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8 January – 14 January 2012

Analysis:

This second week of January brought a similar pattern of KCNA's China coverage of the first week of the year: in the first three days of the week, only one China related story was published per day, with the number being published increased in the subsequent days.

Themes of interest this week include: the continuation of China's rise on the world stage, domestic developments in the PRC, and government direction of the state. The subject of China's rise has remained a relevant theme over the past weeks, and it made up 7 of the 31 total KCNA China stories this week, illustrating not just China's increasing power and influence in global politics, but North Korean attentiveness to that power. These stories include: **China Rejects U.S. Defense Strategy, China Supports Resumption of Palestine-Israel Talks, China Supports Afghan Efforts for National Reconciliation, China-U.S. Confrontation Will Become Acute: Expert**, and finally, **China Calls for Resolving Iran's Nuclear Issue**. The North Korean media rarely seems to come out and explicitly state that China is power to be recognized and respected, but more and more stories in KCNA seem to be detailing China's stark areas of disagreement with the West and specifically the United States. This week in the North Korean press, for example, Chinese spokespeople rejected the United States claim that China's modernization is a dangerous precedent, saying that "the modernization will pose no threat to any country." As China no longer feels the need to put as much faith in the policies of the United States as it has in the past, North Korean media emphasizes China's autonomy, trying in its own way to peel China away from the "stakeholder" position into which the United States has tried to force it.

North Korean stories about China's role in world affairs frequently dwell on the notion of PRC support for smaller peripheral states and causes: In KCNA, China's support for the the resumption of peace talks between Palestine and Israel shows the PRC as neutral arbiter. When China calls for the resolution of Iran's nuclear issues and supports Afghan efforts for reconciliation, it is assumed that China's involvement in world politics is a positive force and a clear counterweight to the United States.

A final story worth note with this theme is the appearance of a Russian expert in the North Korean media predicting the deterioration of the relationship between China and the United States. The KCNA seems increasingly to be using a Chinese media

technique, which is to give voice difficult ideas by quoting foreign experts. In this case, the subject was China's predicted resistance to American attempts to halt China's increased influence in Asia. Going further, the expert predicted that China would drive the US out of Asia entirely and refuse its influence over the Persian Gulf area as well. Although the Sino-North Korean relationship is never broached directly, insofar as the KCNA is concerned, China is at all turns depicted as a strong and reasonable partner.

The second most prevalent China-related theme this week in the KCNA is China's development of domestic policy, which was the subject of 11 the 31 China stories published this week. Perhaps the single most noteworthy story in this category is China's launching of another satellite into orbit. As KCNA put it, the satellite would be used for "territorial research, prevention of disasters, protection of ecological environment and other purposes as well as agriculture and forestry."

And again, KCNA details the Chinese government's plans to develop ethnic regions for minority groups.

The final theme of government direction also witnessed increased coverage this week. Although several of these stories fit into the previous category as well, there were a few unique exceptions. The first was that the CPC called for an increased role in party work at universities, an important parallel development for North Korea as youth work is on the upswing in the new year. Furthermore, there were two stories published detailing Hu Jintao's call for purifying the CPC and reducing corruption in general.

A final story that did not necessarily fit into a category but is significant nonetheless was: **How Does DPRK Have Such Strong Unity?: Chinese Newspaper.** DPRK writers, and certainly the country's Foreign Ministry, are careful readers of the Chinese press, and the summary of Chinese news sources are among the best public sources for reading the modulations in the Sino-North Korean relationship. Last week, we saw how KCNA found a Sina website praising the North Korean people and declaring, supposedly, how lucky citizens of the DPRK were to have Kim Jong Un as their new leader. China's vested interest in the newly established Kim Jong Un regime, and its support for that regime, is being touted in North Korea even as readers in the DPRK are given increased, if still rather small, insights into the media landscape beyond the Yalu and Tumen rivers.

-- Evan Koepfler and Adam Cathcart

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Stamp Exhibition and Memorial Service for Kim Jong Il Held in China

Pyongyang, January 8 (KCNA) -- A stamp exhibition and memorial service on the theme of "The respected General Kim Jong Il will live forever" took place in Beijing on Dec. 29 last year.

