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Gifts sent to parentless children and elderly at rest homes

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un sent gifts to children and elderly persons at orphanages and old people's homes throughout the country on Thursday.

Students at Mangyongdae, Kang Pan Sok and Nampho revolutionary schools were

filled with deep emotion and happiness as they received a variety of foodstuffs.

The same was the case with children at baby homes, orphanages and primary and middle schools for orphans all across the country.

Residents of old people's

and disability care homes extended their warmest thanks to the Supreme Leader who provided them with happy homes at scenic places and constantly bestows special favour on them.

KCNA

ANNIVERSARY

Floral tribute paid on Chairman's supreme commandership anniv

Officials, service personnel and working people across the DPRK laid baskets of flowers at the statues of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il to mark the 29th anniversary of the appointment of Kim Jong Il as the Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army on December 24.

They paid their respects

to the great leaders at their statues as they looked back upon the undying exploits they had performed to consolidate invincible military power of the DPRK so as to firmly defend the sovereignty and dignity of the country and nation and demonstrate the might of socialist Korea.

Flower baskets and bouquets were placed at their statues and

beaming images at Kim Il Sung University, the Ministry of Public Security, the Mansudae Art Studio and others in different parts of the capital city.

Officials, service members and working people in all parts of the country paid homage to them at their statues and beaming images in their areas.

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CAMPAIGN

Plans completed with campaign near to end

As the 80-day campaign for greeting the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea has reached the final stage, more and more industrial establishments have fulfilled their plans in succession in different economic sectors.

Dozens of coal-mining and tunnelling units at the Sunchon Area Youth Coal-mining Complex and the Kujang and Anju area coal-mining complexes have accomplished their campaign targets.

Over 270 units and hundreds of engine drivers overfulfilled their plans throughout the rail transport sector.

Several locomotive corps have exceeded their daily transport quotas by applying appropriate driving methods, while many railway stations increased freight traffic and ensured intensive transport of crucial materials.

The Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex has hit its production targets ahead of schedule.

The complex remodelled the dust collection system, improved the quality of molten iron and raised the output per charge, and thus carried out its pig iron production plan and increased the production of rolled steel products. Especially, the steel workshop has overfulfilled its daily plans by over 10 percent every day by introducing a rational working method that can reduce the production cost and shorten the melting time.

The Wonsan Youth Power Station has reached its 80-day campaign target at 101.4 percent.

In particular, power station units 1 and 2 increased their daily electricity output over 1.3 times by scientifically organizing the management of water and facilities in accordance with the winter conditions and the characteristics of the power station in tiers.

The mining industry sector has fulfilled the production quotas on over 10 major and

sectional indices of its 80-day campaign goals earlier than the set time.

The apatite concentrate output increased 5.9 times over the same period of last year.

The Phungnyon Mine hit its campaign target far ahead of schedule. The Jungsan and Yongyu mines also overfulfilled the apatite concentrate production plans by 24 and 2 percent respectively. The Ssangryong Mine produced dozens of tons of phosphate fertilizer more than the plan, while the Jongju microelement superphosphate fertilizer factory hit its campaign target.

The Riwon and Namgye mines exceeded all their quotas on all indices by over 40 percent and the Taedonggang Battery Factory produced well over a thousand batteries more than the plan.

The Hamhung Youth Electrical Appliances Factory supplied well over a thousand feeder boxes to disaster relief sites and major construction projects in time, while increasing the production of electrical appliances needed at coal and other mines 1.2 times.

Over 10 units in the machine industry sector have exceeded their annual production targets.

ROUNDUP

Harmonious whole fully demonstrated year round

The harmonious whole of the DPRK has been further strengthened through the struggle for braving difficulties.

This year the Korean people fully demonstrated once again the might of their harmonious whole closely rallied around the Workers' Party of Korea.

They launched an offensive for making a frontal breakthrough, true to the great programme for opening up a broad avenue for the victory of the revolutionary cause of Juche and the decision on splendidly celebrating the 75th birthday of the WPK adopted at the Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Seventh WPK Central Committee at the end of last year.

From its start, this all-people grand march faced difficulties caused by the worldwide health crisis and unprecedented natural disasters that hit the country in succession.

However, the Korean people made great miracles and changes by overcoming the manifold hardships under the wise guidance of the WPK.

At major meetings of the Party Central Committee, Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un took important steps one after another to protect the people's life and security and to heal the flood damage and provide the inhabitants in the flood-hit areas with stable living conditions.

Looking round the disaster-stricken areas and typhoon-stricken areas in South Hamgyong Province, the Supreme Leader specified in detail the tasks and ways for stabilizing the people's living.

He rapidly dispatched the divisions of Party members from the capital city and service personnel to the disaster-hit areas and visited the rehabilitation sites to inspire their efforts.

Thanks to the tender care of the Supreme Leader who sets it as an important issue to safeguard the life and safety of the people and takes care of those suffering from misfortune, the security of the country and the people was reliably defended and better villages appeared.

Overcoming the difficulties, the people were rallied closer around the Party and greeted its 75th birthday as a festival of victors.

The Korean people are now stepping up the 80-day campaign to glorify the Eighth Congress of the WPK, in the same surging spirit as they displayed in significantly celebrating its 75th anniversary.

This year's struggle shows that there is no insurmountable difficulty nor unconquerable fortress for the Korean people who have formed an integrated whole with the leader.

KCNA



Crowds cheer as they march past the Kim Il Sung Square rostrum in the procession for celebrating the 75th founding anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea on October 10.

The Kyongsong Insulator Factory overfulfilled the index-wise plans by 26 percent and the Anju Pump Factory boosted output by creating and adopting many technical innovation plans. The Songchongang Electrical Appliances Factory provided itself with technical guarantees,

thus raising the productivity by half as compared to previously. The Kusong Machine Tool Factory, Pyongyang Grindstone Factory and Wonsan Ventilator Factory have also carried out their plans.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

LEAD

Big stride forward made in cultural construction

The Workers' Party of Korea set forth important tasks to be tackled in building a thriving socialist country at its Seventh Congress five years ago.

Since then, the DPRK has made remarkable achievements in education, public health and art and literature.

The Third Plenary Meeting of the Seventh WPK Central Committee in April 2018 discussed and decided on the issue of bringing about a radical turn in science and education, and after the 14th National Conference of Teachers in September 2019, efforts were intensified to develop the country into a talent power and make all the people well versed in science and technology.

More than 190 technical senior middle schools were established, and progress was made in the efforts to improve vocational technical education and teacher training systems.

Teacher training colleges created and introduced good teaching methods and new teaching aids so as to further improve the quality of teacher training, while lecturers and researchers at universities across the country came up with valuable scientific research

findings.

