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Analysis:

Amid the array of stories this week that focused on the honoring of DPRK leaders with floral baskets and official statements, and various accounts of Sino-North Korean arts and sports exchange, KCNA published several important articles focusing on China's growing prominence on the world stage. KCNA found the Chinese Foreign Ministry stressing the importance of dialog in settling the Iran nuclear issue, illustrating China's support for open communication and cooperation even through its unrelenting condemnation of the West's attempts to resolve the issue through sanctions to the country.

KCNA also brought to the fore aspects of how the U.S. Presidential race may be reshaping international themes. Coverage of Singapore's warning to the United States that its "anti-China" rhetoric is more damaging than realized is one such case in point, wherein inflammatory claims about China by American politicians "can spark [a] reaction which can create a new unintended reality for the region."

China's ambassador to the DPRK, Liu Hongcai, twice made news this week, thanks to an articles and statements laudatory of Kim Jong Il's friendship (often shown through opera) to the Chinese people. By praising past leaders, and supporting new ones, the Chinese government can both maintain the façade of traditional cooperation and claim that the two countries, *as Kim Jong Il intended*, are entering an era of increased cooperation and mutual benefit. By the same token, when such pro forma communications are not forthcoming, one can seek for areas of possible behind-the-scenes disagreement.

Finally, this week KCNA published a story about the Venezuelan government's plans to launch a Chinese-made satellite this coming Fall. Over the past weeks, KCNA has published multiple stories detailing China's emergence into satellite technology by launching several of its own satellites, but now, it is clear that China has expanded into the field by exporting satellites for other countries to use. By branching out into more and more technological fields, China is showing once again that it can compete with the best and will continue to strive to make advances in this and other fields as well.

Evan Koepfler, Pacific Lutheran University

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12 February 2012

Singapore FM Says U.S. Should Avoid Anti-China Rhetoric

Pyongyang, February 12 (KCNA) -- Singapore's Foreign Minister K. Shanmugam has said that the United States should not underestimate the impact of the anti-China rhetoric, local media reported on Thursday.

Domestic pressures in the United States, especially in the election year, have resulted in some anti-China rhetoric in domestic debates, Shanmugam, who was on his visit to the United States, told a conference on Wednesday at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

International media such as AFP also noticed that there has been an increase in anti-China rhetoric from some lawmakers.

"Americans should not underestimate the extent to which such rhetoric can spark reaction which can create a new and unintended reality for the region," he said.

The Singapore foreign minister said the United States should respect the diversity of the systems across Asia when interacting with the different countries and regions in the region.

13 February 2012

Chinese FM Calls for Settling Iran's Nuclear Issue through Dialogue

Beijing, February 12 (KCNA) -- A spokesperson of the Chinese Foreign Ministry at the press conference on Friday called for settling Iran's nuclear issue through dialogue.

He said China consistently insists that dialogue and cooperation are the only right ways for promoting the settlement of Iran's nuclear issue.

Urgent is for the relevant countries to resume dialogue with Iran and for the IAEA to strengthen cooperation with it, he added.

14 February 2012

Singing Gathering of Chinese Residents in Pyongyang

Pyongyang, February 14 (KCNA) -- Chinese residents in Pyongyang held a remembrance singing gathering at the

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Taedonggang Diplomatic Corps Club Tuesday on the occasion of the birth anniversary of leader Kim Jong Il.

At the gathering performers expressed reverence of the Chinese residents for Kim Jong Il in such numbers as chorus "Song of General Kim Jong Il", an immortal revolutionary hymn, narration and chorus "General Is Our Father", female chorus "We Ardently Long for You".

The number also included narration and choruses "Footsteps" and "We Pledge" that represented the Korean people's will to translate into brilliant reality the behests of Kim Jong Il under the leadership of the dear respected Kim Jong Un, another brilliant commander born of Heaven.

Present at the gathering were officials of the C.C., Association of Chinese Residents in Korea, Chinese residents in the city of Pyongyang and officials of the Pyongyang City People's Committee.

15 February 2012

Floral Basket to Kim Jong Un from Chinese Family

Pyongyang, February 15 (KCNA) -- The dear respected Kim Jong Un Wednesday received a floral basket from the family of Zhang Weihua, a Chinese anti-Japanese revolutionary martyr, on the occasion of the 70th birth anniversary of leader Kim Jong Il.

