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Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un pays homage to Chairman Kim Jong Il



Kim Jong Un, chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea, chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, visited the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun to mark the seventh anniversary of the death of Chairman Kim Jong Il.

The Supreme Leader was accompanied by leading officials of the WPK Central Committee.

He entered the hall where the statues of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il stand.

Baskets of flowers were placed there in the name of the Supreme Leader and in the joint name of

the WPK Central Committee and Central Military Commission and the DPRK State Affairs Commission.

In the hall where Kim Jong Il lies in state, Kim Jong Un paid highest tribute to him who devoted his all to national prosperity and the people's happiness until the last moments of

his revolutionary career.

He called on the entire Party to work harder to fulfil the obligation as his revolutionary soldiers, so as to implement his plan and desire to the last without an inch of deviation and any concession.

Compiled from KCNA

REMEMBRANCE

Nation commemorates seventh anniversary of Chairman Kim Jong Il's death

The whole country was enveloped in an ardent yearning for Chairman Kim Jong Il to mark the seventh anniversary of his death on December 17.

Government officials visited the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun where the Chairman lies in state

to pay homage to him.

They included Kim Yong Nam, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Presidium of the DPRK Supreme People's

Assembly, Premier Pak Pong Ju, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and vice-chairman of the DPRK State Affairs Commission, other government officials, the chairman of a friendly party,

officials of government organs, the Cabinet, working people's organizations, ministries and national agencies.

Baskets of flowers were placed at the statues of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il in the name of

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un and in the joint name of the WPK Central Committee and Central Military Commission and the DPRK State Affairs Commission.

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Remembrance: Nation cherishes memory of the great leader

FROM PAGE 1

A basket of flowers in the joint name of the Presidium of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly and the Cabinet was also laid at the statues.

The visitors paid tribute to the great leaders in front of the statues.

At the hall of immortality where the Chairman lies in state they made deep bows to him.

A basket of flowers sent by the Supreme Leader was placed at the statues of the President and the Chairman on Mansu Hill in Pyongyang.

Floral baskets were laid at the statues in the name of Party, government and military organs, social organizations, ministries, national agencies, institutions, industrial establishments and schools at all levels in Pyongyang and units of the Korean People's Army and the Korean People's Internal Security Forces.

Floral baskets and bouquets were also laid at other statues and beaming images of the great leaders in Pyongyang and local areas.

Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari sent a basket of flowers to the statues of the DPRK great leaders on Mansu Hill.

Floral baskets also came from Yuwen Middle School in Jilin, China, the Swiss-Korea Committee and families of Zhang Weihua, Chinese anti-Japanese revolutionary martyr, Kim Sun Ok related to the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, and Ya. T. Nobichenko, the late Russian internationalist.

Jong Il Sim, widow of DPRK

Hero An Tong Su, laid a basket of flowers at the statues of the great leaders on Mansu Hill. Baskets of flowers in the name of the Anti-imperialist National Democratic Front and from an Angolan personage were placed there.

The Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan sent a letter to the Supreme Leader on the same occasion.

At the plaza of the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun the visitors made deep bows to the President and the Chairman, looking up to their beaming images.

Party and government officials, the chairman of a friendly party and officials of ministries and national agencies visited the Korean Revolution Museum.

Remembrance meetings and concerts took place in succession.

The workers and members of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea held an oath-taking meeting at the Central Hall of Workers.

Farmers and their union members held a meeting for storytelling about the noble virtues of the Chairman in Poman-ri in Sohng County of North Hwanghae Province which is associated with the leadership exploits of the Chairman.

Officials and members of the women's union gave a remembrance concert at the Hall of Women.

The National Symphony Orchestra gave a remembrance concert at the Moranbong Theatre in Pyongyang.

Similar concerts and performances were given in provinces.

By Pak Song Min PT



An endless stream of visitors flows to the plaza of the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun where Chairman Kim Jong Il lies in state to mark the greatest memorial day of the country.



Senior officials visit the Korean Revolution Museum.



People pay floral tribute in front of Chairman Kim Jong Il's statue on Mansu Hill in Pyongyang.



A remembrance event is held at the East Pyongyang Grand Theatre.



Young people gather in memory of the Chairman.

OVERSEAS

World community joins to recall the Chairman's legacy

Events took place in different countries to commemorate the 7th anniversary of the demise of Chairman Kim Jong Il.

There were a remembrance meeting in Libya, lectures in Serbia and Brazil and round-table talks in Venezuela and Ethiopia from Nov. 30 to Dec. 8.

The chairman of the Libyan committee for remembering Kim Jong Il said that a lot of Libyan people are well aware of and greatly impressed by the exploits performed by the Chairman and successes achieved by the Korean people under his leadership.

The chairman of the Serbian committee for remembering him said that the world's progressives recollect with deep emotion his revolutionary career with an immense yearning and in humble reverence for him as

he made a great contribution to the happiness of the Korean people, the building of a powerful socialist country and the accomplishment of the cause of independence against imperialism.

The great exploits he performed all his life will be kept forever in the hearts of mankind, he added.

Officials of the Oromia Designing Supervisory Office and other units in Ethiopia praised Kim Jong Il as the greatest man respected by the world as he devoted himself to the happiness of the people till the last moments of his life.

Seminars on his exploits took place in Romania, Ethiopia and Algeria between Dec. 4 and 8 on the same occasion.

Vasile Orleanu, chairman of the Romanian committee for remembering him, said that he developed the Juche

idea founded by President Kim Il Sung by conducting energetic ideological and theoretical activities and performed exploits for the Korean revolution and the cause of global independence.

Thanks to the great devotion of the Chairman, the DPRK could rank itself among military powers and achieve miraculous successes in economic construction and the improvement of the people's standards of living despite the imperialists' vicious moves, he noted.

Nigatu Dagnachew, chairman of the Ethiopian National Committee for the Study of Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism, praised Kim Jong Il for performing great exploits for the country, the people, the times and the history, and Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un for demonstrating to the world

the might of the DPRK as a politico-ideological power and military power.

