

General Secretary Kim Jong Un inspects 10 000-flat construction project nearing completion



Kim Jong Un is satisfied that builders have built 10 000 modern flats in a short span of time

KCNA

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, inspected the construction site of 10 000 flats in the Songsin and Songhwa area of Pyongyang nearing completion.

Accompanying him were Jo Yong Won, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau and secretary for Organizational Affairs of the Central Committee of the WPK, Ri Il Hwan and O Su Yong, secretaries of the WPK Central Committee, and deputy

department directors of the WPK Central Committee.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un was greeted on the spot by Kim Jong Gwan, first vice-minister of National Defence, Pak Hun, vice-premier of the Cabinet, leading officials of design institutions at all levels and leading officials of the construction units which took part in the project.

The project for 10 000 flats for the first year has been underway in the Songsin and Songhwa area according to the far-sighted policy of the Party on developing Juche-oriented architecture and the grand five-year plan for capital

city construction set forth at the Eighth Party Congress, and is now nearing completion.

In a matter of one year a world-startling miracle has been made in the construction thanks to the great political enthusiasm and efforts of the builders who turned out as one with a single mind to perform labour feats for adding lustre to the great era of Kim Jong Un with pure patriotism and conscience to take responsibility for the safety of the project and guarantee its absolute quality for all eternity, true to the idea and intention of the Party Central Committee. Therefore,

Pyongyang has been further spruced up as the centre of the Juche idea, Juche-oriented culture and Korean-style civilization and a great city in which the ideal of the people comes true.

In the Songsin and Songhwa area covering 56 hectares, skyscraping and high-rising apartments of various styles including the 80-storey one of modern and distinctive shape, and public health, education and public service facilities have been laid out conveniently plus several parks, overhead bridges and decorative structures of original styles,

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all in good combination with residential districts. The project was part of the plan for 2021, the first year of the five-year plan for capital city construction set forth at the Eighth Party Congress.

General Secretary Kim Jong Un made the rounds of different places of the construction site to learn in detail about the actual state of construction.

He expressed satisfaction over the spectacular view of the street, saying that the Party's idea on architectural beauty calling for thoroughly embodying the

Juche character, national identity and modernity has correctly been carried out.

He noted with pleasure that the architecture of the country has developed onto a higher plane through the construction of 10 000 flats in the first year for implementing the five-year plan at the Party Congress. He stressed the need to take active measures for steadily building up the construction forces on a nationwide scale and accelerating the construction speed while continuously expanding the achievements through

positive popularization of the precious experience and exquisite principles gained in the course of the huge-scale construction project for creating an entity representing great change.

He said with pride that it is an obvious demonstration of the validity of our Party's idea on architectural beauty, potentiality of the Juche-based self-supporting economy and invincibility of the single-minded unity of our Party and the people that we have successfully built 10 000 modern flats by our own efforts in a short span of time.

Highly appreciating again the efforts

made by the builders to ensure a high level of the design and construction of houses, he extended warm gratitude on behalf of the Party and government to all the builders for contributing to opening up a new phase of the capital city construction and demonstrating the development of the capital city to the whole world.

He said with great satisfaction that we will shortly see the people cutting a ribbon themselves and moving into new houses and that his another wish would be fulfilled, calling for the perfect completion of the housing construction

by the Day of the Sun (birth anniversary of President Kim Il Sung).

He specified important tasks that would serve as guidelines for more grandiosely and splendidly sprucing up the capital city as befits the political, economic and cultural centre of the powerful socialist country.

He said that the core in the capital city construction is to spruce up the city as the heart of the country and the city of the people with its own distinct characteristics by preserving the Juche character and national identity and strictly applying the people-first principle. He

called on design institutions at all levels to properly do street and block layout and design of roads by giving precedence to natural and geographical conditions and the convenience of citizens in keeping with the requirements of the modern development trend. It is also necessary to attach importance to the artistic combination of various diversified buildings and take into full account the modernity of all elements, in particular, he said.

He also stressed the importance of producing the desired visual decorative effect of the buildings to be congenial

to political, ideological and cultural sentiments and of rationally arranging educational, public health, sports, cultural and welfare facilities and commercial and public catering bases on the principle of maintaining popular character and modernity.

He underlined the need for the construction field to keep paying close attention to creating cultured environment such as urban afforestation with the main stress put on the improvement of the city's ecological environment.

Upon the field guidance of the General Secretary, all the officials and builders

were filled with the determination to become great creators and pioneers of a new Pyongyang speed and construction legend in sky-high spirits.

They vowed to devote themselves to the prosperity of the great capital city and the country, true to the inspiring call of the Party Central Committee for a fresh struggle and a fresh victory in creating the socialist civilization, bearing deep in their hearts the immutable faith that they are sure to win victory as long as they are led by the General Secretary and that when the Party is determined, we can do anything.

Premier Kim inspects precision machine factory, coal mine

Premier Kim Tok Hun acquaints himself with a CNC machine at the Huichon Precision Machine Factory.



KCNA

Premier Kim Tok Hun, who is also member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and vice-president of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK, made a field survey of the Huichon Precision Machine Factory and the

February 8 Jiktong Youth Coal Mine.

