



Special Interview

“Congratulatory message on the 100th issue of *The Monday Times*”

••• from Choi Min-ho, Mayor of Sejong City •••

By Shin In-ho and Yeon Kyung-han



Mayor Choi Min-ho poses after the interview.

Sejong City plans to establish a “Hangeul Culture Complex” as a hub for Korean Wave culture. It is also currently preparing for the “Youth Spelling Bee Competition” starting from Hangeul Day this year.

Q: Who is your favorite singer? Is there a movie or book that recently moved or impressed you?

A: I like Nat King Cole. He had a beautiful voice and excellent singing skills. He was also a remarkable individual. He achieved great success despite the challenges of his African-American background. During his time, racial barriers in the United States were very strong. However, Nat King Cole achieved his goal as a singer with his indomitable will, overcoming those obstacles. I also enjoy the Beatles because, at that time, rock music was known for its rough rebelliousness and wildness, but they were gentle and their lyrics were very philosophical.

time this year.

However, we have limitations in achieving self-sufficiency solely through administrative functions, as the population growth rate has been slowing down. Therefore, I believe that Sejong City should be a “future strategic capital” beyond its role as an administrative capital. In this vein, we will make efforts to successfully accomplish the “Three Special Free Zones” policy, such as the “Special Economic Free Zone for Daejeon-Sejong,” “Special Free Zone for Opportunity Development,” and “Special Free Zone for Education Freedom.” These efforts will also focus on attracting outstanding companies, fostering startups and creating favorable conditions for them.

Q: What is the project that you consider the most important among those being pursued in Sejong Special Self-Governing City in 2023?

A: First, we plan to actively attract investments to enhance self-sufficiency and dedicate ourselves to preparing for the “2025 International Garden City Expo” and the “2027 Summer World University Games.” Already, promises of investment totaling 1.1558 trillion won from 21 companies, including KT&G, has been secured, with over 3,096 jobs to be created. By hosting the International Garden City Expo, we aim to transform the entire city of Sejong into an urban garden, specializing in the three elements of air, land, and water,

showcasing it as the number one garden city in Korea to the world.

Furthermore, considering the future construction of the Presidential Office Complex and Sejong City Hall, as well as upcoming large-scale international events, it is evident that the demand for transportation will significantly increase. Therefore, we will make necessary preparations. We also plan to establish a comprehensive railway network connecting Daejeon, Sejong, and Chungbuk through the construction of an intercity railway and the establishment of KTX Sejong Station, forming a railway network that connects the Chungcheong region centered around Sejong City like a spiderweb. There are many projects we should accomplish for our city and its citizens.

Q: Please explain the current situation regarding the construction of the Presidential Office Complex and Sejong City Hall.

A: Through the “Presidential Second Office Joint Government Task Force,” launched in September of last year, we are promoting discussions with the ministries concerned. If we establish the basic plan this year and commence the detailed design next year, it is expected that construction will begin in February 2025 and be completed in the first half of 2027.

(Continued on Page 5)

The development of Sejong Special Self-Governing City as an administrative hub complex city is extremely impressive. Sejong City, which had a population of less than 100,000 ten years ago, has made significant progress and now approaches approximately 400,000 residents. Since the inauguration of Mayor Choi Min-ho at the 4th local government election, Sejong City has been exploring new ways and opportunities from various perspectives, aspiring to become a future strategic city. Despite numerous challenges and issues, Mayor Choi Min-ho has great aspirations and plans as the head of the de facto administrative capital of South Korea. On the occasion of the 100th issue of The Monday Times, a special exclusive interview was conducted with Mayor Choi Min-ho. – Ed

Q: Could you please tell us about achievements during the past 10 years since the establishment of Sejong Special Self-Governing City and its tasks?

A: I believe that the past 10 years were a period in which Sejong City built a city infrastructure under national leadership, shaping itself as an administrative center and a multifunctional city. Sejong City is now home to 47 central administrative agencies (23 central ministries and 24 affiliated organizations) and 16 national research institutes. The population has increased from 100,000 to 390,000, and the budget surpassed 3 trillion won for the first

Q: Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule. First, please tell us about your school days.

A: During my school days, many people would ask me, “What do you want to become in the future?” Most students would dream of being a president, a member of parliament, or a diplomat, who are highly admired. However, I thought the question was a bit inappropriate. I had many dreams, and I didn’t want to limit my dream to authority, status, honor or fame. Actually, the question I wanted to be asked was, “What do you want to do?” I once received the same question from my homeroom teacher. I answered, “I want to become a renowned columnist like Jack Anderson.” He was the one who inspired me to dream of making a difference in society at a young age.

Nuri space rocket successfully launches research satellites



“South Korea has invested 674 million dollars into its space industry, hoping to expand into other areas of space research and resource extraction. It aims to create a means of lunar exploration.”

of Science and ICT. In 2021, the rocket previously completed its launch sequence successfully but was not able to deploy satellites, which it was able to do this time. In this launch, a 180-kilogram technology demonstrator, the NEXTSat-2 X-band synthetic aperture radar (SAR) is included. The next launch and following launches will include multiple technologically advanced microsats.

The Nuri space rocket’s entire creation, development, and launch process has happened completely within the country. The billion-dollar project began back in 2010 and continues to have plans for more launches within the next few years, complete with the three additional launches planned for 2025 to 2027. “This launch marks a leap forward for South Korea in its efforts to develop its own aerospace industry,” said the head of the Institute. South Korea has become the seventh country in the world to have developed a vehicle carrying a satellite over one ton.

In the future, KARI hopes to improve the rocket’s capabilities, including lowering its production and launch cost and has started a partnership with leading Korean aircraft engine producer Hanwha Aerospace, which previously sponsored the creation of several parts of the rocket through 2027. South Korea has also invested 674 million dollars into its space industry, hoping to expand into other areas of space research and resource extraction. Alongside the launch of KSLV-III, the country aims to create a means of lunar exploration, such as a 1.5-ton robotic lunar lander.

By Sophia Choi

On May 25th, 2023, South Korea’s originally created space rocket Nuri, also known as KSLV-II (Korea Space Launch Vehicle II), successfully made its launch into outer space from the Naro Space Center in the southern coastal village of Goheung, south of Seoul. The rocket’s launch had initially been postponed from its initial launch time of May 24th due to technical difficulties. However, it successfully took off the day after and has become the first Korean launch vehicle carrying commercial payloads to make it into the cosmos.