The chairman of the Algeria-DPRK Friendship Association said that Kim Jong Il was an extraordinary elder statesman recognized by the world, a leader of the people with boundlessly humble and popular traits and a peerlessly great man who braved all ordeals of history with his outstanding leadership and developed the DPRK into a genuine country of the people.

A joint meeting was held on December 7 by the Nepalese National Committee for Remembering President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il, the Nepal-Korea Friendship Association, the Nepal Journalist Association for the Study of the Juche Idea and Songun Politics, the Socialist Journalist Forum of Nepal for the Study of the Juche Idea,

the Nepali Literary Forum for the Study of Songun Politics and the Study Forum for Self-Reliance of Nepal.

The meeting discussed the matters of giving wide publicity to revolutionary careers and exploits of the peerlessly great men through media and organizing political and cultural events including remembrance meeting, seminar, film show and book and photo exhibition on the occasion of the 7th anniversary of the demise of Kim Jong Il, the 7th anniversary of Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un's assumption of the supreme commandship of the Korean People's Army and the 101st birth anniversary of anti-Japanese war heroine Kim Jong Suk.

Present there were figures of organizations for friendship and solidarity with the Korean people and for the study of the Juche idea including the ex-minister of Land Reform and Management and the general secretary of the Central Committee of the Nepal Communist Party (Marxist-Leninist).

Compiled from KCNA

RESPONSE

Kim Jong Un credited with bringing detente to Korean peninsula

This year, the Korean peninsula situation took a U-turn from acute tension to reconciliation, unity and peace in the world media limelight.

An internet newspaper of Russia's Khabarovsk Territory said recent landmark events in the Korean peninsula were brought about by the broad-minded measures of Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un, adding he is steering the current political situation and external relations by dint of his outstanding decision, resolute negotiating ability, keen insight and skilful diplomacy.

The director of a German publishing house said that the world's progressive peoples reckon the dramatic turnaround was recently effected in the peninsula as a result of the wise leadership of Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un, and expressed the belief that the Korean people will surely emerge victorious in their struggle for defending national sovereignty and peace and stability of the peninsula.

American newspaper *The Washington Post* commented that the current atmosphere in the peninsula was created by

the Supreme Leader's self-confidence, and magazine *Nation* said that the DPRK leader referred to the need to ease military tension between the north and south of Korea and sincerely discuss the matter of improving inter-Korean relations by the Korean nation itself, and stressed that the driving force of dialogue was obviously provided by him.

Now the international community is describing him as a great man of the century who is steering the trend of political situation in the Korean peninsula and the world.

It is unprecedented in history that three rounds of north-south summits, three DPRK-China summit talks, and a DPRK-US summit meeting were held in less than five months.

The world's media praise the DPRK leader as the master of independent diplomacy in the 21st century, describing the events as an "unheard-of one in the world history of diplomacy" and the "most typical example of Kim Jong Un-style diplomacy" and saying "GMT seems to quicken unprecedentedly thanks to Chairman Kim Jong Un's proactive and continuous

diplomatic offensive this year".

Articles saying that "Chairman Kim Jong Un distinguished himself as a world leader at the summit meeting with the US" and "The dynamic landscape of the region changed markedly due to Kim Jong Un's energetic diplomatic activities" were posted on an American website to create a sensation.

Voices praising the Supreme Leader as the "most outstanding political leader in modern times", "a veteran statesman steering the international political situation with self-confidence" and "a man with unusual courage" are heard more loudly on the international arena as the days go by.

It is the unanimous public opinion at home and abroad that the Supreme Leader, who eased in a breathing the situation in the Korean peninsula which has been regarded as the hottest spot in the world and made a great contribution to global peace and security, has brought peace to the Korean peninsula and the region.

By Ri Sang Il PT

ANNIVERSARY

Kim Jong Suk paragon of loyalty to leader

December 24 is the birthday of anti-Japanese war heroine Kim Jong Suk.

She grew up experiencing the sorrow of a nation stripped of its independence by the Japanese imperialists and embarked on the road of revolution in her early years.

As she joined the Korean People's Revolutionary Army led by Commander Kim Il Sung in September 1935, she regarded it as the life and soul of revolutionary soldiers to guard him at the cost of their lives.

One October day in 1940, a small unit under the direct control of the KPRA headquarters was marching towards Sifangtai of Yanji, China.

The unit bivouacked in a valley and Kim Jong Suk was preparing for a meal at a spring, when she saw a column of smoke rising nearby. She rushed to the place to find, to her surprise, some soldiers making a fire. She rebuked them for not keeping in mind that vigilance was the lifeblood of the soldiers of the unit with a mission to safeguard the

Commander. If they are lax even for a moment and act without vigilance, it might not only cost a few lives but cause a great loss to the Korean revolution, she noted, adding that before doing anything, they should consider whether it might affect the safety of the headquarters.

Kim Jong Suk protected the Commander as a human shield on many battlefields and absolutely followed and staunchly defended his revolutionary ideas and lines during the anti-Japanese war.

During the Arduous March of the anti-Japanese revolution, Kim Il Sung dispatched her to the Qingfeng secret camp on a mission to take care of wounded and sickly soldiers. When the chief of the camp spoke against the Commander's idea and line, she resolutely stood up to him, saying "We are soldiers of General Kim Il Sung. Who are you? You are an enemy of the revolution."

She also exposed the true colours of a renegade who neglected to carry out an order of the headquarters in the snow-covered forests of

Dongpaizi, frightened by the enemy's counter-revolutionary offensive.

After Korea's liberation, she visited different parts of the country in succession to implement Kim Il Sung's line of founding the Party, state and army.

Cherishing noble revolutionary fidelity to her comrades who had fallen during the anti-Japanese armed struggle, she found out their children and showed them motherly affection as she brought them up as pillars of the future and presentable patriots who would succeed their parents.

