

The Pyongyang Times

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

No. 5 (3 041) weekly

<http://www.pyongyangtimes.com.kp> e-mail: flph@star-co.net.kp

Sat, February 2, Juche 108(2019)

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un meets friendship art delegation



Kim Jong Un, chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea, chairman of the DPRK State Affairs Commission and supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, on January 31 met the members of the DPRK friendship art delegation, who came back home after successfully winding up the performance tour of China, at the office building of the Party Central Committee and had a photo session with them.

All members of the delegation broke into cheers, looking up to the Supreme Leader who had not only provided energetic guidance over all the preparations for the art performance to make their China tour a meaningful occasion for adding lustre to the new

era of the DPRK-China friendship, but also warmly encouraged them far away from the country by sending messages of thanks to them several times in congratulation of their successful performance, so as to ensure that the song of friendship resounded more loudly.

Exchanging greetings with them, Kim Jong Un highly appreciated the activities of the delegation that gave wonderful and enthusiastic art performances reflecting the warm heart and sincere feeling of the WPK and the Korean people towards the Chinese counterparts to significantly decorate the first cultural exchange between the two countries of this year and translated into reality

the intention of the WPK Central Committee to boost the bilateral friendship as required by the new era through the rich and successful performance.

Expressing his satisfaction with the fact that the performing artists fully displayed their high artistic skills and talents and gave good performances in China to give delight to General Secretary Xi Jinping and his wife, members of the Communist Party of China and other Chinese people, he gave thanks to all members of the delegation who made a positive contribution to promoting and further consolidating the emotional and cultural bonds between the peoples of the two countries.

He expressed the belief that the artistes who made the successful performance tour of China would as ever conduct original artistic activities pulsating with the Party's ideology and will more courageously as mouthpieces of the Party that give active publicity to its policies, and thus powerfully encourage the Korean people in their efforts to defend the Party and socialism and to build a powerful socialist state of a Korean style and discharge their honourable mission and duty as the hard core in developing Juche-oriented musical art, before having a photo session with them.

Compiled from KCNA

MISSION

DPRK entertainers tour China on a mission to boost bilateral ties

The DPRK friendship art delegation visited China from January 23.

The delegation had enjoyed sincere hospitality of the Chinese Party, government and people since it arrived at

Dandong Railway Station, border station of China.

They arrived in Beijing on the morning of January 24.

They were warmly greeted at Beijing Railway Station by Song Tao, head of the International

Liaison Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, other officials of his department and officials concerned.

The delegation gave performances to a full house at the

State Grand Theatre in Beijing from January 26.

President Xi Jinping, who is also general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, and his wife Peng Liyuan met the DPRK delegation at the theatre

and saw a performance they gave on January 27.

Prior to the performance, Xi Jinping and Peng Liyuan met leading members of the

SEE PAGE 2



FROM PAGE 1

delegation and had a talk with them.

Xi Jinping said that the performance tour of the delegation is not only a cultural exchange for implementing the important shared understanding between China and the DPRK, but also an important activity for celebrating the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between them, expressing his will to consolidate the traditional bilateral friendship.

Ri Su Yong, head of the delegation, said that every number of its performance is associated with the noble intention of the Chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea to carry forward the valuable tradition of the DPRK-China friendship as required by the new era and steadily develop the feelings of friendship between the two peoples, and thus add a brilliant page to the history of bilateral relations.

Expressing thanks to Xi

Jinping for attaching importance and paying attention to the performance tour of the delegation, he hoped that the current performance would be the New Year greetings to the Chinese comrades.

Xi Jinping together with Peng Liyuan enjoyed the performance given by the delegation.

Among the audience were Wang Huning, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau and member of the Secretariat of the CPC Central Committee; Ding Xuexiang, member of the Political Bureau, member of the Secretariat and director of the General Office of the CPC Central Committee; Sun Chunlan, member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and vice-premier of the State Council; Yang Jiechi, member of the Political Bureau and director of the Office of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the CPC Central Committee; Huang Kunming, member of the Political Bureau, member of the Secretariat and head of

the Publicity Department of the CPC Central Committee; Cai Qi, member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and secretary of the Beijing Municipal Committee of the CPC; Wang Yi, state councillor and minister of Foreign Affairs; Song Tao, head of the International Liaison Department of the CPC Central Committee; other Chinese Party and government officials; and artistes and citizens of Beijing.

The performance started with the prelude *DPRK-China Friendship Will Be Everlasting*, with the programme involving colourful music and dance pieces including the songs the two peoples loved to sing in the past years of heroic creation and struggle.

The audience broke into thunderous applause as impressive scenes were screened behind the stage, showing the meetings of the leaders of the older generations of the two countries and the top leaders of the two Parties, who have shared the intention and feelings in

the great course of developing bilateral friendship, while the artistes sang songs of friendship and unity that have resounded through the mountains and rivers of the two countries for decades.

The performance won great acclaim as it blended into one the feelings of the entertainers and the audience and captivated the audiences through a vigorous and original portrayal of the aspirations of the peoples of the DPRK and China to write an epic of friendship and unity more beautifully.

Xi Jinping and Peng Liyuan presented a basket of flowers to the performers and mounted the stage to congratulate them on their successful performance and had a photo taken with them.

The performance continued until January 28.

The State Grand Theatre, where the revolutionary opera *The Flower Girl* and the adapted opera *A Dream of Red Mansions* had been performed by DPRK artistes to a full

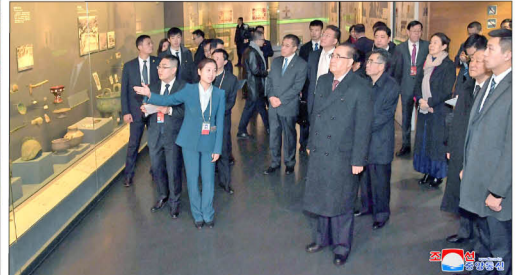
house, was crowded every day with those who came to see the performance of the Korean artistes.