Developed by the Korea Aerospace Research Institute (KARI), the rocket took its flight into orbit at 6:24 pm, according to the Ministry

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The Monday Times
 (주)먼데이타임스

“The *Monday Times* celebrates 100th edition with gratitude and excitement”

Approximately three years ago, Gustavo Koo, the President of the Korean Association in Paraguay and Counselor for Good Neighbors Paraguay and UNICEF Paraguay, sent a congratulatory message for the 50th edition of *The Monday Times*. In his message, he exclaimed, “Congratulations once again, and let us eagerly anticipate the progress towards the 100th edition!”

Today, we are celebrating our 100th issue, and we have received many congratulatory messages. Guardian journalist Kim Nemo, who gave the first message, sent his congratulations and expressed his amazement at the newspaper’s consistent publication for the past 8 years. Professor Cha In-hong from Wright State University added his support, stating that accomplishing a single task for a decade will lead to even greater achievements in the future. Former Ambassador Lee Young-il, who served in Sejong, expressed his best wishes, hoping that *The Monday Times*, as the only English newspaper in the central and southern regions, will continue to make its mark and actively participate in youth activities nationwide.

We cannot contain our joy in having established the necessary infrastructure to participate in various domestic and international events and publish newsletters. We are actively involved in the publication of newspapers and

magazines in over 100 schools, colleges, and universities nationwide. Lately, we have broadened our reach by publishing both a Korean version and an English online edition, and we have been promptly sharing diverse news through real-time platforms like YouTube, Instagram, blogs, and other social media networks. We are thrilled by these advancements and feel an even greater sense of responsibility.

Finally, we want to sincerely thank all the people who have valued our newspaper; affectionately supported us by actively participating in the publication of our newspaper. We are also grateful to our dedicated journalists and staff members who have consistently put their best efforts into their roles. Additionally, our appreciation goes out to the volunteering editors from all over the world who read *The Monday Times* and sometimes willingly contributed their articles to our newspaper. In addition, we would like to express our gratitude to the correspondents from different countries who have genuinely shared global news through English newspapers published in Korea while expressing their love for Korea. We also express our gratitude to the many university student supporters who have tirelessly contributed to our newspaper. Once again, we embark on our journey, eagerly anticipating the 200th edition. – Ed

An unforgettable experience: meeting Sejong Mayor

By Kong Tae-kyun
(Sejong Global High School)



The mayor’s attentive listening and willingness to actively consider and incorporate the needs of the youth in Sejong City were very impressive.

Last Monday was a very special day for me. As a high school student with various dreams, meeting the mayor of the metropolitan city was very unfamiliar but meaningful. I was invited to an interview with Mayor of Sejong City, which was to commemorate the publication of the 100th issue of *The Monday Times*. I gladly accepted the teacher’s first suggestion because I thought it was a very refreshing and special activity.

We, myself and two other high school students, visited the mayor’s office in Sejong City Hall, together with *The Monday Times* journalists. We met the busy mayor with our respective questions prepared for the interview, and felt nervous. Although it was a congratulatory interview for the 100th issue of *The Monday Times*, we discussed current issues in Sejong City and youth-related matters on behalf of the youth.

During the interview, we heard about what the mayor’s dreams were in his high school days. As I listened to his story, I also thought to myself, “When it comes to my own dreams, I should not focus on a specific occupation or a noun but on what I want to do as a verb.” Additionally, the mayor’s attentive listening and willingness to actively consider and incorporate the needs of the youth in Sejong City were very impressive. He was very much interested in our proposals such as the support for after-school activities for teenagers, which I personally suggested, as well as the publication of a Sejong Youth English newspaper by students’ initiatives, which *The Monday Times* proposed. I was grateful that I was given this wonderful opportunity to interview with the mayor and express our wishes.

Recently, the education scene in our country is not very pleasant for teenagers. When classes in school are over, they rush off to private academies. In this situation, I cannot have an opportunity to think about what my dreams are and how I want to live in the future, as I’m constantly pushed into the situation preparing for the exams. Sometimes, I want to take time to think about my dreams, share them with friends who have the same aspirations, or have conversations with friends who have different dreams. Furthermore, I want to experience various things, listen to interesting lectures from experts domestic and overseas, and hear stories from people who have studied and worked abroad. I also want to exchange experiences with the foreigners we frequently encounter in our surroundings these days.

It is difficult for our teenagers to achieve all of these things on their own. If the Sejong City government actively supports youth activities, and if we have the opportunity to meet various people from different fields and listen to inspiring stories, we will be able to freely dream and unfold our aspirations. Just the thought of it makes me delightful and enjoyable. We eagerly wait for this hope to come true soon. I would like to express my gratitude once again to *The Monday Times* for giving me this valuable opportunity.

A milestone in journalism’s journey

By Jeong Min-cha
(Sungshin Women’s University)



Certain landmarks in the history of journalism deserve a moment for pause, reflection, and praise. Today, we celebrate the publication of the 100th issue of *The Monday Times*, a significant milestone.

As a student contributor, I stand proudly amidst this celebration, appreciating the journey thus far and looking forward to the road ahead.

The Monday Times brings together diverse perspectives in journalism to create a unified narrative. Its pages are filled with the expertise of professional journalists, the global perspectives of many native

English writers, and the fresh perspectives of student contributors such as myself. This diversity of voices creates a vibrant tapestry of coverage that ranges from in-depth social analysis to insightful movie reviews.

In honor of our 100th issue, I would like to recognize the extraordinary opportunity *The Monday Times* offers to students. By inviting us to contribute to a real-world journalism, it not only serves as a platform for disseminating news, but also as an educational tool that shapes us into competent, engaged global citizens.

Our writings, born by this invaluable opportunity, are more than mere tales. They represent our efforts to stimulate discussion, raise awareness, and inspire change. As contributors to this leading English-language newspaper, we recognize our responsibility to uphold the journalistic

values of honesty, objectivity, and fairness in every issue.

