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Kim Jong Un inspects pharmaceutical factory

Kim Jong Un, chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea, chairman of the DPRK State Affairs Commission and supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, provided on-the-spot guidance to the Pyongyang Pharmaceutical Factory together with Ri Sol Ju.

He was accompanied by vice-chairman Pak Thae Song, department director Choe Tong Myong and deputy department director Jo Yong Won of the WPK Central Committee.

He looked round different places of the factory including workshops of packaging materials and Western and traditional medicines to get familiar with production.

He was satisfied with the fact that the factory has properly established with local efforts and technology the integrated manufacturing system that conforms to the GMP for the first time in the country's pharmaceutical industry sector.

He said the production processes of Western and traditional medicine workshops have been upgraded technically, and praised the herb grader, washer, dryer and pulverizer which were made by Korean scientists, technicians and workers.

He stressed the need to pay special attention to increasing the production of over-the-counter medicines which are constantly required by people in life and their variety and fully guaranteeing the safety and reliability of medicines, as well as to maintain strict discipline and order in production, inspection, keeping and handling.

To research and develop highly efficient quality medicines and make



sure that they are widely used in medical treatment and prevention work, he noted, it is necessary to be well aware of the global trend of development of pharmaceutical industry and actively introduce advanced technologies, ensure hygienic and cultural qualities and practicality of packaging at a high level and make trademark designs properly to meet the international standards so that they can promote the convenience of users.

It is needed to build excellent sporting and cultural welfare facilities

for the employees in the future so as to fire their zeal for increased production, he said.

He said it was his plan to turn the Pyongyang Pharmaceutical Factory into a model, standard factory in the country's pharmaceutical industry sector and to renovate all other such plants in the country in a modern style with the factory as the model, and called for boldly pushing ahead with the modernization projects of the Pyongyang and Hungnam pharmaceutical factories to make this an important occasion for

providing a springboard for the rapid development of the sector. And he took measures on the spot to that end.

He hoped the officials and employees of the factory would fulfil their responsibility and duty true to the intention of the Party in order to make a tangible contribution to giving full play to the advantages and might of the socialist health system, before having a photograph taken with them.

By PT staff reporter

Politburo of WPK Central Committee sets February 8 as Army Day

The Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea on January 22 adopted a decision on commemorating February 8 as the founding anniversary of the Korean People's Army.

February 8 1948 is a historic day when the Korean People's Revolutionary Army was developed into revolutionary regular armed forces to proclaim the birth of the

KPA.

After Korea's liberation in August 1945, President Kim Il Sung put forward the establishment of a regular army as an essential requirement for the building of an independent sovereign state and founded the KPA, a regular army of a Juche-type that carries on the anti-Japanese tradition, in less than three years on the basis of his outstanding army-building idea

and with energetic guidance.

Thanks to the accomplishment of the cause of building the regular armed forces, the Korean service personnel and people could win the great victory in the Fatherland Liberation War by repulsing the armed invasion by the US imperialists and step up the building of a socialist power which is independent, self-sufficient and self-reliant in defence.

The decision said that February 8 1948 will be designated as the founding day of the KPA in order to add eternal brilliance to the undying revolutionary exploits of the President who founded and built up the heroic KPA.

April 25 1932 when he founded the first revolutionary armed force will be termed the "founding day of the KPRA" and February 8 "Army Day", it noted.

LEADING ARTICLE

2017 witnesses great events in DPRK's history

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un, delivering his New Year Address on the first morning of the year 2017, recalled that all the people used to sing the song *We Are the Happiest in the World*, feeling optimistic about the future with confidence in President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il, and pledged to work with devotion to ensure that the past era does not remain as a moment in history but is re-presented in the present era and to become a truly faithful servant of the Korean people who loyally supports them with a pure conscience.

The year 2017 in the DPRK began with the solemn vow he made to his country and people and ended with his translating it into practice.

Putting pledge into reality

The Koreans attentively listened to the pledge the Supreme Leader made to his country and people with deep emotion.

Before the excitement subsided, they saw through TV the beaming image of their leader inspecting the Pyongyang Bag Factory. Seeing various kinds of bags being mass-produced at the factory, he said his heart was filled with pride as he had done another worthwhile thing, although it was not an easy job to produce quality bags as well as uniforms, notebooks and textbooks by domestic efforts and to provide children with them.

He proceeded to provide on-the-spot guidance to the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill to inspect the newly established quilt production line from which quilts cascaded down incessantly and the newly built workers' hostel, the Ryugyong Kimchi Factory which was turned into a model and standard of the country's kimchi makers and other industrial establishments to make sure that they turned out large quantities of products badly needed for the improvement of the people's livelihood. The

news instilled great optimism for the future in the people with greater impact.

The stirring year of 2017 went by accompanied by lots of auspicious events that filled the hearts of the Koreans with extraordinary pride and self-confidence.

Ryomyong Street was inaugurated on the threshold of the 105th anniversary of the birth (April 15) of President Kim Il Sung and the Sepho area livestock farming base was completed in October.

The Koreans finished the street in a matter of nine months by giving full play to the might of self-reliance and self-development in the face of the imperialists' vicious sanctions and moves to isolate and stifle the DPRK. It is a grand monument in the era of the Workers' Party epitomizing the highest quality of civilization and a symbol of great leap forward of great Kim Jong Un's Korea. And the world's leading animal husbandry base built in less than five years after the start is another miracle which was wrought by the Korean service members and people who are firmly united around their leader and which would be specially etched in the history of the country.

Through the world-startling leaps and miraculous events, the Korean people visualized their rosier future when they would continue to sing the song *We Are the Happiest in the World*.

Guarantee

The creation of happiness is not everything. You should be able to defend the happiness you have secured. Only then can you be proud of yourself.

