



Four missing children found after surviving 40 days in the Amazon



them,” he said at a conference.

The key to the children’s survival had much to do with the knowledge they had, living in the jungle. The knowledge from their life there enabled them to stay alive for so long. They used their knowledge of Amazonian fruits and the materials left from the plane crash. For example, they dissolved yuca flour in water to feed the baby. When searching for the children, the indigenous guides, rather than modern technology, used their traditions to help locate them. Indigenous guide Lucho Acosta said, “They knew how to move around. They understood the jungle because of their ancestral knowledge. That allowed them to survive.”

The children, once found, said they were with a dog, one of the rescue dogs named Wilson, who is currently missing, in addition to their mother. She was alive for a few days after the crash. The military was able to rescue the children from the forest by hovering overhead. They brought the children back up to the aircraft and took them to a hospital to be treated.

By Sophia Choi

Four Colombian children, after surviving 40 days in the Amazon jungle following a plane crash, were rescued on June 14th. The crash, which happened due to engine failure, killed three adults. Their bodies were found with the wreckage on May 16th, two weeks later. A rescue team was sent to search for the four siblings, aged 13, 9, 4 years, and 11 months. They were reportedly able to

survive in the rainforest by utilizing indigenous knowledge to protect and feed themselves.

The rescue effort, named Operation Hope, involved over 150 soldiers and 200 volunteers, as well as 10 Belgian shepherd dogs, in searching for the missing children. Gustavo Petro, President of Colombia, announced that the children were found on June 10th. “They fended for themselves. It is their knowledge from the Indigenous families that has saved

NewJeans, *TIME*’s Next Generation Leader

By Han Eun-jae



“The K-pop girl group NewJeans was selected as one of the “2023 Next Generation Leaders” by the U.S. weekly magazine *TIME*,” their agency, ADOR, announced on May 24th.

TIME announces trendsetters and pioneers every year. NewJeans (Minji, Hani, Daniel, Harin, and Hyein) was the only K-pop group on this year’s list, which was released on May 23rd. *TIME* introduced NewJeans, stating, “It is hitting K-pop and the world,” and added, “The first girl group of the HIVE label ADOR reached a global milestone much faster than any other K-pop senior artist.”

In fact, NewJeans achieved remarkable results in the global music market less than a year after their debut. *TIME* recounted that two NewJeans songs, “OMG” and “Ditto,” stayed on Billboard’s Hot 100 for five weeks this year and achieved a cumulative 1 billion streams on Spotify in the shortest period (219 days) among K-pop groups, despite having only a few songs. *TIME* also added that NewJeans will be the first K-pop girl group to perform on the Chicago stage of Lollapalooza, an annual American four-day music festival, in August.

TIME said referring to Min Hee-jin CEO of ADOR as the background, “This popularity of NewJeans is not surprising.” CEO Min Hee-jin, who has already established her name through various successful group branding, is said to have presented a new paradigm for K-pop through NewJeans. NewJeans, greatly influenced by this, also emphasized in an interview with *TIME*, “We always strive to showcase fresh vibes.”

One of NewJeans’ strengths is their natural enjoyment on stage. The members said, “We feel like we’re dancing to our favorite music,” and added, “While there is a set choreography, each person expresses themselves based on what they hear. Because of this, some of our audience seem to perceive it as freestyle,” they explained.

NewJeans also mentioned, “We are extremely happy to be doing what we love.” They expressed gratitude for being part of the K-pop industry at this time, considering themselves fortunate.

A forgotten Korean War hero gets a monument in Chilgok

By Choi Mun-young

Calls were made to recognize the late General Walton Walker by middle school students in Chilgok, Gyeongsangbuk-do, a county dubbed as “the place of patriotism.” It was announced on June 15th that General Walker would be honored with a bust at the Chilgok Patriots & Peace Memorial Hall in response to a civil request filed by a middle school student, Kim Dong-joon. General Walker has been commemorated by places in Korea that are named after him, such as “Walkerhill Hotel” and “Camp Walker,” but he still remains unknown to many.

Dong-joon and his friends from Janggok Middle School said, “During the Korean War, the Walker General played a crucial role in defending the Nakdong River frontline in our hometown of Chilgok. However, nobody has ever told us about General Walker’s accomplishments. We felt the need to inform all students about his achievements, so we decided to submit a petition.”



Middle school students in Chilgok are holding slogans that say, “Honor General Walker.”

Chilgok County Governor Kim Jae-wook held a Korea-US Friendship Committee meeting and announced that the county would raise funds to build the bust. The unveiling ceremony of the bust, representing the legacy of the General, will be led by the students who contributed to the event. Chilgok County plans

commander during the 1950-53 Korean War, defended the front line of the Nakdong River and played a leading role in the successful Incheon landing operation on September 15th, contributing to the restoration of Seoul by September 28th. Even after his death on December 23rd, 1950, in a non-combat-related

to develop its Korean War Memorial Halls into an upscale memorial park with an investment of 45 billion won, aiming to establish Chilgok-gun as an international patriotic landmark.

General Walker, the first Eighth Army commander during the 1950-53 Korean War, defended the front line of the Nakdong River and played a leading role in the successful Incheon landing operation on September 15th, contributing to the restoration of Seoul by September 28th. Even after his death on December 23rd, 1950, in a non-combat-related

jeep accident, he is still remembered by Koreans. A statue of General Walker can be found at a US military base in Pyeongtaek, and a memorial in his honor is located across from Exit 2 of Dobong Station on Seoul Subway Line 1.

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Special Interview

Mayor of Jecheon City, Kim Chang-gyu, leads the administration with creative ideas

By Shin In-ho and Yeon Kyung-han



Kim Chang-gyu, Mayor of Jecheon City (left), and Shin In-ho, CEO of *The Monday Times*, are discussing current issues in Jecheon City, including population decline.

