

To build powerful national defence capacity

On December 30 2011, the Korean people held the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un in high esteem as the supreme commander of the armed forces of the DPRK.

Over the past ten years since then, Kim Jong Un has provided a powerful war deterrent and treasured sword for safeguarding peace to place the DPRK in the front rank of the world-class military powers.

He trained the Korean People's Army to become units of comrades-in-arms and comrades who throw in their lot with the Supreme Commander.

On the morning of New Year's Day in 2012, he inspected the Seoul Ryu Kyong Su Guards 105th Tank Division of the KPA and has since visited many air force, army and naval units to show warm affection to service personnel.

Once, as he visited the KPA unit stationed on Mt Osong, he went out to the post on Kkachil Peak after looking round several places of the unit.

Accompanying officials blocked his way, saying that the peak post is too dangerous a place for him to go. But he said that the soldiers would be very disappointed if he left without meeting them after coming up to Mt Osong and that his feet seemed to refuse to take him back if he didn't meet them, and made his way to the army post only 350 metres away from the enemy line.

The servicemen in the post were so excited to meet him unexpectedly that they only shed tears while waving their highly raised hands and stamping feet, without giving cheers of hurrah as it was a very dangerous place.

The Supreme Commander

warmly shook hands with each of them, saying it is not a solitary post and he is always with them, and had a photo taken with them.

Kim Jong Un also kindled the intense flames of a revolution in military training to build the KPA to be a militarily and technologically powerful army fully ready for actual war.

One February day in 2013, he declared to the KPA commanding officers that he would organize a series of field-training exercises for enhancing actual war capacity that year in various forms and methods and oversaw them on the spot.

He ensured that all military exercises were conducted in the worst and most difficult conditions as close to war circumstances as possible like an actual war. Under his leadership, the training fields seethed with high-intensity combat trainings for actual

war focusing on practical actual manoeuvres and practical brain training and the KPA service personnel grew up as fighters capable of defeating any formidable enemy at a stroke.

Kim Jong Un radically increased the national defence capability, catapulting the country into a world-recognized military power and a world-class strategic state.

The latest military hardware, the powerful war deterrent which was displayed at the military parade held in October last year in celebration of the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Workers' Party of Korea, and this year's defence development exhibition Self-Defence 2021 speaks volumes about his painstaking efforts and great devotion to enhancing the country's national defence capability.

Iron and steel producer effects upsurge in production

By Chae Hyang Ok PT

The Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex, the country's iron and steel giant, is located in Songnim City of North Hwanghae Province.

The complex turns out iron and steel products in different kinds and sizes by relying on domestic fuel 100 percent, breaking away from such imported fuels of coke and heavy oil.

After building an oxygen blast furnace for producing iron by the Juche method by relying on locally-abundant anthracite, it has solved knotty sci-tech problems arising in ensuring the normal operation of the furnace by its own efforts.

And it established a foundation for producing ferromanganese in a short time, thus rendering great services to increasing iron and steel production.

As it established the Juche-oriented ferromanganese production process using iron rich wad in the country, it could lay a sure guarantee for operating its steel production system with its own effort, technology and local materials and take a big step forward in putting alloy steel production on a Juche basis.

It is now making innovations one after another in production by operating each part of the Juche-based iron production process relying on an oxygen-blast method in a scientific and technological way.

It ensures the real-time monitoring of dozens of processes, from the feeding of raw materials to tapping, by raising the

level of informatization in production command.

Especially, while giving absolute priority to the supply of raw and other materials needed for the normal operation of the oxygen blast furnace, it ensures well-knit scheduling of processes in its efforts to boost production.

After fixing the mixing ratio of raw materials to suit the grades of concentrated ore in the process of feeding raw materials, the control room scientifically runs overall production processes.

Scientists and technicians of the complex rationally remodelled the old large oxygen plant to increase its capacity.

In addition, technicians and workers in charge of the furnace body positively apply technical innovation plans to contribute to increasing iron and steel output.

It has recently succeeded in winding up the general overhauls of the oxygen blast furnace and a 100-ton UHP electric arc furnace.

"As the name suggests, the iron we produce is just the Juche-based iron. We are mass-producing iron with our raw materials, fuel and technology," said Kim Hyon Uk, deputy chief engineer of the complex.

The employees are striving to fulfil without fail their iron and steel production plan for this year, the first year in implementing the new five-year plan set forth at the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea, and it is expected that they will produce good results.

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Mass-based cultural activities inject vitality into society

By Ri Sung Ik PT

This year, too, mass-based cultural and artistic activities served as a strong impetus to encouraging lots of working people to perform continuous miracles and innovations.

Among them are motivational activities conducted at the rush hour and in construction and production sites.

Not only artistes but also women's union members as well as mobile artistic motivational team members in industrial establishments staged different performances to add a festive mood on holidays and commemorative days.

"I am sure that song and dance have incredibly great power. Although there are some difficulties and ordeals, songs and appealing remarks of artistic motivational team

members always invigorate me and give me confidence," said Ho Hyon Jo, worker of the East Pyonggyang Thermal Power Station.

The Korean revolution was started with songs and has advanced and triumphed by dint of them.

Revolutionary forerunners in the period of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle created revolutionary songs and dramas and even played football games during their breaks from battles and marches, and brave combatants of the Korean People's Army, who won the Fatherland Liberation War, which is recognized globally as a head-to-head between the rifle and atomic bomb, made frontline musical instruments at the heights in flames and played them,

terrifying enemies.

The DPRK's fighting mode of surmounting pessimism with laughter and smashing despair with optimism in the face of manifold trials is still being carried on.

"It is the reality that labour precisely becomes a song and we enjoy beautiful life in singing," said Han Yong Gil, general weaving workshop manager of the Pyonggyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill.

The mill is widely known across the country as a prolific producer and overflowing with optimism. It has produced labour heroines, meritorious persons of socialist patriotism and other labour innovators who carried out their quotas for one and two years ahead of schedule.

Its employees unanimously attribute such successes to mass-based cultural and

artistic activities. The mill already came up with some collections of literary works on several occasions and has presented excellent works to several national literary work prize contests held this year.

Those of the Sochang Youth Coal Mine also say that life without song and dance is like a garden without flowers.

All the employees of the coal mine can play one or more popular musical instruments. Songs are disseminated before the start of work and during breaks and artistic performances are given by each workteam.

As seen above, the Korean people have adorned the first year of the five-year plan for national economic development with victories, while singing songs full of confidence and optimism.

Top ten
players and coaches
of the year selected

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First-year tasks carried out for national economic development

KCNA

This year, over 1 200 new techniques were developed and introduced in the coal industry sector through the mass technical innovation movement for increased coal production so as to further consolidate material and technical foundations of coal mines and marked progress was made in carrying out the national economic plan for this year, the first year of the new five-year plan for national economic development.

The Tokchon Area Coal-mining Complex carried out this year's economic plans for every month and quarter by working out and introducing valuable technical innovation plans in different and successive ways.

The Kaechon Area Coal-mining Complex overfulfilled monthly quotas by applying over 200 technical innovation plans to consolidate the existing

production foundation. Technical innovation plans capable of prolonging the serviceable life of drilling heads and bearings played their part in consolidating material and technical foundations of the coal mine.

The Pukchang Area Youth Coal-mining Complex dynamically conducted a technical innovation movement to increase the proportion of work done by machines in pit faces, ensure the diversification of conveyance and lay a solid foundation for production.

It established a process of producing plastic medal which can substitute for bearings of all sizes including those for coal cars and pumps and developed a borer magnetic treatment device to lengthen the serviceable life of borers 1.2 times.

It also developed resistors of electric car, manufactured concrete sleepers to boost conveyance capacity and recycled plastic waste to

produce various kinds of piping with its own efforts. The Suncheon Area Youth Coal-mining Complex further promoted the revitalization of production by increasing scientific and technological forces.

The Tukjang Area Coal-mining Complex developed a device for rational boring in collaboration with a relevant unit as it introduced an effective technical innovation plan for satisfactorily running motors for electric cars.

The Kangdong, Anju, Kujang, Myongchon and other coal-mining complexes make a breakthrough for increased production by dint of a mass technical innovation drive.

The Haeju Farm Machine Factory newly installed machine tools and developed various types of jigs and cutting tools, thus carrying out the production plans for rice-transplanting machines and wheat and barley planters at over 140

percent. The Kangso Sprayer Factory systematically increased the production of knapsack-style sprayers urgently needed for cultivation of crops to far exceed its yearly economic plan.

Workers of the Hamhung Tractor-drawn Farm Machine Factory, Pukchong Fruit Farming Machine Factory and Namsi Livestock Farming Machine Factory raised the work efficiency in each process after procuring enough jigs and equipment.

