

## General Secretary Kim Jong Un inspects site set for building Ryonpho Vegetable Greenhouse Farm



**The General Secretary gave instructions to raise the modernization level of greenhouse farm and start its operation next year**



KCNA

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, inspected a site in the Ryonpho area of Hamju County, South Hamgyong Province, which was set for building a large-scale vegetable greenhouse farm.

He was accompanied by Jo Yong Won, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau and secretary for Organizational Affairs of the WPK Central Committee, and Pak Jong Chon, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau and secretary of the WPK Central Committee.

General Secretary Kim Jong Un was greeted on the spot by officials of a relevant department of the Party Central Committee and design institution and commanding officers of the units of the Korean People's Army to be involved in the construction.

A preparation for the building of the large-scale vegetable greenhouse farm in the Ryonpho-ri area of Hamju County,

South Hamgyong Province, had already been pushed according to the far-sighted plan of the WPK which struggles for the promotion of the wellbeing of the people by setting it as the supreme principle of its activities.

As he made an on-the-spot survey in April 2019, Kim Jong Un formulated an idea of building a modern greenhouse farm larger than the greenhouse farm in the Jungphyong area of Kyongsong County, North Hamgyong Province, in the Ryonpho area in order to make it contribute to the improvement of the diet of the people in South Hamgyong Province. He gave important teachings related to the construction of the large-scale vegetable greenhouse farm in the area several times, while directing the designing.

The Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Party set the construction of the Ryonpho Vegetable Greenhouse Farm as one of top-priority tasks among major

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# General Secretary Kim Jong Un inspects munitions factory



KCNA

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, inspected a munitions factory producing a major weapon system. He was accompanied by Jo Yong Won, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau and secretary for Organizational Affairs of the WPK Central Committee, Kim Jong Sik and Kim Yo Jong, deputy department

directors of the WPK Central Committee, and leading officials in the sector of the Academy of Defence Science. Looking round the room of the factory for the education in the revolutionary history and its various production sites, the General Secretary learned in detail about the recent modernization of technology and production processes done by the factory and its current production from leading officials of the factory. He highly appreciated the factory

effecting collective innovation and leaping progress in producing major weapons to implement the Party's decisions, being fully armed with the idea of the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Party Central Committee. Saying that the factory holds a very important position and duty in modernizing the country's armed forces and realizing the national defence development strategy, he indicated the tasks and ways of continuously developing the factory into an iconic one symbolic of the modernity of the

country's defence industry. He ardently appealed to workers, technicians, officials and military inspectors of the factory to turn out as one in an all-out drive for thoroughly implementing the policies of munitions set forth at the Eighth Party Congress by carrying forward the traditions and history of the country's proud defence industry of safeguarding the Party and the revolution with munitions production, bearing in mind the single intention to defend the revolutionary cause of the Party with powerful cutting-edge arms.

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state construction policy tasks for the year 2022, and decided to complete it by the founding anniversary of the Party this year, before giving relevant assignments. On the spot Kim Jong Un was first briefed on the master plan for the construction of the farm. The greenhouse farm to be built in the Ryonpho area this time is a project huger than the one built in the Jungphuyong area of Kyongsong County, North Hamgyong Province, some years ago in terms of scale and workload, he said, adding that when the 100-hectare greenhouse and district of farm dwelling houses are built in the area, it will bring about tremendous changes to the area and be of great help

to the diet of the people in Hamhung City and other areas of South Hamgyong Province. Saying that he was determined to assign the construction of the new large-scale greenhouse farm again to the units of the KPA that have already accumulated a lot of experiences in building greenhouse farms, he stressed that service personnel of the relevant units should remain faithful to their noble mission befitting the absolute executors of the plan and policy of the Party and creators of the people's happiness and wage an all-out campaign of loyalty to realize the cherished desire of the Party as soon as possible. All the merits and demerits of the Jungphuyong Vegetable Greenhouse Farm should be considered in the course of developing the draft designs for the

greenhouse farm to be built this time in order to bring about further improvement in terms of science and technology and management, he said, calling for markedly raising the modernization level of over 850 greenhouses covering an area of 100 hectares. He stressed the need to give precedence to the planting of windbreak forests along the edge of the greenhouse farm to suit the characteristics of the coastal area and distinctively embody diversity in the layout and shape of the dwellings on the farm. He specified the issues arising in the construction including the matter of organizing a powerful construction headquarters for pushing the construction and sector-specific panels, the matter of completing designs at the highest

level, keeping the supply of building materials and manufacture of greenhouse equipment ahead of construction and strengthening construction guidance and supervision and the matter of planting windbreak forests and carrying out landscaping in a responsible manner. He also referred to the need to select and train technicians and other employees in keeping with the construction so that the greenhouse farm could start operation from the next year and to simultaneously push the provision of vegetable seeds and farm implements and the securing of farming materials in order to build the most perfect farm that makes a tangible contribution to the diet of the people as early as possible and a model and standard one according to the Party's policy on greenhouse farm construction.

# Choe Ryong Hae visits farm construction site



Choe Ryong Hae, chairman of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly, acquaints himself with the construction of the Kwangchon Chicken Farm.

KCNA

Choe Ryong Hae, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, first vice-president of the State Affairs Commission and chairman of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly, learned about the construction of the

Kwangchon Chicken Farm. Making the rounds of different places of the construction site, he referred to the need for the farm to wonderfully complete it into a model and standard of the poultry sector on the domestic front, channel particular efforts into maintaining ideological integrity and political principle in construction and landscape the farm and turn it into a park at a higher level to meet the regional characteristics. A consultative meeting held on the spot discussed the matter of finding out every weak point in construction to take relevant measures, the matter for those in charge of the manufacture of equipment to prioritize quality and the matter of making full preparations for the operation of the farm.

# Premier Kim inspects school things producers

KCNA school things, true to the noble intention of the Party Central Committee which regards work for younger generations as the most important. Acquainting himself with the details of production, he emphasized the need to scrupulously organize the technical management of production lines, maximize the operation rate of equipment, diversify the designs of school things to the liking of children and improve the quality of the products steadily. Consultative meetings held at the factories discussed the matters of making officials display the revolutionary spirit and way of work in the struggle to implement the decisions made at the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK, keeping the supply of raw and other materials in step with production, increasing the variety of school things, building up the ranks of technicians and skilled workers and expanding production capacity in a far-sighted way. Earlier, the premier inspected the Sunchon Engine Factory and other units in Sunchon and took relevant measures.



Premier Kim Tok Hun (centre) learns about the details of production at the Sonamu School Things Factory.

# Academy of Defence Science conducts important weapons tests



The Academy of Defence Science conducts important weapons tests on January 25 and 27 respectively.