16 February 2012

Chinese and Russians Pay Tribute to Kim Jong Il

Pyongyang, February 16 (KCNA) -- Liu Hongcai, Chinese ambassador to the DPRK and staff members of his embassy laid a floral basket before the portrait of smiling Kim Jong Il in Kim Il Sung Square on Thursday, the Day of the Shining Star.

They laid a floral basket before the portrait with boundless reverence for Kim Jong Il who made immortal contributions to the development of the DPRK-China friendship and the accomplishment of human cause of independence and paid tribute to him.

Meanwhile, staff members of the Chinese and Russian consulates general in Chongjin and Chinese in the DPRK laid floral baskets and bouquets before the portraits of smiling Kim Jong Il in the cities of Chongjin and Kanggye on the same day.

Floral Basket to Kim Jong Un from Chinese Delegation

Pyongyang, February 16 (KCNA) -- The dear respected Kim Jong Un received a floral basket from the visiting delegation of the China Association for International Friendly Contact led by Li Chun, head of office of the association, on the occasion of the 70th birth anniversary of leader Kim Jong Il.

Li Chun conveyed the floral basket to an official concerned on Thursday.

Floral Basket to Kim Jong Il from Chinese Family

Pyongyang, February 16 (KCNA) -- The family of Zhou Wei, daughter of Zhou Baozhong who is a Chinese related to the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, sent a floral basket to the portrait of smiling leader Kim Jong Il on the Day of the Shining Star.

The basket was laid before the portrait at Kim Il Sung Square on Thursday.

Chinese Ambassador to DPRK Issues Article on Birth Anniversary of Kim Jong Il

Pyongyang, February 16 (KCNA) -- Liu Hongcai, Chinese ambassador to the DPRK, issued an article on Thursday on the birth anniversary of leader Kim Jong Il. The title of the article is "In memory of General Secretary Kim Jong Il, a close friend of the Chinese people".

The article said:

February 16 this year made people miss General Secretary Kim Jong Il very much after his demise.

I was fortunate to be involved in receiving Kim Jong Il several times when he was visiting China.

In particular, I, as ambassador to the DPRK, had the honor of being received by the General Secretary on many occasions and in this course I felt his deep care for the Sino-DPRK friendship and sincerity toward China.

Like the Korean people greeting the Day of the Shining Star, my yearning for him is growing stronger and his tender-hearted image would come to my mind.

Kim Jong Il was the great leader of the Korean people and a close friend of the Chinese people.

The whole land of China is associated with footprints of Kim Jong Il, the article said, adding:

General Secretary Kim Jong Il frequently recollected President Kim Il Sung forged genuine feelings with revolutionaries of the elder generation of China including Chairman Mao Zedong, Premier Zhou Enlai and Comrade Deng Xiaoping and provided the traditional Sino-DPRK friendship.

In the new century he, together with Chinese leaders, glorified the friendship between the peoples of the two countries.

It is the common understanding of the two parties and countries and the desire common to the two peoples to consolidate and develop the traditional Sino-DPRK friendship.

General Secretary Kim Jong Il visited China eight times in the new century.

He visited China four times between 2010 and 2011 and had cordial meetings with the party and state leaders of China, sharing deep understanding.

He reached a series of major common understandings of the relations between the two countries and international and regional issues, giving strong impetus to the development of the Sino-DPRK friendly relations.

He opened a bright prospect for the Sino-DPRK friendship and made a great contribution to peace and stability in the region.

General Secretary Kim Jong Il together with Comrade Kim Jong Un received party and government and military delegations of China during their visits to the DPRK and hosted banquets in their honor.

Kim Jong Il attached great importance to the inheritance and development of the traditional friendship between the two parties and countries.

He always paid deep attention to educating the younger generation so that the baton of the DPRK-China friendship was successfully carried forward.

Thanks to his initiative the Cemetery of Fallen Fighters of the Chinese People's Volunteers in Hoechang County was rebuilt to eternally hand it down to the generations of the two countries to come.

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The great leader Comrade Kim Jong Il made sure that overall exchange and cooperation were briskly conducted in different fields including economy, culture, arts and education between the two countries, the article noted, and went on:

General Secretary Kim Jong Il clarified the importance of cultural exchange in promoting the development of the Sino-DPRK friendly relations.