At the Huichon Precision Machine Factory, he stressed the need to step up the modernization of equipment and further raise the quality of products and productivity to a higher level as he made the rounds of the Fuel Pump Branch Factory and other places.

At the underground

cutting face of the February 8 Jiktong Youth Coal Mine, he called on the coal miners to ensure steady growth of production by giving precedence to prospecting and tunnelling to secure more reserve cutting faces and improving the transport capacity.

The field consultative meetings discussed the

matters of providing materials needed for the production of the parts of vehicles, further enhancing the quality of steel and precision in products processing, laying solid material and technical foundations of the coal mine and conducting the production and management in an innovative way.

Continuous successes made in economic sectors

KCNA

Innovative achievements have been made in various sectors of the national economy which are now out to implement the decisions of the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

The Sunchon Thermal Power Station is working hard to increase its productivity while handling the immediate demand for electricity.

It has introduced advanced scientific and technological achievements and technical innovation plans and taken timely measures to upgrade and manage transformer facilities, while making joint innovations at all units by conducting a socialist emulation drive between workshops and machines.

The Pyongyang General Electric Cable Factory 326 has revitalized production by improving the efficiency of the clothing material production process based on recycling.

The Pyongyang and Ryangchaek bearing factories are pushing ahead with the production of various kinds of bearings needed for the repair and maintenance of farm machines. As the production processes are being adjusted and reinforced, they direct efforts to making the workers and technicians master the use of newly installed or upgraded facilities. Meanwhile, they are trying to improve the quality of grinding, processing and assembling by developing and adopting rational working methods.

Workers and technicians of the Huichon Precision Machine Factory provided themselves with necessary machine parts, tools and jigs by intensifying the drive to tap latent reserves and further improved the farm machine part production method based on local materials, thus pushing the production of fuel pumps, gear pumps and distributors according to the schedule.

The Sunchon Cement Complex turned out in

a short period dozens of thousands of tons of cement to be used in rural construction.

Fishermen of the Nampho Fishery Station set sail for the first fishing of this year. The fishing boats of Hwanggunhae family and the "Young Heroine, Daughter of the Workers' Party of Korea" are heading for the main fishing ground.

Irrigation offices and farm machine stations in different parts of the country are working to realize

comprehensive irrigation of the agriculture.

The Anak County farm machine station has repaired and serviced hundreds of tractors and produced over 1 900 machine parts in 17 kinds, while developing and manufacturing depth fertilizing machines and granulated fertilizer moulding machines.

Many irrigations offices are ensuring the normal operation of pumping facilities and managing water in a scientific way.



RI TONG MYONG / RODONG SINMUN

Electricity production is increased at the Sunchon Thermal Power Station.

Landscaping adds beauty to the capital city

KCNA

Spring comes round every year, and this spring is witnessing fresh landscaping of Pyongyang, the capital of the DPRK.

Lots of trees such as white birch, fir and spindle-tree have been planted in hundreds of places in the city, including the vicinity of the Pyongyang Grand Theatre and the Ryugyong Hotel.

Over 100 000 trees of good species were planted in Pyongyang from November last year and dynamic efforts are now being made to plant over 10 000 more flowering shrubs there.

Meanwhile, different floricultural farms in the city are hastening the work to decorate streets and villages with beautiful flowers.

"The news of General Secretary Kim Jong Un planting trees together with the participants in the Second Conference of Secretaries of Primary Committees of the Workers' Party of Korea in the Hwasong area in

Pyongyang on March 2 to mark Tree-planting Day fires people with greater patriotic enthusiasm," said Pak Son Yong, director of the Sosong District floricultural station in Pyongyang.

According to her, the farm is cultivating tens of thousands of flowering plants of every sort to decorate streets of the capital on the occasion of the Day of the Sun (April 15).

Different units, including the Ministry of Urban Management and the Pyongyang Municipal People's Committee, are pushing the planting of turfs and other ground-cover plants as well as the national tree and flower of pine and magnolia and trees of coloration species.

Officials of the municipal people's committee, ministries and national agencies and working people of the city turned out to improve ecological environment of the Pothong River in February and are now accelerating the project at the final stage.

HOME NEWS

KCNA

Original industrial designs created

Kaesong City has come up with a lot of distinctive industrial designs.

Special draws of experts were the designs of advertisements for the Kaesong Koryo insam health food and Koryo ceramics ensuring brevity, concentration and symbolism.

Preparations in full swing for new school year

Schools in the general education sector are directing big efforts to the preparations for a new school year.

Given that technical senior middle schools or technical classes are to be newly established this year, the Education Commission is stepping up the preparations for the start of school, including making ready teachers of special subjects at the relevant schools and furnishing laboratories well.

It also efficiently organizes a short course on teaching according to school types and subjects as part of the endeavour to implement the education programme of the new school year.

Production of school bag canvas finished

The sector of the textile

industry finished the production of bag cloth for the new school year.

The Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill fulfilled its daily plans and the Sinuiju Textile Mill solved the problem of the parts needed for the normal operation of equipment in time.