KCNA

The Academy of Defence Science of the DPRK conducted the test-fires for updating long-range cruise missile system and for confirming the power of conventional warhead for surface-to-surface tactical guided missile on January 25 and 27 respectively. Officials of the Department of the Munitions Industry of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and leading officials of the Academy of Defence Science guided the important weapons tests on the spot. In the test-fire for updating the long-range cruise missile system conducted on January 25, two long-range cruise missiles flew for 9 137s along the flight trajectory over the East Sea of Korea to hit the target island 1 800 km away from the launch site. In the test-fire for confirming the power of conventional warhead for the surface-to-surface tactical guided missile conducted on January 27, two tactical guided missiles precisely hit the target island, proving that the explosive power of the conventional warhead complies with the design requirements. The Academy of Defence Science clarified that the missile warhead institute under it will keep developing powerful warheads capable of performing different combat functions and missions.



# Production of consumer goods increases with local raw materials

## Nutritious, protective soap produced

By Yun Kyong Il PT

The Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea set it as an important task to reenergize the production of consumer goods. Now our factory is concentrating efforts on increasing the production of soap with improved qualitative indexes, said the chief engineer of the Ryongaksan Soap Factory.

An active technical innovation drive is under way for the production of functional liquid soap with remarkable skin nourishing and protecting effects.

In the course of this, new production processes have been established, including fatty acid methyl ester and fatty acid potash soap production processes, an Evodia daniellii fruit oil refining process and a refined salt production process.

Jong Myong Hwa, chief

of the technical department, said that the esterification of natural oil can remove its impurities completely.

Technicians analysed the effects of the qualitative indexes of oil have on the synthetic reaction of fatty acid methyl ester, selected the standard indexes needed for the reaction and a rational condition for the reaction, thus establishing a process for synthesizing various surface active agents with locally available natural oil as the main raw material.

The factory also uses in soap production various functional substances such as biolytic enzyme, anti-discoloration agent, fibre lubricant, stabilizer and skin protection agent and natural essences like those of ginger and lemon.

And it has invented and introduced a method of measuring the washing ability and washing load mass of liquid laundry soap, and those of analysing the

content of anionic surface active agent, effective moisture and so on, making it possible to raise the quality of the product.

Liquid soaps from the factory are favourably commented upon by their users as even a small amount of them has great washing power and they are convenient to use and multi-functional.

A liquid wash soap made from Evodia daniellii fruit oil is popular with both men and women as it is good for skincare and contains various functional elements including vitamin E.

The variety of functional liquid soap is increasing, including a liquid laundry soap based on biolytic enzyme that can easily remove the spots of fruit juice and ink from clothes and a liquid sterilizing laundry soap which prevents moulds and germs from growing in winter clothes.



Bottles of detergent roll off the production line at the Ryongaksan Soap Factory.

RI RYON SONG / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

## Factory mass-produces new-type trainers

The factory pushes the production of trainers that are sturdy, light and convenient and meet the aesthetic sense

By Chae Hyang Ok PT

A variety of trainers are produced at the Ryuwon Footwear Factory.

"The production volume of our factory's plan for this year is double that of last year. The task is huge, but we are pushing the production of trainers that are sturdy, light and convenient and meet the aesthetic sense," said Im Ui Ung, chief engineer of the factory.

According to him, the factory's trainers for adults and children received the medal of quality, which is conferred on best domestic products.

The factory is devoting much effort to the production of designs to produce a new type of trainers while constantly ensuring the high quality of its products.

Kim Yon Sun, section chief of the factory, said that the application of convenient types of

outer rim of shoes, the improvement of the looks of shoes and the ensuring of stability in putting on shoes are important in the production of trainers and therefore these are the main points of consideration in creating designs.

Last year, the factory held dozens of products shows to introduce lots of new products into production.

Among them, there are trainers for adults which improved in terms of wear and cold resistance of sole by using thermoplastic elastomer materials and those for children ensuring the three-dimensional character of decoration with the help of printing decoration effects based on the multicolour screen gauze technology.

At present, the design production office is engaged in the development of over a hundred kinds of new products according to the plan of the factory for this year and the creation

of dozens of pairs of new-type sole moulds, and excellent designs are timely introduced into production.

The cutting process is increasing the rate of actual output in the cutting of material for outer rims including the outer coating and insoles and the sewing and shoemaking processes are increasing the production abilities per unit time.

The factory also works to ensure the home production of raw and other materials and recycling and to refashion equipment and production processes into labour- and electricity-saving ones as it turns out soles with plastic waste and synthetic leather by-products, remodels hydraulic cutting machine into CNC cutter and introduces various working methods like the direct injection method.

It also presses on with the production of football boots.

## Regarding consumer demand as yardstick

Idle materials are used to make consumer goods



Members of the housewives' workteam of Phyongchon-dong No. 2 make various clothes for children.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

Each of our products reflects the demands of consumers. This is why the demand for our products is increasing, said Rim Son Ok, head of the housewives' workteam of the Phyongchon District housewives' workteam management station in Pyongyang.

The workteam produces garments for adults and children, chima and jogori (traditional women's skirt and jacket) and different kinds of bags. The garments for children are popular with mothers of nursery or kindergarten children for the variety of colours, good looks and stylish shapes, said Kim Hyang, saleswoman of the Phyongchon District Direct Sales Shop.

Notable is the fact that members of the housewives' workteam use idle materials to make such goods on their own.

"Children's garments are characterized by various types and lots of ornaments. We don't throw away scraps from the cloth used to make clothes for adults but use them to make children's. Clothes look much better if they are decorated with patchwork

ornaments or pockets made with the same pieces of cloth," said Ri Kyong Suk, a member of the workteam.

According to her, clothes for children requires much more labour than those of adults.

Even a single product with stylish embossed parts based on outside sewing and different pockets with harmony of colours shows sincerity of the workteam

members who strive to make those preferred by people.

Bags for men and women from the workteam are also popular with the users as they are diverse in shape and convenient to use.

"We are not gifted with skills. We regarded the demands of consumers as our benchmark, and we learned the skills while working. We will pool our wisdom to make better products," said Rim.



Workers produce new kinds of shoes at the Ryuwon Footwear Factory and some of its samples.



JANG KYONG NAM / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

## Sci-tech dissemination gains momentum

By Kim Il Jin PT

The central light industrial sample products hall is actively engaged in the dissemination of scientific and technological information to light industrial factories.

Last year, too, it disseminated across the country hundreds of pieces of local and foreign sci-tech data conducive to the development of light industry, including achievements made in ensuring production based on locally available raw and

other materials and recycling.

Translators and technical assistants of the sci-tech information and economic survey office collect new domestic and foreign technical data through the Internet while visiting light industry factories to find out data on sci-tech achievements.

They also push ahead with the diffusion of the data.

Now they provide e-mail service for all factories across the country.

This has helped solve a lot

of knotty problems arising in the light industry sector.