Taking the idea of "The people are my God" as her creed of life, she always shared weal and woe with the people and won great trust and respect of her comrades and people for her warm-heartedness, modesty, unusual simplicity and diligence.

Her life was short, but she is always remembered by the Korean people as the anti-Japanese war heroine.

By Pang Un Ju PT

MEDIA

Chairman praised as leader of people

Russian newspapers ran special features on the great exploits performed by Chairman Kim Jong Il, carrying the portrait of his beaming image and his photo, on the occasion of the 7th anniversary of his demise.

Russian newspaper *Byvor* and internet newspapers *Edinaya Korea* and *Bremya Peremon* introduced immortal revolutionary hymn *Song of General Kim Jong Il* under the title of "Great man immortal with hymn".

Tsumenskaya Pravda newspaper devoted one whole page to an article titled "Kim Jong Il, leader of the people".

The article said: Kim Jong Il of the DPRK was a genuine leader of the people who believed in them and led the country by relying on them.

He ardently loved the people. His warm loving care for the people found expression in his ceaseless field guidance of great devotion for the people whom he had regarded as the most precious and powerful being in the world and his teacher.

He regarded the interests of the people as the starting point of all his thinking and activities and devoted his all to translating their interests into reality. He was possessed of plain, humble, unreserved and popular traits.

He braved all ordeals of history with his outstanding leadership to glorify the DPRK as a genuine socialist state centred on the masses of the people and provide a firm foundation for building a powerful country.

His noble image will be kept forever in the hearts of the Korean people and the world's progressives.

Newspapers of different countries carried articles on the same occasion.

Egyptian newspaper *Al Akhbar Almassay* on December 6 said in an article under the title of "A great master of independent politics":

Leader Kim Jong Il was a great

master of independent politics.

He thoroughly applied the Juche idea to the Korean revolution and construction.

As he adhered to the firm independent line, the DPRK could remain unperturbed when socialism collapsed in different countries one after another at the end of the last century.

Songun politics pursued by him is an effective political mode to firmly maintain independence on the international arena.

Mankind will hand down his exploits for all ages.

The Nigerian Observer on December 7 said in an article titled "Kim Jong Il, leader of the people" that Kim Jong Il loved his people boundlessly.

Kim Jong Il regarded the people as the most precious being in the world and devotedly served them, the article said, and went on:

He regarded the interests of the people as the starting point of all his thinking and activities and spared nothing for their happiness.

He possessed simplicity, modesty and unreserved and popular traits.

He turned the DPRK into a genuine socialist state centred on the masses of the people with his outstanding leadership.

Bangladeshi newspaper *The Daily Folk* on December 9 carried an article under the title of "Last year of devotion" which highly praised Kim Jong Il for having made the journey of love for the people till the last moments of his life.

Newspapers of the Democratic Republic of Congo and Cambodia carried special write-ups.

L'Avenir of the Democratic Republic of Congo on December 3 carried an article titled "Eternal leader of the Korean people", along with the portrait of smiling Kim Jong Il.

Leader Kim Jong Il will always live as the eternal leader in the hearts of the Korean people, it said.

Compiled from KCNA



PAK CHANG BOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Women from foreign embassies and country offices of international organizations in the DPRK visit Pyongyang Teachers Training College on December 19 to mark the 101st birth anniversary of anti-Japanese war heroine Kim Jong Suk.

PRODUCTION

Machine giant combines science and technology with production

The Taean Heavy Machine Complex has overfulfilled this year's plan in terms of industrial output value by 33.3 percent.

From the outset of this year, it pushed forward with the technical updating of overall production processes and increased production to attain a higher goal. Especially, it devised and introduced many technical innovation plans into production processes through a dynamic mass technical innovation movement, so as to boost output step by step.

In the first half of this year, it pressed on with main production and a project for introducing CNC into heavy machine tools in parallel. It replaced old control devices and processes with CNC devices and efficient parts to improve the accuracy of finishing and raise productivity more than twice.

By setting up a process of

reusing heavy machine parts, it reproduced several large-size gears and sent them to coal mines and thermal power stations this year. Reproduction facilities ensure ten times higher efficiency than the previous ones and the reprocessed gears have a longer lifespan.

The complex completed the project of applying CNC to processing equipment before September 9, the founding anniversary of the DPRK. It ensured the proper maintenance and reinforcement of hydraulic power unit and switchboard of existing cutting facilities and other processes and manufactured and installed CNC devices and several efficient AC servomotors, making it possible to process any sophisticated machines and parts such as hydraulic turbine blade.

A large-size automatic welding process with 15 times

higher productivity than the previous welding work has also been established. Technicians introduced various technical innovation plans to improve the performance of heavy-current unit, rectifier and other parts, minimize power consumption during welding and ensure the quality of welding even in different material conditions.

Besides, the complex built or renovated more than ten production processes including the laser-based 3D measuring process and CO₂ gas arc welding process this year, thereby overfulfilling its production plan every month.

Some technical innovation plans devised at the complex were highly appreciated at the national technical innovation competition of the April 15 technical innovation shock brigades held in celebration of the 70th anniversary of the DPRK and the 33rd sci-tech festival.

"We have made notable achievements in the production of power generating equipment this year in response to the call of the Party for closely combining science and technology with production," said Yang Mun Sang, chief engineer of the complex. "We will make a bigger leap forward in the production of custom-built equipment so as to contribute to easing the country's electricity shortage."

By Yun Kyong Il PT



Parts of large-size equipment are in the processing at the Taean Heavy Machine Complex.

PAK CHANG BOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

APP

Programs help study history and language

Applications developed by the Academy of Social Sciences are now all the rage.

Among them are "Korean surname and family origin" and cartoon player "Sulgi" which were registered as the best local IT products last year.

"Everyone has their ancestors. To know well about the history of your surname and ancestral home, the initiator of the surname and your illustrious ancestors is of great significance in understanding the history, culture and life of your nation with its own traditions. 'Korean surname and family origin' helps our nationals at home and abroad extend their knowledge of their ancestors," said Kong Myong Song, director of the national classics institute.