Recently, one of the important issues in Korean society is the problem of population decline. Currently, Korea's total fertility rate stands 0.78, which is the lowest level in the world. Even Japan, which has been struggling with a decrease in population, has a rate of over 1.2, nearly twice that of Korea's. Many of the recent social conflicts that have been emerging are, directly or indirectly, related to the problem of population decline. It is beginning to squeeze our society like an "invisible hand."

In this situation, Jecheon Mayor Kim Chang-gyu proposed a creative idea to overcome this crisis, creating a buzz. *The Monday Times* visited Jecheon City Hall to meet Mayor Kim Chang-gyu and learn more about his proposal and vision as the Mayor of Jecheon City. – Ed

Q: Please introduce Jecheon City. What are the advantages of Jecheon City?

A: First, I can mention convenient transportation as one of Jecheon's advantages. Jecheon City is intersected by three railway lines and two expressways, making it easily accessible by both car and train. Being located in the heart of the country, it has been famous as a bustling place since ancient times, attracting people from all three provinces of Korea.

Furthermore, with its many mountains and medicinal herbs produced there, Jecheon City is known as one of the three major medicinal herb regions. It is also a historical city where Uirimji, the oldest reservoir from the Three Kingdoms era, is located. In addition, Jecheon City is a city with the spirit of righteous armies cherished in the citizens' minds. Our city boasts beautiful natural environments such as Cheongpung Lake and Oksunbong, adding to its appeal as a city that excels in transportation, cuisine, history, and scenery.

Q: Due to low birth rates and an aging population, universities located outside of Seoul are facing the threat of closure and local administrative units like "ri" and "myeon" are at risk of disappearing. What is the situation in Jecheon, and are there any measures in place to address this?

A: Jecheon has two universities, Semyung University and Daewon University. Like the recent population trend in the country, these schools are also facing a crisis with a decline in incoming students. Therefore, the schools are making efforts to come up with initiatives of policies like tuition refund and provision of interesting experiences for students. The faculty and student population, over 20,000, are a significant asset to the city. We are forming consortiums with the universities, collaborating on public projects, and supporting scholarships

for students transferring to Jecheon from other areas. This year, 1,600 students became Jecheon citizens. We plan to actively strive for mutual growth and development with universities to counter the declining population.

Q: Recently, you have been promoting the settlement project for Goryeo descendants.

A: Dealing with population decline is the most pressing issue faced by small and medium-sized local governments. However, I think that the current approach of population policies characterized by competition and population snatch between local governments, has limitations. Therefore, the city is proactively responding to the issue of population and workforce decline and promoting the supporting project for Goryeo descendant settlement to lead to a substantial increase in the actual resident population.

This project supports the settlement of Goryeo descendants, who reside both domestically and internationally, by focusing on their integration into local communities. It includes operating short-term accommodation facilities and providing support in various aspects such as cultural, language, and technical education, as well as healthcare, childcare, and caregiving services. In essence, it can be described as a project aimed at establishing a system to support the immigration and early settlement of overseas compatriots.

Q: Could you please provide specific plans and measures?

A: On March 24th, we enacted relevant ordinances to establish a systematic support system for Goryeo descendants. On March 26th, we visited three countries in Central Asia to secure cooperation with local compatriot organizations. Currently, we are preparing settlement education programs with a three-month basic course, which includes short-term accommodation facilities for Goryeo descendants. Our plan is to develop practical and substantial programs covering language, local life, culture, transportation, geography, and more.

Starting from July, we will recruit Goryeo descendants who wish to immigrate from both domestic and overseas locations. Subsequently, we will proceed job matching and immigration preparation processes, and officially launch the project in October. We expect that the continuous settlement of outstanding overseas compatriots will not only contribute to the increase in the resident population but also help secure a much-needed labor force.

Q: You have set the vision and new policies for Jecheon City. Could you please provide a brief introduction to the policies?

"The current approach of population policies characterized by competition and population snatch between local governments, have limitations. Therefore, the city is proactively responding to the issue of population and workforce decline and promoting the supporting project for Goryeo descendant settlement to lead to a substantial increase in the actual resident population."

A: After serving as an ambassador in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, I came to Jecheon and witnessed the grim situation of the local economy crumbling. To address this, I have proposed a pledge consisting of 49 initiatives in 5 areas. First, by attracting investments, hosting sports competitions, and developing tourism, I will create a hopeful local economy. Second, by establishing a substantial stay-oriented cultural tourism system, I will strive to ensure that the benefits of tourist visits circulate back into the community. Third, I will also prioritize and promote inclusive healthcare welfare to ensure that all citizens can lead healthy lives. Fourth, I will also try all my best to develop prosperous advanced farming villages, thinking about my father who was a farmer. Finally, I will pay attention to smart administrative practices to ensure that government officials fulfilling these promises will be recognized for their achievements. In conclusion, by attracting capital to the region and spreading its warmth throughout the community, I will create a "dynamic and new economic city" where the economy thrives once again. I am committed to realizing key promises, such as securing 3 trillion won in investments and attracting 5,000 daily tourists, in order to achieve these goals.

Q: What policies for youth, who are the future leaders, do you implement? Are there programs to support extracurricular activities outside of school, such as youth international exchanges, meeting or conferences with

prominent figures, and youth journalism activities, to foster global leaders?

A: First of all, we are expanding "youth-exclusive spaces," specific facilities for them. By 2024, when the Southern Youth Center is completed, regional hub spaces will be established, including the east (Southern Youth Culture House), west (Jangnak Youth Culture House), central (Cheongjeon Dream House, Lilac), and north (Jecheon City Youth Center). In terms of operation, we conduct surveys of students' preferences and immediately reflect them in the programs. We actively collaborate with schools, focusing on career and academic development. We also continue to promote youth international exchanges to foster global leaders. Additionally, we provide educational funding every year for the Jecheon Office of Education and individual schools to support their quality education.

Q: What mindset should the young people in our country have as global citizens?

A: In the era of globalization, the key concept is that we are all interconnected and living together. Therefore, it is important to have a mindset of understanding and respect for one another. Engaging in activities that promote sustainability is also crucial. Issues like climate crisis and waste management affect everyone. No one is exempt from them. We must strive for resource conservation and environmental protection.