As we stand on this significant milestone, it is essential that we keep an eye on the future. As we continue our journey, I believe that *The Monday Times* must maintain its commitment to delivering news that informs, engages, and resonates with our audience. It should remain committed to its mission of fostering mutual understanding between our country and the international community.

To my fellow students, educators, and all of our diverse readership, I would like you to continue participating in this extraordinary endeavor. Your questions, criticisms, and support form the firm foundation of *The Monday Times* and enable us to uphold our commitment to being a newspaper for the people.

Commemorating the 100th issue of *The Monday Times*

By Jeong Ji-won
(Seoul Women’s University)



The Monday Times is a newspaper publishing company that delivers information on recent issues via English articles. Also, *The Monday Times* has interviewed famous

and high-profile figures, including ambassadors, presidents of universities, directors, and lawmakers, sometimes conducting exclusive interviews. It has provided fun, educational, and informative reading materials in both paper and Internet newspapers. It has also provided the opportunities for the readers to indulge themselves in interesting reviews of the movies and the bestseller books. I believe

that with these interesting and educational articles, our teenaged readers will grow to be promising young leaders in the global era.

The Monday Times has more than 70 native professionals from all over the world participating in its publication. It distributes paper newspapers to over 7,000 middle and high schools, as well as to the military and police nationwide, to keep them informed about current international and domestic issues.

Starting with the first issue published on September 28th, 2015, *The Monday Times* will soon celebrate its 100th issue. Just by reading the articles, you will be able to get considerable information about the incidents and topics worldwide and realize that your background knowledge has been remarkably expanded. *The Monday Times* Newspaper can be recommended for those who want to stay informed about various

issues currently occurring in the world or to build common knowledge, improving English proficiency, by reading articles.

Thanks to the hard work of many dedicated individuals involved in its publication on the basis of affectionate encouragement and support of our readers home and abroad, *The Monday Times* was able to publish up to the 100th issue and consistently deliver high-quality newspapers. It has also given more opportunities for many student supporters to participate in covering and editing newspapers.

The Monday Times will be definitely even more successful because quality and interesting articles will be steadily produced and provided for the readers. I wish you to congratulate on the publication of the 100th issue of *The Monday Times*. Please continue to support and encourage *The Monday Times*.

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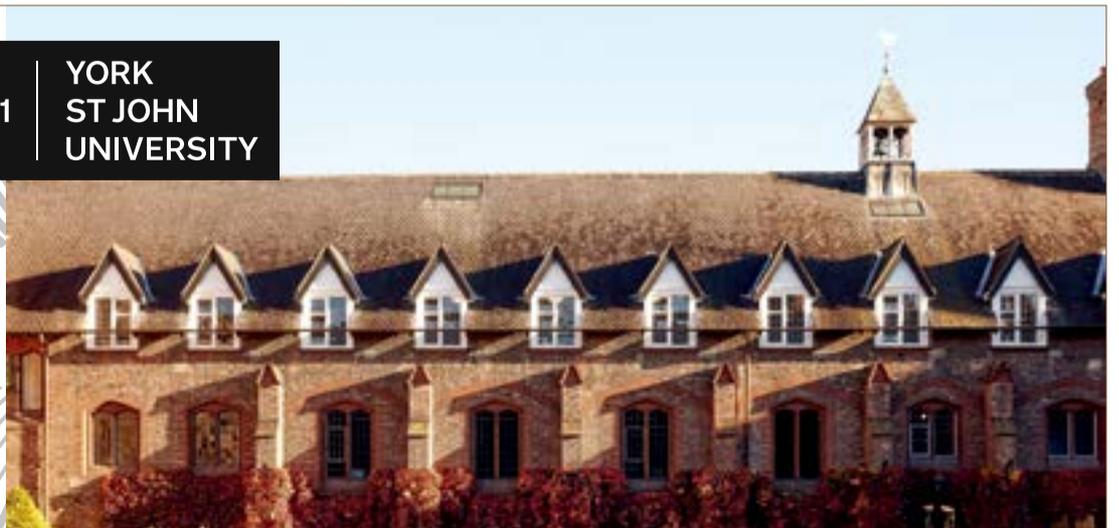
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School bullying record will be reflected in college admissions



According to the government's strengthened measures, school violence history will be reflected in both rolling and regular admission processes, as well as cases of forced transfer due to bullying.

By Cho Chae-young

The government has come up with measures to eradicate school violence. According to the measures, the disciplinary records of the students with a history of school violence will be reflected in college admissions, beginning in 2026.

The current state of school violence is serious. According to a survey asking if they have experienced school violence, two out of 100 students said they had been affected by school violence. Recently, the types of school violence are 37% for physical violence, 22% for verbal violence, 14% for cyber violence, 10% for sexual violence; 6%, 3%, and 3% for extortion, coercion, and bullying, respectively. (based on 2020-2022 public notification materials for school statistics) Over the past three

years, the number of school violence cases in middle and high schools in Seoul has exceeded 10,600 and it will be much more nationwide. In addition, the actual number is likely to increase, considering the situation of school lockdowns due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In this serious situation, it seems natural that the perpetrators' records of school violence should be checked and reflected in the college admissions process.

School violence records will be reflected in colleges admission selectively for the 2025 school year, but they will be reflected on a mandatory basis for admissions in 2026. 112 universities have announced their intention to consider school violence records in admissions starting from 2025. Among them, 21 universities will reflect students' bullying records in regular college admissions process. Several universities, including Seoul National University, Yonsei University, and Korea University is planning to reflect students' school violence records in their rolling admission process. Other universities such as Chung-Ang, Seoul City, Ewha Womans, Konkuk and Hanyang University will check students' school violence records in their regular admission processes.

Currently, students' grades, attendance, school life, and student records are only reflected in their rolling admission process. However, according to the government's new measures, students' bullying records will be reflected in the regular admission system, which has only employed CSAT scores, so that perpetrators will be held responsible for their wrongdoings.

Each university will determine and notify students of specific details regarding how bullying records will be considered in their respective admission processes. In addition, the government decided to allow victims to request their separation from the perpetrator so that the perpetrator cannot approach the victim. Furthermore, a support center will be set up at the schools. Many people expect this measure to be a major turning point in eradicating school violence.

