

South Korean Court Extends Arrest Warrant for President



A satellite image shows the official residence of South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol in Seoul, February 2024.

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea’s anti-corruption agency said it received a new court warrant on Tuesday to detain impeached President Yoon Suk Yeol after its previous attempt was blocked by the presidential security service last week.

The Corruption Investigation Office for High-Ranking Officials, which plans to question the embattled president on rebellion allegations over his short-lived martial law decree on Dec. 3, didn’t immediately confirm how long the warrant would remain valid.

The agency’s chief prosecutor, Oh Dong-woon, refused to answer when

asked by lawmakers when the warrant would expire, saying such information is sensitive as the agency and police contemplate ways to execute it.

Detention warrants typically last seven days but can be extended to around 10 days. Oh didn’t say when investigators planned to make their next attempt to detain Yoon.

The Seoul Western District Court last week had initially issued a warrant to detain Yoon and a separate warrant to search his residence after he repeatedly defied authorities by refusing to appear for questioning.

About 150 anti-corruption agency investigators and police officers at-

tempted to detain Yoon on Friday but retreated from his residence in Seoul after a tense standoff with the presidential security service that lasted more than five hours. The investigators did not make another attempt to detain Yoon and the previous court warrants expired after a week on Monday.

If investigators manage to detain Yoon, they will likely ask a court for permission to make a formal arrest. Otherwise, he will be released after 48 hours.

The anti-corruption agency and police have pledged to make a more forceful effort to detain Yoon, which could be a complicated process as long as he remains in his official residence.

The anti-corruption agency is leading a joint investigation with the police and military into Yoon’s brief power grab, which included declaring martial law and dispatching troops to surround the National Assembly. Lawmakers who managed to get past the blockade voted to lift martial law hours later.

Yoon’s presidential powers were suspended after the opposition-dominated Assembly voted to impeach him on Dec. 14, accusing him of rebellion. The Constitutional Court has started deliberations on whether to formally remove Yoon from office or reinstate him.

Race Begins to Replace Trudeau as Canada’s PM



Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks during a news conference at Rideau Cottage in Ottawa on Jan. 6, 2025.

OTTOWA (Axios) -- Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau resigned from party leadership Monday, leaving a vacancy at the top of the Liberal Party.

The future leader, who will also become prime minister, will navigate rising tensions between the U.S. and Canada.

Trudeau, whose approval ratings plummeted, has led the Liberal Party for 11 years and been the country’s prime minister for nine.

Candidates will be chosen via a national leadership contest, according to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. Party president Sachit Mehra said he’d call a meeting this week to begin the process.

Candidates must be registered Liberals and be qualified to run for office in a general federal election, per CBC. The Canadian parliament

will be prorogued, or suspended, until March 24 while the Liberal Party chooses a new leader.

Five names are being mentioned as likely contenders to replace Trudeau: Chrystia Freeland, the former deputy prime minister of Canada unexpectedly resigned in December after finding herself “at odds about the best path forward for Canada” with Trudeau, she said.

She’s one of the most well-known members of Trudeau’s team, and her public resignation letter put pressure on him, the BBC reported.

She served as Canada’s minister of foreign affairs and minister of finance prior to her resignation.

Mélanie Joly, Canada’s minister of foreign affairs, has handled diplomatic stresses specific to Canada, the New York Times reported, including a rift with China and accusations re-

lated to the Indian government.

Trudeau included Joly in a revived Cabinet committee on U.S. relations after President-elect Trump’s win.

She calls her approach “pragmatic diplomacy,” including working with countries that Canada doesn’t see eye-to-eye with.

Finance minister Dominic LeBlanc replaced Freeland hours after her resignation and is one of Trudeau’s closest allies, per the BBC.

He previously ran to lead the party in 2008. He accompanied Trudeau to meet Trump at Mar-a-Lago in Florida in November.

