



Autonomous bus service begins in Sejong area for the first time in Korea



With the expansion of its ultra-wide autonomous bus routes, Sejong City plans to commercialize autonomous buses throughout the Chungcheong region, including Cheongju Airport, Jochiwon, and Gongju after 2024.

by Amy Lim

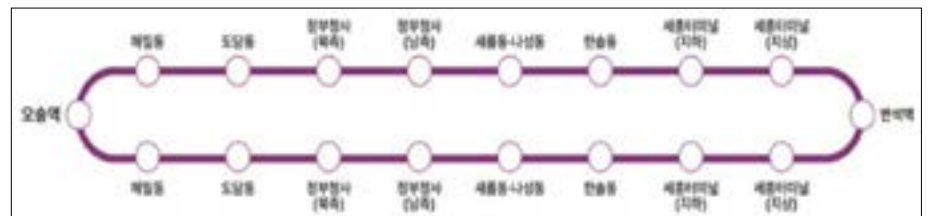
On October 6th, an autonomous bus service was introduced between Daejeon, Sejong, and Cheongju. On weekdays between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (excluding weekends and holidays), four round trips are scheduled between Cheongju Osong Station, Government Complex Sejong, Sejong Express Bus Terminal, and Daejeon Banseok Station.

The fare range is from 1,400 won to 2,000 won, and the payment method is the same as the regular BRT B2 bus. With this route extension, the number of available stops has increased from 8 to 10, including Osong Station, Hamil-

dong, Dodam-dong, Government Complex North, Government Complex South, Saerom-dong, Naseong-dong, Sejong Terminal Underground, and Ground Sejong Terminal Above, with the addition of Hansol-dong and Banseok Stations

The autonomous bus service was promoted as part of the "Chungcheong Autonomous Mobility Commercialization District Creation Project," which was selected as a super-regional cooperation project by the Presidential Committee for Balanced National Development last year. The autonomous buses will be equipped with Level 3 autonomous driving technology, which allows the driver

"On October 6th, an autonomous bus service was introduced between Daejeon, Sejong, and Cheongju. This self-driving service was launched in the UK for the first time last May. It is regarded as a milestone autonomous technology."



to intervene in case of emergency. In addition, for safe operation, drivers and safety personnel will be on board to assist passengers getting on and off, guide autonomous driving, and respond quickly to emergencies.

With the expansion of its ultra-wide autonomous bus routes, Sejong City plans to commercialize autonomous buses throughout the Chungcheong region, including Cheongju Airport, Jochiwon, and Gongju after 2024. Sejong City aims to strengthen regional cohesion through this initiative.

Lee Yong-il, head of the Industrial Development Division of the Chungbuk Provincial Office, said, "Based on the

operation of autonomous buses between Osong Station and Banseok Station, we will strive to activate and commercialize the Chungcheongbuk-do autonomous driving pilot operation area, and in the future, we will continue to build an autonomous driving industry ecosystem by expanding autonomous driving routes to Cheongju Airport and linking with the Chungbuk autonomous vehicle test bed (C-Track) to accelerate the development of related industries."

This self-driving service was launched in the UK for the first time last May. It is regarded as a milestone autonomous technology.

Hamas surprise attack stuns Israel and leaves hundreds dead



Thousands of rockets are launched by Palestinian militants from the Gaza Strip towards Israel, in Gaza, on October 7th. Armed conflict between Israel and Palestinians in Gaza has always existed, but tensions exploded this year as it involved civilian casualties.

By Sophia Choi

Palestinian militant group Hamas launched a major surprise attack on civilian and military targets in Israel near the Gaza Strip on Saturday, Oct 7th. Israeli death toll surpasses 1,000 with nearly 2,700 wounded, and an unknown number of civilians, including international attendees of a trance music festival in Israel, have been taken hostage. Despite Hamas' threat to kill the hostages and calls for de-escalation between the two regions from allies and

year as it involved civilian casualties. Saturday's incursion happened on the 50th anniversary of the Yom Kippur War of 1973, a war on a major Jewish holiday, but 3,000 military personnel died back then. Israel called up about 300,000 reservist soldiers and responded to the deadliest attack in its history with its heaviest bombardment of Gaza and sealed off the Strip from food, water, and fuel.

Besides the reports of mass casualties caused by attacking refugee camps, Israel's "total blockade" on Gaza was criticized as 73,000 Palestinians are staying in 64 UN schools with limited supplies. The United Nations human

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neighborhood countries, Israel has declared war and retaliated with airstrikes on Gaza for four days, killing almost 900 Palestinians.

Armed conflict between Israel and Palestinians in Gaza has always existed, but tensions exploded this

rights chief called depriving civilians of goods essential for survival in the besieged Gaza a violation of international law. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called for help from the international community calling the situation in Gaza "extremely dire" before the Hamas attack and it will "only deteriorate exponentially."

U.S. President Biden announced Tuesday that 14 Americans were among the dead and others taken hostage in Gaza. "This was an act of sheer evil," he condemned the Hamas attack and pledged unwavering support for Israel, declaring that "we stand with Israel." Five members of G7 known as the "quint" signed a joint statement issued by the White House reiterating their support for Israel as well. Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel would "reach into every place Hamas is hiding" as Biden ordered the Pentagon to send "additional equipment and resources to Israel." Global oil prices increased 4% on Monday due to the Israel-Hamas war, and potential sanctions on Iranian energy with its possible involvement in the attack will raise concerns about the oil market in the future.