Among the audience were Li Zhanshu, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China, and other senior Chinese Party and government officials, artistes and citizens of Beijing.

The three-day performance that fired the zeal for the DPRK-China friendship drew the curtain down amid the thunderous applause of the audience.

During their stay in Beijing the delegation saw welcome performances given by the Chinese National Ballet at the Tianqiao Theatre and by the opera troupe of the Chinese National Opera Theatre, and toured the Capital Museum, Lao She Teahouse and the Chinese Art Gallery.

Compiled from KCNA



LEADING ARTICLE

Visit a new stimulus to DPRK-China ties

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un visited China as his first external activity in the New Year to meet Chinese President Xi Jinping.

During the visit, the fourth of its kind in a little over nine months' time, the top leaders of the two countries had an in-depth and candid exchange of views over the issue of further boosting the friendship, unity, exchanges and cooperation between the DPRK and China as required by the times and over the international and regional issues of mutual concern, and expressed understanding, support and solidarity to the independent stands maintained by both countries in external relations.

They agreed on continuously maintaining the stand of peacefully settling the Korean peninsula issue to meet the interests of the international community and all parties centring on the peninsula by properly managing its situation.

Both the DPRK and China agreed on the new plans for maintaining, expanding and developing the traditions of high-level visits in political,

economic, military, cultural and other fields in the New Year marking the 70th anniversary of the establishment of bilateral diplomatic relations.

By doing so, they demonstrated to the world that the two countries are in such a sincere and intimate relationship as to meet anytime, anywhere and regardless of diplomatic formality and practice, if necessary, in order to have serious communication and work towards solutions together.

This also clearly showed that the ties between the top leaders are the comradeship supported by a strong, deep root and based on genuine trust.

The two countries set great store by the issue of inheriting and developing the friendly ties which were provided by their preceding leaders.

It was showcased through a special luncheon Xi Jinping hosted at the Beijing Hotel.

Inaugurated in 1900, the hotel is associated with the revolutionary activities of President Kim Il Sung and the Chinese revolutionaries of the elder generation Chairman

Mao Zedong and Premier Zhou Enlai. The Chinese President chose the place for the luncheon so that the top leaders of the two countries and their wives could have the meal in a family atmosphere, which showed Xi's willingness to promote the traditional bilateral ties to a more intimate and higher level.

He said that his country would as ever play a positive and constructive role for the defence of the fundamental interests of both sides and the stability of the peninsula situation as the reliable rear, resolute comrade and friend of the Korean comrades.

He described Kim Jong Un's visit as a specially important occasion in successfully guiding the development of Sino-DPRK relations, and the Supreme Leader said that this year, too, the DPRK would go on writing a beautiful epic of bilateral friendship by joining hands with the Chinese comrades and firmly defend peace and stability on the Korean peninsula and in the region by the concerted efforts of the two countries.

Kang Sang Chol

INSPECTION

Senior Party official visits various units



Senior Party official Choe Ryong Hae (second from left) visits the Namhung Youth Chemical Complex.

Choe Ryong Hae, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, vice-chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and vice-chairman of the WPK Central Committee, inspected the Namhung Youth Chemical Complex and the Anju Duck Farm.

Looking round various places of the chemical complex, Choe Ryong Hae gave a pep talk to its officials and workers who are bringing about a great upsurge in production.

At the field consultative meeting he said that its Party committee should encourage Party members and other working people to take the lead in establishing a cultured

way of production and life by enhancing its role and to increase production by scrupulously organizing equipment and technical management.

Also discussed were measures for a regular supply of electricity, coal and others needed for putting production on normal track by relevant units.

After learning about the situation of a modernization project now under way at the Anju Duck Farm, Choe Ryong Hae stressed the need to actively step up the project and produce more meat by adhering to the four key factors for the development of livestock farming.

Compiled from KCNA

the richly deposited siderite at the final stage. A large-capacity ferromanganese furnace has newly been built in the Puryong Ferroalloy Factory to build a groundwork for boosting the ferroalloy production. Projects are now under way in various iron production bases across the country to increase the production of ferromanganese from low-grade wad.

The Hungnam Electrode Factory continues to build up the production capacity.

After building a large-capacity electrode kiln, paving the outdoor graphite drying ground and laying a railway line in well over 100 metres long distance, the factory is now concentrating on the assembly of equipment for the crushing process.

Projects to shore up the chemical industry are now in full swing at various chemical factories.

They include the construction of the Suncheon Phosphatic Fertilizer Factory, the building of a methanol production process at the Suncheon Chemical Complex and the establishment of a sodium carbonate production process, all of which are aimed at building new chemical industry bases.

Efforts are being made to normalize the production

of chemical fertilizers and vinalon.

The Namhung Youth Chemical Complex focuses on the production of fertilizer to be supplied to the agricultural sector by producing well over 1 000 tons on a daily average, while dynamically pushing the projects to increase the fertilizer production capacity including the expansion of coal yard and building of a 15 000 cubic-metre gas tank. The Hungnam Fertilizer Complex works hard to raise the scientific level of processes in order to put production on a normal footing. The February 8 Vinalon Complex carries on the capacity-building project for the increased production of a variety of chemical products, while increasing the current production of raw materials, fuel and catalysts.

A project is also pushed ahead to develop the artificial fibre industry which uses reed as raw material.

The Sinuiju Chemical Fibre Factory concentrates on the establishment of a reed-based artificial fibre production process and the production of reed pulp to turn out paper for textbooks planned for this year.

By Chae Hyang Ok PT

INDUSTRIES

Nation set on Juche-orientation of metal and chemical industries

Projects have been pushed forward for increased iron production in the metallurgical industry in a planned manner.

The Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex steps up the projects to build up oxygen production capacity, build a concentrated ore dehydration ground and electrify yard track. The Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex is pressing on with those to increase the limestone production capacity, maintain equipment and expand the capacity of the industrial water supply system, while the Posan Iron Works and the

Chongjin Steel Works carry out those projects to consolidate the material and technical foundations for the production of Juche iron as scheduled.

A great deal of efforts are being directed to producing enough quality iron and steel needed for various economic sectors by upgrading the technical equipment of iron- and steel-making and rolling processes.

In the midst of the extensive drive to introduce the electromagnetic induction rabbling technology into continuous ingot-steelmaking processes

at different iron producers, the Chollima Steel Complex recently introduced the technology into the continuous ingot-steelmaking process of the steel workshop and had a successful general trial run, providing a technical guarantee for further improving the quality of iron and steel products. The Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex applied a new technology to the cold-reduced sheet production system to step up the preparations for producing various kinds of cold-reduced sheets.

With the Juche iron production capacity being enhanced, projects have been undertaken to build up the production capacity of the Musan Mining Complex and iron mines in the western areas as part of the nationwide efforts to supply enough raw and other materials including iron ore, fireproof materials and ferroalloy.

The Unnyul Mine concentrates on the reconstruction of pits and the construction of ore-dressing plant for the development of a Sohaeri branch mine, while the Jaeryong Mine is carrying on the project to produce concentrated magnetic iron ore by magnetizing and calcinating



Production rises up at the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex.

SILK

Silk industry makes progress

Korean silk has been renowned for beauty since olden times.

It is light, elegant in colour, soft to the touch and varied in kind.

In ancient times it was used as a lavish gift and spread to Europe through China and Persia in the west as well as eastwards across the Korean Strait.

In the DPRK there are modern silk producers including Songchon, Huichon, Pakchon and Nyongbyon silk mills as well as the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill.

The silk manufacturer in Pyongyang is ranked top among the factories in the local silk industry.

The mill steps up the modernization of production processes and presses on with a technical innovation drive in order to increase production and

improve the quality of products. Most recently, it established a silk thread production process based on raw cocoon. In ancient times, people reeled silk off unboiled cocoon unlike the present. As raw cocoon is highly soluble, it offers high yields. The mill solved various technical problems arising in putting this old method on an industrial basis, with the result that it has markedly raised silk yields while saving much fuel, electricity and manpower. As the rate of standard products is increased by 20 percent by the new technique, it is widely introduced into silk mills across the country.

The quality of silk keeps improving and its output continues to rise at silk manufacturers to meet the growing demand for various silk

products including the material for traditional Korean costume. In recent years, the Nyongbyon Silk Mill developed a new cloth texture program and made special component parts and materials using locally available raw and other materials to reenergize silk production. It also developed a variety of new silk products including damask silk with elegant and fine patterns on the mild and soft coloured ground and rainbow-striped silk with thin patterns. Especially, Ryuksung silk is popular with women as material for summer dresses as it enhances the neatness and elegance peculiar to the traditional Korean costume of *chima* and *jogori*.

Cocoon producers across the country also increase production every year.

Last year alone, they produced hundreds of tons of more cocoons than the preceding year. It is ascribed to the securing of good strains of silkworm, effective blight prevention and introduction of scientific methods of manuring and cultivating mulberry trees to meet the local conditions, including the organic farming based on a biological activator. They also positively applied scientific silkworm raising methods according to seasons to increase the frequency of cocoon gathering and remarkably boost the output of high-grade cocoons.



CHOE MI GYONG / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Employees operate reeling machines at the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill.

AGRICULTURE

Nanotechnology applied to farming

The agricultural nanotechnology institute of the Academy of Agricultural Science has been successful in research for applying nanotechnology to agriculture.

It focuses on promoting the effectiveness and growth of crops and boosting per-hectare yield while decreasing the usage of fertilizer and agrochemicals at cooperative farms.

In the course of this, it developed agricultural nano-germicide No. 1, nano-biological growth accelerator, nano-photosynthesis stimulant, nano-silicon fertilizer and nano-functional vinyl sheet.

The institute developed a technology of producing nano-silicon fertilizer from silicon slag, one of industrial wastes.

One kilogram of the fertilizer is sprayed per hectare by diluting it in water in the proportion of one to 900, and it is far better

than the previous one which required heavy consumption.

Last year alone, it was applied to hundreds of thousands of hectares of paddy fields, and it is said that they suffered little damage despite a long spell of hot weather and per-hectare yield increased by more than 10 percent.

The nano-functional vinyl sheet is made by inserting far infrared radiation materials between the layers of polyethylene vinyl sheets.

The application of this technology made it possible to raise the temperature of seedbeds one or two degrees centigrade, ensure the healthy growth of rice seedlings as water drops rarely form on the vinyl sheet and enhance the rigidity of rice seedlings by 10 percent. For its good tenacity, the sheet has 1.5 or 2 times longer serviceable life than the ordinary one.

"Insects thrive during drought, but bacteria flourish when it is damp. This year, our institute is going to solve this problem," said Song Il Nam, section chief of the institute.

The institute has already confirmed the effectiveness of field application tests of nano-herbicide which is good for killing barnyard grass, nano-insecticide which is effective in exterminating nematode and Asiatic rice borer, and agricultural nano-germicide No. 2 which is helpful for exterminating various bacteria while halving the production process and quantity of raw materials as compared to nano-germicide No. 1.

Choe Song Ryong, director of the institute, attributed its successes in developing highly-efficient agricultural nanotechnological products to the establishment of a nano-inorganic material manufacturing process based on the supercritical fluid technology.

The products of the institute were highly appreciated at the national sci-tech festival and the national nanotechnology show.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

FOODSTUFF

Technical innovation helps expand production



PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Packages of bottled soy sauce roll off the production line at the Pyongyang Condiments Factory.

