

# The Pyongyang Times

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

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## RESPONSE

### DPRK advances by dint of self-reliance

The indomitable struggle of the Korean people, who have made a history of victory by dint of self-reliance under the leadership of the great Party, is creating a sensation among foreigners.

The president of the Bangladesh People's League said to the following effect:

Though many countries look forward to developing their economy with the help of others, the DPRK is making great progress in all domains of social life on the strength of self-reliance and self-development.

Only socialist Korea is winning victory after victory even in the face of trials as it creates everything in the spirit of self-reliance.

Progressive mankind is convinced of the DPRK's victory.

The Nepalese irrigation minister said that the efforts of the Korean people who are making eye-opening successes in various fields while firmly defending socialism strike the world with wonder.

The reality of the DPRK, in which all the people are united single-heartedly around the leader with the great leaders held in high esteem and give full play to the might of self-

reliance, is great encouragement to progressive humankind, he noted.

The imperialists' harsh sanctions and blockade will not hamper the dynamic advance of the DPRK, he added.

The chairman of the Korean Friendship Association UK said that each country and nation can make progress only when they believe in their strength and rely on the strength of their people, as evidenced by the history of the Korean revolution. He stressed that as the DPRK is led by the prominent leader, it could advance vigorously as it worked only great miracles with self-reliance as the treasured sword of victory.

The chairman of the Organization for the Study of the Juche Idea of Thailand said that the Korean people who have the indomitable spirit developed the country into an invincible socialist fortress that no one can ignore as they solved all problems with their own efforts and technologies.

The Korean people will proudly build a powerful socialist country under the guidance of Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un, he added.

*Compiled from KCNA*

## ECONOMY

### Many industrial establishments carry out annual economic plans

Different economic sectors are increasing production amid the dynamic drive for increased production to attain the goals of the five-year strategy for national economic development.

The units under the Ministry of Machine-building Industry have fulfilled their annual economic plans.

The Kumsong Tractor Factory, Sungni Motor Complex and Chungsong Tractor Factory rounded off their yearly production plans, while the Huichon Precision Machine Factory and the Pyongyang Bearing Factory hit their annual targets in terms of the total industrial output value. The Pyongyang Electric Cable Factory 326 set up the processes of producing enamel coating solution for raising the quality of products, oil for the prevention of moisture in communication cables and galvanized wire and the aluminium refining process as well to meet its actual conditions and contrived and introduced dozens of technical innovation plans, thereby completing the annual economic plan ahead of schedule.

The Anju Insulator Factory overfulfilled its yearly economic plan and the Songchongang Electrical Appliances Factory carried out this year's motor

production plan at 130.2 percent.

The Paektusan Hero Youth Power Station fulfilled its yearly power generation plan at 101 percent as of November 21.

The establishment of a new leather shoes sole foaming process at the Wonsan Leather Shoes Factory has made it possible to lay material and technical foundations for diversifying the products in terms of kind, shape and colour.

Light industrial factories in Kaesong have increased production 1.5 times as against the previous year by concentrating efforts on

developing more famous products and commodities.

The Kaesong Unha Garment Factory newly organized several serial production groups and introduced some ten technical innovation plans to complete the yearly plan earlier than schedule. The Kaesong Songdo Foodstuff Factory and the Kaesong Koryo Insam Liquor Factory finished their assignments for producing various foodstuffs by the end of October, and the Kaesong Towel Factory and the Kaesong Koryo Embroidery Factory overfulfilled their monthly and quarterly plans by 60 percent.

*By Ri Myong Jun PT*



RI TONG GYU / RODONG SINMUN

**The Taehung Youth Hero Mine increases production.**

## VISIT

### Kim Yong Nam pays official visit to Venezuela

Nicolas Maduro Moros, president of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, presented a gift to Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un.

The gift was conveyed on November 27 to Kim Yong Nam, president of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly, who is leading a delegation of

the DPRK on an official visit to Venezuela.

Kim Yong Nam held talks with the Venezuelan President on the afternoon at the Presidential Palace of Venezuela.

He said that relations between the DPRK and Venezuela are developing into the ones of true and close friends and firm comrades, adding that the struggle of the Venezuelan people for independence against imperialism, peace against war and socialism will advance dynamically.

The Venezuelan President sincerely wished Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un good health, and hoped that he would victoriously guide the Korean people. He also expressed the belief that the friendly and

cooperative ties between the two countries would develop with stronger vitality in the future.

Opinions on the issues of developing bilateral friendly and cooperative ties and the non-aligned movement and other issues of mutual concern were exchanged at the talks.

Present there from the DPRK side were Pak Thae Song, vice-chairman of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, Ho Yong Bok, vice-minister of Foreign Affairs, and other members of the DPRK delegation, and DPRK ambassador to Venezuela Ri Sung Gil, and from the Venezuelan side were Foreign Minister of People's Power Jorge Alberto Arreaza Montserrat, Tania Dias, vice-chairperson of the United Socialist Party of Venezuela and first vice-president of the National Constituent Assembly, and other officials concerned.

Kim Yong Nam talked with

Diosdado Cabello, president of the National Constituent Assembly of Venezuela, on November 27.

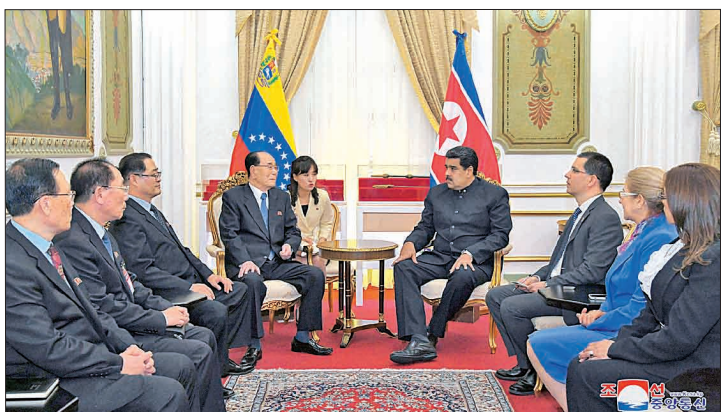
Present there were members of the DPRK delegation, the DPRK ambassador, Tania Dias, Gladys Requena, second vice-president of the National Constituent Assembly of Venezuela, and other officials.

Diosdado Cabello hosted a luncheon in honour of the DPRK delegation.

That day the DPRK delegation placed a wreath before the National Martyrs Cemetery of Venezuela and visited the La Montana Barracks where the remains of Hugo Chavez Frias, former president of Venezuela, are buried.

A memorandum of understanding and an agreement between the foreign ministries of the DPRK and Venezuela were signed.

*Compiled from KCNA*



**Kim Yong Nam, president of the Presidium of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly, holds talks with Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro Moros in Caracas.**



## VIEW

# DPRK's image in the era of Kim Jong Un

*Kim Il, professor at Yanbian University of China studying Juche philosophy at Kim Il Sung University, published an article titled "DPRK's image in the era of Kim Jong Un". The following are excerpts:*

The DPRK people's understanding of independence is beyond imagination of the world people in scope and profundness.

