

The Pyongyang Times

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

No. 5 (3 145) weekly <http://www.pyongyangtimes.com.kp> e-mail: flph@star-co.net.kp Sat, January 30, Juche 110(2021)

BLESSINGS

Congratulations come upon Kim Jong Un's Party leadership election

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un received congratulatory messages and letters from different countries on the occasion of his election as general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea.

They include the general secretary of the Union Solidarity and Development Party of Myanmar, the chairman of the Mongolian People's Party, the chairman of the Central Executive Committee of the Bangladesh National Socialist Party, the general secretary of the Central Committee of the Syrian Communist Party, the general secretary of the Al Ahd al Watani Party of Syria, the general secretary of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front, the chairman of the Motherland Party of Turkey, the acting first secretary of the Central Committee of the Armenian Communist Party, the chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan, the chairman and the deputy secretary general of the National Leading Council of the Diversity Party of Indonesia, the senior leader of the Indian People's Party, the general secretary of the Central Committee

of the All-India Forward Bloc, the acting chairman of the Communist Party of Germany, the chairman of the Socialist Party of Romania, the general secretary of the Communist Party of Switzerland, the chairman of the Communist Party in Sweden, the general secretary of the Guinean Rainbow People's Assembly, the secretary general of the Mozambique Liberation Front Party, the general secretary of the Socialist Party of Senegal, the general secretary of the Congolese Party of Labour, the general secretary and the secretary for International Relations of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Venezuela, the first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Chile (Proletarian Action), the general secretary of the Revolutionary Communist Party of Uruguay, the Central Committee of the Marxist-Leninist Communist Party of Brazil and the National Leadership of the March 26 Movement of Uruguay.

Also among them are the secretary of the Central Council of the Communist Parties-the Communist Party of the Soviet

Union, the international secretary of the Serbian Communist Party, the international secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the People of Spain, a councilor of the European Society for the Study of the Juche Idea, the secretary general of the International Liaison Committee for Reunification and Peace in Korea and other high-ranking officials of political, public and economic circles and the military of China, Russia, Nepal, Myanmar, Mongolia, Singapore, Cambodia, Turkey, India, Japan, Germany, Bulgaria, Belarus, Sweden, France, Italy, Spain, South Africa, Libya, Senegal, Zambia, Zimbabwe, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Brazil, Peru, Argentina and Australia, and representatives of organizations for the study of the Juche idea, organizations for supporting Korea's reunification and friendship organizations.

Meanwhile, the Central Committee of the WPK received a congratulatory message from the general secretary of the Revolutionary Communist Party of France.

KCNA

REPLY

Messages from foreign parties appreciated

The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea sent messages to the leaderships of foreign political parties in reply to the congratulatory messages and letters sent by them on the occasion of its Eighth Congress.

They include the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam, the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party, the Central Leadership of the Arab Baath Socialist Party of Syria, the Central Committee of the People's Party of Cambodia, the Central Committee of the South African Communist Party, the Central Committee of the Mozambique Liberation Front Party and the National Executive Committee of the Workers' Party of Mexico.

The WPK Central

Committee in the messages extended thanks to them for sending warm congratulations to the Eighth Congress of the WPK, an important political event in the development of the WPK and the Korean revolution.

The messages noted that their comradely and fraternal felicitations give great strength and encouragement to the WPK and people of the DPRK in their efforts to fulfil the fighting programme set forth at the Eighth Party Congress.

Affirming that it will steadily develop the friendly and cooperative relations with those parties, the WPK Central Committee in the messages wished them greater successes in their activities for independent development and prosperity of their countries.

KCNA

ECONOMY

Key industry sectors launch into new five-year plan

The metallurgical industry sector set forth a high goal of consolidating production foundations and expanding productivity and directs efforts to this end.

The Chollima Steel Complex launched a campaign for making a breakthrough in reenergizing production and the Kim Chaek and Hwanghae iron and steel complexes improved their production capacities and put forward the preparations for remodelling the production processes into energy-saving ones.

The Musan Mining Complex and Unnyul and Jaeryong mines are overfulfilling their plans every day.

The chemical industry sector is bracing itself up as befitting the core industry of the country.

Chemical scientists buckled down to research into core technologies with a determination to open up a new chapter in the development of the nation's chemical industry during the period of the new five-year plan by founding a chemical industry relying on domestic materials.

The Hungnam Fertilizer Complex put the production of nitrogenous fertilizer on normal footing. The Suncheon Phosphate Fertilizer Factory concentrates all efforts on completing the technical process for normalizing the production of high-concentration ammonium phosphate fertilizer in the shortest possible time.

The Namhung Youth Chemical Complex speeds up the project for increasing production

capacity and pushes ahead with the renovation and modernization of several chemical factories.

The Pukchang and Pyongyang thermal power complexes work to raise their power generation capacities, while stepping up the introduction of a technology for reducing the consumption of heavy oil.

The Suncheon Area Youth Coal-mining Complex and Kaechon and Hamnam area coal-mining complexes, among other coal-mining units, are giving priority to prospecting and tunnelling works so as to work out promising coal fields and secure coal pits and coal deposits.

An intensive study and discussions are going on in the machine-building industry sector on the

problem of carrying out the tasks set forth at the Eighth Party Congress on the basis of practical and scientific calculations.

A renovation project is making headway at the Kumsong Tractor Factory, and major factories and enterprises in the sector including the Ryongsong Machine Complex, Taean Heavy Machine Complex and Ragwon General Machine Enterprise are directing efforts to building the production foundations capable of developing and manufacturing any up-to-date machines and facilities.

