Daily Digest

Curated by RANE editors

Korean Peninsula

News:

Park Slapped with More Corruption Charges

Jan 05

The Chosun Ilbo - The Seoul Central District Prosecutors' Office on Thursday brought additional charges of bribery and pilfering from state coffers against ex-President Park Geun-hye. The charges relate to W3.65 billion she was given in regular cash payments from the National Intelligence Service, a prosecution spokesman said (US$1=W1,065).

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'BioWatch' to Be Operated at Olympics Opening Ceremony

Jan 05

The Dong-A Ilbo - During the opening ceremony of the PyeongChang Winter Olympics, cutting-edge equipment that can detect in real time germs such as Bacillus anthracis as small as 0.001mm in diameter will be operated. If a biological attack takes place at the venue of the opening ceremony, where almost 40,000 people including distinguished guests from participating countries, athletes and the audience gather, the extent of the damage will be just unimaginable.

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China

News:

Macron Plans 1st China Visit; North Korea on Agenda

Jan 05

The Japan News - French President Emmanuel Macron will head to China next week to strengthen commercial ties with the world's second-largest economy. It will be Macron's first state visit to China since he won election last year.

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Green Tax Will Help Clear the Air

Jan 04

China Daily - Companies that cause pollution face new national procedures in move to protect environment. As the new year starts, companies, especially those in the chemical and energy sector, are facing a new type of green tax: firms that cause pollution will be taxed under a uniform set of national rules instead of the previous fees collected at the local level.

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China Closes 6,000 Websites, WeChat Accounts Due to Erotic Content

Jan 04

The Global Times - The Chinese government closed more than 6,000 websites and WeChat accounts containing erotic and indecent content in 2017, said an annual government report Thursday. The campaign to create a clean and healthy cultural environment made notable progress in 2017, said the report from the National Office Against Pornographic and Illegal Publications.a

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China Punishes Officials over Poverty-Relief Violations

Jan 04

The Global Times - China has punished several senior officials in the city of Zhangjiakou, Hebei Province, over poverty-relief violations, the top discipline inspection agency of the Communist Party of China announced Wednesday. Major irregularities were found, including incomplete implementation of decisions made by the CPC Central Committee, failure to rectify existing poverty-relief problems and lax supervision or administration, according to a statement by the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection.

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Shanghai to Be More Friendly to Overseas Tourists, Companies

Jan 05

Xinhua News Agency - Shanghai has vowed to create a more friendly environment for foreign tourists and companies and build itself into an “excellent global city” by 2035.

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Taiwan

News:

Migrant Workers to March for Better Labor Rights on Sunday

Jan 05

Focus Taiwan - Hundreds of migrant workers will take to the streets in Taipei on Sunday to call for better labor rights and the right to participate in the formation of policies that affect migrant workers, the organizer said Friday. Hsu said there are currently over 670,000 migrant workers in Taiwan, and some of them have worked as many as 14 years in the country.

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Japan

News:

At New Year Party Organized by Japan's Three Major Business Lobbies, Abe Gives Firms Fresh Push to Raise Pay by 3%

Jan 05

The Japan Times - Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Friday once again urged business leaders to raise wages by 3 percent in fiscal 2018, and asked for aggressive investment to boost the country's economy.

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Regional and Strategic Developments

News:

Two Koreas to Hold High-Level Talks on Jan. 9

Jan 05

The Korea Herald - South Korea and North Korea agreed Friday to hold their first high-level talks in more than two years next week to discuss Pyongyang's potential participation in the PyeongChang Winter Olympics, hours after Seoul and Washington decided to delay joint military exercises until after the Games.

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Chinese Broker Fingered in Illicit Oil Supply to North Korea

Jan 05

The Chosun Ilbo - A Chinese broker arranged the illicit supply of oil to North Korea via a tanker called the Lighthouse Winmore, the

Taiwanese national charged with renting it has told prosecutors according to the local press on Thursday.

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China Says Will Limit Oil, Refined Product Exports to North Korea

Jan 05

Reuters - China's Commerce Ministry said on Friday it will limit exports of crude oil, refined oil products, steel and other metals to North Korea, in line with tough new sanctions imposed by the United Nations for Pyongyang's missile tests.

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Taipei Protests After Beijing Opens New Aviation Corridors over Taiwan Strait

Jan 05

South China Morning Post - Beijing opened four new aviation corridors over the Taiwan Strait for use on Thursday, prompting Taiwan to strongly protest and demand immediate negotiations with Beijing. The mainland's Civil Aviation Administration announced on its website that commercial aircraft could begin from Thursday flying south to north through the M503 air corridor, and using three connecting regional corridors.

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First Djibouti...Now Pakistan Port Earmarked for a Chinese Overseas Naval Base, sources Say

Jan 05

South China Morning Post - Beijing plans to build its second offshore naval base near a strategically important Pakistani port following the opening of its first facility in Djibouti on the Horn of Africa last year.

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Elsewhere in the World

News:

Mexico's Attorney General Vows to Crack Down on Money Laundering

Jan 04

Reuters - Mexico's acting attorney general said on Thursday prosecutors were already working to improve investigations and cooperation with other countries following an international report that blasted the country for failing to punish money launderers.

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A Rival Steps Up to Challenge Turkey's President Erdogan

Jan 05

The New York Times - Out of the repressive climate of the last 18 months since a bloody coup attempt in Turkey, the most fearless challenger to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan—and potentially his most serious rival in future elections—has been a petite but determined woman, Meral Aksener.

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