It is the truth taught by the bloodshed and refugee crisis caused by the imperialists' high-handedness and arbitrariness around the world.

That is why Kim Jong Un oversaw the test-fire of the ground-to-ground intermediate-range strategic ballistic missile Pukksong 2, the precious fruition of the line of simultaneously promoting economic construction



PHOTOS BY KCNA

The 105th anniversary of President Kim Il Sung's birth was highlighted with a military and civilian parade in Pyongyang on April 15 last year.

and nuclear buildup, and the drill of Hwasong artillery units of the Strategic Force of the Korean People's Army to launch ballistic rockets in February and March last year. He was greatly satisfied with the birth of another powerful means of nuclear strike of the DPRK that added more to its might. After seeing the static firing test of high-thrust engine developed by the Academy of Defence Sciences, he said that the day when a great leap forward was made in the development of the rocket industry was an eternally unforgettable day, a historic day that can be termed the "March 18 revolution".

That day was another stirring day for the Korean service personnel and people who were out in the building of a powerful socialist country.

Much upset by the Koreans' dynamic advance, the US and its minions made every attempt to check the advance of the DPRK as they adopted a UN resolution on unprecedentedly harsh sanctions against the country.

To the desperate moves of the hostile forces, the Koreans responded with the test-fire of

ICBM Hwasong 14 on July 4, Independence Day of the US. They proceeded to conduct the test-fire of another Hwasong 14 and the test of hydrogen bomb for ICBM, thereby demonstrating the inexhaustible strength of socialist Korea. And the complete success in the test-fire of ICBM Hwasong 15 capable of loading super-heavy nuclear warhead in November declared to the whole world the accomplishment of the historic cause of the perfection of the national nuclear forces and the cause of building a rocket power.

The days when the DPRK came to have great might which further enhanced its strategic status were the days when it provided itself with a sure military guarantee for achieving the cause of building a powerful socialist nation.

Confidence

In December last year when the DPRK was still brimming with joy and excitement over the "great event of November" that would be etched in the national history, there took place a launch ceremony for

new models of tractors and lorries at Kim Il Sung Square in Pyongyang.

Chollima-804 tractors, Sungni lorries and Chungsong-122 tractors moved forward through the square as if doing a march-past. Viewers were so excited they dubbed the thrilling scene a "parade of self-reliance".

The launch ceremony of the invaluable vehicles the Koreans created in the Mallima era by overcoming all difficulties on the strength of firm unity around their leader was a parade of victors who advance proudly towards a socialist power backed up by the great military capability with the nuclear forces as the backbone.

2017 was a year of heroic struggle and great victory when the Korean people set up an indestructible milestone in the history of building a powerful socialist country with the spirit of self-reliance and self-development as the dynamic force, and a momentous year that promised them a more prosperous future.

By Ri Sung Ik PT



A herd of goats graze on the grassland at the Sepho area animal husbandry base.



New models of tractors and lorries line up in Kim Il Sung Square to leave for their destinations.

MEETING

Joint meeting calls for making a breakthrough in reunification movement

Representatives of the DPRK government, political parties and organizations got together at the People's Palace of Culture in Pyongyang on January 24 to discuss the way to carry out the tasks of national reunification put forward by Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un in his New Year Address.

The participants included senior government and Party officials Yang Hyong Sop, Kim Yong Chol, Ro Tu Chol and the leader of a friendly party, and officials from social organizations, the North Committee for the Implementation of the June 15 Joint Declaration, Pan-National Alliance for Korea's Reunification, North Headquarters of the Pan-National Alliance of Youth and Students for Korea's Reunification and National Reconciliation Council.

The joint meeting discussed the agenda item "On the assignments of the DPRK government, political parties and organizations to carry out the tasks of national reunification set forth by Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un in his New Year Address".

Yang Hyong Sop, vice-president of the Presidium of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly, made a keynote speech, followed by other speakers including Ri Son Gwon, chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Country,

Kim Yong Dae, chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Social Democratic Party, and Pak Chol Min, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist Youth League.

They said that the Supreme Leader put forth important tasks to be tackled for improving inter-Korean relations and making a breakthrough for independent reunification in this significant year both for the north and south.

Referring to the need to create a peaceful environment on the Korean peninsula this year, they noted that the south Korean authorities should permanently discontinue the joint war exercises with the US and refrain from any acts of bringing in south Korea nuclear armaments and aggressive forces from the US, and all the Koreans should launch a courageous campaign against the DPRK-targeted war moves of bellicose forces at home and abroad holding up the slogans of Korean nation first, national independence and peace against war to suit the prestige of the nation which was changed along with the DPRK's perfection of the national nuclear forces.

They stressed the need to give impetus to improving north-south relations and hot up the atmosphere for reunification by promoting active contact and travel between the north and south and keep a firm stand and viewpoint to solve all the



A joint meeting of the DPRK government, political parties and organizations takes place at the People's Palace of Culture.

problems arising in the north and south by national effort.

The meeting adopted an appeal to all the Koreans at home and abroad.

The appeal called on all the Koreans to turn out like one in a nationwide effort for improving inter-Korean relations and making a breakthrough for independent reunification, true to the Supreme Leader's noble intention of loving the country and people.

Underlining the need to conduct brisk activities so as to ease the acute military tension between the north and south and create a peaceful environment on the Korean peninsula, it said that the whole Korean nation should rise up in the

campaign for defending peace against war in order to frustrate the US reckless nuclear war provocation.

The north and south need to promote bilateral contact, travel, cooperation and exchange on a broad scale and establish a climate favourable for national reconciliation and reunification, it said, adding that they should demonstrate to the world the will of the Korean nation to reunify the country independently by holding fast to and carrying on the spirit of the joint conference of representatives of political parties and public organizations in north and south Korea and holding joint national events with splendour on different occasions in this significant year

that marks the 70th anniversary of the historic joint conference.