Teachers made vigorous efforts to enhance their qualifications, with the result that the number of model teachers and academic degree and title holders went up.

The online education system saw a boost in many universities.

As public interest in education grew throughout society, dynamic activities were conducted to better educational conditions and environment.

Achievements were also made in public healthcare.

Modern medical service bases were built and notable successes made in medical treatment and prevention. The DPRK Ministry of Public Health was awarded a prize of the public health sector by the World Health Organization Regional Office for Southeast Asia in September 2016.

Hospitals across the country positively applied advanced methods of diagnosis and treatment in keeping with the latest trends in health care, ensured the domestic production of hi-tech medical materials and apparatuses and researched and developed highly efficacious medicines.

A telemedicine service system was established between the Koryo Medicine General Hospital and provincial Koryo medicine hospitals and a medicine management information system was developed.

The art and literature sector produced lots of excellent works and conducted vigorous artistic activities to encourage the people on a march for a great upsurge.

The DPRK's acrobatic works were given top prizes at the Idol-2017 World Acrobatic Art Festival, the 16th Wuqiao International Circus Festival in China and other festivals.

Korean sportspersons exalted the honour of the country by snatching gold medals at international games. Meanwhile, brisk mass sporting activities injected vim into society.

The Yangdok Hot Spring Resort was built and a multifunctional complex for sporting and leisure activities, while Samjiyon transformed into an ideal mountainous city and the areas hit by flood damage this year turned into models of socialist rural civilization.

By Pang Un Ju PT

INSPECTION

Premier Kim inspects Mt Kumgang tourism project

Premier Kim Tok Hun, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, visited Mt Kumgang tourist area to learn about its development.

Looking round the Kosong Port coastal tourist area, Haegumgang seaside park area, sports and cultural area and others, he discussed technical matters arising in correctly reflecting the development of scenic spots in the master plan for the development of Mt Kumgang tourist area and carrying it out.

He referred to the need to maintain the principle of

conveniences and architectural beauty first in the development of Mt Kumgang area into a modern and all-inclusive international tourist and cultural area so that the people can fully enjoy natural beauty.

The field consultative meeting discussed measures to properly set priorities in the development project according to the master plan and fully apply the Juche-oriented idea on architecture and construction policy to the design and construction of a world-class hotel, golf course, skiing ground and others.

KCNA



Premier Kim Tok Hun (centre) inspects the project for the development of the Mt Kumgang tourist resort.

Nationwide

Dozens of construction projects completed in North Hwanghae



North Hwanghae Province has completed the construction of the Sariwon Youth Open Air Theatre and Taekwon-Do training hall and the project for expanding the capacity of the Kyongam Cement Factory in succession.

Besides, it is pushing ahead with the construction and renovation projects for the Jongbongsan Hotel, Sariwon Schoolchildren's Palace, North Hwanghae Provincial People's Hospital, a medical oxygen factory, aviation club and others.

Reed harvest in full swing in Sindo County



Sindo County, North Phyongan Province, where reed harvest is in full swing, is expected to produce over 10 000 tons of more reeds than the same period of last year.

It reinforced the embankment for over 100-kilometre reed field and finished the cleaning of waterways and built, reconstructed and repaired pumping stations to carry out a-dozen-time irrigations of the reed fields.

South Hamgyong steps up dozens of construction projects



Dozens of construction and renovation projects have been pushed ahead in South Hamgyong Province.

It reconstructed the South Hamgyong Provincial People's Hospital and Sinpho Fish Cannery, and built Hamhung Youth Power Station Unit 1, the Hamhung Kimchi Factory, the chemistry laboratory of Hamhung University of Chemical Industry and gymnasium of Hamhung College of Medical Sciences.

Power station rebuilt to exploit renewables

The natural energy power station has been rebuilt in Sinuiju, North Phyongan Province.

The provincial power distribution station installed thousands of solar panels and built over 30 wind turbines while solving scientific and technological problems arising in the manufacture of speed increaser and blade.

Dwellings for hundreds of households newly built in Ryanggang

Dwelling houses for hundreds of families have been built in Paegam, Kapsan and Unhung counties in Ryanggang Province.

The houses were constructed in keeping with the characteristics of the northern alpine areas, with each one having several living rooms, a kitchen, washroom and warehouse and hawthorns and other wild fruit trees planted around them to add beauty to the landscape.



Houses built in South

Hamgyong

Rural houses for over 920 households have been built in South Hamgyong Province.

Modern new dwellings preserving regional features have been built in different counties.



Factory turns out new-type motors

The Pyongyang electric motor factory of the Pyongyang General Electric Cable Factory 326 developed a variety of motors including that of a new type for lift, succeeded in trial production and is now mass producing them.

The motors reportedly help save materials as compared to the production of general ones and have a high efficiency.

Huge blasting offers prospects of steady reclamation

A 300 000-cubic-metre blasting was conducted in succession by the General Tideland Reclamation Enterprise of North Phyongan Province to complete the reclamation of Woldo tideland

before the time set.

It carried out a 300 000-cubic-metre blasting on Wol Islet on December 20 in the wake of the one in the Posan area in December, thus securing huge rubble stones and soil.

Power generation capacity enhanced in Jagang

Jagang Province has built several new medium and small hydropower stations this year, including Hungju Youth Power Station Unit 4, Tongsin Power Station Unit 3 and Kophung Power Station Unit 3.



Hard alloy production process established

The Munchon Steel Works in Kangwon Province has newly established a hard alloy production process.

It remodelled a 100-ton hydraulic press for extruding hard alloy and manufactured an electric boiler, mixer and other equipment to set up the hard alloy production process in a few months.



Forests and rivers brought under conservation

Hoechang County in South Phyongan Province is doing a good job of afforestation.

In the past its mountains were rocky and shallow in soil depth, so the county planted large areas of forests over the past decade.

At present, it is gathering such fruits of oil-bearing trees as pine nuts and black walnuts and such edible fruits as acorns and chestnuts in tens of thousands of hectares of forests and such medicinal materials as fruits of hawthorn and magnoliavine in hundreds of hectares of medicinal plant forests.

The locals say that as forests grow thicker, factories run at full capacity and in turn the output of consumer goods gets larger.

The same is the case with Yonhan County in North Hwanghae Province.

Industrial establishments in the county built their own

tree nurseries to create forests of economic value with such highly economical plants as black chokeberry, mulberry and magnoliavine.

Songchon County in South Phyongan Province is noted for benefiting much by conserving water properly.

Located in the middle part of Korea, the county would suffer much flood damage in the rainy season as thousands of hectares of arable land were inundated.