The mining industry sector is also conducting study and discussions geared to finding out the ways to accomplish the goals and tasks to be achieved in the period of



The poster calls for winning a fresh victory in socialist construction by remarkably increasing the internal motive force under the banner of self-reliance.

the new five-year plan, production foundations. while pushing forward with the reinforcement of

KCNA

LEAD

To usher in a new upsurge in socialist construction

The Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea which was held from January 5 to 12 set forth new strategic and tactical policies, tasks and ways for the epochal progress in building Korean-style socialism.

The congress analysed and reviewed the mistakes to be overcome in the overall work of the Party and the state in a detailed way and found correct measures against them to set higher goals in a scientific way.

In fact, the DPRK achieved great successes during the five years after the Seventh Party Congress.

The period was trying years for the country, as it was confronted with a multitude of trials and difficulties, including the severest sanctions imposed by the hostile forces, unprecedented natural disasters and the world health crisis.

Nevertheless, the DPRK accomplished the historic cause of crucial significance in national defence in a do-or-die spirit to protect its dignity and sovereignty and remarkably enhanced its international position.

In addition, it maintained the backbone of the socialist economy, self-supporting national economy, and further strengthened the single-hearted unity of the Party and the masses of the people by embodying the

politics based on the people-first principle. In the course of this, it built numerous structures for the people's wellbeing and constantly enforced popular policies.

However, the WPK congress seriously analysed shortcomings, instead of successes. It is a manifestation of the Party's firm will to attain its goals at any cost with an understanding that success and failure in every work hinges on subjective factors.

Accordingly, the Eighth Party Congress stressed the need to remarkably increase the country's own force in socialist construction to win a fresh victory in all fields.

It emphasized once again the three ideas—"The people are God", "single-hearted unity" and "self-reliance"—and put forward a new five-year plan.

The idea of "The people are God" reflects the permanent demand for strictly maintaining the Party's revolutionary traits of making its devoted service for the people the starting point and invariable principle in its building and activities, while the ideas "single-hearted unity" and "self-reliance" represent the ideological and theoretical standpoint and political requirements on the lifeline and motive force of the Korean

revolution.

The main point of the new five-year plan is to concentrate all efforts on socialist economic construction so as to stabilize and improve the people's standards of living as early as possible and provide a firm guarantee for achieving prosperity by dint of self-reliance.

To this end, it set it as its main tasks to strengthen organic relations between key industries with metallurgical and chemical industries as crucial links in the whole chain of economic development so as to spur the revitalization of the economy in a substantial way, consolidate the material and technical foundations of the agricultural sector and increase the proportion of domestic production of raw materials in the light industry sector so as to improve the people's living standards a level higher.

The Korean people are now determined to open up a new period of upsurge in their efforts for the prosperity of Korean-style socialism by following the road indicated by the Eighth Congress of the Party, in the same spirit and courage they displayed to boost the international status of the DPRK in a few years.

By Kim Rye Yong PT

Nationwide

Birthday spread sent to macrobian

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un sent a birthday spread to Thak Jae Dan, a centenarian living in neighbourhood unit No. 32, Munchon-dong, Munchon City, Kangwon Province.

Being very grateful for the birthday spread, she extended her gratitude to him.

Electronic medical appliances factory renovated



The modernly renovated Pyongyang electronic medical appliances factory was inaugurated.

It is furnished with equipment for the specialized production and assembly of electric and electronic medical appliances including electronic gastroscope, digital X-ray diagnostic device and magnetic resonance image diagnostic device.

Blasting conducted for tideland reclamation project

The North Phyongan Provincial Tideland Reclamation General Enterprise has carried out a 200 000-cubic-

metre blasting.

The successful blasting in the area of Wol Island has provided a guarantee for pushing ahead with the construction project of tide embankment No. 3 in District 2 of the Woldo tideland.

Power station projects pushed in Kangwon

Kangwon Province that has laid the foundations for the production of hard alloy is now in a position to produce and supply necessary iron and steel materials needed for power plant construction and to speed up the construction projects.

Those in Sepho and Phyonggang counties are fulfilling their daily tunnelling assignments 1.3 times every day, while those in Hoeyang and Ichon counties are making collective innovations in damming and waterway tunnel boring.

Factory overfulfils silk thread production plan

The Kanggye silk thread factory in Jagang Province is carrying out its daily production plans at over 130 percent.

It has set up a new silk thread production process and is now improving the quality of products.

It introduced a water return device into a vacuum pre-treatment machine, and thus reduced water consumption considerably and increased productivity.

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Gala performance



Grand art performance "We Sing of the Party" staged at Pyongyang Indoor Stadium from January 13 to 24 in celebration of the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea. It represents the worthwhile lives and single-hearted unity of the Korean people through a graceful mix of vocal and instrumental music, dance and mass gymnastics, and flash-card background and illumination.



Products honoured with best quality medals

Factory turns out variety of notebooks

Several kinds of products of the Mindulle Notebooks Factory were awarded the medal of top quality in December last year.

The factory produces dozens of kinds of notebooks for kindergarteners, primary school pupils and students of junior and senior middle schools and universities at its automated production lines.

Each book bears the logo of the factory showing hairy dandelion seeds flying in the

breeze with a dandelion clock for a backdrop. It comes in different kinds such as those with squared, four-line, stave, lined and blank papers.

The factory directs big efforts to ensuring the diversity of covers to suit the psychology of children and students in different ages and the features of study subjects.

To this end, it arranges a quarterly prize contest for developing new covers and

introduces highly-appreciated designs into production immediately.

The designs appealing to juvenile minds are distinguishable out of them. You will easily understand their uses at the sight of the designs including those depicting the three friends in Korean children's favourite cartoon *The Clever Raccoon Dog*, a boy holding a crayon in a flower garden and two kittens singing using microphones.