Calling for foiling the moves of the anti-reunification forces at home and abroad and opening a new phase for reunification under the banner of national independence, the banner of By Our Nation Itself, it said that all the fellow countrymen should subordinate and concentrate everything on the great cause of national reunification, the cause of the whole nation, from the standpoint of giving priority to the nation and national unity and launch a vigorous campaign of justice to destroy the obstructive moves of the anti-reunification forces at home and abroad.

Compiled from KCNA

ECONOMY

Economic sectors see robust growth

Different economic sectors are registering good results.

Hydropower stations are stoking the flames of increased power generation.

The Suphung Power Station has introduced efficient operational methods to produce more electricity with less water and stepped up preparations for the overhaul of equipment as part of the efforts for increased production.

In the wake of increasing the efficiency of turbines, the Ryesonggang Power Station is working on the technical upgrading of all generating facilities so as to maximize their operating rate.

The Wonsan Army-People Power Station overfulfilled its monthly power production plan by 25 percent as of January 17 and Sodusu Power Station Unit 3 generated hundreds of thousands of kWh of more

electricity as of January 19.

The Tukjang Area Coal-mining Complex which has secured sufficient coalfields by giving precedence to tunnelling is concentrating manpower on mining to turn out more coal than planned every day.

Many other coal mines including the Tokchon Area Coal-mining Complex, Pukchang Area Youth Coal-mining Complex and Suncheon Area Youth Coal-mining Complex are also registering better production results than the same period of last year.

The chemical industry sector is pressing ahead with the project for the establishment of the C1 chemical industry.

In spite of unfavourable weather conditions, builders are speeding up the erection of structures by applying advanced construction methods, while reducing the time of the assembly and manufacturing of equipment by conceiving rational methods.

The rail transport sector is increasing transport by making

transport organization and control scientific and rational and making the most of the existing capacity.

The Ministry of Railways has established a well-organized system of guidance at every railway bureau to give unified guidance to all processes from train composition to departure and arrival.

The West Pyongyang Locomotive Corps under the Pyongyang Railway Bureau runs trains at full capacity by introducing rational driving methods in keeping with railway conditions, while conducting on-

route maintenance efficiently.

The Hamhung Railway Bureau manages and operates carriages properly and arranges timetables in good time to send more materials faster to the sites of major construction projects.

The Kaechon, Chongjin and Rason railway bureaus have reduced the time of checking, repairing and maintaining passenger and freight trains and carried on on-route check-up of engines with sufficient tools, thereby ensuring accident-free increased transport.

By Choe Kwang Jin PT



The Pyongyang Railway Bureau takes the lead in freight transport.

PAK CHANG BOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

STEEL INDUSTRY

Steel works updates production processes

The Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex is increasing production by scientifically running all the processes of the Juche iron production by oxygen-blast.

The complex monitors dozens of processes in real time from feeding of raw materials to tapping by improving the IT level of production control. In particular, it supplies enough raw materials and fuel needed for normal operation of the oxygen-blast furnace while coordinating processes to ensure increased production.

The control room fixes the mixing ratio of raw materials to suit the grades of concentrated ores and scientifically operates the overall production processes including the state of oxygen and compressed air, temperatures in the furnace, ventilation and dust collection systems.

Scientists and technicians of the complex have refashioned the old large oxygen plant and increased its capacity to help the new anthracite-based melting method prove effective. As a result, it produces tens of thousands of cubic metres of quality oxygen per hour to be supplied to the melting process.

Technicians and workers in charge of the body of the furnace positively contribute to increasing Juche iron production by introducing valuable technical innovation plans. They lengthened the life of furnace body and the repair cycle of equipment by developing a new fireproof coating material, while improving productivity 20



KIM CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

The Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex is alive with the production of Juche iron.

percent by rationally resetting the angle of upper oxygen blowing hole.

Rational technical innovation plans have been employed while abiding by the standard regulations of operation in running the power generating equipment by wasted heat, which

enables the complex to produce thousands of kW electric power per hour regularly and operate the hundreds of thousands of cubic metres per hour dust collection and ventilation system at full capacity.

By Choe Kwang Jin PT

URBAN PLANNING

Design office plays part in urban construction

The Urban Planning Institute in Rason, which is located in the northeastern part of Korea, provides designs needed to develop the Rason Economic and Trade Zone into a world-level special economic belt and improve the people's livelihood in the city.

It maintains the principles of paying primary attention to convenience, aesthetics and infrastructure in urban planning, creating structures embodying the national character and originality, and preserving the characteristics of the city on the basis of applying plastic arts and artistic technique to structures on the highest level.

"In the past 20-odd years since its inauguration, our institute designed over 200 public buildings, welfare service facilities and dwellings for the city including the Rason Revolutionary Museum, Rason Schoolchildren's Palace, Rason Middle School for Orphans, Rason Rest Home for War Veterans and wading pool of the Haeon Park," said director Ri Ju Il. He added they have contributed to reenergizing the development of the zone by jointly working with partners to make the designs of foreign-invested tourist resorts and industrial and development zones including the Rason International Supermarket and the Rason Tumangang Hotel.

The institute draws

up designs related to the plan for the disposition of buildings in downtown Rason in accordance with the city's master plan for urban construction and planning.

It undertakes informatization of the construction of administrative districts in Rason and topographical, land and other surveys in the zone.

It also works out various kinds of architectural, landscaping and construction designs in the forms of joint venture and collaboration with local and foreign partners.

To improve the scientific and IT level of designs, it developed and introduced many IT-based design products such as the urban planning design support system Kusang based on the geographical information system technology, thereby winning the IT model unit prize at the 2017 national exhibition of IT achievements.

Designers of the institute were awarded trophies, diplomas and certificates on over ten occasions by presenting hundreds of architectural drafts and IT-based design products to the annual May 21 architecture festival.