The Pyongyang Condiments Factory closely combines science and technology with production.

Last year alone, the factory introduced into production over 50 valuable technical innovation plans. It increased the activity of yeast by remodelling the ventilation system of the yeast store and ensured the dregs content of soybean paste and cooking oil according to standards. Several of its plans like "Study of lysine production using liquid yeast with a high lysine content" and "Rational remodelling of grading sieve in the maize pulverizing process" were highly appreciated and the factory was awarded a sci-tech achievement prize at the 33rd national sci-tech festival.

Such sci-tech achievements have resulted in the expansion of the variety of products.

The factory produces various fermented soy sauce with the flavours of fish, garlic and ginger and soy sauce that has pharmacological effects and the tastes of various spices. In particular, vinegared and

nucleic acid soy sauces made through acid decomposition are winning growing popularity as they are savoury and help maintain physical fitness and promote metabolism.

The factory's famous products include sesame peppered bean paste, rice peppered bean paste and sweet peppered bean paste, which have been the old favourites of the local people for decades, and fermented soybean, or natto, which began to be produced most recently. They keep the flavour peculiar to Korean bean paste and are recognized as excellent health foods. There are also powdered bean paste which is mixed with water for use, iodine bean paste and lecithin bean paste.

The factory also develops various functional oil products like vitamin E oil tablet.

Its products are all the more mouth-watering for its Pommaji brand. The designers create a variety of original brand designs which are pleasing to the eye according to each variety.

By Yun Kyong Il PT

ONLINE

Visitors number tens of millions

The number of visitors to the Sci-Tech Complex is ever growing.

According to an official concerned, millions of people have visited the complex and tens of millions its website over the past three years since its inauguration.

More than 200 000 visited the homepage to have access to over one million pieces of data in a few days after the new year began.

Hundreds of visitors come to the online lecture room, reading room for children, e-library for students and animation file

reading room every day on average.

At present at least 15 000 clients have joined the sci-tech learning space network system, through which an increasing number of people are provided with information service.

The expansion of the nationwide distribution network centred on the complex helps working people have access to the latest scientific and technological data and solve sci-tech problems arising in their units.

Compiled from KCNA

ACTIVITY

Students do good job during holidays

Lots of university students volunteered to work at the construction site of Samjiyon County during their winter vacation.

On the first day when they arrived at the site, they broke hundreds of cubic metres of gravel, plastered hundreds of square metres and carried a large quantity of pumice and sand.

When the students of Kim Il Sung University, Kim Chaek University of Technology and Hwangbuk University brought about good results in gathering rubble, those from South Hwanghae, Kangwon, South Phyongan and North Hamgyong provinces overfulfilled their ground plastering plans every day while taking thoroughgoing measures for keeping working places warm.

Those in North Hwanghae Province also rendered positive support to industrial establishments, farms and construction sites in the province.

Those of Kye Ung Sang Agricultural College of Kim Il Sung University and Hwangbuk University Teachers Training College visited the Sangwon Cement Complex, which is bustling with the efforts to carry out the tasks Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un set forth in his New Year Address, to hand aid materials they prepared

with sincerity over to workers, clean out sewage networks and put in order masonry.

Those of Kang Kon Medical College of Hwangbuk University, who went to the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex, made innovations in the transport of ores and contributed to increasing production by gathering great numbers of fire-bricks.

Those from Hwangbuk University College of Technology and College of Education No. 2 conducted a socialist emulation drive between colleges and between faculties at the construction sites in Sariwon and collected over 1 000 cubic metres of rubble to ensure uninterrupted construction.

The students, who went to the agricultural front, carried a great deal of manure to fields and conducted motivational activities for increased production during breaks.

Those in North Hamgyong Province encouraged builders to perform feats through motivational activities at the construction site of the Orangchon Power Station.

The enthusiastic support of students in the country fired the zeal of working people who set out on a grand advance for economic construction this year.

By Jong Sun Bok PT

WHAT THEY SAY

Camping days unforgettable

Winter camping is now in full swing at the Songdowon International Children's Camp on the east coast.

Recently, *The Pyongyang Times* reporter covered the camping life of the students of 3-7 class of Inhung Junior Middle School in Moranbong District, Pyongyang.



Quiz

Today I got full marks in a quiz.

I had to answer many questions including the ones about the height of celebrated mountains in our country, trepang and starfish, ray of Selachii and fish with spines on its back and four teeth.

When we looked round the aquarium, I remembered what our teacher had taught us and it was very helpful. Camping life is another course of learning.

In the mirror cage, I recollected the principle of light reflection I had learned during a natural science lesson and had a deep understanding of plant cultivation methods while doing cleft graft myself in the floriculture greenhouse. As I saw porpoise and other rare animals in the aquarium, I acquired knowledge about animals.

Kim Mi Yon

Full of joy and pleasure

We came to the camp on board Pyongyang-Songdowon through train in high spirits.

The camp is located at a place with the most beautiful scenery in Songdowon. From the exterior campers can have a bird's eye view of pine groves and a long stretch of lovely beach and the interior reminds us of a fairyland.

We spend pleasant time at the international friendship children's hall, gym, aquarium, aviary, mirror cage, 4-D simulation cinema and electronic entertainment hall and each day passes like a dream.

Various sports and amusement games help us build up our physical strength and we held art contests.

Though we cannot go sea bathing and mountain-climbing,



we enjoy swimming and rock climbing in the gym, and these help me cultivate bravery.

I cooked rice and dishes myself for the first time during the cooking practice. And I relish the seaside scenery which is unthinkable in my city.

Pak Ji Yun



We are all brothers

The day when I left for the camp, my mother prepared some special food for my birthday that would fall during

my camping.

But she didn't need to do that as the camp arranged a spread for me on the morning of my birthday.