Most recently, some questions, common knowledge, puzzles and the source of their answers have been added to the jacket and back of the cover, thus contributing to promoting the intellectual development of kindergarteners and pupils.

"Since the inauguration of our factory, we have supplied kindergartens, schools and universities across the country with hundreds of millions of notebooks," said a staffer of the factory.



A variety of notebooks produced by the Mindulle Notebook Factory.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

Skin lotion made of Kaesong Koryo insam

The Kaesong Koryo insam (ginseng) skin lotion developed by the Kungangsan Joint Venture Company is enjoying a growing demand.

"Skin lotion is a basic cosmetic product which people use most often to ensure a normal pH in skin cells, moisturize them and enhance the adhesive power of other cosmetics like cream and foundation and for other effects," said Ho Kyong Sun, section chief of the company, adding they applied the extract of Kaesong Koryo insam, a speciality of Korea, to the production of lotions.

The company worked out a traditional way of extracting from insam through over ten years of research and established a corresponding production process.

As the extract contains saponin, the main ingredient of insam, in a harmonious balance, it is very good for physiological activities of skin cells, such as immunopotential, regeneration of cells and retarding of aging. And since it is in high concentration, it gives off a fresh fragrance peculiar to insam without using any

aromatic additives.

They mixed the extract with natural functional materials like aloe and collagen to make different kinds of astringent and moisturizing beauty lotions.

The astringent skin lotion is much sought after by those with unctuous skin and pubescent boys and girls who have trouble with pimples and inflammations on their skin.

According to the developers, it contracts sweat pores and sebaceous gland pores to reduce the secretion of sweat

and sebum to the normal state, maintains the balance between oil and moisture on the skin and makes thin skin tissues thick and springy again.

"My facial skin had turned red and thick due to an adverse effect of cosmetics. However, it recovered its original colour and the adverse symptoms completely disappeared two years after I started using the lotion," said a female customer.

The moisturizing lotion is also popular as it is suitable for skincare in spring, autumn and winter when the weather is relatively dry.

The Kaesong Koryo insam skin lotions received the December 15 Medal of Quality last year.

By Kim Il Jin PT



Kaesong Koryo insam lotion made by the Kungangsan Joint Venture Company.

Savoury dried walleye pollack

The Kalma Foodstuff Factory produces freeze- and vacuum-dried walleye pollack which is very favoured by people.

According to chief engineer Ri Chol Bom, the freeze- and vacuum-drying method is far better than the cold-air drying and natural drying methods as there is almost no change in nutrients and degradation of protein in flesh during the drying process.

Therefore, the processed seafood preserves its shape, colour, taste and aroma and fully ensures the qualitative indices like humidity, saltiness, recombination and absorption

rates of water and lysine. When it is soaked in water, it returns to its original raw state in a short time.

It is flavoured with an injector.

Employees say this method reduces the time to season walleye pollack as compared to the previous dipping method and meets the

freshness standard of the raw material.

The factory manufactured and introduced such devices as eviscerating machine, supersonic humidifier, automatic grading and packing machine to automate the production processes, thereby improving the quality of processing while saving much labour and electricity.

The dried walleye pollack of the factory which is fairly fresh and savoury for the adding of different spices received the medal of top quality last year.

By Chae Hyang Ok PT



Freeze- and vacuum-dried walleye pollack produced by the Kalma Foodstuff Factory.

Functional foods made of kneaded fish flesh

Among the products that were awarded the December 15 Medal of Quality last year are functional foods made with kneaded fish flesh at the Hungnam Taegyong General Fishery Enterprise.

It is a global trend to turn out processed products using kneaded fish flesh.

Such gelled flesh made by denaturalizing fish proteins preserves them intact and is very effective for the production of finished or semi-processed foodstuffs.

The enterprise established an industrial production process of kneaded fish flesh for the first time in the country.

Fishes with white flesh are mainly used in making the kneaded flesh to produce a variety of foods such as sausage, ball and rolled cake.

According to section chief Jo Jong Ryong, processed foods were previously made by crushing fishes and adding sticky additives

and therefore they easily crumbled in many cases.

But those made with kneaded fish flesh are now much favoured by customers as they are pleasing to the eye, nice to chew and wholesome as well.

Fish sausage is rich in lysine and vitamins A, B3 and others and therefore it is known as a nourishing food promoting children's growth.

Fish balls are also highly nutritious and rich in protein but low in fat and have distinctive taste and good smell. As they are easily digestible and have beneficial effects for beauty and health as they prevent obesity and also prevent and treat arteriosclerosis and fatty liver.

Rolled fish cakes are efficient in lowering cholesterol levels, treating constipation, diabetes and hyperlipemia and preventing cancer of large bowel.

By Yun Kyong Il PT

TREE NURSERY

Efforts put into automation of environmental management

The Taesong District Forestry Management Station in Pyongyang directs efforts to making the environmental management of nursery unmanned.

“Last year, we established the remote-control system to the nursery for the first time in the country, with the result that only one person manages the nursery covering hundreds of square metres of plastic panel greenhouse and several hectares of outdoor cultivation ground,” said Kim So Yong, manager of the station.

As remote-control panels

necessary for the control system are installed in every place, the temperature, humidity, sunshine amount, the content of carbonic acid gas and the amount of irrigation are transmitted to the control room in real time.

“We always provide conditions favourable for the growth of saplings while automatically controlling irrigation facilities of the nursery, sun screens and air-conditioners in any places,” said technical staffer Cha Myong Song.

It is said that this leads to putting sapling production on a scientific, industrial and

intensive basis.

The growing speed of saplings gets faster and the rate of tested saplings has been raised.