Generally speaking, the history of leadership of President Kim Il Sung is the history of independence: he always held fast to national independence to overcome grave trials and difficulties, resolutely adhered to the stand of the working masses and defended socialism to build a prosperous and dignified country centred on the people.

In his work *Let Us Live Not Merely for Today but for Tomorrow* made public in January 1996, Chairman Kim Jong Il said that "no one in the world can match a man ready to risk his life" is the faith and pluck to be possessed by our revolutionaries.

The principle of independence is still carried on in the era of Kim Jong Un.

Chairman Kim Jong Un is a national hero who exalts the honour of the DPRK as a powerful independent country recognized by the world, not as a weak country that reads others' faces or opts for other road for fear of sanctions and pressure.

At the Seventh Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea, he pointed to the need to worship

the nation alone, believe in its strength alone and discuss the reunification issue with the compatriots alone and to categorically reject all acts of sycophancy and dependence on foreign forces, which gnaw at the consciousness of national independence and undermine the principle of national self-development.

His faith and will resulted in the strategy, lines and policies startling the world and made the DPRK demonstrate to the world its image as an independent country in name and reality.

Thanks to his leadership that starts from independence and is consistent with independence, the DPRK has risen up imposingly as a section of the world and the world has come to see the DPRK, a small yet great independent power, with a fresh point of view.

There might not be such a country in the world as the DPRK where the people of all ages and sexes are affiliated to relevant organizations and lead a life in their organizations on a regular basis. Lots of such organizations form a socio-political organism that can be found nowhere else and the whole society is united to form a harmonious socialist family.

In this country where the state takes care of all people and leads them, the people accept the idea of "One for all and all for one!" as their vital need and unite as one to become ever more powerful beings as they rely on the collective and feel delight in the collective's strength.

Socialist Korea has employed a unique mode of politics.

Chairman Kim Jong Un's motto is to prioritize, respect and love the people.

In his New Year Address in 2017, he said that his desires were burning all the time, but he spent the past year feeling anxious and remorseful for the lack of his ability, adding that he was hardening his resolve to seek more tasks for the sake of the people this year and make redoubled, devoted efforts to this end.

The single-minded unity based on the absolute trust and love between the leader and the people demonstrates its great might also in the field of economic construction.

The DPRK has not collapsed under the protracted sanctions of the international community but has risen up higher. It is because desire and idea, idea and politics, politics and reality are integrated with the people as the major premise.

In this respect, it can be said that the single-minded unity of the leader and his people is the productive force peculiar to the DPRK.

The DPRK is a country where all the people can learn free of charge all their lives. In recent years, it has worked to attain the goal of making all people well-versed in science and technology while focusing on the development of general secondary education.

The DPRK gives importance to science and education actually, not as a show.

Chairman Kim Jong Un pays close attention to the living of educationists and scientists who perform a pivotal role in

making all people well-versed in science and technology.

The DPRK is bringing about a fresh innovation also in the field of economic management.

As precedence is given to science and education and a new mode of economic management is established in this country, many enterprises and farms benefit from that, zeal for collective emulation bubbles up and the people become better off as the days go by.

I am sure that the DPRK people will perform world-startling miracles by dint of their own resources and technology and in their own way, under the wise leadership of Chairman Kim Jong Un.

Entering 2018, the situation on the Korean peninsula took a radical turn. A live broadcast of Chairman Kim Jong Un's New Year Address marked the beginning of a turnaround in the international situation. He made a courageous and independent decision for peace and security of his fellow countrymen and the world people.

His tour for peace led to a landmark event that brought about a radical turn in relations between the DPRK and the US, the most hostile foes.

Prejudice against the DPRK and distorted relations between the two countries are being put to right one by one and the situation on the Korean peninsula is gradually switching from bitter confrontation of strength to reconciliation and peace. This is ascribed to the resolute determination of Chairman Kim Jong Un who devotes his

all to rooting out the source of war danger on the Korean peninsula, cherishing the noble sense of responsibility for the destiny of the nation and the peace of the world.

Inter-Korean confrontation and hatred that persisted for over 70 years are also being replaced by relations of peace and trust.

Visits of high-level delegations between the north and the south got frequent after the Chairman delivered the New Year Address, and they led to the inter-Korean summit meeting. Chairman Kim Jong Un and President Moon Jae In met at the demarcation line in Panmunjom, shaking hands and exchanging greetings. It was a historic meeting that opened up a new era of national reconciliation and unity, peace and prosperity.

Thereafter, the inter-Korean ties have rapidly been boosted towards peace, reconciliation and cooperation. The north-south summit meeting was held for the third time and the September Pyongyang Joint Declaration was adopted in less than five months.

The atmosphere of peace and reconciliation created finally on the Korean peninsula is very valuable and precious. It is associated with the lifelong efforts of the DPRK's preceding leaders, the blood and sweat of the brave and resourceful Korean people and the philosophy of love and trust of Chairman Kim Jong Un.

The road to peace and reunification is not a royal road. These are the desire common to tens of millions of the fellow countrymen, but they have not come true yet.

I sincerely hope that the three rounds of historic meetings between Chairman Kim Jong Un and President Moon Jae In will bring peace and prosperity to this beautiful land of Korea and open the gates to reunification.

## LEADING ARTICLE

## By setting examples for others to follow

It is an important characteristic of the leadership of Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un, who energetically guides the overall state affairs, to set an example and create a model in all fields and generalize it throughout the country.

The examples are the Pyongyang Catfish Farm, Pyongyang Children's Foodstuff Factory, Ryuwon Footwear Factory, Ryugyong Kimchi Factory and other industrial establishments and Ryomyong and Mirae scientists streets, Pyongyang Baby Home and Orphanage and other buildings.

Only when examples are set to be followed by all others, can more achievements be made, the economy be boosted in a short time and the people's livelihood

further be improved—this is the opinion and will of the Supreme Leader.

When he inspected the Pyongyang Pharmaceutical Factory in January this year, he said it was his plan to upgrade all pharmaceutical factories across the country with the factory as a model.

As he gave field guidance at the construction sites in Samjiyon County, he said that through the construction of the county a model of mountain city encapsulating modern civilization should be set and the experience of building it generalized to give a facelift to and refurbish all counties in the mountainous regions of the country. The course of it should be a take-off period and a

revolution in local construction, he noted.

The examples and models set by the Supreme Leader are new and original, and are strictly based on self-reliance.

He lays special emphasis on the need to make or build everything by domestic efforts and technology in line with the likings and interests of the Korean people and to meet the specific conditions of the country.

When he provided on-the-spot guidance at the Pyongyang Catfish Farm a few years ago, which was turned into a model farm in fish farming, he said that what pleased him most in the upgrading project of the farm was that it was modernized not

by introducing foreign efforts and technology and installing foreign equipment, but by relying on national technical personnel, technology and equipment.

At the Pyongyang Children's Foodstuff Factory he was very pleased to see that all production processes were equipped with high-tech facilities designed and made by the local scientists, technicians and workers.

As he inspected the Samjiyon

Potato Farina Factory, he said even if cutting-edge technologies are introduced and modern equipment is made, they are useless if they do not meet the situation and specific conditions of the country.