On display there were stamps showing leader Kim Jong Il standing together with President Kim Il Sung, dealing with the birth of Kim Jong Il, his start of work at the C. C., Workers' Party of Korea, a series of his visits to China, the exploits performed by him for national reunification and others.

The participants observed three minutes' silence in memory of Kim Jong Il.

Zu Zuwei, chairperson of the Beijing Gulou Philatelic Research Society of China who doubles as chairperson of the Sino-DPRK Stamp Research Society, recalled that since the foundation of the Sino-DPRK Stamp Research Society on February 16, 1999 it has contributed to the development of the Sino-DPRK friendly relations through the exchange of stamps thanks to the deep care and great benevolence of Kim Jong Il.

Expressing sorrow over the demise of Kim Jong Il, close friend of the Chinese people, Zu Zuwei said the society would always hold Kim Jong Il in high esteem as its honorary chairman.

Chinese philatelists would hand down forever the immortal exploits Kim Jong Il performed for the Korean revolution and the development of the Sino-DPRK friendship and his great loving care shown for the society, the chairperson stressed.

9 January 2012

Opera "Liang Shanbo and Zhu Yingtai" Successfully Staged in Shandong Province of China

Pyongyang, January 9 (KCNA) -- Artistes of the Phibada Opera Troupe of the DPRK staged closing performances of the opera "Liang Shanbo and Zhu Yingtai" before full house in Qingdao City of Shandong Province on Jan. 6 and 7.

They were watched by a great number of personages and residents of the city and the province.

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The secretary of the Qingdao City Party Committee said it was with irrepressible sorrow that he heard the news that leader Kim Jong Il untimely passed away, adding he would always be alive in the hearts of the Korean and Chinese peoples.

He went on:

The performances successfully given by Korean artistes till their last one made a great contribution to deepening the friendship between the two countries.

The noble ideological and moral traits and artistic skill displayed by Korean artistes greatly influenced the cultural and artistic circles of his province and city.

The vice-mayor of the city noted every scene of the opera drew keen attention, adding that he was deeply moved to watch the Korean artistes perform on the stage despite the sorrow over the great loss.

Their truthful acting, peculiar music, dances and stage decor, etc. mesmerized the whole audience, he stressed.

The vice-director of the Cultural Department of the province said Korean artistes' performances were successful thanks to the initiative and meticulous leadership of Kim Jong Il.

He hoped they would come to his province again with more excellent works in the future.

10 January 2012

Koreans in China Form Preparatory Committee for Commemorating February 16

Pyongyang, January 10 (KCNA) -- A preparatory committee of the General Association of Koreans in China (GAKC) for commemorating February 16 (birth anniversary of leader Kim Jong Il) was formed on January 6.

Choe Un Bok, chairwoman of GAKC, was selected chairwoman of the preparatory committee.

The committee decided to hold colorful events including the memorial meeting, exhibition of immortal flower Kimjongilia, exhibition of books and photos and remembrance concert.

Chinese University Party Committees Urged to Enhance Their Role

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Beijing, January 9 (KCNA) -- The Chinese vice president called for intensifying the party work in universities.

Speaking at the 20th national meeting of university party officials held some days ago, Xi Jinping described universities as important centers of educating and training young talents and important bases of arming young people with the socialist hardcore value system.

He called on the party officials to consider it as their major duty to bring up excellent builders of and reliable successors to the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics, thereby providing a definite ideological, political and organizational guarantee to building socialist universities, capable of training students with high qualifications.

He urged university party committees to enhance their leading and pivotal role and encourage broad masses of party members to fully discharge their vanguard and exemplary role.

11 January 2012

Opera Performance Squad of DPRK Comes Back from China

Pyongyang, January 11 (KCNA) -- The DPRK performance squad of opera "Liang Shanbo and Zhu Yingtai" came back home on Wednesday after winding up its visit to China.