According to senior engineer Han Yong Chol, 18 centimetre-high needle-leaf saplings and 20-30 centimetre-high broadleaf ones can be acceptable. The station grows three-year-old pine-nut saplings to over 30 centimetres and black chokeberry 50 centimetres.

Though sapling production took two years in the past, the station completes sapling raising in a year, while ensuring the rate of rooting at over 99 percent.

The plastic panel greenhouse produces saplings two times a year.

The station cultivates the saplings of dozens of kinds of wild fruit trees including pine-nut and chestnut. It was placed first in sapling production across Pyongyang last year.

“We are now pressing on with the work to complete the robotization of environmental management of the tree nursery and the manuring and cultivation of tree saplings by further developing the remote-control system,” said the manager.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT



RYANG KUM CHOL

Researchers work on remote control at the Taesong District Forestry Management Station in Pyongyang.

CLOTHING

Garment producer aims to lead fashion industry



RI MYONG JUN

A woman scans the pattern for a dress at the clothing technical preparation room of the Mangyongdae Ponghwa Garment Factory.

“Our factory is able to annually make hundreds of thousands of suits, coats, overcoats, padded clothes and other bespoke clothes,” said Ryu Jong Sok, manager of the Mangyongdae Ponghwa Garment Factory.

Thousands of articles of ready-to-wear clothing produced at the factory located in Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang, are on sale at high-street commercial outlets.

The factory pursued a business strategy of ensuring high quality in line with international standards and observing delivery schedules, received the quality management system certification

QCC (ISO 9001) and won top prizes and gold medals at several consumer goods exhibitions and spring and autumn international trade fairs.

It established an integrated management system to ensure profitability of operation.

It has introduced over 100 technical innovation plans in recent years and thus saved much labour, electricity and funds.

“We will further upgrade our equipment and bring out new fashionable products,” said the manager.

By Kim Il Jin PT

ARCHITECTURE

Institute works to protect environment

Green architecture has become the main trend for the development of modern architectural technology as it saves energy, land, water and other resources to the maximum, while minimizing effect on environment, and provides suitable and effective living space for human health and activities.

“In the formation of green architecture, it is important to inspect and certify construction and building materials according to the certification standard set by the state,” said Ryom Chang Min, director of the environmental hygiene institute of the Paektusan Institute of Architecture.

The institute conducts research into the physical, chemical and biological conditions of architectural environment.

It developed a finishing building material inspection and architectural environment inspection system for the application of green architecture.

The system can evaluate the health security and functionality of finishing building materials by measuring the content of

formaldehyde, heavy metals and effective radiation for such main building materials as cement, sand and gravel, stone ornamental materials, all kinds of lagging materials and wooden building materials and functional building materials like paint and wallpaper.

It also checks water and air quality and inspects physical environment including noise, electromagnetic field and harmful earth wave.

The institute evaluated the green architecture for major national construction sites by introducing the system.

In addition, it develops various green architectural products.

An indoor air conditioner, which removes dust and harmful and polluted substances that are discharged from fixture and furniture to ensure fresh air, a mineral polymer block which was made of different locally-available mineral materials and diverse waste materials without using cement, wood insect-detecting device for checking insects in the wood and wooden products by way of sound

detection to completely kill wood insects there in a short time, and a microwave wood insect control machine are the results of painstaking efforts of the researchers.

Especially, the institute developed various capacity antiseptic solution generating devices that can raise its density over two times by reducing the consumption of salt, electric power and electrode to introduce them into the gym and schoolchildren’s camp in the City of Samjiyon, Ryanggang Province, and other facilities.

By Kim Il Jin PT

PHARMACEUTICALS

Koryo medicines produced

The Phyongchon Koryo Medicine Pharmaceutical Factory in Phyongchon District, Pyongyang, leads other units in the production of traditional medicines.

Today, products of the factory are in great demand.

“It is the business strategy of our factory to satisfy the people’s demand,” said Mun Sun Ok, manageress of the factory.

The main thing in its

technological development plan is to develop new medicines that can contribute substantially to the promotion of people’s health by relying on domestic materials.

The factory builds its own technical force and encourages them to enhance their leading role. And it also makes sure that the employees take an active part in scientific and technological work.

It developed and applied new extraction methods to preserve the fine characters of traditional medicines while overcoming the limitations arising in the course of their use.

Golden dandelion hepatitis dragee, fermented flour of raw bean, adlay maize tea and many other products it developed are popular with customers.

Since last year, the factory has made health foods with the help of lactic acid fermented liquid bacillus “Kwangmyong”.

Functional health foods made from liquid bacillus and its metabolites have proved effective in treating various diseases.

By Yun Kyong Il PT



PAK KWANG HUN

Researchers conduct a test on building materials at the environmental hygiene institute under the Paektusan Institute of Architecture.

EXHIBITION

Pieces of work highlight achievements of WPK

The central photo, book and fine art exhibition was opened at the Korean National Art Museum on December 23 2020 to commemorate the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Many citizens visited the venue of 30-odd-day exhibition.

On display at the exhibition were photos showing the image of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un, who has led the Korean revolution to victory with his outstanding leadership for five years since 2016 when the Seventh WPK Congress was held, and other photos showing the notable achievements in the DPRK, art works portraying the

long history of the DPRK and lots of books.

Visitors unanimously said that the exhibits were very impressive as they could see all valuable successes of the past five years at a glance.

Photos showing important WPK meetings held in the period, historic moments when the country's political and military might was beefed up unprecedentedly and lots of structures made visitors recollect the events of the past five years.

As they looked at the photos of Kim Jong Un providing field guidance tours of Taechong-ri in Unpha County, North

Hwanghae Province, and other typhoon-ravaged areas in South Hamgyong Province, they said they were deeply impressed by them.