The DPRK is sure to fling wide open the door to an economic giant and civilized power in the near future as it is guided by the Supreme Leader.

Myong Mi Ran



RI KWANG SONG / PICTORIAL KOREA

A partial view of the production process set up at the Pyongyang Pharmaceutical Factory.



SILK MILL

# Factory reels silk thread off unboiled cocoon

The Kangso Silk Mill has established a process of producing silk thread with raw cocoon.

In the past it was an established method to use dry cocoon for the production of silk thread in the silk-reeling industry.

Cocoon producers dried raw cocoons in the drying furnace and sent them to silk mills.

But among the dry cocoons stored in silk mills not a small proportion was off grade.

The silk mills reeled silk threads off high-grade cocoons and silk cotton off low-grade ones. But silk thread was several times more expensive than silk cotton.

It had much adverse effect on the increased production of silk thread at silk mills.

While directing efforts to solving the problem, the technical staff of the Kangso Silk Mill began to pay attention to the traditional method of reeling silk thread off raw cocoon.

Originally raw cocoon was high in reeling rate as it has a good solubility.

According to chief engineer Jong Chang Uk, the silk mill solved various technical problems to put the manual production method on an industrial basis, including the cocoon transport process and

cold storage and cocoon boiling methods.

Modern automatic silk-spinning machines and the establishment of a new production process which is suitable for using the present conditions effectively brought many advantages to the mill.

First of all, as it removed the drying process to make dry cocoons, it could save equipment, fuel, electricity and manpower.

And as the amount of the cocoons whose quality deteriorated through transport decreased and their storability and solubility improved, the actual reeling rate of products rose by far, which led to increased production.

The new method of silk thread production from raw cocoon, which put an end to the long-standing practice, obtained a national patent and has now been introduced into silk mills across the country including the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill.



SONG TAE HYOK / PICTORIAL KOREA

The Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill boosts the production of silk thread.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

PRODUCT

# Energy-saving electric heaters produced

The Taedong Technology Joint Venture Company turns out a variety of energy-saving electric heating facilities.

Technicians developed a new type of electric heating rod to be used as an essential part of electric heating equipment. The rod, in which the maximum limit technique has been introduced between the internal wall of pipe and the line of electric heater and filling materials with good heat conductivity are put in, saves more than 40 percent of electricity and has over 10 times longer serviceable life than the previous one.

On the basis of it, the company produces energy-saving mobile radiators and kitchen facilities and other kinds of electric heating equipment.

An energy-saving cooling and heating kitchen table consumes less electricity than the ordinary household refrigerator, but keeps hot dishes and provides hot water by using waste heat from the cooling medium heating and concentration process. As the freezing, cooling and hot dish storing compartments and hot water tank are arranged one by one, the kitchen table is very convenient to use in kitchen. When a kitchen table collects 1 045 KJ of waste heat value in

an hour, the user can annually get about 1 300 kW of electricity for nothing.

A new-type frying oven was made based on the principle that oil floats on water.

It is designed to regulate and keep the temperature in the oven by heating floating oil with an electric heating rod and circulating water in the lower part. Oil is not burnt black due to overheating during the cooking process, and oil does not splash even though ice is put in the oven. Its power consumption is far less than ordinary frying ovens and it reduces the amount of oil consumption up to 50-65 percent.

Steam drawer-type rice and soup cookers are equipped with a steam absorption device which reduces heat loss and improves the hygienic environment of the kitchen.

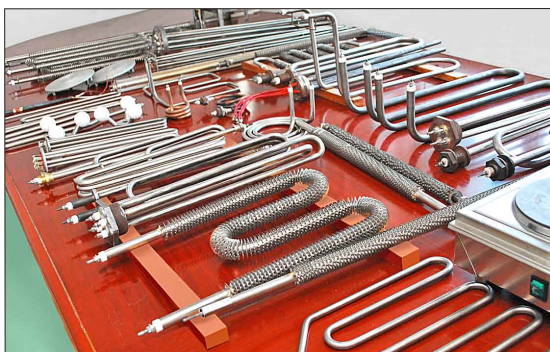
Mobile radiators of all sizes cut power consumption by a quarter

as against before, but raise the electric heating efficiency by 1.8 times. The development of calorific and heat-transfer medium in radiators with locally-available raw materials makes it possible to maximize the calorific efficiency and prolong their lifespan more than two times as compared to the previous equipment.

The company's energy-saving electric heating products were highly appreciated at the national exhibition of sci-tech hits in the energy sector last October.

"To save energy and make an effective use of it is an indispensable demand for economic development. We will contribute to developing the economy and improving the people's living standards by bringing out more profitable electric heating products," said O Tam, director of the company.

By Ri Sang Il PT



CHOE MI GYONG / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

The Taedong Technology Joint Venture Company turns out energy-saving electric heaters.

FACTORY

# Natural foods come out



RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Some natural foodstuffs produced by the Changsong Foodstuff Factory.

The Changsong Foodstuff Factory increases the production of natural foods by relying on abundant forest resources.

All the goods of the factory are made with wild fruits, wild vegetables and medicinal herbs in the surrounding mountains as raw materials.

Technicians strive to develop new techniques by making the most of the local forest resources in order to increase the variety of products, while improving the quality of products.

They increased the shelf life of soft drinks twice using the lytic enzyme they developed and extracted sugar from local farm products to make confectionery. They also made gelatin to produce fine acorn liquor with less fusel oil.

The aligning machine, thermal contraction device and other facilities have been introduced into the packaging process so as to further upgrade the production line. And novel brand designs make the products of the factory more distinctive.

Last year alone, the factory developed dozens of such

products as *makkolli* (traditional Korean liquor), tea, acetous drinks, drops and soy sauce with wild fruits and herbs including wild grapes and fruits of *Actinidia arguta*, *Crataegus pinnatifida* and *Schizandra chinensis*. In particular, the recently developed five kinds of freshly squeezed wild fruit juices are much favoured by young and old for the fragrance and flavour peculiar to the fruits.

And dozens of kinds of medicinal herbs in the surrounding mountains are used to make wholesome natural foods. The functional foods the factory has developed most recently include teas of *Eleutherococcus senticosus* and barrenwort, wild grape jam and wild fruit jelly and drops.

Hwanggumsan natural food shops in Pyongyang and local areas sell dozens of kinds of products of the factory.

"Our aim is to make ours the best products preferred by all," said manageress Kim Myong Ok.

By Choe Kwang Jin PT

# Sci-tech hits

The Laser Institute of the State Academy of Sciences in the DPRK developed a laser technology of great practical significance.

Researchers have recently manufactured a carbon-dioxide laser processor badly needed for modernizing the truck production processes. This helps improve the quality of trucks by introducing the laser welding technique to the auto industry and establish the precision welding technique for all machine parts.

Marked progress has been made in exploring the underground resources in the DPRK with the introduction of an effective portable multi-functional survey meter.

The survey meter, developed

by researchers of the Meari Sounder Company and Kim Chaek University of Technology, is an advanced technological equipment for prospecting useful minerals, underground water and geothermal resources on the basis of analysing values gained from far-infrared detection and self-potential measurement.