The Haeju and other tractor parts factories hit their production targets by inventing new ideas and introducing technical innovation plans to improve the quality and performance of products.

Farm machines and tractor parts producers in other areas also made progress in production through close cooperation between processes.

Cargo vessel Jangsusan leaves port

KCNA

The 12 000-tonner *Jangsusan*, which was built at the Ryongnam Dockyard, set sail on its maiden voyage.

A departing ceremony of the cargo vessel took place on the spot on December 23.

It was attended by O Su Yong, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, Yang Sung Ho, vice-premier of the Cabinet, Kang Jong Gwan, minister of Land and

Maritime Transport, relevant officials, and officials and employees of the dockyard.

At the ceremony, O Su Yong conveyed a message of thanks sent by the WPK Central Committee to the workers, technicians and officials of the dockyard.

A departure address by the Minister of Land and Maritime Transport was followed by speeches.

After the ceremony the *Jangsusan* departed from port.



A departing ceremony of the 12 000-tonner *Jangsusan* takes place on the spot on December 23.

Fish supplied to Pyongyang citizens

KCNA

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un took a measure to supply Pyongyang citizens with fish.

Chairman Kim Jong Il who had made every effort all his life to supply the people with fresh fish in all seasons took a relevant measure for Pyongyang citizens in the last period

of his life and General Secretary Kim Jong Un makes sure that the affection of the Chairman reaches the people intact.

True to the noble intention of the Workers' Party of Korea, officials and fishermen in the fishery sector of the Korean People's Army caught thousands of tons of fish and these arrived in Pyongyang by trains and

lorries.

Officials of Party and power organs in Pyongyang went to car parks and railway stations to greet the lorries and trains.

Commercial service networks in the capital city bustled with citizens who were happy with receiving lots of fresh fish associated with the benevolent affection of the WPK.



Shop assistants are busy providing fresh fish to citizens in Pyongyang.

HOME NEWS

KCNA

South Hwanghae Haeju Youth Open-air Theatre inaugurated



The Haeju Youth Open-air Theatre has been built in South Hwanghae Province.

Present at the inaugural ceremony held on December 21 were Pak Song Chol, chief secretary of the South Hwanghae Provincial Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, officials concerned, members of the youth league of the province, employees of the theatre and builders.

Kim Yong Chol, chairman of the provincial people's committee, made an inaugural speech.

Nationwide Socialist emulation drive for 2021 reviewed

The socialist emulation drive in the field of fruit farming for 2021 was reviewed on December 21 through video-conferencing.

The meeting was attended by Ju Chol Gyu, vice-premier of the Cabinet and minister of Agriculture, Ri Tu Song, department director of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, officials concerned and those of the

Ministry of Agriculture and the Union of Agricultural Workers of Korea and units which took part in the emulation.

Han Jong Hyok, chairman of the Central Committee of the Union of Agricultural Workers of Korea, made a report on the review.

Then the standings of the competition were announced.

Citations in the joint name of the Central Committee of the WPK and the DPRK Cabinet and rotating pennant of the socialist emulation were awarded to Pukchong County, the Toksong Apple Farm and the Onchon Fruit Farm.

Jagang, South Hwanghae Waste disposal factories built in Kanggye, Haeju cities

Waste disposal factories have been built in Kanggye of Jagang Province and Haeju of South Hwanghae Province.

Built on the outskirts of the cities, the factories are conveniently built with the waste selecting process as well as processes of producing block, organic compound fertilizer and substitute fuel.

The waste treatment factories are now stepping up preparations for increasing the variety of recycled products by organically combining collection and recycling.

South Phyongan 300 000-cubic metre blasting at limestone mine

The Suncheon Limestone Mine successfully carried out a 300 000 cubic metre-blasting on December 22.

The successful blasting is another breakthrough in providing a production foundation for securing more minerals in the future.

Officials and workers of the mine have made uninterrupted innovations and progress by concentrating efforts on conveying ores.

North Hwanghae Sariwon Gymnasium built



The Sariwon Gymnasium has been built in North Hwanghae Province.

The gymnasium with a 1 000-seat stand has a multi-functional sports ground for futsal, basketball, volleyball and other events, lounges for players, a physical training room and a sci-tech learning space.

An inaugural ceremony took place on the spot on December 21.

An inaugural speech was made by Im Hun, chairman of the provincial people's committee.

New product promotes animal husbandry

By Chae Hyang Ok PT

The animal activator manufacturer of the Moksong external construction economic and technological cooperation company has come up with a research finding which helps speed up fattening of domestic animals and increase the efficiency of treatment of their diseases.

"We paid special attention to an ore recognized worldwide as a 'vitamin' and 'seasoning' for industry. Different countries are taking positive steps to apply it to agriculture including animal husbandry," said Jo Son Ok, director of the company.

According to her, when applied to domestic animals, it boosts the activity of enzymes that take part in metabolism and stimulates the generation of growth hormones to increase fattening rate, and boosts immunity to various kinds of diseases, thereby ensuring fast and safe livestock production.

The company succeeded in developing a new animal activator by separating necessary elements in high purity from the locally-abundant ore and stabilizing them through liquefaction.

According to its developers, the method of pulverizing the ore and adding the powder to feed is less effective as the digestibility is low and it requires a long time to take effect. So they made an injection and liquid feed.

The activator ensures over 90 percent digestibility by boosting the activity of protease and lipolytic enzyme and increases the fattening rate of animals by spurring the separation and generation of cells.

It also enhances immunity by keeping balance in bioelectricity and also survival rate by keeping

various pathogenic bacteria from multiplying.

It has proved its efficiency in breeding domestic animals in lots of livestock farms and individual households.

"No animal has died at our workteam since the application of the activator. As it usually makes animals grow fat by over 25 kilograms a month, the fattening period can be reduced by 30 to 45 days," said Hong Ki Sok, leader of the stockbreeding workteam of the Namdong Cooperative Farm in Phyongwon County.

It cures swine fever, edema disease of piglets and skin

diseases of pigs and makes delicate pigs healthy. It can be applied to treating diarrhoea often observed in piglets.

It can also be applied to breeding sheep, goats, rabbits, poultry and silkworms. The meat and eggs produced thus have high nutritional value and good taste.

As it removes unpleasant smell from excrement of domestic animals by enhancing their digestibility, it is much helpful to improving hygienic environment and keeping animals.

Its preparation method obtained a national patent this year.



Researchers discuss how to improve the quality of goods at the animal activator manufacturer of the Moksong external construction economic and technological cooperation company (left). Products of the manufacturer.



PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Regional development enhanced by scientific research

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

Researchers of science and technology commissions across the country stimulate regional development through their scientific research activities.

The Phyongan Commission of Science and Technology, in cooperation with relevant units, is conducting research for setting up in the Pothong River basin an ecological restoration model zone combining the functions of water purification, flood control and biodiversity conservation, while the Phyongchon District Commission of Science and Technology is working to solve urgent problems arising in reality including the production of shuttering and glass yarn based on light burned magnesite and scrap glass.

The North Phyongan and South Hwanghae provincial sci-tech commissions that established their well-organized talent management system push research projects to spur their regions'

independent and diversified development.

The North Phyongan Provincial Commission of Science and Technology introduced a temperature control device for waste plastic crusher into the Sinuiju Cosmetics Factory and the Sinuiju Textile Mill and set up a process for producing belt with recycled rubber at the Sinuiju Footwear Factory.

"Our office contrived a real-time temperature measuring device for the production process of recycled plastic pipe to improve the qualitative indexes of products and boost productivity, and thereby it is known throughout the country as a unit that conducts research into recycling idle materials in an efficient way," said a staffer of the new technology research and dissemination office of the Sonchon County Commission of Science and Technology.

The South Hwanghae Provincial Commission of Science and Technology established an integrated

control system at the Haeju Steel Works and a cooling system protection system of the medium frequency induction furnace and solved technical problems arising on site, thus opening up prospects of reenergized production.

It also set up a starch syrup vacuum concentration process and a bleaching liquid and powder production process at the Pongchon County Condiments Factory and the Kwail County Paper Mill and renovated the caustic soda production process at the Chongdan County Chemical Factory.

The Suncheon City and Pukchang County sci-tech commissions introduced a highly efficient current stabilization welder that suits specific conditions into different units to enable them to economize on a great deal of electricity, while the Kangwon Provincial Commission of Science and Technology ascertained a promising ultraanthracite field and researched and introduced an additive for increasing efficiency,

thereby contributing to solving the firewood problem of residents.