The Kusong Textile Mill carried out its production assignment earlier than others and the September Textile Mill and the Haeju Textile Mill produced and supplied a large quantity of lining for bags.

University graduates volunteer to go to mountain villages

Over ten graduates of Chongjin O Jung Hup University of Education volunteered to work as teachers at schools and branch schools in the mountainous city of Samjiyon, North Hamgyong Province and Rason City in the northern areas of the country.

Limestone mine carries out huge blasting

The Sunchon Limestone Mine carried out a 180 000-cubic-metre blasting on March 15.

The successful series of blasting, including the ones conducted last January and February, paved the way for increasing the production of cement to be supplied to new construction sites.

Thermal power complex seethes with zeal for increased production

Pushing production on long-term basis

By Yun Kyong Il PT

The Pukchang Thermal Power Complex is waging a daring production drive as it presses on with both present production and long-term plan.

The complex regards the simultaneous push of the present production and long-term plan as not merely a practical economic matter but an important undertaking to implement the strategy for readjustment and reinforcement set forth at the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea and to meet the growing demand for electricity and is directing big efforts into it.

Regarding the increase of the operation rate of generating equipment through proper management of equipment and technology as the way to boost the present production, it is

concentrating efforts on the relevant work.

While ensuring a stable and high operation rate of the pulverizing system and rotary equipment, the complex is boosting electricity production by increasing output per generator.

Equipment operators of the complex operate their equipment on a scientific basis and in a responsible manner, bearing in mind that they should take good care of equipment and thoroughly meet the requirements of the technical and other standard regulations.

While ensuring the present production, the complex is simultaneously pushing the overhaul of equipment according to phased plans.

Having almost finished the huge task of overhauling boilers and turbine generators, they are now working on the overhaul of one generator at the final stage.

In cooperation with

scientific research institutes, the thermal equipment workshop, the thermal insulation workshop and other workshops responsible for the overhaul of equipment are hastening the technical modernization of the existing equipment to maximize their capacity.

Workshops in charge of the normal operation of electric and automatic devices and the supply of desalinated water and cooling water are also striving to readjust and reinforce the production foundations and expand them in a far-sighted way by making joint innovations.

As a result, imperfect production processes and equipment are being readjusted and reinforced and technical indexes such as output power and the number of operation days per generator are improving.

Everything will be devoted to boosting output



Ri Chang Su

The important tasks facing the complex for this year are to ensure production ties and balanced development between production, repair and supply units while generating much more electricity and scrupulously organizing the maintenance and repair of generating equipment to lay firm foundations for implementing the five-year plan.

The complex will timely finish the overhaul and heavy repair of generating equipment in a qualitative way and regularly identify the defects of each operating

generator to increase power production by carefully mapping out monthly and quarterly plan so as to reduce heat loss and raise the efficiency of boilers.

And an undertaking for boosting the output of each generator by replacing turbine blades with newly developed ones is being pushed along with the work for generating more electricity by replacing or repairing high pressure heater and coil pipe of low pressure heater as planned.

A mass technical innovation drive is being briskly conducted to generate more electricity by taking science and technology as a lifeline and giving full play to the creative activity of technicians and skilled workers.

The complex is also carrying on projects to raise combustion efficiency over 0.2 percent by introducing a boiler combustion control technology based on the analysis of oxygen content of waste gas into generators and introduced an oxygen ignition and combustion stabilization

technology to verify the efficiency of operation.

Having made a turbine axis moving signal device and a protection and operating state testing device, it is carrying on a project for developing and installing a vacuum measuring device at the final stage at the fire chamber of digital boiler and also the work of remodelling an outlet valve position sensor for circulating water into an induction mode.

It is also working to produce and supply materials for repair by its own efforts, including insulating bricks, lest the repair and normal operation of generating facilities should be hindered.

This year, the task facing the complex is enormous. But we will devote everything for increased power production while overcoming all difficulties by dint of self-reliance and science and technology.

Ri Chang Su, chief engineer of the Pukchang Thermal Power Complex

To generate more electricity

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

Workshop No. 5 of the Pukchang Thermal Power Complex, which takes the lion's share of electric power production in the complex, overfulfills its production plan every month.

Workshop manager Ri Sung Hyok said that the key is collective innovation.

All the employees keep clean and operate all equipment as required by technical instructions in a responsible manner and make careful preparations for shift change as a daily routine to increase the operating rate of equipment.

The workshop also

pays constant attention to improving the level of techniques and skills of its employees.

Over 50 percent of them have been enrolled at Pukchang College of Technology and other institutions of learning under the study-while-you-work system at present.

According to senior engineer Kim Kyong Thae, the workshop organizes the group study of science and technology in the sci-tech learning space once a week to help all the employees acquire the technical knowledge for the operation of generators and their operating methods in order to improve the level of normal operation of the

generators. At the same time, it encourages them to take an active part in the mass technical innovation drive and devise valuable technical innovation plans conducive to increased power generation.

As a result, a technical innovation plan for improving the performance of oxygen-pulverized coal combustion igniter was developed and introduced to ensure the smooth and rapid ignition and remove instability in combustion. Another one was helpful in keeping the circulating water system of turbine condenser in perfect working order to generate 10 000kW of more electric power than before.