Present at Pyongyang Railway Station to greet and congratulate its leading members and artistes on their successful performance were Secretary of the C.C., Workers' Party of Korea Kim Ki Nam, Minister of Culture An Tong Chun, officials concerned, creators and artistes in the field of culture and art, and Ambassador Liu Hongcai and staff members of the Chinese embassy here.

How Does DPRK Have Such Strong Unity?: Chinese Newspaper

Pyongyang, January 11 (KCNA) -- Chinese Huan Qiu Shibao on Jan. 5 carried an article titled "How Does DPRK Have Such Strong Unity?" The article said:

The memorial service for supreme leader of the DPRK Kim Jong Il held in the DPRK this time offered one an opportunity to know well that he is the most influential man of the socialist country along with President Kim Il Sung.

The memorial service was closely linked with the fascinating personality of the leader.

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How does the DPRK have such strong unity?

Firstly, the DPRK is a socialist state.

The Korean and the world people revere the leader who loves his country like his own house and like his own family. This is the first reason why the DPRK has such strong unity.

Secondly, Kim Jong Il devoted all his energies to building a thriving socialist state in the DPRK and serving the people all his life.

They deeply trust socialism and Kim Jong Il as a nation with its own belief. This is the second reason for the strong unity of the DPRK.

Thirdly, there is no gap between the poor and the rich in the DPRK.

The people are better than those of other countries in employment, medical treatment, education, housing conditions and other aspects.

The DPRK has the strongest centripetal force as its people are equal.

They have one and the same feelings as the standard of their living is even. This is the third reason for the strong unity of the DPRK.

Hu Jintao Calls for Effective Anti-Corruption Drive

Beijing, January 10 (KCNA) -- Hu Jintao, general secretary of the C.C., Communist Party of China, on Monday stressed the need to conduct the anti-corruption drive in an effective way.

Speaking at the 7th plenary session of the 17th Central Commission for Discipline Inspection of the C.C., CPC, he noted that the drive to establish the party discipline and enforce clean-handed policy and the fight on corruption are faced with new challenges.

"We should be fully aware that the battle against corruption is time-consuming, complicated and difficult," he said. "We should have firm confidence and step up efforts."

He called for making strict of the party discipline and stepping up the establishment of the style of work of the party. He also stressed the need to speed up the building of system to crack down on corruption and prevent graft and direct efforts to solving the highlighted problems reflecting the strong opinion of the popular masses.

He said that new achievements should be scored in the drive to enforce the party discipline, ensure clean and honest policy and combat corruption ahead of the Party's 18th Congress.

China Rejects U.S. Defense Strategy

Beijing, January 10 (KCNA) -- A spokesman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry at a press conference on Monday clarified the country's stand against the new defense strategy of the United States.

The accusation against China in a strategic defense guidance recently released by the U.S. Department of Defense is groundless and untrustworthy, he said.

"China's national defense modernization serves the objective requirements of its national security and development, and it is a positive factor in maintaining regional peace and stability," he said, adding that the modernization will pose no threat to any country.

On the same day a press spokesman for the Chinese Defense Ministry urged the U.S. side to take objective and reasonable attitude toward China and its army in conformity with the trend of the times and be deliberate in its words and deeds.

China Launches Satellite

Beijing, January 10 (KCNA) -- China succeeded in putting the satellite Ziyuan-3 into its preset orbit on Monday.

Carrier rocket Changzheng-4 with the satellite atop blasted off from the Taiyuan Satellite Launching Center.

The satellite is to be used for territorial research, prevention of disasters, protection of ecological environment and other purposes as well as agriculture and forestry.

Chinese Official Calls for Development of Socialist Culture

Beijing, January 10 (KCNA) -- A national meeting of publicity department heads took place in Beijing recently.

Speaking at the meeting, Li Changchun, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the C.C., the Communist Party of China, called on the officials of the ideological, cultural and publicity fields to persistently seek the development of socialist culture with the Chinese characteristics and keep in touch with the masses in accordance with the actual conditions of the

country and the general requirement of serving people and making innovations.

Development of Ethnic Regions Urged in China

Beijing, January 10 (KCNA) -- A Chinese vice premier called for promoting a rapid development of minorities and ethnic regions.