Special Interview

“A nation that forgets its history has no future”

••• Independence Activist Choi Jae-hyung Memorial Foundation, Chairperson Moon Young-suk •••

By Yu Cheol and Choi Eun-young



This year, the historic joint burial of Elena, Choi Jae-hyung's wife, was successfully conducted at the Seoul National Cemetery. Originally, Elena had been buried in Kyrgyzstan.



The liberation of our country from Japanese imperial rule in 1945 was made possible by the unwavering desire and relentless struggle of the Korean people, as well as the sacred blood, sweat, and

sacrifices of countless patriotic martyrs. This year we commemorate the 78th anniversary of liberation from Japanese Imperialism. On this occasion, we met Moon Young-suk, Chairperson of the Independence Activist Choi Jae-hyung Memorial Foundation to learn about who Choi Jae-hyung is and talk about how to promote the legacy of independence activist Choi Jae-hyung, who dedicated his life to the independence movement and education in a foreign country for future generations, inspiring a pioneering spirit in them. – Ed

Q: Please briefly introduce the Independence Activist Choi Jae-hyung Memorial Foundation.

A: The Independence Activist Choi Jae-hyung Memorial Foundation was established in 2010 by four individuals who traveled to the Russian Far East. Initially, they formed the “Choi Jae-hyung Scholarship Society” in 2011, and later, in 2018, it became a memorial foundation under the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs.

In fact, among overseas Koreans, the most hardship-stricken community has been the Korean diaspora, particularly the Goryeoin. In 1937, the entire Korean community was forcibly relocated to unfamiliar Central Asia under Stalin's rule, where they had endured severe hardships until the collapse of the Soviet Union, completely cut off from their homeland. That's why in our organization, we provide scholarships to Goryeoin and descendants of Choi Jae-hyung, aiming to support their settlement.

Q: Could you tell us about Choi Jae-hyung's life and contributions?

A: Choi Jae-hyung was commonly referred to as an independence activist, but he played a significant role as a global leader in various fields. He achieved financial success as a businessman, earning him the nickname “Carnegie of the East.” He also established 32 Korean schools for Korean education.

Importantly, Choi Jae-hyung became involved in the independence movement from the Russo-Japanese War onwards. He organized voluntary patriotic forces and, in 1908, founded the Donguihoe the first overseas Korean independence organization, serving as its leader. He also played a pivotal role in planning Ahn Jung-geun's assassination of Ito Hirobumi. Choi Jae-hyung provided a pistol to Patriot Ahn Jung-geun and assisted Ahn in conducting shooting practice at his residence. Furthermore, after Ahn's execution, he sent an international lawyer to Lushun to engage in rescue efforts. Following Patriot Ahn's martyrdom, he also provided care and support to his family.

Q: I've heard that Choi Jae-hyung was affectionately referred to as “Pechka” by the Korean diaspora at the time.

A: Choi Jae-hyung was born on August 15th, 1860, in Gyeongwon, Hamgyeong-do. During a period when there was severe famine in Hamgyeong-do, he fled across the Tumen River to survive and eventually reached Posyet Port. There, he met a kind captain of a ship and his wife, who provided him with assistance. For six years, from the age of 11 to 17, he traveled the world twice aboard their ship, becoming fluent in Russian and gaining valuable experiences as a global youth. This remarkable journey transformed him into a global leader. He was often affectionately referred to as “Pechka” by the Korean diaspora, which means “heater” or “stove” in Korean, signifying his role as a source of warmth and support for fellow Koreans.

“Choi Jae-hyung was commonly referred to as an independence activist, but he played a significant role as a global leader in various fields. He achieved financial success as a businessman, earning him the nickname “Carnegie of the East.” He also established 32 Korean schools for Korean education.”



Moon Young-suk, Chairperson of the Independence Activist Choi Jae-hyung Memorial Foundation and Yu Cheol, Editorial Director of The Monday Times (left) pose for a photo after the interview.

Q: I heard that this year, there was an event at the Seoul National Cemetery to commemorate the restoration of Choi Jae-hyung's grave and the joint burial of Elena, his wife, whose remains were brought from Kyrgyzstan.

A: Originally, Choi Jae-hyung's grave was located at the Seoul National Cemetery, but unfortunately, it was destroyed due to a fraudulent claim involving compensation. In 2019, our foundation discovered this fact, and with the efforts of Choi Jae-hyung's descendants and a campaign to restore the grave, we successfully have restored it. This year, we were able to request changes from the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs, and we successfully conducted the historic joint burial of Elena, Choi Jae-hyung's wife, who had been buried in Kyrgyzstan.

Q: What are the future plans of the Independence Activist Choi Jae-hyung Memorial Foundation?

A: We have successfully achieved our goal of restoring Choi Jae-hyung's grave, and we are continuing to seek a way to heighten the level of commendation for Choi Jae-hyung's honors. Despite his significant role as one of the leaders of Korean diaspora activities in the Russian Far East, Choi Jae-hyung's level of commendation remain low, the 3rd class of the Independence Medal. We are making efforts to ensure that Choi Jae-hyung's omitted contributions are properly acknowledged, and his honors are upgraded.

Additionally, we plan to establish the Choi Jae-hyung Memorial Hall in Korea. While many memorials focus on the Provisional Government of the Republic of Korea in Shanghai, China, the significance of the Korean independence movement in the Russian Far East has been underrepresented and forgotten. We believe it is crucial to create a memorial that encompasses Choi Jae-hyung's legacy and the history of the Russian Far East independence movement.

Q: As a literary figure, you have authored many books. Could you share your thoughts on your books?