The county developed a design for an embankment in consideration of the highest precipitation and completed the bank revetment project for the Piryu River. It expanded the junction of several streams by dozens of metres to prevent flooding there.

Each ri has carried out a conservation project for medium-sized and small rivers every year to keep earth

from being washed away and prevent forest destruction and inundation.

Unsan County of North Phyongan Province also controls water properly.

"We built an embankment to drain away rainwater even if hundreds of millimetres of rain fall in an instant," said an official of the county people's committee.

This year the county removed hundreds of thousands of cubic metres of unwanted materials from river bottoms, repaired dams, built over 200 metres of earth dam and cleared waterways.

It has been freed from cold-weather damage and improved irrigation conditions as it built strong banks, straightened winding river courses, expanded narrow river sections and dredged rivers.

By Chae Hyang Ok PT

PROFILE

Researcher throws himself into machine building

One day 20 years ago, authoritative scientists and technicians of the textile industry got together to discuss the upgrading of shuttle looms at textile mills across the country.

Amid heated debate, a man in his early 30s took the floor.

Referring to the need to introduce a modern elastic staff loom into the textile industry, he said his university would develop it.

The participants in the meeting were deeply impressed by his logical argument proving the feasibility of development of the elastic staff loom that none of them had ever seen.

The speaker was Choe Tong Il (pictured) who was a lecturer of Pyongyang University of Mechanical Engineering at the time.

Back in his twenties, he already drew the attention of the academic world as he scientifically demonstrated the introduction of high-speed textile machines and contributed to increasing the efficiency of production facilities of a textile mill in Pyongyang by 10 percent.

His credo in life is to become a pioneer in scientific research.

He always applies himself to the analysis of the global trend of development of textile machines, his major field of



rather than making it.

But the researchers of the institute, keeping their national self-respect, strived to develop the most rational and ideal design.

"The knottiest problem was the thread-knotting machine. The device is the smallest in size, but the highest in degree of difficulty. It is designed to perform eight kinds

of movements in 0.2 seconds, including thread reeling, knot making and thread cutting.

Although it is smaller than a volleyball, the sophisticated device contains dozens of parts," recalled Ri Ryong Su, section chief of the institute.

The research team based on great imagination and novel ideas finally set up the tampon production process in which every work is automatically controlled, from the feeding of raw materials to the packaging of products.

Recently alone, he succeeded in automating the detonator production process for coal and other mines for the first time in the country, in developing a pneumatic jet loom and the automatic shoes packaging machine for the Ryuwon Footwear Factory and in completing the garter packaging line for the Pyongyang Hosiery Factory.

At that time, foreign technicians were said to have suggested purchasing the whole equipment they were using,

study, and the actual conditions of the country's textile machine industry.

After finishing the postgraduate course he became a lecturer at the university. Though busy with teaching, he worked hard to clearly understand the elastic staff loom.

He and his research team developed the loom for the first time in the country in collaboration with relevant units including the Pyongyang Textile Machine Factory, before introducing it into different textile mills.

After becoming the director of the machine design institute ten years ago, which was newly set up at the university, his first task was to establish an automatic tampon production process at the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill.

At that time, foreign technicians were said to have suggested purchasing the whole equipment they were using,

BIODIVERSITY

Research focuses on sustainable development

The biodiversity institute of the State Academy of Sciences has applied a lot of energies to scientific research on biodiversity for the country's sustainable economic development.

One of the projects is the study of wetland migratory bird reserves.

"We have undertaken research into ecological resources in over a dozen reserves including the Mundok and Sindo migratory bird reserves over the past five years," said Yun Chol Nam, director of the institute.

To this end, the institute conducted a survey of animals and plants including water birds and plants in wetland, their habitats and diversity of ecosystem and that of the regular flyways of migratory birds from January to November.

In particular, it carried out a

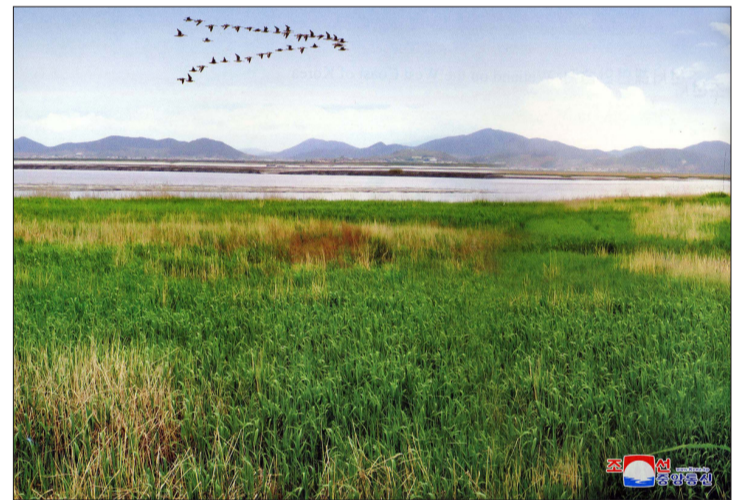
detailed survey of water bird resources in over 30 wetlands.

It was performed according to the AWC, said Ri Chung Song, a section chief of the institute.

The institute also made a detailed survey of the animal and plant species in the main biodiversity priority areas like Mts Paektu, Kungang and Myohyang in each season to make an estimate of their monthly and annual distribution.

In addition, it performed research to assess the state of habitats in major natural reserves and is now engaged in the project for reasonably setting the boundaries of reserves and increasing their areas by verifying the state of over 20 animal reserves and adding information about them.

By Kim Il Jin PT



A snap at the Mundok migratory bird reserve, which is a wetland.

COUNTY

Every possibility tapped for local economic growth

"Each local area has enough potential for its development. The point is how to find out and use it," said an official in Nyongbyon County, North Phyongan Province.

The county, however, used to bring building stones from the other area far away from it, which required huge funds and labour.

Therefore, the county officials trekked along rivers and through rugged mountains in search of building stone sources.

"A comparative analysis between our trial product and the processed stone of a local area renowned for stone processing showed that ours is of high quality," said the manager of the county construction company.

Encouraged by this, the county built a granite production base and equipped it with necessary facilities in a matter of a few months and turned out building

stones in all sizes and colours with the stones from rivers.

It used them in sprucing up different units and buildings as part of its ambitious effort to give a total facelift to itself in a characteristic way.

By-products from stone processing were recycled to produce columns, rails, flower pots and the like.

The demand for processed stone goods constituted an incentive to further development of the county.

The county which established an acrylic paint production base is using stone dust from stone processing in construction.

It is now engaged in the development of a quarry to increase granite output and the upgrading of processing facilities.