The institute is working hard to produce more architectural mock-ups to which zero energy, green technology and other latest architectural technologies are applied.

By Yang Ryon Hui PT

LEISURE

Swimming in midwinter a great relish

China's Xinhua once described the Munsu Water Park on the banks of the Taedong River as a "world's first-rate water park".

The Munsu Water Park is a favourite haunt of the Korean people, especially Pyongyang citizens, in all four seasons.

Foreign visitors also said, "We have visited many countries, but never seen such a big and wonderful water park. It really beggars expression" and "I think it is the most wonderful water park my wife and I have ever seen. I want to advise my friends to go and enjoy at the Munsu Water Park if they have a chance to visit the DPRK."

"Have you ever been to the Munsu Water Park?" was once a buzzword in Pyongyang and now it goes beyond the DPRK border. People playing in water in

bathing suits under the snow-capped roof of the Munsu Water Park is a spectacle to behold.

Maybe to go swimming in cold midwinter is a common wish of people who want to defy the challenge of nature.

People having a shower bath with water cascading down the exact replica of the mysteriously-shaped cliffs in scenic attractions, young men and women swimming against the high waves as if to become "conquerors" of sea, children gliding down the water slides of all shapes into water with cheers, old people enjoying supersonic wave massage in seawater pools—all these remind visitors of a bathing resort in midsummer.

The indoor gymnasium adjacent to the wading pools is

always a full house.

The games between "independent players" on table tennis, volleyball, trampoline and tennis courts are interesting,

but more attractive is the rooting of the "cheering group" in swimsuits.

Saunas for medical treatment are also a must-visit.

After hours of playing in water or in between, visitors go to the room for forestry bathing to relish fresh air of nature, to salt, earth, hard charcoal and agate saunas and to oxygen and ice rooms to have medical treatment by sweating and cooling their bodies.

"Children nag us so much that it has become a fixed routine of my family to go to the Munsu Water Park on holidays. As soon as I enter the park, I am drawn into juvenile mentality. I am so indulged in playing with the children that I can hardly realize how time passes," said Jong Sun Ae, mother of two children and worker of the Songyo Knitwear Factory.

By Han Ryo Gyong PT



HAM YONG SOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

The Munsu Water Park is a favourite haunt of schoolchildren during the winter vacation.

VACATION

Children conduct lively activities during vacation

Nowadays, schoolchildren are on winter vacation.

During this annual holiday, they try to spend every day meaningfully with a plan to make them more cheerful and worthwhile than last year.

They consolidate what they learned at school with study group members, while helping each other, and conduct a variety of sporting and leisure activities.

Folk games

The Pothonggang Sports Park on the banks of the Pothong River is always packed with young holidaymakers.

A few days ago, there was a sports and folk game contest of first graders at Pothonggang Junior Middle School in Pothonggang District, Pyongyang.

In the kite-flying game to decide who fly higher the kites in different shapes including butterfly and squid, Song Jin Hyok in 1-3 class was placed first as he skilfully controlled the kite-string in accordance with the direction of the wind.

Boys flaunted their top-spinning and shuttlecock skills in the eyes of schoolgirls. Some of them whipped tops to make them spin uninterruptedly, while others competed in shuttlecock game to see who kicks the shuttle

longest.

Girls played rope skipping zealously as if they competed with the boys.

The roller skating game in which contestants were required to perform stunts was played in a competitive atmosphere amid enthusiastic cheers of their classmates.

Laugh-filled quarters

The hall of laughter and electronic recreation hall at the Rungna People's Recreation Ground on the banks of the picturesque Taedong River are favourite haunts of schoolchildren.

At the hall of laughter, schoolchildren assume different postures in front of over ten mirrors—standing sideways

and straight, sitting, scowling or smiling. They are excited to see their different looks.

Looking at their ever-changing appearances reflected on the mirror created by facial and full- and half-length effects, they have a side-splitting laugh.

They then go to the electronic recreation hall.

They feel pleasure in piloting planes, riding cars and horses, or hunting ferocious animals in tropical forests.

In the three-dimensional space with rhythmic and cubic effects, they experience different feelings of delight, tension and thrill to their heart's content and are lost in reverie.

By Pang Un Ju PT



Schoolchildren at Pothonggang Junior Middle School in Pyongyang conduct sporting activities during the winter vacation.

KIM CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

R&D

Researchers develop devices and materials

Scientists and researchers of the State Academy of Sciences have achieved successes in their research for different economic sectors.

Their new-type cold storage has a large freezing capacity and short freezing time and consumes less power than previous facilities. The sophisticated electronic product consists of hundreds of electronic devices which are all domestically produced, including a temperature and humidity sensor and radio signal converter and repeater. It is also equipped with a rational operating system for automatically measuring and recording temperature and humidity in the cold storage and a scientific goods shipment system based on that. Therefore it is widely introduced into fishery and animal husbandry sectors.

A field sounding balloon developed by researchers in the agricultural sector helps monitor crop nutrition, growth and yield and predict blight. Such a device is badly needed in cereal and fruit farming. And a soil moisture measuring instrument made by researchers in the environmental protection sector makes it possible to manure and cultivate lawn scientifically according to weather conditions.

Those of the fish farming sector completed an integrated manufacturing system capable of controlling in real time the water temperature, oxygen content and pH in fish pond and feeding time and simulating various production and planning methods. It is equipped with the systems for automating fish farming processes, managing production, planning business

resources and monitoring and controlling production processes in real time.

Researchers of the chemical industry sector developed a new type of polyvinyl chloride material. The shoe sole made of this material is as soft as rubber sole and is better than previous ones in terms of resistance to wear. The developers confirmed the physical properties and characteristic indexes of the new material and established a process for its mass-production.

