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EFFORT

All out to implement tasks of Eighth Party Congress

Ambitious programmes are now being pushed ahead in the DPRK to hasten the development of science and technology in an effort to carry out the important tasks set forth at the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea.

The State Commission of Science and Technology is taking steps to solve the urgent sci-tech problems arising in implementing the new five-year plan for national economic development and speed up the development of advanced technology.

According to an official concerned, primary attention has been paid to activating the metal and chemical industries.

The commission also plans to introduce into various economic sectors the achievements made in the major technical engineering fields, while developing the field of core basic technology and cutting-edge science and technology.

The educational sector of the DPRK has turned out in the work to carry out the tasks set forth at the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea.

In particular, officials and researchers of the Academy of Pedagogical Science are mapping out phased plans in

detail to attain the general goal for putting the country's educational science on a new high stage and thus definitely guaranteeing the building of an educational power, a talent power, by dint of educational science.

In this regard, Kim Song Il, deputy head of the academy, told KCNA:

"A work is being stepped up to draw up in a more scientific and practical way the five-year plan for the development of the national educational science reflecting the idea and spirit of the Eighth Party Congress."

Works are planned to establish a regular system for guiding in a unified way the

research work for the country's educational science centred on the academy, to strengthen the research force for educational science and open up new fields in the educational science, and to conduct researches into the application fields urgently needed for educational practice.

For the present, the academy concentrates its efforts on the study of the world trend of educational development and on the making of various kinds of multimedia presentations to be used in the educational work.

It is also pushing ahead with the preparations for working out the second programme for the universal

12-year compulsory education, generalizing the comprehensive practical teaching methods for training creative talents to all schools across the country and intensifying the study of foreign languages teaching methods according to the kinds of schools.

True to the WPK's idea of believing in the people as in Heaven, medical institutions in different parts of the country are working to tap all the internal potentials. Discussions are being held on detailed ways and vivid goals are being set at different medical units across the country to bring about a new advance in medical service activities, the development of medical science and technology and the consolidation of material and technical foundations.

Brisk activities are going on to further spruce up treatment and prevention institutions throughout the country with the Okryu Children's Hospital and

the Ryugyong Dental Hospital in Pyongyang and the Samjiyon City People's Hospital in Ryanggang Province as models.

Plans are worked out to speed up the modernization of pharmaceutical, medical appliances and Koryo medicine pharmaceutical factories and put their production on a normal footing and realize the domestic production of raw and other materials by dint of science and technology.

Big efforts are directed to further hardening the anti-epidemic basis for coping with any worldwide health crisis.

Scientists and technicians in the medical science research field have launched a vigorous campaign to attain the goal for promoting the development of the country's public health by presenting many more valuable findings during the period of the new five-year plan.

KCNA



Posters call on the sci-tech sector to play an engine's role in pulling socialist construction and the education and healthcare sectors to give full play to the advantages of socialist education and health systems so as to actually benefit the people.

ECONOMY

Production targets hit in January across sectors

Different sectors and many units of the national economy have carried out their assignments for the first month of this year.

The Kim Chaek and Hwanghae iron and steel complexes

increased the production of pig iron by scrupulously conducting the operation of oxygen blast furnaces.

The Chollima Steel Complex shortened the melting time

of UHP electric arc furnace, thereby exceeding its steel production target.

The Namhung Youth Chemical Complex and Hungnam Fertilizer Complex pressed on with the production of nitrogen fertilizer while foresightedly taking scrupulous measures as required by winter conditions.

The February 8 Vinalon Complex finished the production of caustic soda and polyvinyl chloride while working to raise the proportion of homemade catalysts.

The Pukchang and Pyongyang thermal power complexes and other electricity producers registered good results in production every day by minimizing heat loss to meet winter conditions and controlling water supply and air rationally. And hydropower

stations also rounded off their plans for January.

The Anju Area Coal-mining Complex organized a tunnelling competition in a substantial way and actively adopted advanced blasting methods according to different rock conditions, thus carrying out tunnelling 1.5 times more than previously.

The Pukchang and Suncheon area youth coal-mining complexes and Kaechon Area Coal-mining Complex dug out a great deal of coal every day by briskly conducting a socialist emulation drive between coal mines and pits and concentrating manpower on heading.

The Ryongsong Machine Complex finished the production of such machines as air compressor and speed reducer by introducing effective technical innovation plans, while the Taean Heavy Machine Complex wound up the processing of machine parts of custom-built equipment ahead of schedule.

The Pyongyang General Electric Cable Factory 326

took measures for the supply of insufficient raw and other materials by further readjusting and reinforcing the recycling production process, so as to increase the production of different kinds of electric wires.

The Sijung Mine carried out its monthly production target 1.3 times, while the Unpha Mine fulfilled its mineral production plan by increasing the operation rate of major facilities.

Forestry stations under the Jagang provincial forestry management bureau provided conditions favourable for log production and controlled equipment between processes under a scrupulous plan, and thus finished the log production for January a week earlier.

Forestry and mine prop production stations of the South Hamgyong provincial forestry management bureau set a 105 percent production record on a daily average by positively applying rational working



A worker monitors a cable twister at the Pyongyang General Electric Cable Factory 326.

LEAD

People-first politics held as basic political mode of socialism

The politics based on the people-first principle is the basic political mode of socialism.

It is the politics of regarding the masses of the people as masters of the revolution and construction, relying on them and making selfless, devoted efforts for the good of them.

It is rooted in the ennobling view of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un on the people.

His constant view is that the people should be held in high esteem as much as the great leaders Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il are revered.

He defined the people-first principle as the essence of Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism, the guiding ideology of the WPK and the state, and set forth the slogan "Everything for the people and everything by relying on them!" as the fundamental principle and

mode of Party and state activities.

The more enormous the tasks and the severer the trials are, the closer he relies on the people. His such political mode is based on the philosophy that trust reforms people, transforms society and guarantees the future.

The country's situation teetered on the brink of war, it suffered devastating natural disasters and the world has been undergoing a serious health crisis, but the DPRK fully protected the lives and safety of the people, built dwelling houses for the flood victims on a preferential basis and constructed structures for providing its people with civilized living conditions in succession. The reality proves that the selfless, devoted service for the people is the kernel of the people-first politics and has become the buzzword symbolizing the era of

Kim Jong Un.

This politics based on the people-first principle is just the politics that regards it as the fundamental principle to defend the independence and basic interests of the people and does not allow any slightest deviation from and compromise over the principle and the politics that designs and carries out new ambitious projects with a noble sense of mission to guarantee their rosy future and translate their ideals into reality.