The director of the camp said that it prepares birthday parties for all the campers who greet their birthdays during camping.

That day my classmates congratulated me on my birthday, giving me bouquets and gifts. Particularly, when the instructor of the camp put a birthday cake she prepared on my table, she reminded me of my mother.

Even after I return home, I will never forget this birthday which was more delightful and meaningful, as well as the birthday table the camp prepared for me.

Om Il Guk

HERITAGE

Efforts made to protect cultural heritage

Cultural heritage reflects the history and tradition of a nation.

The DPRK pays national attention to safeguarding its cultural heritage and properly carrying it forward.

Projects are carried on in a systematic way to restore and rebuild historical relics and sites associated with the

ancestors' unique architecture, talents and intelligence, and the traditional good manners and customs are valued, inherited and developed as required by the times.

Last year witnessed many achievements in the undertaking.

Temples in different parts of the country were restored to



Nam Gate, historical relic in Kaesong.

AN YONG CHOL / KOREA TODAY

their original state according to the features of corresponding society and historical period.

Among them are the Mannyon Temple built in 1682 in Kusong, North Phyongan Province, the 1 000-odd-year-old Woljong Temple in Anak County, South Hwanghae Province, and the Anbul Temple in Kumya County, South Hamgyong Province. Eight buildings of the Sogwang Temple in Kosan County, Kangwon Province, were rebuilt in keeping with the features of the corresponding era, and the three-storeyed Suhang Pavilion in Onsong County, North Hamgyong Province, was repaired to regain its former splendour, showcasing the outstanding architecture of the Korean nation.

The National Authority for the Protection of Cultural Heritage introduced an agent

for protecting art works from ultraviolet rays into restoration of historical sites in order to prevent discoloration and peeling of colourful paintings in the outdoor condition.

Preservation of national culture, arts and customs was also encouraged.

The 15th Grand Bull Prize national ssirum contest and the 8th national peasant dance contest of agricultural workers were held amid nationwide interest, adding zest to the national sport and dance.

Meanwhile, the 16th national Korean costume show was a crowd-puller as a greater number of traditional clothes including *tangui* and *paeja* were presented as compared to previously, with their traditional and modern beauty further enhanced.

Various folk games and Taekwon-Do competitions were also held to win

sweeping popularity among schoolchildren.

Tangible and intangible heritage elements were discovered and collected briskly as an undertaking of the state and society, with the result that a relic of national treasure value and the one of preservation value were newly inscribed and over 20 elements including folk song *Yangsando* and shuttlecock game were put on national and local lists of intangible cultural heritage.

In particular, ssirum (Korean wrestling) was inscribed in the Representative List of ICH of Humanity of UNESCO.

A relevant official said that by drawing on last year's achievements the DPRK will direct more efforts to preserving national cultural heritage in a better condition this year.

By Ri Sung Ik PT

HEALTH PRODUCTS

Pine products win technical prize

Health foods made with pine needles and pollens are now in the international spotlight.

A technical prize was awarded to the pine needle tea and pine pollen product presented by the natural health food branch factory at the Pyongyang international exhibition of health and sports science and technology held in November last year.

According to *Hyangyakjip-songbang*, or Collection of Remedies of Traditional Medicine of Korea, one of

the three old Korean medical classics which was published in the 15th century, a court lady who found refuge in the mountains during foreign invasion lived to be more than three hundred as she ate pine needles and fruits.

Korean ancestors set up gates decorated with pine branches on lunar New Year's Day, had a pine sauna which is good for health and ate half-moon-shaped rice cake stuffed with beans and flavoured with pine needles.

In particular, the red pine indigenous to Korea was the envy of other countries.

Ancestors stressed the need to eat its needles, describing them as "wild insam hanging on tree".

Experts ascertained that pine needles are rich in such nutritive substances as vitamins, essential amino acids, chlorophyll, enzyme and minerals.

Pine pollens are also high in essential

amino acids, vitamins and microelements. They contain protein three times more than meat and seven to eight times more than milk or egg.

Doctors assert that pine needles and pollens serve as nutrients for the brain that are difficult to obtain artificially.

"Our country has been called a silk-embroidered land of three thousand *ri* since olden times as it has beautiful mountains and clear water. The pine trees of our country have distinctive medicinal effects. We gather pine needles and pollens from the trees growing in natural forests of the northern part to produce health foods," said manager Kim Chang Gil.

The vitamin content of pine needles reaches the peak level in winter and the best time for pollination is May. Therefore, the factory collects pine needles and pollens in these periods.

The raw materials of its products are treated with special substances to keep vitamins from being damaged.

The factory's natural pine needle tea and pine pollen are in great demand at international expos and markets as well as at home.

By Pang Un Ju PT



RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Pine pollen product good for health.

BATH

Mineral water bath proves medically effective



SONG YONG SOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

A bathhouse in Kangso District, Nampho, serves with renowned mineral water.

A mineral water bathhouse has newly been built in Kangso District, Nampho.

The bathhouse with the name of the famous "Kangso mineral water" attracts a growing number of visitors every day.

The Kangso mineral water is in great demand as it is best in terms of medical effectiveness and taste among over 200 mineral waters in the country.

Medical workers say that it has greater treatment effects when it is used for bathing as it contains a considerably large amount of major ions including those of calcium, sodium, magnesium, iron and hydrogen carbonate that are good for health.

Visitors can take a bath with mineral water at the bathhouse, which opened in November last year, receiving the kind service of doctors.

Before bathing they consult the doctors, who take their pulse and blood pressure and accordingly prescribe water temperature and treatment time in the bath.

According to An Hye Ran, a 26-year-old medical worker, the basic effects of the mineral water bath treatment are the mechanical and chemical ones and that of free

carbon dioxide. "When you receive a bath treatment, lots of air bubbles of free carbon dioxide stick to the skin and give fine massage to it, which acts on heat metabolism. At that time blood vessel activating substances including acetylcholine and histamine are also formed on the skin and it helps improve the function of blood vessel and that of the heart as well".