"Korean surname and family origin" mainly introduces the history of more than 200 long-standing surnames and over 500 ancestral homes and some 3 000 representative figures according to the places of origin. In each surname, it deals with its progenitor, father of each ancestral home and branches of each family. As to well-known figures, it deals with only persons who lived till August 15 1945 when Korea was liberated from Japanese military rule, and the part of ancestral homes of corresponding surnames mainly contains renowned officials, scholars, persons of culture, technicians and commanders of volunteer armies and infamous persons as well.

"Sulgi" comprises dozens of cartoons showing the time-honoured history and culture of the Korean nation including "The woman with deer's feet and her sons" that represents the resourcefulness, sentiments and

patriotic desire of the Koguryo people.

In addition, there are "Common linguistic knowledge" and "Comprehensive dictionary of Chinese characters".

The former helps users have a good understanding of the characteristic features of Korean language and its usage in practice.

It tells the ways to correctly use words and particles and to construct sentences, the rules of writing and the like.

"Comprehensive dictionary of Chinese characters" contains as entries about 25 000 Chinese characters that were or are widely used in the Korean people's linguistic life and national classics. They were selected from hundreds of kinds of classical documents and various dictionaries.

According to candidate academician and Prof. Yun Kuk Il, Chinese characters had long been used as a major means of writing in Korea and therefore many national classics were written in Chinese ideograms and lots of words borrowed from them are still used in the Koreans' linguistic life. He said he brought out the dictionary to help users study Chinese characters with a correct understanding of them and develop the national language from the standpoint of Juche.

"Users have high expectations for our programs. Each institute of the Academy of Social Sciences is now redoubling efforts to develop more valuable apps that are substantially helpful to people's life," said Ham Sun Yong, section chief of the academy.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

FOOTWEAR

Factory eyes stylish, functional shoes

There was a special man-puller at the venue of national footwear exhibition-2018 held last October. It was the booth displaying Kumchongang-brand articles presented by the Sunchon Leather Shoes Factory. The exhibits were diverse in kind, shape and colour to cater for men with different tastes, ages and physical features.

The factory has achieved fame as it has produced quality and smart leather shoes for decades, and especially its men's shoes are favoured by customers as they are original and chic.

These days it channels big efforts into developing new products and upgrading

equipment so as to further diversify products in terms of kind, shape and colour and lighten them.

"Our target is to make smarter, more distinct, various and functional footwear," said Kang Kwang Nam, technical official of the factory.

This year alone, the factory developed and produced dozens of kinds of shoes. To overcome the monotony of products from the same assembly lines, it changed the style and colour of uppers and the shape of soles for both men's and women's winter shoes. It works in a planned way to invent unique shoe shapes with efficient design

programs and introduce them into production.

The factory has also been successful in upgrading production processes and recycling materials. It refashioned the heating system in the leather shoe production process to improve the quality of products while reducing the consumption of electricity. It upgraded the glue feeder to minimize the waste of adhesives and renovated the desulphurizing process to increase the physical property value of recycle materials and lower the content of natural raw materials.

Technicians positively introduce new technical innovation plans into all production processes including those for trainers and injection-moulded shoes in order to increase their outputs while saving raw and other materials and labour. Among

such valuable plans are the installation of a supercritical carbon dioxide injector in the production process of trainer soles, the conversion of the water cooling system into a self-circulating type, the installation of additional devices for

washing waste materials and the establishment of the recyclable material pulverizing process.

The factory is now working to apply the designs of leather shoes with new soles.

By Choe Kwang Jin PT



Workers give finishing touches to leather shoes at the Sunchon Leather Shoes Factory.

PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

EDUCATION

Nation makes steady progress in education

A stride forward in line with educational policy

This year the DPRK has made a big stride forward in educational work by consistently pursuing the policy of attaching importance to education.

The Third Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea held in April discussed and decided on the matter of effecting a revolutionary turn in science and education and put forward slogan "Let us make a leap forward by dint of science and guarantee the future by dint of education!"

Holding aloft this strategic slogan, officials in the educational sector and educators across the country set the goal of adorning this year of science and education with greater educational achievements.

Primary attention was paid to building up the ranks of teachers and enhancing their qualifications and sense of responsibility, thereby firing their enthusiasm for improving their qualifications.

Positive activities were also conducted to further perfect the educational system as required by developing reality.

Technical senior middle schools in the field of information technology were established in Pyongyang and provinces this year, too, in the wake of last year, marking a big step forward in rounding off the general secondary education system, while new courses and departments were instituted at universities in the efforts to diversify special and other studies.

Remarkable achievements

were also made in improving teaching content and constantly inventing and applying new teaching forms and methods in line with the modern trend of educational development.

The general secondary education sector upgraded the educational programme of universal 12-year compulsory education and made teaching content practicable, comprehensive and modern according to school types and subjects.

The higher education sector introduced subjects of cutting-edge science and technology. Many universities including Pyongyang Teachers Training College and Kim Hyong Jik University of Education devised excellent teaching methods by applying latest educational science and technology and generalized them.

Lecturers and researchers of such universities as Kim Il Sung University, Kim Chaek University of Technology and Pyongyang University of Architecture achieved good research

results that would go a long way towards developing the national economy.

Different universities held sci-tech festivals, exhibitions of achievements in educational science and sectoral scientific symposiums to actively promote education, scientific research and sci-tech exchanges.

The online education system of universities developed onto a higher stage to propel the campaign to make all the people well versed in science and technology. For example, Kim Chaek University of Technology Online introduced new teaching methods including the intellectual education management system.

The vitality of the online education system is evidenced by the reality in which many workers of industrial establishments have been trained to be efficient technological personnel through distance education and are playing a crucial role in modernizing their factories.

By Jong Sun Bok PT



The 19th national software exhibition shows achievements made in introducing information technology to education.