The Pukchang Thermal Power Complex increases electricity generation.



AN YONG CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Natural fertilizer helpful in increasing grain output



PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Researchers discuss how to improve the effects of virgin sulphur mud fertilizer at the Uiam natural substance technology exchange centre.

By Han Jong Ho PT

The Uiam natural substance technology exchange centre under the University of National Economy has developed a method of making fertilizer with sulphur mud. Its virgin sulphur mud fertilizer is a natural fertilizer which has a rich and even content of such organic or inorganic substances as macronutrient, microelement, amino acids and vitamins needed for the growth of crops and such growth promoters as humic acid and auxin.

It promotes the growth and development of crops, improves their fruit-bearing rate and prevent damage by

harmful insects by boosting the growth of roots and synthesis of chlorophyll and stimulating cell division.

It is also very effective in mountainous areas which have low sunshine ratio and temperature and badly suffer damage from cold weather, as well as plain areas.

Study cases show that in Changdo County, Kangwon Province, an inland mountainous county with higher altitude, the fertilizer was applied to increase the per-hectare paddy rice yield by more than 10 percent in 2020 over the previous year and Chosori of Kimhwa County in the same province boosted grain production last year by using this fertilizer.

A cooperative farm in Phyongwon County, South Phyongan Province, produced high crop yield even in high temperatures by treating the seeds and plants in the growing periods of wheat, barley and other crops several times with this fertilizer, providing favourable conditions for the cultivation of later crops by hastening the growing periods of earlier crops by seven to ten days.

Many other units reportedly sprayed this fertilizer over the vegetables, fruit trees, flower gardens and lawns to find it effective.

Now, the sulphur mud fertilizer is in great demand at many farms across the country.



UNIVERSITY FOCUSES ON RECYCLING

Fallen leaves to be used for making packing paper



Kim Yong Nam

Recently, the biological resources science and engineering faculty of Pyongyang Han Tok Su University of Light Industry has invented a method of using fallen leaves to produce packing paper and applied it to production.

In general, the production of one ton of paper requires more than ten cubic metres of logs. But two or three tons of fallen leaves are enough to produce one ton of paper.

The paper production with fallen leaves consumes less water and electricity than that with logs, and it is good for environmental protection as it is not necessary to burn them.

Fallen leaves cannot be used to produce paper

by traditional mechanical and chemical methods because of their biological composition.

The technique which has so far been recognized is to remove some of non-cellulose from the leaves by applying chemicals first and raise the quality and yield of pulp by treating them in a mechanical way.

But the technology of liquid phase pulping used for this method not only consumes chemicals and power a lot but also has negative effect on environment.

To solve this problem, our research group analysed the tissue structure and chemical composition of fallen leaves and the relevant preceding

research data, and set a goal of making pulp from the leaves by employing the technology of vapour phase pulping instead of the existing method.

The research was difficult. Through repeated experiments, however, we obtained pulp from fallen leaves, which requires much less chemicals and power.

Afterwards, we fixed the rational ratio of mixture of pulp from fallen leaves and that from wastepaper, thus establishing a technology of producing a variety of packing papers with pulp from fallen leaves.

Such packing paper is favourably commented upon by the units that use the paper as its technical characteristic indices are almost equal to those of paper made with pulp from wastepaper.

We confirmed the condition for making disposable plates by mixing the pulp from fallen leaves with bleaching needle pulp.

Our research group is now striving to further develop the technology of using fallen leaves for paper production.

Kim Yong Nam, section chief of the biological resources science and engineering faculty of Pyongyang Han Tok Su University of Light Industry

Unburned pencil lead making technology developed based on plastic waste

By Kil Chung Il PT

The material science engineering faculty of Pyongyang Han Tok Su University of Light Industry has come up with an unburned pencil lead making technology based on plastic waste.

"The calcined pencil lead making method that has been used so far had a weak point as it cost much and low productivity since it should pass through a number of processes although it has good blackness and bending strength," said Han Sung Nam, department head of the university.

The faculty buckled down to research into the production technology of continuous extrusion pencil lead of advanced level by relying on domestic raw materials.

In the material of pencil lead, it arises as an important thing to improve blackness.

"We planned to make a composite material for pencil lead combining graphite and other auxiliary materials and brought out a rational moulding method using plastic waste as the main bonding agent for the production of the lead," said lecturer Kang Chol Jun.

The research team solved sci-tech problems one by one while conducting

experiments dozens of times to ensure enough blackness and bending strength.

And then they laid a sci-tech foundation for making the pencil lead roll off the assembly line.

The technology has now been introduced into the production process of mechanical pencil at the Sonamu school things factory.

"The mechanical pencil is

favoured among preschoolers and primary school pupils. It is because even though naughty children keep it carelessly, its lead does not break. And recently, the blackness of the pencil lead has been improved to bring more pleasure to them," said worker Ri Sun Ae.

The producers say it is good for protecting environment since plastic waste is used.



KIM YONG CHAN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Lecturers measure the intensity of pencil lead at Pyongyang Han Tok Su University of Light Industry.