This can be used for various purposes of survey. The equipment, easy to carry, ensures high prospecting speed and efficiency and displays through three-dimensional image the results of simultaneous measurement on outcrop and deep ore body.

Compiled from KCNA



## R&amp;D

# Education programs help children with study

Everyone starts learning from familiarizing themselves with alphabets of their mother tongues and simple numbers from zero to nine.

Therefore, the education of national languages and mathematics in primary schools plays a basic and important part in the growth of pupils and development of each country.

As these subjects require constant practice and consolidation, teachers taught pupils these subjects sitting face to face with them in the past. There were some problems in the teaching method: children who were mischievous and lacked concentration easily got bored and it needed much time and energy to prepare for and giving classes.

The Institute for Development of Intellectual Products of the Paektusan Economic Corporation developed such study support programs as Star of Mental Arithmetic and Twinkling Star to solve these problems.

Star of Mental Arithmetic presents any mental arithmetic problems of addition and subtraction, multiplication and division of four digit numbers and any of the multiplication tables. It has been designed in the form of amusement games to meet the children's psychological features so as to help everyone enhance mental calculation abilities with great interest and fun.

As soon as the program was launched, it has become the most sought-after app in primary and middle schools as well as

families. Even adults use it by storing it in tablet computers and smart phones.

The Korean language study support program Twinkling Star provides the function of learning Korean alphabets by means of the Korean syllabary, constants subjoined at the end of Korean orthographic syllables and intelligent games and dictation function so as to help children learn Korean language by themselves.

The core of this app is voice recording.

"It was not easy to correctly inform pupils of the richness and excellence of Korean language," said recorder Jong Hye Sun.

Her kind and soft voice has become familiar to all pupils across the country.

According to Yu Yong Hui, deputy headmistress of Kinmaul Primary School in Moranbong District, Pyongyang, the practical value of these apps is increasing and

they have brought remarkable benefits.

Yun Kyong Hui, mother of Choe Hong Hui who is a second-year pupil of the school, said that she felt proud to see her daughter correctly typing complex double-consonant characters and solving any difficult mental arithmetic problems in three seconds.

"People affectionately call us 'Star' developers' group," said Kim Hyok, chief of the institute. "Whenever we hear then, we proudly remember the days, months and years during which we worked hard to become a star that twinkles eternally in the minds of the children who are growing up happily, learning to their heart's content under the socialist system."

The group is now working on the development of more advanced "Star" programs.

By Pak Song Min PT



KIM YONG CHAN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Technicians of the Paektusan Economic Corporation are in a group session to develop education support programs.

## IT

# Company expands development sphere



RYANG KUM CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Employees of the Korea Saeppeol High-Tech Corporation produce large-size printed matters.

The Korea Saeppeol High-Tech Corporation is expanding its development sphere to different fields including decorative illuminations and architecture and commercial service, as well as IT.

In recent years, it undertook the manufacture and installation of lighting billboards, decorative illuminations, signposts and advertisement boards for the country's major construction projects, and is engaged in commercial activities as well.

E-commerce and online payment system are its important development sphere.

The Saeppeol e-department store run by it classified commodities and introduced an effective commodity search algorithm function.

Now it offers services to hundreds of commercial service units and ensures commodity purchase on a regular basis for hundreds of thousands of

regular customers.

The corporation established a mobile Saeppeol electronic settlement system.

The system provides all the functions related to management of funds such as settlement of bills, remittance and charge.

Both online and offline settlements are available, and the system has a perfect security function which is accredited by professional domestic security and certification institutions.

It renders a reliable guarantee to the revitalization of domestic e-commerce.

Now the corporation is intensifying research to further complete the function of e-department store and settlement system, and promotes close technical and economic exchanges with businesses in different countries that are interested in this field.

By Kim Kum Myong PT

## PRINTING

# Key to success

Ornamental designs for satchel, Unhasu cosmetics and children's dining utensils were highly appreciated at the recent national industrial design exhibition held in celebration of the DPRK's 70th anniversary.

"Pak Yong Bok from Pyongyang University of Publishing and Printing Engineering, contributed greatly to applying these lovely designs to products," a curator said. "He can print any ornamental designs created by industrial art designers on any materials including cloth, glass, and iron and copper plates."

Pak Yong Bok won the certificates of registration and introduction of sci-tech hits by developing a halftone process of flag in 2011 and came first at the 28th national sci-tech

festival for the making of low-melting-point printing ink conducive to raising the printing quality of glass cosmetics container and for the research finding about printing aptitude in 2013, and the 30th national sci-tech festival by establishing a printing process of water sliding-style ceramic ornament in 2015. This year, he received the certificates of registration and introduction of sci-tech hits by establishing the printing process for the production of primary school bags.

These are part of his achievements.

Here is a story which motivated him to be a man of influence in the printing field.

A few years ago, he happened to see a schoolboy insisting on carrying an imported satchel

bearing an animation picture, rather than taking a homemade one with a simple picture.

At that time he was ashamed for failing to satisfy the needs of local children as a specialist in printing.

Why can't we do what others do and if we fail to produce our own, can we implant patriotic feeling in the minds of children? This self-questioning pushed him to study the picture printing on schoolbags.

A number of technological problems stood in his way and he was always pressed for time as he had to conduct research while carrying on his assignments.

To improve the quality of printing, he delved into relevant fields of spinning and weaving, machinery and chemistry, as

well as printing, and acquired the computer image processing technology. Profound scientific knowledge and uninterrupted speculation brought him a novel idea and success.

He went to different bag factories to solve technological problems arising in establishing a new printing process, remodelled necessary equipment and disseminated techniques while sharing board and lodging with the technicians and workers of the factories.

When we keep great national dignity, we can do anything that others do and even those that others fail to do—this thought was

engraved on his heart.

By Kim Rye Yong PT



SONG YONG SOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Pak Yong Bok (second from right) explains how to improve the quality of printed materials.



## EDUCATION

## University upgrades education with IT means

Pyongyang University of Architecture improves the quality of education to train students into competent civil engineers and architects.

Primary attention is being paid to building up the camp of lecturers and developing their qualifications and high sense of responsibility.

An undertaking to improve the teaching level and qualifications of lecturers and increase model educators is conducted in a planned way along with their in-service training.

The university administration rewrote the teaching programme of all subjects so that lecturers could incorporate the latest sci-tech data in their teaching contents and raise the proportion of practical education of students.

Ri Un Gwang, lecturer of the architectural design section, brought out a new teaching method which is effective in education practice as it is helpful to developing the space planning, interchanging and design expressing abilities of students majoring in architectural design.

Lecturers and researchers of the university presented different pieces of experimental

equipment, programs and multimedia presentations to the national exhibition of experimental apparatuses and teaching aids, winning high appraisal.

The university established some twenty new subjects including green architectural planning, nano-building materials, awakened concrete and architectural design information modelling.

It is now focusing on the education about 5-dimensional designing.