A: I have embarked on a second life as a writer after the age of 50. I initially wrote poetry and essays, but my interest eventually shifted to history, prompting me to study creative writing. I have authored quite a few books, with a particular focus on raising awareness of Korean history, especially the suffering endured by our people, among young readers. My books cover topics such as victims of sexual slavery and forced labor during the imperial Japanese rule, the Mexican Independence movement, Kareisky, Choi Jae-hyung, Ahn Jung-geun, and more. I have been given the nickname “Korean Diaspora Writer” because I often explore the history of Korean diaspora communities.

Q: Lastly, could you share your life philosophy and any valuable words of wisdom you'd like to convey to our young readers?

A: We live in an era dominated by visual media, and many people do not engage closely with books. However, in-depth reading remains essential for personal growth, deepening our world view, enhancing concentration, analytical thinking, and expanding knowledge. As the saying goes, “A nation that forgets its history has no future.” In this globalized world, it is essential for us to learn about our history, including the suffering endured by the Korean people in countries such as Mexico, Cuba, Russia, Central Asia, Germany, and Japan.

Furthermore, I would like to emphasize that Choi Jae-hyung serves as a tremendous role model for young people. He was a global leader who pursued ambitious goals, traveling the world's oceans and taking action in the Russian Far East. He was an unparalleled global leader, especially considering the difficult times in which he lived. We should look to his life and follow his example.

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Margaret Pisarek, the angel of Sorokdo becomes a star in the sky



Margreth Pissarek (back row, left) and Marianne Stoeger (back row, right) pose for a picture with a Belgian medical team from the Damien Foundation in 1970.

By Amy Lim

Poland-born nurse Margaret Pisarek who served Hansen’s patients for nearly four decades died in Austria on September 29th. Together with fellow nurse Mariane Stöger, now 89, Pisarek had devoted herself to the care of Hansen’s patients at Sorokdo Island in South Jeolla province from 1966.

During that period, Sorokdo had the largest leper colony in Korea. When Hansen’s disease was first discovered, isolation was the only available treatment. A disfiguring disease, Hansen’s affects the skin and peripheral nervous system, causing tissue deformation. If not treated in time, it could lead to facial deformities, nerve damage, and disfigurement of the hands and feet. Hansen’s patients had to live in seclusion and

endured discrimination and prejudice at the time due to the disfiguring aspect of the disease, which caused great deal of social disgust.

After graduating from Austria’s Innsbruck School of Nursing in 1955, Margaret Pisarek heard about the need for medical personnel to care for the Hansen’s patients in Korea, so she arrived in Korea in 1959 at the young age of 24 and spent the rest of her life in the spirit of service, caring for the isolated Hansen’s patients at Sorokdo from 1966. She lived with and cared for Hansen’s patients in Sorokdo, a place where even Korean medical professionals were reluctant to come into contact with them.

With the help of her home country, she invited other foreign doctors to help patients in various ways. She also supported childcare programs for children with Hansen’s disease, resettlement programs, and medicine procurement. After 40 years in Sorokdo, she returned to her homeland in 2005 due to her health problems. Margaretha Pisarek, who spent her entire life living at the lowest level for the people with Hansen’s disease in Sorokdo, died in her home country, Austria at the age of 88.

On October 7th, Margaret’s funeral Mass was held in Höttinger, Austria. Nurse Marianne Stoeger, who served with Margaret at Sorokdo, Margaret’s family, representatives of the organization Marianne and Margaret, and Korean Ambassador Ham Sang-wook to Austria attended the funeral mass. Margaret’s body was donated to the Medical University of Austria in accordance with her wishes. Her patients, touched by her compassionate care, called her Sorokdo Angel, the mother of the Hansen people. The angel is now a star and has returned to heaven.

We will forever remember Margaret’s noble spirit of sharing and service, which instilled hope and courage in the Hansen people, and her humility at her lowest level,” said Goheung County and the Marianne and Margaret Association in a joint condolence statement. May Nurse Margaret rest in peace and continue her service in heaven.

Chinese tourists surge in to visit Korea



By Jeon Ju-yeon

In recent times, there has been a significant surge in the number of Chinese tourists visiting South Korea. On October 2nd, more than a thousand Chinese tourists flocked to Lotte World Tower in Seoul’s Songpa-gu district, coming in family units and even pushing strollers as they indulged in shopping.

This increase in Chinese visitors marks a return after approximately seven years. In 2016, the relationship between South Korea and China was strained, resulting in a sharp decline in the number of Chinese tourists, especially a group known as “Youke” or “游客.” Korean department stores had to pay substantial commissions to intermediaries known as “Daiguang” or “代购” to sell products to Chinese consumers. However, since August 2021, China resumed group tours abroad, and escalating anti-Japanese sentiments within China prompted more Chinese tourists to visit Korea.

The spending patterns of these tourists have undergone noticeable changes. Previously, they primarily purchased inexpensive goods, popular Korean cosmetics, and food products. However, in recent times, a majority of them seek to experience Korean culture and indulge in luxury shopping.

These shifts have also significantly impacted the hotel industry. While Chinese tourists previously tended to stay in budget hotels on the outskirts of Seoul, there is now a growing preference for global hotel chains like Hyatt and Marriott. During this year’s Chinese National Day holiday (September 29th to October 6th), for instance, a substantial 80% of foreign guests at the Grand Hyatt Jeju Hotel were Chinese.

These changes are closely linked to the rising income levels among Chinese tourists. China’s per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has increased from \$8,000 at the time of the travel ban in 2016 to \$10,000. Consequently, Chinese tourists are exhibiting higher spending power. According to the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC), Chinese tourists ranked first globally in terms of expenditure, with an average spending of \$1,350 per person last year.