Teaching staff take active part in informatization



RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Teachers work hard to informatize education at Ryomyong Primary School.

By Chae Hyang Ok PT

Our school was nominated as one of the top ten model units in informatization in the national exhibition of achievements in informatization-2021 last year. The secret of success is that all the teachers of the school joined the

informatization drive at the school, said Hong Kwang Ok, headmistress of Ryomyong Primary School in Taesong District, Pyongyang.

The school took a big step towards informatization a few years ago when it started developing a school education support browser.

At the time, it gave tests of the teachers' abilities several times

to select excellent teachers in knowledge and qualifications in IT and carefully organized assignments.

Selected teachers developed a program for browsing and using at any time through computer network various kinds of education materials and multimedia files necessary for preparing for lessons and built up the database with materials

Ryomyong Primary School in Taesong District, Pyongyang, was nominated as one of the top ten model units in informatization.

on the modern education development trend, education-related reference books and new teaching methods highly appreciated at the previous national and municipal teaching competitions.

And they corrected the faults and completed the program by repeatedly conducting interlocking test runs to ensure unified control and management of the teaching and administration of the school as a whole.

As a result, it succeeded in developing a school education support browser "My School".

With categories of teachers' browsing, afterschool study, pupils' browsing, introduction of prides and others, the program is convenient to use at primary schools to suit their characteristics and equipped with various functions needed for teaching and study. Therefore, it won high appreciation at the national

exhibition of achievements in informatization-2019 and has been generalized throughout the country.

It was an important occasion for firing the teachers with enthusiasm for informatization. The school again buckled down to systematizing the teaching contents of IT subjects into still and moving video images.

"Many teachers volunteered to provide media support needed for developing the program and groped for a rational teaching plan, and in the course of it we completed a presentation for lessons for the introduction of IT for fourth- and fifth-year primary school pupils," said Kim Yun Hui, teacher in charge of the master plan and development of the program.

The presentation was also generalized across the country. And then the school began to produce a presentation focusing on experimental

education in order to teach pupils what they cannot learn in textbooks on natural science subjects of third-, fourth- and fifth-year primary schoolchildren.

Teachers held open question and answer sessions for pupils so as to find problems and solutions, racking their brains on how to develop their intelligence.

Multimedia presentations thus completed amount to nearly 20 pieces including a series "What can a magnet do?" (Parts 1, 2 and 3) and "Seas of our country", "Floating and sinking things" and "What is air?"

It is characteristic that all of them are made in the form of animation to suit the psychology of little children.

While working hard to attain the informatization goals set by the school, its teachers have developed many new teaching methods and the number of October 8 Model Teachers is increasing.

Hukjinju beauty products

They have special efficacy for whitening, retarding of aging and skin care and against skin damage by radiation



Chae Ryo Song composes a new song.

Schoolgirl blessed with talents

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

Chae Ryo Song, a fifth-year pupil of the primary school course at Kumsong Middle School No. 1, has many things to boast.

A group member of the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace, she presented her collections of literary works and wordbooks to the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un three times and performed a piano recital of a song *Fiery Passion* written and composed by herself at the schoolchildren's New Year celebration for 2022 "Twelve Months of Our Home".

She is also good at study, singing and painting.

The 12-year-old developed literary talent at an early age, and has so far produced over 40 literary works and written and composed over a dozen pieces of songs.

Experts are of the opinion that the little girl expresses her mind in short works vividly and clearly with everyday language rather than expressive and poetic one, describing her themes as distinctive and her manner of description as individual.

For these good qualities, Ryo Song won the children's literature prize and "Our Classroom" literature prize.

She is fond of reading, has kept a diary from an early age and has often surprised people by telling stories with excellent figurative language.

When she attended the Kyongsang Kindergarten, she used to retell her friends the contents of illustrated books she read and as she understood their contents and meaning so correctly and her stories were so logical and entertaining that even kindergarten teachers heard her with great interest.

"After hearing her stories, it was incredible that she was only a five-year-old,"

said Kim Hyon Sim, a teacher of the Kyongsang Kindergarten.

According to Kim Yu Jong, teacher in charge of Ryo Song's class at Kumsong Middle School No. 1, she wrote her first literary work at the age of nine and her special ability is that once she starts, she completes the work then and there.

A voracious reader, she always carries books with her and so her friends and teachers say they cannot tell whether she is a piano or literary group member.

"My first impression of her was that she who came to learn piano held a novel in her hand, not music paper. I wondered if she really wanted to learn piano or if she was just confused and entered a wrong place," recalled Ri Un Ju, instructor of the piano group at the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace.

She said Ryo Song has real literary and artistic talents, adding she provided piano accompaniment at several art performances to win admiration of the audience.

Conversant with chord tones and correct in rhythmical sense, she learned how to write music for songs to set her poems to music and play them on the piano.

People often ask her whom she resembles among her parents to possess such talents.

But her mom and dad are all engineers and all of her relatives have little or no acquaintance with literature and the arts.

"My daughter has grown up under the care of kindergarten and primary school teachers. They spotted her talents and she is now developing her talents to her heart's content under the benefits of the socialist educational system," said her mother Kim Chung Sil.