KCNA

Educational conditions and environment improved

Marked progress has been made in improving educational conditions and environment this year.

Pyongyang refurbished nine schools as exemplary ones to mark the 70th birth anniversary of the DPRK, while different provinces, cities and counties, especially South Hwanghae and South Hamgyong provinces and Nampho City, also rounded off their plans as scheduled.

Phyongsong University of Coal Mining built splendid

practical training bases including the mining engineering practice room to enhance students' power of cognition and practical abilities and the facilities have proved effective in education practice. It also built and reconstructed the high-tech product development institute, publishing house and hall.

Nampho University of Fisheries and Nampho University of Education equipped themselves with the facilities for distance education,

and Phyongsong University of Medicine, College of Education No. 2 of Phyongbuk University and other universities across the country made progress in improving educational environment.

The support of education has gained momentum thanks to the establishment of a habit of attaching importance to education in the whole society.

With the role of supporters' organizations growing higher, a great number of facilities and fixtures needed for education were provided on different occasions including school supporting months in March and October.

By Ryang Kum Chol PT

IT means widely applied to institutions



KIM YONG CHAN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Students work with the help of advanced teaching aids at Pyongyang Teachers Training College.

Achievements have been made this year in introducing IT into educational units.

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un provided field guidance at Pyongyang Teachers Training College, which put education on a scientific, IT and modern footing, in January and highly appreciated its successes and made sure that they were generalized throughout the country. His inspection tour stoked up the enthusiasm for introducing IT into education.

After developing an educational science and administrative management system consisting of educational information, educational administration guidance and management and educational course management, the college directed educational administrative affairs to raising students' zeal for study and their scholarly performance by ensuring the control of overall education and scientific research of the college. It turned all classrooms into multifunctional ones to give specialized practical training and further completed a VR teaching experience system, raising the IT level of education on a constant basis.

Many educational units in Pyongyang, provinces, cities and counties set a high standard for putting education on an IT footing and put spurs to this end so as to make it prove effective in teaching.

Changdok School newly established a real-time system for inspection of class at work and teaching administrative management system, developed a multifunctional teaching and study support system and informatized the laboratory and practical training through the computer-based interface.

Ryongchon County in North

Phyongan Province developed a large number of classrooms into multifunctional ones and applied IT achievements at various schools to many others.

The Pyongyang Orphanage set a model in introducing IT into preschool education.

It developed an efficient program, and introduced IT into instruction and edification.

Consisting of a comprehensive system needed for education and management activities including the system of nursing and upbringing orphaned children, talent management system and e-health management system, the program is in wide use as it proved effective in developing the faculties of observation, memory, imagination and comparison.

The 19th national software exhibition of the educational sector in October showcased the IT achievements made in the sector.

Put on display were hundreds of IT-related programs for education, especially the teaching and study support program, simulated experiment and practical training program and knowledge evaluation program, presented by more than 70 units, together with over 1 000 pieces of educational resources which are in use at and after school. Excellent education support programs attained wide circulation among educational units.

Standardized teaching and study support programs from various universities and senior middle schools won high appraisal at the 2018 national exhibition of IT achievements held in the same month.

By Kil Chung Il PT

TELECOM

Achievements made in upgrading communications

Marked progress has been made in the modernization of communications service.

Scientists and technicians in the field of communications developed major equipment and devices of over 20 kinds including modulation and amplification devices, transmission equipment and data communication facilities needed for large-capacity telephone exchange equipment and digital TV relay by making effective use of local technology and materials.

They widely expanded the switching capacity by developing a modern digital automatic switchboard. An efficient terminal data transmission and reception device was also developed to build up the line communication capacity over the whole country. Hundreds of pieces of equipment and devices including transducers, connection devices and switchboards were made by local technology and equipment for increasing the capacity of line communication between the national and regional communications centres. In particular, they developed a new communications

processing program to be loaded in switchboards so as to ensure promptness and proper operation of national industrial communications and increase the number of users.

Tangible achievements have been made in the national digital TV relay programme.

Lots of products have been manufactured with local materials, equipment and technology to modernize the communications service. The Pyongyang Optical Fibre Communication Cable Factory developed an efficient nonmetallic optical fibre communication cable to suit the regional features of the country and is now increasing its production.

Technicians developed a new type of optical fibre communication cable by introducing a technology for improving such physical properties of communication lines as tensile and bending strength without putting metal string inside the cable in order to ensure the safety of communications equipment from disastrous damage that occur without prior notice. The factory has now established a serial production

process of nonmetallic optical fibre cables of various sizes.

The Pyongyang Communications Machine Factory developed a multifunctional "Ansan" telephone. With far improved technical data compared to the previous products, the telephone is much favoured by many users as it has various functions helpful not only to telephone call but also to everyday life.

Factories, enterprises and scientific research units in the posts and telecommunications sector also made various other modern communications equipment badly needed in various sectors of the national economy and in the fields of science, education and environmental protection.

"At present almost all equipment and devices needed for communications are made by our own efforts and technology. Underlying these achievements are the spirit of self-reliance and self-development and science and technology," said Paek Song Dok, department director of the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications.

By Ri Myong Jun PT

LIQUOR

Pyongyang soju shines as national liquor



CHOE MI GYONG / THE PYONGYANG TIMES
Pyongyang soju, national liquor.

Soju, or a kind of hard liquor, is made by fermenting starchy raw materials and distilling their liquid and its alcohol content is usually 25 percent.

It contains less fusel oil, aldehyde and organic acids than fermented liquor and therefore it has a unique aroma without sour taste.

The Koreans had liked to drink soju since ancient times, especially Pyongyang soju distilled using the water of the Taedong River.

At present Pyongyang soju is the national liquor of the DPRK.

Its main ingredients are corn

and rice and it contains 25 percent of alcohol.

It is clear, suave, sapid and refreshing.

This is ascribed to the production of quality ethyl alcohol and the use of purified water made with the clean and clear water of the Taedong River. Therefore, the liquor has a lingering sweet flavour.