As it administers the people-first politics, the DPRK has been able to cement the single-hearted unity of the Party and the people and steadily advance the cause of socialism towards victory in the face of despicable sanctions by hostile forces.

Pak Jong Rok

Nationwide

New elements added to national, local ICH lists

Those inscribed on the national list are the legends of Moran Hill and Mt Myohyang which represent in a narrative form the Korean people's patriotic spirit and noble sentiments of life associated with the scenic beauties of Korea.

The other one on the national list is the marriage custom, one of the traditional ceremonial customs of the Korean nation. It shows the emotion and morality peculiar to the nation through the wedding procedures, attire, table setting and the like.

Haeju kyoban, or the rice mixed with spices, vegetables, meat, etc. which is a speciality of South Hwanghae Province, was inscribed on the local ICH list. It reflects the talents of the Korean ancestors who made the effective use of various materials available in their localities in their dietary life.

Coal production up

Coal producers under the Ministry of Coal Industry have dug out tens of thousands of tons of more coal as of January 26.

Coal mines across the country are pressing on with research projects for giving definite precedence to prospecting and tunnelling and for the large-scale development of brown coal fields.

The Suncheon Area Youth Coal-mining Complex introduced advanced blasting methods that suited different lithological conditions to speed up advancement per sinking cycle, thus mining larger quantities of coal than planned every day.

Province completes timber

production plan for January



The Ryanggang provincial forestry management bureau overfulfilled the January plan for the production of timber in the mountains by 20 percent as of January 26.

The forestry stations and mine prop production stations under the management bureau applied rational felling methods and concentrated efforts on carrying down the logs to increase the production every day.

'Younger sister' of honoured disabled soldier

Ju Son Hwa, an employee of the Tonghungsan Hotel in Hamhung City of South Hamgyong Province, became a "younger sister" of an honoured disabled soldier more than 10 years ago.

With great respect for honoured disabled soldiers who unhesitatingly dedicated their youth and life to defending the country, she is taking good care of Hong Song Uk, a special-class honoured disabled soldier, and his family who are resident in Soun-dong No. 2 of Tonghungsan District as their kin would do.

Blasting carried out



The General Tideland Reclamation Enterprise of North

Phyongan Province carried out a 100 000-cubic-metre blasting in the Osong area on February 1 to speed up the Woldo tideland reclamation in earnest after conducting a 200 000-cubic-metre blasting at the beginning of this year.

Builders finished scores of metre-long pilot tunnelling in only 10 days to ensure successful blasting. Thanks to their great enthusiasm, the reclamation of the Woldo tideland is progressing apace.

Millions of tons of homemade manure produced

South Hwanghae Province has so far turned out over 3.9 million tons of homemade manure.

Cooperative farms in the province mobilized different kinds of means of delivery to collect peat, bake soil and dig up the bed of ditches.

They also provided a great deal of biologically active compost, *hukposan* fertilizer and fermented manure Sinyang No. 2 by treating agricultural by-products with bacillus subtilis in a scientific and technological way.

Vegetable production goal hit in January

The Jungphyong Vegetable Greenhouse Farm has brought in a bumper crop of vegetables.

The farm improved the level of intensive vegetable growing and activated production by introducing close plating and three-dimensional cultivation methods, thus overfulfilling the vegetable production plan for January by 3.8 percent.

Cucumber, bok choy, crown daisy and other fresh vegetables gathered at the blocks of large-scale greenhouse were supplied to the baby home, orphanage, primary and middle schools for orphans, old people's home, healthcare centre and commercial service units in the province.

EDITORIAL

Taking upon itself two missions



A column of strapping service personnel in full combat gear march past in a brilliant parade that marked the 75th anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea in October 2020.

February 8 this year marks the 73rd anniversary of the Korean People's Army.

On this occasion, we extend heartfelt congratulations and pay tribute to the heroic KPA.

The DPRK created the legend of world-startling victory in the war against the aggressor troops of the US imperialists who boasted of being the "strongest in the world" and has firmly safeguarded national dignity and honour from the growing threat of aggression by hostile forces. This is unthinkable apart from the KPA.

Thanks to the heroic struggle of the KPA, national security and the people's safety were ensured in the face of the threat of invasion by the imperialist allied forces in the 1990s and breakthroughs were made on every major front of socialist construction to advance socialism.

The KPA fully demonstrated that it can respond to any form of warfare, operation and battle and is fully prepared for wiping out the stronghold of any aggressor forces through the military parades held in celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea and the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea.

It has protected the peaceful environment for socialist construction by maintaining heavy guard and constant combat preparedness and built up overall national strength and led the people to socialist civilization by performing miracles on all fronts of socialist construction.

In 2019 alone, KPA service personnel spruced up Samjiyon into a wonderful city in mountains and built numerous monumental structures including the Yangdok Hot Spring Resort, Jungphyong Vegetable

Greenhouse Farm and Tree Nursery.

Everyone was deeply touched especially by the patriotic and heroic devotion the service members displayed in the unexpected anti-epidemic campaign and the reconstruction to recover from natural disasters last year.

They were the first to rush to the most severely damaged areas and built dwelling houses for the afflicted people before their own barracks. They even put off sleep and meals to complete the dwelling houses as early as possible.

In the course of this, many touching stories about intimate relations between the residents and service personnel came into being at rehabilitation sites.

All the officers and men of the KPA are filled with fresh confidence and resolve, now that the Eighth Congress of the WPK set forth the great programme for ushering in a period of new leap in socialist construction.

"It is the absolute maxim and proud tradition of struggle of the KPA to turn the impossible into the possible by going through even fire and water, true to the leader's trust, if it is the decision and instruction of the Party," said Kim Kwang Hyok, a general who spoke on behalf of the KPA at the Pyongyang municipal army-people joint rally held at Kim Il Sung Square on January 15 this year. "We will demonstrate more powerfully the fighting spirit of a-match-for-a-hundred combatants and pattern of creation peculiar to the KPA on every major front of socialist construction under the slogan of patriotism 'Let us take upon ourselves both national defence and socialist construction!'"

By Ri Sung Ik PT



Land acquiring effort launched to boost grain output

Big efforts channelled into increasing arable land

Grain output is decided by the area of cultivated land and per-hectare yield.

In order to increase grain production in our country, it is important to increase per-hectare yield by raising a wind of scientific farming and drastically increase crop area by concentrating energy on acquiring new land.

Agricultural workers across the country are striving to seek even a *pyong* of land, true to the intention of the Workers' Party of Korea which set it as one of the five elements for agricultural development to decisively increase the area of grain production through a campaign to find new land.