(Related content on Page 7)

College freshman can change major



By Jeong Ji-won

It is expected that from next year, even first-year college students will be able to transfer to other majors. Universities with combined professional colleges and 4-year general universities course will be able to offer both Bachelor's degree programs and professional Bachelor's degree programs. The Ministry of Education announced on April 26th that it would revise the Higher Education Act to allow universities to autonomously operate their academic affairs according to their own regulations, with only the minimum basic requirements stipulated by law.

Accordingly, once each university decides, it will be possible for freshmen to change their majors after they enter the university. Universities that integrated junior colleges and general universities will be able to operate Bachelor's courses and college degree programs at the same time.

An official from the Ministry of Education explained, "Since students cannot change their majors in the first grade, they often leave the school. They have no choice but to decide to drop out when they judge that their majors do not suit them. This will be reduced."

The scope of recognition of graduation credits of universities that operate joint curriculum between universities will also be changed. Now, universities are expected to autonomously determine the scope of recognition of graduation credits through their agreements.

In addition, both the requirements for the tenure of participants for industry consignment education and restrictions on the selection of adult learners at local junior colleges will be abolished.

The Ministry of Education will also provide the basis for the operation of the professional Bachelor's course in the integration process of junior colleges and general universities. Until now, general universities have had no basis for awarding professional Bachelor's degrees, so even competitive professional Bachelor's courses had to be abolished when general universities and junior colleges integrated.

Pygmies to adopt the Korean alphabet characters

By Yeon Kyung-han



The powerful wave of Hallyu (Korean Wave) is spreading worldwide. Korea's prominent status is rapidly rising in various cultural and artistic domains, including music, dramas, and movies. As an example, we can see the love and admiration for the Korean language among the African Pygmy people. The Pygmies are an ethnic minority residing in the forests of the Congo in Africa, sustaining themselves through the consumption of fruits and wild animals. With an average adult height of only 130-140 cm, they are commonly referred to as Pygmies.

The Pygmies possess their own unique language known as "Chitombo." However, the absence of a writing system has hindered the development of a written culture. In 2016, Pygmy princess Miriam encountered missionary Choi Kwan-sin, who was working in the Democratic Republic of Congo, asking him to teach them the Hangeul writing system (Korean alphabet). Responding to her request, Missionary Choi consulted with Professor So Kang-chun from the Department of Korean Education at Jeonju University. In their ongoing efforts, they recently completed the translation of the Bible into Hangeul for the Pygmies.

Missionary Choi still continues to teach "Chitombo Jeongeum" to the Twa people in the Banyakiri region of Congo. "Chitombo Jeongeum" represents the pronunciation of Chitombo using Hangeul's

pitch notation. Thanks to its characteristics, Hangeul can be quickly understood and written once the basic shapes are grasped. Missionary Choi reported that most of the local Twa children can read and write their names within just 30 minutes.

Word Search By Shin In-ho

This puzzle was created using the 99th edition of The Monday Times.

H	E	V	S	R	E	S	P	E	C	T	L	E	E
R	L	A	I	E	E	G	A	T	I	R	E	H	V
E	R	E	S	S	Z	H	D	I	E	A	A	T	U
A	T	E	A	E	I	I	L	V	S	E	H	W	I
R	N	E	L	K	L	T	R	H	A	D	L	H	P
U	S	L	M	L	E	E	A	P	N	L	A	A	C
R	E	M	I	N	D	M	C	E	L	A	U	L	E
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|-------|-------|--------|---------|-----------------|
| rural | value | select | visit | surpass |
| state | poet | hope | remind | alliance |
| prize | novel | whale | respect | privilege |
| art | leak | attend | ashamed | heritage |

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착한 여행영어 회화 (교재용)

영어의 실력이 올라간다

토마스와 앤더스의 착한 영어시리즈

- ★ 착한 팝송에서 배우는 영어회화 (QR코드로 음악 감상)
- ★ 착한 서비스영어 (비즈니스 영어)
- ★ 착한 여행영어 회화 (교재용)
- ★ 착한 업그레이드 된 기초영어 회화 첫걸음 (초중급용)

토마스와 앤더스의 착한영어시리즈는 각 주제에 맞는 영어 회화와 표현을 꼼꼼하게 담았습니다.

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착한 팝송에서 배우는 영어회화 (QR코드로 음악 감상)

G7 leaders meet in Hiroshima to discuss global risks of the world



President Yoon Seok-yeol attended the group of seven leading industrial nations' summit as a leader of one of eight outreach nations, alongside Australia, India, and Brazil.

By Sophia Choi

Leaders of the Group of Seven met in Hiroshima for their annual summit on May 19th, lasting until May 21st. Founded after the international 1973 oil crisis, the leading industrialized democracies whose combined annual gross domestic product of \$40 trillion included the US, Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, and Japan. Political security was the main agenda at the 2023 Hiroshima Summit, and the G7 leaders issued a statement entitled "Hiroshima Vision on Nuclear Disarmament."

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida welcomed the leaders at the symbolic Peace Memorial Park in his hometown, Hiroshima, reflecting on the 1945 bombing and advocating for a world without

nuclear weapons. Amid Russia's war on Ukraine, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy flew to Hiroshima and urged the seven leaders to continue their support for Ukraine. Kishida pledged "unwavering solidarity" with Ukraine, saying, "Wherever in the world, attempting to change the status quo by force can never be accepted. The G7 will endeavor to bring just and lasting peace as quickly as possible for Ukraine."

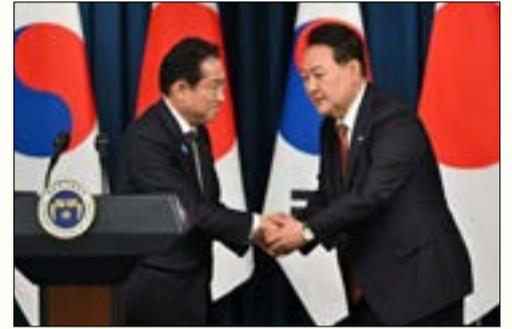
On Saturday, a joint communique was issued by the G7 nations regarding geopolitical tensions in the East and South China Sea and its rising economic security threat. Calling the situation "increasingly authoritarian at home and abroad," British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak notes that China will be an important topic of discussion in the coming years in regard to global security and prosperity.