Under his guidance artistes of the DPRK successfully created the operas "A Dream of Red Mansions" and "Liang Shanbo and Zhu Yingtai".

A new chapter "Arirang of Friendship" was added to the grand gymnastic and artistic performance "Arirang", deeply impressing and encouraging Chinese spectators.

He, together with us, enjoyed the performance of Chinese dance drama "Confetti on Silk Road".

The ambassador recalled Kim Jong Il paid deep attention to the work of the Chinese embassy in Pyongyang.

While touring various places, we witnessed the Korean people striving hard to build a thriving socialist nation, in single-minded unity under the leadership of General Secretary Kim Jong Il.

We experienced that the Sino-DPRK friendship is displaying great vitality, deeply rooted in the minds of the people and we came to be confident of the prospect of the development of the Sino-DPRK friendship and cooperation.

We, at the same time, firmly pledged ourselves to positively contribute to the development of the Sino-DPRK friendship by realizing the noble intention of the top leaders of the two countries.

Noting that the Sino-DPRK relations grew stronger last year thanks to the deep concern of General Secretary Hu Jintao and General Secretary Kim Jong Il, he continued:

We are convinced of more beautiful future, full of faith.

The Korean people are successfully putting the far-reaching plan of General Secretary Kim Jong Il into practice.

The Korean people united close around the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea headed by Comrade Kim Jong Un are now making vigorous endeavors to implement the behests of General Secretary Kim Jong Il and fling open the gate to a thriving nation.

We heartily wish the DPRK prosperity and its people happiness.

Kimjongilia Show Held in China

Pyongyang, February 16 (KCNA) -- A Kimjongilia show was held in Shenyang, China, on Feb. 13 to commemorate the birth anniversary of leader Kim Jong Il. It was sponsored by the General Association of Koreans in China.

Displayed at its venue were flowers of the sun carrying boundless reverence of all people against background of poem "Shining Star" written by President Kim Il Sung and Jong Il Peak.

Present there were Chairperson Choe Un Bok and officials of the association, delegates of its organizations and Koreans in China, the consul-general and staff members of the DPRK consulate-general in Shenyang, members of DPRK trade missions in Shenyang and personages of different strata of China.

Speeches were made at the show.

The participants expressed burning emotion, looking round flowers in praise of the great man.

Choe Un Bok said that immortal flowers came to full bloom with deep reverence of the world people on the occasion of the 70th birth anniversary of Kim Jong Il.

All Koreans in China will devotedly contribute to building a thriving nation in the DPRK and reliably preserve the patriotic tradition under the leadership of the dear respected Kim Jong Un, Choe said.

The director of the Foreign Affairs Office of the Liaoning Provincial People's Government of China said that the feats of Kim Jong Il, who made great contribution to strengthening the Sino-DPRK friendship, would be everlasting.

The director of the Center for Korean Peninsula Studies of the Liaoning Provincial Academy of Social Sciences said that Kimjongilia fully mirrors the great personality of Kim Jong Il, a peerlessly elder statesman. "Shining Star" will go down forever with the beauty of Kimjongilia, the director added.

Kim Jong Il Is Close Friend of Chinese People: Chinese Ambassador

Pyongyang, February 16 (KCNA) -- Liu Hongcai, Chinese ambassador to the DPRK, had an interview with journalists of media organs in Pyongyang and foreign correspondents on

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Thursday after laying a floral basket before the portrait of smiling leader Kim Jong Il at Kim Il Sung Square to pay homage to him on the Day of the Shining Star.

Expressing deep reverence for Kim Jong Il, the ambassador said:

I cannot repress my ardent yearning for him today, the significant Day of the Shining Star.

His benevolent and kind image comes to my mind and his voice is still ringing in my ears.

General Secretary Kim Jong Il is the great leader of the Korean people and a close friend of the Chinese people.

He showed deep care for the development of the Sino-DPRK friendly relations and performed enormous feats in boosting these relations.

It is him who glorified the traditional Sino-DPRK friendship, forged and cultivated by President Kim Il Sung together with elder revolutionaries of China.

It is the common understanding of the two parties and countries and the desire of the two peoples to consolidate and develop this friendship.