New land reserves are found everywhere in plain, intermediary and mountain areas.

Since rural areas are to enter the spring farming sometime later, they are now reclaiming all the land which can be used as farmland while stepping up preparations for farming.

Highlands, tableland, rivers, highways and waterway environs are well realigned, and

efforts are being made to restore arable land that was washed away and reclaim reduced areas of land.

Last year, South Hamgyong Province managed to remove well over a million cubic metres of ore deposits in Tanchon City in a matter of 20 days and restored paddy and non-paddy fields and rivers which were buried under it.

According to a field official, the reconstruction of land in Tanchon City was a difficult project for removing ore deposits which covered over 250 hectares of paddy and non-paddy fields with the thickness of 60 to 80 centimetres on average and restoring river embankments.

Measures have been taken to plant soya bean and maize between ridges between rice fields, ridges between fields and fields throughout the country and to plant more than 1 000 grain plants per farmer in non-cultivating land.

Last year, more than 2 500 hectares of land were realigned in different cities and counties of North Hwanghae Province.

Mountainous units are pushing ahead with the work of planting dwarf crops as well as trees by introducing an agroforestry management method.

Nationwide efforts have been directed to tideland reclamation and building of networks of facilities for rice farming is being stepped up in the reclaimed tidelands on the west coast of Korea.

Last year alone, a project for the building of networks of facilities was conducted in the reclaimed Ryongmaedo, Honggondo and Chongsudo tidelands to increase new land.

In particular, North Phyongan Province completed the first-stage reclamation of the Honggondo tideland and the second-stage reclamation of the Kwaksan tideland. As a result, thousands of hectares of tideland were realigned into mechanized and standardized fields, thereby laying a foundation for producing large quantities of cereals.

Jong In Nam, department director of the Ministry of Agriculture

New farmland can be found everywhere

A large area of cold and damp land has been reclaimed into paddy fields in Sepho County, Kangwon Province.

"It is not easy to find arable land in our county. So we turned our eyes to cold and damp land," said an official in the county.

The county took measures to dig a ditch to drain cold water and supply brook water to paddy fields and demanded farms to increase their soil fertility by carpeting them with humus soil and applying much manure and peat to raise crops.

In recent years, Ichon County in the province has pushed ahead with the reclamation of farmland along the Rimjin River in a planned way.

According to a county official, as the area was far from the county town and they had to cross the big river, it was difficult to transport manpower and farming materials.

The county built an iron vessel to carry materials and equipment needed for reclamation.

Effective farming methods have been introduced to protect the reclaimed land and make it fertile.

In particular, they have planted *Evodia daniellii* at regular intervals

to prevent soil from being blown away by strong winds and washed away by rainwater and grown crops like maize and bean in order to produce grains while improving soil fertility.

They have applied a circular cultivation to maize farming.

The county is directing efforts to turning the area into a grain production base by building dwelling houses on the reclaimed land.

A large area of land has also been brought under the plough in recent years in Pyongyang.

The municipality made a detailed survey of right soil

to be reclaimed for farming including the land in the water areas, forest land with under 20 degree gradients and bogs.

The Kumthan Farm in Sadong District put several hectares of land under the plough by rezoning the land in the water area. The Ryongsan Vegetable Farm in Mangyongdae District realigned several hectares of land into standardized fields while rearranging the several thousand-metre section of a waterway to secure more arable acreage.

By Chae Hyang Ok PT



A project is pushed by the General Tideland Reclamation Enterprise of South Hwanghae Province.

PAK CHOL / RODONG SINMUN

Riverside areas cleared to acquire new lands

Manpho City in Jagang Province gave a facelift to a river flowing through the Hambu-ri area.

It widened the section which was flooded every rainy season and built a dam on the banks.

In the rainy season in the past, the river was in flood to inundate the adjoining farmlands and do damage to such structures as threshing ground and dwelling houses. The nearby farm rearranged the river on several occasions to prevent flood damage, but failed to completely eliminate the factors contributing to flood.

The city authorities arranged work in a far-sighted way by breaking from a makeshift approach in order to do away with all risk factors. Accordingly, the river was properly dredged and widened and a strong dam was built and thus new arable land

was acquired.

The Tokmun Cooperative Farm in Suan County, North Hwanghae Province, had lots of sloping and other farm fields by a river. Therefore, it mapped out yearly plans for river improvement and concentrated efforts to carry them out.

Its workteams collected rubble stones as they readjusted the river and built embankments along the edge of sloping fields. They also dug up all the shrubs in the fields, thus neatly rearranging them and acquiring dozens of hectares of new land.

Meanwhile, Sunchon City of South Phyongan Province also straightened out several rivers and carried out masonry in a qualitative way to get a large area of new land.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT



JONG YONG CHOL / RODONG SINMUN

Rezoned fields in North Hwanghae Province.

Reclaimed tidelands to be under cultivation

Preparations are now underway in North Phyongan Province to do farming on the reclaimed tideland.

"In tideland farming it is very important to plant rice varieties highly resistant to salt and cultivate them to suit their characteristics. Therefore, we pay primary attention to securing seeds of such varieties and establishing their cultivation methods," said an official of the province.

In collaboration with agricultural scientific research units, the province took measures to introduce into farming on tideland the rice variety which is highly resistant to salt and which has proved to be productive through tests in recent years. It is also pushing

ahead with the work to establish a rational paddy rice cultivation method according to its farming processes.

The province is making full preparations for the supply of irrigation water.

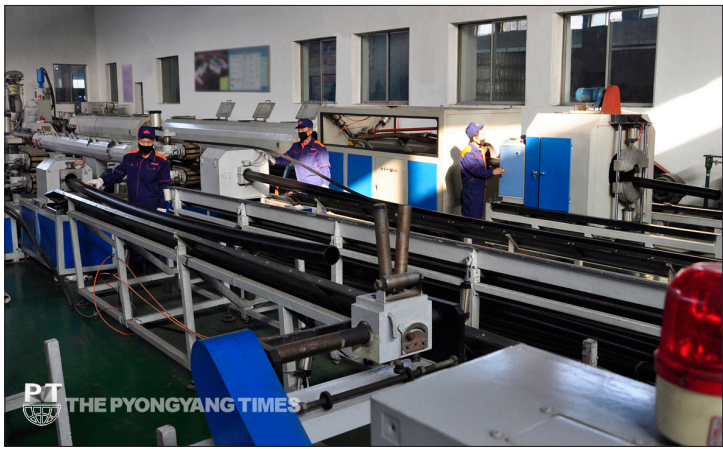
"A sufficient supply of water needed for farming on tideland is an essential prerequisite for providing the growth condition of rice plant by reducing soil salinity as much as possible. In the first-year farming in particular, measures should be taken to make effective use of much more water," said an agronomist of the province.