Other research hits include an unmanned raw material carrying vehicle conducive to automating production processes, an integrated information management system for multipurpose indoor stadium and a high-density colour LED screen.

By Chae Hyang Ok PT

ANTI-FLU FIGHT

Nation on alert for influenza spread

Seasonal flu has rapidly been spreading in different countries and regions across the world, claiming many lives.

According to statistics published by the World Health Organization at the end of last year, more than 650 000 people are killed by respiratory diseases caused by seasonal flu every year.

It is said that it took the lives of 35 people in Punjab, Pakistan, in a month recently and people are infected with its virus and are suffering from it in Macao, Japan, Albania, Germany and other countries.

The DPRK government has taken emergency measures to prevent its outbreak.

The Central Hygienic and Anti-epidemic Centre vigorously conducts hygienic information activities to raise public awareness of its symptoms and riskiness.

Those who have a cold and fever are kept separate from others immediately, any contact with patients is prohibited and people are warned against meeting and moving in group.

Family doctors conduct medical examinations to find out people who have low fever and cold in time and give medical treatment according to their symptoms.

Medical examination and quarantine of travellers abroad have been intensified at airports, ports, customs and border railway stations.

Research into vaccines and production of general preventive medicines are encouraged and anti-viral medicine is supplied to residents at hospitals and clinics to combat flu.

By Yun Kyong Il PT

PRODUCTION

Small, but a big name

The Pyongyang Jonghyang Building-Materials Factory is a developer and producer of modern building materials.

The concrete additives include those that accelerate hardening, retard setting, prevent freeze and reduce water. These additives are excellent in both water-reducing and concrete hardening properties, prevent the corrosion of concrete-reinforcing bars in structures and increase early and long-term strength 1.5 times. Their application to concrete mixture saves the tamping process and makes possible large shuttering-based construction and pressure feed. Water and oil paints are acrylic resin ones that have great covering and adhesive power and preserve the original colours for a long time. Coating materials for interior and exterior come in lustreless, lustrous and semi-lustrous ones and they are highly resistant to water. Especially, lustrous and lustreless ones for interior are superb in whiteness

and decorative effects and stains on the surface painted with them can be washed away. At present, they are efficiently applied to objects in humid places that are frequented by many people like hospitals and bathhouses.

Pearly and stone-decoration paints are made with various natural materials and acrylic resin as the main raw materials and used for high-quality decoration.

The patented permeable stone anti-fouling paint and sound absorbent are also well-liked by users. In addition, the factory develops and produces many green building materials such as light burned magnesia plywood, inorganic heat insulator and fireproofing agent.

More than ten products of the factory were awarded the top prize at the exhibition of finishing materials for building Samjiyon County held last year.

By Choe Kwang Jin PT



KIM CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Quality paints for interior decoration are produced at the Pyongyang Jonghyang Building-Materials Factory.

VIEW

Reconciliation should be achieved for reunification

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un said in his New Year Address that a climate favourable for national reconciliation and reunification should be established.

It is a firm will of the DPRK to ease the acute tension between the north and the south and achieve a breakthrough for improved relations and independent reunification this year.

To this end, both sides should not be antagonistic and hostile to each other, but be reconciled with each other as partners for reunification and create a climate favourable for reunion.

It is evident that everything will go well when a favourable climate is established.

It is also important for authorities of both sides to fulfil their responsibility and role.

Korea's reunification issue is not a political fight to defeat other side, but an issue vital to the existence of the homogeneous nation, an issue to realize national sovereignty on a nationwide scale. That is why both authorities need to discharge their duties as the motive force of reunification on behalf of the nation.

The north and the south should also promote bilateral contact, travel, cooperation and exchange on a broad scale to remove mutual misunderstanding and distrust.

If they sincerely wish for national reconciliation and unity, they should have wide-ranging dialogue, contact and travel involving ruling and opposition parties, organizations and individual personages of all backgrounds.

In the June 15 reunification era early in the 2000s, both sides held high-level talks, realized bilateral travel and contact among people of all strata including workers,

farmers, intellectuals, youth and students and successfully arranged joint reunification-oriented events in the north and south, with the result that the Korean peninsula brimmed with the zeal for reunification. And now is the time to draw on the precious experience.

It is needed to thoroughly reject the act of casting a chill over the atmosphere of inter-Korean fence-mending and reunion.

Particularly, it is imperative to eradicate such acts of getting on the nerves of other side and exacerbating discord and antagonism among the fellow countrymen.

Whenever the north and the south showed a sign of reconciliation and improvement of relations in the past, separatist forces tried desperately to reverse the wheel of reunification letting loose a spate of abuse and sophism against the DPRK.

At present, too, when both sides are taking a giant step towards improved relations thanks to the magnanimous initiative proposed by the north on New Year's Day, the Liberal Korea Party and other conservative forces in the south are reviling the overtures as a "scheme to incite discord between south Korea and the US", "a play for time for the completion of nuclear weapons" and "thinly-camouflaged peace offensive". And as to the north's projected dispatch of its delegations to the Winter Olympic Games including rooters, sportspersons and artistes, they are clamouring against "any backdoor deals with the north" and "overlooking of the north's veiled provocation design behind sports exchange" while arguing that "international cooperation in anti-north sanctions may be shaken by the

north's participation".

Those who go wild crazy for power, in disregard of the nation's destiny and desire, should be punished in the name of the nation.

The south Korean authorities have to strive to create conditions and environment favourable for promoting national reconciliation and unity, unlike the previous conservative regimes that kept people from all walks of life from making contact with northerners and travelling to the north on unreasonable pretexts and by dint of draconian legal and institutional mechanisms and that repressed the tendency toward alliance with the north and reunification.

As evidenced by the southerners' steady fight to abolish the "national security law", the NSL is denounced as an evil law against the nation and reunification as lots of democratic figures fall victim to it, groaning in jails as prisoners of conscience.