Speaking at a meeting of the national ethnic committee held a few days ago, Hui Liangyu called for thoroughly carrying out the plans and decisions on the development of minorities and ethnic regions during the period of the 12th five-year plan,

"We should help ethnic regions attain a rapid development with their own characteristics." he said.

Trade Unions Urged to Enhance Their Role in China

Beijing, January 10 (KCNA) -- China's chairman of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions called on trade unions to enhance their role in ensuring the harmony and stability of society and the interests of the country and the people.

Wang Zhaoguo, at a recently-held round-table talk, said that by doing so, the trade unions at all levels should promote the building of a comprehensively well-off society and prosperity common to the popular masses.

China Supports Resumption of Palestine-Israel Talks

Beijing, January 10 (KCNA) -- The Chinese Foreign Ministry's spokesman Hong Lei voiced his country's support for the resumption of Palestine-Israel talks.

Speaking at a press conference held recently, Hong said China hopes that relevant efforts will make a favorable progress to help resume the Palestine-Israel talks as soon as possible.

China Supports Afghan Efforts for National Reconciliation

Beijing, January 10 (KCNA) -- Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei at a recent press conference voiced the country's support for the efforts of Afghanistan to realize national reconciliation.

Hong expressed hope that Afghanistan will realize a peaceful stability as early as possible and make a progress in the process for reconciliation.

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He called on other parties outside Afghanistan to fully respect the choice of the Afghan government and people during peace talks and create a favorable environment for the reconciliation process.

China Calls for Improving External Publicity

Beijing, January 10 (KCNA) -- A national meeting on external publicity work was held in Beijing recently.

The meeting discussed enhancing the capacity and level of external publicity, introducing the Chinese culture and displaying the features of the country so as to greet the 18th Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) with great achievements.

It also called for carrying on the external publicity work as a main point of the party and state affairs and giving priority to implementing the spirit of the 6th Plenum of the 17th CPC Central Committee.

Development of Literature, Arts Urged in China

Beijing, January 10 (KCNA) -- Cai Wu, minister of Culture of China, called for propelling prosperity and development of literature and arts and intensifying cultural system reforms in 2012.

Speaking at a recent national meeting of cultural officials, he underlined the need to strengthen the preservation of cultural relics and heritages, help the Chinese culture find itself in the world and increase the number of talents.

12 January 2012

Hu Jintao Calls for Keeping CPC Pure

Beijing, January 11 (KCNA) -- Hu Jintao, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), called for keeping the party pure on Tuesday.

Speaking at the 7th Plenary Session of the 17th CPC Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, Hu said all the party members should have a high sense of politics and responsibility and properly carry on the work for maintaining the purity of the party.

Chinese Official Calls for Doing Cultural Information Work Well

Beijing, January 11 (KCNA) -- Liu Yunshan, head of the Publicity Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of

China (CPC), underscored the need to properly organize the ideological and cultural information work.

In his speech at a meeting of training publicity department heads of the provincial party committees on Jan. 6, Liu said the work is a good tradition of the CPC and its political advantage and that the ideological and cultural information front has heavy responsibility and glorious mission for the party and the people.

Increased Capacity for Preventing Quake Damage Urged in China

Beijing, January 11 (KCNA) -- A Chinese vice-premier called for increasing the capacity for preventing earthquake damage on Friday.

Speaking at a joint meeting of the State Council for preventing and decreasing earthquake damage held in Beijing, Hui Liangyu said that all regions and relevant sectors should make a steady progress in earthquake observation, measurement and forecast, protection of buildings from earthquake and rescue activities.

Development of Education Urged in China

Beijing, January 11 (KCNA) -- A Chinese State Councilor, Liu Yandong, on Friday called for opening up a new phase of educational development in the country.

Speaking at a national meeting on the educational work for 2012, Liu said it is necessary to sincerely implement the educational program and promote impartiality in education.

She also stressed the need to give priority to comprehensively raising the quality of education and make efforts to propel a scientific development of education.

13 January 2012

CPLA General Staff Issues Order on Military Drills This Year

Beijing, January 12 (KCNA) -- The General Staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army recently issued an order on military drills for the new year.