Her dream is to become a famous writer and composer in the future.

Little singer flaunts her skill at national artistic performances

By Pang Un Ju PT

Kim Yon A (pictured), third-grader at Ryonhwa Primary School, Central District, Pyongyang, was the youngest performer among the participants in the grand performance held in February in celebration of the 80th birth anniversary of Chairman Kim Jong Il.

Earlier, at the New Year performance held at Kim Il Sung Square, Yon A deeply impressed the audience as a sweet little singer by singing a song *We Miss You, Marshal* with her clear voice and cute rhythmic movements.

It was not once or twice that she was loudly applauded by all audiences at important national performances.

Three years ago, she successfully sang songs at over 130 rounds of a performance of famous songs and scenes selected from revolutionary operas.

She happened to be selected to play the part of Kap Sun for the performance and her excellent artistic ability attracted the jury.

"Yon A was to sing

four songs while playing the role of Kap Sun in the relevant scenes from the revolutionary opera *The Sea of Blood*, which is set against the background of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle. She didn't experience the time when the Korean people were groaning under the military rule of the Japanese imperialists and had no idea of poverty but she excellently played the part of poor Kap Sun and sang the songs well. As she, at the age of six, could correctly grasp the purpose of the relevant artistic portrayal and fulfil it, her distinctive artistic ability amazed all experts," said Jon Un Gyong, a director of the Phibada Opera Troupe.

According to Kang Chun Ran, mother of Yon A, the girl would remember a song she once heard and sing it with correct tones in her nursery days, and her voice was so sweet that she was called "oriole".

The bud of her talent bloomed at the Kyongsang Kindergarten.

Soon after she learned to play the piano and sing under the guidance of teacher Ri Hyang Gum, she distinguished herself.

Her talent developed as she took part in the performance of famous songs and scenes selected from revolutionary operas under the guidance and assistance of the country's prestigious opera production group.

In 2021, she perfectly played once more the part of Kap Sun in revolutionary opera *The Sea of Blood* put on the stage again on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of founding of the Phibada Opera Troupe.

Last year she played the role of Hae Yon, a little heroine of the opera *Eternal Victors* on the theme of the heroic feats performed by the coast artillerymen on Wolmi Island during the Fatherland Liberation War.

"Yon A is good at the sense of absolute pitch, and it seems that she was



born for music as she is endowed with a talent of singing, an outstanding sense of music, considerable power of emotional expression and proper physical condition. I am confident that she will surely succeed in the art world," said Ko Myong Hui, vocal instructor of the Phibada Opera Troupe.

Two years ago she fully displayed her excellent skill of playing the piano in a piano solo through the TV programme for children.

Kindergartner plays three instruments



By Kim Kum Myong PT

There is a seven-year-old prodigy at Kallimgil Kindergarten No. 2 in Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang.

she learns and earnestly practises the three instruments every day.

At two, Kim would hum along with the tunes played on the piano and other instruments from TV. Her parents just thought that

"Generally, children learn to play one instrument at kindergarten, but Kim Yu Sol (pictured) can play the piano, the guitar and the drum set," said Han Un Gyong, head of the kindergarten.

According to Han, Kim is so quick-witted and very receptive to arts that she understands everything

Kim turned out to be a fast learner. She could beautifully play not only the tunes in piano exercise books for children but also those for adults in the following year, surprising teachers and parents of other kindergartners.

Teachers also taught her how to play the guitar and the drum set.

"It was certainly a laborious and difficult task for such a young girl. However, Yu Sol, far from being exhausted, grew even more interested in them and exerted herself. Now, she is a little musical talent capable of playing three instruments excellently," said teacher Ri Un Ha.

Whenever she plays the instruments she seems immersed in the melody, Ri said, adding many people are amazed to see the seven-year-old playing the piano, the guitar and the drum set so brilliantly with her tiny hands.

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Photographic technology company brings back fond memories

By Ri Myong Jun PT

In keeping with the growing cultural and emotional needs of customers, the Tongmun Photographic Technology Company, which is recognized as a hub of study and dissemination of photography, provides people with a variety of distinctive services including taking pictures and making videos and picture frames, printing large-sized pictures, mending and selling cameras and diffusing and exchanging photographic technologies.

"I had a family picture taken here on this auspicious Day of the Shining Star. The photographers are highly skilled and kind in service," said Ri Kum Il, resident in Pothonggang District, Pyongyang.

Its studios were newly reconstructed and expanded on the occasion of lunar New Year's Day of this year. Each of them can create different environments by making effective use of walls and is provided with over 100 kinds of backcloths and properties.