Especially, the experience of the Sinhung Commission of Science and Technology is being generalized widely. It laid the foundation for putting consumer goods production on a normal track by completing research into making a vinyl chloride heat stabilizer and plasticizer with locally abundant vegetable raw materials.

Different district and county sci-tech commissions in Nampho solved sci-tech problems arising in the production of a vermiculite lagging panel, rice chaff lagging block, earth hardener block and cement foam lagging, while the Kaesong Commission of Science and Technology made an organic solvent for outdoor paint with good waterproof property with locally available raw materials and refashioned a paper-making facility into an electricity-saving one. Its variety of achievements have been introduced into different units in the city to bring benefits to them.

Following the road of patriotism

FOOD COMPANY CARRIES ON TRADITIONAL RECIPES



Kim Chun Ok, director of the Rangnang Jihyang foodstuff production company.

Among the exhibits that drew public attention at the recent Pyongyang municipal exhibition of consumer goods were products from the Rangnang Jihyang foodstuff production company.

Its mouthwatering nutritious and roborant toffees, powdered bone products, nutritious rice powder and the like were so alluring that every visitor wanted to have.

Regular buyers of these products were glad to see their producers in person at the venue of the exhibition, while those who saw the food ingredients for the first time expressed their interest in them.

The key developer of the above foodstuffs is Kim Chun Ok, (pictured) head of the company.

Originally, she did not major in foodstuff.

But she seems to have inherited the scholastic disposition of her father, who worked hard to come up with new inventions, and the remarkable cooking skills of her mother, who always made tasty foods for her five little children.

As she resided in different areas following her army officer husband, Kim Chun Ok paid attention to the specialities of those areas.

But since she married her daughter off, Kim Chun Ok's illness had lingered on and she came to have trouble with her eyesight and leg.

Her daughter, firmly determined to set her mother on her legs, offered her attentive medical care according to Koryo medical prescriptions.

She made tea for her with cassias seeds good for eyesight, cleansed her eyes frequently and ground calcium-rich animal bones to add them to soup and other foods.

Kim took a turn for the better some months later and made a full recovery soon afterwards.

"At that time, I keenly realized the advantages of remedies and recipes created by our ancestors and became eager to make foods by traditional methods," recalled Chun Ok.

Her first creation was duck toffee.

Following the method of her mother, she boiled the meat to pulp, picked out bones and harmoniously added kaoliang toffee, red bean, perilla and barrenwort to make the dish.

The duck toffee was very popular as it is good for the restoration of vigour, nutritional supplement, invigoration and the like.

She made toffee foods in succession with beef, pork and such wild fruits and medicinal herbs as matrimony-vine fruit, *Crataegi Fructus* and yam and also soya milk, hot pepper paste, toffee and fry by grinding the picked out bones.

She usually pored over *Tonguibogam* (Encyclopaedia of Traditional Medicine of Korea), other classics on Koryo medicine and books on national foodstuffs and delved into special dishes of local areas.

In the course of this, she unveiled dozens of new products including flours for rice cake, pancake, soybean soup and bean-curd dregs, powdered milk, powdered freshwater fish, vegetables powder and the pig's heart roasted in clay.

Today, the products of the company are winning growing popularity from people.

They say the foods jog their childhood memories, evoke nostalgia, appeal to their tastes like the dishes made by their mothers in their home kitchen.

Iron and steel giant seethes with increased production activities

Sci-tech force asset of our unit



Kim Jung Son, deputy chief engineer of the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex

Every unit encounters difficulties in their efforts to reenergize and expand production.

What then is the solution?

The answer is clear. Increased production is possible only when they build a powerful sci-tech force and solve problems arising in production by relying on it.

We keenly realized this through the recent overhaul of the oxygen blast furnace.

The technical staff of our complex were faced with an important task of increasing the production capacity of the blast furnace a level higher and providing a firm guarantee for its stable operation.

Some worried about whether the complex's own technical force could satisfactorily solve various

technical problems arising in the overhaul.

However, its technicians fully demonstrated their capabilities in the course of the project. They devised and introduced technical innovation plans in succession for contributing to the operation of the furnace, including the one for remodelling the major parts of a coal economizer in a way that the gas temperature in the furnace body system can be regulated more scientifically.

Especially, they rationally refashioned a dust collector to create conditions for improving working environment.

The successful overhaul clearly showed that the guarantee of reenergized production lies in strengthening our own sci-tech force.



The Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex boosts production.



AN CHOL RYONG / PICTORIAL KOREA

Iron production increased by dint of technological innovation

By Chae Hyang Ok PT

The Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex is bustling with increased production activities.

The complex is drastically boosting production on the strength of science and technology in the spirit of having successfully finished the overhaul of an oxygen blast furnace.

oxygen blast furnace, the maintenance and repair of a 100-ton electric furnace, the domestic production of raw and other materials.

Many units of the complex presented nearly 200 valuable technical innovation plans and original ideas.

What is noteworthy is that most of highly appreciated innovation plans and ideas were devised by workers.

A typical example is the rational remodelling plan for the gas generator body and accessory equipment.

Ri Mun Sop was determined

to remodel the gas generator as it failed to produce enough gas as compared to its coal consumption.

The worker found a clue to success in the rational refashioning of accessory equipment and came up with a technical remodelling plan

for enhancing the efficiency of the gas producer.

The on-the-ground assembly method in installing the iron skin for the generator body drew attention of participants as it increases the speed of equipment assembly.

The complex introduced plans into production this

year alone.

Technicians ensured the production of high-quality ferromanganese with manganese ores which are richly deposited in the country to open up a prospect of increased production of rolled steel.

A technically knotty problem there was to improve the quality of ferromanganese by removing impurities.

If the additive for removing impurities was charged into the ferroalloy furnace with other raw materials by the existing method, it would be impossible to ensure the quality of ferromanganese and production would be affected greatly.

The technicians advanced a rational plan for increasing the impurities-removing effectiveness while giving no influence on the ferroalloy

melting process by using the additive as brisque of the iron tapping ladle.

They also introduced the PLC control system into the 20-ton oxygen converter system to put steel production on a scientific basis and developed a high-quality welding rod needed for the overhaul of the oxygen blast furnace and other projects with their own efforts and technology to contribute to the Juche-orientation of the metallurgical industry.

It was proved in the period of the overhaul of the oxygen blast furnace that the new high-quality welding rod whose core wire and coating material were made with locally abundant raw materials is excellent in usability and mechanical property.

Wives of smelters good companions to their husbands

By Kim Il Jin PT

The wives of smelters at the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex are ordinary housewives.

With a common desire to contribute to increased iron and steel production with their husbands, they frequently visit their workplaces to encourage them to turn out more molten iron.

"We have grown very attached to the workplaces of our husbands. They are permeated with intense devotion of our husbands

who work hard to produce more molten iron. Our mind is always on what we have to do to help our husbands," said Ri Yong Ok, chairwoman of the Songnim city women's union committee.

Art performances prepared by their wives are something most awaited by the smelters.

The women conduct vigorous artistic motivational activities in the workplaces of their husbands in "shifts" set by themselves like blue-collar workers all day long, giving strength and courage to the smelters.

Smelters say that they are very

impressed with deep sincerity of their wives, who sing inspiring songs in front of the furnaces and other equipment fluttering red flags and serve food and hot water, so they do not want to leave their workplaces even after ending their shifts.

"Their performances are so impressive that I harden my resolve to work harder whenever I see them," said a smelter of the blast furnace workshop.

Busy as she is with artistic motivational activities, Kim Yong Gum often prepares a large quantity of aid materials and visits the workplace of her

husband. "I deem it my duty as a woman living in the 'iron city' to help my husband play his part in the increased production drive," she said, adding she wanted to do something for smelters though her family lived a frugal life.

The wives of smelters have not only taken on many works, big and small, including welcoming of workers on the way to work, artistic motivational activities in workplaces and collection of scrap iron, but also devoted their time and energy to solidifying the foundation for

production of the complex.

The newly paved roads covering tens of thousands of square metres in the compound of the complex are also associated with their tremendous efforts.

Last year, they volunteered to undertake the arduous task of paving the road as part of the production capacity expansion project of the complex and paved a large area of it.

If they do one more thing for their husbands, the production of iron and steel increases that much, they think, rendering assistance to the complex with sincerity.

Sci-tech exhibition draws keen attention

The complex recently hosted a sci-tech exhibition.

According to deputy chief engineer Kim Jung Son,

the show was organized for the purpose of sufficiently resolving technical problems arising in the overhaul of the

Dozens of sci-tech successes introduced

The complex introduced dozens of technical innovation plans into production this year alone.