The order underlined the need to bring about renovation in the training, put stress on joint exercises, strengthen the drills of branches of arms and raise the quality of military academies during the new year's military drills.

It also called on the entire army and the armed police units to implement the important strategy and idea of President Hu Jintao on national defense and army building and bring about turn in the military trainings and thus greet the 18th Congress of the Communist Party of China with good results.

China Rejects U.S. Accusation: FM Spokesman

Beijing, January 12 (KCNA) -- Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesman Liu Weimin at a regular press conference Wednesday, refuted accusations that China has stolen jobs from the United States and that the country has shown "disrespect for human rights."

China opposes the groundless criticisms voiced by some candidates running in the U.S. Republican Party Primary Election, Liu said.

"Accusing China will be of no use in dealing with domestic problems in the U.S.," Liu said, adding that it also won't help a Republican candidate win the election.

China Calls for Resolving Iran's Nuclear Issue

Beijing, January 12 (KCNA) -- Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Weimin called for resolving Iran's nuclear issue at a press conference on Wednesday.

The priority for resolving Iran's nuclear issue is to resume dialogue and negotiations between Iran and nations concerned immediately and make efforts for a comprehensive, long-term and proper resolution for this issue, Liu said.

China-U.S. Confrontation Will Become Acute: Expert

Moscow, January 12 (KCNA) -- A Russian economic expert recently predicted that the confrontation between China and the U.S. will become acute.

Speaking to Voice of Russia, Alexei Maslov said China stated the U.S. attempt to strengthen its military presence in Asia cannot be allowed, while opposing sanctions against Iran's oil.

The fact shows that China is standing against the U.S. trying to increase its influence in Asia, he said. China is likely to try to drive the U.S. out of Asia and control its action in the Persian Gulf.

Expressways under Construction in Liaoning Province, China

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Beijing, January 12 (KCNA) -- Liaoning Province, China, is paying much effort to the construction of expressways.

Last year, the province built an expressway extending 3 300 kilometers.

It plans to construct another 3 900-kilometer-long expressway this year.

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Development of Trade Unions with Chinese Characteristics Urged

Beijing, January 13 (KCNA) -- The 6th Session of the 15th Executive Committee of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions released a decision calling for the development of socialist trade unions with the Chinese characteristics.

The decision urged the trade unions at all the levels to deeply study and widely introduce the way of the development of socialist trade unions.

It also underscored the need to enhance their role in accordance with the Communist Party and state affairs and steadily consolidate the party's class background.

Hu Jintao Extends Festival Greetings to Army Veterans

Beijing, January 13 (KCNA) -- Chinese President Hu Jintao enjoyed a Spring Festival (Lunar New Year) art performance organized by the Chinese Central Military Commission in Beijing Thursday.

At the art performance, the president extended Spring Festival greetings to military veterans and ex-commanding officers of the Beijing-based unit.

At the end of the performance, Hu congratulated artists for their good performance.

Businesses Urged to Ensure Quality of Goods in China

Beijing, January 13 (KCNA) -- An executive meeting of the Chinese State Council was held on Wednesday.

The meeting discussed encouraging businesses to ensure the quality of their products, strengthening supervision over the quality of goods and strictly dealing with illegal practices by law.

Cultural Development, Prosperity Urged in China

Beijing, January 13 (KCNA) -- Liu Yunshan, head of the Publicity Department of the C.C., the Communist Party of China (CPC), called for intensifying combat against porno culture and illegal publications.

Speaking at a national video-telephone conference held in Beijing on Monday, Liu said efforts should be made to protect intellectual property rights and standardize the order of cultural dissemination by strictly controlling porno culture.

It is also important to promote the development and prosperity of culture, defend the harmony and stability of society and provide good cultural environment for a successful opening of the 18th CPC Congress, he added.

Large Hydrogen Tank for Rocket Developed in China

Beijing, January 13 (KCNA) -- China has succeeded in developing a large hydrogen tank for Long March 5 carrier rocket, a media report said.

The tank is five meters in diameter and some twenty meters in length.