Elon Musk’s biography by Walter Isaacson released

By Song Eun-soo



Walter Isaacson, known for his biographies on some of history’s most influential individuals, from Steve Jobs to Albert Einstein, has now turned his attention to Elon Musk. The critical biography *Elon Musk*, written after closely observing the Tesla CEO, was published on September 13th in the United States, Korea, and 32 other countries.

According to U.S. mass media reports on September 7th, despite being in the pre-order period, the biography had already claimed the top spot on Amazon’s charts.

Walter Isaacson spent two years trailing Elon Musk and conducting in-depth interviews. The writer delved into Musk’s public and private life, including his unpredictable personalities, his three unstable marriages, and his risk-seeking work style. Isaacson vividly depicted Musk’s complicated traits by not only interviewing him but also tycoons of Silicon Valley such as Jeff Bezos and Bill Gates, colleagues who shared honor and hardships with him, family, and former spouses.

As Isaacson referred prior to the book’s release, a substantial portion of its content focuses on Musk’s childhood. Raised in South Africa, Musk faced bullying and physical attacks from his peers. He also endured abuse by his father. These childhood scars continued to influence Musk while he grew older, contributing to his well-known intensity and unwavering sense of purpose and determination to achieve a goal.

Whenever Musk was beaten up, he would envision himself as a hero saving the world, and blocked out his emotions. This sober and rational disposition was displayed as an advantage in the entrepreneurial aspect, allowing Musk to conceive groundbreaking ideas such as electric vehicles and space exploration. Musk looked back on his childhood wounds, stating, “It led me to have a high pain threshold.”

Isaacson asserted, “This book begins by delving into Musk’s

unfortunate childhood in South Africa. Today he stands as the most interesting figure on Earth.

Word Search

This puzzle was created using the 107th edition of The Monday Times.

By Kim So-young

O	L	S	S	E	A	G	P	S	E	E	E	M	E
G	L	O	B	A	L	E	B	H	L	A	E	O	R
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election

wisdom

heritage

forest

bill

skill

global

chaos

right

improve

relief

telescope

pass

overseas

aid

observe

inspiring

reunification

preserve

enchant

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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Galleria Michelangelo: A haven for Korean tourists in Florence



Florence has been synonymous with exceptional leather goods and exquisite gold jewelry since the 12th century. The mastery passed down through generations has made the city a global hub for these coveted artisanal products.

By Ilaria Righi (Special Correspondent in Italy)



Florence, Italy, a city renowned for its artistic heritage, historical significance, and architectural marvels, has long been a magnet for tourists from around the world. In recent years, a significant influx of

Korean tourists has added a unique flavour to the city's tourism landscape. As the city's popularity among Koreans grows, one place has become a pivotal stop on their itinerary – Galleria Michelangelo.

It's essential to understand the city's rich tradition of craftsmanship, particularly in leather and gold. Florence has been synonymous with exceptional leather goods and exquisite gold jewelry since the 12th century. The mastery passed down through generations has made the city a global hub for these coveted artisanal products. Tourists from all corners of the globe are drawn to Florence by the promise of authentic Italian craftsmanship, especially in Galleria Michelangelo.

Galleria Michelangelo was created in the 1960s as a family business that continues to thrive today. However, in its early years, tourists primarily came from Europe and the United States. It wasn't until the early 2010s that the Asian tourist market began to flourish, with Japanese, Chinese, and Koreans becoming frequent visitors.

Given Florence's abundance of leather shops and markets, Luca Martella, the young manager had the intuition to shift the store's management strategy, emphasizing product quality over quantity. He believed that it was better to have less production and offer exclusive and impeccably crafted items.

There are three compelling reasons why Galleria Michelangelo stands out. First, its strategic location in Piazza Santa Croce, the birthplace of the city's leatherworking tradition, adds to its allure. Second, the store is

renowned for the highest quality leather, from raw materials to production and the finished product — everything exemplifies extreme craftsmanship. Third, at the heart of their business, artisans continue to work in-house, infusing their creations with a unique touch.

Most of these artisans boast decades of experience, such as Alberto, who began his career as a goldsmith and artisan in 1976, producing goods for major fashion houses like Gucci and Louis Vuitton. Adapting to industry



changes and new technologies, he reinvented himself as a leather craftsman, specializing in "piccola pelletteria" or small leather goods, many of which can be found at the gallery.

The transformation in Florence's artisan industry production wasn't the only change; the tourism market underwent a profound shift, with a notable increase in Japanese, Chinese, and Korean travel agencies, and tourists.

Koreans, in particular, have a profound appreciation for craftsmanship, esteeming the dedication and skill that artisans invest in their creations. This positive reception is deeply ingrained in Korean culture, where tradition and innovation have been cherished for centuries. It comes as no surprise that Korean tourists visiting Florence are enchanted by the city's artisanal heritage, as it resonates harmoniously with their cultural values of meticulous craftsmanship and an unwavering focus on detail.

Galleria Michelangelo's popularity has surged to the extent that the staff has been organized by language, now encompassing

dedicated English, Spanish, Chinese, and Korean teams. As the bond between Galleria Michelangelo and Korean tourists strengthens, the atelier's future appears promising, serving as a bridge between Italy's rich artisanal traditions and the hearts of Korean travellers.

As the Korean team manager explains, in the 1980-90s Korean tourists were basically non-existent in Florence and just a few immigrants like herself were living and working actively in the city. However, after the rapid economic growth during the late 20th century, more South Koreans were able to afford international travel and, consequently, found their place in Italy's bustling tourism scene.