In the new century General Secretary Kim Jong Il visited China several times and met and forged warm friendship with party and state leaders of China.

He prompted the development of the China-DPRK friendly relationship and opened up radiant vistas for it.

He received Chinese party, government and military delegations visiting the DPRK and gave receptions for them.

He attached importance to the development of the traditional relations of friendship between the two parties and countries.

The overall exchange and cooperation between the two countries grew stronger under his deep care.

While being active in the DPRK I witnessed the Korean people striving to build a thriving socialist country, rallied as one in mind under the leadership of General Secretary Kim Jong Il.

The Korean people are now translating his far-reaching plan into a brilliant reality.

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I heartily hope that the Korean people would achieve prosperity under the leadership of Comrade Kim Jong Un.

17 February 2012

Famous Couple Figure Skaters from China

Pyongyang, February 17 (KCNA) -- A three-day 21st International Figure Skating Festival for Paektusan Prize for commemorating the Day of the Shining Star closed at the Ice Rink in Pyongyang on Friday.

Figure skaters from several countries crowned the festival with their demonstration performances.

Among them were a married couple from China, Shen Xue and Zhao Hongbo.

The pair won gold medals at Olympics and world championships.

Zhao Hongbo, recollecting his performance at the international figure skating festival held in Pyongyang 19 years ago, told KCNA:

"I am very pleased to participate in this festival to commemorate the first Day of the Shining Star with the Korean people.

The Chinese and Korean people have a long history of friendship.

I am so happy to meet old Korean friends in Pyongyang and see people enjoying my demonstration."

He hoped that he would meet Koreans again in the coming festivals.

18 February 2012

Gift to Kim Jong Un from Chinese Businessman

Pyongyang, February 18 (KCNA) -- The dear respected Kim Jong Un received a gift from the board director of a foodstuff company in Tangshan City of Hebei Province, China.

Board Director He Jianhui handed the gift over to Pak Myong Ho, charge d'affaires of the DPRK embassy in China on Tuesday.

Kimjongilia Show Held in China

Pyongyang, February 18 (KCNA) -- A Kimjongilia show was held in Dalian City, Liaoning Province of China, on Feb. 14 to

commemorate the birth anniversary of general secretary Kim Jong Il.

On display in its venue were more than 400 potted Kimjongilias carrying the boundless reverence of the Chinese people for leader Kim Jong Il.

Present at the show were officials of companies and citizens in Dalian and the DPRK consul-general and consuls in Shenyang and a delegation of the DPRK Kimilsungia-Kimjongilia Committee.

Venezuela's Second Chinese-built Satellite to Be Launched

Pyongyang, February 18 (KCNA) -- The Venezuelan president said a new Chinese-built satellite for Venezuela will be launched this year, a media report said.

The new satellite will be called "Miranda" and it will help monitor natural phenomena.

The Miranda satellite is expected to be sent into orbit between September and October.

Korean Film Show Arranged in China

Pyongyang, February 18 (KCNA) -- A Korean film show took place in Beijing on Feb. 14 to commemorate the birth anniversary of general secretary Kim Jong Il.

Present there were Mustafa Al Safarini, chairman of the Arab Information Center in China, and his daughter Jindallae, the executive chairman of the Public Center for Diplomatic and Cultural Exchange of China, the deputy general manager of the General Construction Company of China and other people.

Also present on invitation were the charge d'affaires and staff members of the DPRK embassy in Beijing.

Speeches were made before the film show.

The chairman of the Arab Information Center in China said:

"Kim Jong Il was the benevolent father of the people who devoted his all to the building of a thriving nation and the people's happiness till the last moments of his life.

Though he passed away, he will be always alive in our hearts for the great feats he performed for the Korean revolution and the cause of global independence.

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We are convinced that the Korean people will carry forward and accomplish the revolutionary cause of Juche, pioneered by President Kim Il Sung and developed by Kim Jong Il, rallied close around the dear respected Kim Jong Un."

The executive chairman of the Public Center for Diplomatic and Cultural Exchange of China said that Kim Jong Il was the genuine leader of the people with literary and military accomplishments. He made signal contributions to the development of the Sino-DPRK friendly relations, the chairman stressed.

Korean films shown included "Pyongyang at Night".