The G7 also agreed on escalating sanctions against Russia, fending off China's use of punitive trade measures, and deepening their cooperation on emerging technologies as well. The rapid growth of generative artificial intelligence and chatbot ChatGPT and how to control the constantly evolving technology were among the main agenda alongside the further implementation and development of clean technologies.

President Yoon Seok-yeol attended the group of seven leading industrial nations' summit as a leader of one of eight outreach nations, alongside Australia, India, and Brazil. The President also held bilateral discussions with other leaders and a trilateral meeting with Biden and Kishida. The three allies discussed an extended deterrence to North Korea's nuclear and missile threat and their Indo-Pacific strategies, "how to take their trilateral cooperation to new heights." To reaffirm international cooperation in future pandemic preparation, Yoon pledged an additional \$24 million in contributions from Korea to the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) and double annual aid to the United Nations World Food Program.

Leaders from Korea and Japan meet in 12 years

By Choi Mun-young



Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida visited Seoul on May 7th and 8th for a two-day summit with Yoon Suk-yeol. It was the first political interaction between leaders of the two countries in 12 years. Previously in March of this year, Yoon also made a visit to Tokyo. The purpose of the meeting was reportedly to discuss matters related to restarting their "shuttle diplomacy" and strengthening ties between their respective countries and with the US regarding national security involving North Korea. Later this month, a trilateral meeting was also held between the US, South Korea, and Japan in Hiroshima at the G7 summit.

Despite the two countries' complicated relationship over the past few decades, the meeting in Seoul could be the first step towards economic and political cooperation. President Yoon said that the security collaboration would be beneficial toward the nation's own goals as well as "for world peace and prosperity in the face of the current severe international situation."

The summit's agenda involved a variety of currently shared international threats between the two countries, including North Korea's missile launches and China's growing arsenal of nuclear weapons. They also discussed Japan's plans to release treated radioactive water from the Fukushima nuclear power plant, which they agreed would require inspection by South Korean experts.

However, the main issue discussed between the two countries was compensation for the atrocities committed during Japan's colonial occupation of Korea. Kishida paid respects at the Seoul National Cemetery and stated to the press that his "heart aches" for the Korean people regarding the suffering, but he noted that the current Japanese government continues to perpetuate the earlier administrations' political stance on the matter.

President Yoon stated that he would like to focus on shared cooperation in the future despite the backlash he received. His statement led him to be called "oblivious to history," relating to his earlier announcement that Korean companies should pay compensation to the victims of forced labor during the time. Kishida said, "Japan and South Korea share various histories and developments. I believe it is my responsibility as Prime Minister of Japan to cooperate with President Yoon and the South Korean side as we follow through the effort of our predecessors who have also overcome the difficult times."

Exploring Bitcoin's impact and the perception shift

By Choi Chung-ho (CEO of the JAEIL Management Consulting Company)



It is evident that digital assets are currently being used as a means of payment for products by certain companies like Tesla.

Choi Chung-ho obtained a doctoral degree in Business Administration from Cheongju University and has been working as a management consultant for a long time. Currently, he is the CEO of the JAEIL Management Consulting Company. - Ed

Since the first appearance of Bitcoin in 2009, there has been high interest in Bitcoin worldwide. Subsequently, Bitcoin has been defined by various terms such as cryptocurrency, digital currency, virtual currency, and crypto asset.

Cryptocurrency is a more convenient means of exchange than traditional currency in the fourth industrial society, where transactions are based on blockchain technology (hash functions). Virtual currency, on the other hand, refers to digital assets that have exchange value but are not actual currencies, such as game currency or points.

It is evident that these digital assets are currently being used as a means of payment for products by certain companies like Tesla. In other words, virtual currencies are often used simply as digital assets, while cryptocurrencies possess value and functionality as digital assets and operate on a decentralized system.

Recently, as many people have invested in virtual currencies, there has been a significant increase in the general public's interest in cryptocurrency investment, often sparked by articles about individuals making a fortune or losing their entire investment in a moment. This phenomenon demonstrates that virtual currency is perceived more as an investment target rather than its inherent function as a convenient substitute for traditional currency. The societal perception of virtual currency is undergoing a negative shift as it is increasingly seen as a speculative tool, rather than focusing on its technological strengths.

In 2014, the European Banking Authority (EBA) classified Bitcoin as a virtual currency, defining it as "a digital representation of value that is neither issued by a central bank or a public authority,

nor is it based on any other legal tender, but is accepted by individuals or legal entities as a means of payment and can be electronically transferred, stored, and traded." Meanwhile, in South Korea, both the government and the Bank of Korea are extremely cautious about using the term "currency" for coins. From the perspective of financial authorities, they argue, "Coins fail to meet any of the three key criteria of currency, namely store of value, unit of account, and medium of exchange. How can we consider them as currency when they are just computer file fragments with no intrinsic value?" As a result, the government recently defined coins as "virtual assets." On the other hand, coins are referred to by various names depending on the naming entity, with academics and others emphasizing the technological characteristics of coins and using the term "cryptocurrency."

Currently, the general public in our country has readily embraced the term "virtual currency," and it is a reality that their focus is predominantly on the investment value of coins. It is regrettable that there seems to be a lack of interest in other aspects of coins.

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Special Interview

••• Congratulatory message from Choi Min-ho, Mayor of Sejong City •••

“Let’s strive for more dialogue and communication, understanding each other”

By Shin In-ho and Yeon Kyung-han



On the occasion of the 100th issue of *The Monday Times*, a special interview was conducted with Mayor Choi Min-ho at his office in Sejong City Hall. Lee Seung-yeon (leftmost in the right photo) from Bangok High School, Kong Tae-kyun (third from the left) from Sejong Global High School, and Shin In-ho (rightmost), CEO of *The Monday Times* participated in the interview with Mayor Choi.

“Global cultural exchanges are expanding and societies are gradually transforming into multicultural societies. In this context, it is crucial for young people to develop a proper sense of global citizenship. I hope that the young people will embrace the idea that “you and I are not so different” and foster a sense of equality.”

Q: Last month, you visited Washington D.C. and Boston in the United States to establish global cooperative relationships. Could you please explain the big picture of global projects, such as the world-class smart city project designed by Sejong City?