"I could not bend my knees due to severe arthritis, but now I can go up and down the stairs without help," delightedly said Jong Kyong Ae, a 57-year-old resident of Songchongang District, Hamhung, South Hamgyong Province, who has received mineral water bath treatment for nine days.

Hong Ryon, a 43-year-old resident of Okryu-dong No. 3, Taedonggang District, Pyongyang, had to take medicine every day because of her high blood pressure. "Since I took the mineral water bath, I've felt refreshed and my blood pressure is getting normal. It is really magical," she said.

At the bathhouse visitors can also receive foot treatment and irrigation of the intestines with mineral water.

The bathhouse has a dining room, bedrooms and exercise rooms to provide every convenience to the visitors who want to receive intensive care for several days.

By Kim Ryong Jin PT

EATERY

Restaurant known for serving roast meat with unique flavour

In the midwinter cold grilled meat houses are a favourite haunt of people.

Roast meat with a long history has become the component part of the Korean people's dietary life thanks to its ever-developing processing method.

Old records introduce roast venison, pork, chicken and cattle hooves, and their roasting methods include roasting meat on skewers, grill or frying pan and grilling meat after putting it in spiced soy sauce or while applying spiced soy sauce to it.

Today, beef, duck, mutton and other meat are mainly used for preparing roast meat dishes. Their processing methods are diverse, and people are fond of traditional and special ones.

The Inhung Restaurant on the banks of the Pothong River in Pyongyang is well known for the good hands in serving such dishes. Its roast duck was inscribed as a

famous dish a few years ago.

"After boning duck, cut it to seven or eight centimetres long, five centimetres wide and one centimetre thick to the opposite direction of fibroid material so as to cut off thin gristle. The meat slices are then seasoned with salt, sugar and monosodium glutamate to improve their flavour and soften the meat. An important thing is to properly fix the ratio of spices and the time of laying up the meat spiced. If you grill the sliced meat from the beginning, its surface will be burnt black before its inside is done. So, you need to lower the fire so that the inner part of meat can be boiled and the dish can take on the colour peculiar to roast meat," said Kim Chun Nam, head chef of the restaurant, as he referred to the importance of preliminary cooking.

As widely known, the restaurant's roast meat has delicate flavour.

Perhaps, it is attributable

to its recipe of using no powdered red pepper, garlic and sesame oil and its roasting method.

And because the restaurant roasts meat with pine wood, instead of charcoal or gas, unlike in other eateries. Regular diners say that the restaurant's roast meat seems to have delicate taste as the fragrance pine resin gives out as it burns infuses the meat.

The sauce made of vinegar and mustard also stimulates the appetite of diners for its vinegary and fragrant taste.

The restaurant also serves cucumber, edible greens, sliced potato, garlic and hot pepper paste to the likings of diners.

By Jong Chol PT



KIM YONG CHAN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Roast meat, national food.

Unhasu cosmetics
certified by EEU

The quality of 25 kinds of Unhasu cosmetics developed and produced by the Pyongyang Cosmetics Factory has been certified by the Eurasia Economic Union, an influential regional economic organization.

The union introduced Unhasu cosmetics on its website and sent an application for mass purchase.

Compiled from KCNA

REUNIFICATION

Inter-Korean declarations need to be translated into practice

Meaningful advances were made last year in the efforts to achieve peace and prosperity in the Korean peninsula.

Through the historic Panmunjom Declaration, the September Pyongyang Joint Declaration and the north-south agreement in the military field, north and south committed themselves to terminating fratricidal war based on force of arms. Active exchange activities conducted by sportspersons and artistes gave powerful impetus to enthusiasm for national reconciliation and reunification. Both sides promoted cooperation projects in various fields including railways, road, forestry and public health while overcoming manifold obstacles and difficulties.

But many difficulties and bottlenecks still stand in the way of reunification.

North and south agreed to maintain the principle of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity on July 4 1972 and promised to achieve national reconciliation, unity, exchange, cooperation, peace and reunification in June 2000. These commitments, however, were reduced to a piece

of paper each time and none of them could be fulfilled due to the obstructive moves of outside forces.

Dissatisfied with the valuable agreements north and south of Korea made last year, the outside forces talk about speed control in implementing them.

Only when all the Koreans turn out in one mind and will as the masters of reunification in the face of obstructive moves of foreign forces, can they lead the valuable and meaningful first step of last year to second and third ones, and thus reach the destinations for peace and prosperity of the nation.

Last year, north and south committed themselves to terminating fratricidal war in the Korean peninsula, laying a foundation for peace and prosperity.

This is the time when all the nationals should deeply think like one for the thoroughgoing implementation of the Panmunjom Declaration and the September Pyongyang Joint Declaration, the precious seeds for the reunification movement, and do something helpful for promoting national reconciliation and unity.

National reconciliation and unity do not come of its own accord. They can be achieved through contacts, visits, cooperation and exchanges based on mutual trust.

This year the DPRK expressed its willingness to resume the Kaesong Industrial Park and Mt Kumgang tourism without any precondition and in return for nothing, in consideration of the hard conditions of businesspersons of the south side and the desire of southern compatriots who are eager to visit the nation's celebrated mountain.

First of all, when all the Koreans give precedence to national interests and solve all the problems accordingly, national reconciliation and unity will be achieved as early as possible and the nation's joint declarations implemented.

The reality demands all the fellow countrymen resolutely turn out in the campaign for ushering in a heyday of peace, prosperity and reunification of the Korean peninsula by thoroughly implementing the historic north-south declarations.

By Choe Yong Nam PT

COMMENT

Argument about 'three variables' unwarranted

Recently an argument has been raised in south Korea about the three variables that may have negative impact on the relationship with the US.