By Jong Chol PT

By Jong Hwa Sun PT



Recycling widely adopted for business, environmental purposes

Waste processing gains momentum

A campaign has dynamically been pushed in recent years in various sectors of the national economy to recycle scrap materials and domestic waste.

The Third Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK held in April adopted a law on recycling to ensure the sustainable development of the economy and protection of ecological environment. The law enforcement regulations were issued to encourage recycling, paying premiums for such products and giving preferential treatment to their production units.

Practical measures have also been taken to conduct recycling under unified guidance.

Recently, the government took a measure to ensure industrial establishments would use the profits made from the recycling of waste and by-products for their management and technological development.

What is important here is to draw up a recycling development strategy properly so that the



recovery and reproduction would form a close link.

To this end, steps are now being taken to set up standardized facilities in the workplaces, public places and residential quarters, collect and sort a large amount of scrap materials and domestic waste into kinds and reuse waste paper, plastic waste, waste rubber and others that are in abundance and that require less investment before anything else.

The introduction of science and technology into recycling is an important matter in pressing

on with it on a long-term basis.

National priority projects related to recycling have been fixed realistically on an annual basis and industrial establishments are now eager to apply new technologies in line with their actual conditions.

It is also important to promote recycling in combination with the development of green economy on the principle of environmental protection and in a far-sighted way.

We are now faced with a task of grasping the actual situation and controlling the entire process properly to ensure all sectors and units establish a regular production system and conduct recycling as required by the relevant law.

We will organize and supervise the work for recycling more carefully to give a much-needed boost to the national economy.

Ri Jong Im, department director of the State Planning Commission

More units introduce recycling

Different factories and enterprises across the country are briskly engaging in the work of recycling

The Pyongyang Building-materials Factory contrived and introduced new methods for ensuring the domestic production of raw materials for tile production, thus overfulfilling the tile production plan of the 80-day campaign by 50 percent.

The Pyongyang General Electric Cable Factory 326 recycled hundreds of tons of waste in some 10 kinds this year alone as it produced a great number of aluminium rods from scrap aluminium and high-purity aluminium from low-purity one.

The Taedonggang Battery Factory reclaims lead from waste batteries to prevent environmental pollution and reduce production costs.

It turns out lead for battery by building a new electrical resistance furnace, and has established a new dry-type refining process to increase the

purity of recycled lead.

The Haeju Kumgang Youth Smeltery completed a process for sodium bicarbonate production.

The Myongchon County Essential Plastic Goods Factory produced tens of thousands of metres of plastic pipes.

The Rangnang Disabled Soldiers' Essential Plastic Goods Factory recycles waste plastic bottles to use them as raw materials for plastic bottles.

The Wonsan and Kangso footwear factories and many other units properly organized the work of recycling all sorts of by-products and waste so as to reenergize production.

In particular, the Wonsan Leather Shoes Factory solves the problem of raw materials for production by using different kinds of idle and available materials like plastic and rubber waste and old boots.

Now it produces soles, boots, slippers and even winter shoes from idle materials.

By Chae Hyang Ok PT

By-products reused for shoe production

The Ryuwon Footwear Factory in Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang, is effectively recycling by-products from the cutting and injection processes for footwear production.

"We set the recycling of raw and other materials as an important strategy for reenergizing production, rather than a simple work of developing technology," said Im Ui Ung, chief engineer of the factory.

According to him, the factory had thrown away the cuttings of synthetic leather and insoles and EVA plastic by-products from the cutting and EVA injection processes in the past.

Researchers settled technical problems for the heat-treatment of by-products of synthetic leather that had been dumped previously so as to recycle them in the production of sole. The sole can help satisfy quality indexes and reduce production

costs by 10 percent.

The factory also mixes the certain amount of vinyl chloride with insole by-products from its insoles production process and EVA plastic ones and heat-treats them to make the insoles of shoes. The insoles can be used in different purposes of footwear production as they are similar to paper fibre ones in terms of its quality.

It is now recycling 90 percent of by-products.

The factory is now working on research to make paper fibre insoles with wastepaper and the process to recycle raw materials for the pasting of shoemaking.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT



SONG YONG SOK

Workers produce insoles with by-products at the Ryuwon Footwear Factory in Pyongyang.

Factory turns waste into goods

The Pyongyang Plastic Building-materials Factory is benefitting substantially from recycling.

It has been producing a variety of goods with plastic waste as raw materials for several years.

"Our factory's flagship products are plastic pipe and bucket," said manager Kim Hyong Ju, adding they are striving to diversify them.

The factory selects raw

materials in a technical way to ensure the quality of products.

According to section chief Kim Yong Ok, the selection of raw materials takes an important share in the whole process.

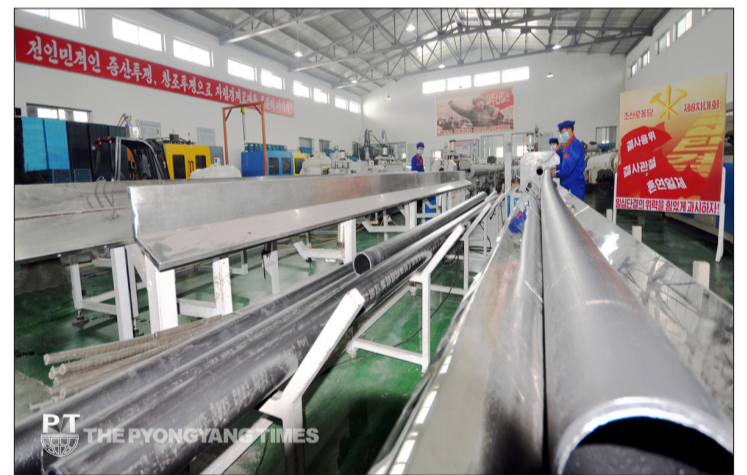
For instance, she said, it is hard to guarantee the quality when 100kg of plastic waste collected to make pipes contains only 100g of another kind of plastic. Moreover, given the collected plastic waste may

contain some that have been recycled for several times, the product quality largely depends on how they are separated and what kind of additives are applied, she added.

The factory classifies plastic waste according to the quality of materials and recyclability before sending them over to the production processes.

"We barter some of our products for plastic waste to recycle. It not just makes effective use of plastic waste but also saves costs and protects the environment," said workteam leader Kim Song Jun.

By Kim Kum Myong PT



KIM HYOK CHOL / PICTORIAL DPR KOREA

Recycling technology is applied to production at the Rangnang Disabled Soldiers' Essential Plastic Goods Factory in Pyongyang.

SURGERY

Surgical team garners reputation in heart operation

The cardiovascular surgery department of the Okryu Children's Hospital has carried out over 410 rounds of heart operations so far this year, enhancing its reputation as a competent medical team.