A: The visit to the United States last month aimed to refine the future vision and strategy of Sejong City and establish cooperative relationships with advanced cities around the world. The main focus of the visit was on three areas: international exchange between cities, expanding cooperation and promoting the city brand, and devising plans for the introduction of cutting-edge technologies. First, we strengthened cooperation and exchange with Washington D.C. and Boston in the United States in the construction of the administrative capital, including the smart city, and in the field of global transportation innovation. As a result, Sejong City and Washington D.C. jointly proposed hosting the tentative “International New Administrative Capital Forum” to discuss urban issues among administrative capitals worldwide.

We also aimed to create opportunities to promote the city brand of Sejong to the world. To achieve this, we held special lectures and meetings with Harvard University and MIT students and had discussions with Dr. Stevens Castleman, the director of the Korea Economic Institute of America. With Dr. Castleman, we discussed collaboration opportunities related to the Korean Language Village in connection with the Korean Culture Complex being pursued by Sejong City. In addition, we visited world-leading startup companies for talent development in the field of cutting-edge technologies such as autonomous driving robots and quantum computers. We also explored cooperation opportunities in the field of culture and arts with the Smithsonian Institution.

Q: Are there any plans for young citizens of Sejong City, for example, an international youth Hangeul festival?

A: In the current situation where global interest in Hangeul and Korean Wave culture

is increasing, we will develop Sejong City, named after King Sejong, into a true capital of Hangeul culture. In particular, we plan to establish a “Hangeul Culture Complex” as a hub for Korean Wave culture. This facility will be a comprehensive space where Hangeul and Korean Wave culture are integrated. Additionally, we are considering the development of various educational and research facilities for teaching and experiencing Hangeul and related culture. Prior to that, Sejong City is currently preparing for the “Youth Spelling Bee Competition” starting from Hangeul Day this year to encourage accurate use of Hangeul among young people.

Q: What mindset should the young people in

the era of globalization have as global citizens?

A: Global cultural exchanges are expanding and societies are gradually transforming into multicultural societies. In this context, it is crucial for young people to develop a proper sense of global citizenship. I hope that the young people will embrace the idea that “you and I are not so different” and foster a sense of equality. In other words, I would like to emphasize the concept of cosmopolitanism, which can be summarized as “ultimately, we are all human beings.” This is because, in my opinion, all forms of discrimination and hierarchies in the world stem from the search for differences that arise from the notion of “you and I are different.”

Q: Is there a book that you would like to recommend to the young people?

A: Well, I have written a book specifically for my grandchildren. Its title is *Even When You Become an Adult, You’re Still My Daughter*. I wrote this book because I feel serious about the breakdown of dialogues between generations. Despite living in the same physical space, we have lost many meaningful conversations. There is particularly strong conflict and growing resentment between generations. If even communication within family members is severed, how can we truly have hope for this country? We must strive for more dialogue and communication, understanding each other’s thoughts and looking at each other with warm eyes.

Tteokbokki dominates the US market!

By Park Su-young

The U.S. NBC broadcast reported in an article titled “The Invasion of Tteokbokki: The Next Menu America is Craving is Korea’s Ultimate Nostalgic Food” on March 3rd, saying that there is a rapid increase in demand for Korean street food in the United States.

Tteokbokki is gaining popularity in the United States as the US citizens are currently more easily accessible to the Korean popular culture. The article introduced, “BTS singer Jimin helped make it a trending item on social media when he was spotted eating it at a Seoul food market.” It also explained that tteokbokki is a favorite food of the Asian character “Jiyoung” in the American children’s TV show *Sesame Street*.

Tteokbokki, with its unique chewy and slightly soft texture, was a food that was initially overlooked by Americans due to its unfamiliarity. However, as Korean culture, including movies and music, has gained popularity in the United States, there has been a growing interest and willingness among Americans to explore Korean cuisine. Recently,

domestic broadcasting companies reported that tteokbokki restaurants in Korean neighborhoods in the United States have become hotspots, with Americans lining up and waiting for their turn. Taking advantage of the popularity of tteokbokki, well-known domestic tteokbokki companies such as Yeopgi Tteokbokki and Jaws Tteokbokki are expanding their businesses in the United States. The tteokbokki trend in the United States has not been limited to offline stores but has been evident online.

NBC reported that “Ofood,” a global brand producing Korean food products, started selling tteokbokki meal kits through online distribution channels such as Amazon and Walmart in October 2021. They stated that the sales increased by 450% last year.

Before the tteokbokki trend, Korean cuisine in the United States gained attention



As Korean culture, including movies and music, has gained popularity in the United States, there has been a growing interest and willingness among Americans to explore Korean cuisine.

with the introduction of “jjapaguri,” a combination of the instant noodles “jjapagetti” and “neoguri,” featured in the movie *Parasite*. Additionally, BTS member Jungkook cooked and shared “bulgogi” and “bulmayo deulgireum (perilla oil) makguksu” during a live broadcast, interacting with fans and spreading Korean food to children around the world, even sharing the recipes.

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Pollen-covered frogs contributes to plant pollination

By Jeong Min-chaе

In an unprecedented discovery, a frog with pollen on its body was discovered, sparking a new interest in the role of amphibians in the plant pollination process. It has long been understood that certain animals, such as bees, mice, and lizards, are essential to pollination. This is the first time that an amphibian has been linked to this crucial biological process.

A fundamental process in the life cycle of flowering plants is pollination, which involves the transfer of pollen grains from the male reproductive organ (stamen) of a flower to the female reproductive organ (pistil). This process is essential for plant fertilization, which results in the formation of seeds and, ultimately, new plants. Usually, wind or other animals, frequently insects or some mammals, help with this pollen transfer.

Luis Felipe Toledo, Director of the Institute of Amphibian Natural History at the University of Campinas in Brazil, led the study in which it was discovered that Izecksohn's Brazilian treefrogs (*Xenohyla truncata*) carrying pollen on their bodies. Frogs typically consume mostly insects. Only extreme circumstances might compel them to eat plant-based foods like honey and fruits. However, an analysis of samples of Brazilian treefrogs taken in 2006 revealed a significant quantity of plant matter in their intestines. This indicated that these frogs were adapted to consume primarily plants, such as fruits, leaves, and flowers, and very infrequently insects.