The first variable is that south Korea-US relationship may turn sour due to the resumption of the Kaesong Industrial Park and Mt Kumgang tourism, meaning south Korea should continue to concentrate on cooperation with the US on mapping out north policy.

The process of implementing the precious agreements reached by the north and south of Korea last year eloquently proves that national independence and cooperation constitute the driving force behind improved inter-Korean relations, whereas the following of and cooperation with foreign forces is the stumbling block to peace, prosperity and reunification.

Last year there were three rounds of inter-Korean summit meetings and talks and, accordingly, a series of talks were held for cooperation in various fields including forestry, roads, railways and public health to put an end to the atmosphere of confrontation with the fellow countrymen and achieve peace and common prosperity of the nation. But actually there was no progress at all.

South Korean personages who attended the groundbreaking ceremony for relinking inter-Korean railways and roads and their modernization at the end of last year described it as a "groundbreaking ceremony with no groundbreaking" and a "rare ceremony", a mild criticism of the government that attached more importance to the feeling of foreign forces than the agreement with the compatriots.

The second variable is that the US administration may barter partial denuclearization for the reduction of US forces in south Korea at the nuclear negotiations with the north on the pretext of the changed missions of the US forces in south Korea and may not make any concession over the increased upkeep of its forces.

Also from the historical point of view, joint military

exercises with foreign forces and introduction of strategic assets from outside were the sources of escalated tension in the Korean peninsula. Nuclear strategic assets and battle groups of the outside forces staged risky joint military exercises to threaten the DPRK in the waters off the Korean peninsula and THAAD and other strategic assets were deployed in it en masse. These were the main cause of regional tension.

The south Korean military is oblivious of it and shows signs of moving against the trend which has definitely been turned towards peace by making public its plan for bringing in F-35A stealth fighters from the US from March this year and deploying them for action.

It is also a serious issue which would lead to escalated military tension, economic crisis in south Korea and deterioration of people's livelihood that the US demands increased upkeep of its forces on the pretext of the costs of deployment of strategic assets and "free ride in security".

It is the third variable that in case the US, as is planned, imposes high-rate tariffs on south Korea-made exports to it including automobiles, it would make serious impact on the south Korean economy, thereby damaging south Korea-US alliance.

The DPRK has already clarified its goodwill to resume the Kaesong Industrial Park and Mt Kumgang tourism in consideration of the hard conditions of businesspersons of the south side and the desire of the south Korean people who are eager to visit the nation's celebrated mountain.

It will be the only right option to take the hand of goodwill offered by the compatriots and move towards peace and common prosperity of the nation, instead of worrying about the foreigners' decision about applying high-rate tariffs after spending all the tax-payers' money on the import of foreign-made weaponry and the upkeep of foreign troops.

By Om Ryong PT

CONFLICT

Palestine-Israel conflict on a rollercoaster ride

The dispute between Palestine and Israel is getting ever more complicated these days, focusing on the issue of al-Quds.

Claiming that it is their holy land, the Palestinians try to found an independent state with the city as its capital and the Israelis also lay claim to it.

The relationship between the two countries has been strained more than ever before since last year. Having declared al-Quds as its capital, Israel asked relevant countries to move their embassies in Tel Aviv to the new capital.

And it passed the unified Jerusalem law and adopted the Jewish national state law which defines the whole occupied areas as part of the territory of the Jewish state in a bid to seize complete control over the city.

After cooking up the legislative and institutional frameworks for territorial occupation, it intensifies the clampdown on Palestinians as it is hell-bent on the moves to expand the Jewish settlements.

In December last year the Israeli authorities announced a plan for building over 2 190 dwelling houses in the West Bank. Israeli

troops opened fire on Palestinian demonstrators who took to the street in protest against decades-long Zionists' blockade near the sea frontier in the northern part of the Gaza Strip, injuring 14 of them.

Israel also decided unilaterally to suspend import of fruits and vegetables of Palestinian origin from the West Bank without prior notice.

Its persistent blockade aggravated the humanitarian situation in Gaza.

According to a recent announcement of the local health authorities, six hospitals are unable to continue to give medical treatment as they cannot operate generators due to a fuel shortage and 340 000 residents have no access to elementary health service.

At present, 90 percent of factories have been shut down and 85 percent of the population live below the poverty line in Gaza owing to the blockade which started in 2007.

Israel tries desperately to realize its wild ambition for territorial expansion by stifling the Palestinians through political

and economic blockade.

However, anti-Israel sentiment is running high in the international community and it voices increasing support to Palestine, which shows that everything would not turn out as Israel desires.

The Turkish President, at a recent official event, denounced the Israeli Prime Minister as a mouthpiece of oppressors and for moving toward state terrorism.

At an event held on the occasion of the World Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, the UN Secretary General reaffirmed that the UN's support to the Palestinians will not waver.

The Chinese representative to the UN office and other international organizations in Austria said China extends solidarity to the just cause of the Palestinian people for regaining the nation's legitimate rights and supports the founding of their independent state with al-Quds as its capital.

Many other countries are also expressing support to and solidarity with their cause.

By Song Jong Ho PT

MASS SPORTS

Sporting activities heat up with tangible results

The Pyongyang Thermal Power Complex's enthusiasm for mass sports is enormous.

The complex has over ten sports grounds and courts and a gymnasium as well in its compound, which gives a glimpse into the keen interest of its officials and employees in sports.

The zeal for sports in the complex was fired further on the occasion of the meeting for summing up a socialist emulation drive.

At the time, the turbine workshop which overfulfilled its increased annual power generation plan was highly appreciated at the meeting, and its workshop manager Kim Ho Chol attributed the success to the united strength of the collective, adding the strength grew in the course of conducting

mass sporting activities.

