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By: Bogdan Obretin, News Editor



## **South Korean Prime Minister Resigns**

*The President accepted his resignation*

South Korean President Roh Moo-Hyun has accepted the resignation of his prime minister because allegations rose over a round of golf. South Korea's Prime Minister, Lee Hae-Chan, resigned Tuesday after being criticized for playing golf and not taking care of the government's response to a railway strike. The opposition against the prime minister started on March 1, in the first day of a national march of the railway workers. In a meeting with Chung Dong-young, the Uri Party leader, Roh said he will accept the party's recommendations for the dismissal of Lee. The latter, who had the position since June 2004, apologized several times for his misconduct regarding the incident. The opposition also questioned Lee's golf game, saying it included a business man suspected of stock manipulation and made illegal campaign contributions. Lee is accused of receiving request for favors from his golf partner. Previously, in April 2005, he was also playing golf during a wildfire that devastated an eastern mountainous region. Lee made his apology before the National Assembly, promising not to repeat this imprudence. Still, in July, golf was also the first thing on his agenda when heavy rains buffeted the country's south and caused serious damage for local people. A recent opinion poll said that 52.8% of the respondents think the prime minister should resign. With this resignation, 54-year-old Lee paid a great price for his already expensive hobby.