During field research in Restinga, a forested region in eastern Brazil, the research team observed two Brazilian treefrogs feasting on honey from bell-shaped flowers. One of these frogs emerged with a coat of pollen resembling that of a bee. Since this discovery, scientists have observed several similar occurrences, making this the first time pollen has been observed on amphibians, including frogs. Toledo stated, "We



may consider adding amphibians to the list of known pollinators if Brazilian treefrogs are indeed facilitating plant pollination."

There is some skepticism, though, regarding the claim that frogs help pollinate plants. Professor Felipe Amorim from Sao Paulo State University in Brazil suggests that further research is needed to substantiate this hypothesis. He makes the point that the mucus secreted by frog skin might damage pollen, raising doubts about the ability of frog-carried pollen to fertilize plants.

Nonetheless, it has been acknowledged that the discovery is potentially significant for conservation efforts, particularly for the endangered Brazilian treefrogs and the plant species they may pollinate.

The intriguing role of amphibians in the world of pollination has been the subject of much investigation, and the study's compelling results have now been published in the international journal *Food Webs* on April 28th.

Canadian Prime Minister wants more cooperation with S.Korea

By Choi Mun-young



Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau made the first visit to South Korea in nine years on Tuesday, May 16th, ahead of the G7 summit in Japan. Prime Minister Trudeau was given a warm welcome at the bilateral summit with President Yoon Seok-yeol. This year marks the 60th anniversary of the South Korea and Canadian alliance. The two leaders agreed to enhance the economic cooperation on critical minerals, in addition to expanding security ties among Indo-Pacific alliances for joint responses to North Korea's nuclear threats.

Trudeau addressed South Korea's parliament as the first foreign leader to deliver a speech to South Korean lawmakers in Seoul's National Assembly in recent years. In the speech, Trudeau reaffirmed that Canada is ready to work on a green partnership with South Korea, stating, "Korea is a leader in nuclear energy, and we are going to keep collaborating on this zero-emissions energy source." The leaders also signed a memorandum of understanding regarding critical mineral supply chains, the clean energy transition, and energy security, issuing a joint statement stating to become "globally competitive players in areas including batteries and zero-emission vehicles."

In addition to China and Russia, Canada is a major player in mining critical battery minerals that are key components of electric vehicles. Amid dealing with the US Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) requiring 40% of EV battery components to be sourced from the US or a free trade partner like Canada, South Korea can benefit as a partner in producing those minerals, as well as sourcing them for transitioning to clean secure energy. "This will support the development of clean technologies that will power green and sustainable economic growth," the two leaders announced in the joint statement.

Yoon said the two countries would also expand their cooperation in "future industries." Yoon's government has described the country's trade relations with Canada as essential for coping with instabilities in global supply chains and energy markets. The two allies also renewed a "youth mobility arrangement" for young people to have more opportunities to travel and work between the nations, with an annual quota of roughly 12,000 people. "We welcome thousands of Korean students to our universities every year, and now, we want to do even more," said Trudeau, saying that he hopes to create new available paths for youth to work in both countries.

Biological aging can be controlled!



By Yeon Kyung-han

Nothing can change a person's actual age. The biological age of a person, measured by DNA, is determined by predetermined biological conditions. Therefore, it is natural for the risk of certain diseases or death to increase as biological age increases. So is aging an inevitable predetermined fate? There are cases that refute such fixed notions.

A recent interesting research result on aging has emerged. Researchers from 14 institutions in three countries, including the United States, Hungary, and Sweden, have identified the elasticity of biological age in response to stress. According to the findings, a person's age is not necessarily fixed and can increase or decrease depending on stress. Prominent research institutions from around the world, such as Harvard Medical School, Brigham and Women's Hospital, and Duke University

School of Medicine, participated in this study. These research findings were published in the international scientific journal of life sciences, *Cell Metabolism*.

Tunc Tiryaki, the founder of the London Regenerative Institute and a plastic surgeon, stated to the Stroke Association of Victoria that these findings are not new. Tiryaki said the following: "Our bodies have the ability to repair and recover from damage caused by stress, and biological age can also be restored. Stress has physical effects on the body, such as increased heart rate, blood pressure, adrenaline secretion, and cortisol production. Prolonged elevation of adrenaline and cortisol levels can damage DNA and cells, but once the stress factors are removed, recovery is possible."

So far, the prevailing belief about aging has been that the biological age of an organism steadily increases over time. However, it has recently been revealed that various factors such as diseases, lifestyle habits, and the environment can influence biological age.

The research team also states that extreme stress accelerates temporary aging. For example, when facing major surgery or during pregnancy, a person's aging clock speeds up. Additionally, severe infectious diseases like COVID-19 also accelerate biological aging. Trauma patients experiencing rapid aging after emergency surgery can be viewed in the same context. Lead researcher Vadim Gladyshev, a professor at Harvard Medical School, acknowledged that biological age is variable, but not all factors triggering such changes have been identified. He further emphasized that this study refutes the long-held notion that aging progresses only in one direction.

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Movie Review

The Glory, a drama that we're enthusiastic about



In the 2020s, as school violence emerged as one of the big issues in Korean society, voices calling for the measures to eradicate school violence have risen.

By Han Eun-jae

In the TV series *The Glory*, the main character, Moon Dong-eun, is subjected to harsh school violence by Park Yeon-jin and her friends during her school days. The reason why Park Yeon-jin tortures Dong-eun was just for "fun." Moon Dong-eun suffers irreparable wounds to her body and mind due to the violence of Park Yeon-jin's gang. In order to get away from bullying, Dong-eun asks for help from her homeroom teacher and reports it to the police, but finds that all the adults around her side with Park Yeon-jin. Eventually, Moon Dong-eun receives no assistance or support and finally drops out of high school.

Moon Dong-eun chooses Park Yeon-jin as the reason for her life and the subject of revenge, and after studying hard

every day, working in a factory, and entering college, she becomes an elementary school teacher. On the other hand, Park Yeon-jin and her friends achieve their dreams without any punishments, and are living lives without feeling sorry and guilty for the victim. In the end, school violence bullies, who do not reflect and don't make any repentances until the end, fall to "hell" due to past crimes under Moon Dong-eun's desperate plan, and Dong-eun, who completes revenge, has a happy ending.