June, more beautiful than flowers

By Lee Jong-dae



Lee Jong-dae is an editorial writer for *The Monday Times* and one of the active poets in the literary creation societies such as the Naeryuk Literary Society, which is based in Cheongju. He has published an essay collection titled *Holding, Carrying, and Laughing* as well as three poetry collections including *Mother's Dawn*. – Ed

Now, it's June, the season of fresh green. Whether I look at the mountains or the meadows, the landscapes are all immersed in a lush green hue. The city streets have been adorned with the verdant shade of trees. It feels to me that the world is completely filled with the vibrant hue of fresh green leaves.

Many poets have sung about June. Renowned poet Hwang Geum-chan, in his poem "June," expressed, "June has arrived, scattering green powder and riding on the wings of the sky." Just as the poet said, the entire world is adorned verdant and green.

"Besides poet Hwang Geum-chan, there are indeed many poets who have sung about June. Poet Yoon Bo-yeong, in his poem "June Letter," wrote, "In June, I will write a letter, like a fresh green field, I will pour out all of my longing and write a green letter." His poems are not only rich in content, but filled with natural and heartfelt expressions.

The beautiful poems captivate readers and immerse them deeply into the world of poetry.

However, in this lush beauty-filled June, we have many pains to remember. June 1st is the Day of Righteous Army, and the 6th is Memorial Day. The 10th is the June 10 Democratic Uprising Memorial Day, and the 25th is the Anniversary of the Korean War. Faced with these painful days in Korean history which we must remember, we are filled with deep and solemn sorrow. What has dragged this beautiful land into the ordeals of arduous history? Why do we have to remember the blood-stained history of June? Why in the world do conflicts occur between us, people of the same ethnicity, and why is war seemingly inevitable? Is the anger and hatred that pervaded the scenes of history impossible to resolve through other means than wars? These never-ending questions make our hearts hurt. Human greed knows no bounds, and countless people have been sacrificed as victims of others' flawed political judgments and ambitions of aggression.

Sometimes, I feel a pang in my heart when I imagine the vibrant youth, fresh green leaves in June, slowly falling in great masses like autumn leaves. Sometimes I shudder, envisioning that bright and vibrant green leaves are rolling on the wet ground like a rain-soaked leaf, gradually withering away.

Is it really impossible for us to live quietly and peacefully, enjoying the scenery of this season "beautiful like gorgeous flowers" in "a magnificent painting in a frame," just as Poet Hwang Geum-chan describes?

South Korea to use AI textbooks in public education from 2025



According to a “digital-based education innovation” plan, stated by Education Minister Lee Ju-ho, the nation plans to introduce artificial intelligence-powered digital textbooks and AI tutoring in 2025.

By Choi Mun-young

Elementary and secondary schools in South Korea will incorporate AI education into their Math, English, and IT curriculums, according to a “digital-based education innovation” plan, stated by Education Minister Lee Ju-ho on June 8th, 2023. As the first country in the whole world to do so, the nation plans to introduce artificial intelligence-powered digital textbooks and AI tutoring in stages, beginning with selected junior elementary and upper school students in 2025. The plans will bring up-to-date technologies such as metaverse and

conversational AI to meet the growing demand for diversified learning content for different academic levels.

Digital textbooks will be implemented in elementary education for third and fourth grades, along with middle and high school freshmen. The system will be extended to all school levels and subjects by 2028 except for first and second-grade elementary students and high school electives. To help ease the transition, printed textbooks will also be used for three years, giving every student and teacher enough time to become accustomed to digital transformation. This will enable teachers to have less work so that they can focus on other school priorities while reducing the cost of private education.

The plan includes investment in teacher training for 400 to 1500 teachers by 2025 in seven selected education offices that will operate 300 pilot schools for digitalization. AI programs will analyze students’ levels to offer customized learning, and AI chatbots will answer questions while teachers work on interactive lessons such as discussions for social development. AI-generated student learning data, such as evaluations made by AI tutors, will be shared with parents through a customized dashboard to check on their children’s educational achievement.

AI education can provide various learning accommodations to students in Korea. For instance, it can help students with disabilities with subtitle services in Korean language textbooks. Additionally, multicultural families can also get help from this program as it offers translation services in multiple languages. South Korea hopes that this new technology will further develop other methods of education that emphasize individuality. “Now is the ‘golden time’ for change as we nurture young talent. Focusing on each student has become easier with a lower population than before. The digital shift will give a bright future for Korean education by suggesting new learning practices,” Lee said.

Jeju Culture Talk Talk for sustainable life



By Yu Cheol

The non-profit organization, “Jeju Culture Talk Talk,” held its inaugural meeting and conducted its first lecture and field trip event at Gangjeong Peace Center on June 17th. In his opening remarks at the founding assembly, Choi In-jong, chairman of Jeju Culture Talk Talk stated that the organization was established to share the significant contributions made by current and retired educators engaged in UNESCO activities, along with citizens, in promoting Jeju’s nature, ecology, history, and culture. He added that Jeju Culture Talk Talk aims to widely promote the vibrant imagination of Jeju culture in daily life, local communities, and both domestic and international spheres, thereby fostering sustainable life and social development based on Jeju culture.

Following the founding assembly, the event featured a lecture and field trip on the theme of “Restorative Justice and Encountering Jeju 4.3” by Dr. Han Sang-hee, vice principal of Seogwipo Girls’ Middle School.

Jeju Culture Talk Talk plans to develop a variety of activities that discuss and promote Jeju culture, which holds universal values of global significance. The organization aims to actively engage in various projects, such as cultural talks in daily life, academic conferences rediscovering the value of Jeju culture, educational exchanges with domestic and international regions, regular thematic surveys, and content development to widely disseminate Jeju culture. Chairman Choi stated that Jeju Culture Talk Talk will pursue diverse initiatives in humanities exploration, educational exchanges, and various projects necessary for Jeju’s universal values to be rediscovered and spread. He also emphasized that Jeju Culture Talk Talk welcomes inquiries and proposals for cultural events and field trips from interested organizations, groups, and individuals.