In particular, it raises the modernization level of architectural education by pushing research into the 5-D application to BIM which is becoming one of the global trends of architectural design and applying its success to education. As a result, the university continued to take first place in the national designing contest of students in the building sector in recent years.

It holds the day of creation once a week to improve the practical abilities of students and organizes the creations presentation on different occasions.

By Kil Chung Il PT



CHAE MYONG RIM / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Students work out designs at Pyongyang University of Architecture.

## Fuel-saving cooker developed

The University of Sciences has developed a fuel-saving heat-radiating gas cooker based on the principle of enhancing thermal efficiency by burning propane and methane gases using far infrared heat-radiating panel.

The developers thought that in order to increase heat efficiency it is necessary to ensure non-flame combustion instead of the flame one and the best way to do so is to use a far infrared radiator.

They optimized the mixing ratio of far infrared radiation materials and made a cooker with better radiation characteristics,

less wear and a long serviceable life.

The basic mode of heat transfer of the new cooker is radiant heat exchange based on far infrared heat-radiating panel. It is a mode of heat exchange whereby energy is transferred in the form of electromagnetic waves. And in the radiant heat exchange, flame-based heat exchange is converted into focusing heat exchange based on radiation lens, or the far infrared heat-radiating panel, and thereby heat efficiency is boosted.

By Chae Hyang Ok PT

## PROFILE

## Doctor brings smile to a girl patient

Han Hye Gyong, a girl living in Kowon County of South Hamgyong Province, visited the conservative treatment department of the Ministry of Railways Dental Hospital in June.

All doctors of the department were surprised to see her serious conditions.

Having unexpectedly contracted a systemic toxic stomatitis 10 years ago, the girl developed ulcers in her mouth, throat and several parts of her internal organs.

But she recovered her beautiful voice and laughter after receiving the medical treatment with a multifunctional Koryo medication at the hospital.

It is Kim Hyang Ok, 51 year-old chief of the conservative treatment department, that helped the patient get back fresh hope for and joy of life.

While building her career as a doctor for 25 years at the hospital, Kim has gained rich clinical experience and developed a new multifunctional Koryo medicine to be recognized as an authority in the medical circle.

It was eight years ago when she set out on the development of a new cure for stomatitis.

She felt an urgent need to develop a highly effective medicine in the course of treatment of ulcerative inflammatory diseases in mouth cavity mucosa with high morbidity, and busied herself with literature search and experiments.

After years-long painstaking efforts she succeeded in developing a new medicine for the treatment of sore mouth by using forsythia leave extract which has strong antibiotic and anti-inflammatory actions.

The new cure attracted the interest of medical workers as it was shorter in the treatment period than the world-recognized drug, cost very low and proved effective in the prevention of relapse of the disease.

It obtained a national patent and was highly appreciated at the national sci-tech exhibition in the health sector and national sci-tech festivals.

The recently developed medicine had a surprising treatment effect on the patients.

When the Kowon girl came to the hospital, Hyang Ok had never seen any similar case

before nor had any materials to refer to. But she never hesitated.

She groped for a rational treatment method to suit the physical constitution of the patient who had no healthy teeth at all and felt it hard to swallow even gruel as she had suffered from the disease so long, and finally decided to treat her with the new Koryo medicine.

She improved the form of her medication and gave medical treatment simultaneously to all ulcers in several parts of internal organs as well as sore mouth, performing a miracle of curing the 10-year-long disease of the patient.

Most recently she recovered the health of many patients who had long suffered from a severe aphthous stomatitis.

By Jong Sun Bok PT



PAK CHANG BOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Kim Hyang Ok (right), department chief of the Ministry of Railways Dental Hospital, treats a patient.

## HEALTHCARE

## Medical group noted for splenectomy

The department of hepatic surgery of the Hamhung City People's Hospital in South Hamgyong Province has long been successful in the treatment of portal hypertension.

The hyperfunction of the spleen caused by various reasons leads to this disease, which is known as a virulent and horrible condition which requires the patient diagnosed with it only to wait for death.

The department, however, has restored many patients to health by dint of splenectomy.

Though splenectomy has long been recognized as the most effective cure for portal hypertension, it has not widely been applied as a slight mistake leads to a death.

The department has been performing such a difficult

operation for over 30 years.

The hardest parts in the operation are the disposal of ligaments and splenomegaly adhesiotomy.

As 50 to 80 blood vessels dozens of times thinner than a hair must be ligated, the operation that often lasts for hours requires the operator and assistants to move their hands deftly like magicians and think and act like one.

"Today's success is attributable to our predecessors who made painstaking efforts to pioneer and perfect the surgical technique," said Ri Ryong Bom, director of the department.

The department carried out successful splenectomies on 112 patients this year alone.

It is now working to perfect the surgical treatment on portal

hypertension by performing the bypass plastics for lowering portal pressure and the omental plompage which is effective in accelerating convalescence and preventing postoperative sequelae.

"Our medical circles take great pride in the high success rate of splenectomy at the Hamhung City People's Hospital," said Kim Hyong Jun, chairman of the Medical Association of Korea. "It made a breakthrough in completely curing portal hypertension cases."

"I was in a critical condition when I heard that the hospital was good at operations on the spleen. No one thought I could survive under the knife, but I did. I had an operation four years ago and I am living in good health. I want to express my gratitude once again to the doctors, who are saviours of my life," said a former patient. "I recommend the hospital to everyone who is suffering from portal hypertension."

By Jong Tang Song PT



## SHOW

# Pyongyang hosts int'l health and sports science exhibition

The Pyongyang international health and sports science exhibition ran at the Sci-Tech Complex from November 22 to 26.

It brought together more than 100 organizations at home and abroad.

Special draws were the pine pollen honey and pine needle tea made with substances from natural pine trees growing in pollution-free environment.

Kim Chang Gil, manager of the natural health food factory, said that pine pollen is well known to the world as an elixir of life as it contains three times more protein than meat and seven to eight times more than milk and eggs and is rich in essential amino acids, over 10 kinds of natural vitamins and more than 30 kinds of microelements. The products of the factory are in great demand in international market as well as at home, he added.

There was high demand also for nutritious powder and confectionery made with peptide, which are good for children's growth.

Exhibits also included many functional cosmetics which add beauty to women and bring back youth to people.

The Sinuiju, Pyongyang and other cosmetics factories displayed dozens of cosmetics. Among them was a cosmetic made with snail mucus that has great moisturizing effect. "When



PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

**Foreigners consult with a local participant in the Pyongyang international health and sports science exhibition.**

the snail cream is applied to your face, the dampness is preserved on the skin all day long, and the cosmetic protects skin and prevents or smooths wrinkles for menopausal and old women, said a staff member Ri Ji Hye.

The recombination human interleucin-2 injection and recombination human growth hormone injection were highly valued by the jury in the medical sector. According to their developer Ri Song Jin from the medicobiological institute of the Academy of Medical Science, they are more efficacious than the existing immunomodulators and growth hormone preparations as a bioengineering method was adopted to make biological

activators that are secreted from immunocompetent and growth hormonocompetent cells of the human body.