The province is now giving precedence to finalizing the design of a waterway project.

By Kim Il Jin PT

RECYCLING

Innovative plans introduced



PAK KWANG HUN

The Rangnang Disabled Soldiers' Essential Plastic Goods Factory operates a new production line by introducing recycling technologies.

New technical innovation plans are being extensively created and introduced at the Rangnang Disabled Soldiers' Essential Plastic Goods Factory in Rangnang District, Pyongyang.

According to manager Kang Nam Ik, dozens of technical innovation plans were devised at the factory last year.

They made and installed the head of a plastic pipe moulding machine and pipe moulds in different sizes. With the previous moulding machine it was impossible to produce pipes with a diameter of over 63 mm, but the remodelled machine can

produce four kinds of pipes with diameters of between 75 and 125 mm. As a result, the overall productivity grew by 30 percent, according to technician Han Song Hyok.

In addition, they designed and built a plastic crusher.

The roll guide devices were installed to get rid of the vacillation of moulding materials as well as the correction process.

"The introduction of technical innovations helped us reduce the production cost," said technical staffer Jo Myong Chol.

By Yun Kyong Il PT

INSTRUMENT

Electrolytic analyser developed

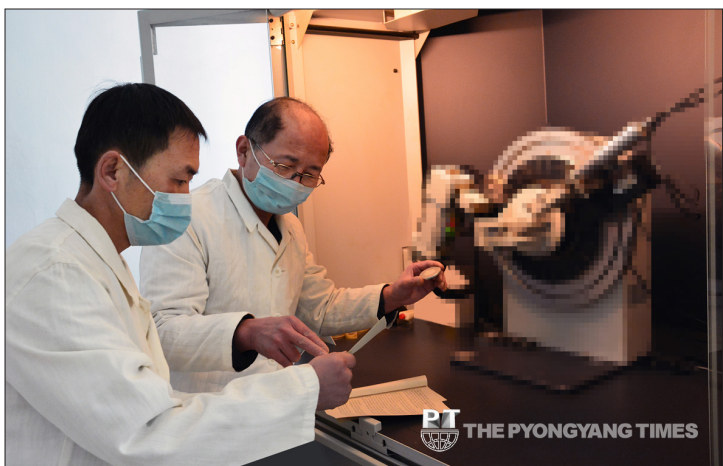
"We have recently made an electrolytic analyser which only a few countries of the world can manufacture," said Jo Kun Se, director of the synthesis and analysis laboratory of Kim Chaek University of Technology.

The electrolytic analyser makes a prompt and accurate analysis of potassium, sodium, calcium, chlorine and pH in such electrolytes as serum.

The researchers established a new manufacturing method for the analyser in the building of system and control program designing.

They optimized the time of analysis to reduce it by 1.5 times as against before and increased the accuracy of analysis to 99.8 percent.

By Kim Il Jin PT



RYU KWANG HYOK

Researchers conduct an analysis of crystal structure of an analytical sample at the general analytical lab of Kim Chaek University of Technology.

FOOTWEAR

Factory works to turn out new leather shoes

The Pyongyang Leather Shoes Factory is directing efforts to the development of new products.

Last year, it developed over 200 kinds of new products and introduced some 100 kinds into production.

What was characteristic in the factory's new product development exhibitions is that not only new designs and samples but also valuable ideas for the domestic production of raw and other materials and recycling have been proposed. And jigs and tools and devices for renovating equipment are also presented there.

The factory developed shoe soles and heels by relying on locally available materials and established a new shoe sole process with materials relying on plastic waste.

All the products made by the factory are winning popularity as the sole, heel and outsole go well in terms of colour and

necks and outer rims of shoes are stylish.

Women's winter leather shoes are very sought-after since they have been designed to meet their constitutional features and psychology.

Ri Un Ju, chief of the technical preparation office, said that the shoes are high in adhesive intensity, physical properties and flexibility and their production cost has been reduced to a third as compared to before.

Men's brown woolen leather shoes, comfortable leather shoes and iron core-free leather shoes are given a favourable reception.

"We are going to produce adhesion-free leather shoes, which require less raw and other materials and are convenient," said Pak Yong Chan, chief engineer of the factory.

By Chae Hyang Ok PT



RYANG KUM CHOL

Technicians discuss how to improve the quality of shoes at the Pyongyang Leather Shoes Factory.

KIMCHI

Weight stone helps improve taste and shelf life of kimchi

A newly-developed weight stone is much sought-after in many catering establishments and families these days.

Lots of women say their homemade kimchi tastes much better than ever, attributing it to the new kind of weight stone, not any special materials or recipes.

Korean families prepare kimchi for winter use in November every year.

As kimchi has a strong, distinctive flavour and conspicuous nutritional and medicinal effects, it is now regarded as one of the world's five health foods and the age-old kimchi-making custom of Korea was inscribed on the world intangible cultural heritage list.

What is distinctive in the custom is to always use the

weight stone.

It promotes the fermentation of kimchi, while pressing down kimchi piled in a jar not to float in juice, and it is kept in the jar until all the pickles are consumed.

That's why every family cares much about choosing weight stones and it is a matter of great concern for housewives who do their best to make savoury kimchi.

Due to the phenomenon of temperature rise, kimchi matures and gets sour quickly even in midwinter.

Excessive acidity spoils its taste, discolours it and makes it give off unpleasant smell.

The new weight stone helps solve such problems.

According to its lead developer Ri Se Dok, staffer

Economy: Sectors carry out January tasks

FROM PAGE 1

methods that suit topographical conditions.

The Kaechon Railway Bureau transported well over ten thousand tons of more freight under the strict unified traffic control system and the Pyongyang, Hamhung and Chongjin railway bureaus carried out their first monthly freight transport assignments.

The Sangwon Cement Complex fulfilled its monthly production plan by taking measures for the supply of raw materials and fuel and operating machines at full capacity.

The Sunchon Cement Complex produced well over ten thousand tons of more cement, while the Chonnaeri Cement Factory increased production.

Agricultural workers in different parts of the country are pushing the transport of homemade manure.

The textile industry sector fulfilled the production plan for cotton yarn and ordinary cloth, and many knitwear factories reached their targets over 130 percent.

The Pothonggang Footwear Factory and Hungnam Leather Shoes Factory produced thousands of pairs of more shoes respectively and many units in the footwear industry sector exceeded their monthly targets.

The Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill, Songchon Silk Mill and others positively conducted the socialist emulation drive between shifts and workteams to produce large quantities of silk threads and silk cotton.

The Kumya Silk Mill carried out its plan for January ahead of schedule.

By Ri Sang Il PT

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

MEETING

Working people's organizations meet for plenums

The 12th plenary meeting of the Ninth Central Committee of the Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist Youth League was held on Wednesday in Pyongyang.

It was attended by members and alternate members of the youth league central committee.

The meeting discussed agenda items on thoroughly implementing the decisions of the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea and convening the Tenth Congress of the youth league.

The participants made a serious study of the draft resolution on the first agenda item.

The speakers extensively analysed and reviewed latent mistakes in the work of the youth league, their causes and lessons drawn from them and came up with innovative ideas for conducting all of its activities originally and vigorously in line with its

mission as an organization for ideological education, characteristic features of a youth organization and the requirements of the developing times.

On the basis of full study and discussions of the first agenda item a relevant resolution was adopted with unanimous approval.

The meeting discussed the second agenda item and decided on holding its Tenth Congress in early April.

The Sixth Central Committee of the Socialist Women's Union of Korea met in Pyongyang on Wednesday for the tenth plenary meeting.

It was attended by members and alternate members of the Central Committee of the SWUK.

The meeting presented a draft resolution for the thorough implementation of the decisions of the Eighth WPK Congress and had an in-depth study and

discussions about it.

Through the study and discussions, the participants analysed and reviewed the demerits revealed in the work of the union, and came up with new innovative plans and constructive opinions to strengthen and develop the women's union into a vital organization with the fighting programme set forth by the Party Congress as the guideline.

The meeting adopted a relevant resolution and decided to hold the Seventh Congress of the SWUK.

Meanwhile, the Seventh Central Committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea held its tenth plenary meeting and the Eighth Central Committee of the Union of Agricultural Workers of Korea its eleventh plenary meeting in Pyongyang on Thursday.

By Kim Rye Yong PT

HEALTHCARE

Local hospital promotes folk health

The South Phyongan Provincial People's Hospital was inaugurated on January 10 1947, about one and a half years after Korea's liberation from Japanese military rule.

The hospital with a total floor space of 37 000 square metres consists of wards for outpatients, inpatients and operation, an auxiliary building and dispensary.

It has a clinical institute specializing in research into neurosurgery, ophthalmology, health management, clinical immunity and pharmacology.

"Our hospital positively develops medical appliances and introduces advanced diagnostic and treatment methods in line with the modern trend of medical development and, through online consultations with central, city and county people's hospitals, contributes to the treatment and prevention of diseases and improvement of health of provincial population," said Rim Hyon Gil, deputy director in charge of technical affairs.

According to him, the hospital resuscitated lots of serious and dying cases in the past.

The ophthalmic department, in particular, is well known in the country for high professional competence.

"Our department succeeded in more than 400 cases of eye operations and drug therapy for over 8 400 patients between mid-October and late December last year. It was possible as every medical worker of the department

possessed good practical ability," said ophthalmologist Pak Kyong Jun.

Kim Tal Yong, Merited Doctor, PhD, associate professor and head of the department, performed more than ten thousand successful operations, wrote over 30 pieces of relevant teaching materials, reference books and papers and received nine certificates of national inventions and some 50 certificates of introduction of new technologies over the past four decades.

The proficiency of the department was more widely known some years ago when they brought eyesight back to a young woman who was diagnosed with amblyopia caused by congenital underdevelopment of the eye, congenital cataract and hereditary hypermyopia.

Until then, the department had had no previous experience

in treating patients with an eyesight of below 0.02, but the surgeons carried out four rounds of operations to normalize the functions of her optic nerve and retinae and restored her sight through over 100 days of treatment as they devised new plans for preventing post-operative complication.

The department of neurosurgery has also been successful in curing patients.

Its surgeons are skilful in performing such difficult operations as cerebral ventriculoperitoneal shunt and those for tumours of the brain and spinal cord.

The papers presented by medical workers of the hospital are highly appreciated at the annual national sci-tech symposium and presentation.

By Kwon Hyo Song PT



Ophthalmologists perform an operation to extract cataract at the South Phyongan Provincial People's Hospital.

PATRIOTISM

Grandma gathers scrap iron to play her part for country



Sin Yong Suk (pictured) living in neighbourhood unit No. 52 of Ryonmot-dong, Sosong District, Pyongyang, is called a "patriotic grandmother".

The 69-year-old has so far done a lot of good works for society for more than 20 years. She has done good things for smelters of the Chollima Steel Complex, war veterans and special-class honoured disabled soldiers, collected large quantities of scrap iron to send it to steel works and prepared aid materials with sincerity to send them to construction sites in the capital city.

Of them, she would often recollect the days when she gathered scrap iron.

It was 12 years ago when she started to gather scrap iron.

One day, she went to a purchasing shop with used things.

By Pang Un Ju PT

OCCUPATION

Street lamp workers love their occupation

People have their jobs, but many of them work in unnoticeable workplaces.

"Our job is to take care of street lamps and all of us love our jobs," said Hyon Pong Chol, director of the street lamp company in Sadong District, Pyongyang.

He said that his employees find delight and worth of life in devoting their all sincerity to providing residents with convenience.

The company manages hundreds of street lamps covering well over a ten thousand-metre section.

They spend a busy time while making the rounds of street lamps, cleaning them and repairing electric cables, day and night, all the year round.

"All of us feel proud that we keep the street of the capital city bright and clean," said Pak Yong Chol.

Whenever he sees many people travelling to workplaces via this street, he said, he feels pride and honour in his work.

The employees look after the

At that time, she was told by a procurement worker that the number of those collecting scrap iron dwindled though a great deal of scrap iron was needed by steel works.

That day, she looked back upon the past when she disregarded the collection of scrap iron.

Steel is required to build modern dwellings, bases for cultural and leisure activities and factories. From now on, I'll gather a large quantity of scrap iron to contribute to producing structural steel.

With such a resolve, she buckled down to gathering scrap iron.

Once she surprised villagers by separating a great deal of reinforcing bar from concrete.

That day, an official of a mine said that he was very moved by her mind, referring to the fact that he had no idea of looking for such a good thing, although he asked for steel materials to the country.

People came to tenderly call her as a "grandmother who collects scrap iron" and she gave a great help to the country's economic activity by gathering 23 tons of scrap iron.

Her patriotic mind is evidenced by many certificates of assistance she obtained.