Art works also left deep impression on the viewers.

Other standouts were a piece of picture showing women workers who produce pine-brand satchels with warm affection and the painting of schoolchildren who came to a post office to send their letters to the service personnel.

They impressively represented the workers who make every product with sincere devotion and pure mind and all others who turned out like one in the campaign for recovery from natural disasters.

"Each photo, art work and book on display serve as reminders of the unforgettable past five years replete with pride and happiness. Under the wise leadership of the great WPK, our victory will be led to another greater one and the next exhibition will showcase the new history of ours with better photos, works and books," said Hwang Chol Guk, staffer of the Korean Film Studio.



CHOE CHUNG SONG / RODONG SINMUN

People look round works on display in the central photo, book and fine art exhibition held in celebration of the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea.

LITERARY

Faculty proud of collection of works

The collections of works made by the Korean Language Faculty of Kim Hyong Jik University of Education evoke a positive response.

The faculty annually unveils a collection of excellent works out of those created by lecturers and students.

"Each work in the collection is original in idea and refined in description. Especially, I feel deep admiration for students' remarkable abilities," said Son Yong Bok at the Central Committee of the Writers Union of Korea.

The faculty brought out collection of works "The Great Motherly Party" on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea last year.

According to poems *In the Wake of Flood*, *Excellent Locations* and *Nameplate at My Home*, the residents who suffered flood damage last year received not only new houses and daily necessities but kindred love and affection.

Student Ho Kyong Mi in her poem *The Appellation of University Student* expressed the pride of many farmers in

her home village who became students by enrolling on online university courses amid the nationwide efforts to make all the people well versed in science and technology and postgraduate Kim Ju Hyok in his poem *I Want to Be a Path* depicted the love for the country of his father who has tended forests as he goes to work along a path through the forests all his life.

"Students feel the pulse of the times in everyday life and

get significant points from it. This is the result of their painstaking search. Their creative abilities improve rapidly as they share views and have discussions with each other and feel proud when their works are selected for the collections," said Jang Song Chol, head of the creative method lab.

The faculty has produced such collections for over 20 years, which has greatly contributed to improving students' scholarly performance. In recent years alone, several students of the faculty have produced full-length historical stories, medium-length true stories and full-length novels.

By Han Kwi Hun PT



CHAE MYONG RIM

Lecturers evaluate literary works at Korean Language Faculty of Kim Hyong Jik University of Education.

PROFILE

Woman optician of good repute



Kim Nam Suk (pictured) working at the public service station in Taesong District, Pyongyang, is one of the opticians frequented by many customers.

She not only precisely corrects her clients' spectacles lens according to their eyesight but also offers rims to meet their likings, ages and occupations.

Some people opt for glasses merely because they cannot see properly. In that cases, she informs them of methods for the protection and management of eyesight and makes appropriate glasses.

By Pang Un Ju PT

SAMARITANS

War veteran grateful to many people

"I have many sons and daughters, in addition to my own children. They call me 'Ma' and show all sincerity, regarding me as their parent," said Hwang Myong Sun, war veteran living in Undok-dong No. 2, Phyongsong, South Phyongan Province.

Hailing from Seoul of south Korea, she volunteered to join the volunteer corps during the Fatherland Liberation War (1950-1953) and became a nurse.

During the strategic temporary retreat, she came to stand at a crossroads deciding her destiny.

"Seoul, where there were my beloved mother and relatives, was within a hailing distance and going north with no home and blood relatives was my first trip," Hwang Myong Sun recalled.

However, she went northwards with the conviction that she could lead a genuine life as human being only when she followed the Workers' Party of Korea.

After graduating from a military academy after the war, she served the Korean People's Army as an officer. After her demob she graduated from Pyongyang University of Medical Sciences and worked

Pak Yong Ae, who lives in Ryomyong Street in Pyongyang, was one of such persons who tried to wear glasses first, instead of trying to find out the cause of trouble in eyesight.

But she received optical treatment in time following the advice of Kim Nam Suk.

"But for her advice, I might have lost my eyesight. So when I see people who are going to wear glasses, I advise them to visit the optician's of Kim Nam Suk," said Pak Yong Ae.

Every person in spectacles knows that the power of glasses does not absolutely depend on eyesight test indexes.

Since optometers may make mechanical errors, the wearers of glasses alone can know whether they suit them.

Such a problem is solved by dint of rich experience and skills of an optician, Nam Suk said.

Her workmanship is popular with clients as she satisfies both aesthetic value and character and taste with her delicate skills in the manufacture.

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

HEALTHCARE

Cost-effective methods introduced

Kim Man Yu Hospital in Pyongyang applies simple and effective treatment methods into clinical practice.

The cardiosurgery department improved the effectiveness of anaesthesia with the help of procephalic hypothermia.

“In the past, we used to decrease the temperature of the patient’s whole body, but now we just put an ice pack on the forehead where there are thermoregulatory centres to produce the same result,” said Jong Kwang Ho, chief of the department.

This method is said to lessen the burden on patients as it helps shorten the time of anaesthesia and the period of intensive

treatment after surgery as well. It is simpler in manipulation than the previous method, and also reduces the dosages of medicines.

The ice pack for cooling a limited part of the head developed by the medical team of the department received a national certificate of invention and contrivance.

The department improves the rate of recovery by re-establishing the dosages of anaesthetics applied during operations according to the condition and constitution of patients.

“Although patients may be given the same diagnosis, the cases differ from person to

person, especially their physical preparedness. Therefore, if we determine the dosage of anaesthetics to be applied in the operation room exactly on the basis of detailed information about the case, the patient can come to after the operation more than 20 hours earlier than before,” said Jong.