Eye-catchers of sportspeople and fans were a volleyball launcher, which enables players to do practice in dealing with service, reception, spike and pass, a table tennis drive measuring device, which helps players increase their drive capacity, and a training analysis program and training support system for various sports which help put training on a scientific basis.

There were also technical workshops and exchanges during the exhibition.

By Ri Sung Ik PT

## CUISINE

# Mouthwatering loach soup

With cold weather setting in, loach soup is attracting many diners.

The soup is prepared by thoroughly boiling loach, which is called freshwater insam by locals, together with other ingredients before adding seasonings and it has widely been used in the dietary life of Koreans since olden times.

It is said that the traditional dish was first made in Kaesong in the period of Koryo (918-1392) and locals relished it as a special dish. History book *Haedongjukji* introduces a recipe for loach soup, saying: "Bean curd is made about the time when there is frost and before it is congealed loaches are put into it. And then it is sliced and boiled with ginger and powdered fruits of prickly ash to make the tasty dish."

Loaches are rich in protein, fat, minerals and other nutritive substances along with medicinal elements. Especially, they have much more content of vitamin B2 than animal liver and more chalybeate than spinach, which makes them effective against asthenia, diabetes, hepatic diseases, osteomalacia and

dropsy.

The Sosong Loach Soup House in Pyongyang is always packed with diners who are fond of loach dishes.

It serves loach dishes with original and delicate flavour by employing traditional recipes.

The eatery's menu includes over 30 loach dishes such as steamed, fried or sliced loaches, shish kebab, fried ball, nutritive gruel, sauté and sashimi as well as soup which is prepared with fat loach, beef, bean curd, parsley and red pepper.

Kang Un Ha, chief of the soup house, is a professional loach cook who won several national cooking festivals and competitions and that is why its loach dishes have better taste than those of other restaurants, diners say.

By Kim Ryoung Jin PT



KIM MYONG GUK / PICTORIAL KOREA

**Loach soup.**

## SCENIC ATTRACTION

# Cavern unfolds underground wonders

Songam Cavern lies beneath Chongsok Hill (303.9 metres above sea level) which stands on the border between Sonam-dong, Kacchon, and Songam-dong, Anju, South Phyongan Province.

It is a typical temperate zone cave that was formed by the dissolving and eroding actions of underground water which began to flow into the vertic dolomite layer about 40 000-120 000 years back from the dolomite layer which formed about 1.2 billion years ago. It extends for about 4 500 metres.

The cavern is divided into four layers, which are linked by almost vertical caves.

The highest part of the cave is 150 metres above sea level and the lowest one 45 metres.

Characteristically, the course of the main cave forms a loop line in the middle part and, unlike other caves, it has rich water resources.

Inside the cavern several

streams empty into Lake Yongphung through several stages of falls and various underground ponds like Jangsu and Ryonggung ponds lie in various shapes at different heights.

Water temperature in the cave is 12-13°C. Water is very clear with the transparency of 16 metres and has a pH of 8.1-8.3. Water quality is very good as it is within the range of standard values of drinking water.

There is a 2 160-metre-long tourist route in the cavern which has 16 sights, including Kwanmun, Phokpho, Kiam and Sonnyo sections, filled with tens of thousands of shapes of objects.

The Kwanmun (gateway) section looks like a "flower-decorated door" and is flung wide open. The arched door is a rock which does not dissolve well in water, and it is decorated with stalactites and stalagmites of various flower shapes formed

by water drops dripping from the ceiling and walls.

At the Phokpho (waterfall) section, waterfalls blend in well with various shapes of objects as the name shows, unfolding spectacular sights. Especially, the current of the Mangyong stream cascades down 6 metres into a 30-cubic-metre pool with a resounding sound. It was named after Tansim Falls of Mt Paektu, the highest mountain of Korea, as it resembles it.

The ocherous clay and "stone flowers" on the rock in the Surim (forest) section, the sixth sight of the cave, remind viewers of a forest. And the following Pomul (treasure) and Paekhwa (all kinds of flowers) sections present a fantastic view of stalactites and "stone flowers" of various shapes, attracting the visitors' interest.

The ceiling of the section, called Kkotkungjon (palace of flowers), is dotted with a countless number of small stalactites tinged with

various colours and the floor covered with a stone carpet, which was formed 70 000 years ago, above the over 1.5-metre-thick clay. And unfolded over it is a stage of stalagmites in the shape of snails, hedgehogs and other animals.

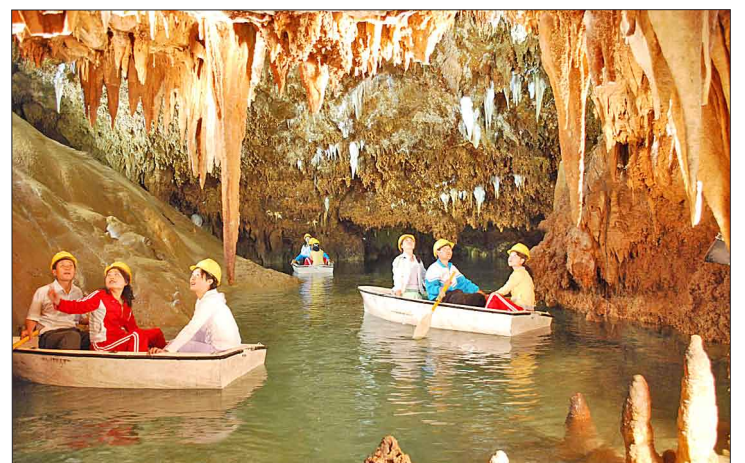
Visitors are so enchanted by the continuous flow of sights that they often do not realize the passage of time.

In the low part of the Ryonggung (dragon palace) section, which is called thus as it is as marvellous as the dragon palace in old fairy tales, is Ryonggung Pond (36 metres long and 3.5 metres deep)

wide enough to enjoy boating. And in the high part dozens of stalagmites and stalactites in the shape of multi-storeyed stone pagoda present a marvellous scene in good harmony with stone falls and stone lotus flowers.

Many legends are told about the sights of the cavern, including the one about the Sonnyo section, which says that as the section seemed to embrace all beautiful scenes, fairies came down from heaven and lived there.

By Pang Un Ju PT



AN CHOL RYONG / PICTORIAL KOREA

**Tourists on boats are mesmerized by different shapes of stalactites in the Songam Cavern.**



## COMMENTS

# Scrutiny into US human rights racket

The plot-breeding organization of Human Rights Watch has recently released an absurd report that sexual violence against women is rampant in north Korea, at the instigation of the US. And the Americans are inciting anti-DPRK hostility as they argue that though the UN and its Human Rights Council have repeatedly brought up the human rights issue of north Korea, it has denied the problem as it has neglected other international obligations, and demand the north Korean leadership probe into human rights violation in a responsible manner.

Under such circumstances, the US and its lackeys fabricated another north Korean human rights resolution at the UN human rights committee.

The much-hyped “north Korean human rights issue” is based on the rubbish uttered by the human scum who committed unforgivable crimes and fled from the DPRK leaving their parents and children behind.

The US had better put its house in order before finding fault with others.