In particular, the suave taste and refreshing feeling are mainly attributable to the use of the rice liquor distilled under reduced pressure with aerotropic yeast and the use of the sugar inverted with organic acid as additive.

The brand of the national liquor depicts the ancestors distilling liquor against the background of the Taedong Gate symbolizing the Walled City of Pyongyang.

Pyongyang soju is produced at the Taedonggang Foodstuff Factory.

The liquor won the February 16 Science and Technology Prize, the top sci-tech prize of the country, and the December 15 Medal of Quality which is awarded to the best local products.

By Kim Kum Myong PT

PHILATELY

A worker collects a hundred thousand stamps

Jong Yong Il is a renowned stamp-collector in the country.

A worker at the Mangyongdae Machine Tool Factory, Jong has collected a total of over a hundred thousand stamps in more than 5 000 kinds since his childhood when he began collecting stamps, fascinated by the cute little pieces of paintings.

"These stamps represent all of my life as well as my family," says Jong.

When he was an innocent child, he took stamps off letters and collected stamps making the rounds of his village. At the time stamps were just like "interesting toys" for him to satisfy his childish hope. They showed cute animals, beautiful flowers, magnificent and imposing buildings, servicemen in stylish uniform like his father and sometimes children like him.

But as he grew up, he began to put great weight on all of them.

He was greatly impressed especially when he saw Korean stamps during his practical training abroad.

Though small, he believed



CHAE MYONG RIM / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Jong Yong Il and his family.

they were part of his homeland even in a faraway alien land. Moreover, when the people of that country admired his country as they realized its reality through them, he felt a surge of pride in and gratitude to the socialist homeland.

"At that time I came to realize again what is homeland. I took the growing benefits of the socialist system and loving care of the Workers' Party of Korea for granted like the air I breathe every day. Under the system we, six brothers and sisters, studied at universities or joined

the army as we wished though we lost our parents at our early years, and now we are leading a happy life at homes provided by the state for free," Jong said, recollecting his past years.

Since then the stamps he collected at random began to be classified and compiled to make collections of stamps according to such themes as "People are masters of the country", "The country of learning", "The country free from worry about medical treatment", "The country free from tax", "All the best things for people",

"Increasing joy of people", "We are the happiest in the world", "We will never forget all hardships experienced by President Kim Il Sung", "People miss General Kim Jong Il", and "Our future is rosy as we are led by the Supreme Leader".

The number of collections of his stamps increased year after year, and they were exhibited sometimes at his workplace and sometimes at other public places.

Visitors lavished praise on him and the exhibits everywhere they were on show.

His stamps began to be displayed and highly appreciated at national exhibitions over a dozen years ago.

Along with the vibrant reality of the country which advances by leaps and bounds the themes of his collections have been enriched and the number of theme stamps increased rapidly.

The selection of themes and stamps is always on his mind today. All his thought are directed to work. He has put forward dozens of technical innovation plans so far, to be called a "master inventor" and "man of wide knowledge".

The over 100 000 pieces of stamps represent his true love for the life, family and workplace.

His friends often say that they can receive stamps as souvenirs, but never can they buy them from him.

By Kim Rye Yong PT

Retail service goes online

A new integrated service system has been set up in Pyongyang Department Store No. 1.

It established the "Pulgunbyol" OS-based integrated service system as required by the developing times.

The new service system consists of an integrated management information system, service management system and service environment control system.

The integration of management information to it has made it possible to put business activities on an IT basis at a high level.

The service management system helps officials correctly make decisions and map out business strategies on the basis of real-time analysed data.

The service environment control system automatically controls the temperature and humidity of the store and other equipment.

The department store was chosen as one of the top ten IT model units at the national exhibition of IT achievements this year.

By Song Jong Ho PT

STATEMENT

US lambasted for continuous anti-DPRK sanctions

It is an event of significance in ensuring peace and security in the region and beyond that the top leaders of the DPRK and the US committed themselves to improved bilateral relations at the historic Singapore summit talks last June, and the current bilateral relationship is advancing according to the steadfast will of the leaders to implement the Singapore DPRK-US Joint Statement in good faith.

But I can hardly repress my indignation at the fact that the US persists in vicious hostile acts against the DPRK, running counter to such developments.

In the past six months since the Singapore summit, the State Secretary and other US high-ranking politicians have slandered the DPRK out of malice almost every day, and the State and Treasury departments have taken anti-DPRK sanctions measures on as many as eight occasions against the companies, individuals and ships of not only the DPRK but also Russia, China and other third countries by inventing all kinds of pretexts such as money laundering, illegal transactions through trans-shipment and cyber-attack.

These days, the US is hell-bent on conducting an anti-DPRK human rights smear campaign as it unhesitatingly commits the reckless provocation of adding

senior government officials of the sovereign state of DPRK to its independent sanctions list, while clamouring about non-existent "human rights problem".

At present, the international community positively welcomes the DPRK's proactive denuclearization measures and urges the US to respond to the steps in kind. And President Trump avails himself of every opportunity to express his willingness to improve relations with the DPRK.

Far from the statements of the President, however, the State Department is bent on bringing the DPRK-US relationship back to the original point of last year marked by exchanges of fire. I cannot help suspecting its ulterior motive.

If they are anything of diplomats of the "only superpower", they should at least be aware from the past history of bilateral relations that sanctions and pressure cut no ice with the DPRK.

It is self-evident that threat, blackmail and pressure against the other side cannot be a solution to a problem as the DPRK and the US are in the relationship of pent-up confrontation, mistrust and hostility and the Americans might know well that the aggravation of situation caused by such hostile acts will not be beneficial to peace and security

in the region and beyond as well as the Korean peninsula.

We know too well that the deep-rooted bilateral enmity cannot be removed overnight, and therefore we have been proposing that the relationship be improved by the step-by-step approach of resolving feasible issues first by giving priority to confidence building.