The acupuncture department cures peripheral paralysis and arthritic diseases using electroacupuncture.

The electroacupuncture which combines treatment effects of traditional acupuncture with that of electric current is widely applied to Koryo medicine as it is simple in operation and cures illnesses without giving much pain to patients.

Doctor Ro Myong Son, who has been devoted to the research into the therapy for decades, established a new method of using electroacupuncture to selectively stimulate nerve fibres and cured paraplegia, spinal neuroparalysis and other diseases last year.

By controlling the duration, amplitude and frequency of impulse, he selectively stimulates only A fibre among nerve fibres to cure peripheral neuralgia and stimulates A, B and C fibres at the same time to treat peripheral paralysis.

By Han Kwi Hun PT



SONG YONG SOK

An acupuncturist gives a patient electroacupuncture at Kim Man Yu Hospital.

TEA

Unique taste, folksy mood charms visitors



KIM YONG CHAN

Two women relish tea in the Unjong Teahouse on Changjon Street, Central District, Pyongyang

The Unjong Teahouse on Changjon Street, Pyongyang, serves green, black and cholgwanum teas with Unjong tea leaves grown in Kangnyong County, South Hwanghae Province.

Regulars at the teahouse said that they frequent the place just to enjoy the national flavour and feel the emotions of life through the aroma of fresh tea.

“I am not just an ordinary visitor but a passionate tea drinker, so I hope you will pay heed to my words. Unjong tea has some depth. It really is a good tea with its own taste and flavour and is also good for health,” wrote a visitor in the record.

“I did not know Unjong tea

would taste this good,” said Ri Jong Min, one of the regulars at the teahouse. “The atmosphere is very nice and the waitresses are so kind that they help tea drinkers savour the delicate taste of Unjong tea.”

Thae Min Gyu from Kyongsang-dong, Central District, said that though it takes only a few minutes to drink a cup of tea, it brings considerable benefits.

Now that people get mentally fatigued from life and work and come under the influence of electromagnetic waves everywhere, he claimed, the teatime of relishing the aroma and taste of nature is beneficial to both health and life.

By Ri Sung Ik PT

EDUCATION

School seeks new teaching methods

Jungdok Primary School in Phyongsong attached to Phyongsong Teachers Training College is well known for developing students’ intellectual abilities, aptitudes and talents in an all-round way.

“We put the main emphasis on the use of multimedia presentations in accordance with the psychology of young students and combine different teaching methods,” said headmistress Han Tong Suk.

The school brought out over 100 self-study and learning support programs using multimedia and hundreds of teaching methods embodying multi-subject comprehensive education.

Especially, the teaching method based on intellectual development games was generalized throughout the country.

Deputy headmistress Ri Myong Ok said that the teaching method using cubes that have letters, numbers and pictures of water, air, light, plants, animals

and other things on each side of them like dice helps students remember and consolidate their knowledge.

According to her, the method involves 2 000 kinds of newly invented games.

It makes the students who used to gain knowledge only through the teacher’s explanation and images on the screen broaden their horizons by using their own brains.

The teaching method enables students to find out the principles of levers in several aspects, make calculations by themselves and see the results of their study on the program.

“Such achievements were not made of their own accord,” said Ri.

According to her, some 80 percent of the teaching staff have won the title of October 8 Model Teacher and over 10 teachers of the school were highly appreciated at several teaching contests last year.

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

TALENT

Child prodigy uses hearing for arithmetic



A child prodigy was presented on a TV programme for the New Year’s Day.

He is Jo Thae Hung (pictured), a six-year-old boy from Kaeson Kindergarten in Moranbong District, Pyongyang, which is attached to Pyongyang Teachers Training College.

He startled the viewers with his special ability of doing particular sums by dint of hearing. He transformed each note in three octaves into a relevant number and correctly calculated 50 “note numbers” in

three minutes as he did addition in case the preceding note was lower than the following one and did subtraction in case the former was higher than the latter.

“I was deeply impressed by his outstanding ability. I am so much eager to meet him,” said Han Nam Yong, a student at Changgwang Technical Senior Middle School in Central District, Pyongyang.

The kid is known as a prodigy in his kindergarten.

According to his teacher Kim Jong Im, he has an ear good enough to correctly guess notes and even fourth-note chord without listening to diapason, so she decided to teach him how to calculate numbers by dint of hearing.

The kindergarten introduced abacus into education to improve image memory of kindergarteners and most of them become able to easily solve double-digit addition and subtraction problems in mental arithmetic in a few months, she

added.

Jo Thae Hung could mentally calculate four-digit numbers in addition and subtraction three months after he learned how to use the abacus.

The keen seeker after knowledge learns everything in an amazing speed, gets very excited when learning new things and is especially fond of arithmetic.

When he learned the method of combining hearing with numerical calculation, he got faster in mental arithmetic every day, said his teacher.

The curious boy with great application ability builds up more vivid and distinctive patterns than others with the same construction toy and surpasses primary school pupils in playing word games and jigsaw puzzle.

In addition, his piano solo hailed since he was 4 has now been further polished.

However, his main interest is arithmetic.

“Everything related to numbers is interesting for me. My dad says I can become a scientist when I am intimate with them. I will make a rocket myself to travel outer space,” said Jo.

By Kim Rye Yong PT

JAPAN

Risky bid most likely to give rise to arms race

At the end of last year, the Japanese government passed a new document related to missile defence at a Cabinet meeting.

According to it, it is to newly build two Aegis-class warships in place of the introduction of the US' ground-based missile defence system Aegis Ashore, which was abandoned in June last year, and to develop "missile beyond the range of interception" capable of mounting an attack on the enemy out of its firing range by prolonging the range of surface-to-ship missile possessed by the Ground Self-Defence Force.