The medical team has 20-odd-year-long experience in cardiovascular operations. They have solved another knotty problem this year to extend the range of their operations to patients with a body weight of lower than 5 kilograms.

"It is most desirable to operate on patients with congenital cardiovascular diseases when they are newborns," said department director Ri Chol Jin. "We were only able to operate on children who weighed more than 6kg. However, we succeeded in an operation on a baby weighing 4.7kg, who was suffering from large ventricular septal defect complicated with severe pulmonary hypertension."

The department also invented efficient medical facilities and appliances by themselves in



CHAE MYONG RIM

Surgeons perform a cardiovascular operation at the Okryu Children's Hospital in Pyongyang.

order to improve their treatment effects.

They brought out over 30 valuable inventions such as ring-type traumatic suture needle, fibrotic materials with valve, pericardial retractor for right thoracotomy, which can help reduce the operating time by half and shorten the period of recovery yet with less medications.

"The secret of our achievement is the unity of all members of

the department," said Ri, adding the groups in charge of surgery, narcosis, intensive treatment and extracorporeal circulation were of one mind in the treatment and technical innovation.

"Next year," he continued, "we will try with greater efforts to complete treatment methods for two diseases which remain as last bottlenecks in cardiovascular operations."

By Kim Rye Yong PT

HARMONICA

Young actress steals the show



"A harmonica recital played by Kim Un Sim steals the show. Her technical skills are well worth seeing as she plays several harmonicas by turns," said O Nam Jin, official of the Pyongyang Rubber Factory.

A 19-year-old actress of the central youth artistic motivational team, Kim Un Sim (pictured) has only worked a little over one year.

Her solo always thrills the audience as she skilfully plays harmonicas with different timbres and tones.

"Our motivational team includes many experienced and renowned actors and actresses. However, Kim's harmonica solo has been regarded as an integral whole of our performance," said team leader Kim Tong Uk.

Born of a worker's family in Nampho City, she picked up the

musical instrument for the first time when she was 14.

A music group instructor of her school found that she had a good ear and respiration.

Her skills developed rapidly enough to stun even her instructor.

She made her debut three months after she started to learn how to play the harmonica and won a gold medal at the national schoolchildren's vocal and instrumental solo contest five months later.

She received a big hand at the annual New Year's performance of schoolchildren and the artistic performance of schoolchildren for celebrating the 70th founding anniversary of the Korean Children's Union.

"It is not easy to create the artistic representation peculiar to a harmonica belonging to popular instruments. In addition, to be flawless in playing several harmonicas, every player is required to correctly control their breath and acquire a variety of techniques," said Kim Tong Uk.

Her skills have further been polished at the artistic motivational team.

Finally, she completed her recital performed with six harmonicas with different timbres and tones by displaying untiring efforts and passion.

"I often feel broken down from exhaustion or rigidity on

my wrists. However, seeing well-delighted people from my performance always refreshes me. I will work hard to be an actress who lives up to their expectations," said Kim Un Sim.

By Han Kwi Hun PT

GARMENT

Tailor shop provides customers with warmth

Now, as winter sets in, a lot of customers are coming to get their winter suits made at the Kaeson Tailor Shop under the Moranbong District Tailor Shop Group.

"Many people used to go for winter clothes in dark colours in the past, but now they seem to have developed a liking for bright and warm colours," said manageress Kang Kyong Hui.

The shop makes bespoke clothes for women in orange, red and pink colours and those for men in blue, brown and grey.

However, to provide warmth is more important than colour to winter clothes. The shop adds collars, lapels and tucks in various shapes to the neck, waist and sleeves to provide additional warmth and elegance.

With rich experience and consummate skills, the cutters at the tailor shop choose the type, colour, material and pattern of the clothes in consideration of the physique, occupation and even characteristics of

customers, and recommend the best design for them.

"As no two people may have the same characteristics and physique, the clothes that suit each person should be different," said needle worker Sim Mi Ran, adding they make every piece of clothes with great devotion.

"I am already feeling warm at the thought that I can wear clothes made at this tailor shop," said Son Kwang Song from Phyongchon District, Pyongyang, who visited the shop to order a winter coat.

The shop also makes suits, plain clothes, close-buttoned jackets and Korean traditional clothes.

"Many customers send us photos of themselves wearing clothes made at our shop as a token of their appreciation," said the manageress. "Whenever I receive thanks from customers, I feel really proud of our work and come to think that we should further improve our service."

By Ri Sung Ik PT



HAN KWI HUN

Designers discuss how to improve dressmaking at the Kaeson Tailor Shop.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENT

National instruments improved

The National Institute of Musical Instruments have updated *thungso* (Korean bamboo flute) and *komungo*

(Korean lute), national classical instruments.

"We have expanded the compass and volume of both the

instruments so that any modern music can be easily performed," said Ri Thae Hyon, deputy director of the institute.

Previous *thungso* was only used to play pentatonic classical music and old folk songs.

Typical examples are *Sinau* or *Arirang*, pentatonic *thungso* music pieces, which reflect well the national sentiment with enchanting and pathetic timbre.

The institute expanded the scale into twelve while preserving the timbre peculiar to *thungso*, widened compass and volume by updating sound holes according to it and shifting the position of pith of a reed and newly installed caps over the sound holes to provide convenience for performance.

It increased the original four strings of *komungo* to six, used staples instead of the previous additional string that had been used to fasten strings and added three more fixing bridges so that modern music could finely be performed.



CHAE MYONG RIM

Employees evaluate the tones of musical instruments using a program at the National Institute of Musical Instruments.

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

LAW

Constitution committed to people's rights and interests



December 27 is the Constitution Day of the DPRK.

The Korean people commemorate the auspicious day when the legal framework of the socialist country was established.

The constitution of a country is the most fundamental law that reflects the political character of the country.

As the Socialist Constitution prescribes, the guiding ideology and characters of the DPRK, the principles the state should uphold in the domains of politics, the economy, culture

and military, the missions and principles of activity of national agencies and the rights and duties of citizens reflect the popular characteristics of the country.

According to the articles of the Socialist Constitution related to the economic and cultural rights of citizens, for example, all able-bodied citizens may choose occupations in accordance with their wishes and skills and work according to their abilities in stable working conditions and are paid in accordance with the quantity and quality of their work. They also have the right to relaxation, which is ensured by the establishment of working hours and the provision of holidays, paid leave, accommodation at health resorts and holiday homes at state expense and by a growing network of cultural facilities.

The constitution also stipulates that they are entitled to free medical care, and all persons who are no longer able to work because of illness or

physical disability and seniors and minors who have no means of support are all entitled to material assistance from the state.