The workshop organizes a variety of sports games on Wednesdays in every shift as all its employees are engaged in shift work. The selection of players, which is conducted according to the game organizing outline, is very interesting. Competing teams should nominate players by calling numbers on the lists drawn up according to sports events, ages and gender, and the chiefs of groups must take part in every match without condition.

"The number of employees participating in sporting activities increased remarkably and the competitive spirit between shifts rose higher after the organization of sports games," said Mun Myong Song, head of a shift in the workshop.

"I feel light and refreshed

after doing sports," said worker Jo Song Hak. "We play sports games every day after work and this has become a daily routine."

The workshop's enthusiasm for mass sports spread throughout the complex like a wildfire.

As employees pursued their passion for sports, the complex ran basketball and volleyball groups, which gave an impetus to raising the level of the two sports games in every workshop.

Every second Sunday and holidays even family members come to the complex to root for their relatives. It is really a sight to behold.

There was the first complex-wide sports games of this year on Sunday, January 13.

Kim Song Chol, manager of the thermal production workshop who is in charge of the operation sector and basketball coach, said after they won that day's games:

"Today's victory greatly inspired our workers who have made innovations in production since the first day of the new year. We have produced more electricity in the new year as compared to the same period of last year. The enthusiasm for production grows in direct proportion to that for sports, I'm sure."

By Jong Tang Song PT



PAK CHANG BOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Workers practise Taekwon-Do as part of sporting activities at the Pyongyang Thermal Power Complex.

CUISINE

Typical dishes for lunar New Year's Day

Lunar New Year's Day is a holiday the Korean people have celebrated on a large scale since olden times.

On the morning of the day, family members and relatives get together to celebrate the holiday, taking special foods they prepared with sincerity and wishing for each other's happiness and good health in the new year.

Among the dishes they traditionally prepared on the day, there are rice-cake soup, glutinous rice cake, mung-bean

pancake and fruit punch.

The glutinous rice cake is made by pounding steamed white glutinous rice, glutinous millet, glutinous Indian millet or glutinous broomcorn millet before dressing it with red bean, bean flour, sesame, mung bean, honey, chestnut or others.

As the materials for the glutinous rice cake are all health foods, they are very effective in invigorating the body and promoting digestion.

The mung-bean pancake is a national food which is made by

frying the milled, watered mung bean in oil in a round and flat shape.

The mung-bean pancake of the Pyongyang area is widely known as one of the four specialities of Pyongyang. It is prepared by frying ground mung bean mixed with vegetables and lard.

The fruit punch is made by mixing the juice of pepper, ginger and cinnamon, which was steeped during the slow boiling, before adding honey to it. After keeping it in a cool place for two or three days, it is served in a vessel with pine nuts.

It is well-known as a distinctive health drink with refreshing, sweet and pleasant taste.

By Ri Myong Jun PT



Glutinous rice cake.



Mung-bean pancake.



Fruit punch.

INTERVIEW

FIG chief appreciates gym facilities in Pyongyang

"Now we can organize a competition here even tomorrow and we wish to organize one someday," Watanabe Morinari, president of the International Gymnastic Federation, told *The Pyongyang Times* on January 25 after making the rounds of the Athletics Gymnasium on Chongchun Street in Pyongyang.

The FIG chief who arrived in Pyongyang on January 21 leading its delegation presided over an important meeting of the federation and looked round the Sports Village on Chongchun Street.

At an interview, he mentioned about the federation's innovative plans for promoting peace and sports and expressed satisfaction with the gym and Korean gymnasts.

Sports facilities in Pyongyang would be among the best ten in the world, he added.

The FIG delegates saw artistic, acrobatic and rhythmic gymnasts in training sessions and praised their talents, saying the young gymnasts would no doubt have a good future.

They also met international



FIG chief Watanabe Morinari

vaulting horse legend Ri Se Gwang, three-time world champion and Olympic gold medallist, in a delightful atmosphere.

During their five-day stay, they had a talk with Kim Il Guk, minister of Physical Culture and Sports who is chairman of the DPRK Olympic Committee.

The FIG donated gymnastic apparatuses to the DPRK late last year.

By Kim Rye Yong PT

OLDIES

Popular Korean folk songs

Among the spiritual and cultural wealth of the Korean nation boasting a 5 000-year history, there are folk songs which have long been loved by its people.

Yangsando is one of the typical folk songs of the northwestern provinces of Korea.

The northwestern provinces of Korea, especially today's North and South Phyongan, Jagang and North and South Hwanghae provinces, are well known as one of the places where folk songs have particularly been developed throughout the country since olden times.

Generally, the folk songs in the area are known to have mild and beautiful melodies and light and vibrant mood.

In *Yangsando*, Yangsan is the abbreviation of Yangdok and Maengsan.

Its lyrics sing the pride in beautiful mountains and streams of the country as they vividly depict the graceful scenery around Yangdok, Maengsan and Pyongyang's Moran Hill stretching along the Taedong River.

Folk song *Ryonggangginari* gives a vivid description of diligent locals' working life in the Ryonggang area. Its melody is smooth and charming.

The song with the fine features of folk songs of the northwestern provinces of Korea has widely been sung by the locals everywhere they work, especially at rice-planting, weeding, mowing and spinning places.

Ballad of Phyongbuk Nyongbyon is a modern folk song about Yaksandongdae in Nyongbyon County of North Phyongan Province which is known as one of the eight scenic spots in North and South Phyongan and Jagang provinces.

The county embraces a beautiful mountain called Yak where the clear water of the Kuryong River meanders round, and the name of the mountain derived from the meaning that medicinal herbs grow in large numbers and mineral water gushes out there.

The song sings of the beautiful landscape of Yaksandongdae covered with light pink azaleas.

Divided into two parts, its melody holds light and interesting lyricism. High sound lasts long in the refrain to broaden the scope of representation, which constitutes the main factor behind the distinctive features of the song.

By Kil Chung Il PT