According to military strategists, the best defence means the best attack.

A Japanese opposition party member expressed concern over the fact that if his country is possessed of the above-

mentioned capacity, it will run counter to the pacifist constitution and "exclusive defence" policy of Japan.

A senior fellow of the Japanese Institute of International Studies said that the extension of range of surface-to-ship missiles with 200 km to hundreds of kilometres more will be able to cover the island under the territorial dispute with China.

When Japan's plan is realized, neighbouring countries will fall within the substantial striking range of the SDF.

Not long ago, Japan embarked on an examination work for loading two new-type Aegis-class warships with long-range cruise missile capable of mounting an attack on the enemy from outside the firing range of missile.

A Western magazine said that though the Japanese Maritime

SDF is small in size, it has gradual resemblance to the navy of the past Japanese Empire.

At present, about 154 warships and 346 fighter jets are operative in the Maritime SDF and the number of Japan's warships was placed fourth at the point of the year 2000.

Considering that the missiles Japan is developing at a fast rate will be mounted on fighters, the scope of its practical strike will be increased and the aerial combat efficiency of Japan, which is on a headlong rush to possessing the largest 5G stealth fighter in the world, is a military entity that cannot be neglected.

No matter how hard Japan resorts to every means to avoid the world's scrutiny under the signboard of "effective deterrent upbuilding" and "positive self-defence capacity", the wicked aggressive intention behind it

can never be covered up.

Obviously, the missile defence programme is an extremely dangerous military move to put its neighbouring countries under its constant striking range by widening the SDF's striking capacity.

China's *Global Times* said to the following effect:

Such a change in Japan proves that the country is switching from the past passive posture to the direction of combining proactive attack and defence in a certain degree in missile defence. It is a matter of time that the posture will be converted into direct offensive in the future. This will cause an arms race in the Northeast Asian region and will affect the common understanding of the international community.

By Song Jong Ho PT

ECOSYSTEM

Protection of wetlands vital for sustainable development

According to information available, nearly 90 percent of wetlands on earth were lost since the 1700s and the remaining ones are now disappearing three times faster than forest resources.

If the destruction of wetlands continues, it will lead to the depletion of fresh water sources and the effects of global warming will get even more serious.

Therefore, the UN adopted the convention on wetlands on February 2 1971 and decided to celebrate this day as World Wetlands Day since 1997.

It set the theme for this year's World Wetlands Day as "wetlands and water" and,

on that occasion, called on all countries and nations to recognize the importance of wetlands, the sources of fresh water, and turn out into the protection of wetlands.

Many countries are planning to mark World Wetlands Day with a variety of events such as online symposiums, video conferences and exhibitions for displaying and introducing works and photos about wetlands, cycling and running tours to wetlands, collecting waste in wetlands for a day, contributing articles to newspapers and raising public awareness of wetlands.

According to rough estimates, economic profits to be earned from protecting and making

effective use of wetlands are 160 times higher than those from reclaiming them.

Big efforts are directed to afforestation and protection

of forests which are closely intertwined with the protection of wetlands while different activities are conducted to



protect and manage wetlands in a more effective way, including surveys on wetland ecosystems, creation of wetlands reserves and sustainable use of wetland resources. The government takes measures to prevent development and reclamation of wetlands and root out the sources of contaminants flowing into rivers and the areas with a high degree of contamination.

In particular, it intensifies the protection and management of Rason, Kumya and Mundok migratory bird (wetland) reserves which were listed as wetland places of international significance by the Ramsar Convention and as major stopovers of migratory water birds selected by the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership.

Jang In Ae, researcher of the Central Committee of the Nature Conservation Union of Korea

EFFORT

Nations take proactive approaches to boost economy

Many countries are making brisk efforts to develop their economies.

Iran reduced the export of crude oil and gas and concentrates efforts on developing the petrochemical industry.

Last December, the general director in charge of planning and development of the state-run petrochemical corporation of the country said in an interview that they can boost profits seven times by imposing a ban on the export of raw materials and primarily

processed goods and increasing the export of second- and third-stage processed products, adding that they should expand the export of processed goods and import only those that have lower prices than the cost of production in the country.

Having designated last year as a year of gas, Nigeria completed the construction of an integral gas control instrument factory and a liquefied petroleum gas processing and decomposition plant at the end of last year to produce hundreds of thousands

of tons of commercial liquid natural gas and liquid propane gas to meet a substantial share of domestic demand. The inauguration of the factories created new jobs and provided a guarantee for supplying clean and efficient energy sources to the transport sector as well as families and increasing the amount of exports to international markets.

The country also set out a goal of ensuring food safety and becoming a leading exporter of standard agricultural products in the world market by

encouraging digital farming in the agricultural sector.

India pays much attention to chemical industry and encourages investment in it, while enforcing a policy for its development. Chemical products such as paints and colouring materials, organic chemicals and minerals, agrochemicals and cosmetics take an important position in the country's trade. Therefore, the government follows a policy of restraining the import of chemical materials and meeting local demands with local materials.

Besides, Zambia plans to establish state control over major mines in the country, especially copper mines, to expand the state's profits.

By Choe Yong Nam PT

Briefly

Russia, Myanmar International cooperation in air transport

Russia and Myanmar concluded a treaty on flight safety on January 22.

The treaty was signed during the Russian Defence Minister's visit to Myanmar.

Russia Military drills staged

A training exercise of tank forces of the central military district of Russia was initiated in firing ranges in Chelyabinsk and Sverdlovsk on January 18, involving over 1 500 troops.