This right is ensured by the free medical care system which covers the whole population and other social security systems.

The Socialist Constitution which was adopted on December 27 1972 has been amended and supplemented on several occasions to further strengthen its popular characteristics.

The Fourth Session of the 13th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK decided to name it Kim Il Sung-Kim Jong Il Constitution in order to hand down the undying exploits of the great leaders who drew up and developed the constitution of the people.

The Korean people take it as the greatest pride and happiness to have this constitution.

Hong Chol Hwa, director of the Law Institute of the Academy of Social Sciences

When unprecedented natural disasters hit the country in succession causing heavy damage throughout the country, the WPK came up closer to the people who were suffering difficulties and took all necessary measures to provide them with a stable life. Korean People's Army soldiers and the elite divisions of Party members from the capital city were dispatched to the disaster-stricken areas and houses furnished with all household goods provided to flood victims gratis. As a result, they expressed their gratitude to the country full of excitement and joy.

The reality, in which the people are grateful to the devotion and love shown by the Supreme Leader and the leader expresses his thanks to them for leading a healthy and joyful life, made "thanks" the most meaningful word of the year.

By **Kim Rye Yong** PT

WORD

Buzzword of year

"Thanks" is an expression which impressed itself on the minds of all the Korean people in 2020.

This year the DPRK celebrated the 75th anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea as the most important political holiday. A military parade took place as part of its celebrations, in which Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un made a speech and repeatedly "thanked" all the Korean people for celebrating the holiday by overcoming all the difficulties they faced this year, particularly arduous and trying in the 75-year history of the WPK, and for being healthy and free from illness in spite of the world pandemic.

When he mentioned the heartfelt, sincere word in a

hoarse voice, all the Korean people wept silent tears, saying it was the Supreme Leader who should receive their grateful thanks.

In fact, "thanks" is a common word so much used in everyday life in the DPRK, but its meaning was much more amplified this year as it was eventful and difficult.

It is the most important Party and state affair in the DPRK to defend the life and security of the people and provide them with happy living. Therefore, a state infectious disease prevention system was already declared in it before COVID-19 caused a world health crisis and the pandemic prevention was the number one issue in Party and state activities.

R&D

Father and daughter pioneer cross-disciplinary science



KIM YONG CHAN

Chon Chun Chu, head of the Koryo medicine pharmaceutical laboratory at the Koryo Medicine Production Management Bureau of the Ministry of Public Health, and his daughter **Chon Song I** work on minerals.

Mineral Koryo medicines have been developed in the DPRK in recent years, which prove surprisingly effective in the treatment of diseases.

Their developers are Chon Chun Chu, head of the Koryo medicine pharmaceutical laboratory of the Koryo Medicine Production Management Bureau of the Ministry of Public Health, and his daughter Chon Song I.

Chon had worked for a long time in the mineral production sector as a mineralogist. In the period he came to know that some minerals have powerful cellular tissue activating, staunching and anti-inflammatory effects. So, he embarked on research into a new cross-disciplinary science which combines mineralogy and medicine.

He assiduously studied medical science research materials and reference books, while intensifying research into minerals to be used as medicinal materials.

At that time his daughter graduated from Pyongyang University of Medical Sciences and joined in his research. To her, mineralogy was not unfamiliar as she had grown up seeing his father dealing with a variety of mineral samples.

Chon and his daughter travelled to rugged mountains and hills and deep valleys across the country together to find out minerals with special medical effects for over 10 years. And they worked day and night to conduct component analysis of the collected samples and their basic pharmacological tests and continue research into treatment methods. Their house gradually turned into a laboratory filled with mineral analysis apparatuses and reagents.

Their painstaking efforts began to bear fruit: they were awarded a patent in 2016 for the

mineral haemorrhoids ointment they invented. This year they unveiled a mineral tablet for the treatment of gastric ulcer to obtain another national patent.

"I took the mineral gastric ulcer tablet for a month and had a medical check-up. It showed all were negative," said a worker at the Rangnang Disabled Soldiers' Essential Plastic Goods Factory, who had suffered from gastric ulcer for years.

Their developments are also producing good therapeutic effects in clinical practice.

After being dosed with their mineral Koryo medicines against incurable injuries, cancer of the rectum and cervical cancer, patients became free from inflammation and the wounds were skinned over and the bad granulation tissue which was hard to remove by means of operation was cleared among them.

"Their inventions are really innovative," said O Yong Chol, head of the traumatic surgery department of Pyongyang Municipal People's Hospital No. 2.

They, father and daughter developers, received several diplomas at the Pyongyang international health and sports science and technology exhibition in 2018 and were highly appreciated at the national sci-tech festival and inventions exhibition.

"We have gained extensive experience on the way of pioneering a new cross-disciplinary science which combines mineralogy and medicine. We are confident that such diseases as cancer would not remain incurable in the future if scientific research into minerals is intensified still further," said Chon Chun Chu.

By **Choe Yong Nam** PT



Pegae Hill with a ski slope in the City of Samjiyon.

RYU KWANG HYOK

JAPAN

Another revelation of deep-seated hostility towards DPRK

Shortly ago, the Japanese authorities have excluded students of Korea University from the application of the “emergency subsidy program for students” related to the world pandemic crisis.

Such a cruel measure has shocked the international community and even Japanese citizens feel shame for it.

Representatives of Japanese university professors issued a statement calling for impartial support. This was approved by hundreds of university professors.

The discrimination and persecution by the Japanese authorities against the overall educational system for Koreans in Japan are a fascist outrage aimed at preventing Koreans of younger generations from carrying forward their movement in Japan by stamping out the democratic national education.

Their moves to stamp out the national education, which have been made since Japan’s defeat in World War II, are getting ever nastier and crueller.

The Japanese authorities didn’t recognize the establishment of Korean schools in an attempt to

Growing discrimination against Koreans in Japan

On March 10, Japan’s Saitama City authorities excluded the kindergarten of Saitama Korean junior middle school only from the supply of masks for local sanatoriums, nurseries and kindergartens.

The Japanese right-wing gangsters on May 10 thronged to Korea University with placards and the likes, which read “Korea University is a murderous university”, “Tokyo Metropolis should cancel the incorporation of the university” and others, viciously slinging

mud to the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan and the university.

On September 2, Japan’s Supreme Court turned down the claim of damage suit for the illegality of discrimination against the Korean school by the Japanese authorities filed by the graduates from Aichi Korean middle and high school in 2013, saying the government decision to exclude Japan-based Korean schools from state subsidies to high schools is legitimate.

nip in the bud the development of national education. In 1949, they dissolved 348 Korean schools by enforcing the “law on closure of Korean schools”.