LeBlanc used to babysit Trudeau and his siblings, and his father served as a minister in Trudeau’s father’s cabinet when he was prime minister.

Mark Carney, the former governor of the Bank of Canada, had been pursued privately by Trudeau to take over Freeland’s position as minister of finance, per the New York Times.

Carney has been calling Liberal members of parliament to ask for their support should be run for leadership, the Toronto Star reported.

His 2022 book, “Values,” argues that radical change is needed in the economy to handle growing inequality.

Transport minister Anita Anand is a “more ambitious” member of the Liberal caucus, per the BBC.

Her background is in financial market regulation and corporate governance. In federal government, she’s previously overseen public services and procurement, defense and the Treasury Board.

Russia Claims Heavy Strikes on Ukrainian Troops in Kursk

MOSCOW (Reuters) -- Russia’s defense ministry said on Tuesday its troops had inflicted heavy strikes on Ukrainian units in Russia’s western Kursk region, where Ukraine’s military reported an escalation in fighting in the previous 24 hours.

Ukraine, which seized part of the Kursk region in early August and has held on to it for five months, launched a new offensive there on Sunday but has not provided details of the operation or stated what the objectives are.

Ukraine’s general staff on Tuesday reported 94 clashes in Kursk region for the past day, compared with 47 the day before.

The U.S.-based Institute for the Study of War said geolocated footage published on Sunday and Monday indicated recent Ukrainian advances in three areas northeast of the town

of Sudzha.

It said Russian forces were trying to attack elsewhere in the region. Russian military bloggers reported fighting in Malaya Loknya, northwest of Sudzha.

A Russian defense ministry statement listed six locations where it said its forces had defeated Ukrainian brigades, and seven more - including one on the Ukrainian side of the border - where it said it had carried out strikes on Ukrainian troops and equipment.

Capturing and retaining a slice of Russian territory in the Kursk region has given Ukraine a bargaining chip in potential peace talks, as both sides fight to improve their battlefield positions before Donald Trump’s return to the White House.

The U.S. president-elect, who will be sworn in on Jan. 20 - has repeatedly said he will end the nearly three-

year-old war quickly, but without saying how.

Ukraine’s offensive in Kursk since last August has come at a cost, however, as Russia has advanced in eastern Ukraine at the swiftest pace since 2022. Russia controls about a fifth of its neighbor’s territory.

Western and Ukrainian assessments say about 11,000 troops from Russia’s ally North Korea are fighting with Moscow’s forces in Kursk. Russia has neither confirmed nor denied their presence. Ukraine and the United States say large numbers have been killed, with U.S. Secretary Antony Blinken giving a figure on Monday of more than 1,000 North Koreans dead or wounded.

Ukraine’s special forces said on Tuesday they had killed 13 North Korean soldiers, and posted photos on Telegram which they said showed their bodies and ID documents.

Powerful Quake Kills Over 100 People in Tibet



People stand amidst damaged houses in the aftermath of an earthquake in Tonglai village in Xigaze, southwestern China's Tibet Autonomous Region on Jan. 7, 2025.

BEIJING (AP) — A strong earthquake shook a high-altitude region of western China and areas of Nepal on Tuesday, damaging hundreds of houses, littering streets with rubble and killing at least 126 people in Tibet. Many others were trapped as dozens of aftershocks shook the remote region.

Rescue workers climbed mounds of broken bricks, some using ladders in heavily damaged villages, as they searched for survivors. Videos posted by China’s Ministry of Emergency Management showed two people being carried on stretchers by workers treading over the debris from collapsed homes.

At least 188 people were injured in Tibet on the Chinese side of the border, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

More than 1,000 homes were damaged in the barren and sparsely populated region, state broadcaster CCTV reported. In video posted by the broadcaster, building debris littered streets and crushed cars.