Not long ago, they quickly provided the Pyongyang Daily Necessities Factory with sci-tech data for solving problems arising in establishing the method of using lead oxide to make heat stabilizer and in improving the reverse bending property of bristle yarn by using locally available polypropylene resin, thus helping the factory normalize production.

Now the hall constantly

receives inquiries about technical problems and thanks from light industry factories.

"I think each of the data we disseminate is conducive to the development of the country's light industry in no small measure. We will promote the dissemination of information more widely," said Ri Jong Sim, section chief of the hall.

Its employees, most of whom are girls in their twenties, are always busy. But their faces are expressive of pride in their job.

Employees are busy disseminating sci-tech information at the central light industrial sample products hall.



JON KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES



# More effort invested in strengthening ranks of teachers

By Chae Ok Hyang PT

A series of measures have been taken in the country to strengthen the ranks of teachers.

The education sector has taken it on as a priority and constant task to select students with good school performance including those who received talent education in the stage of secondary education and send them to universities of education or teachers training colleges.

Accordingly, the universities of education and

teachers training colleges focus on training many teachers with high quality and traits as educationists by improving the quality of normal education, while perfecting teaching contents and methods.

As refresher courses for teachers in service play an important part in strengthening the ranks of teachers, the pedagogy faculties in major universities put efforts into improving the quality of in-service training.

“Teachers’ in-service training is an important

undertaking to help teachers improve their knowledge and learn about new developments to keep abreast of the developing times in their qualifications now that the sci-tech updating cycle continues to become shorter,” said Ri Sun Ae, principal of central in-service training school.

According to her, now the teachers’ in-service training has been directed to closely combining basic and professional education, pedagogic theory and educational practice into a coherent whole and the

systems and methods have steadily been improved.

Efforts have also been directed to strengthening the ranks of teachers in local and rural areas including the improvement of qualifications and capacity of teachers in relevant areas by building up their in-service training institutions in provinces, cities and counties.

Amidst such nationwide drive, the ranks of teachers have been built up in many units.

In particular, Anak County of South Hwanghae Province

carefully selects students with high proficiency and qualities as teachers recommend them to universities and colleges in the field of teachers training after working out a mid- and long-term plan for strengthening the ranks of teachers both in quality and quantity.

The county has taken steps to enrol some graduates from technical colleges at online education faculties of universities and colleges in the teachers training field to suit its own conditions in a planned manner, as part of its efforts to strengthen the ranks

of teachers qualitatively and quantitatively.

It also runs refresher courses for teachers in service regularly to help them improve their knowledge and skills and keep abreast of new developments in science and technology.

Teachers across the country are now redoubling their efforts with much more proactive approach to bring about substantial achievements, significant changes in education by focusing on improving their qualifications.

## By raising quality of teachers’ in-service training

By Ri Sung Ik PT

Now the demand for talented people is increasing day by day, and rapid progress is being made in teaching content and method. This requires that the qualifications of teachers are greatly improved.

In view of the requirement, the central in-service training school takes a large share in raising the qualifications of teachers as it serves as a base for the improved qualifications of teachers in the sector of higher education, for online in-service training, for the service and spread of educational data and for information management.

The school set it as its main task to make tangible progress this year in improving the qualifications of teachers in the sector by conducting methodologically the work to raise the ability and

qualifications of teachers. Priority is given to organizing workshops according to school types and subjects so that teachers can be well-versed in teaching content and method and skilfully give relevant lessons.

“It is very important to raise the qualifications of the school’s instructors in order to increase the ability of teachers,” said Kang Yong Il, department director of the Education Commission.

The school also makes consistent efforts to prepare its instructors into masters at creating new teaching methods and able developers of educational resources by arousing their enthusiasm, and to invent and generalize new teaching methods and education-support programs helpful to education in practice.

Especially, it has a plan to make sure that from this year

online in-service training is provided for instructors of provincial, city (district) and county teachers’ in-service training schools and colleges at all levels.

The school also writes reference books that can help instructors raise their qualifications, and has established a new well-organized system for guidance to educational practice in itself and similar schools in provinces, cities (districts) and counties so that instructors of the schools can actively help teachers improve their qualifications on the spot.

Besides, it takes practical measures to raise the qualifications of teachers, for example, those to arrange on a regular basis the presentations of data on educational achievements and teaching experiences, symposiums on problems arising in raising the qualifications of teachers.



Staff members are involved in the discussion of a new teaching support and consultative system at central in-service training school.

## Efforts for building up rural teaching staff

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

The teaching staff is being strengthened at rural schools.

“One of the important tasks set for the education sector by the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central

Committee of the Workers’ Party of Korea is to strengthen the ranks of local and rural teachers both qualitatively and quantitatively. It is a prerequisite for reducing regional differences in the educational level,” said Kang Yong Il, department

director of the Education Commission.

Teachers’ in-service training school in Rangnang District, Pyongyang, is intensifying in-service training for teachers at rural schools in keeping with the characteristics of the district

with rural villages.

To this end, unlike previously, the school dispatches competent lecturers to rural schools to actively help teachers improve their actual abilities.

Anak County in South Hwanghae Province also presses on with the build-up of the ranks of teachers.

The county has long forged ahead with the mid- and long-term plans for strengthening the ranks in quality and quantity.

One of the plans was to train students into teachers by carefully selecting those who can acquire personality and qualification as befits a teacher with excellent scholarly performance.



Teachers attend a refresher course in Rangnang District, Pyongyang.

RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

# Restaurants favoured for three special features



Diners enjoy seafood and other dishes at the restaurant of the Daesong Department Store.

PHOTOS BY RYU KWANG CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

By Han Kwi Hun PT

Restaurants on the third and fourth floors of the Daesong Department Store are popular for their fine environments and moods and the tasty dishes they serve.

The restaurants are frequented by not only shoppers at the department store but also the people who want to try to eat the well-known dishes of the restaurants.

The restaurants are open from noon to 9:00 p.m.

Most of their customers say they like them as they serve promptly the dishes to the customers’ liking as the latter select.

The restaurant on the third floor, similar to a mess hall, can be referred to as a fast food restaurant.

It can immediately serve ready-made dishes and staple foods as customers select.

According to its manager Kim Sok, it can serve over

400 people at a time, and at noon it is almost difficult to find empty tables there.

Some others say the dishes seem to be tastier for the good environment.

They also say it is especially nice to have a meal in the restaurants while looking down at streets. In particular, the night views of the restaurants are really spectacular, both from the inside and the outside.

A soft drink hall and several dining rooms on the

fourth floor are different in environment and mood.

The *Tanphung* (maple) dining room puts customers in an autumnal mood with maples at their best, the *Unhasu* (galaxy) dining room gives them the feeling that they dine with a galaxy in the night sky overhead and the *Jangmi* (rose) dining room makes them feel as if they are sitting in a garden of roses in full bloom.