All its customers can have their pictures taken in more

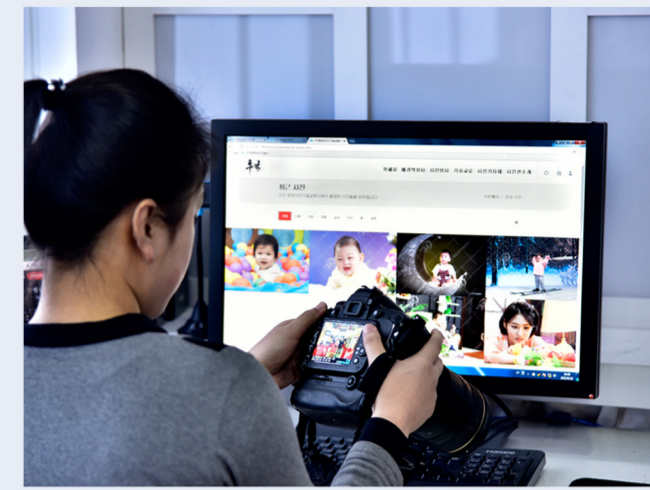
various environments all the year round. The pictures are retouched so as to reflect strong national sentiments or modern aesthetic taste.

"Several years ago I had a chance to bathe on the beach of famous Songdown. I could not forget the time, so I wanted to have a picture taken with the beach for a background. Today I had such a picture taken. A photo montage of open seascape, shells, a float and fishing gears was used well enough to make the picture so lifelike," said Sim Tong Su, lecturer of Pyongyang University of Mechanical

Engineering.

The company is further popular thanks to its own website Chuok (recollection) that offers convenience to photo studios, professional and amateur photographers and customers across the country as well as its remarkable service environment and conditions.

Any subscribers to the website can enjoy backcloth service, photographing and video recording service and data service, exchange technologies, have the photographic equipment and materials they already reserved and



A woman exchanges photography on the Chuok site of the Tongmun Photographic Technology Company.

ordered delivered and have the pictures they took retouched.

The website serves as a forum for discussion and exchanging data between professional and amateur photographers, and a base for sending backcloths to photo studios across the country.

"Photos remind people of their past. A picture taken today is a memento for recollection tomorrow—this is a motto for our company and website. We will further strive to make our company alive in all the people's memory," said Ko Yong Chan, director of the company.



HONG KWANG NAM / THE PYONGYANG TIMES
Clients are provided service to their liking.

Retaining original taste of Pyongyang cold noodles

By Han Kwi Hun PT

Pyongyang cold noodles served in the Pyongyang Noodle House on Thongil Street in Pyongyang are increasingly popular day after day.

"The meat stock is refreshing and sweet, the strips of the noodle are thin, smooth and elastic and the garnishes add to the flavour and fragrance. This characterizes the Pyongyang cold noodles." This is what visitors to the restaurant say in unison.

Does it have new practised cooks? Or is there a secret of the taste?

The restaurant appeared as a several-storey building roofed with distinctive Korean-style tiles on Thongil Street with the construction of the street in the early 1990s. It had been well-known for being good at cooking Pyongyang cold noodles since its

inauguration.

Then, with a shift in generation among its employees, the noodles of the restaurant gradually became poor in taste. Last year, however, the quality of the noodles began to improve to be popular again.

It was because the restaurant paid attention to the improvement of its cooks' technical knowledge and skills.

It put primary efforts into preserving the original taste of the Pyongyang cold noodles. Pak Kwang Suk, a staffer in charge of catering, said, "We gave priority to the study of sci-tech books on the Pyongyang cold noodles, and invited highly skilled cooks to teach our cooks."

Meanwhile, the restaurant organized the Pyongyang cold noodles and meat stock show every week, and a short course for the cooks once a month. In the course of

this they solved the sci-tech problems arising in using buckwheat flour and potato farina to make noodles retain their true taste, and found out the methods of sustaining its savoury taste.

Now the restaurant boasts not a few cooks who are good at making meat stock or various garnishings or have other fortes.

Kim Chol Su, a resident of Taesong District in Pyongyang, said, "I'm here at the Pyongyang Noodle House to eat the noodles as I heard that they are savoury. Previously I often ate noodles at the Okryu Restaurant. Today I've really tasted Pyongyang cold noodles just with the flavour of buckwheat. Both the taste and fragrance are real."

The Pyongyang Noodle House serves degenerated maize noodles, wheat flour noodles and other noodles as well.



RI RYON SONG / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Diners savour cold noodles at the Pyongyang Noodle House.

DPRK-Russia friendship sees steady progress

By Choe Yong Nam PT

An agreement on economic and cultural cooperation was concluded between the DPRK and the former Soviet Union on March 17 1949. With a preamble and five articles, the agreement stipulated that the two countries would enhance economic cooperation and boost travel to each other and mutual cooperation in the field of culture and the arts from the viewpoint of friendship, equality and mutual interests. The first agreement signed after the establishment of diplomatic relations between the DPRK and Russia, its conclusion was the starting point which heralded the beginning of more diverse cooperation between the two countries. Later, the agreement on cooperation in science and technology, the treaty on trade and navigation and others were concluded between them, giving a boost to the bilateral cooperative ties. In the 21st century summit meetings were held between Chairman Kim Jong Il and President Putin several times and the DPRK-Russia

cordial hospitality of the Russian government and people was a great event which demonstrated the solidity of the long-standing and close friendship that had been carried on century after century and generation after generation through the tempest of history and which further promoted the traditional friendly and cooperative ties in line with the requirements of the new times under the new situation. Today, Russia has achieved social stability, markedly increased military capability and made significant achievements in socio-economic development. The Korean people are very pleased that the friendly Russian people have notched up notable successes in their effort to build a powerful and prospering Russia overcoming all manner of challenges. To steadily consolidate and develop the DPRK-Russia friendship totally conforms to the aspirations of the peoples of the two countries. The equal relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries will constantly be strengthened and developed in the future by the top leaders of the two countries.