Afterwards, they forced assimilation education on Koreans in Japan and pursued cruel national discrimination against the Korean students.

They do not provide subsidies for the Korean schools for no reason though Koreans in Japan are obliged to pay taxes like

the Japanese. They have even imposed taxes on the donations offered by Koreans to Korean schools in a bid to disturb their efforts for improving the educational environment.

Their ceaseless moves to obliterate national education have inflicted untold damage on the Koreans in Japan.

As the Koreans in Japan are the direct victims of Japanese military rule, and their descendants, the Japanese

authorities have legal and humanitarian responsibilities for guaranteeing their human rights and encouraging the development of their national education.

Notably, the Koreans’ right to national education is in full compliance with the World Declaration on Human Rights, the international convention on economic, social and cultural rights and other international laws accepted by Japan and its domestic laws.

Japan seeks to trample down the future of the movement of Koreans in Japan and do harm to the DPRK, far from dropping the foolish way of thinking to abuse the issue of education for attaining its disgusting diplomatic and political purposes. This is the true colours of Japan.

Japan should abandon its despicable policy hostile to the DPRK and moves to obliterate national education, being aware that the guaranteeing of national education for the Korean students is a sincere approach to the proper settlement of its crime-ridden past.

By Song Jong Ho PT

CONGO

Country of tropical forests

The Republic of Congo is located in mid-western Africa on the Atlantic coast.

Colonized by France in 1886, the country became independent on August 15 1960 within the French community. Its name is derived from the namesake river.

The Congo River is the next biggest to the Amazon in terms of catchment area in the world.

The two thirds of the Congolese territory is covered with tropical forests, which are remarkably dense particularly in the northern area. Grass savannah stretches over its southern area.

Tall trees form forests also in the north-eastern plains.

The riverside of the southern area is thickly wooded to unfold spectacular scenery on the savannah. The tropical forests

are inhabited by elephants, chimpanzees and other animals.

There are nature parks in different parts of the country which contribute to protecting precious animal and plant recourses.

The equatorial country has a high temperature all the year round and a high rainfall as well.

The Congo focuses on developing the timber industry.

Many wood-processing factories have been built to satisfy the domestic demand for timber and the country is a big wood exporter.

Close attention has been directed to upgrading relevant equipment, ensuring the timely transport of logs to processing plants and creating forests of economic value.

The DPRK established diplomatic relations with the Republic of Congo at ambassadorial level on December 24 1964.

By Min Chol PT

ENVIRONMENT

Carbon dioxide emission emerges as pressing issue

The UN Secretary-General has recently underlined the need to declare a climate emergency worldwide, with regard to the fact that carbon dioxide emissions causing global warming have amounted to 34 billion tons this year.

Experts warned that the density of carbon dioxide will pass the limit of 1 200ppm in 2104 if no measures are taken.

According to research data, about 1 000-2 000ppm of carbon

dioxide density is high enough to remove clouds and raise the temperature by 8 degrees centigrade at maximum.

In the beginning of this year, the International Energy Agency said the amount of carbon dioxide emitted last year for power generation and energy reached about 33 billion tons, which was similar to that of 2018 when the amount of emission marked a record high.

Abnormal weather conditions caused by global warming

destroy ecosystem and pose serious threats to human existence and activities.

Sultry weather, heat waves and dry weather reduce grain output in the agricultural sector and flood, forest fire and other natural disasters occur to cause huge human and materials losses.

Today, the reduction of amount of carbon dioxide emission is a pressing task for mankind.

Many countries are making positive endeavours to develop

and use natural energies in place of fossil fuels.

According to information of the UN, the capacity of generating natural energies has increased four times in the world in recent ten years.

The world’s capacity of generating such natural energies as solar, wind and geothermal powers was reportedly 414GW in 2009, but it increased to 1 650GW in 2019 which accounted for 12.9 percent of the total electricity output.

Thanks to the benefits of natural energies, 20 billion tons of carbon dioxide emissions were inhibited in 2018.

Therefore, different countries work hard to harness them.

By Om Ryong PT

Briefly

China

Xi refers to poverty relief

Chinese President Xi Jinping said in a letter published on December 14 that the Communist Party of China and the Chinese government have set a goal to provide its people with a happy life, adding nearly 100 million rural population have got out of poverty this year thanks to the continuous efforts made in the past eight years.

Mongolia

President clarifies stand to stabilize people’s livelihood

The Mongolian President said on December 14 that the government would lower living expenses on a nationwide scale until early June next year, describing it as an important measure for providing its people with stable conditions of life in connection with COVID-19.

India

Modi calls for directing efforts to space programme

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi referred to a series of measures the government has recently taken to promote national space programme, saying that this field requires more telematics talents.

Cuba

Vice-president points to energy plan

The vice-president of the Council of Ministers of Cuba said at the National Assembly of People’s Power on December 17 that solar power stations in the middle area of the country and the Mariel special development zone generated large quantities of electricity and the bio-power station started operation this year. Power production by natural energies is a primary task for economic development, he noted.

East Africa

Nations promote cooperation

Defence ministers of the East African countries decided on December 18 to scale up the East African Rapid Reaction Forces from 6 000 to 7 000 so as to promote regional peace and stability.

CIS

Leaders committed to synergy in many fields

The council of heads of state of member nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States held a videoconference on December 18.

The meeting discussed the issues of collaboration between the CIS members in the fight against the pandemic and of strengthening cooperation in all domains including politics, the economy and military.

LEGEND

Sin Kum Dan secures a place in athletic history

Perhaps, people would not believe that an athlete reset the world's track and field records 11 times. But it is a fact.

Sin Kum Dan of the DPRK, who was brought into sudden prominence in the 1960s, was called the "queen of the world's athletics circles" by renewing the world's records 11 times during her playing career.

She was born to an ordinary railway worker's family in Riwon County, South Hamgyong Province, in 1938.

After finishing the middle school course, she started to work at the Huichon Machine Tool Factory. It was in a factory-wide sports contest on May 1 1958 that her outstanding sports talent was fully displayed.

That day, everybody admired her as she won the 100m and 400m races. She made a sweeping victory at the 100m, 400m and 800m races and high jump at the provincial sports games held on August 15 that year to mark the day of national liberation from Japanese military rule.

A story about her was published by a newspaper, and she was picked to the Amnokgang Sports Club afterwards.

She competed in the national track and field contest to break new records at 200m, 400m and



Sin Kum Dan celebrates after winning races at the Games for New Emerging Forces (GANEF) which were held in Jakarta, Indonesia, in November 1963. She established two new records and won three gold medals at the games.

800m races of the then national athletics games and was awarded the title of sports ace.