The soft drink hall

decorated with swinging ornamental bamboos attracts the customers passing by after having their meals, said waitress Ri Su Ryon, adding that in the naturally well-lighted hall, the customers picture a bamboo thicket where the chirping of birds can be heard.

In the hall you can drink famous brands of coffee and tea of different countries in the world.

“Environment, mood and

quick service are important to a restaurant, and yet the flavours of its dishes are more important,” said Kim Sok.

The restaurant serves not only traditional Korean fare but also other famous Asian and European dishes.

They include meat dishes like hard-boiled beef, pork ball and fried chicken drumsticks, and seafood. However, what is consumed most quickly and in largest quantity is kimchi.

# Eatery better known for starch noodles garnished with sliced raw fish



By Pang Un Ju PT

The Sinhung Restaurant in Pyongyang reminds the locals of starch noodles garnished with sliced raw fish as it excels in the dish.

“The restaurant serving specialties of South Hamgyong Province was opened in Pyongyang over 40 years ago in accordance with the state measure to set up catering facilities specializing in special foods of each local area in the capital city,” said manageress Jong Yong Suk.

The Hamgyong provincial area on the east coast of Korea has been rich in marine resources and various recipes for fish dishes have developed since ancient times. And potatoes grow well there and so the area has been famous for starch noodles.

The county also enrolls some of graduates from technical colleges at online education faculties of teachers training colleges in a planned way to suit the specific conditions of the area.

It also constantly offers refresher courses for in-service teachers, given that the cycle of updating science and technology gets shorter.

vital power and who are tenacious in nature favour spicy foods.

Cooks of the restaurant made strenuous efforts to retain the original taste of their local special foods.

Such specialties as the starch noodles garnished with sliced raw walleye pollack that is peppery, sourish and sweet, the pepper-hot walleye pollack soup and the blue crab pickled in vinegar were very popular with diners.

Older generations of employees have been replaced with new ones with the lapse of over 40 years and the three-storey building has also undergone a remarkable change in appearance.

But diners are unanimous in saying that the starch noodles of the restaurant remain unchanged in its flavour.

“Our starch noodles are characterized by white, thin, smooth and chewy

strips with lovely colour. This can be achieved if you add a little alum solution to the sifted starch when it is kneaded with hot water.

The broth is made by boiling pork and chicken together and straining the oily matter out to make it clear. Place peppery sliced raw walleye pollack, a boiled and cut egg and sliced cucumber, carrot and pear on the coiled noodles in a tray as relish, pour the broth over that and garnish it with shredded red pepper and spring onion before serving,” said Kim Myong Ok, who hailed from South Hamgyong Province and has worked as head cook of the restaurant for over 30 years.

Its cooks process dozens of kinds of local special foods with sincerity, including its iconic food of starch noodles garnished with sliced raw walleye pollack.

Choe Myong Il, driver



Visitors have starch noodles garnished with sliced raw fish at the Sinhung Restaurant in Pyongyang.

AN YONG CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

of the Tongbang transport company, said that whenever he passes by the restaurant,

he visits it to savour the noodles. The Sinhung Restaurant

in Pyongyang is located in Hacun-dong, Phyeongchon District, Pyongyang.



# Blockbuster cartoon series retain popularity



Artists are engaged in the production of *The Clever Raccoon Dog* series at the Korea April 26 Animation Studio.

PHOTOS BY PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

By Yun Ki Song PT

The Korea April 26 Animation Studio has recently produced parts 64-67 of cartoon *The Clever Raccoon Dog*. The animation enables viewers to acquire broad knowledge through the interesting, witty and edifying stories about the three close friends—raccoon dog, bear and cat.

Intellectual faculties of children and gives them lessons of life for over 30 years," said Jo Myong Dok, head of the studio. The representation of the dull yet lovely bear and cute kitty is wonderful and the raccoon dog with a protruding belly and short legs always takes the initiative on the strength of knowledge. Interesting stories of the animation were increasingly popular among the local people as the series gave them smile, knowledge and valuable experiences and lessons.

Since last year, the

studio has buckled down to producing its serials to promote intellectual development and study of students as required by the developing times. Directors Kim Jin Hyok and Kim Chol Hyon and other members of the production team selected significant and interesting themes from the literature stage and directed great efforts to all elements from original and background pictures to music, speech and screen size.

to put in a great deal of efforts to imitate the accents of their predecessors in charge of speeches of the raccoon dog, bear and kitty, in order to give the audience the same feeling of the previous familiar voices. Thanks to the high creation zeal of the production team, serials of *The Clever Raccoon Dog* were produced in succession in a few months including Part 64 "General-purpose Balance" depicting the hero raccoon dog that figures out the weight of a

20-odd-ton block of ice to be used for an ice sculpture festival with the help of a ruler, not by a balance. "As I watched Part 66 'Compass', I came to know how to indicate the compass direction with a watch and the shadow of a stick, not using a compass. *The Clever Raccoon Dog* is liked by all my classmates, as it helps us acquire a variety of knowledge," said Han Yu Jin, second-year pupil of Ryomyong Primary School in Taesong District, Pyongyang.



Actors and actresses pool efforts to create a new work at the central artistic and economic motivational team of the central artistic motivational company.

HONG IL GWANG / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

By Ko Kwang Yon PT

Actors and actresses of the central artistic and economic motivational team of the central artistic motivational company are seen in working places seething with increased production activities for

implementing the tasks set forth by the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea. They visit workplaces to encourage working people with songs, one-person show, witty talks and other simple motivational and humorous works, and they are very popular with visitors to cultured and leisure activity bases, such as the Munsu Water Park, Rungna People's Recreation Ground and Yangdok Hot Spring Resort, who have a

# Artistes add zest, laughter to life

good time unaware of the passage of time. "Their performance is very amusing as they vividly reflect life in a humorous way, so no one is able to contain laughter and the gig makes us love our life more deeply," said Kim Un Jong, worker of the Pyongyang Bag Factory.

Some works are highly edifying as they portray in a funny way the moral faults that are revealed in different aspects of life.

Viewers say that the performance makes them be repentant of their past mistakes and feel afresh the power and appeal of such numbers that elicit laughter. The professional artistic organization bringing laughter to people was established in the DPRK in

the 1990s. At that time, the Korean people were compelled to make the Arduous March. They were stricken with deep grief as President Kim Il Sung, father of the nation, passed away in July 1994 and the imperialists, taking advantage of the collapse of socialism in East European countries, clamoured about the "end of socialism" and intensified sanctions and blockade to isolate and stifle the DPRK and check its advance.

"The Korean people, however, led an optimistic life as they worked hard under the slogan 'Let us go the thorny path cheerfully!' and Chairman Kim Jong Il made sure that the national comedy troupe was set up in order to add laughter

to the people's life," said Choe Kwang Ho, actor of the central artistic and economic motivational team. After its establishment, thousands of tickets for its show would be sold in no time, which demonstrated how much popular its performance was.