House-moving goes on all the year round

Construction of dwelling houses for people is carried on as top priority of WPK and state this year

By Pang Un Ju PT

The construction of dwelling houses for providing citizens with places for more stable and cultural life has been conducted as the most important affair of the Party and state all the year round.

Early in August, several counties in South Hamgyong Province located in a northern area

of Korea suffered damage simultaneously due to downpours and floods.

Amid ongoing major national construction projects including the construction of 10 000 flats in Pyongyang, the Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party of Korea issued an order to ensure the immediate supply of main materials for reconstruction by using state reserves and

make the central government give strong financial and material assistance to the province for its recovery campaign.

Thanks to the service personnel of the People's Army and builders who started the reconstruction before setting up their tents as soon as they arrived at afflicted areas, modern dwelling houses were built there in a matter of two

months.

The afflicted people in the province shouted cheers of hurrah for the Workers' Party of Korea and socialism in tears after receiving house licences inscribed with their names. Their looks touched the heartstrings of all people.

House-moving ceremonies also took place in the City of Samjiyon in the northern end of the country, which

has been developed into a model mountainous city of culture.

Happy news about moving into new houses were heard from across the country all the year round including 500 houses for working people in North Phyongan Province, houses for 200 families in the Konggwi-dong area of Kanggye City, hundreds of farm houses in Ongjin and Unchon counties of

South Hwanghae Province, Namdong-ri of Phyongwon County in South Phyongan Province and flats in Ryongmaedo Tidland.

It is the reality of the DPRK that the construction of dwelling houses is an undertaking to make the wealth of the country and the outcome of creative work of working people into just the well-being of themselves, not for economic profits.



Newly built dwelling houses in Samjiyon, a sacred place of the Korean revolution.



Residents of Pothae-dong dance for joy of moving into new houses.

State benefits provided to the aged

By Ri Sung Ik PT

In the DPRK, the state bears full responsibility for the health and life of the aged people as it takes good care of them.

The Socialist Constitution and the law on public health of the DPRK, which were adopted dozens of years ago, stipulate that the universal free medical system shall be enforced for all citizens and, especially, aged patients shall be taken into responsible care so that they can enjoy the full benefits of free medical care.

The DPRK Law on the Protection for the Aged was adopted on April 26 2007.

The law specifies that the state creates all conditions to enable them to play their position and role as seniors of the revolution, society and families.

Already in its initial period the DPRK enforced the popular policy of taking responsible care of the aged and established in society the traits whereby all its members respect and give preferential treatment to elderly people.

During a visit to the old people's home in Mandal-

ri, Sungho County, North Hwanghae Province, scores of years ago, President Kim Il Sung said that they might have had a hard life in the past as they lost their country and had no children, and that the country would take good care of them from now on, and paid close attention to their life.

Chairman Kim Jong Il took measures to ensure that the Workers' Party of Korea and the state take responsible care of the health and life of aged people, that they are respected and given preferential treatment in society and that all conditions are created to enable them to spend their remaining years happily without inconvenience.

Under the close concern of General Secretary Kim Jong Un, state benefits grow further for the aged.

"War veterans' sanatoriums and old people's homes have been built in all parts of the country and it has become everyday life to take warm care of the aged," said Jang Tu Nam, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Korean Federation for the Care of the Aged.

"The state bears costs for the material guarantee for them,

Number of macrobians grows

By Kim Kum Myong PT

An increasing number of people live for over 100 years in the DPRK.

This year, many old people have been provided with their 100th birthday spreads, the number about three and over nine times more than 2019 and 2018.

"The increase of macrobians is attributable to various factors including the absorption of lots of vegetables in dietary life and the reduction of smoking and alcohol consumption, but more importantly it is mainly ascribable to the state's protection and preferential policy for the aged," said Pak Yong Hui, department director of the Central Committee of the Korea Federation for the Care of the Aged.

The DPRK legally stipulated that it ensures rights and interests of the aged and makes sure that they lead a healthy, worthwhile and happy life and accordingly the state and society have paid closer attention to and increased investments in the work.

The state bears costs for the material guarantee for them,

ranging from the provision of pension and subsidy to that of foodstuffs and daily supplies, treatment and nursing and the supply of tonics for longevity, nutritive foods and auxiliary and treatment facilities.

It has also set it as one of its important principles of activity to provide aged people with necessary environment and conditions for cultural and leisure activities like parks, recreation grounds,

angling sites and scenic spots and to widely organize artistic activities and sports and amusement games.

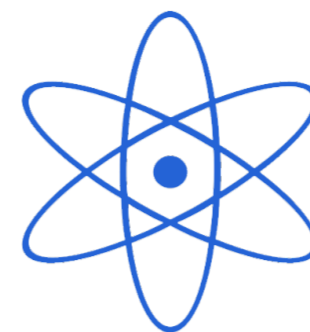
In addition, brisk activities are conducted at commercial, public service and transport institutions to give preferential treatment to the aged, respect them and arouse social interest in them on such occasions as the International Day of the Older Persons.

In particular, as it has legally stipulated the protection of macrobians, the state provides persons above 90 years of age with special social benefits, registers them as macrobians and takes measures to give wide publicity to their experiences.

Such legal and institutional measures enable lots of people to realize their dreams of longevity.



Ri Chae Sun, centenarian living in neighbourhood unit No. 1, Ryul-dong, Tongdaewon District, Pyongyang, reads a newspaper.



Following the road of patriotism with scientific research

By Kim Rye Yong PT

Scientists feel proud of their efforts even if they complete only one scientific research project which surprises the academic circles in their whole lives.

Because scientific achievements cost such high price as strenuous thinking and efforts and even their lives.

But Jong Jong Gun (pictured), director of the Pyongyang Jonghyang Technology Joint Venture Company, has achieved lots of world-startling successes in scientific research in his 50-odd-year pursuit of knowledge, contributing greatly to the development of the country's shipbuilding and building-materials industries.

He has never experienced a setback in his gruelling journey of quest for knowledge that does not end with only research on the table and in his research into shipbuilding engineering that required him to work in the wild sea and deal with structures weighing hundreds to thousands of tons and into paints that are indispensable for guaranteeing the quality of grand monumental edifices, resolutely advancing towards successes with fresh vigour.

"I realized how important and valuable the country is more seriously than anyone else. I had an intense urge to serve the country with science as a scientist, which always inspired me to go forward," said Jong as he referred to the secret of success.

He was born in Japan and returned to the homeland at the age of 18.

Spending his childhood under the care of his parents who went over to Japan to earn a living after losing their country and, to be more exact, perceiving the realities of Japanese society which was rife with extreme national chauvinism against Koreans, he experienced first-hand sorrow at having to live in a foreign land.

So as he finished the middle school course, he decidedly returned to the embrace of President Kim Il Sung who liberated Korea and built a new world where the people are masters of everything, the socialist motherland.

The country warmly embraced and looked after him, who was yet too young to build an independent life away from his parents.

It took a series of measures to provide repatriates from Japan with every condition to help them fulfil their wishes and live a stable life without inconvenience. Enjoying considerable benefits delivered by the country, Jong entered

Kim Chack University of Technology and majored in shipbuilding engineering as he wished, and after graduation pursued a successful career with various scientific research institutions.

His dream of building modern ships to conquer the seas of the country came true step by step as he carried out major state scientific research projects.

He perfectly solved scientific and technological problems arising in the design, building and launch of iron ships for building cofferdam, a decisive factor in the construction of the West Sea Barrage across the eight-kilometre wild sea that the world admired as a "miracle in the 20th century", and opened up an

era of fishing with stern trawler from side trawler in the country by creating the basic design for a 1 000-ton stern trawler.

The successes he achieved in scientific research, including the building and installation of a gigantic continental shelf boring structure for the prospecting of marine resources and the design for a floating dock-style level slipway where several ships can be

repaired at the same time, were all novel and potential economic profits from them were astronomical.

Later, as a lecturer at the Grand People's Study House, he gave lectures on dozens of scientific and technological matters, which not only drew the admiration of students for the comprehensive analysis of the global trend of development and correct indication of the ways of introducing them into reality, but also made a great contribution to the development of science and technology in related sectors.

When he was over 60 and went grey, he found the seeds of a new research project in the stirring reality of the country in the golden age of construction and devoted his



Jong Jong Gun, director of the Pyongyang Jonghyang Technology Joint Venture Company

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construction of many monumental edifices, including the Sci-Tech Complex, Mirae Scientists Street and the new air terminal of Pyongyang International Airport.

"Scientific research is everything to me. But I am of the opinion that it holds value only when it substantially contributes to the country. Without the noble sense of duty of 'For the country' and self-consciousness, I might have failed to make such achievements that seem surprising even to me," said Jong.