By Han Kwi Hun PT

ORCHESTRA

National instruments combined with Western ones in harmony

It is a great delight for everyone to see the performance of the National Symphony Orchestra.

Whenever the performance is given, many people come to the Moranbong Theatre on Moran Hill, the scenic beauty of Pyongyang.

Kim Kyong Mi is one of the fans of the symphony orchestra. She said she saw most of its performances.

Referring to the concert of the symphony orchestra given in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the formation of three-wind instrumentation last year, she noted that though a lot of electronic instruments made their appearance and different forms of distinctive

performances were given, they cannot take the place of orchestral music. In particular, she added, whenever she listens to orchestral music *A Bumper Harvest in the Chongsan Plain* of the symphony orchestra, she feels as if she hears the rustling sound of ears of rice and looks at happy farmers at a year-end payment place.

But back in the 1960s, the symphony had failed to win popularity of the people. In 1969 Chairman Kim Jong Il told relevant officials that the point was what kind of symphonic music they play, underlining the need to develop the symphony on the principle of arranging folk songs and

other famous music pieces favoured by the Korean people and to organize a three-wind instrumentation of a Korean style.

And he told them to form a 120-strong orchestra by subordinating Western instruments to national music and combining national instruments with Western ones.

As a result, a large-scale three-wind instrumentation was organized on January 26 1970. It came to find out a unique tone quality that cannot be imitated by Western instruments by combining national instruments and bring out such orchestral pieces favoured by all the Koreans as *The Dear Home in My Native Village*, *The Girl on the Swing*, *Arirang* and *A Bumper Harvest in the Chongsan Plain*.

Over the past 50 years after the emergence of the Juche-based three-wind instrumentation, the symphony orchestra performed symphonic suite *O Korea, I Will Add Glory to Thee*, symphonic medley *Song Dedicated to the Party* and orchestral music pieces *Fascination*, *The Blue Sky over My Country* and *Our National Flag* and many other music pieces to create a sensation at home and abroad.



SONG YONG SOK

A scene from the concert *Socialist Symphony* given by the National Symphony Orchestra.

By Kim Rye Yong PT

FLOWER

Dried flowers add emotion to life

Many flower products in various kinds are served at the flower exhibition in Pothonggang District, Pyongyang, and among them are dried flowers.

On display at the exhibition venue are various kinds of dried flowers including framed flowers or those in flower baskets.

"The demand for dried flowers is on the rise. We have sold many dried flowers in our exhibition to mark the new year," said saleswoman Ri Su Jong.

Among the dried flowers are rose, lily, globe amaranth, cockscomb, carnation and chrysanthemum. They are ready to give out fragrance.

According to Ri Su Jong, it can be kept for a long time, is more economical as it can be used without replacement every

time and can be used for diverse forms of decoration in a short time in any place.

"I like decorating my home with flowers. Some time ago, I bought a framed dried flower to hang it on the wall and my family members like to see it. Today, I am going to buy other type of dried flowers," said Han Song Hui.

A customer said that he decorated his room with dried flowers a few months ago and the dried flowers embodying the natural beauty of fresh

flower are so good-looking and pleasant that he feels mental stability. And this time he chose a dried pine product for his office.

The dried flower products, which provide an elegant, fresh environment with the help of beauty and different shapes of natural flowers in diverse colours and can be given as a souvenir, make people enjoy diverse cultural and leisure activities.

By Ri Sung Ik PT



KIM YONG CHAN

Some of the dried flowers are on display at the flower exhibition hall.

PHILATELY

Inspired by chronicling country's progress



People usually say that stamp chronicles history.

Because though small, each individual stamp visually reflects the history of development of a country and the thoughts and feelings of people.

Therefore, even though its original utility value has fallen due to the development of telecommunications means, it is maintaining its attractiveness as the "name card of a country", "bill of a country" and "paper jewel".

Ri Un Jong (pictured), who lives in Ryonghung-dong No. 1, Taesong District, Pyongyang, is an ardent philatelist.

"I started collecting stamps under the influence of my father who was an enthusiastic stamp collector. As he showed me his album when I was young, he would tell me about the aspects of development of our country, its history, customs and various plants

By Pang Un Ju PT

and animals. That was how I came to develop attachment to stamps," said Ri.

So she grew up as she saw her father making his album happily, and she started collecting stamps seven years ago and has now an album of over 2 000 kinds of stamps.

She has special interest in the stamps depicting the images of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il and the majority of her collections are said to be those representing the leaders in theme. She also likes collecting stamps showing world-famous persons, structures and paintings and dealing with world events, flowers and sports scenes.

Since she became mother of a child two years ago, she has collected large numbers of stamps portraying children.

Her stamps are popular with many people and at stamp exhibitions for their diverse themes, delicate and rich artistic description, and chronological value.

She has a younger brother who is also a stamp collection fan.

"Whenever I open my stamp album, I feel warm affection for our country with a long history, stirring present reality and our society in which everyone lives harmoniously helping and leading one another forward," said Ri Un Jong.

CLASSICS

National classics translated

"Translating national classics is a large-scale project with heavy workload and requiring extensive knowledge and rich imagination," said Ri Song, director of the national classics institute of the Academy of Social Sciences.

The researchers of the institute are now engaged in the translation into Korean of *Ilsongrok* and *80 000 Blocks of Complete Collection of Buddhist Scriptures* which are of national treasure value.

Ilsongrok is composed of a total of 2 375 volumes recording in the form of diary the administration of the country by the feudal Joseon dynasty from 1760 to 1910. And the *80 000 Blocks of Complete Collection of Buddhist Scriptures* is the Buddhist encyclopaedia which was compiled in the period of Koryo Kingdom (918-1392) and the oldest Buddhist sutra so far known in the world. It consists of 6 793 volumes in

1 537 categories which were printed with more than 80 000 wooden blocks.

The institute, by drawing on the experience of successfully translating and compiling *The Chronicles of the Feudal Joseon Dynasty* and *Pibyonsadungrok*, has ensured the specialized translation according to sectors to improve the quality of translation and speed it up 1.8 times more than previously.

As they strictly adhere to the principle of fidelity to historical truth in rendering dead language into modern one, they are working hard to discover the new meanings of classical language and new words in order to maintain popularity and consistency in translation.

They are also compiling a dictionary that helps correctly understand unstandardized sentence structures and interpret new terms in a scientific way.

By Han Kwi Hun PT

WRONGDOING

Rule by resident-general designed to pave way for colonization

Japan came out with the “theory of the conquest of Korea” by force of arms in the mid-19th century and aggressively pursued a colonial enslavement policy.

