, Yoo-geun wants to join CERN," the father said.

Yoo-geun first made headlines in March last year when he received a certificate for information-processing, normally given to professional engineers in their 20s or 30s. A KBS-TV program introduced his extraordinary talent in physics last November.

In March this year, he went to an elementary school but after a few days said he didn't feel suited to the school system. He took a test to obtain a diploma certifying graduation from elementary school, and passed it.

But the Song family became embroiled in legal disputes with the school authorities after they refused to approve the exam result and issue a diploma.

In April, the Song family

Continued on Page 3

Bush pushes trade in Americas while demonstrators gather

MAR DEL PLATA, Argentina (AP) — President George W. Bush, greeted Friday by thousands of anti-American protesters, is making his call for liberalized trade and increased entrepreneurship in Argentina, a country that adopted such reforms in the 1990s and saw its economy collapse.

Supporters of free trade say those policies aren't to blame for the financial crisis and resulting bloody riots four years ago. Instead, they point to other mistakes.

An estimated 10,000 demonstrators, shouting "Get out Bush!" and marching in the streets of this seaside resort, illustrate the skepticism that many South Americans have toward U.S.-led negotiations for a Free Trade Area of the Americas that would from Alaska to Argentina.

Bush, who met Friday with national leaders who signed the recently passed Central

American Free Trade Accord, says open trade among nations in the Western Hemisphere and beyond would help alleviate poverty. He's pushing that agenda with the 34 nations gathered at the two-day Summit of the Americas.

Demonstrators poured into Mar del Plata for Friday's opening day. Police with riot shields redoubled security, and navy ships patrolled offshore as helicopters clattered over the luxury hotel where leaders will meet.

"We're going to say 'No to Bush' and 'No to FTAA,'" said Argentine labor leader Juan Gonzalez. "We don't have any confidence in anything he might propose here. Whatever it is will only prolong hunger, poverty and death in Latin America."

Bush and an outspoken critic, Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, were likely to meet Friday, shortly after Chavez's speech to a demonstration of mostly anti-Bush protesters.

KOREAN STOCKS	
KOSPI	(Closing)
1,229.58	(+4.01)
Volume	294,878,000
KOSDAQ	(+7.43)
617.43	(+7.06)
Volume	643,468,000

GLOBAL STOCKS	
DJI	(November 3)
10,522.59	(+49.80)
Nasdaq	(+5.91)
2,160.22	(+5.91)
Nikkei	(+181.18)
14,075.95	(+181.18)
Hang Seng	(+5.80)
14,585.79	(+5.80)

Doosan chairman steps down

By Kim So-hyun

Doosan Group said yesterday that its chairman Park Yong-sung and vice chairman Park Yong-maan stepped down as the prosecution plans to announce the results of its probe into the Park family's alleged involvement in slush funds worth 80 billion won.

"I take full responsibility for everything, and step down from the group management as well," the resigned chairman was quoted by group officials as saying.

Park Yong-sung also resigned from his post as the president of the Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry yesterday four months before his official term expires.

He will retain his international positions, including his membership of the International Olympic Committee, chairman of the International Chamber of Commerce and head of the International Judo Federation, Doosan officials said.

Park requested chief executives of Doosan's subsidiaries to set up an emergency management committee to discuss how to establish a new governance structure, said a high-ranking Doosan official.

The nation's 10th largest conglomerate will operate under the emergency committee to achieve transparent management, Doosan said.

Over the past several weeks, Park and his younger brother, Yong-maan, and other family members have undergone intensive questioning by the prosecution about their involvement in creating the alleged slush funds.

The scandal erupted in July when Park Yong-oh, the group's former chairman and elder brother of Park Yong-sung, revealed documents that suggested embezzlement and accounting fraud by his younger brothers.