The Korean manager has been working in Galleria Michelangelo since the 1980s. With the increasing number of Koreans, tourists and visitors, she reached out to Korean travel agencies in order to form a partnership between the leather atelier and organized tours. The idea had an exceptionally good response and nowadays many Korean organized tours come to visit Galleria Michelangelo every day.

Looking ahead, the enduring relationship between this Florentine gem and the growing Korean visitorship is expected to flourish further. With each passing year, the store's reputation continues to strengthen among Korean travelers, becoming an integral part of their Florence experience, enhancing the cultural exchange and appreciation for Italian craftsmanship.

Value of working proper hours

By Jerry Jong-IL Ahn
(Executive Director of Metropolitan and Provincial Council Chairs Association of Korea)



It is of a great worth to discuss whether or not it is better to work for 3 days with longer hours than work for 5 days with shorter hours. Some people might argue that it is advisable to engage in work intensively in terms of earning time to invest in self development. I, however, see that it is not necessarily desirable, which means that working proper hours allows workers to improve their productivity. In this essay, let me compare and contrast both pros and cons in order to show a more balanced view.

Admittedly, working in an intensive manner enables employees to earn their time to spend on self development. It is clear that we live in the world where a number of people fiercely compete with each other to gain a competitive edge, which means that we can hardly survive in the competition without constant personal development. Here is what my friend has experienced himself. He was a common financial analyst in his workplace. About 2 years ago, his company introduced a 3-day-workweek system to give more spare time to its workers. In this situation, he made the most of his time in honing his specialty such as reading books concerning financial system, searching in-depth information as to the world's economic circumstance, and upgrading analyzing tools, all of which are necessary to be more successful. As a result, now,

he is regarded as a top-flight analyst in the finance realm, which enabled him to receive more salary and enjoy his increasing job security. If his company had maintained the original work system, 5-day-workweek, he would remain just an ordinary worker.

Nevertheless, it is through taking a proper rest that workers can improve their productivity. It doesn't take a genius to know that overworking without break time makes employees exhausted, which, in turn, leads to low productivity. A recent study has confirmed this. According to Korea Labor Institute (KLI), one of the leading research centers on work and labor in Korea, over 75 percent of employees working for major companies are distracted when they work over 8 hours. The reason behind this is that there is a limitation in people's concentration on their jobs without taking a rest. Additionally, the institute has revealed that it is advisable to engage in tasks for 8 hours including break time, which allows people to maximize their work efficiency. This indicates that it is more effective for workers to engage in their jobs with adequate rests in terms of making the most of their productivity.

To summarize what I mentioned above, although working in an intensive fashion let people have more spare time to hone their skills and specialty, engaging in their tasks with proper rest time allows them to increase their work efficiency. All things considered, the benefits from performing jobs with adequate break time cannot be underestimated.

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A quick look into Thanksgiving 2023



By Sophia Choi

An iconic part of the fall season is Thanksgiving, an American holiday that will take place on November 23rd of this year. All across the United States, people will be visiting family, gathering around a Thanksgiving table decorated with a cornucopia centerpiece, and eating classic foods such as turkey and cranberries. Other traditions include a Thanksgiving Day parade, watching football on TV, organizing Thanksgiving dinners for those in need, and shopping for the start of the holiday season.

Over time, the meaning of Thanksgiving has changed. Thanksgiving was once a historic commemoration for the people who came to the country in the 17th century. It has become a way for people to gather with their families to be thankful and an opportunity to remember and recognize the history of the indigenous people in the

country. Thanksgiving varies from family to family with blended traditions, but the holiday is about sentiment more than feasts. Korean Americans celebrate it with the usual turkey or traditional Korean foods, and others can follow any traditions of their own on the holiday filled with family and gratitude.

Thanksgiving has been a very long-standing tradition among Americans, the first one being when the pilgrims who'd arrived in America celebrated their first harvest in 1621. The day officially became a national holiday in 1863. It is also important to acknowledge its history, as Thanksgiving represents the hardships suffered by indigenous people in America as well.

Coming together to be thankful alongside family and friends during the holiday season is a very important part of Thanksgiving today. Understanding and honoring the real history behind the day will also be a large aspect of it as well.

In addition to the festivities done with one's relatives, Thanksgiving also has a commercialized side to it, often considered the beginning of the holiday season, which stretches to early January. The Friday after Thanksgiving is known as Black Friday. It is a colloquial term that marks the day when retail stores will advertise sales and discounted prices as the start of the shopping begins. It is followed by Cyber Monday, where online shopping and e-commerce promote their products to buy on the Internet. Encompassing so many different aspects of the seasonal transition from fall to winter, Thanksgiving has been and will continue to be a large part of the holiday season.

Electric car built by Swiss university students hits new world record

By Chae Su-min



An electric car made by Swiss university students hit 100km/h in 0.956 seconds. According to Swiss Info and Voice of America, the Federal Institute of Technology (ETHZ) in Zurich, Switzerland, said on September 12th local time that a vehicle named "Mythen" achieved the record. In the competition of zero to one hundred, which means the time it takes for a vehicle to accelerate from a standstill to a speed of 100 kilometers per hour, especially in the electric car sector, the competition is not just between car manufacturers. Last year, a team of German students set a new world record for 0-100km/h acceleration in 1.461 seconds. The record was broken once again. This time by an electric car built by a team of Swiss students that crossed the one-second barrier.

Mythen produced by the Zurich Academy Motorsport Club (AMZ) team, accelerated 0-100km/h in 0.956 seconds, shortening the previous record by more than half a second, and remains the highest ever. The mileage was 12.3 meters. ETHZ explained, "In September 2022, we shortened the previous world record of 1.461 seconds set by Stuttgart University in Germany by one-third." Muten's speed is about 2.5 seconds faster than the Tesla Model S Plad and 1.81 seconds faster than the electric car Rimak Nevera.