According to a statement released by the US administration, the number of homeless people in the country

increased by about 10 percent in 2017 as compared to two years before and the number of destitute families living in rented rooms devoid of elementary living conditions is also on the rise.

Students fall into the “hell of loan”, and patients find it difficult to recover from illnesses even though they spend all their money due to the excessively high medical fees and red tape at hospitals.

As women are treated like playthings and commodities, one woman is subjected to sexual abuse every 89 seconds.

According to raw statistics, nearly 61 100 cases of gun violence occurred in 2017, leaving 15 488 dead and 31 058 wounded.

However, the US is shamelessly playing “international human rights judge” while turning a blind eye to such reality at home.

Its vile anti-DPRK human rights racket is a unilateral and prejudiced hostile act utterly bereft of fairness and equity.

It has never criticized or called to account the unheard-of crimes of Japan that forcibly abducted over 8.4 million Korean young and middle-aged

people to use them as cannon fodder on battlefields and slaves at labour sites, reduced 200 000 Korean women to sex slaves and mercilessly killed more than a million Koreans.

The US’ intensive human rights row is geared to marring the DPRK’s image, justifying its sanctions and pressure, making the latter give way to it at the negotiating table and finally overthrowing the latter’s system.

The US is now playing up the north Korean nuclear issue as a stumbling block to improved bilateral relations. But it is obvious that even though the issue is settled, the US will keep forcing the DPRK to change its system as it brings up new conditions in addition to the “human rights issue”.

There has been a radical change in the political and military equilibrium between the DPRK and the US. The US must squarely see the trend of the times and behave itself.

And the countries and forces that are kowtowing to the US should come to their senses and jump out of the time-worn anti-DPRK bandwagon.

Ri Sung Gwon

## S. KOREA

# Strife gets fiercer for party hegemony

An internecine strife is getting fiercer within the south Korean conservatives to take over the post of Liberal Korea Party representative before its convention slated for February next year.

Former prime minister Hwang Kyo An, who secures the highest approval rating among the conservatives, said that he is confident of victory in the convention and he will challenge even though he might be hurt. He is now busy securing a foothold to try for party hegemony as he speeds up admission to the LKP and holds discussions with assemblymen.

Former LKP representative Hong Jun Phyoo also revealed his ambition to run for the party leadership by finally declaring a “comeback to realistic politics”, saying that it is time to restore his honour and the most pressing task is to pave the way afresh for the party’s return to power.

Kim Mu Song, former representative of the Saenuri Party—the predecessor of the LKP—and member of the anti-Park Geun Hye faction, disclosed his intention to try for party hegemony on different occasions, although he advertised that he had no idea to

run at the convention.

Members of the LKP’s emergency measure committee are trying to hold Hong and Kim in check, saying that it will be tantamount to digging their own graves if they try to take the helm of the party and the committee will not tolerate them if they cause any confusion.

Kim Pyong Jun, chairman of the committee, is working to belittle Park Geun Hye and Hong Jun Phyoo with an eye to becoming party representative in the next year’s convention and president for the next term.

The LKP’s floor leader Kim Song Thae resorts to all means, fair or foul, to slander his rivals and burnish his image, saying that he will run at the convention for conservatism and victory in the next general election and that Hwang Kyo An is a flower in a greenhouse.

As to the fierce feud inside the party, the local media and experts derided the LKP, saying it has not yet come to its senses, its low approval rating is attributed to ingrained factional strife and the bad habit of the outdated party is being restored.

By Om Ryoung PT

# It is high time Japan thought on its own

Japan which was keeping pace with the US in the international arena has recently gone astray.

On an official occasion, Prime Minister Abe told President Trump that the US should consider its policy of trade pressure against Japan and return to Japan-led Trans-Pacific Partnership, while refusing to sign the free trade agreement with the Americans.

On the other hand he agreed to conduct joint economic activities with the Russians at a Russo-Japanese summit on his visit to Russia for attending the Oriental economic forum in early September, and concluded a large economic contract with China as he toured the country in late October.

As to his behaviour, some guessed that there might be any change in Japan’s foreign policy.

But they guessed wrong due to misjudgment.

When it was made public on November 13 that Vice-President Pence was coming to Japan with rage, Abe asked the Americans for compassion and vowed to invariably cement

alliance with the US which he called the “pivot” of Japan’s diplomacy, revealing his true nature as a pro-US lackey.

And at the talks with Pence, he pledged to pay a colossal sum of government support money for implementing the “India-Pacific Strategy” geared to encircling China, but never uttered a word of protest when Pence urged him to conclude the free trade agreement, claiming it is indispensable for building up the bilateral alliance.

Such behaviour suits the henchman of the US.

Currently the Abe clique often talks about improved DPRK-Japan relations, but they keep pursuing the anti-DPRK policy.

Before a drastic turn was made in the Korean peninsula situation, Japan took the lead in implementing the US scheme to impose sanctions and pressure on the DPRK and cooking up a new anti-DPRK sanctions resolution and bragged that he would not hold dialogue with north Korea before the “abduction issue” is resolved.

But when the US began dialogue with the DPRK and the

historic bilateral summit was held in Singapore, Abe made a volte-face, saying Japan would independently work to improve relations with the DPRK.

Japan held a summit meeting with the DPRK 16 years before the US and adopted the DPRK-Japan Pyongyang Declaration for normalizing diplomatic relations.

However, every achievement was reduced to a scrap of paper due to betrayal by Japan which only toed the US line of hostility toward the DPRK.

Japan still remains unchanged in such a despicable behaviour.

But it had better ponder on what has been the reward of its faithful service to the US.

A new era requires a new way of thinking and one can find a new path only when one sees the reality squarely free from outdated thoughts.

The DPRK’s stand is clear as ever.

If the Abe clan keeps behaving badly, they will never be able to get to Pyongyang but only lament their miserable plight.

Thae Chol

## JAPAN

# Nasty scheme

On his recent foreign tour, Abe begged for cooperation in the “issue of abduction” of any Japanese by the DPRK.

He asked for help at the talks with US Vice-President Pence on November 13 and at those with the Indonesian President and the Singaporean Prime Minister on November 15.

As far as the “abduction issue” is concerned, it was completely resolved through the Pyongyang visit by the then Japanese prime minister and the consequent publication of the historic DPRK-Japan Pyongyang Declaration in 2002.

Why then does Japan persist in such mean acts over the “abduction issue”?

In fact, Japan has no face and qualification to find fault with the DPRK over the issue.

In the previous century it occupied Korea militarily to enforce colonial rule for over 40 years as it forcibly took away lots of Koreans to battlefields as cannon fodder and slave labour sites.

Particularly, it abducted 200 000 Korean women as sexual slaves for its troops, and it is now the butt of international denunciation for this most heinous unethical crime

unprecedented in the world history of war.

The Japanese imperialists ran the “comfort women” system in an attempt to whip up soldiers into a frenzy of aggression as they kidnapped Korean women in large numbers.

Their targets were not confined to unmarried women in their twenties. They rounded up married women and early teenagers under the signboard of “recruitment” or “job offer” and even abducted passers-by and farmers in the fields.

