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U.S. BUDGET GAP HITS RECORD \$1.4 TRILLION 8

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INSIDE TODAY

N.K. hackers steal secrets

The steaming of classified information by hackers from the South Korean army computer network may have been orchestrated by North Korea, government officials said. (Page 2)

Elite schools targeted

Elite high schools specializing in foreign languages are moving to change their admission policies to attract more students from public schools who have moved in on them. (Page 3)

Phone charger interface

Korea's mobile phone battery recharger interface has been accepted for review by the International Telecommunication Union, a government spokesman said yesterday. (Page 5)

Ssangyong seeks buyers

A co-court relationship manager of Ssangyong Motor Co. said it is contacting several "advanced companies" in foreign countries for the sale of the Korean company. (Page 7)

Iranian suicide attack

A suicide bomber killed five senior commanders of the elite Revolutionary Guard and at least 15 others in an area of southwestern Iran that has seen at least one of a series of bombings targeting state media reported. (Page 14)

Underwater cabinet

The Maldives government held an underwater cabinet meeting Saturday to focus global attention on rising sea levels that threaten to submerge the low-lying island nation. (Page 15)

Scientific artists

Science and art have more in common than most people think. European artists like the tiger and Oskar Eissner freely cross the border between the two disciplines. (Page 16)

KOREAN STOCKS

KOSPI	1,846.36	(-28.00)
KOSDAQ	508.26	(-2.20)
KOSPI 200	214.51	(-2.80)

GLOBAL STOCKS

Stock	Price	Change
DAX	7,000.00	(-100.00)
Nikkei	11,000.00	(-100.00)
Hong Kong	21,000.00	(-100.00)

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

Country	Rate	Change
US dollar	118.00	(-0.10)
Japan	100.00	(-0.10)
China	165.00	(-0.10)



World champion Kim Yu-na (center) of Korea poses with second-place Mao Asada (left) and third-place Yukari Nakao at the award ceremony after winning the free skate in the season-opening ISU Grand Prix in Paris on Saturday.

Kim Yu-na wins Trophee Bompard

PARIS (AP) — World champion Kim Yu-na of Korea captured the Trophee Bompard on Saturday, winning the free skate with a flawless performance to finish ahead of Japanese skaters Mao Asada and Yukari Nakano.

After blowing the field away in Friday's short program, Kim did it again to total 210.03 points after receiving 133.95 in the free skate and scored a warning ahead of the Vancouver Olympics in four months' time.

"When I finished skating, I didn't look immediately at the overall score," Kim said. "When I saw the score, I was a bit surprised. This was just my first competition of the season and I didn't expect such a good performance."

Kim's previous best total was 207.71 points in becoming world champion earlier this year.

Performing to George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" in a bejeweled blue halter-neck dress, Kim was untouchable in combining speed, athletic strength and grace to leave Asada in her wake.

Asada, the 2008 world champ, rose one spot to second overall with 173.99 points. Nakano finished third with 165.70 points.

Kim, who won in Paris three years ago, started with a perfect triple lutz-triple toe loop combination and failed to make a mistake on any jumps while seducing the audience with her expressiveness.

"I'm trying to express the music itself," Kim said. "And I love the music and this program."

The 19-year-old Kim will now be focusing on the Olympics, where she will be a huge favorite.

"I've been watching the Olympics on TV since 1998," she said.

"In Torino in 2006, I was too young to compete. If I had the chance to go there, I will certainly be nervous but I did great last season and I'm off to a good start to this season, so I feel pretty confident."

Asada missed a triple axel in the short program, but landed one during her free skate to "Bells of Moscow" by Rachmaninov.

However, she nearly fell on a double axel at the end.

"At the end of the day, I put

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U.S., N. Korea may hold talks in Beijing

By Kim Kyung-yeon and news reports

The United States may be considering a "third party" nation such as China as a venue for bilateral talks with North Korea, news reports said yesterday, indicating that Washington and Pyongyang may be closer to a one-on-one contact.

As negotiator Washington is pushing special representative in North Korea Stephen Bosworth and has requested Vice Foreign Minister Kang Sokju as Bosworth's counterpart, the Yonhap Shambaun said citing U.S. government sources.

Kang is considered as the North's main orchestrator of diplomacy on its nuclear drive.

"This could be one of the possible formats of the bilateral discussions," said one high-ranking Foreign Ministry official declining to be identified. "As of now, we can't be sure of exactly when and where the talks will be held. We also can't say with certainty that the talks would not occur in South Korea."