Jong Jong Gun did not expect any honour and reward for his achievements in scientific research, but the country awarded him Kim Il Sung Prize, the titles of Labour Hero and People's Scientist, professorship and PhD degree.

Employees contribute to steady production

By Han Kwi Hun PT

Our factory has put production on a normal footing to carry out the first year's tasks of the five-year plan. The key is to ensure not only technicians but ordinary workers learn advanced science and technology regularly, said Ri Jong Nam, chief engineer of the Pyongyang Hosiery Factory.

The factory presents some academic questions related to production according to occupations in the beginning of each month and reviews and assesses the answers

to them at the end of the month.

Employees frequently hold discussions on the pieces of sci-tech information they obtain from the Sci-Tech Complex and the Central Information Agency for Science and Technology.

As a result, their technical knowledge and skills have been improved markedly and valuable technical innovation plans developed.

"I graduated from university long ago. But the developing reality requires us to keep abreast of the developments. So I have enrolled at the online education course of

Pyongyang University of Mechanical Engineering and it helps me so much," said workshop manager Ham Yun Hyok.

Shortly ago, he devised a new sensor and fixed it to hosiery knitting machines together with the workers in his workshop, contributing to putting production of the factory on a normal track.

She felt she could not fulfil her tasks smoothly only with zeal, said Paek Chung Sim, worker at the women's hosiery workshop.

"When I began to work at this factory, I set an ambitious goal to work hard and become a labour



Employees advance their knowledge at the sci-tech learning space of the Pyongyang Hosiery Factory.

innovator, but soon I realized it was very difficult to attain it. So I often come to study at the sci-tech learning space at spare time and the result is surprising. I've really learnt a lot."

Now she has become a

skilled worker and carries out her plan every year.

Pong Son Yong, a worker at the industrial technology institute of the factory, solved a knotty technical problem in the finishing process of products.

"All the factory employees congratulated me. I am proud that my efforts were not in vain, but contributed to the development of the factory. But, in fact, it is unthinkable apart from the sci-tech learning space," said Pong.

Best sellers of the year

Over 300 kinds of books on various themes brought out this year



Some best-selling books.

AN YONG CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

By Ri Myong Jun PT

This year, too, there were published lots of new books on various themes conducive to the emotional life of working people and youth and students.

According to a source of the central publications distribution agency, over 300 kinds of books have been published, including cycles of novels about the immortal exploits of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il, short, medium-length and full-length novels, historical literary books and other books and picture books that give a lot of knowledge.

"Full-length true story *Treasure* is about Ri Jong Man, the hero of the story who realizes that an occupied country can never be taken back with money and that money is not everything of life only under the warm care of President Kim Il Sung after Korea's liberation from the Japanese military occupation. Through the life of the hero, the story shows what the true happiness of the nation is and what the true treasure that ensures national prosperity is. Full-length story *Fishing Ground for Big Haul* is about how an official of a fishery station encourages workers and officials in the fishery sector to turn out for the development of the country's fishing industry in the spirit of faithfully serving the people, and full-length true story *Rikidozan* is about Kim Sin Rak, a Korean well known as the king of professional wrestling in the

world. These are this year's best sellers," said Kim Un Gyong, a saleswoman at the Oesong Bookshop in Pyongyang.

Rim Won Il, member of a hobby group at Moranbong District Juvenile Sports School, said: "I was quite impressed by *Rikidozan* that depicts Kim Sin Rak who, with good physical conditions and talent as a Korean, was taken to Japan, deprived of his country by the Japanese imperialists, and had to gain fame as the king of professional wrestling in the world with a Japanese name, but later recovered his soul as a Korean and made a great turn in his life under the warm care and trust of the great leaders. The story made me keenly realize once again the preciousness of the country. All my group members read the book with keen interest."

And those popular with youth and children are book *Encyclopaedia of Discoveries* introducing knowledge about discoveries and facts in various fields including nature, history, science, technology and culture with photos, book *Encyclopaedia for Developing Intelligence* that helps youth, students and children develop their brains and fully display their ability to think and study, and full-length historical story *Iron Shield*.

According to the saleswoman, books popular with women include those on makeup that introduce medical, cosmetic and beauty art knowledge, and culinary books that are helpful to diversifying diet.



Mt Kumgang Biosphere Reserve

By Han Kwi Hun PT

Mt Kumgang is counted as one of the six beautiful mountains of Korea for its diverse, magnificent, beautiful, singular and multifarious natural landscapes.

It is widely known as the superb scenic beauty and world-famous mountain for jagged sky-high peaks, rocks of various fantastic shapes, huge cliffs, deep gorges, lots of pools and ponds, and crystal-clear water curving around cliffs and rocks.

The Mt Kumgang area is located in the middle of the Great Paektu Mountains and covers the vast areas of Kosong, Kungang and Thongchon counties in Kangwon Province. In the area, the core, buffer and transition zones that can satisfactorily fulfil the functions of biosphere reserve are set in enough areas.

The climatic change alters the appearance of Mt Kumgang every moment and adds beauty to mountains and gorges. The area is comparatively warm and constitutes one of the rainy and snowy regions in the DPRK.

Owing to such natural and geographical characters, 2 298 species of plants are distributed, from subtropical to subarctic and arctic ones in

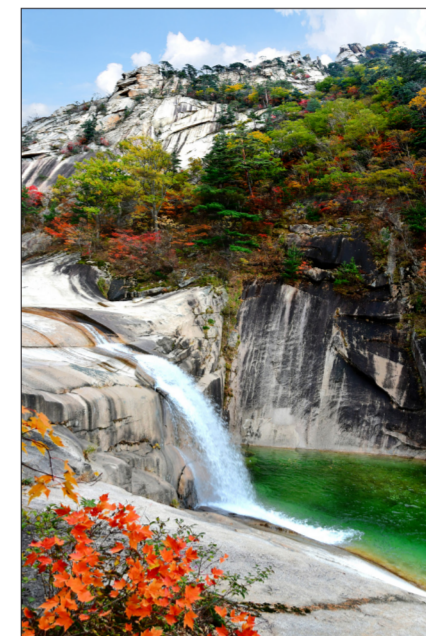
the area. Among them, the species of indigenous plants amount to 112, including the one-species-in-one-genus plant of *Pentactina rupicola*.

Mt Kumgang is situated at the centre of a chain of high and low mountains with the Great Paektu Mountains as its hogback, with the Masikryong Mountains in the north, the Ahobiryong Mountains in the northwestern inland area and the Thaeback Mountains to the south in parallel with the East Sea of Korea. So, the northern animals take a larger proportion in animal distribution.

In the mountain where the diversity of habitat is ensured, there are over 250 kinds of Vertebrata including bear, musk deer, *Aythya ferina* and white-necked crane.

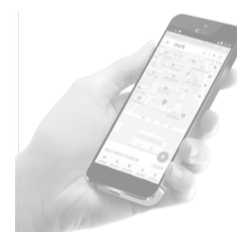
The area has favourable conditions for the sustainable use of biodiversity and many-sided regional economic development as it is blessed with historical relics and remains showing the time-honoured history of Korea, national living monuments and natural resources.

In July 2018, the Mt Kumgang area was registered as one of the world's biosphere reserves. Thus, the protection and maintenance of the ecosystem of the area has been conducted under international interest.



Mt Kumgang, a celebrated mountain of Korea.

KIM JIN HO, RI SONG IL, PYON CHAN U / PICTORIAL KOREA



Development of IT products pushed

By Kim Kum Myong PT

This year, some development units including the Samhung economic information technology company and Taedonggang new technology development company unveiled popular IT products to lead others in the annual number of visitors.

Companion 3.1, a road map app developed by the Samhung economic information technology company, recorded the largest number of users this year. It enables users to browse information about different urban areas, transport routes and every dong and neighbourhood unit by using smart phones and tablet PCs.

"Companion 3.1 is very convenient to use as it enables me to download more information about cities than previous versions through the mobile communications network and it has such additional

functions as for browsing new bus routes and traffic signs and retrieving correct mileage," said Jon Kum Il, a resident of Puksgong-dong No. 1, Phyongchon District, Pyongyang.

Duty 3.0, an app for browsing laws and regulations developed by the Samhung economic information technology company, is also popular with users. "The app to browse laws and regulations by a variety of retrieval methods and with word interpretative functions is very helpful in work and life since it enables users to promptly and correctly browse all laws and regulations in our country and common senses of law and legal episodes which we must know in our daily life," said Son Kwang Song, a staffer of the Maritime Administration of the DPRK.

And My Companion 5.0, an integrated information service program, and multilingual dictionary New

Century 2.1 developed by the Samhung economic information technology company are favoured by many users.