Decades have passed since then, but such veteran gagsters as Choe Kwang Ho, Ri Sun Hong and Kim Yong Sim who brought people laughter and optimism still hold the stage. According to actress Kim Hyon Ju, the veterans are a source of inspiration to young actors and make them harden the resolve to be excellent entertainers loved and remembered by the people.

# Family brings up eight children

By Chae Myong Rim PT

With the lunar New Year's Day just around the corner, many people visit the family of Kim Song Chol in neighbourhood unit No. 37 of Thongilgori-dong No. 2 of Rangnang District, Pyongyang.

They include his fellows at workplace, women' union members of dong, as well as his parents and brothers and neighbours. When the worker at the Monument to the Three Charters for National Reunification Management Station, and his wife Kim Chun Yong reached middle ages, they became the parents of eight sons and daughters.

"My wife and I had loved children really since we were young. Therefore, we were blessed with children, I think," said Kim Song Chol.

The affection of the couple for their children is great. Especially, Kim Chun Yong takes constant care of their

children with no time to dry her hands and spares no effort in family education.

"I have a lump in my throat at the thought that our children grew up one year more after greeting the New Year. Last year, letters of thanks came in succession from the army units of my daughters, which said that they performed their military service well, and my third daughter became an honour student. The eldest son was admitted to the football class as he had desired, and my fifth and sixth children who are girls started to learn how to play the guitar and handwrite by a brush. The youngest daughter who goes to kindergarten and the youngest two-year-old son are good at singing and dancing. I feel great pride and happiness, indeed, as their mother. All these things are unthinkable apart from the benefits of the socialist system and our harmonious society," said Kim Chun Yong.

As she said, everything in her house including children's articles was associated with the benefits granted by the state and sincerity of many well-wishers.

She had the honour of posing for a group photograph with the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un at the fourth national meeting of mothers. It was seen hanging on a wall of the couple's room in the spacious three-room house.

A few years ago, she received a treatment card of prolific mother, which enables every member of her family to receive medical treatment at any hospital on a preferential basis. They are given subsidy every month and lots of other preferential treatment by the state.

It is said that the walls and floors of their rooms were splendidly decorated with the help of central, district and dong women's union officials and officials of Kim Song Chol's workshop.



KIM YONG IL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Kim Chun Yong and her husband Kim Song Chol spend an evening with their children.

On holidays and birthdays of children, villagers and school teachers present them with souvenirs and their household doctor takes special care of them.

"Whenever our couple are overwhelmed with gratitude for their scrupulous care for our children, they say it is natural for them to care for the family with many children as

children are regarded as the 'kings' in our country. "The song *We Are the Happiest in the World* is the theme song of our family," said Kim Song Chol.

# Once-disabled girl becomes college student

By Ri Myong Jun PT

Pak U In, a girl student of Pyongyang College of Medical Sciences, was a housebound cripple ten years ago. At that time she did not imagine that she could be a student.

She would enviously gaze out of the window at the frolicking children of the same age. And then one day 11 years ago, she keenly felt deep gratitude toward the socialist system.

"You want to go to school, don't you?"

A teacher who came from Jesan

Primary School in Hyongjesan District, Pyongyang, for a survey of school-age children asked U In, and the girl nodded. She knew well her physical defect and tears welled in her eyes as she quietly covered her legs with her skirt.

"The teacher came again the following day, told my child to get on her back and left for school. I can never forget the sight of my daughter going to school for the first time on the teacher's back," recalled Pak's mother Won Ok Sun.

Since then on the woman teacher had taken the girl with disability to and from Jesan Primary School

piggyback every day, rain or snow.

The teacher was Ham Ok Suk. Ham paid attention to teaching U In every subject well and, whenever the girl made progress in her study, the teacher was glad as much as her parents would be. She also brought her new school things and nutritious foods and would massage her legs on her laps at break between lessons.

In that way the teacher was devoted to Pak for years.

And while undergoing intensive treatment at the Pyongyang College of Medical Sciences Hospital for nearly two years, she was under the devoted care of medical workers and other obliging people who were strangers to her, and she finally became able to walk.

Through the sincere devotion of those regarding her misfortune as their own, she felt deep gratitude toward the socialist society in which everyone lives in good harmony, showing warm love and affection to one another.

Therefore, she wrote a thank-you letter to General Secretary Kim Jong Un.

The DPRK leader read her letter and sent a written reply wishing her a happy future.

Later, Pak attended the celebrations of the 70th anniversary of the Korean Children's Union and was honoured with having a photo taken with him.

Her mother gratefully said that her present attendance at the medical college was unthinkable apart from the socialist system which brought hope and happiness to the girl and showed her immense love.

# Smells of roast chestnuts, sweet potatoes waft through streets



JO RYONG / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Passers are satisfied with roast sweet potatoes they have bought.

By Sin Pyol PT

The serving of roast chestnuts and sweet potatoes unfolds a conspicuous sight in the capital city of Pyongyang in midwinter.

The roast sweet potato kiosk belonging to the Taesong District Restaurant is alluring passersby with sweet fragrance.

"Attracted by the windborne smell of roast sweet potato, I am often attracted to this kiosk unawares and its sweet potatoes are always delicious," said Kim In Suk living in Ryonghung-dong No. 2, Taesong District, Pyongyang.

Elderly persons relish the steaming foods as they blow on them and some women who have bought several paper bags of roast sweet potatoes and chestnuts bring them to their homes with a satisfactory smile.

They have been known as health foods since olden times as sweet potato is rich in starch, sugars and protein and chestnut contains protein equivalent to polished rice and is also rich in sugars and vitamins A, B and C.

They are also delicious when boiled, but they get sweeter and tastier when roasted over a high heat, since their water content gets lower and their sugar content gets higher.

"When roasting 15 to 20kg of sweet potatoes at a time, the most suitable temperature ranges from 130 to 150°C. At such temperatures they are fully roasted in 25 to 30 minutes, and you should turn them over evenly once or twice as you smell them lest they be burnt too much," said Ri Sun Ju, a saleswoman who got the knack of roasting chestnuts and sweet potatoes as she served them for years.



HONG KWANG NAM / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Pak U In (centre) conducts an experiment in a laboratory at Pyongyang College of Medical Sciences.



# Global efforts promote clean environment and sustainable economic growth

By Choe Yong Nam PT

Human life can be claimed to be both the processes of consumption and creation.

Enormous are natural resources that are expended in the course of human life. It not only leads to the draining of natural assets possessed by humans, but also causes a serious problem about protecting ecosystem from waste of all kinds.

Many countries see it as a vital issue to address the problem of waste.

Singapore has set an ambitious goal of increasing the rate of recycling of domestic waste which is beneficial in terms of environmental protection and practical in view of economic profits and directs a great deal of energies to it.