Sendai Mindan group visit to promote mutual understanding

By Yeon Kyung-han



Under the auspices of the Sendai Mindan, the Association of Korean Residents in Sendai, Japan, a group of 20 Korean expatriates and Japanese individuals studying Korean visited various regions in Korea, including Gangwon, Chungcheong, and Gyeonggi provinces, from June 6th to 11th

for Korean dramas and movies, was meaningful. Park Kyung-hee, director of Sendai Education Institute, who came to visit together with them, interpreted the impressions and feelings of the Japanese visitors one by one. She said she was pleased that every visitor of the group expressed their satisfaction with their visit.

to explore the natural wonders of Korea.

The purpose of the Sendai Mindan’s visit was to strengthen the mutual cooperation and unity of instructors and teachers who will take part in the activities of the organization. Additionally, it aimed to expand the channel for educational and cultural information exchange between Korea and Japan, promote Korean-Japanese exchange between them, enhance understanding of Korean culture, including the development of Korean education. This visit is particularly meaningful as it marks the first visit conducted after the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted exchanges.

After finishing their itinerary in Danyang, the group visited Cheongju on June 8th. The mayoral meeting, which was held at the Cheongju City Hall, served as a platform for discussing the expansion of exchanges between the two institutions and also provided an opportunity for mutual exchange of diverse information in the fields of education and culture. During the meeting, Mayor Lee Beom-seok expressed his hope for further expansion of such visits, suggesting regular mutual visits between Korea and Japan on a private level. Following the meeting, the Mindan group moved to Cheongnamdae located in Cheongju, where they explored notable attractions such as the Presidential Memorial Hall and enjoyed the natural beauty of Chungcheongbuk-do. After staying there for about one and a half hours, they wrapped up the day’s itinerary.

On this day, Lee Sun-oh, chairman of Sendai Mindan, who accompanied them as a group leader, expressed great joy about the opportunity to enjoy Korean nature and visit the office of the Korean president at Cheongnamdae. He also mentioned that visiting the Cheongnamdae, very popular as a filming location

Word Search By Min Tae-woo

This puzzle was created using the 101st edition of The Monday Times.



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|----------|---------|---------|---------|------------|
| elect | launch | spy | inspect | loneliness |
| survival | passion | share | nuclear | aspect |
| threat | mice | deficit | path | museum |
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먼데이타임즈 편집실



We will try our best to transmit values of freedom and democracy to future generations

By Yu Cheol and Yeon Kyung-han



Kang Seok-ho, President of the Korea Freedom Federation

In modern Korean history, significant events in May and June have brought great sorrow and suffering to the entire nation, such as the Korean War (June 25th War) and the May 18th Democratization Movement. These events, considered the most tragic in Korean history, occurred amidst political ideologies and conflicts, and some controversies surrounding them persist even to this day. In such times, The Monday Times has recently planned interviews with individuals related to these two historic events to provide readers with a fair and objective perspective on our modern and contemporary history. Following the previous meeting with Kim Chang-gyu, head of the May 18th Democratization Movement Injured Veterans Association in the Chungcheong region, we conducted an interview with Kang Seok-ho, President of the Korea Freedom Federation. – Ed.

Q: I sincerely congratulate you on your inauguration. Please share with us your aspirations in leading the Korea Freedom Federation (KFF).

A: The KFF was initially established in June 1954 as the Asian Nationalist Anti-Communist Federation, with the participation of eight countries, including Taiwan, the Philippines, Vietnam, and Thailand. It was inspired by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in Europe. In 1989, the organization changed its name to the Korea Freedom Federation.

I believe that our current government, which places great importance on the values of freedom and democracy, came into existence thanks to our citizens deeply contemplating the values that serve the national interest. During the previous administration, there was a neglect of the relationship with the United States and our security was greatly compromised. Additionally, our relations with Japan were also quite difficult. As President of the Korea Freedom Federation, I will strive to restore and revitalize the crumbling values of freedom and democracy.

Q: Many people in our country are worried about the recent developments in North-South Korean relations, such as North Korea's nuclear weapons program and missile launches. What do you think about this?

A: North Korea has traditionally been a closed and communist country. However, in recent times, their leadership has shown signs of a hereditary dynasty rather than a socialist state. They emphasize pure lineage and transferring power within the family, which goes against the principles of communism and socialism. One of the extreme consequences of this situation is North Korea's advanced nuclear weapons industry. North Korea constantly

deals with regime insecurity, but its leadership is determined to hold onto power and relies heavily on nuclear weapons. The human rights situation and food problems in North Korea have been known as severe for a long time. Despite this, the North Korean regime shows little concern for the well-being of its people and focuses mainly on maintaining political power. In my personal opinion, more elites within the North Korean government should defect to South Korea. If the elites who have supported the failing society start defecting in larger numbers, North Korean society could potentially collapse on its own.

Q: These days, there is growing concern about the division in our society between conservatism and progressivism, left-wing and right-wing ideologies. What role do you think the KFF should play in this situation?

A: In reality, there is very little that the ruling party can do in the current situation dominated by the opposition party. The opposition party has held power for the past five years and has significantly undermined the values of freedom and democracy in South Korea. They still hold more than 160 seats in the parliament. In the realistic context of South Korea, a parliamentary democracy, overcoming this opposition-dominated situation is currently challenging, and the situation needs to be improved in the upcoming general elections to achieve social integration properly and smoothly.

“I believe that the collapse of North Korea is inevitable, just like what happened with East Germany. Therefore, we should always be prepared for reunification. It may bring short-term difficulties, but in the long run, I believe it will lead to a prosperous and united nation.”

Q: Many younger generations who haven't experienced the Korean War are skeptical about reunification. What is your personal opinion on North-South reunification?