Between January 18 and 19, a mechanized infantry combined unit in the southern military district practised shooting down drones.

China High-speed railroad opens to traffic

A high-speed railroad linking Beijing and Harbin opened in China on January 22.

The 1 198-kilometre-long railroad is expected to promote economic and social development in relevant areas.

Israel Missile attack kills four Syrians

According to the Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA), Israeli forces mounted a missile attack on Hama Province of Syria on January 22, killing four civilians including children.

Japan Suicide sharply increases

According to media reports, the number of suicides reached 20 919 in Japan last year, a 3.7 percent rise over the previous year and a record high since 2009.

In particular, the women's suicide rate increased by 14.5 percent, with the number of them reaching 6 976.

The rise in suicide among Japanese women is reportedly attributable to the deterioration of living conditions, discord in their families and others.

UK Air pollution causes casualties in London

According to news report, about 4 000 people died of various diseases caused by air pollution in London, the UK, in recent years.

The city government said that the rate of air pollution has exceeded international standard in the 99 percent of the city areas.

The mayor of London expressed concern, saying that air pollution still poses a serious health crisis in the city.

THE PYONGYANG TIMES

APPARATUS

Sports club introduces effective tools

The Pyongyang Sports Club proves successful in training players by making dozens of kinds of highly-effective apparatuses.

Of them is a multifunctional individual football training apparatus made by Ri Jong Hui, People's Athlete and instructor of juvenile sports school of the Pyongyang Sports Club. The apparatus won high appreciation at the 23rd national sports sci-tech achievement show in 2019 (for the sector of training apparatuses) and the sci-tech exhibition of health and sports sectors between the DPRK and China as it helps exactly exercise passing, kick, stop, heading and others without a training partner.

"The multifunctional individual football training apparatus is good for ensuring the accuracy of players' movements. In particular, it makes a player carry out all the training tasks by himself, greatly unaffected by the time and place," said Sung Hyang Sim, football player and Merited Athlete of the club.

Ri Jong Hui, mother of two children, began to make the instrument for her nine-year-old

son with a thought to provide him with that for self-training.

As the apparatus took shape gradually, she had an idea that it would be useful for players and made the multifunctional one by drawing on long experience gained in her life as a player and instructor.

A shoulder and waist strength developing apparatus is also popular with coaches and players of artistic gymnastics.

The apparatus is said to be very effective in developing muscles for improving the flying height of flight movements at

horizontal and uneven bars and maintaining the capacity of keeping levelness at rings.

Inspired by the effort of instructor Ri Jong Hui, Kim Chang Gyu, coach of artistic gymnastics, contrived this apparatus.

"You cannot create anything without affection for and pride in your occupation," Ri said, after making the shoulder and waist strength developing apparatus through painstaking quest.

By Ri Sung Ik PT



Footballers are under training using a portable apparatus at the Pyongyang Sports Club.

YUN KI SONG

RELIC

Temple showcases architecture of medieval Korea

The Sogwang Temple is situated in Solbong-ri, Kosan County, Kangwon Province.

The Ungjin Hall was built in 1386 for the first time in the late Koryo period and later over 50 small and large buildings were added during the feudal Joseon dynasty, which existed between 1392 and 1910.

Buildings are arranged harmoniously to meet topography, with the temple

forming two main composition axes towards the south in a deep valley which is open towards the east.

The first gate to the temple is Buli Gate. The gate is a cosy house, which was built in 1751 on the rainbow-shaped stone bridge crossing the stream in front of the temple.

After passing the Jogye Gate, the second gate to the temple, there is Solsongdong Tower, a

gable roofed two-storey smart loft built to the west.

Tacung Hall, the central building of the temple, is located deep into the north on the lower central axis from the central area of the temple.

Having been rebuilt in 1731, it was gorgeously painted and geometrical patterns were delicately fixed to grilles so that the whole building could be decorated finely like a gorgeous work of the formative arts.

Pictures of Buddha hang and nine Buddhist images stand in the hall.

Shrines, halls and pavilions take their positions with the Tachung Hall at the centre.

The Ungjin Hall places itself on the upper part of the temple, where there are the images of the five hundred Buddha's disciples who attained Nirvana centring around the image of Sakyamuni.

The temple was restored in 2019.

By Han Kwi Hun PT



Taeung Hall at Sogwang Temple dates back to the 14th century.

FOOD

Peppery soup made of walleye pollack

Walleye pollack has long been used in the dietary life of the Korean people.

The name *myongthae* is said to have been derived from the fact that a man surnamed Thae in Myongchon County of North Hamgyong Province had caught it for the first time.

Various kinds of dishes can be made with it including soup, fermented fish, hard-boiled food, sausage, fry and others.

Peppery soup is a kind of pot-boiled soup made by pouring hot pepper paste solution into such food materials as fish, meat and vegetables and boiling them in a pot.

Subsidiary materials include bean curd and vegetables.

To prepare the dish, first gut and clean fresh walleye pollack before cutting it into lengths of four to five centimetres. And also clean pollack liver and milt.

Cut bean curd into thick pieces, Welsh onion into bite-size chunks, washed crown daisy or parsley into five to six centimetre pieces and cut



green pepper into three to four centimetre pieces.

First, put fish head in cold water and boil it for about 30 minutes. And then take it out of the pot and sieve the stock.

Pour oil on cooking pot and put Welsh onion and green pepper into it to fry.

And pour the stock into it and dissolve hot pepper paste in it. Put fish pieces into the pot and boil. When they are cooked, add pollack roe, liver and milt, vegetable and bean curd to it. When bean curd pieces float, season it with garlic, powdered sesame and black pepper and seasoning powder to improve its flavour.

It is served in heated bowls.

By Pang Un Ju PT