There will be no greater miscalculation, if the high-ranking politicians of the US administration including the State Department calculated that they could make us give up nuclear weapons by unprecedentedly intensifying anti-DPRK sanctions, pressure and human rights racket which have nothing to do with confidence building, and if so, it will completely block the way to denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, a result desired by no one.

It is advisable for the US to realize before it is too late that "maximum pressure" does not work on the DPRK and to take a sincere approach to implementing the Singapore DPRK-US Joint Statement.

This is the statement the chief of the policy research office of the Institute for American Studies of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the DPRK issued on December 16.

S. KOREA

Calls for national independence gain ground

South Koreans' enthusiasm for national independence has bubbled up to an unprecedented level this year.

Their will to reject foreign interference and put an end to national division in the spirit of "By Our Nation Itself" stood out conspicuously after the adoption of the historic September Pyongyang Joint Declaration.

The South Headquarters of the Pan-National Alliance for Korea's Reunification, headquarters of the movement for conclusion of peace agreement, students' alliance for progress and other social organizations and people conducted various activities such as rally, demonstration, distribution of handouts and signature-collecting campaign as they denounced the US for placing an obstacle to the internal affairs of the Korean nation in every way while clamouring for "speed control" in north-south relations.

South Koreans from all walks of life said that there is no justification for outside forces to interfere in the internal affairs of the nation, strongly urging them to work for durable peace in the Korean peninsula, rather than hampering the development of inter-Korean relations and national reunification.

They underscored the need to cooperate with the north on the principle of national independence and unity even

though foreign intervention and meddling get more intensive. A south Korean news agency recently called for holding north-south dialogue and cooperation independently, saying inter-Korean relations should not fall prey to the "alliance" with foreign forces.

The June 15 South Committee, the students' alliance for progress and other reunification-oriented and students' organizations launched a pan-national signature campaign in demand of the US lifting of anti-DPRK sanctions and adoption of a declaration of termination of war, saying the relinking of north-south railway is the symbol and start of peace on the Korean peninsula and it is a precious dream of students to go to Pyongyang aboard a "reunification" train.

The Confederation of Democratic Trade Unions, the solidarity for people's sovereignty and other civil society organizations said in comments and interviews that a new era of peace and prosperity is being ushered in thanks to the publication of the Panmunjom Declaration and the DPRK-US Joint Statement, there will be no reason for US troops to remain in south Korea when the declaration of termination of war is adopted, and September 8 when the US occupied south Korea must be the day of GI withdrawal.

By Choe Yong Nam PT

AUSTRALIA

Swimming against the tide of peace

Australia has recently decided to dispatch another sea-patrol plane to the vicinity of the Korean peninsula on the pretext of keeping a close watch on the DPRK's violation of "sanctions resolution".

Its defence minister said that Australia would maintain pressure on north Korea until the latter takes measures for CVID, insisting that the recent step is geared to inhibiting the evasion of sanctions and illegal dealings of north Korea and organizations involved.

This cannot but be called into question as it is a very unreasonable act of running counter to the trend of peace in the Korean peninsula and the region.

Thanks to the DPRK's proactive measures, a good atmosphere has been created on the peninsula this year in line with the aspirations and desire of humankind for peace and stability.

Now neighbouring and many

other countries hope that the hard-won trend of détente would be lasting and durable as they hail it.

Voices demanding the loosening or lifting of anti-DPRK sanctions were heard at the recent G20 summit, which signifies that positive activities are conducted to keep going the trend of the developing situation.

Contrary to the efforts of the international community, Australia dampens the peaceful atmosphere created in the Korean peninsula and the region regardless of time.

It dispatched a P-8A Poseidon patrol plane and two AP-3C patrol planes to Japan last April and September to allegedly keep an eye on the maritime trade of DPRK vessels.

It took the lead in committing hostilities against the DPRK by deploying guided-missile cruiser HMAS Melbourne in the sea around the Korean peninsula in October while clamouring

for "economic and diplomatic pressure on north Korea".

If it planned to get its status acknowledged by infringing on the sovereignty of an independent state in the region of great importance in ensuring global peace and security, it would be little short of pricking its own eyes with its own fingers.

Its authorities should not forget the bitter lesson of history they learned in Korea for kowtowing to the US line in the 1950s.

They can never think about the status and influence it is keen to secure since they have become the butt of social contempt by locals, to say nothing of other countries, for going against the trend of the times without their own principle.

Australia had better think reasonably, instead of becoming modern-day Don Quixote for blindly following the US.

Compiled from KCNA

Military confabs fuel concern

A meeting of commanding officers of the south Korean army took place on December 5 with the participation of over 140 high-ranking military officials including those from the defence ministry and the joint chiefs of staff and chiefs of the general staffs of units of all services.

At the meeting, the brass hats referred to the need to "guarantee by force the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and the settlement of lasting peace", asserting "the duty and role intrinsic to the army should remain unchanged even in the circumstances where measures are implemented to ease military tension and build trust between the north and the south".

The defence ministry, in particular, pointed to the need for all commanding officers to carry on high-intensity training so as to maintain full preparedness,

develop abilities to conduct operations independently and build up south Korea-US joint operations capacity.

At the year-end meeting of operations officers held on the same day, attended by over 100 officers including the operations commander and commander of the combined unit, the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff said that next year, too, the army should be reborn as a powerful force that can win before fight and try its best to support government policies established according to the change in security environment.

Such military huddles held at an important time when the north and south of Korea have opened up a new era of détente, peace and prosperity are arousing great apprehension and wariness at home and abroad.

By Om Ryong PT

GAMES

Second-round ice hockey league matches kick off

The ice hockey tournament of the Osandok Prize Games is running at the Ice Rink in Pyongyang amid the interest of local professionals and fans.

Men's and women's first-division clubs including Ministry of Fisheries, Taesongsan, Kanggye University of Education No. 1, Sajabong, Jangjasan, Pyongyang Railway Bureau and Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex will compete in the first stage on a round-robin basis and top four placers are to play in the second-stage league matches to decide final rankings.