According to a zero waste

and greening programme 2030, it works to improve the rate of reclamation of all goods to 70 percent by 2030.

A system is in operation for collecting various kinds of recyclable materials like paper, plastic, glass and metal.

It also pays attention to the recycling of electronic waste.

Dustbins for electronic waste have been placed according to the producer responsibility scheme for electronic waste established in July 2021 in order to collect and recycle electronic waste.

Russia also puts in effort to reclaim waste materials.

Its Primorsky Territory signed an agreement with an environmental protection management company of the country on the creation of an environmental protection technology park which can recycle selected garbage.

Projects are also under way simultaneously to increase the amount of recyclable raw materials among household waste, set up mobile or fixed garbage collection grounds in residential districts in Primorsky Territory and build an infrastructure that is able to recycle and process waste materials.

Efforts for the protection of clean global environment are of great help in promoting economic growth.

Laos has set a goal of becoming a country with the largest solar power generating capacity in the world and is now pressing on with a programme to this end.

It set a solar power generation target in the past and began to produce solar power in 2020.

The government has reportedly aimed to make 98 percent of the entire population

use solar power by 2025. Laos expects to hit the target of the government related to power generation successfully in the future, if it encourages power generation by making use of water power and solar energy as well.

Pakistan has decided to set up solar panels in 181 railway stations across the country and steps up the preparations for the project.

At present, economic growth and stable social development in every country are inconceivable apart from clean environment of the earth. The international community will make more strenuous efforts to build a civilized society free from environmental pollution and achieve sustainable economic progress by developing the reclamation industry and diversifying energy production.

## ‘We’ll make reserve artistes play leading role in creation activities’



**Rim Hae Yong**  
Vice-rector of the Pyongyang Kim Won Gyun Conservatory

The Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers’ Party of Korea put forward the task of making an effort to train the new generation reserves of literary persons and artistes to make them play the leading role in the creation activities.

At present, the replacement of old generation with the new one presents itself as a matter

that brooks no delay also in the art and literature field.

Famous works wanted by the times and people cannot be continuously created with the help of only some veteran creators and artistes with a long career.

To train promising reserves of artistes who will shoulder the future of the Juche art, it is important to carry on relevant education under a far-reaching

programme, looking far ahead into the future.

Our conservatory has a well-ordered educational system to train reserves of artistes in a far-sighted way on the basis of a detailed understanding of students’ talents from their early stage.

The point is for teachers who are in direct charge of education to discharge their responsibility and duty.

Different departments of the conservatory have invented new teaching methods and introduced them into practice, based on the study of the modern trend of development of education.

Moreover, we pay close attention to giving free rein to the creativity of students.

Teachers give them creation assignments and guide them in a substantial way, and thus good successes have been achieved.

We will train the students into promising reserves of artistes capable of playing the main role in the creation activities by radically improving the level of art education.

### OPINION

## What does Japan’s spreading of rumour about ‘threats from its neighbours’ aim for?

Kim Jong Hyok

These days, high-ranking political figures of Japan are extensively spreading rumours about the “threats from its neighbours”.

What draws attention is that historically the emergence of such an argument was followed by subsequent moves to beef up the military capability in quality, technique and quantity.

It is already known that Japan is going to revise within this year three major documents – “national security strategy”, “defense program” and “mid-term plan for maintaining defense capability” – which stipulate its defense strategy.

Extremely dangerous is the fact that Japan is going to include in these documents the possession of “capability to attack enemy base”, sharp increase in “defense expenses”, and development and purchase of armaments for preemptive attack such as various carriers including long-range missiles, aircraft carriers, patrol planes and new-type stealth fighters.

In a word, the gravity of the situation lies in that the defense strategy of Japan completely turns into an offensive and aggressive one.

Last century, Japan inflicted immeasurable misfortunes, sufferings and calamities upon the peoples of numerous countries including the Korean people by waging barbarous aggressive wars.

Not only the Korean people but also other peace-loving people of the world still remember that Japan is a heinous aggressor and plunderer that militarily occupied Korea, reduced millions of young and middle-aged Koreans to slaves and cannon fodder, subjected hundreds of thousands of Korean women to sexual slavery and plundered its natural resources.

Japan, having once plunged our country and other Asian countries into a sea of blood, is now scheming to emerge once again as a dangerous force of aggression under the signboard of “defense”. It arouses grave concern and sharp vigilance from the neighbouring countries.

Japan seeks to revise its defense strategy including “national security strategy” within this year while stirring up public opinion about the unprecedented severity of its surrounding situation. This is an extremely dangerous move to take off the mask of “exclusive defense” and realize at any cost its old dream of the “Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere”.

Japan would be well-advised to reflect on its humiliating defeat caused by the aggressive war of its own ignition and not to act rashly.

*The author is researcher at the Institute for Studies of Japan, DPRK Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

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# GUANTANAMO BAY PRISON CAMP NOTORIOUS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

PROVIDED TO THE PYONGYANG TIMES

January 11 marks the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Guantanamo Bay prison camp which is notorious for barbarous human rights violations beyond human imagination.

On this occasion, the group of experts from the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) issued a statement which accuses the US of its continuous operation of such camps violating the human rights and denounces such atrocities committed by the US as cruel treatment of the prisoners with arbitrary summary detention and punishment of the prisoners as intolerable.

The spokesman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry pointed out that

the Guantanamo Bay detention facility is only the tip of the iceberg among numerous secret prisons of the US scattered across the world, which left a dark blot on the human rights history of the world, adding that “black prisons” of the US make the people wise up to the dirty traces of the US in its human rights crimes.

It is quite natural that the US has become the butt of such criticism over its bloodstained human rights crime.

The world people can hardly imagine the tortures committed by the US henchmen who were tamed with the ideas of human hatred and who find pleasure in manslaughter in the secret prisons of the US scattered across the world.

It is an open secret that medieval tortures were openly committed in the Guantanamo Bay prison camp,

which can never be imagined by humans with their normal way of thinking. Those tortures include forcing prisoners to stay awake for 180 hours, stubbing cigarette out in the ear hole, forced feeding by inserting a tube into the nostril and anus, inflicting electric torture on the genitals and making the legs immovable by putting them in the metal pipe in the shape of boot.

A prisoner who had been detained in the Guantanamo Bay detention facility for eight years exposed the fact that many prisoners became blind, lost their hands and feet and suffered mental illness, saying the camp was indeed a hell.

Some years ago, a report entitled “Description of physical pressure” was made public, throwing the people into consternation. It keeps a record of the facts about ill-treatment of the prisoners by

the CIA by means of “slap in the cheek”, “putting a diaper on the adult”, “vermin biting”, “imitation of burying alive” and others.