She made her international debut in the international athletics games in Moscow of the former Soviet Union in June 1959. She finished runner-up at the 400m event.

Some years afterwards were her heyday in playing career. She surprised the world people by renewing the world's record at the 800m race at the same international event in July

1960.

She reset the world records and came first in the 400m and 800m races at the same international competition in June 1962, and bettered her world records again in the two races of the same competition held in July the following year.

Sin was placed first in the 200m race at the First Games for New Emerging Forces (GANEF) which were held in Jakarta, Indonesia, in November 1963 and established new world records again in the 400m and 800m races to breast the tape before others.

While working as a track and field coach at the Amnokgang Sports Club later, she trained many sports aces including the one who topped the rankings at the Asian athletics games in 1987 and devoted her all to the development of the sport.

She is now over 80, and the people keep loving memory of her along with the high decorations she received including Kim Il Sung Prize and the title of People's Athlete.

She received the 70th and 80th birthday spreads sent by Chairman Kim Jong Il and Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un.

By Kim Rye Yong PT

SCENERY

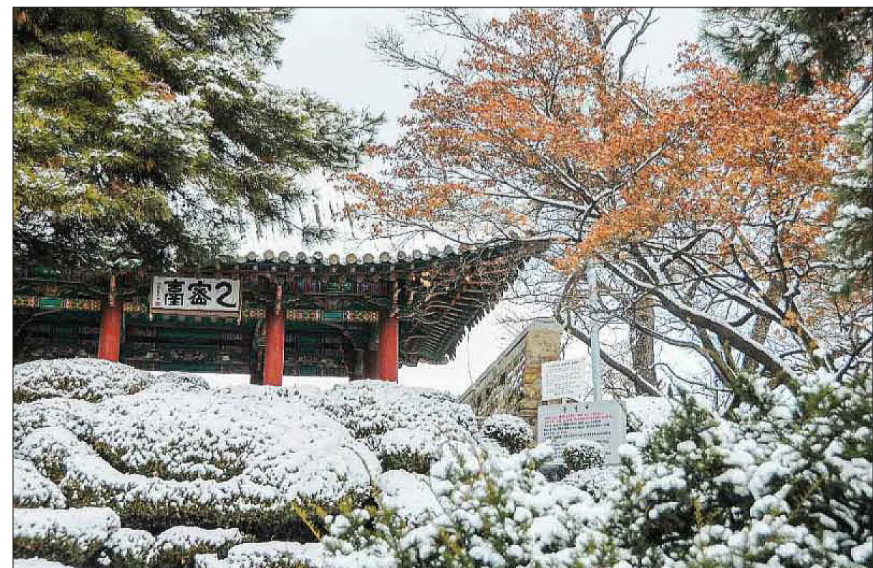
Snow-clad Moran Hill

It is December and Pyongyang is in the depths of winter.

A snowy wind rushed through tree branches bare of leaves with whistling sounds and left them well covered with snow, and it looks like

they are wearing thick-wadded coats.

As the white snow reflects the morning sunshine, the scenery of Moran Hill in Pyongyang resembles a peony blossom drifting on the Taedong River.



Ulmi Pavilion on Moran Hill in winter.

On their way to work along the roads covered with fresh snow, people admire the scenery, saying that the Choesung Pavilion is like a stamen and the ridges with different heights are like petals and that Moran Hill in white glows like a gem.

Photographers and artists are the first to climb the snow-clad hill as they are eager to take the scenery into their photos and paintings.

The snow-covered green pine, refreshing sound of water flowing under the thick blanket of snow, twitter of birds and flurries of shiny snowflakes in a gentle breeze are the scenic beauty peculiar to winter.

By Ri Sung Ik PT

LETTERS

Alphabet of Korean nation

Korean ancestors created and used *Sinji* characters in ancient times and *Ridu* characters later.

But by dint of the latter characters, it was impossible to freely write down everyday language and they were difficult to learn.

In 1444, renowned scholars of *Jiphyonjon*, a national agency for authoring important books during the feudal Joseon dynasty, created *Hunminjeongeum* under the supervision of the dynasty's fourth king Sejong.

Hunminjeongeum literally means "correct sounds to teach the people". At the time of its creation the alphabet consisted of 17 consonants and 11 vowels, 28 letters in all.

There are mainly three types of system of writing in the world: pictographs, ideographs and phonetic script. And phonetic script is classified into syllabic and alphabetical characters. Of them, the alphabetic characters are known as the most perfect. *Hunminjeongeum* is just the developed type of this writing system.

It was invented on the basis of an in-depth study of the relationship between sounds and letters and the consonants and vowels of Korean.

Since it can record almost all the sounds of words of all

the countries of the world, its creators asserted it could "write down all the sounds of the world".

It was made on the original principle of shaping characters after the human speech organs. The creators made the main letters in the shapes of such speech organs as the tongue, lips and throat that change according to each sound and, on that basis, they systematized their derivatives as well.

In view of the world history of development of letters, it is hard to find such alphabet as *Hunminjeongeum* that was made on such a scientific principle.

Hunminjeongeum is easy to learn and convenient to write and has many other advantages.

"I feel as if the Korean alphabet was created centuries before in anticipation of the advent of computer," said a Japanese university professor. And a European university prestigious in the linguistic circle announced that the Korean alphabet came first when it ranked all the scripts of the world by the standards of rationality, scientific accuracy and originality.

Hong Sung Il

FOOD

Clam dish of Wonsan

Wonsan boiled rice with clam meat is a special dish prepared with shellfish from the East Sea of Korea.

Clam meat is well known for its distinctive flavour as well as rich content of such nutrients as proteins, fat and vitamins.

The speciality of Wonsan, a coastal city of the DPRK, is not only famous for being cooked with savoury and nutritive clams but also for its unusual recipe.

To make the dish, some red pepper is boiled down in oil in a saucepan until it smells hot.

And then, 200 grams of bite-sized clam meat, red and green pepper, smashed leek and garlic, ginger, wine, salt and pepper are put into the saucepan, followed by 80 grams of rice and sesame oil.

The pan is heated until the food picks up flavour, and then it is put into shells of clams over which clam soup is poured.

You then shut the shells and wrap them with the leaves

of leopard plant or perilla to steam them for about 40 minutes.

The dish tastes hot and spicy but not fishy. The rice is well cooked and oily and preserves its original shape.

It may have different flavours depending on what kind of leaves are used for wrapping.

Wonsan boiled rice with clam meat is palatable and appetizing as all the ingredients and elements blend in well with each other, such as colour, smell, taste, chewiness and even the sight of clam shells.

By Pang Un Ju PT



Wonsan boiled rice with clam meat.