Zeal for Football developed by the Taedonggang new technology development company, *Janggi Competition* of the Mandae information technology exchange centre and other game apps continued to update the number of users while contributing to firing the whole country with the zeal for sporting activities.

"The IT product development work, which has been carried on throughout the year, injected vitality into improving the level

of the country's digitization and informatization and had a positive influence on cultural and leisure activities of the people," said Ri Song Jun, director of the Central Telematics Bureau.

Proactive development of IT products injected vitality into improving the level of the country's digitization and informatization, while having a positive influence on people's cultural and leisure activities.



Some popular IT products.

HONG KWANG NAM / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

By Kil Chung Il PT

In the DPRK, the state has established various types of reserves and conduct the work of conserving nature according to the IUCN Protected Areas Categories System.

This year, the DPRK carried out the survey of biosphere reserves in Mts Kumgang and Kuwol and over 20 migrant bird sanctuaries including Mundok, Kumya, Kwangpho, Sindo and Kangnyong migratory bird reserves, Kim Chaek Togin-ri and Pyoksong Sahyon-ri migrant bird habitat reserves. And it subdivided protection objects of the reserves and conducted research briskly for designing boundaries of the reserves and functional districts in a rational way.

In this year's spring transition period, field surveys of major migratory bird reserves and wetlands were conducted in major migratory bird (wetlands) reserves between early March and late April, including Mundok and Kumya reserves listed as international reserves and major important areas of wetland biodiversity registered in the wetland list of

the DPRK like the mouths of Namdae and Songchon rivers.

According to researchers, over 94 000 birds in more than 120 species were observed in this period. Among them, the number of water birds amounted to 92 000 in over 80 kinds.

In the Mundok Migratory Bird Reserve, 2 000 *Gris monachus* made a stopover in March and about 1 000 *Numenius madagascariensis* in April. In the Sindo Migratory Bird Reserve, over 7 000 *Numenius madagascariensis* and more than 4 000 *Limosa lapponica* were discovered, while more than one percent of water birds across the world or region noticed in such migratory bird reserves as Mundok, Kumya, Sindo, Lake Tongjong and Kwangpho, the mouth of the Songchon River and wetlands.

"In this period, a couple of *Netta rufina* has been observed. Previously, there were only a small number of investigation records of the rare species," said Ri Chung Song, department chief of the biodiversity institute of the State Academy of Sciences.

As a result of field surveys in major migratory bird

reserves and important areas of wetland biodiversity in the autumn transition period (between October and November) this year, 71 738 birds in 66 species were observed, of which 71 090 in 39 kinds were waterfowl.

During the survey, globally-endangered species like *Platalea leucorodia* (EN), *Numenius madagascariensis* (EN) and semi-endangered species like *Numenius arquata* (NT) and *Calidris ruficollis* (NT) were also discovered.

And 51 600 *Anser cygnoides* (VU) were also witnessed. This is the maximum number so far recorded in the document.

Anser cygnoides (VU) (over 75 percent) and *Platalea leucorodia* (EN) (1.5 percent) accounted for over one percent and *Numenius madagascariensis* (EN) (1.5 percent) accounted for over one percent and *Platalea leucorodia* (EN) was observed to be about one percent of the global population.

And 32 816 birds in 41 species were observed in the Sindo Migratory Bird Reserve.

Especially, many globally-endangered species were spotted, and *Numenius*

madagascariensis (EN), *Numenius arquata* (NT) and *Limosa lapponica* (NT) were found at about 55, 4.4 and 4 percent levels of their global populations respectively.

Besides, 14 716 birds in 47 kinds were registered in the Kwangpho Migratory Bird Reserve in Jonghyong County, South Hamgyong Province. In the Kumya Migratory Bird Reserve in Kumya County, South Hamgyong Province, 57 949 birds in 50 kinds were recorded, while many globally-endangered species making up over one percent of their regional populations and *Anas penelope* forming about one percent of its regional population were observed.

In addition, activities were conducted to select sites proposed for reserves through field surveys of important areas of wetland biodiversity with abundant biodiversity.

Through the surveys, it was reconfirmed that there are 2 642 birds in 36 kinds and lagoons, estuaries, paddy fields, seashore and other types of wetlands in the area of the lower reaches of the Sogol River in Hongwon County, South Hamgyong Province.

In the area of the lower reaches of the Kumjin River in Jonghyong County, South Hamgyong Province, 3 852 birds in 44 species, globally-endangered species *Aythya ferina* (VU) and the *Podiceps cristatus* and *Larus canus* accounting for over one percent of their regional populations were observed. In the area of Sokjon Bay in Munchon, Kangwon Province, 386 birds in 29 kinds and globally-endangered species *Numenius madagascariensis* (EN) and *Aythya ferina* (VU) were spotted.

The intertidal mudflat

tideland forming in the centre of the research area was recognized as one of special wetland types in the coast of the East Sea of Korea.

And many birds including globally-endangered species were found around Lake Sijung in Thongchon County, Sangum-ri wetland and the mouth area of the Namdae River in Anyon County in Kangwon Province.

Ri Chung Song said that based on the survey results, state measures would be taken to ensure biodiversity, more reserves selected and their areas increased by stages.



White storks (EN) observed at the Migratory Bird Reserve in Lake Tongjong in March 2021.

BY COURTESY OF THE BIODIVERSITY INSTITUTE OF THE STATE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Shameless conduct of disturbers of global peace and stability

PROVIDED TO THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Chair's statement was announced at the G7 Foreign and Development Ministers' Meeting held in the UK on December 11-12. The statement includes the provision of unreasonably picking on the DPRK's buildup of its self-defensive defence capability. It referred to "complete, verifiable and irreversible abandonment" while groundlessly condemning as "provocative actions" the DPRK's work to increase its national defence capabilities, which is the normal work of every country. This is a flagrant violation of sovereignty, an act of interfering in other's internal affairs and an intolerable act of provocation designed to deny the exercise of the just and self-defensive rights of a sovereign

state. Self-defensive capability is the root of national existence. What we build up as a war deterrent is to prevent a war itself in the true sense of the word and safeguard our national sovereignty. Western countries did not say a single word when the US deployed nuclear strategic assets in the Korean peninsula and conducted joint military exercises openly trumpeting about the "invasion of the north". But they labelled as "provocation" the defence buildup, which is the self-defensive right of a sovereign state. This does not stand to reason at all. The US and other Western countries which provoked us this time are indeed the ringleaders who are directly responsible for disturbing global peace and stability with their competitive reinforcement of nuclear arms, nuclear proliferation and

aggressive wars. So they have neither face nor qualification to find fault with others. Of late, the US is stepping up the development of a new-type ground-launched ballistic missile which will replace the "Minuteman-3" ICBM, and the UK is planning to increase the number of its nuclear warheads from present 180 to 260. Sometime ago, the US, even deceiving its allies, rigged up "AUKUS" which is dangerous enough to upset the strategic balance in the Asia-Pacific region and trigger off a chain of nuclear arms race, thus bringing dark clouds of nuclear war over the planet. The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute pointed out in its 2020 report on the global arms sales that the sales of the US, the UK, France and Germany of G7 accounted for 70% of the arms sales all

over the world. Such countries are taking issue with the DPRK's war deterrent and measures to increase its defence capabilities to cope with the US policy of hostility towards the DPRK. It is quite obvious that all this is aimed at covering up their attempts to beef up their own nuclear forces. Now the world people are keeping a close watch on the unfair and double dealing acts of the US and the West. The G7 would be well-advised to concentrate its efforts on solving properly its own economic problems true to its inherent mission, instead of violating the sovereignty of other countries under the pretext of "provocations" and "threat" and inciting distrust and confrontation while resorting to shameless acts of covering up its nuclear arms buildup.