The problem is the fact that such atrocities are being openly perpetrated with the approval and under the manipulation of the US government with an astronomical amount of fund being spent on maintaining and running secret prisons.

Such data clearly prove that the US is indeed the kingpin of the worst human rights violations, and a criminal state against humanity.

It is quite natural that the international community asserts that the US should be brought to justice by making it sit in the dock of the international human rights court while condemning it as the ring leader of human rights violations.

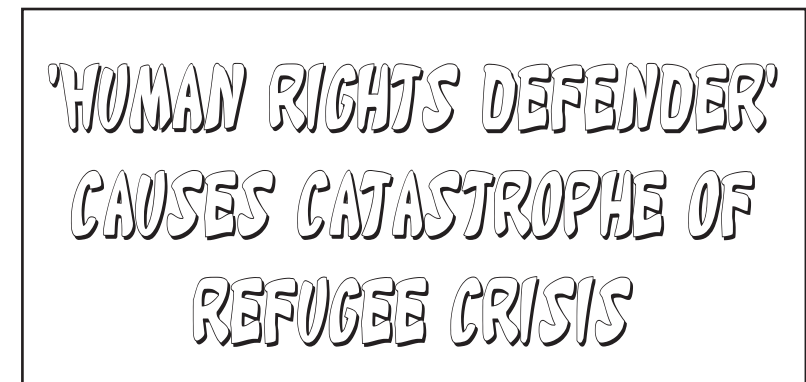
PROVIDED TO THE PYONGYANG TIMES

The refugee crisis is getting ever more serious around the world.

According to the recent data released by a relevant organization of the United Nations, the total number of refugees around the globe has reached more than 80 million as of late 2020.

As the days roll on, more and more people leave their beloved native places seeking shelters for a living, but what await them are only death, sufferings and all sorts of ill-treatment and cold shoulder.

The international community is now expressing deep concern over the ever-worsening situation of the refugees and levelling criticism at the US which has caused the severe



refugee crisis by committing illegal and brutal armed intervention and inciting “colour revolution” in all parts of the world including the Middle East and Africa.

A few days ago, the spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China pointed out that the acts of war by

the US, the main instigator of global refugee crisis, generated numerous refugee crises. He also stated that in the places where the US troops set their feet, people’s livelihoods deteriorate and social disturbances break out and the people wander around to seek shelters.

Saying that the systematic racial

discrimination of the US has become ingrained and the promises of “providing shelters to refugees” and “respect for human rights” are just empty words, he contended that when it comes to human rights, the US is neither a “human rights missionary” nor a “judge”, and that the only choice left for the US is to sit in the “dock”.

He stressed that the US should stop the clumsy acting as “human rights defender” and throw away the stick of external interference which it wields at will, and examine critically and correct its crimes in the refugee issue.

As time passes, the US will be unable to avoid a growing curse and denunciation from the international society as it has caused global catastrophe of refugee crisis in the guise of “human rights defender”.

## Disastrous meteorological and climate phenomena in 2021

KCNA

Last year was recorded as a year in which dangerous meteorological and climate phenomena, including high temperatures, forest fires, typhoons and heavy rain, were exceptionally serious.

The World Meteorological Organization announced that the seven years from 2015 to 2021 were the period of highest temperature meteorological observation had ever recorded.

The average temperature in 2021 was reportedly 1.09°C higher than before the Industrial Revolution.

In the western part of the US the temperature rose up to more than 49°C in summer.

Meteorological experts held that such a phenomenon may occur once in a thousand years.

In some regions of Italy, the temperature rose up to 48.8°C, exceeding the highest record in Europe in 1977.

In Greece, too, the temperature varied between 42 and 45°C in late July, inflicting the worst heat wave damage on the country in 40 years.

In summer forest and field fires burned lots of forests and destroyed many dwellings and other buildings in California, Oregon and Montana of the US, compelling thousands of people to evacuate.

In Sicily and Sardinia, Italy, tens of thousands of hectares of forests were burned by forest fires, and the fire spread even to residential districts, resulting in 1 500 victims.

In Greece in August, about 600 forest fires occurred in less than two weeks, damaging over 100 000 hectares of forests and farmland.

And there were forest fires in over

100 places in a day.

The secretary-general of the WMO said that the high temperatures, heat waves and forest fires that occurred in Europe and North America were the aftermath of climatic changes, and warned that such disastrous phenomena would be more serious.

Heavy rain and floods caused serious calamities in Asian countries.

In July last year, Henan Province, China, witnessed massive heavy rain that could be seen once in a thousand years.

One day in some areas of Zhengzhou, it reportedly rained 696.9mm exceeding the annual average precipitation.

The heavy rain that fell in the western part of Japan, too, was known as record-breaking.

Reportedly, it rained over 1 000mm in some cities of the country

in August.

In Andhra Pradesh, India, 25 people were killed and scores of people missing owing to heavy rain that lasted for several days in November.

At the end of last year the Philippines suffered from an unexpected typhoon.

In eleven regions in the middle and southern parts of the country, 389 people were killed, 1 146 injured and over 60 missing due to a strong wind with a velocity of 240km an hour and heavy rain.

Various natural calamities occurred in Russia, the UK, Brazil and other countries as well.

Saying that 85 percent of the world population are living in the regions being directly affected by climatic changes, meteorological experts insist that an international action should be taken without delay to check such phenomena.

### BYWORD

At the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers’ Party of Korea, General Secretary Kim Jong Un said that the mentality and awareness of all the people desirous of socialist life and development has grown stronger than before, fully displaying the might of collectivism in practice in the course of implementing the enormous

## Might of collectivism

tasks put forward by the Party Central Committee last year.

The word “collective” does not mean a simple integrated body of individual members but a socio-political organism in which all the people are rallied around their leader with one idea and purpose.

Unity around the leader based on loyalty to him is the most solid and powerful unity

which cannot be broken by anything in the world, and if the might of collectivism is fully displayed, there will be no difficulty that cannot be overcome and no fortress that cannot be conquered.

Today, the WPK calls on the Korean people to fight under the communist slogan “One for all and all for one!” on the general advance for switching

over to a new stage of socialist construction.

When all the people are fully conscious of being masters of the revolution and construction, display their unusual creative enthusiasm and pool their wisdom while helping and leading one another forward, socialism will advance full of infinite vitality.

### Briefly

**Cuba**  
**President underscores need to develop sugar industry**  
Cuban President Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel Bernudez stressed the need to restore and develop the sugar industry to improve the people’s livelihood at the talk with officials in the sector of local industry on January 20.

Then more jobs will be created for many people, he said, adding that it is needed to carry out production plans by planting more sugar cane in the future and giving full play to the production capacity of the sugar industry.

**China, Russia, Iran**  
**Joint maritime military drill conducted**

China, Russia and Iran staged a joint maritime military drill in the Sea of Oman from January 18 to 20.