Yi Gun

Washington, the United States would offer remains to be seen, as the five partners of the six-party nation claim they have yet to finalize the contents of a "comprehensive package" they would provide as a quid pro quo for denuclearization.

Yonhap cited sources predicting the dialogue between the United States and North Korea to occur around mid-November when President Barack Obama is scheduled to hit Seoul, including a stop in South Korea.

Preliminary discussions on the timetable may be possible between Washington and Pyongyang when Yi Gun, visits San Diego later this month for a seminar.

The U.S. government has reportedly decided to grant a visa to Yi, who is director general of the North American affairs bureau of North Korea's Foreign Ministry.

"We believe some of the details may be discussed," said another high-ranking Foreign Ministry official yesterday. Yi

Continued on Page 14

U.S. hints at possible delay in OPCON transfer

WASHINGTON — Yonhap News — The United States for the first time has indicated the possibility of rescheduling the transfer of the wartime command of South Korean troops in 2012 amid growing concerns over nuclear and missile threats from North Korea.

The agreement for the transfer was made under former liberal South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun, who sought less dependence on the United States.

"Within the agreement, there are very clear directions for continued evaluation of political conditions and an explicit deci-

sion before OPCON transfer decision is made," said a senior administration official, asking anonymity. "So we would continue to make progress on the things we need to do to transfer the operational control. But the decision will be made based on how things look in 2012."

The official's remarks were made just hours before Defense Secretary Robert Gates embarked on a weeklong trip to South Korea, Japan and Slovakia earlier in the day while in Seoul for two days until Thursday. Gates will meet with South Korean Defense Minister Kim Tae-young for an

annual Security Consultative Meeting.

Concerns have risen in South Korea after North Korea's second nuclear test in May that the OPCON transfer will create a gap in the joint defense of South Korea. North Korea is believed to have several nuclear warheads and long-range missiles capable of reaching part of the United States.

The United States currently maintains 28,500 troops in South Korea, a legacy of the 1950-53 Korean War. South Korea got back proactive control of its forces in 1994.

The remarks are the

hint by a senior U.S. official at a possible delay in the OPCON transfer.

Other U.S. officials have dismissed a possible postponement, expressing confidence in the capability of the South Korean military.

The anonymous official also said the planning for the scheduled OPCON transfer will proceed, calling it "a natural evolution of the alliance," in effect since the establishment of the South Korean government in 1948.

"We have absolutely no intention that the military conditions

More than half of major outlets fake origin labels

By Kim Yoon-yeon

More than half of major department stores and discount stores were found to have sold products with false labels on their places of origin, the government said yesterday.

The Korea Customs Service said that its inspection during the 23 business days that ended Oct. 2 found that 170 businesses (about 35 percent) had labeled their products in terms of country of origin. The goods were worth 119 billion won (\$1.7 billion).

KCS officials added that 55.8 percent of discount stores and department stores, which com-

panies tend to trust more than smaller shops, were found to have sold products that breached country-of-origin labeling rules.

By the amount of combined value of products, falsely labeled clothes were worth 11.4 billion won, accounting for 9.5 percent of the falsely labeled products, the KCS said.

By items, false labeling on beef was the most frequent, followed by 10 items, followed by huge with eight items, shoes with seven items, stationary with six, pork with four and medical books with three false labels.

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Pakistan claims 60 militants killed in operation

MIR ALI Pakistan (AP) — Pakistan's army claimed Sunday to have killed 60 militants on the first day of an operation against an al-Qaeda and Taliban sanctuary close to the Afghan border that residents said was meeting stiff resistance from insurgents.

The army said six soldiers had also been killed in the opening stages of the push into South Waziristan.

"It was not possible to independently verify those figures because reporters have been stopped from getting close to the battlefield."

The operation in South Waziristan follows repeated requests from the U.S. to take on the jihadists behind ongoing terrorist attacks in the nuclear-armed state, as well as al-Qaeda and other networks believed to be plotting strikes on the West.

If credible, nearly 600



Pakistan Army troops prepare to leave for patrolling during a curfew in Bannu, a town on the edge of Pakistan's lawless tribal belt Waziristan, on Saturday.

equipped Pakistani soldiers trained in light conventional wars, not counterinsurgency operations, who have failed to

three other outposts in the mountainous region since 2004. Much of the region is under tribal Taliban control.

Accounts from residents and those fleeing Sunday suggested that the 30,000 troops were in for a bloodier time than in the Past Valley, another northwest region that the army successfully pushed away from insurgents earlier this year.