Popular constitution safeguards demands and interests of people

By Pang Un Ju PT

It has been 49 years since the promulgation of the Socialist Constitution of the DPRK on December 27 1972. The Socialist Constitution legally guarantees all conditions so that genuine freedom and rights are provided substantially to all the people in all domains of social life. The worthwhile political life of the Korean people is expressed through the fact that they enjoy true democratic freedom and rights as masters of the state and society. Since the first day of

its founding, the DPRK has equally guaranteed all political rights to citizens, including the rights to elect and be elected. All working people take an active part in state administration as its masters and fully exercise their rights of socio-political activities. The DPRK solves all problems arising in state activities and overall social life in line with the requirements and interests of the people. The Workers' Party of Korea, which sets it as its mode of existence and revolutionary trait to make selfless, devoted efforts for the good of the

people, is wisely leading the struggle to firmly safeguard the destiny of the people and provide them with better life. For the second straight year from last year, powerful measures were taken one after another to defend the safety of the state and protect the people's well-being from the influx of COVID-19, while efforts were being concentrated on rebuilding areas hit by natural disasters, thus building socialist fairylands in succession across the country. The Korean people are doing their best for the building of a powerful socialist country with the

sense of pride in having such a state which regards things for them as the most important affair and invests a colossal sum of money for their happiness and the popular constitution whose every article pulsates with the great man-centred idea and is associated with warm love for them. They have named the Socialist Constitution the Kim Il Sung-Kim Jong Il Constitution in praise of immortal exploits performed by President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il for socialist construction and the prosperity and development of the DPRK. European countries should no longer turn a blind eye to all kinds of acts of racial discrimination which are rife on their own land, but feel due responsibilities for them and take institutional steps to prevent them. Acts of discriminating people and even killing them mercilessly today on the grounds that they have different nationality and skin colour are the recurrence of the unethical crimes of the colonial era, which can't be overlooked under all circumstances and escape from the condemnation and denunciation of the international society.

BYWORD Law protects people, people observe law

In the DPRK, the law protects the people and the latter voluntarily observe the former. The law in the DPRK fully reflects the people's will and demands and thoroughly defends their rights. Laws and regulations are

enacted scientifically in a detailed and definite way in keeping with the people's growing aspirations and demands and the development of the times. Therefore, the people regard it as their civil duties and conscience to voluntarily

follow the law and keep up their law-abiding spirit, while a socialist habit of law observance is established in the whole society. In the recent two years, the DPRK adopted many new laws including those on online education and emergency

infectious disease prevention and on providing discharged military officers with good living conditions, while revising and supplementing such existing ones as that on dwelling house, thereby meeting the people's needs for an independent and creative life more satisfactorily.

OPINION

Revival of immoral crimes of the colonial era

PROVIDED TO THE PYONGYANG TIMES

More than half a century has passed since the adoption of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination on December 21 1965, but racial discrimination has not been eliminated yet. Recently, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of a European country admitted that racial discrimination has become a serious social issue in the country. It said 56% of the acts of racial discrimination are committed on the grounds of difference in nationality, 27% due to the difference in religious beliefs and 16% owing to that in skin colour, adding that ostracism of and hostilities to black people are ever more increasing. Racial discrimination is also found in the fields of medical service and education. In a European country as many as 86% of whites were reportedly inoculated during the COVID-19 vaccination for the aged people of over 70. But only 55% of blacks were inoculated against the pandemic. And 95% of black schoolchildren are being subjected to physical violence and inhumane insults at school. This year, a gypsy was murdered in Europe, which reminds us of George Floyd case. As this incident broke out, people took to the street to protest against the inhumane acts of the policeman who brutally strangled the gypsy to death, carrying placards saying "Gypsy's life is also precious". Persecution of Jews is also raised as a serious issue in Europe which can in no way be trifled with. On November 9 2021, the European human rights watchdog warned that anti-Semitism is rearing its ugly head in Europe as the rumour spread through Internet that Jews are responsible for the recent epidemic crisis. The EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, a subsidiary of the EU, also pointed out that such a trend is appearing most pronouncedly in Germany and France, announcing that the persecution of Jews totalled 2 351 and 339 cases respectively in Germany and France last year. European countries should no longer turn a blind eye to all kinds of acts of racial discrimination which are rife on their own land, but feel due responsibilities for them and take institutional steps to prevent them. Acts of discriminating people and even killing them mercilessly today on the grounds that they have different nationality and skin colour are the recurrence of the unethical crimes of the colonial era, which can't be overlooked under all circumstances and escape from the condemnation and denunciation of the international society.

Such countries are taking issue with the DPRK's war deterrent and measures to increase its defence capabilities to cope with the US policy of hostility towards the DPRK. It is quite obvious that all this is aimed at covering up their attempts to beef up their own nuclear forces. Now the world people are keeping a close watch on the unfair and double dealing acts of the US and the West. The G7 would be well-advised to concentrate its efforts on solving properly its own economic problems true to its inherent mission, instead of violating the sovereignty of other countries under the pretext of "provocations" and "threat" and inciting distrust and confrontation while resorting to shameless acts of covering up its nuclear arms buildup.

Recently, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of a European country admitted that racial discrimination has become a serious social issue in the country. It said 56% of the acts of racial discrimination are committed on the grounds of difference in nationality, 27% due to the difference in religious beliefs and 16% owing to that in skin colour, adding that ostracism of and hostilities to black people are ever more increasing. Racial discrimination is also found in the fields of medical service and education. In a European country as many as 86% of whites were reportedly inoculated during the COVID-19 vaccination for the aged people of over 70. But only 55% of blacks were inoculated against the pandemic. And 95% of black schoolchildren are being subjected to physical violence and inhumane insults at school. This year, a gypsy was murdered in Europe, which reminds us of George Floyd case. As this incident broke out, people took to the street to protest against the inhumane acts of the policeman who brutally strangled the gypsy to death, carrying placards saying "Gypsy's life is also precious". Persecution of Jews is also raised as a serious issue in Europe which can in no way be trifled with. On November 9 2021, the European human rights watchdog warned that anti-Semitism is rearing its ugly head in Europe as the rumour spread through Internet that Jews are responsible for the recent epidemic crisis. The EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, a subsidiary of the EU, also pointed out that such a trend is appearing most pronouncedly in Germany and France, announcing that the persecution of Jews totalled 2 351 and 339 cases respectively in Germany and France last year. European countries should no longer turn a blind eye to all kinds of acts of racial discrimination which are rife on their own land, but feel due responsibilities for them and take institutional steps to prevent them. Acts of discriminating people and even killing them mercilessly today on the grounds that they have different nationality and skin colour are the recurrence of the unethical crimes of the colonial era, which can't be overlooked under all circumstances and escape from the condemnation and denunciation of the international society.

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Briefly

Cuba

Party leader emphasizes need to adhere to principles Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel Bermudez, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, emphasized the need to maintain an independent stand and not to abandon principles at the plenary meeting of the Party Central Committee on December 17. He said that blockade has been further tightened amid COVID-19 pandemic crisis and enemy moves get more serious to jeopardize Cuba.

Cuba is now going along the thorny path, he said, adding that the Cubans should not tolerate outside interference nor give up the principles in any case.

Venezuela

President appeals for achieving unity Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro Moros, in his speech delivered at the closing ceremony of the ALBA summit on December 14, called on its member states to achieve unity. ALBA demonstrated great innovative and creative abilities to cope with different situations, mobilize the regional people and improve their life with practical actions, he stated.

Saying that the dream of development, stability and wellbeing of the people can come true only when unity is achieved, he stressed the need to promote cooperation between member states.

Russia, Belarus

Joint air patrol conducted Bombers and fighters of Russia and Belarus carried out a joint air patrol in the airspace of both countries on December 18. During the patrol, the strategic bombers of the Russian Aerospace Force flew under the escort of Russian and Belorussian fighters. Earlier on December 7, the military aircraft of the two countries patrolled the sky above the western border of Belarus. Observers assert that the joint air patrols are a countermeasure against NATO's military threat that is getting more serious around the borders of the two countries.

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WMO

Highest temperature recorded in Arctic The World Meteorological Organization has recently announced that a temperature of 38°C, the highest ever since observation, was recorded in the Arctic Zone of Siberia, Russia, in June last year. An expert asserted that this record clearly proves the temperature rise in different parts of Siberia. Warming in the Arctic is reportedly proceeding over two times faster than the average global warming speed.

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COVID-19

Pandemic causes more casualties According to foreign news reports, 276 547 683 people contracted COVID-19, 5 384 413 died of it and 23 165 913 were undergoing treatment worldwide as of 24:00 on December 21.

JAPAN'S PROVOCATION DESTROYS REGIONAL PEACE AND STABILITY

By Choe Yong Nam PT

Shortly ago, the Japanese Defense Ministry conducted a military exercise under the signboard of "recapturing an outlying island" and was shameless enough to announce it. The drill included the rapid movement, deployment and landing of the amphibians carrying the members of the amphibious corps of the Ground Self-Defense Forces, which was organized as a special unit for landing operations, from the troopships of

the Maritime SDF. Prior to this, there was a strike drill of warships and aircraft. And joint actual manoeuvres simulating the defence of outlying islands were practised in Aomori Prefecture, Hokkaido and other areas on the largest scale in Japan. Such military actions taken in different parts of the country on the pretext of defending outlying islands are a concentrated expression of its reckless militaristic move to realize its wild ambition for seizing territories of other countries at any cost and a serious act of provocation

destroying peace and stability in the region. As is widely known, the Japanese authorities are absorbed in arms buildup, clamouring against "threats" from neighbouring countries. As it squanders huge sums of money as war funds, Japan has recently decided on an additional draft "defence" budget for 2021 amounting to ¥773.8 billion. At present, Japan is one of the leading countries in military capabilities. Most recently, it made public the up-to-date Aegis-class ship Haguro with missile attack ability

of the Maritime SDF. The SDF has constantly switched over to attack-oriented forces and improved its strike capability through joint military exercises with other countries. The Japanese authorities made the possession of the "ability to attack enemy bases" aimed at preemptive strike against other countries a fait accompli and has buckled down to the legalization of it. Japan's undisguised military moves arouse the extreme wariness of neighbouring countries for their aggressive nature.