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FOREIGN EXCHANGE (Nov. 4)				
Currency	Basic rate	Cash (in won)		
		Selling	Buying	
U.S. dollar	1,047.90	1,067.81	1,027.99	
Euro	1,251.45	1,275.22	1,227.68	
Japanese yen (per 100)	890.62	907.54	873.70	
British pound	1,852.27	1,887.46	1,817.08	
Chinese yuan	129.62	138.69	120.55	
Swiss franc	810.97	826.37	795.57	
Hong Kong dollar	135.17	137.73	132.61	
Swedish krona	130.16	132.63	127.69	
Australian dollar	774.87	789.59	760.15	
Danish krone	167.72	170.90	164.54	
Norwegian krone	160.59	163.64	157.54	
Saudi riyal	279.42	284.72	274.12	
Kuwaiti dinar	3,588.58	3,656.76	3,520.40	
UAE dirham	285.30	290.72	279.88	
Bahraini dinar	2,781.42	2,834.26	2,728.58	
Singaporean dollar	617.27	628.99	605.55	
Malaysian ringgit	277.52	282.79	272.25	
Canadian dollar	886.17	903.00	869.34	
New Zealand dollar	721.58	735.29	707.87	
Thai baht	25.63	26.11	25.15	

Note: These foreign exchange rates can change at any time according to market conditions.

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Safety issues raised over balcony conversions

Construction Ministry responds with stringent fire safety measures

By Park Jung-youn

Responding to concerns about an increase of fire risk in apartment buildings with balconies converted to provide extra living space, the Ministry of Construction and Transportation unveiled a new set of fire safety rules yesterday.

Apartment residents will be required to build emergency shelter areas of at least two square meters in addition to installing 90 centimeters of fire-proof board or glass in the converted areas.

The new regulations were prompted by safety issues raised by fire safety and engineering experts that have made government officials and apartment residents uneasy.

The government is currently set to approve the conversion of apartment balconies into living space later this month.

The Ministry of Construction and Transportation announced its plan last month to allow conversions begin in January next year.

This announcement was followed by demands from residents in Dongtan "new town" for the government to allow the conversion work to begin immediately.

However, this sparked an outcry from fire safety and structure engineering experts, who say that remodeling the balconies could endanger the safety of residents by increasing the chances of fires spreading.

"A balcony is a single block of space between apartment units, effective for impeding fire from spreading vertically — by natural



New home buyers discuss turning balconies into living space with an official from a construction company at an apartment in Seoul yesterday.

The Korea Herald

process, fire spreads vertically 20 times faster than it does horizontally," said Lee Min-kyu of Korea Fire Safety Association at the public hearing hosted by the construction ministry last week.

"We should safeguard and even strengthen the framework that supports the balcony area with an extra layer of wall, not

dismantle and remodel them into living space," he added.

But the general executive of Korea Institute of Fire Science and Engineering Kim Won-kook says while balconies certainly slow the spread of fire as well as serving as emergency exits and shelters, building in safety measures into the balcony conver-

sions would ensure safety standards are met.

He suggested that windows that open can be used as emergency exits, nonflammable materials be used during construction, and water sprinklers and fire extinguishers be installed in the converted balconies.

However, structural changes

may also result from the remodeling work. Steel beams that hold the structural weight of the building may lose their original balance and could potentially lead the apartment building to collapse, said the Korean Structural Engineers Association (KSEA).

"The current debate is fo-

cused more on fire safety issues, but we also need to look at the structural risks that could arise from remodeling," said Lee Dong-hun, chairman of KSEA.

"Before the residents start the balcony renovations, they need to have an architect or a structural expert go through safety procedures to confirm whether the renovation work is advisable or not," he added.

The construction ministry responded that it has taken the advice of safety experts onboard in its revision of the law to grant approval, but also added that that 40 percent of the apartment residents have already converted their balconies into living space, despite the current regulations preventing such work.

"Through remodeling approval, we are trying to curb illegal renovations by requiring residents to submit an application for a permit for review," said Kim Yong-duk the vice minister last week.

"We are also going to require the residents to follow stringent safety policies," he added.