In the first stage, Pyongyang Railway Bureau's male and Taesongsan's female teams took the first place by thrashing

all their rivals, and the next three places went to the men of Taesongsan, Ministry of Fisheries and Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex, and the women of Ministry of Fisheries, Sajabong and Kanggye University of Education No. 1.

Pyongyang Railway Bureau clashed with Ministry of Fisheries on December 18 as the first match of the second-stage men's league.

The two teams are known to be neck and neck as they recorded seven wins and seven losses respectively in the recent 14 matches. The former beat the latter at the DPRK National Championships.

Taking advantage of having more experienced and veteran

players, Pyongyang Railway Bureau employed close teamwork centring on them, while Ministry of Fisheries came out with a tactic of fast transition to counterattack from defence.

In the fierce seesaw battle for taking the initiative, the former saw off the latter 6-5.

There was a second-stage women's match on the same day between Ministry of Fisheries and Sajabong.

The match impressed the spectators deeply as it showcased the importance of goalkeeper's role.

Staffed with veterans known on domestic and overseas fronts and skilful young players, Ministry of Fisheries is known to have great offensive power among women teams.

Unfortunately however, it lost the match even though it took over 70 percent in ball possession and surpassed Sajabong in the number of shots by 42:23.

"The goalkeeper's role is an important factor decisive of victory in ice hockey as in many other sporting events, as was proved by today's match," said Ham Yong, an ice hockey expert. "Sajabong's keeper saved many shots in succession to beat off most of scoring chances of the opponent."

By Jong Tang Song PT



RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

A scene from the women's ice hockey match between Kanggye University of Education No. 1 and Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex at the Osandok Prize Games.

SPORTS SCIENCE

Research feats lead to successful results

The Academy of Sports Science has recently brought out scientific research findings which help athletes win international games including Olympics and world championships.

On the basis of measurements on all indices for assessing the sporting abilities of many athletes, especially the amount of muscles and subcutaneous fat, springing ability, lung capacity and grasping power, which have been accumulated for over three decades, researchers of the academy developed a database program that can predict the training of players and their competing abilities and a program for the selection of reserve players.

They also unveiled a sports teaching and training support system for basketball, wrestling, table tennis and artistic gymnastics, contributing to putting teaching and training on

a scientific footing and helping players prove successful in matches.

The academy developed and introduced functional fructose which promotes the relieving of fatigue among players when they are engaged in heavy-burden training and matches, a weight controlling agent for the players in heavy-weight sports and a nutrition supplementing agent that promotes the recovery of fatigue after weight regulation, so as to raise the efficiency of training and improve the records of players.

Football boots designed to wear on artificial turf, which were highly appreciated at the recent national footwear exhibition-2018, were helpful for raising the players' training efficiency and improving their records.

Researchers selected a spikes sole structure suitable for the

artificial turf pitch and created five shapes of new sole mould designs in a polyurethane injection-moulded method to prove the qualitative indexes of the new spikes based on the foot and kinesthetic characteristics of players.

The academy's research hits were rated highly at the 22nd national exhibition of sports sci-tech achievements.

Among them are a program that is capable of predicting three to six months before the level of development of locomotion capacity of players who are to participate in international tournaments on the basis of data of more than five rounds of tests and that helps analyse and evaluate their attainment level according to the stage of training, as well as a program which supports the teaching and training of boxing. These programs help scientifically guarantee the promptness and accuracy of analysis and control of matches and save manpower and time in prediction, model making and training analysis by coaches and researchers.

By Chae Hyang Ok PT

PROFILE

Defending champion retains form



KCNA

Om Yun Chol jerks the barbell to claim three golds at the 18th Asian Games.

Om Yun Chol demonstrated his power once again as the world weightlifting king by winning the IWF 2018 World Weightlifting Championships held in Turkmenistan last November.

He bagged three gold medals in the men's 55 kg category by snatching 120 kg, jerking 162 kg and coming first in total rankings. What is more amazing is that he lifted 20 kg more than the second placer.

Born in Sunam District, Chongjin City, North Hamgyong Province, he had a special fondness for sports from his childhood and soon cut a conspicuous figure in weightlifting.

One year and a half after he took up weightlifting, he made his debut at the national juvenile sports school weightlifting tournament, in which he claimed the title of the boys' 33 kg event.

Since then he had distinguished himself as a child weightlifting ace who did not concede the first place in his weight category as he drew particular attention of experts and fans.

Later, he moved to the Amnokgang Sports Club and

honed his professional skills under the coaching of Ro Hyon Chol.

"It is Om's disposition to carry out high training tasks without fail as he spends most of his time at the training ground," said Ro Hyon Chol. "Unusual affection for the sport and strong passion led him to success."

With his untiring and sincere efforts, he acquired a special technique nobody could have and achieved good results one after another in international games.

He proved triumphant in the men's 56 kg and 55 kg categories of many international competitions, especially the 30th Olympic Games in 2011 and the IWF world weightlifting championships in 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2018. He renewed world records three times and set up new records seven times in international games.

A winner of Kim Il Sung Prize, the top honour of the country, Labour Hero and People's Athlete, Om Yun Chol was chosen as one of the top ten players of the DPRK on several occasions.

By Ri Sung Ik PT

Adzuki gruel

December 22.

Korean ancestors celebrated the winter solstice as a folk holiday. One of the 24 seasonal divisions, the day has the fewest hours of daylight, which means it has the longest night in a year. This year it falls on



THE PYONGYANG TIMES

On the winter solstice the ancestors prepared gruel with adzuki out of the new crops of the year as they thought the red bean was especially good for health and hoped that they would spend the following year in good health. This adzuki gruel-taking became a custom and has been carried on.

This national dish is prepared by boiling adzuki to pulp and cooking it with small egg-shaped dumplings made with glutinous Indian millet or glutinous rice flour.

By Jong Chol PT