PROVIDED TO THE PYONGYANG TIMES

'Internet Coalition' -what is it for?

The US has recently come up with the plan for establishing a so-called "Future Internet Coalition" under the signboard of establishing an open, safe and reliable Internet order. On December 9, the spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China branded this as an act seeking division in the Internet, a monopoly on technology and supremacy on network. He also strongly denounced the US for its moves to enforce its own standard upon the others and create an obstacle to the development of Internet technology of other country. He exposed the fact that "Future Internet Coalition" is no more than a renewed packing of the already-shunned "Clean Network"

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plan under the signboard of "democracy" and it is an act aimed at erecting a closed and exclusive "small fence". He also asserted that the US is causing confrontation and division of the Internet in reality though it often talks about creating an open Internet. It stands to reason that China responds sensitively to the issue of the establishment of "Future Internet Coalition". During the Trump Administration, the US was hell-bent on curbing the development of China in cyberspace more than ever before. It devised the plan of "Clean Network" and issued an appeal for "international unity" which is designed to exclude Huawei Company and other hi-tech industries of China from the Internet. It is a well-known fact that in the period world-famous apps

of China such as "TikTok" and "WeChat" fell victim to the US strategy for controlling the Internet. The Biden Administration now tries to make its "fence" even in cyberspace under the specious name of "Future Internet Coalition". It is clear to everyone that it is also an extension of the US policy to contain China. It is too natural that China decried the US plan for establishing "Future Internet Coalition" as the politicization of cooperation in science and technology and division into groups according to ideological bias. It is inevitable that the US will face much stronger condemnation and objection from the international community for its insidious intention to make the Internet its own monopoly that is controlled to serve its interests.

Who is behind destruction and disturbance of global peace?

PROVIDED TO THE PYONGYANG TIMES

The latest incident provides yet another obvious answer to this question, which is now drawing the attention of the international society. A few days ago, "CL-600" reconnaissance plane of the United States Air Force that had been flying over the Black Sea suddenly dived from the altitude of 11 000 metres down to 9 200, making a rush into the civil airway. As a result, a passenger plane of Russian Aeroflot had to change its airway to deal with the emergency. With regard to this incident, a spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the

Russian Federation stated that the provocative acts by the US and NATO calculated to sound out the reliability of the Russian anti-aircraft system had seriously threatened the civil aviation in general as well as the people's lives, and warned that Russia will mobilize all possible means to contain such provocations of threatening its national security. It is not the first time that the US has committed this provocative act of causing danger to the civilian flights over the Black Sea. On October 6, a Russian cargo plane flying over the coast of the Black Sea was forced to hurriedly change its course when it detected a flying object similar to a NATO reconnaissance drone.

Another incident of international concern occurred on October 13 when a passenger plane had to lower its altitude in order to avoid a likely collision with a US reconnaissance plane "RC-135" which had made a sudden rush into the airway. All countries of the world had long sought solutions to prevent threats to civilian airplanes and ensure their normal flights, which culminated in the conclusion of the Chicago Convention on International Civil Aviation on December 7 1944. The United States is a state party to the Convention. The latest incident has occurred at a time when humankind is witnessing the heartbreaking tragic killings of innocent

civilians and the unprecedented refugee crisis, all being caused by the American "military operations" in various parts of the world including Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan. It has clearly showed once again that the United States is indeed a destroyer and disturber of global peace, as it habitually commits military provocation against other countries without any consideration of international law, and the lives and safety of civilians. The provocative acts committed by the US in the Russian border areas with the aim of isolating and weakening Russia and further tightening its encirclement of Russia will invite strong countermeasures from Russia.

TOP TEN PLAYERS



Ri Song Gum Ri Chong Song



Kim Yu Sim Rim Un Sim



Choe Hyo Sim Kim Mi Rae



Pang Chol Mi



Kim Phyeong Hwa



Kim Myong Sun



Kwon Kwang Il



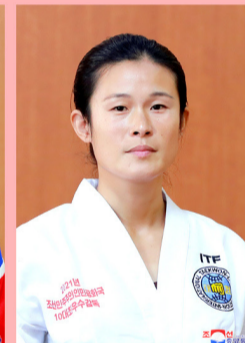
Kim Chun Sam



Han Jong Ae



Han Won Chol



Ri Chol Ok

TOP TEN PLAYERS AND COACHES OF THE YEAR NOMINATED

KCNA
Top ten players and coaches of the year 2021 have been selected in the DPRK.

Top ten players

Ri Song Gum, weightlifter of the April 25 Sports Club
 Ri Chong Song, weightlifter of the April 25 Sports Club
 Kim Yu Sim, player of the Taekwon-Do team of the Korean Taekwon-Do Committee
 Rim Un Sim, weightlifter of the Kigwancha Sports Club
 Choe Hyo Sim, weightlifter of the Kigwancha Sports Club

Kim Mi Rae, diver of the Pyongyang Sports Club
 Pang Chol Mi, boxer of the Kungangsan Sports Club
 Kim Phyeong Hwa, footballer of the April 25 Sports Club
 Kim Myong Sun, footballer of the April 25 Sports Club
 Kwon Kwang Il, shooter of the Amnokgang Defence Sports Club

Top ten coaches

Kye Song Il, weightlifting coach of the April 25 Sports Club
 Ri Chol Nam, weightlifting coach of the April 25 Sports Club
 Sa Ok Jin, coach of the Taekwon-Do team of the Korean Taekwon-Do Committee
 Choe Song Hui, diving coach of the Pyongyang Sports Club
 Pak Chol Jun, boxing coach of the Kungangsan Sports Club
 Han Chol Hak, football coach of the April 25 Sports Club
 Kim Chun Sam, shooting coach of the Amnokgang Defence Sports Club
 Han Jong Ae, coach of the Taekwon-Do team of the Korean Taekwon-Do Committee
 Han Won Chol, football coach of the Kigwancha Sports Club
 Ri Chol Ok, coach of the Taekwon-Do team of Jagang Province

TOP TEN COACHES



Kye Song Il Ri Chol Nam



Sa Ok Jin Choe Song Hui



Pak Chol Jun Han Chol Hak

Population grows in Central Zoo

By Pang Un Ju PT

The population of the Central Zoo has increased this year, too, as lots of its “residents” brought forth their young. A gift giraffe sent by the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un produced a young in June. According to an official of the zoo, it weighed 50 kilograms and was 1.7 metres high at the time of reproduction. Now it weighs about 110 kilograms and is about 2.4 metres tall. Another gift giraffe also produced a youngling in July. Earlier in March, a Korean tiger brought forth two cubs and in April three new cubs were added to the Korean tiger population.

Two female cubs born in March and three others including 1 male and two females in April weighed about 1.5 to 2 kilograms at birth. Under the care of breeders, they have grown to over 40 kilograms now.

A full-grown Korean tiger generally weighs well over 100 kilograms and is 2.5 metres long including its tail. It looks very intrepid and dignified with an outstanding black pattern on its forehead, long and stiff white hairs that

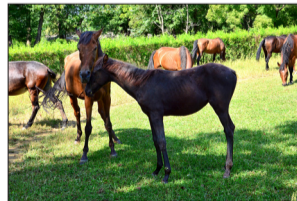
grow near its mouth, intense and sharp round eyes, strong teeth and slender build. There was general rejoicing at the news about the increase in the population of Korean tiger, a rare animal in the world, in the zoo. New “residents” of the zoo

also include the young of such gift animals as European horse, Humboldt penguins, *Cercopithecus aethiops*, *Papio hanadryas* and *Acatua sulphurea*. “The number of animals in the zoo has ballooned in recent years. More than 200

species of animals produced over 2 000 younglings this year alone,” said the official. The growing number of family members of rare animals living in different parts of the world brings greater delight to the visitors.



Korean tigers



European horses



Macaca fascicularis



Acatua sulphurea



Humboldt penguins



Giraffes

RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