In November 1905, it forced the feudal Joseon dynasty to sign the Ulsa five-point treaty by dint of military threat, blackmail, deception and trick in a terror-charged atmosphere created by mobilizing huge armed forces. And it issued royal edict No. 267 on establishing the residency-general and its subsidiaries.

Accordingly, Japan set up the “residency-general in Korea” in Kyongsong (today’s Seoul) on February 1 1906 and appointed Ito Hirobumi as the first resident-general.

The resident-general had the authority to suspend and cancel

the ordinances and treaties on diplomatic relations of Korea and to arrest the Koreans by promulgating an order of the residency-general and to order the use of armed forces.

Japan exercised colonial dominion over whole Korea by relying on the residency-general.

In the course of this, it cooked up the Jongmi seven-point treaty in order to totally seize the right of home administration of the Korean feudal government ranging from judicature to legislation, administration and personal management and to ensure the control of every field by the Japanese, thus completely paralysing the functions of the government.

The residency-general issued an “ordinance on primary

school” to force colonial slave education and an “ordinance on public school” to forcibly shut down private schools with anti-Japanese tendency.

Along with this, it enacted the “law on newspaper” to deprive the Koreans of freedom of speech and publication, while ruthlessly oppressing anti-Japanese and patriotic papers, and established a system for massive expropriation of land and agricultural products under the pretext of “development” in every field including agriculture, industry, mining and transport. It also enforced the enslavement policy in such fields as mining, forestry, fishery and finance.

Japan sent large numbers of troops to Korea to impose the rule by resident-general and

massacred the Koreans under the pretext of cracking down on anti-Japanese Righteous Volunteers.

A foreign journalist who was staying in Korea at that time kept a record that the Japanese troops set fire to things everywhere they went and killed lots of Koreans on suspicion of helping the army of rioters (anti-Japanese Righteous Volunteers).

Although 115 years have passed since the residency-general was set up, even the long lapse of time can neither cover up nor erase Japan’s despicable crime.

Japan should make a sincere apology and reparations for its past wrongdoings.

By Min Chol PT

CLIMATE CHANGE

Temperature rise responsible for disastrous calamities

Now carbon dioxide emissions continue to increase and the temperature steadily rises, causing enormous damage to the world.

Glaciers are melting and sea levels are rising, with severe heat wave, drought, forest fire, heavy rain, violent storm and flood becoming more frequent.

Fire continuously occurred in the Amazon tropical rainforest in Brazil, largely destroying the “lung” of the earth. Experts express their concern over it, saying it would further accelerate global warming and increase the danger of

environmental damage.

According to information recently published by the Australian National University, over 18 million hectares of grassland was burnt in the country last year. Wildland fires reportedly killed nearly 500 people. Southeast Australia has been affected by severe drought for three years.

Malaysia was hit by flash floods caused by downpour throughout the country, with tens of thousands of its people having been evacuated and many families still living in temporary residences. In mid-January dozens of people were killed

and tens of thousands of people urgently evacuated in the flood by heavy rain in West Java and South Kalimantan of Indonesia.

In Rwanda over 100 blocks of houses, roads and electric power facilities were destroyed by floods and landslides until January 14 this year. In central Mozambique 18 people were killed or wounded and over 176 000 others afflicted by a storm with downpour as of January 25.

Some people were injured and many others evacuated in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, by a recent flood caused by strong wind and heavy rain.

The international community is now expressing growing apprehension over the devastating disaster brought by global warming across the world.

The UN secretary general said on December 12 2020 that five years have passed since the conclusion of the Paris agreement on climate change, but the world is not going in the right direction, adding that the concentration of CO₂ has reached a record high and if the situation goes on, the world may face such a critical situation as temperature rise of over 3°C in the present century. And he appealed to the international community to declare a state of climate emergency until “carbon neutrality” is ensured.

By Choe Yong Nam PT

COVID-19

New variety of coronavirus with great infectivity rapidly widespread

A new variety of COVID-19 that broke out in such countries as the UK and South Africa is rapidly spreading to many countries and regions in the world.

In France, people infected with it numbered some 40 on January 9, but such cases soared up to about 2 000 on January 19.

It has been reported that 200 to 300 people contract this variety on a daily average in the country.

In Belgium, the number of children under 9 getting this

type of virus increased by 84 percent in the recent one week.

It has been revealed that 45 percent of COVID-19 cases have caught the variety in Ireland, though the percentage was 9 two weeks ago.

At an old people’s home in Germany, the malignant virus killed 15 people.

The virus was already spread in 32 states in the US and over 470 people have been confirmed to carry the new variety.

The African centre for disease control and prevention announced that the spread of the highly infectious virus variety

has triggered the second wave of the pandemic in 40 countries in the continent.

In South Africa, those who recovered from COVID-19 a few months ago are infected with the new viral type.

And in south Korea, 34 people have been confirmed to have contracted it.

Besides, such cases continue to appear in Greece, Lithuania, Senegal, Mexico and other parts of the world.

According to experts, although the novel coronavirus changed at 29 points while undergoing

ceaseless alteration, there was no marked difference in its characteristics.

However, it was proved that the new virus variety detected in the UK in September last year underwent a remarkable change at the point of spike protein in such a way as to better combine with cells and that the spike protein of the new variety identified in South Africa and Brazil also grew in penetration power.

Foreign media outlets reported that the infectivity of the new variety has become 70 percent higher than the original type at the maximum, expressing the concern that the novel coronavirus is gradually evolving into a type with higher infectivity.

By Om Ryong PT

Briefly

Cuba

President underlines need to fight on against malignant virus

Cuban President Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel Bermudez pointed to the practices of neglecting to fulfil anti-epidemic measures while making little account of the dangerousness of the malignant infectious disease in a meeting on January 29.

He emphasized the need to widely apply the experience accumulated in the course of anti-epidemic work and consolidate the public health system in order to overcome the present complicated situation in which infected cases keep increasing.

UNDP

Climate change held as a global emergency

At a recent survey of 1.2 million people in 50 countries the UNDP conducted on their opinion about climate change, 64 percent of respondents answered that it was the most serious threat to humankind and a global emergency.

According to the survey results released on January 27, they asserted each country should take extensive measures to prevent climate change like the active use of natural energy sources.

Russia

FM rejects West’s interference

The Russian Foreign Ministry issued a statement on January 27 to urge the West to put its internal affairs in order first instead of clinging to public opinion war while distorting facts.

The statement came as the foreign ministers of G7 and the EU’s high-ranking representative in charge of diplomacy and security policies recently found fault with Russia, claiming that it neglects obligations with respect to international law, and demanded it release those who were arrested during an illegal protest action.