This notwithstanding, the Japanese authorities still deny the crime as they insult the victims as “prostitutes” and try to gloss over the grave crime by giving some money to survivors in the name of a civilian fund.

Facts clearly reveal the aim of Japan’s begging.

It is trying to elicit sympathy from other countries over the “abduction issue” so as to cover up all the heinous crimes it committed in the past including sex slavery, and meddle in the international affair related to the Korean peninsula from which it has been sidelined.

By Song Jong Ho PT



## TAEKWON-DO

# Young players add glory to Taekwon-Do homeland

After seeing the matches played by the DPRK Taekwon-Doists at the 13th youth and 8th veteran Taekwon-Do world championships held in August, an executive member and chairwoman of the women committee of the International Taekwon-Do Federation, said that the Korean players were wonderful, she was deeply impressed by the superb performance of movements by the young Korean debutants in the world championships and the players of Taekwon-Do homeland were really better than others.

The DPRK junior Taekwon-Do players won 21 gold, six silver and four bronze medals in the individual first-, second- and third- dan patterns, team pattern, individual and team sparring, self-defence routine and special technique, thereby topping the country rankings and lifting the trophy for the 12th time in the championships.

Most attractive among them was Hyon Mu Gang, who snatched four gold medals in the men's individual third-dan pattern, men's 45kg individual

sparring in the 16-17 age group, team sparring and men's self-defence events.

"I have climbed Mt Jongbang with my friends when I was a child. Hearing stories there about warriors in the mountain who fought bravely to defend their native place with fine martial art skills, I felt a strong impulse to learn the martial art," Hyon answered a journalist who asked about his motive for choosing Taekwon-Do out of so many sports.

For the first time he competed in the Jongilbong Prize national schoolchildren's Taekwon-Do championships in 2015 and came first in pattern and third in the sparring event. Later, he stole the show as a sparring ace in his weight division.

Hyon beat the Belarus player in the men's 45kg individual sparring final to win the title.

"I made my international debut in the championships. I had the courage no others could have. It was the courage that I was just a player of Taekwon-Do homeland. It is the secret of my triumph," he said.

Pak Ji Hyang, who competed in the championships for the

first time, also attracted the attention of experts.

The winner of three gold medals, including the women's 46kg individual sparring title, gave full play to her capacity in the special technique event.

She left a deep impression on the spectators by performing at a high level such movements as 2.2-metre front kick with high jump, 2.1-metre turning kick, 2-metre opposite turning kick and turning side kick and 1.5-metre kick jumping over obstacles. She also won the event.

She took part in the Jongilbong Prize national schoolchildren's Taekwon-Do championships in 2016 for the first time and finished runner-up in the women's individual sparring event.

She was not depressed, but redoubled her efforts to train her skills, which led her to successive wins in the event from the year after.

Hyon and Pak were awarded men's and women's individual technical prizes respectively at the championships.

By Yun Kyong Il PT

## ICH

# Cultural heritage under good protection

Notable achievements have been made in the DPRK in its efforts to protect intangible cultural heritage as part of its programme to carry on and develop the spiritual and cultural heritage created by the ancestors.

After the national administrative organization for the protection of intangible cultural heritage was formed in August 2012, non-permanent national heritage protection committees were set up in provinces, cities, districts and counties to regularly conduct the discovery, research, examination and assessment of intangible cultural heritage elements.

As a result, more than 100 elements have so far been discovered to be added to the national and local ICH lists, and the Grand Bull Prize national ssirum tournament, national traditional food show and national peasant dance contest for agricultural workers rich in national flavour take place as annual events.

At the same time ICH offices have been set up in the Korea

National Heritage Preservation Agency and similar agencies in provinces so that they can play a role as scientific research centres and advisory organs in this affair.

Exchange and cooperation have been intensified since the country

acceded to the international convention on the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage in November 2008, including several rounds of UNESCO workshops and experience-sharing with various countries.

Folk song *Arirang* and the kimchi-making custom were inscribed on the UNESCO's Representative List of ICH of Humanity respectively in 2014 and 2015, thus enriching the world's ICH treasure trove.

Compiled from KCNA



CHOE WON CHOL / PICTORIAL KOREA

Wrestlers compete at the Grand Bull Prize ssirum contest.

## BIRD

# Goshawk, national bird of DPRK

Goshawk, or *Accipiter gentilis*, is the national bird of the DPRK.

Korean ancestors formed close relationship with it in olden times.

"Research into Ancient Tombs of Koguryo", a book published in 2010, says: "The hunting using goshawk is seen on murals at Tomb No. 1 in Anak and Tomb No. 1 in Zhangtiantan of China and many other tomb murals."

As seen above, the Koreans have long tamed goshawk to use it in hunting animals.

Once the bird discovers its prey as it flies round in the sky, it swoops down on the target in a flash.

Already in the middle ages, the Koreans bred goshawk in their homes, and there was a government department dealing with the raising of goshawk in the period of Koryo (918-1392).

Goshawk was also called poramae, phurunmae and kkwongmae, and it was known as haedongchong in neighbouring countries. Haedongchong



KIM KWANG SU / PICTORIAL KOREA

Goshawk.

means phurunmae (peregrine falcon) of Korea.

Belonging to the eagle family of the stork-heron order, goshawk is generally 48-61cm long, 500g-1kg in weight and 105-130cm in wingspread.

All the Korean people love the bird with a small body which is balanced in appearance, keen eyes, sharp beak, strong claws, fast speed and clever and intelligent disposition.

By Jong Chol PT

## CULTURE

# Long-standing tea culture of Korea

The Korean nation has its time-honoured tea culture.

It dates back to the period of the Three Kingdoms, when tea growing was promoted.

The origin of tea and tea-drinking custom are recorded in history book *Samguksagi* (*Chronicles of the Three Kingdoms*).

Tea drinking was only limited to the rich and Buddhist priests originally, but it was popularized later.

Some Koguryo tomb murals show people savouring tea.

The tea culture was further developed in the period of Koryo.

Tea drinking became an indispensable part of the Koryo people's dietary practice.

Especially, tea was one of essential drinks at state ceremonies in the kingdom.

The Koryo people developed their own tea sets. Most commonly used were jade green ceramic teacups exhibiting the characteristic features of Koryo celadon. It is said that Koryo tea in the ceramic teacup was so fragrant that its flavour defied description.

*History of Koryo Dynasty* and other historical records describe

the development of tea culture in detail.

It was succeeded by the feudal Joseon dynasty.

*The Chronicles of Feudal Joseon Dynasty* says that the tea-drinking custom was carried on, embracing all people from those in the royal court to commoners in the countryside.

At that time the tea culture of the nation reached a new height.

The Koreans made different kinds of teas by steeping or infusing the fruits, roots and leaves of trees that contain medicinal substances.

Typical of them are teas made with insam, the seed of oriental senna and barley.

People made such health drinks on the basis of profound knowledge about nature and ecology they acquired through their working lives.

Especially, the five-fruit tea, oriental senna seed tea and tea made with the buds of a tea plant were counted as best ones and they were rarely found in the neighbouring countries.

The long-standing tea culture of the Korean nation goes on and develops further.

By Choe Yong Nam PT