A: Although I haven't lived through the Korean War, I witnessed the reunification of Germany in the late 1990s, which made me think a lot about reunification between North and South Korea. Nowadays, many people seem to have a negative view of reunification. It's understandable because there's a significant economic gap between the two Koreas, and the idea of sharing our well-developed society with North Korean compatriots may not be appealing to everyone. However, I believe that the collapse of North Korea is inevitable, just like what happened with East Germany. Therefore, we should always be prepared for reunification and maintain an interest in it. It may bring short-term difficulties, but in the long run, I believe it will lead to a prosperous and united nation.

Q: What advice would you like to give the future leaders, the youth?

A: I want young people to grow up brightly and energetically. However, as many people often talk about, the current era is not a happy one for the younger generation. Especially for the MZ generation, I have deep concerns and worries about their struggles. Nevertheless, however, I believe that we all should make even greater efforts to find happiness. If we become trapped in excessive pessimism and lose our driving force to move forward, we may find ourselves wandering aimlessly. If we happen to temporarily lose our way and go astray just for a while, we will eventually come back to the right path and progress with those experiences as precious lessons. However, if we constantly embrace pessimism from an early or young age, we will end up as an unhappy person who always doubts the possibility of a hopeful future. In that regard, I believe that the current generation of parents, who are responsible for

the MZ generation, also need to have a greater sense of responsibility and be proactive. It is an eternal truth, regardless of the era, that parents must show their children the right path in order for them to become outstanding individuals.

Q: The KFF has worked hard for the country and Korean people. Do you have any program for the youth in our country? I heard that you have a plan to conduct a DMZ Peace Trail expedition program.

A: As I mentioned earlier, the KFF is a people's movement organization that aims to safeguard and promote the values of freedom and democracy in South Korea while pursuing peace and reunification based on democratic principles. Next year will mark the 70th anniversary since the KFF was established. The KFF has actively collaborated with the international community to respect the values of freedom and democracy.

We will try our best to ensure the proper transmission of those values to future generations. We have a particular interest in youth engagement and we are planning the 11th edition of the 2023 DMZ Peace Trail Expedition in coming July.

This expedition starts from Jinbu, Goseong in Gangwon Province and covers significant areas such as Inje, Yanggu, Hwacheon, Cheorwon, Yeoncheon in Gyeonggi Province, and Imjingak in Paju. The expedition spans 8 nights and 9 days and includes visits to security facilities and military units. The participation in this event is completely free, and the Korea Freedom Federation covers all expenses and ensures safety. The Ministry of Public Administration and Security provides sponsorship. This event has the 11 year-old history as a core program of the KFF for youth and university students. Participants will have the opportunity to reflect on the values of freedom and democracy, learning about the ideals of Korea's development and peaceful reunification.

Korean Saint Julia Ota's letters reveals her unwavering life in Japan

By Jeong Min-cha

Historians and Christian communities are amazed by a recent discovery of handwritten letters by Julia Ota, also known as the “Korean Saint.” For the first time, these letters are now available to the public. Julia Ota was a young Korean girl who came to Japan during the Imjin War and embraced Christianity. When Christianity was banned by Tokugawa Ieyasu in 1612, she opted for exile rather than giving up her faith.

The Murata family, who are descendants of Ota's brother Unnaki Murata, generously donated these letters to the Hagi Museum in Yamaguchi Prefecture. These letters provide a direct glimpse into Ota's life during a turbulent time in Japanese history, as the country transitioned from the Sengoku to the Edo era. The exhibition at the museum features three letters, one of which is from 1609, offering new insights into Ota's life story.

The collection also includes a kimono from the early Edo period, believed to have been worn by Ieyasu himself, showcasing the prominent Tokugawa family crest. This



Letters handwritten by Julia Ota who was known as the “Korean Saint.”

kimono offers a unique opportunity to observe the attire of a samurai during that era and will be exhibited at the Hagi Museum from May 29th to June 18th.

In her touching letter, Ota writes about her brother and asks where he is, mentioning a blue bruise on his hand. She also remembers the time they were separated in Seoul during the Imjin War. These personal details, which were not previously known about Ota, make this discovery even more important.

Ota's story has inspired many modern Japanese works, including the popular song “Julia Who Disappeared in a Dream” by Sazan All Stars. This fascinating tale about

a handmaiden, who enchanted Tokugawa with her beauty and intelligence and bravely stood firm in her faith, continues to captivate modern Japanese audience.

The letters have initiated discussions among Korean and Japanese Christian historians, questioning previous assumptions about Ota's origins. Professor Masakazu Asami from Keio University, a specialist in Japanese Christian history, explains, “The letter reveals that Ota came from a noble family in Joseon. This is a significant source as it provides firsthand accounts of her experiences during the Imjin War.”

Special Report

Wheelchair-bound Maestro Cha In-hong's "talk concert" at Cheongju High School



By Yu Cheol On May 30th, Cheongju High School invited Professor Cha In-hong and held a "talk concert" on the theme of "Dreams, Hope, Future: Wheelchairs Are My Wings" in the Cheongwoong Hall, for 360 first-year students, aiming to foster individuals with righteous and virtuous abilities.

Professor Cha In-hong, received the Grand Prize at the 17th Korea Disability Culture and Arts Awards in 2022 and also the Main Prize at the 2022 Korean Music Awards this year. He is currently serving as the music director and conductor of the orchestra at Wright State University in Ohio, USA, and works as a lifelong professor at the university.

Due to contracting polio at the age of two and growing up in a difficult family environment, Professor Cha In-hong had to spend his early years in a rehabilitation center and received only elementary school education until the age of 24. However, he later went through middle school, high school, and university through qualification examinations for graduation and obtained a doctoral degree in the United States. Professor Cha In-hong emphasized to the students, "Success lies in giving your best, not in being superior to others. Your own best effort is precious, and when you give it your

all, there will always be good results." Along with these words, he performed beautiful violin music, conveying the importance of a positive mindset that embraces an uncertain but hopeful future during challenging and difficult moments. He received applause from the students.