People in northeastern Nepal strongly felt the earthquake, but there were no initial reports of injuries or damage, according to the country’s National Emergency Operation Center. The area around Mount Everest, about 75 kilometers (50 miles) southwest of the epicenter, was empty in the depth of winter when even some residents move away to escape the cold.

The quake woke up residents in Nepal’s capital of Kathmandu — about 230 kilometers (140 miles) from the epicenter — and sent them running into the streets.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the earthquake measured magnitude 7.1 and was relatively shallow at a depth of about 10 kilometers (6 miles). China’s Earthquake Networks Center recorded the magnitude as 6.8. Shallow earthquakes often cause more damage.

The epicenter was in Tibet’s Tingri county, where the India and Eurasia plates grind against each other and can cause earthquakes strong enough to change the heights of some of the world’s tallest peaks in the Himalayan mountains.

There have been 10 earthquakes of at least magnitude 6 in the area where Tuesday’s quake hit over the past century, the USGS said.

About 150 aftershocks were recorded in the nine hours after the earthquake, and the Mount Everest scenic area on the Chinese side was closed.

About 6,900 people live in three townships and 27 villages within 20 kilometers (12.5 miles) of the epicenter on the Chinese side, state media said. The average altitude in the area is about 4,200 meters (13,800 feet), the Chinese earthquake center said in a social media post.

Trump’s Son Visits Greenland Amid Talk of Seizure



Donald Trump Jr. in front of the statue of Hans Egede in Nuuk, Greenland, while on a private visit.

NUUK, Greenland (AP) -- The eldest son of President-elect Donald Trump arrived in Greenland on Tuesday for a private visit that heightened speculation that the incoming U.S. administration could seek to take control of the mineral-rich Danish territory that’s home to a large U.S. military base.

The Danish state broadcaster reported that Donald Trump Jr.’s plane landed in Nuuk, capital of the vast and icy Arctic territory that has some 57,000 residents. Local media broadcast footage of him walking across a snowy tarmac.

The visit had political overtones. The president-elect recently voiced a desire — also expressed during his first presidency — to acquire the territory in the Arctic, an area of strategic importance for the U.S., China, Russia and others.

The world’s largest island, Greenland sits between the Atlantic and Arctic oceans and is 80% covered by an ice sheet.

“I am hearing that the people of Greenland are ‘MAGA.’ My son, Don Jr., and various representatives, will be traveling there to visit some of the most magnificent areas and sights,” the president-elect posted on his social media site Monday night, referring to his “Make America Great Again” movement.

“Greenland is an incredible place, and

the people will benefit tremendously if, and when, it becomes part of our nation,” Trump wrote. “We will protect it, and cherish it, from a very vicious outside world. MAKE GREENLAND GREAT AGAIN!”

Greenland’s Prime Minister Múte Egede has called for independence from Denmark, saying in a New Year’s speech that it would be a way for Greenland to free itself from its colonial past. But Egede has also said he has no interest in Greenland becoming part of the United States, insisting that the island is not for sale.

Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen said Tuesday that the future of Greenland would be decided by Greenland, and called the United States Denmark’s most important ally.

During his first term, the U.S. president-elect mused about purchasing Greenland, which gained home rule from Denmark in 1979. He canceled a scheduled trip to Denmark in August 2019 after its prime minister dismissed the idea.

Reviving the issue in a statement last month as he announced his pick for U.S. ambassador to Denmark, Trump wrote: “For purposes of national security and freedom throughout the world, the United States of America feels that the ownership and control of Greenland is an absolute necessity.”

News in Brief

BEIJING (Reuters) -- China called the United States “extremely irresponsible” for “groundlessly suspecting” there are information security risks in China’s drone systems, its commerce ministry said on Tuesday. China is strongly dissatisfied with and firmly opposes the U.S. investigating its drone systems and said it will closely monitor the situation. China also urged the U.S. to respect facts and immediately stop what it called “erroneous practices”. The U.S. Commerce Department said on Thursday it was considering new rules that would impose restrictions on Chinese drones to restrict or ban them in the United States, citing national security concerns.