The so-called law completely conflicts with improved inter-Korean relations as it specifies the DPRK as "enemy" and illegalizes alliance with the north and reunification.

The south Korean authorities should show their determination to improve relations by removing such legal and institutional mechanisms as the NSL that prevent north-south reconciliation and fence-mending, as demanded by the people.

When a climate favourable for reconciliation and reunification is established by the proactive efforts of both authorities, bilateral relations will improve and the day of reunification will come earlier as desired by all the Koreans.

By Kim Rye Yong PT

JAPAN'S SINFUL PAST

Poisoning of Korean Emperor

Japan committed innumerable crimes unheard-of in the world history of aggression during its military rule over Korea.

One of them is poisoning of Emperor Kojong on January 22 1919.

He was the 26th king of the feudal Joseon dynasty who reigned when the Korean nation was falling into total ruin due to the imperialist powers that disturbed the world situation by fighting wars of aggression.

Though he curried favour with outside forces while advocating the open-door policy in the turbulent period, he tried to maintain national stand, if not in a thoroughgoing way, as the destiny of the feudal Joseon dynasty was at stake.

When Japan cooked up the Ulsa five-point treaty in 1905 and the Jongmi seven-point treaty in 1907 to deprive Korea of its rights to diplomacy and home administration, he stoutly denied them and refused to put his signature and royal seal on them. After the Japanese declared the conclusion of the Ulsa treaty, he saw to it that the Koreans waged the anti-Japanese volunteers' struggle against it and sent his letters carrying his signature and seal to the sovereigns of nine powers to assert its nullification. In June 1907, he dispatched three emissaries to the Second International Peace Conference in The Hague, the Netherlands, in a bid to have the illegality and invalidity of the treaty proclaimed to the world.

Taking this incident as an opportunity, the Japanese forced Kojong to abdicate in favour of Crown Prince Sunjong by dint of all kinds of threats and confined him to the Toksu Palace.

Kojong placed great expectations on the 1919 Paris Peace Conference, dazzled by the deceptive "theory of national self-determination" of US president Wilson, and the Japanese hatched a plot to poison him.

No sooner had he been



Emperor Kojong, who was dethroned by the Japanese imperialists.

murdered than Japan announced that he died of cerebral apoplexy, but the truth of the murder was clearly disclosed.

It was also revealed that Kojong's aides who had examined his body were subjected to rigid investigation by the Japanese for the reason that they asserted he was killed by poison as many red spots were found on his whole body soon after his death. The diary of Kuratomi Yuzaburo who had been a senior official of the agency of imperial household of Japan in the year of Kojong's death contains a passage that Terauchi, Japan's first governor-general of Korea, ordered Hasegawa, commander of the Japanese forces in Korea, to poison Emperor Kojong as he did not recognize the Ulsa five-point treaty.

As seen above, the Japanese did not hesitate to perpetrate any crimes to implement their policy of aggression against Korea.

This is part of Japan's history of aggression of Korea which is consistent with illegality and injustice, cruelty and brigandish nature.

The Korean people will never tolerate Japan's past crimes, but exact thoroughgoing apology and reparations from it.

By Song Jong Ho PT

COMMENT

Sincerity needs sincere approach

Improper noises are heard in south Korea at a time when north-south working-level contacts are held one after another for the successful holding of the 23rd Winter Olympic Games and Paralympics in south Korea.

South Korea's conservative media and experts let loose nonsensical remarks that the use of passenger liner Mangyongbong 92 or Koryo airliner by the north during the Games is contrary to the independent sanctions of the US and south Korea. They also said that the assistance of northern

players, delegation, cheerers and pressmen with sporting apparatuses and living expenses is in violation of sanctions, and some of topsiders who are likely to visit Phyongchang are on the list of sanctions.

The problem is that the south Korean authorities take a noncommittal attitude towards them, noting that "they will make sure that any argument about violation of the anti-north sanctions will not arise in connection with the north's participation in the

Phyongchang Olympics" and "they will closely consult with the international community including the UN sanctions committee and the US".

Obviously, all the measures the DPRK has taken for the successful opening of the 23rd Winter Olympics and Paralympics are the manifestation of its stand that the north and south are the homogeneous nation and its sincere intention to jointly celebrate a happy event of southerners and help them.

Backbiters are clearly those who are not of Korean stock.

They are steeped in confrontational concept and lost in a wild fancy that they will be OK only when their wild ambition is realized, without caring whether a great event conducive to demonstrating the spirit of the nation to the world goes well or not.

The south Korean authorities, however, are behaving arrogantly. It is a foolish act of binding themselves hand and foot and a shameful act bereft of courtesy as the one hosting a great ceremony.

It is quite natural that

many people describe their behaviour as a revelation of impure scheme to curry favour with the US and advertise the climate favourable for the inter-Korean reconciliation as their administrative record.

The south Korean authorities need to take a sincere approach to sincerity.

They should keep in mind that everything is merely in the initial stage and that "violation of sanctions" and other rash speech and behaviour may put out a spark for improved north-south relations.

By Han Jong Chol PT

REMEMBRANCE

What the *Pueblo* tells the Americans



The crew of the US armed spy ship *Pueblo* after being captured by the KPA Navy while on espionage activities against the DPRK.

Having been captured 50 years ago, the *Pueblo* is docked on the Pothong River in Pyongyang. (left)

On January 23 1968 the US armed spy ship *Pueblo* was captured red-handed in the territorial waters of the DPRK by the seamen of the Korean People's Army on regular patrol.

The seizure of the ship which was conducting espionage activities was the just exercise of sovereignty of the DPRK and a due punishment of the US which was threatening global peace.

The map of the *Pueblo* crew was marked with the DPRK's military bases and the log was recorded in detail with the spying acts the Americans committed by intruding into the DPRK waters on several occasions after departing from Sasebo Port in Japan on the order of their superior in December 1967.