Kim Sung-ho, a first-year student who participated in the talk concert, said, "I was deeply moved and gained confidence from Professor's words that a wheelchair is not an obstacle but wings. Now, I feel like I can design my previously vague dreams, hope, and future."



Maestro Cha's lecture was so impressive

By Cho Hyeon-woo
(Cheongju High School)



"If we have the courage and determination to overcome discomfort, we can grow even further. Professor Cha In-hong made me realize the potential of effort regardless of the circumstances."

Professor Cha In-hong's special lecture and his violin performance were truly inspiring. Despite facing innate physical handicaps, he exemplified a remarkable individual who held onto hope and worked hard to achieve his dreams. In our lives, we inevitably encounter unforeseen hardships and inconveniences. These discomforts may take various forms from birth, such as poverty and disabilities. At times, these challenges may lead us to resent our own lives, wondering if things would have been better without such inconveniences. However, if we have the courage and determination to overcome discomfort, we can grow even further.

Professor Cha In-hong was born into a poor family and acquired a disability due to having polio at the age of one. However, despite his challenging circumstances, he did not succumb to his hardships and instead persevered. Today, Professor Cha is working as a professor at Wright State University in the United States and has a successful career as a violinist. He lives his life not envying others, but rather finding satisfaction in his own journey, despite being born into an unfortunate environment.

I learned a great deal from Professor Cha In-hong's lecture. I cannot deny that my life has been far more abundant and easier than his. Professor Cha had to make greater sacrifices, maintaining confidence and hope in pursuing his goals. He made me realize the potential of effort regardless of the circumstances.

Currently, I am satisfied with my academic achievements and goals. However, if I exert greater effort, I can attain even better academic performance than I have now. I have come to believe that I should dream of higher goals and strive to maximize my potential. Inspired by Professor Cha In-hong, who was born into challenging circumstances with a disability but did not succumb to his situation, I, too, aspire to work harder towards greater goals. I would like to express my gratitude to Professor Cha In-hong, and pledge to exert more effort and continue to grow.

Meeting with Professor Cha In-hong

By Yeo Hyeon-soo
(Cheongju High School)



"Professor Cha appeared on stage in a wheelchair. I could feel his kindness and years of experience, which I hadn't sensed before. The wheelchair indeed looked like wings to achieve a higher dream, not a pain or hardship."

I met Professor Cha In-hong who came from the U.S. on May 30th, 2023 to give a special lecture to us. Before we first met the professor, we watched a documentary about him and his life, and it was so impressive and to see him conducting in front of many performers inspired me. After watching the documentary, the professor appeared on stage in a wheelchair. I could feel his kindness and years of experience, which I hadn't sensed in the video. The first piece he performed for us was Elgar's "Love's Greeting." Although I had heard it before, the professor's violin performance felt fresh and elegant.

After the performance, students and teachers applauded, and some students were so touched by it that they cheered a lot. He had polio at a very young age and could not attend school at the time with prejudice against the disabled. However, now he has grown up to be a professor at a university in the US. His success is by overcoming his pains and steadily pursuing his dream rather than being ashamed of his pain and blaming himself alone. Later, he played the music "Gabriel Oboe" played in the movie *Mission*, and I could feel the beauty of the violin. After the performance, applause poured out once more.

According to him, his students at the Wright State University struggle to use the instrument rehearsal rooms during the weekdays, but on weekends, he rarely sees them practicing there. He pointed out what we should change in our school life. He said that sitting at a desk all day long would create a wrong habit and I agreed with him.

Finally, he played a song called "Spring in My Hometown," which seemed to convey his feelings of visiting his hometown again through a violin performance after succeeding as a university professor. The lecture ended with the professor's words to meet again as persons leading successful lives. It seemed to me that the wheelchair indeed looked like wings to achieve a higher dream, not a pain or hardship.

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Submersible vessel vanishes on its way to Titanic wreckage

By Choi Mun-young

A submersible vessel with five explorers onboard went missing in the North Atlantic off Canada during the OceanGate's tourist trip to see the wreckage of the Titanic 3.8km undersea on Sunday, June 18th. The Titan submersible lost contact with a surface vessel after descending an hour and 45 minutes out of full dive of eight hours. The rescue efforts involved the US and Canadian Coast Guards scouring the surface of the ocean about 900 miles east of Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

OceanGate's eight-day expedition to view the Titanic wreckage costs \$250,000 per person, including dives to the wreck. The truck-sized submersible is equipped with a four-day emergency supply of oxygen, and the rescue team used sonar to locate the submersible, picking up the sounds of the sea bottom. Rear Admiral John Mauger of the U.S. Coast Guard said in a news conference, "We are doing everything we can do to find the submersible. We anticipate there is somewhere between 70 and the full 96 hours available at this point."

The Titan carried five people, including a pilot, a content expert, and three paying guests. The pilot is the founder and CEO of OceanGate Expeditions, Stockton Rush, and the 77-year-old French explorer Paul-Henri Nargeolet is the company's content expert. A 58-year-old British billionaire businessman based in Dubai, Hamish Harding, and Pakistani businessman Shahzada Dawood and his son Suleman were the three passengers.

With no way to communicate with the sub as GPS and radio are unable to function underwater, a wide-ranging rescue effort lasted until a deep-sea robot deployed from a Canadian ship found a debris field not far from the Titanic wreck. US Coast Guard announced on Thursday that five major fragments of



Titanic was a British passenger liner, operated by the White Star Line, that sank in the North Atlantic Ocean on April 15th 1912 after striking an iceberg during her maiden voyage.

the sub were found, and the five passengers are believed to be dead due to an implosion caused by "the catastrophic loss of the pressure chamber." The implosion sounds, which were caused by a sudden inward collapse, were likely detected by the US Navy acoustic system shortly after the sub lost contact. While a safety investigation is set to be launched, OceanGate hailed the Titan victims as "true explorers who shared a distinct spirit of adventure and a deep passion for exploring and protecting the world's oceans."