PARIS (Reuters) -- French President Emmanuel Macron said that Ukraine needs to have a realistic position on territorial issues as part of efforts to bring about a negotiation with Russia. Speaking at an annual conference to French ambassadors to outline their strategy for the year, Macron’s comments were the first time he had suggested that Kyiv should consider a position beyond seeking to regain all territory seized by Russia. Moscow, which annexed Crimea in 2014, currently controls about a fifth of Ukraine, including most of the eastern Donbas region. “The Ukrainians need to hold a realistic discussion on the territorial questions and only they can do that, and the Europeans are counting on building security guarantees that will be their responsibility,” Macron said. The United States’ role should be to convince Russia to come to the negotiation table, he said, while adding that no solution to the conflict could be agreed without the direct involvement of Ukraine and Europe. He made no specific new commitments to help Ukraine. “There will not be a quick and easy solution,” Macron said, referring to U.S. President-elect Donald Trump’s promise to end the war quickly.

ABUJA (Reuters) -- Gunmen have kidnapped at least 46 people, including women and children, in a raid on Gana town in Nigeria’s northwest Zamfara state, according to residents and a local traditional leader. The attack, which follows a similar mass kidnapping in the state last month, saw dozens of gunmen on motorbikes unleashing a barrage of gunfire on the community and setting fire to several homes and businesses, residents said. Northwest Nigeria has been plagued by armed gangs, known locally as bandits, who routinely terrorize communities, leaving a trail of death and kidnapping victims, including residents, farmers, students and motorists, who are often held for ransom. Alhaji Garba Haure, a traditional leader in Gana, said the intervention of government security forces prevented the assailants from setting the entire town ablaze. No lives were lost, he said.

PARIS (Reuters) -- Jean-Marie Le Pen, founder of the far-right National Front party who tapped into working class concerns over immigration and globalization, shaking up the French political establishment, has died at the age of 96. His death was confirmed by his daughter Marine Le Pen’s political party, National Rally. In one way or another, Jean-Marie Le Pen spent his life fighting, whether as a soldier in France’s colonial wars, as a founder of the far-right National Front party, for which he contested five presidential elections, or in feuds with his daughters and ex-wife, often conducted publicly and furiously. An unabashed nationalist, Le Pen was the scourge of the European Union which he saw as a supranational project usurping the powers of nation states, tapping the kind of resentment that saw Britain vote to leave the EU.

NEW YORK (Reuters) -- U.S. President-elect Donald Trump lost a bid to put off his sentencing on Friday for his criminal conviction stemming from hush money paid to a porn star. Citing both presidential immunity and the demands of Trump’s impending Jan. 20 inauguration, his lawyers on Monday morning said Justice Juan Merchan’s intention not to penalize Trump was “of no moment.” “Presidential immunity violations cannot be ignored in favor of a rushed pre-inauguration sentencing,” the lawyers wrote in a court filing. In a written ruling later on Monday, Merchan said Trump’s motion was mostly “a repetition of the arguments he has raised numerous times in the past.” The judge declined to push back Trump’s Jan. 10 sentencing, a date he had set just last week.

ACCRA (Reuters) -- John Dramani Mahama was sworn in for a second term as Ghana’s president on Tuesday at a ceremony in the capital Accra, pledging to overcome public discontent by boosting the economy and creating much-needed jobs. The opposition leader, 66, won the Dec. 7 presidential election by a wide margin to stage a political comeback in the West African nation, the world’s number-two cocoa producer. He replaces Nana Akufo-Addo, who steps down after serving two terms, continuing Ghana’s democratic tradition in a region gripped elsewhere by military coups and jihadist insurgencies. Over 20 presidents and heads of state from around the world attended the rite in Accra’s independence square, the scene of Ghanaian presidential inaugurations since Kwame Nkrumah was sworn in over six decades ago.