The vehicle is the result of a year-long study by 30 members of the Zurich AMZ, a university fraternity. The students developed all the components themselves, from printed circuit boards (PCBs) to batteries. The car weighs 140 kilograms and has an output of 326 horsepower. The team focused on delivering power to the ground as effectively as possible and said it developed a vacuum system to maximize it. AMZ President, Jan Bernard said in an interview with Agence France-Presse (AFP), "I have done a lot of work besides studying," he said.

Celebrating Chuseok as a Korean-American community in the U.S.

By Annika Kim

Chuseok is a widely celebrated holiday in Korea, on the 15th day of the eighth month of the lunar calendar. This year, it will be held on September 29th, where Korean people worldwide will gather with their families to celebrate with good food and honor their ancestors. In St. Paul and Minneapolis, Minnesota, also known as the Twin Cities, Chuseok is celebrated in many different ways, from large celebrations to those who celebrate at home with their families.

Founded in 1954, the Korean American Association of Minnesota (KAAM) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and promoting Korean culture and identity. KAAM presents the Korean Culture Festival to celebrate Chuseok on September 30th. The event will feature K-pop performances, traditional dances and instruments, as well as Taekwondo demonstrations. "These activities have played a major role in the preservation and development of our culture and the integration of the Korean community," said Lee Yong-hyeok, president of KAAM.

Korean-American Josephine Chung grew up in a small Midwestern college town in Kansas but now lives in the Twin Cities in Minnesota with her children, where they continue to celebrate Korean traditions and holidays.

"My parents came to the United States in the late 50s to go to graduate school," she said. "And they met one another here in the United States and decided to stay."

Chung's connection to Korean culture was brought by her parents, who were both professors at Kansas State University and faculty advisors for the Korean Student Association, where there was a community of students from Korea to the United States. "Korean traditions and culture were kept alive through my parents' involvement in that, but also wanting to share it with my sister, [...] and sharing it with both of us, wanting us to still be tied to our culture of origin. Even though we were growing up in the United States, it was important for them, and important for us to know about culture and traditions," she said.

Today, Chung celebrates Chuseok with her children, whom she hopes to pass on the Korean culture. As opposed to American holidays such as Thanksgiving, her family cooks several Korean dishes and honors Chung's father, a tradition she has been carrying on since her grandparents. She views Chuseok as an opportunity to let her kids be connected with their culture of origin. "Growing up in America, traditions are often lost generation after generation. And for me, it's really important that they know where they came from."



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Iranian women's rights activist, Mohammadi wins the Nobel Peace Prize in prison



As Mohammadi was selected as the winner of this year, 19 of the Nobel Prize winners were women. It is the second time an Iranian female activist has won the Nobel Peace Prize since Shirin Ebadi in 2003.

By Chae Su-min

This year's Nobel Peace Prize was won in prison by Iran's leading women's rights activist and anti-government figure, Narges Mohammadi, 51 years old. She has been credited with resisting oppression of Iranian women, and leading the fight for human rights and freedom. She is serving a 12-year prison sentence for disseminating "anti-state propaganda."

On October 6th (local time), the Norwegian Nobel Committee said it had selected Iran's leading human rights activist and journalist Mohammadi as the winner of the 2023 Nobel Peace Prize. Prior to the announcement of the winner, Berit Rice Andersen, chairman of the Nobel Committee, spoke, in Iranian,

one of the slogans of the peace demonstration against the Iranian government, "Women, Life, Freedom."

According to the Norwegian Nobel Committee, Mohammadi has resisted oppression against Iranian women and led the struggle for human rights and freedom. Andersen said, "Mohammadi, who has fought against Iran's oppression of women, is now in prison." She referred to Mohammadi as a "fighter of freedom." She added, "This brave struggle was made at a tremendous sacrifice personally. This award is above all an acknowledgement of the very important work of all movements in Iran. There is no doubt that the leader of the movement is Narges Mohammadi. The regime has arrested her 13 times, convicted her five times, and sentenced her to 31 years in prison and 154 floggings. At the moment of the announcement, she is in prison."

The ceremony took place shortly after the first anniversary of Mahsa Amini, who was arrested by the police for not using the hijab properly in Iran. The first anniversary was on the 16th of last month. The U.S. *Washington Post* reported that Mohammadi's award will shine an international spotlight on women's street struggle in Iran, which continues under the banner of "Women, Life, Freedom" after Amini's death. In a statement to *The New York Times*, Mohammadi said, "Thanks to international support and recognition for my human rights advocacy, I became more determined, more responsible, more enthusiastic and more hopeful."

Mohammadi joined the Human Rights Defenders Center in 2003, led by Shirin Ebadi, 76, the "godmother" of the Iranian women's movement. Ebadi received the Nobel Peace Prize that year. Mohammadi is currently the president of the group, leading

campaigns for women's human rights, democracy, and the abolition of the death penalty in Iran. Since she was first arrested and sentenced to prison in 2011 for helping a jailed human rights activist, she has repeated his imprisonment and release. Most recently, she participated in street protests held in 2021 to commemorate the victims of anti-government protests in 2019. She has been arrested and is currently in prison at Tehran Evin Prison. This is an Iranian detention facility notorious for human rights violations. She has been sentenced to prison sentences, fines, and floggings in various ongoing trials.

As Mohammadi was selected as the winner of this year, 19 of the Nobel Prize winners were women. It is the second time an Iranian female activist has won the Nobel Peace Prize since Shirin Ebadi in 2003. Prior to her imprisonment, Mohammadi worked as deputy director of the Defenders of Human Rights Center, led by Ebadi. The *Washington Post* predicted that Mohammadi's award would shed more light internationally on the human rights struggle of Iranian women at the Hijab protests.