Shamelessly, however, the US threatened to reduce to ashes the DPRK's major cities unless it returned their ship and crew, claiming the *Pueblo* was captured in international waters and it did not commit espionage acts.

The whole world termed the situation in the Korean peninsula, which was worsening in the wake of its seizure, a "Caribbean crisis in the Orient".

The US dispatched a large task fleet consisting of such warships as aircraft carrier, cruiser and destroyer, and a huge air force and reserve forces en masse to the environs of the Korean peninsula, and it sent to the DPRK an ultimatum that it might use nuclear weapons unless the *Pueblo* was sent back.

Such US misbehaviour was motivated by its fear that the secrets of the ship equipped with sophisticated espionage facilities and its aggressive acts would be revealed fully and its cunning intention to recover its prestige that hit the bottom due to the capture of the ship by the small country.

But the DPRK's reply to the

provoker was resolute.

President Kim Il Sung in his historic speech on February 8 1968 clarified the firm and principled stand that the Korean people would retaliate for the "retaliation" of the US imperialists and return all-out war for all-out war, and in hearty response to his call all the service members and people of the DPRK turned out in a do-or-die fight against the Americans.

The US was finally compelled to give in to the DPRK.

It could not but admit its crime of aggression under the weight of irrefutable evidence including the confessions of the crew, and signed the "surrender document" assuring that it would never again violate the DPRK's territorial waters.

The USS *Pueblo* lies at anchor in the DPRK permanently as material evidence of US aggression and the DPRK's trophy.

Over the historic event, the world people extolled the country, saying "the DPRK has humbled the arrogant US in the eyes of the world and it is a country that does not know empty talk", while the Americans cried out that "the *Pueblo* incident is the greatest failure in the US history of intelligence activities".

The DPRK's victory over the US, which is incomparably bigger in the size of territory, the number of population and military capability, is attributed to the wise leadership of President Kim Il Sung, an ever-victorious, iron-willed commander who had led the two wars against the US and Japanese imperialists to victory in his time, and the firm unity around him of the Korean service personnel and people fully loaded with the spirit of safeguarding their country.

Even the US with the world's greatest military capability could not overpower the DPRK's political and

ideological might which is more powerful than nuclear weapons.

Later on, the US has continued to fail in lots of military provocations against the DPRK.

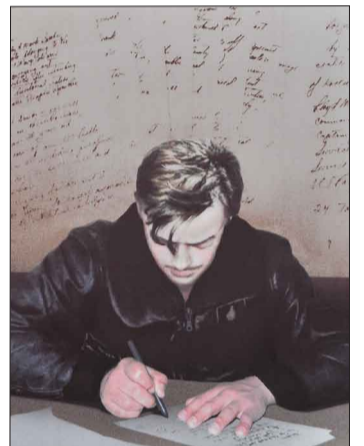
Last year, the DPRK accomplished the historic cause of perfecting its nuclear armed forces in the efforts to cope with the US' decades-long nuclear threat.

At present its nuclear capability serves as a powerful deterrent which is able to thwart and cope with any war

threats by the US and prevent it from committing adventurous military provocation.

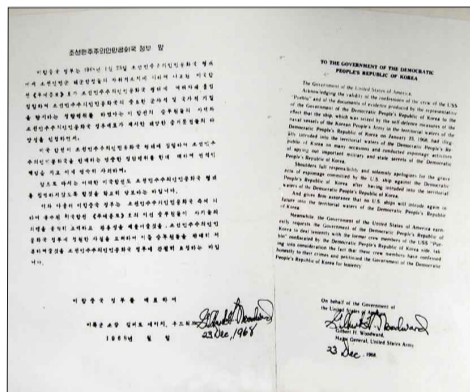
If the current US rulers persist in war moves against the DPRK in disregard of the reality, the whole of the US territory will be engulfed in flames.

This is the lesson the *Pueblo*, which has stayed bound on the banks of the Pothong River in Pyongyang for long, tells the younger generations of the US.



The captain of USS *Pueblo* writes a confession.

By Song Jong Ho PT



A letter of apology from the US government, in which it gave firm assurance that no US ship would intrude again into the territorial waters of the DPRK.



US Army Major General Gilbert H. Woodward signs the letter of apology.



Young people are told how the US spy ship has been captured.

SPORTS

Civil servants show skills in annual games

The 23rd Paektusan Prize Games of Civil Servants which opened on January 22 are in full swing at the stadiums and gymnasiums in Pyongyang.

The current games embrace such events as basketball, volleyball, badminton, Taekwon-Do, shooting, tug-of-war and amusement games and take place in four groups on a knockout basis.

The opening basketball match between the Myohyang Guidance Bureau and the External Construction Guidance Bureau on January 22 was

followed by the one between the Daesong Bank and Kumgang Guidance Bureau in Group C on January 24 at the Basketball Gymnasium in Chongchun Street.

The Daesong Bank led the Kumgang Guidance Bureau in the first and second rounds by means of fast break and lay-ups based on two- or three-person combination.

In the third round the latter changed its tactics to man-to-man defence and scored more points with rebounds, fast counterattack and long-distance shots, tying

with the former 23-23.

In the seesaw battle of the fourth round players of both teams showed a series of thrilling scoring scenes.

The game ended with the Kumgang Guidance Bureau's win.

In another group the Korean Central News Agency beat the Physical Education Publishing House 65-42 by changing game tactics to suit the situation to raise points continuously.

On January 23-24 there were Taekwon-Do team pattern and men's and women's individual pattern competitions at the Taekwon-Do Hall.

They attracted particular interest of the spectators as they drew many winners in the past events.

The players performed every movement perfectly by ensuring correctness and unity of movement, speed and strength, balance and rhythm, winning tumultuous applause from the spectators.