Balcony conversions are expected to push up apartment prices a bit next year, partly because of the renovation costs. Many apartment buyers are asking builders to convert the balcony area into living space before they move in. The renovations are expensive yet still 20 to 30 percent lower than the cost of hiring interior designers and constructors, according to industry insiders.

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Eight-year-old genius enters university

From Page 1

won the case. Afterwards, on April 5, Yoo-geun passed the middle school-level entrance exam, followed on Aug. 3 by the high school-level entrance exam. In October he was admitted to the Physics Department of Inha University.

Then Science and Technology Minister Oh Myung labeled Yoo-geun as "the first prodigy in science" and promised to offer him scholarships for five years. Oh said the government will provide support for him to be able to experiment at state-run research institutes and study at universities abroad.

Yoo-geun's father is basically against prodigy schools because, he says, their institutional methods prevent children from growing creatively. Plus, he added, it's absurd to produce the same number of gifted students every year.

Nationwide there are currently 23 such schools, which accept a set number of students. What

about other gifted students who, unfortunately, weren't allowed to enter? The standards to determine genius become unclear, the senior Song said.

Asked if media attention is burdensome, he said "proper attention" is desirable because proper media attention can enable encouragement to be passed on. Furthermore, it will generate more interest in physics, an area which is declining but fundamental to advancing science.

Song also said he hopes media attention can help Yoo-geun become the Park Se-ri of physics. By winning many LPGA golf championships, Park became a model for young, aspiring golfers. After Park, plenty of female Korean golfers such as Kim Mi-hyun and Grace Park and Michelle Wie have figured prominently on the women's golf circuit.

"Public attention on Yoo-geun shouldn't stop here. I'd like to see more kids go along the same path, shoulder to shoulder with

Yoo-geun," said Song.

Yoo-geun has received his share of criticism, along with the hype. When he appeared on television with signs of atopic skin reactions on his face, the gossip, although lacking legitimate grounds, was that the rash was caused by severe stress. Critics said his mother should be held responsible for making her kid study excessively.

Educators in the mainstream found fault with his father's decision to enroll Yoo-geun at Inha University after rejecting offers from top-notch and prestigious national universities like Pohang University of Science and Technology or Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology.

"I believe, above all, the first priority in education is to make every child happy, said Song.

"The single most important thing in education is to find a favorable, encouraging environment for a kid — in other words, let him be," he concluded.

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Seoul moving to ease movie screen quota system

By Kim Ji-hyun

The government is discussing easing the movie screen quota system ahead of this year's meetings of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum to be held on Nov. 18-19, a top policymaker said yesterday.

The system requires local cinemas to fill 40 percent of their schedules with homegrown movies and is designed to protect the domestic film industry from big-budget Hollywood movies.

"We are in talks with officials of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism over relaxing the quota system," said Bahk Byong-won, vice minister of finance and economy.

The system has been cited as one of the major stumbling blocks in government efforts to

facilitate a bilateral investment treaty with the United States.

However, the domestic film industry has long opposed scaling down or scrapping the system out of fear that the local film market will become dominated by Hollywood films.

Bahk also said Korea's economic growth will further accelerate in the fourth quarter, led by improving private spending and strong exports.

"The growth rate for the fourth quarter will be higher than before," Bahk said in a weekly briefing. "Exports in particular will maintain their double-digit growth rate until the end of the year."

The economy, Asia's fourth-largest, grew 4.4 percent in the third quarter from a year earlier, accelerating from a 3.3 percent gain in the second quarter and a 2.7 percent in-

crease in the first.

Domestic consumption continued its upward trend, while exports, which account for two thirds of the economy, increased 13.4 percent from a year earlier to \$ 25.71 billion in October, hitting a new monthly high.

However, the vice finance minister said corporate spending is still lackluster.

The economy, which grew 3 percent in the first half of the year from a year earlier, is expected to expand around 4 percent this year.

He said the government will present a second round of anti-property speculation measures around the end of the year which will center on helping stabilize housing prices and providing more residences to middle- and-low income earners.

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