Solomon Islands criticizes Japan's ocean discharge of contaminated water

By Song Eun-soo



Manasseh Sogavare, Prime Minister of Solomon Islands gave a speech at the UN Summit on September 22nd (local time), criticizing that Japan's release of contaminated water is an

aggression against world's faith and solidarity.

Prime Minister Sogavare stated that Solomon Islands stand united with other Pacific nations. He expressed his appellation at Japan's decision on discharging over million tons of polluted water into the ocean. He also added that the evaluation report from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) remains inconclusive, and the shared scientific data is insufficient, imperfect, and biased. Despite these concerns, they have been ignored.

Sogavare pointed out, "If Japan claims that the polluted water is safe, they should store it within their own territory. The discharge of contaminated water indicates that it is not secure." Moreover, he asserted, "The impact of releasing contaminated water goes beyond borders and generations. It sends a message that our lives and ethnic groups are not valued." He urged Japan to immediately cease the discharge of contaminated water, stating that in order to rebuild trust and reignite global solidarity, Japan must be transparent in protecting the ocean. Furthermore, he emphasized that Japan would be judged by history if they do not suspend releasing polluted water.

Additionally, he warned that Japan's contaminated water discharge has detrimental effects on Solomon Islands, especially in light of their growing relationship with China. Solomon Islands, a member of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), a consultative group of Pacific Islands, has been showing a pro-China move, evident in their security agreement signed in April of last year. The Pacific Islands initially stood united, holding against Fukushima's discharge of wastewater. However, recently, they are divided over the issue.

Some eccentric scientists try to freeze the Arctic again

By Choi Da-in

Recently, scientists around Europe are reportedly taking on an impossible challenge. The so-called "Refreezing the Arctic" project. They took action after a series of predictions warned of the disappearance of Arctic sea ice. Centering on the Refreeze the Arctic Foundation (RAF), which was launched last year, the University of Cambridge Climate Recovery Center in the UK and the Climate Research Institute at Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands have joined forces. As its name suggests, it is a research foundation with the goal of re-freezing the Arctic.

The reason why those who assert to refreeze the Arctic are studying salt crystals is that they are paying attention to a technology called "Marine Cloud Brightening" (MCB). "Our project starts with the simple principle that blocking sunlight hitting the Earth makes the Earth cooler," Professor Hunt said. "The clouds floating in the sky can act as an umbrella that blocks sunlight."

Indeed, sunlight is closely related to climate change in the Arctic. The sea ice in the Arctic, covered with white snow, reflects solar energy and suppresses the rise in water temperature. The existence of sea ice itself serves as a kind of "buffering material" that prevents the aftermath of global warming. However, in the end, sea ice cannot escape the effects of the increasingly hot Earth. "When the Arctic ice melts due to the rising temperature, the water temperature rises due to the solar energy reaching the sea," Professor Hunt said. "The increased water temperature eventually accelerates the melting of the ice further."

In order to prevent this vicious cycle, he wants to make



a kind of "an umbrella of the Arctic sky" using sea water to make clouds whiter. When seawater is made into fine particles and sprayed into the atmosphere like fog, small salt crystals in water droplets become particles (cloud condensation nuclei) that make the clouds denser. If you fill a transparent glass bottle with pebbles, you can see a lot of empty spots, but if you put additional sand in it, it becomes full enough that light can't pass through. Here, salt crystals in clouds made of seawater play the role of sand particles. This technique is called "cloud bleaching" because the cloud looks whiter when the particles that make up the cloud become denser.

In the future, RAF plans to receive research funds and manpower from the two universities and conduct verification of MCB equipment in 2025.

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The outrageous tipping culture in post-COVID-19 America

by Amy Lim



The post-COVID-19 experience has startled a lot of foreign visitors to the United States. During the pandemic, living expenses have increased significantly, and tipping is no exception. The practice of tipping has a long history in the United States and was initially influenced by the British. It has been a long-standing tradition in the U.S. It's a uniquely American way of paying for services, whether it's at a hair salon, a restaurant, or a nail salon.

Before the pandemic, the typical tip in the U.S. was between 15% and 18%. Some customers gave extra if they felt that the service was welcoming and satisfying. This practice is known as "gratuity" and reflects personal freedom. However, this tipping culture has gotten a little weird in the last year or two. Normally, tipping is expected at restaurants where you are served, but now it is also expected at places like Starbucks where you order and receive your drink.

In addition, we now often encounter people requesting tips when using the car wash push button or purchasing a loaf of bread from a bakery. In many circumstances, you'll need to tap the tip button directly on your tablet, which is a smart move from a culture where people used to tip with cash right away. Of course, there is a button that says "No tip" in very small print, but it is very embarrassing not to tip because the staff is staring at the screen in front of you, trying to figure out how much to tip.

Some businesses force you to leave a tip when ordering from a kiosk. The owners of the businesses complain that the economy is tough, and they request their customers to tip.

Tipping in this way is tantamount to raising the price of food. This is one of the reasons why Americans have recently rebelled against the tipping culture in restaurants. In fact, Americans are finding it difficult to cope with the rising cost of living and the burdensome tipping culture when dining out. So, they are cooking more at home and ordering takeout from restaurants in the form of "To-go."