PAK CHANG BOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

A scene from the men's Taekwon-Do pattern.

By Jong Tang Song PT

HISTORY

Koguryo's mural painting

The Koguryo Kingdom that existed between 277 BC and AD 668 left an indelible mark on Korean history as it made remarkable progress in various fields.

It broke out new horizons in the development of Oriental art by bringing about an upswing in such fields as painting, sculpture and industrial arts.

Typical of the painting heritage left by the ancient Korean state are tomb murals that preserve the vivid colour and brushstrokes even after well over a thousand years. More than a hundred Koguryo tombs with murals have been known so far.

Their themes are classified mainly into three kinds: figure and genre, figure and four guardians, and decorative patterns.

The figure and genre paintings belong to the tomb murals at their early stage portraying people and their manners and customs.

World-famous murals in the Mausoleum of King Kogugwon, or Anak Tomb No. 3, can be claimed to be a typical example.

The tomb is large in scale and unique in structure and pictures were drawn on well-trimmed stone walls. Its murals are more diverse and richer than other tomb murals in the theme and content. They depict the king dealing with state affairs, aspects of life in the palace, a large procession and the like.

The painting of the large procession portrays over 250 persons by proficiently employing a bird's-eye view technique. The image of the leading male and female figures managing state affairs was drawn with concise and vivid brushwork and the painting in general was done mainly in red colour to make the cosy mood in the room go well with the colours of the apparel of the figures. These clearly show a comparatively high level of Koguryo painting techniques.

Tomb murals on the figure and genre theme also include those showing a hunting scene in the Yaksu-ri tomb, dancing in Anak Tomb No. 1, acrobatic stunt in the Susan-ri tomb and *ssirum*, or Korean wrestling, and a battle in other tombs.

The picture of the guardians

of the cardinal points—blue dragon, white tiger, phoenix and tortoise-serpent—also typifies Koguryo's tomb murals.

Characterized by compact composition, powerful lines, vivid colours and glossy paint, the picture gives a mystical impression and is rightly claimed to be a masterpiece representing such painting of the East in the world's medieval art history.

The top-ranked ones of such paintings are those portraying the blue dragon and tortoise-serpent in the large tomb in Kangso and those showing the phoenix and white tiger in the middle-sized tomb in Kangso.

Decorative patterns were employed to make the interiors of tombs look luxurious and mysterious by adorning the spaces between main murals, the ceilings and corners in various forms.

The painting art of Koguryo constituted the groundwork for the development of the Korean nation's painting and its origin and had a marked impact on the development of painting in Paekje, Silla, Kaya and other countries of the same ancestry and different Chinese kingdoms

SPORTS

Schoolchildren's games start



KCNA

A basketball match between Kang Pan Sok Senior Middle School and Kim Ju Hyok Senior Middle School in Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang.

The 44th Jongilbong Prize national schoolchildren's games opened.

Over 10 000 young qualifiers from city, county and provincial preliminaries will take part in the annual event to compete in 19 events including Taekwon-Do, *ssirum* (Korean wrestling), basketball, swimming and skiing.

An opening ceremony took place at the Basketball Gymnasium on Chongchun Street, Pyongyang, on January 23.

It was attended by Choe Hwi, vice-chairman of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea who is also chairman of the National Sports Guidance Committee, Kim Kyong Ho, chairman of the Korean Taekwon-Do Committee, relevant officials,

youth league officials and schoolchildren.

Pak Chol Min, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist Youth League, said in his opening address that all the participants should fully demonstrate the proud looks of them who are preparing themselves to be the masters of prosperous Korea by giving full play to the high skills they honed through training, noble moral qualities and spirit of collectivism in all matches.

After the opening ceremony, there was a basketball game between Kang Pan Sok Senior Middle School and Kim Ju Hyok Senior Middle School in Mangyongdae District.

Compiled from KCNA

and Japan.

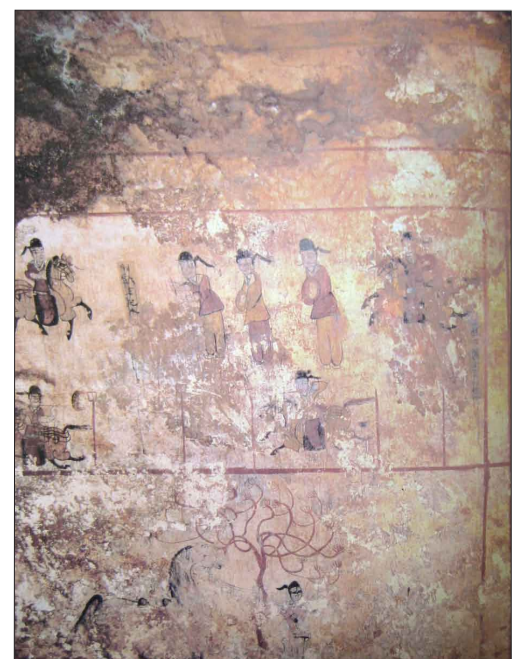
Tamjing, Koguryo's Buddhist priest, was invited to Japan in 610 and painted murals in the Golden Hall at the Horyu Temple, and Jamaryo, another Koguryo painter, went to Japan and became one of the pioneers of Japanese painting. And a tomb

with murals which was discovered in China's Liaoning Province was recognized as the tomb of a Koguryo nobleman. These show that Koguryo's painting occupied an important position in the development of the Eastern culture at the time.

Like this, Koguryo's tomb murals belong to the world cultural heritage representative of the medieval Eastern art as they were varied and rich

in the theme and content and concise, graceful, luxurious and refined in terms of elements of composition and depiction and technique as well.

Ryang Tae Hun, researcher at the History Institute of the Academy of Social Sciences



The picture of Masahui in Tokhung-ri tomb mural.