Iran

Israel’s threat scorned

The Iranian presidential office, in a statement released on January 27, said that Israel has no capacity to take action against Iran, stressing that the Iranian armed forces are getting fully ready for protecting the country in the face of the enemy’s threat.

The statement came after the Israeli army recently announced that it was working out new operation plans against Iran.

The statement branded it as a psychological warfare against Iran.

THE PYONGYANG TIMES

PROFILE

Choe makes his mark by promoting women's football

"Women's football saw a rapid rise in the DPRK in the 2000s. It is largely credited to Choe Kwang Sok, former head coach of the DPRK's junior women's football team," said Kim Chol Ung, department director of the DPRK Football Association.

Choe is said to have learned to play football first from his father who was a soccer coach.

He was active as a football player of the then Pyongyang Municipal Sports Club, but he gave up his playing career at a young age owing to a knee injury.

"It really broke my heart to think that I should bid my farewell to football, which was my dream and whole life," he recalled.

He made up his mind to achieve his dream of bringing honour to his country as a player of the DPRK national team by becoming a football coach.

He took charge of the women's football team of the



Choe Kwang Sok, former manager and head coach of the Naegohyang women's football team, writes a book on football.

YUN KI SONG

then Pyongyang Municipal Sports Club and coached it to a local power after years-long painstaking efforts. And he became the head coach of the junior women's football team of the DPRK from December 2003.

"In a word, Choe Kwang Sok was strong in grip. He demanded unquestioning obedience of all players to their coach. He made little concessions in the training and argued for tenacious and attack-oriented game tactics. Under his guidance we developed a must-win game spirit and passed through the stage of rigorous physical and technical training."

second at the second and third Asian junior women's football championships respectively and won the fourth Asian junior women's football championships and the third world junior women's football championships.

He received the Asian top coach prize in 2006 and the gold star coach prize from the Asian Football Confederation in 2010.

A DPRK Labour Hero and People's Athlete, he worked as manager and head coach of the Naegohyang women's football team, before retiring in 2019.

By Han Kwi Hun PT

said Kim Kyong Hwa, former player of the junior women's football team who is now women's football coach of the April 25 Sports Club.

He coached the DPRK women soccer players to a series of successes on the Asian and world fronts. Its junior women's football team came third and

HERITAGE

Relics showcase Korea's medieval stone sculpture

The Korean ancestors, who made Koryo celadon well-known to the world, fully displayed their wisdom and skills in the field of stone sculpture as well.

It is well evidenced by the historical sites and relics preserved in their original

state in the area of Kaesong, the capital of Koryo Kingdom (918-1392).

The decorative sculptures at the Mausoleum of King Kyonghyo at the foot of Mt Pongmyong in Haeson-ri of Kaesong City are the epitome of the medieval stone sculpture.

Among them are symbolic animals embossed in twelve-fold stone screen, stone handrail, stone stairs, stone post, stone altar, stone lantern and stone sheep and stone tigers around the mausoleum. In particular, two granite-stone figures depicting a military officer and a civil official are estimated as the best of the old stone sculptures so far unearthed in the country.

At the Ryongthong

Temple in Ryonghung-dong of the city, there is also a monument called Taegakguksabi, which is propped by a stone turtle. Engraved on the front and back sides of the monument are phoenix and flower patterns, which are claimed to be the most beautiful of those carved on all monuments of the times.

The Hyonhwa Temple's seven-storey pagoda at the Koryo Museum is big in size and grand in shape and a lot of Buddhist images carved in each storey of the pagoda are exquisite and lifelike.

Besides, there are a dragon head sculpture at Manwoltae royal palace site, a stone lantern at the Kaeguk Temple, a five-storey pagoda at the Puril Temple, a pagoda at the Hungguk Temple and other relics showing excellent stone sculpture of the Korean nation.

By Choe Yong Nam PT



A foreign tourist sketches a stone sculpture at the Koryo Museum in April 2019.

PAK CHANG BOK

FOLK GAME

Shuttlecock game

Shuttlecock game is one of traditional folk games.

It is a game of children competing to play shuttlecock with feet without dropping it. Shuttlecock is made of paper, bird's feather or animal fur by attaching a round lead piece, brass coin or button to that.

It traces its origin back to the period of the Three Kingdoms which existed from the 3rd century BC to the 7th century AD.

Its form and playing methods have been changed through a long historic process. There are individual and collective playing methods including kicking shuttlecock continuously with a foot, kicking it with two feet by turns or performing different feats.

Individuals compete in kicking it continuously with the internal corner of one foot with the other foot treading up on

the ground, kicking it with the internal corners of both feet, kicking it with one foot continuously without treading on the ground, while standing on the other foot, before kicking the shuttlecock high to place it on one's head or back, kicking it far away at the end after kicking it continuously and going a certain distance and coming back while kicking.

In playing collective shuttlecock game, such methods are used by teaming

up and there is also the method of exchanging the shuttlecock with each other by kicking.

As the game requires maintaining balance while keeping one's foot planted on the ground for a long time, it helps heighten the sense of equilibrium, cultivate judgment about dropping objects and develop the sense of hitting them.

An exercise of the whole body, it is very good for the training of muscles and the physical training of children.

In particular, it helps children train their body firmly while playing briskly.

It can be played in any place and season including winter.

It was inscribed as an element of national intangible cultural heritage in 2018.

By Kwon Hyo Song PT



AN YONG CHOL / KOREA TODAY

Two children in national costume do a shuttlecock game.

FOOD

Songji mushroom cooked in peppered bean paste



The dish (pictured) is made by boiling songji mushroom, a well-known speciality of Korea, with peppered bean paste.

The mushroom that grows around pine trees thrives in the loose soil in sunny places with good ventilation.

It helps strengthen the body and digestive organs, relieves pain and proves effective in curing the choky chest and excess phlegm. It is also used as a material for anticancer medicine and diuretic.

It is used to make various dishes and also dried and powdered for a spice.

Here is the recipe for the mushroom cooked in peppered bean paste for one person.

The ingredients are 150g of songji mushroom, 10g of hot pepper paste, 10g of Welsh onion, the same amount of sesame oil and 2g of salt mixed with powdered sesame seeds.

Give the mushroom a good clean before splitting it properly. Pour oil into a pot to broil the mushroom pieces and lightly boil them with peppered paste solution. When the materials are soaked in soup, sprinkle them with the salt and chopped Welsh onion to complete the savoury dish.

By Pang Un Ju PT