Son Ho-yeol won Kaggle's AI modeling competition

By Joe Chae-young



About 1400 AI developers and teams participated in the competition. Son developed an education model that would enable hearing-impaired children to learn sign language through a game.

On May 2nd, Son Ho-yeol of South Korea won the AI modeling competition in Kaggle. Kaggle is an online platform hosted by Google, where developers around the world compete with solutions to tasks presented by global companies. This competition is also called the "AI Olympics" and "AI UFC."

Son Ho-yeol's contest topic was to classify American sign language using the Google TensorFlow Lite framework. Unlike other general AI competitions, this competition called for a lightweight AI model that can be inferred directly from edge devices such as mobile phones. It was a competition different from others in that not only the performance of the model but also the efficiency was an important evaluation target. Georgia Institute of Technology, Rochester University of Technology, the National Institute of Deaf Professional Arts Network, and the Deaf Professional Arts Network worked together to build a dataset for this competition.

About 1400 AI developers and teams from around the world participated in the competition for three months. Son Ho-yeol developed an education model that would enable hearing-impaired children to learn sign language through a game. Son used his own original structure rather than a transformer structure, which has recently been widely used, and achieved high accuracy. What is surprising is that he just graduated from university in Korea. He developed an original model, proudly winning the championship at the young age of 26, and won a prize of \$50,000. His winning model is expected to be used on PoSign, a sign language education game app, which will greatly help many children learn sign language.

Son Ho-yeol said, in an interview, that he felt so much pressure because he had to solve all the problems alone, unlike other team-level participants. He had been in first place since the middle of the tournament, but he said it was the hardest time when several top teams were united and lost first place in the second half of the tournament. He even had to replace the laptop because the operation of the old laptop was unstable. However, he said he was happy to take first place in the last week's race again.

He said that he is currently ranked in the top 20 ranking among 200,000 people, the highest in Korea, but he still feels that he is lacking a lot. He also expressed his ambition to get a job at domestic and foreign AI companies and help Korea become competitive in the AI field.

UK starts universal basic income experiment



Basic income has been a topic of discussion worldwide as a way to fix flaws in social welfare systems and reduce poverty.

By Yeon Kyung-han

A universal basic income (UBI) experiment, which provides £1,600 per month (approximately 2.6 million Korean won), will soon begin in the UK. According to a CNBC report on June 5th, the independent UK think tank "Autonomy" has secured funding for this experiment and will soon start paying £1,600 per month to 30 individuals. Approximately £1.15 million is planned to be invested over the course of this two-year experiment.

Universal basic income (UBI), which has attracted attention from academia since the 2010s, emerged as an alternative to address the challenges of addressing income inequality within the capitalist system through selective welfare programs. The essence of basic income lies in providing it to "everyone," "unconditionally," and "consistently." Experts predict that basic income will increase workers' motivation and encourage active job-seeking in order to gain additional income, referred to as a "+α" (plus alpha).

According to CNBC, the Autonomy research team plans to examine how the lives of participants receiving the basic income will change economically. Simultaneously, a control group that does not receive basic income will also be observed. The Autonomy research institute will conduct individual interviews with the control group participants for this experiment and ask questions about the differences between them and the basic income support group. This experiment will take place in the notorious high-cost living areas of East Finchley in London and the Jarrow region in Northeast England.

Basic income has been a topic of discussion worldwide as a way to fix flaws in social welfare systems and reduce poverty. The conversation has become more active, particularly after the COVID-19 pandemic, as inflation has made life harder for the poor. However, basic income experiments are also controversial and not supported by conservatives. Conservatives argue that welfare can be improved without discouraging work motivation by providing benefits based on individual circumstances.

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A poet dedicated to expanding the horizons of literature



By Lee Jong-dae

fields and formats like *Human Book Concert*.

Recently, books including literary works such as poetry collections and novels are receiving a lot of neglect from readers. There is a poet who, despite the world's indifference, dedicates herself, serving silently, in order to broaden the horizons of literature. That poet is Kim Eun-suk. She operated the "Chaegbang TONGTONG(通通)" program to expand the space for communication. She also opened the media book cafe called "DadokDADOK(多讀)" at the YouTube recording studio Media Z. When I visited her, she was busy shooting for DadokDADOK(多讀) show about the poetry collection *Clear Night* by poet Kwon Deok-ha, who resides in Sejong City.

Q: What made you start this book-sharing program?

A: We started this program in 2018 to have opportunities to meet readers and communicate with them as well as deeply explore the works of local authors. Since 2019, we have been operating this program with the title of Chaegbang TONGTONG(通通), consistently twice a month at local bookstores. This program involves in-depth reading of works and creating a welcoming space to appreciate and highlight local authors and their works. The number of attendees varied depending on the author, but the response from both the authors and readers was positive. This program requires time, effort, and energy.

Q: What authors' books are covered in Chaegbang TONGTONG(通通)?

A: We invited not only renowned authors like Do Jong-hwan but also aspiring writers who published their first poetry collections, as well as local literary figures active in the Chungbuk region such as Jang Mun-seok. In addition, we extended invitations to writers who have roots in Chungbuk but currently reside elsewhere. We cover various literary genres, including science essays and explorations, and operate primarily with printed books. We have also conducted diverse events related to different

Q: What is your intention of the media book cafe, DadokDADOK(多讀)?

A: With the outbreak of COVID-19, a new approach was needed. In August 2020, with the assistance of the YouTube broadcasting channel Media Z, which provides various media support in our region, we initiated the operation of the media book cafe DadokDADOK(多讀). We invite authors twice a month to engage in in-depth discussions about their works for one hour. DadokDADOK(多讀) originally had two goals. The first was to actively create a regular channel for communication between authors and readers through the medium of their works. The second was to delve deeply into the works and record them in video format.

Q: What is the "Sangsaeng ChungBOOK" movement?