"Militants are offering very tough resistance to any movement of troops," Ehsan Mahsud, a resident of Makena, a town in the region, told the Associated Press in the house of Mr. Ali, close to the battle zone. He and a friend arrived there early Sunday after traveling through the night.

Mahsud said the army appeared to be mostly relying on an armor and artillery support, with soldiers sniping high ground. He said the insurgents were firing heavy machine guns at helicopter gunships, firing the air tanks and higher flying jets.

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Italian as the language of arts, science and technology

By Yoav Cerralbo

Italian is a Romance language spoken by around 70 million people in the world including Switzerland, where it is one of the four official languages, San Marino and the Vatican City.

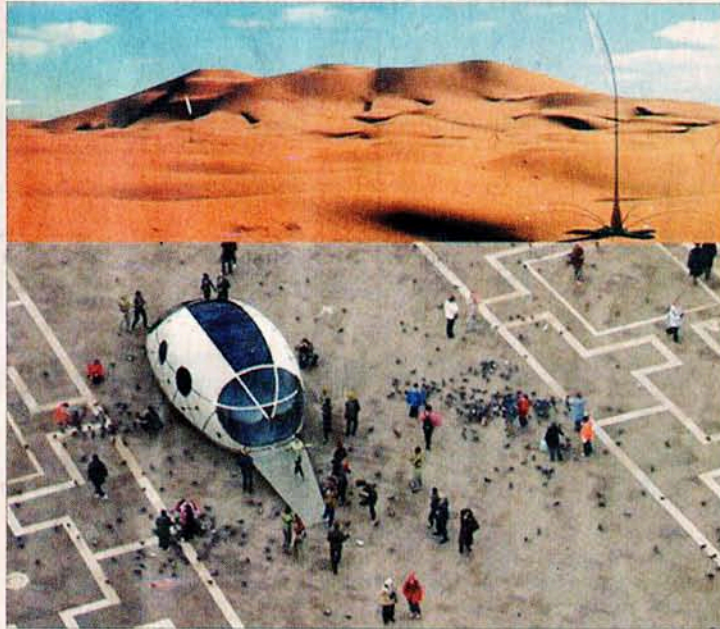
Starting today until Sunday, the Week of the Italian Language will take place at various parts of the country.

The initiative, launched nine years ago to promote Italian culture and language, is dedicated every year to a specific theme.

This year's edition will be devoted to Italian as the language of arts, science and technology.

The program for this year features conferences, lectures and performances connected to the theme.

The events of the week have been organized by the Italian Embassy and the Italian Cultural Institute in cooperation with various universities in the country in the hopes of attracting more people than before.



Promotional poster for the art exhibition "Architecture and Vision: from Pyramids to Spacecrafts"

Architect Arturo Vittori will hold three lectures at different universities.

The first will be at Myonggi University tomorrow at 3 p.m., followed by a speech at

Hongik University on Wednesday at 6 p.m. and finally Hanyang University on Friday at 2 p.m.

The topic of the lectures will be "From Pyramids to

Spacecraft - the history and evolution of architecture" and how this influenced and affected the unique approach of "Architecture and Vision."

Based in Rome, Toulouse and Munich "Architecture and Vision" specializes in aerospace technologies applied to architecture and design.

The art exhibition "Architecture and Vision: from Pyramids to Spacecrafts" is currently running at the Seoul Design Olympiad until Oct. 29.

The prestigious contemporary dance company Aterballetto is retuning to present the immortal classic "Romeo and Juliet" at the Seoul Art Center on Friday and Saturday.

Within the umbrella of the Seoul International Dance Festival, the contemporary dance company Artemis Danza and Monica Casadei will present an homage to Italian film-maker Federico Fellini at the Goyang Center later tonight.

Maestro Filippo Maria Pagliano will present his show "Leonardo Si Racconta"

at Sungshin Women's University on Wednesday. The show is dedicated to the life and works of Leonardo da Vinci and merges solo guitar and acting.

As for the academic activities, two of the most famous specialists in Italian as a foreign language, professors Angelo Chiuchiu and Giuseppe Pace will hold lectures at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies in Seoul on Friday and Pusan University of Foreign Studies on Oct. 26-27.

Stefano Scopel, professor of physics at Seoul National University will conduct a lecture on the role of Italian in the world of research, science and technology at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies' Yongin campus on Thursday.

Other Italian lecturers and professors of Italian Language who work in Korea will hold lectures at Sogang University, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies and Pusan University of Foreign Studies.

(yoav@heraldm.com)