It was aimed at providing positive force for regional peace and stability by demonstrating the will and capacity to jointly defend maritime security while promoting practical cooperation between the naval forces of the three countries.

During the drill their naval forces carried out various missions including joint formation movement, naval gunfire and annihilation of pirates.

**Egypt**  
**FM critical of Israel’s moves to seize territory**

The Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a statement on January 20, branding and condemning Israel’s moves to seize territory as the blatant violation of the international law on humanitarianism.

The statement came as Israel attempts to forcibly dishouse Palestinian residents in an area on the outskirts of East Al-Quds.

It stressed that Israel’s unilateral moves would further aggravate the situation in the Palestinian territory it has occupied and undermine the efforts to achieve comprehensive and just regional peace.

**Peru**  
**90-day emergency declared over oil spillage**

Huge quantities of oil spill in Callao, Peru, on January 15, causing serious environmental pollution.

The accident occurred during the unloading of an oil truck at an oil refinery located in a coastal area.

The government declared a 90-day-long state of environmental emergency in the affected area.

**COVID-19**  
**Over 358m people infected, more than 5.63m dead**

According to a foreign news report, 358 879 657 people were infected with COVID-19, 5 632 611 died of it and 68 847 052 were under medical treatment as of 24:00 on January 25.



# WEIGHTLIFTER SETS THREE NEW NATIONAL RECORDS A YEAR

“

**I was so grateful to coaches, colleagues and family members who helped me in every way to achieve it that tears welled up in my eyes.”**

Ri Song Gum, woman weightlifter at the April 25 Sports Club



By To Kyong Chol PT

When I was nominated as one of top ten players of the year 2021 of the country, I was so grateful to coaches, colleagues and family members who helped me in every way to achieve it that tears welled up in my eyes, said Ri Song Gum, woman weightlifter at the April 25 Sports Club.

Ri bagged three gold medals each in the women's 49kg category weightlifting of the Mangyongdae Prize Games in celebration of the Day of the Sun and the national championships last year.

Especially, it can be claimed to be her success that she renewed three national records in a year in the

DPRK with a long tradition of the sport and advanced techniques.

She was born in Nyongbyon County, North Phyongan Province, and began to learn weightlifting in the county juvenile sports school. Afterwards, she honed her skills in the Ryomyong Sports Club and then the April 25.

In those years she took part in over a dozen international competitions to attain remarkable successes.

In particular, she won three golds in the women's 44kg category weightlifting of the 2014 Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships and established a new junior world record in jerk. For the newcomer, it was an occasion when she showed off her enormous

potential for development.

Later, Song Gum demonstrated her ability as a promising weightlifter in several international events like the world weightlifting championships and Asian Games.

And she broke two junior national records and six national records on the home front.

“Her merit is that she trains assiduously by herself to complete the detailed technical movements as well as the daily training tasks. Such exact demands have made her a weightlifting ace,” said Kye Song Il, weightlifting coach of the April 25 Sports Club.

A winner of Kim Il Sung Youth Honour Prize and Merited Athlete, Ri Song Gum has set her sights on world title and Olympic gold.

## Chongguyadam, classical literary heritage of Korea

By Jong Chol PT

Chongguyadam is one of the typical collections of stories compiled in the last period of the feudal Joseon dynasty (1392-1910). It contains stories that were created and handed down among the Korean ancestors.

From ancient times, the Korean people called their country Chonggu (green garden) as it boasted beautiful mountains and clear water, and tended the land with great sincerity.

Therefore, Chongguyadam means unofficial historical stories of Korea and was compiled with a view to containing the stories created in the past comprehensively.

There are a dozen collections with the same title, and there are considerable differences between the individual collections in the number of volumes and works.

What has been handed down as the original is a single edition consisting of six volumes with six chapters.

Stories from Chongguyadam are those based on the socio-historical realities of the period from the latter half of the 16th century to the 18th century when Korea witnessed a lot of historical events.

Its advantage over the similar collections of stories from the previous period or the same age is that historical stories and legends are put together in it.

Not a few of its contents are those based on the Koreans'

struggle against aggression, for example, the story of Rongae, a kisaeng (or a professional entertainer), throwing herself, taking an enemy commander, into the River Nam in the Jinju Fortress battle during the Imjin Patriotic War (1592-1598).

Some of them depict the noble moral obligation and humanity of the Koreans.

There are also stories in which the heroes regarded others' pain as their own and saved and helped people in misfortune without expecting any reward like in *Ri Jun Jong Who Fulfils His Filial and Moral Duties*.

Other stories related to the good manners and customs of the Korean people include those about dutiful daughters-in-law, filial daughters and faithful women who discharged their filial duties out of their affection for their families, parents and children.

A typical example is *A Bride Takes Hold of a Tiger to Save Her Husband*.

The collection also contains stories of a renowned horse and other animals that did their duties to their masters who raised them.

And it contains satirical and edifying stories about unsound practices in human life and society, mysteries widely talked about and stories of personages.

Chongguyadam is regarded as part of Korea's precious classical literary heritage as its contents reflect the course of social change at that time and the sentiments of the time.

## Noble and elegant Korean costume



- Unique ratio
- Elegant contour
- Rhythmicity

By Ri Sang Il PT

There are numerous kinds of clothes in the world that boast beauty and elegance in their own way.

However, the Korean people like to wear their traditional costume.

“The recent survey shows that Korean costume shops are receiving an increasing number of orders. Many people are placing lots of orders for such traditional Korean costume as *chima* (skirt) and *jogori* (jacket) and children's coat with sleeves of many-coloured stripes, on the occasion of the Day of the Shining Star (February 16), the nation's greatest holiday. I feel very proud of myself as a specialist in Korean costume,” said Choe Hyon Mi, researcher at the garment institute of the

academy of light industry under the Ministry of Light Industry.

The Korean costume has a number of characteristics, notably the unique ratio, elegant contour and rhythmicity.

When talking about the unique ratio of Korean costume, it means the one between short jacket and long skirt. The difference in their size is so huge that it can be called a dramatic contrast, but it never looks awkward. Rather, it showcases a special feature in shape. It is because two sleeves with the proper width connected to the short body of *jogori* and two breast-ties hanging from the middle of the breasts supplement the area and weight of *jogori* and sustain a comfortable balance, said Choe.

Korean *chima* and *jogori*

are also special in terms of colour and pattern.

From olden times, Korean women loved light and soft colours and mild and natural patterns, rather than colourful patterns on dark bases.

They would usually go for jade green, emerald green, pink and other mild and light colours or neutral tints and embroidered patterns of flowers like azalea, rhododendron and rose and some other small patterns depicting the nature, which gave gentle and plain impressions.

And the Korean costume has a series of differences between causal and holiday wear.

As for casual wear, the skirt is made a little short to provide convenience in movement, whereas that for holiday wear is longer as is seen in wedding clothes.