A: The two programs, Chaegbang TONGTONG(通通) and DadokDADOK(多讀) are closely related to the Sangsaeng ChungBOOK movement. The Sangsaeng ChungBOOK movement started from the private sector in 2016, with the belief that culture begins from reading books and also with the desire for mutual growth between the local community and books. The movement is a civic cultural movement carried out through collaboration among local neighborhood bookstores, publishers, small libraries, and authors.

Q: What are the effects of the book sharing program?

A: Firstly, the process of exploring authors and their works in-depth is necessary and meaningful in itself. Furthermore, during the interaction between authors and readers, both online and offline, there is an opportunity for authors to receive feedback on their works. On the other hand, through the exchange facilitated by the works, authors and readers engage in communication, becoming aware of each other's existence and significance. It makes the depth of perspective in observing one another change. With this, the horizon of their warm understanding and perception of people and society expands beyond mere communication with one another through books. I believe that through the medium of books, we can create a deep and warm book culture, and further foster local culture.

Korean vocalist makes history with Queen Elisabeth Competition

By Lee Ga-bin

Korean vocalist Kim Tae-han won the Queen Elisabeth Competition in Belgium. With his victory, South Korea has won the tournament for the second consecutive year, following Choi Ha-young, who won last year's tournament in the cello category. Kim Tae-han's victory is more meaningful in that it was the first time that a male vocalist from Asia had won the competition.

412 vocalists aged 18 to 33 from around the world applied for the competition, and Kim Tae-han is the youngest of the 12 finalists. He was born in 2000 and just debuted in a solo concert in September last year. The finalists must sing at least three to six songs and must include at least two languages and one opera aria. Kim Tae-han performed four songs, including "Ocarlo Listen to Me" in Italian composer Verdi's opera *Don Carlo* and "My Desire, My Delusion" in Corncolt's *City of Death*.

In addition, world-renowned vocalist Jo Su-mi was selected as one of the 17 judges this year. Before the announcement of the results, Jo Su-mi said, "Now I am proud that there are so many Korean and Asian artists." "What I felt during the judging was that I was once again convinced that our Korean vocalists were really world-class," she added.

Meanwhile, the Queen Elisabeth Competition is held annually in the order of piano, cello, vocal music, and violin. Along with Poland's Chopin Piano Competition and Russia's Tchaikovsky Competition, it is considered one of the world's top three music competitions. The Queen Elisabeth Competition, organized by the Belgian royal family, started as the "Izai Competition" named after Belgian violin virtuoso Eugen Izai (1858-1931). It was held for the violin and piano



sectors, but after being suspended due to World War II, it was renamed the Queen Elisabeth Competition in 1951 under the auspices of Queen Elisabeth Von Wittelsbach of Belgium. Violin (1951), Piano (1952), and Composition (1953) were held alternately, followed by vocal music in 1988 and cello in 2017. Since 2012, the composition category has not been held, and the violin, piano, vocal music, and cello categories have been held in Brussels every May.

Nobel prize winner, Bob Dylan, redefines popular music

By Yoon Sang-won

(Daegeum High School in Chungbuk)



Bob Dylan, an American singer, songwriter, author, and painter made history in 2016 by becoming the first musician to receive the Nobel Prize in Literature. He won this prestigious award because his poetic lyrics were considered remarkable enough to be celebrated as literary works. It goes to show that his

lyrics are more than just simple songs – they are truly exceptional pieces of literature.

Bob Dylan, whose real name is Robert Allen Zimmerman, was born in Saint Paul, Minnesota, USA. He always had a strong passion for music. In 1959, he started attending the University of Minnesota but left in December, 1960 to focus on his music career. He moved to New York and began making music in the early 1960s. His songs became incredibly popular and he became a leading figure in American popular music.

In the late 1960s, Bob Dylan became involved in important political movements in the United States. He spoke up for causes like civil rights, social justice, and peace. He even took part in the famous "March on Washington," where Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his powerful "I Have a Dream" speech.

Bob Dylan is considered one of the most important figures in modern pop music history, right up there with Elvis Presley, The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, and Michael Jackson. He created his own unique musical style by mixing different genres like rock, pop, blues, and country.

What made Bob Dylan stand out from other pop artists was that his songs were serious and had political messages. His music had a big impact on American culture and politics. In fact, his lyrics and music even influenced The Beatles' albums *HELP!* and *Rubber Soul*, helping to popularize a new genre called "Folk rock."

Two of Bob Dylan's famous songs are "Like a Rolling Stone" and "Knocking on Heaven's Door." "Like a Rolling Stone" is featured on his iconic album *Highway 61 Revisited*. Released in 1965, this song is widely regarded as one of the greatest in American music history. It is cherished by many for its captivating and poetic lyrics, evocative melody, and his unique voice. "Knocking on Heaven's Door" is another one of his notable works. This anti-war song gained prominence as it was featured in the movie *Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid*.

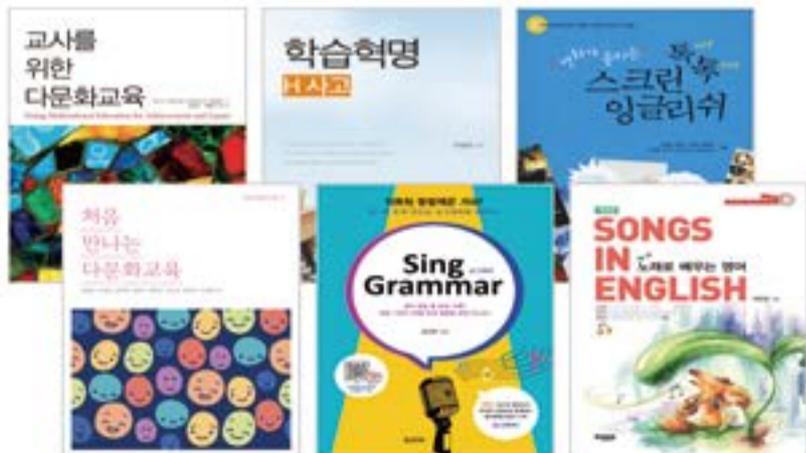
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