But why, in recent years, has tipping in America become such a social problem? The culture of leaving tips is not new, after all. One of the causes is the ongoing labor shortage in the job market following the COVID-19 outbreak. Naturally, the increased labor costs are passed on to customers in the form of tips. According to the American business magazine *Fortune*, the increase in digital payment methods for credit cards is also contributing to tip inflation. Because of this, tipping percentages have increased to 20–25%, and tipping percentages of 30% or higher are not unusual. For example, a \$50 (67,000 KRW) meal could cost you \$75 (100,000 KRW), including tax and tip.

"People say there's no set tip, but I think there is," said Ms. Elena, a registered nurse (RN) in Orange County, California. She said that she had really ordered a cup of coffee at a coffee shop and been repeatedly asked for a tip, a circumstance she had never seen in her years in the United States. "There is an unspoken expectation that you should tip at least 20 percent," she said.

Recently, several famous restaurants and cafes in Korea have been criticized for introducing a tipping culture to their customers. I don't understand why Korea is trying to establish a tipping culture that has been criticized in the U.S. Moreover, unlike the U.S, Korea has a mandatory minimum wage, so there is no need for a tipping culture at all. Too much is as bad as too little. The American tipping culture needs to change sooner rather than later.

How has ChatGPT transformed my English classroom?

By Yoon Kun-sik (An English teacher at Seoul Science High School and an applied linguist)



An ongoing challenge in education is creating learning environments where students are taught according to their educational level, helping them reach their full potential. However, the current educational landscape has yet to break free from the average student mindset. This results in curricula and content designed for an imaginary average student that doesn't exist.

Consequently, the space for embracing classroom diversity and individuality is limited, and the reliance on standardized teaching and learning rooted in averages has only resulted in an education that fails to satisfy anyone.

'Personalized learning' is the solution to this problem, and educators tried many different ways to create a more customized learning experience in education. Nevertheless, despite these efforts, personalized learning often leaves us with a daunting task, much like an intricate Gordian knot. The same was true for my English Writing class. I frequently doubted the feasibility of conducting a standardized course with a uniform textbook, considering my students' diverse English proficiency and writing aptitudes. Giving individualized comments to every student within a limited class period seemed almost impossible. However, thanks to recent advancements in artificial intelligence tools like ChatGPT, I've found a hint to unraveling this longstanding challenge. ChatGPT has transformed my

classroom dynamic. In my writing class, students can engage with ChatGPT at any time to promptly receive answers to their questions and assistance. This personalized approach has become a crucial catalyst for accelerating students' progress. Moreover, students can receive ongoing individualized feedback on their writing from ChatGPT. The tool consistently evaluates their compositions, offering suggestions for enhancement and aiding in refining their writing skills and expressive abilities. ChatGPT's iterative training and feedback process remarkably improved students' English writing skills.

Perhaps more crucially, ChatGPT assists my students in improving their capacity to "ask questions." In my class, learning predominantly occurs through students' interaction with ChatGPT. Then, they can naturally acquire the ability to ask good questions and empower them to steer their learning autonomously by actively seeking answers and bridging their knowledge gaps. Unlike traditional education, in which teachers directly convey knowledge, future education will involve students producing their knowledge by asking questions. In this sense, ChatGPT can serve as a springboard for future learning.

The emergence of various AI tools like ChatGPT is changing the paradigm of education. Of course, ChatGPT also has many problems. It may not answer all questions accurately, may be biased, and have negative consequences when used indiscriminately without guidelines. The most innovative tool could be a double-edged sword. In education, however, AI technologies like ChatGPT are no longer an option but a necessity for personalized and self-driven learning. Plus, they will continue to evolve. Thus, one question remains: how to maximize its benefits to step forward for better education for all?

My wonderful school, Sejong Global High School

By Ko Ha-eun (Sejong Global High School)



"Embrace the world, expand your dreams!"

Hello everyone, my name is Ko Ha-eun, a first year student at Sejong Global High School. Sejong Global High School was founded with the purpose of nurturing global leaders. The aim of the school is to develop the capacities of students as global citizens and cultivate their creativity and leadership skills. Today, I would like to introduce some distinctive features of Sejong Global High School.

All students at Sejong Global High School exhibit immense passion for their study. During class hours, you won't find anyone sleeping. Considering our shared career goals, we often find common topics to discuss. Observing the dedication and enthusiasm of our peers inspires and motivates us to maintain our own commitment to learning.

The teachers at the school possess high expertise and enthusiasm. They put forth their best efforts to aid individual student achievements and are the kind individuals who pay meticulous attention to the needs of each student. Furthermore, some subject teachers expand our knowledge through diverse topics. For example, in English class, English teachers draw content from sources such as NASA, CNN, and TED, thus broadening our understanding of scientific concepts that we might not have encountered otherwise.

Our school hosts a variety of clubs. Beyond well-known selective clubs such as Humanities, Bank, Imagine Club, Admissions Promotion, and Broadcasting, there are numerous regular clubs like a law club of "Jeui-itso or Objection, Your Honor" and English Magazine Writing Club. On top of the traditional clubs, there are autonomous clubs, learning-sharing groups, and advanced study groups for those who wish to delve deeper into specific areas. As an example, I, driven by an interest in law, joined the Law Club. Additionally, I initiated a study group focusing on legal psychology to engage in discussions about legal judgments. Furthermore, out of pure personal curiosity, I established a self-directed Russian language club for like-minded students interested in learning Russian.

Our school not only emphasizes international education but also fosters creativity through innovative teaching methods, thereby stimulating students' creativity. Through activities like book forums, cultural experiences, and international exchange programs, students develop a broader perspective and a global mindset, which enables them to formulate solutions to various problems. Moreover, the school supports various club activities and extra-curricular activities to ensure students' comprehensive development in their capacities.



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