With the airing of *The Glory*, courageous voices by the victims of school violence in the past began to be heard. The dramatic elements of school violence and revenge also match the current trend in society, and the part of the drama that clearly shows the victim's revenge and the fall of the school bully seems to have served as an impressive factor making viewers feel catharsis. This is because violence cannot be justified for any reason, so it is right to punish the perpetrator and heal the victim for the purpose of causal retribution.

In this social trend, many review videos and creations based on *The Glory* have been produced on platforms such as YouTube and TikTok. In particular, many lines criticizing Park Yeon-jin, the leader of school violence, are becoming buzzwords that many people talk about in reality.

In the 2020s, as school violence emerged as one of the big issues in Korean society, voices calling for the measures to eradicate school violence have risen. Awareness of school violence has been heightened, while celebrities or famous entertainers, who committed school violence in the past, are fiercely criticized and called for severe punishment of school violence perpetrators regardless of age.

Reducing admission quota for Universities of Education

By Lee Yun-ju



As the government officially decided to reduce the admission quota for the universities of education for elementary school teachers, the number of students admitted in those universities, which has remained unchanged for over 10 years, is expected to decrease. According to the government's medium-term (2024-2027) plan for teacher supply, the Ministry of Education (MOE) decided to limit the new recruitment of elementary school teachers to approximately 2,900 to 3,200 annually from 2024 to 2025, aiming for a reduction of 10.1% to 18.6% compared to this year's intake of 3,561. Furthermore, the MOE announced the plan to recruit a maximum of 2,600 to 2,900 teachers for the years 2026-2027, decreasing up to 27% from this year.

The number of students admitted, which had decreased annually from 6,224 in 2006, stopped at 3,848 in 2012. Since then, the number has remained at 3,848 until 2015, and from 2016 to this year, it has been 3,847 with just a one student decrease. Compared to the number of students at the teachers' colleges for secondary school teachers, which decreased by 715 from 9,579 in 2015 to 8,864 last year, the number of students at the universities of education is quite remarkable.

If the universities of education maintain their quota of admission unchanged, the number of their graduates is expected to be up to 1.3 times more than the number of teachers expected to be newly hired in 2024-2025, and up to 1.5 times in 2026-2027. The number of students who fail to pass the teacher recruitment examination will definitely worsen. Last year already saw the lowest rate of passing the elementary teacher recruitment test (48.6%), which is the lowest in the past nine years. Universities of education seem to be aware of this problem. Ko Young-jong, Director of the Responsible Public Education Policy Bureau of the MOE, said in a briefing for reporters on April 24th, "We expect that universities of education will actively seek ways to cope with this problem, since it is clear that the number of teachers who will be recruited will be much smaller than the number of their students."

Lee Tae-seok Leadership Academy fosters servant and empathetic leaders

By Yu Cheol

On May 10th, the Lee Tae-seok Foundation (Chairman: Goo Soo-hwan) held the inauguration ceremony for the Lee Tae-seok Leadership Academy at the foundation's office. The Lee Tae-seok Foundation announced that the Academy, led by Representative Ku Jin-sung, plans to operate various educational programs to cultivate desirable character and leadership in youth who follow in the footsteps of late Father Lee Tae-seok who demonstrated the spirit of service and empathy through his life.

At the event, singer Kim Kang-ju, who was deeply moved by Father Lee Tae-seok's life, performed the song "Don't Cry, Tones," which he personally wrote and composed, leaving everyone in attendance deeply moved. The event proceeded with Chairman Goo Soo-hwan's opening remarks, Representative Ku Jin-sung's presentation of the business plan, congratulatory speeches by Chairwoman Moon Young-suk of the Choi Jae-hyung Memorial Foundation and some others, and also resolutions from the Lee Tae-seok Leadership Academy officials.

Representative Ku stated, "The goal of the Lee Tae-seok Leadership Academy is to cultivate global leaders like Nordic schools and spread Father Lee Tae-seok's spirit of service to the field of education. We will operate three main educational support projects: the Global Leadership School, Journalism School, and Democratic Citizen School." He added, "Through these programs, we will strive to educate young people about the servant leadership embedded in Father Lee Tae-seok's life, foster desirable character, and cultivate individuals who are truly needed in our society."

Prior to the inauguration ceremony of the Lee Tae-seok Leadership Academy, the Lee Tae-seok Foundation and the Choi Jae-hyung Memorial Foundation, which was established to commemorate independence activist Choi Jae-hyung,



The Academy plans to operate various educational programs to cultivate desirable character and leadership in youth who follow in the footsteps of late Father Lee Tae-seok.

held a cooperative work agreement ceremony for fostering leaders desirable for our society. The two organizations agreed to actively cooperate in scholarships and educational programs for growing youths through this collaborative work agreement. On this occasion, Chairman Goo presented the prize money of 10 million won, which he received for the Choi Jae-hyung Award (Grand Prize) in April, as a scholarship to Choi Ilya, a descendant of Choi, to study at Incheon University.

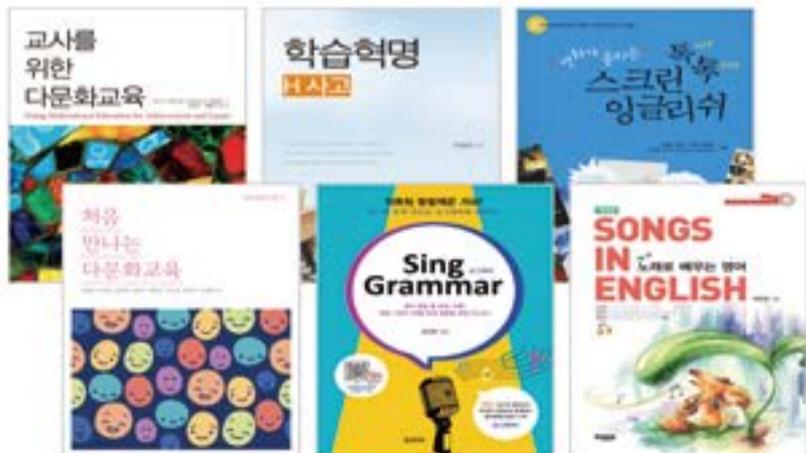
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