Efforts keep going into building exemplary schools



Ri Jong Su Deputy department director of the Education Commission

The Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea held at the end of last year set it as an urgent task facing the educational sector to minimize the gap in the educational level between central and local areas and between urban and rural areas. Only when all schools throughout the country are built or modernized on the same level as that of exemplary ones will it be possible to provide the rising generations with better educational conditions and environment so that the superiority of the socialist education system can actually be felt in all urban,

term and long-term plans. Last year, despite difficult conditions, North Phyongan Province turned more than 80 schools into exemplary ones to be opened all at once, and much progress was made in building exemplary schools and modernizing the existing schools in Pyongyang and Jagang, North Hwanghae and many other provinces. This year, too, the construction of exemplary school is regarded as an important task which requires continuous efforts. Hundreds of schools are to be built or modernized and lots of classrooms be turned into multi-functional ones in provinces, cities and counties. The task is enormous and not a few things are in short supply at present, but we have no right to flinch from or neglect the work for the rising generations.

OPINION

Why does Japan claim 'nuclear sharing'?

By Ri Pyong Dok

Recently, Abe, former Prime Minister of Japan, referring to the Ukrainian situation, made a remark that Japan should discuss "nuclear sharing" which allows it to deploy the US nuclear weapons in Japan and operate them jointly. This is giving rise to great public criticism. What cannot be overlooked is that Suga, former Prime Minister, and those in power including the incumbent Chairman of the Executive Council and Chairman of the Political Affairs Committee of the Liberal Democratic Party are adding their powerful voices to what Abe said, despite the strong public opposition at home and abroad. What is worse is that even those representing the opposition party, as if they got an opportunity, are making fervent speeches that they should start the discussion to share the nuclear force of the US by reviewing the "three non-nuclear principles", saying that they cannot, any longer, live with the values of the Showa era. Abe and other right-wing elements in Japan are advocating "nuclear sharing" with the US, using the Ukrainian situation as an excuse. This is an expression of the extremely dangerous attempt to be nuclear-armed at all cost and to plunge again into an aggressive war when the time comes. Japan, which took the road of aggression on the Asian continent, was very busy with the development of an atomic bomb from the 1930s. In August 1945, just before its defeat, Japan committed an atomic bomb explosion test in the waters off Hungnam in Korea. And immediately after its defeat, Japan also persisted in its preparation to be nuclear-armed. Such facts are well-known to the world. The Japanese government put forward the "three non-nuclear principles" in 1967 which stipulate that it would not possess, produce and bring in nuclear weapons. However, the logic of the right-wing forces in Japan was that it is natural to be nuclear-armed under the situation where today's conventional weapons are expected to be reduced to bamboo spears of the past in the future; the so-called "three non-nuclear principles" can be altered at any time with the change of the policies or the Cabinet; the Japanese constitution does not prohibit the defensive nuclear weapons; and that the possession of nuclear weapons for "exclusive defense" conforms with the constitution. Several scandals, including that of concealment of 70kg of plutonium which was revealed in May 1994 as well as the disappearance of 206 kg of plutonium which stirred public opinion in February 2003, have elicited sharp vigilance from the international society against Japan's nuclear armaments. Japan now possesses nearly 47 tons of plutonium which are good enough to make more than 6 000 nuclear bombs, and it has not only technology but also the capability to develop and possess nuclear weapons in no time the moment it decides. The discussion of "nuclear sharing" claimed by Japan is an intolerable challenge to peace and security of the world as it aims to neutralize the "three non-nuclear principles" and to establish an independent foothold for possessing nuclear weapons with a crafty trick called "nuclear sharing" with the US. The international community is watching on high alert what kind of dire consequences would be incurred if Japan does hold nuclear weapons in its hand in revenge for its defeat, which inflicted terrible catastrophe on humankind by means of aggression and war in the past. Japan should not act rashly, wising up to the fact that the road of nuclear armaments is the one leading to self-destruction.

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

By Song Jong Ho PT

Cuba directs major efforts to safeguarding socialism and activating its economy. It gives priority to the political and ideological work to defend socialism. President Miguel Diaz-Canel, who is also first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, on March 4 stressed the need to prepare party members to set examples in all aspects, conduct well political and ideological work in particular and equip them with anti-imperialist ideas in order to strengthen the socialist revolution. On the other hand, the Cuban permanent representative in Geneva said at the 49th session of the UN Human Rights Council that they would never abandon the building of a socialist state that ensures the well-being of them all, their rights, social justice, democracy, independence and sovereignty, adding that Cuba would hold fast to socialism, which it independently chose, to the end. It is the Cuban people's oath taken over 60 years ago, he said, and emphasized that the intensified anti-Cuban blockades and any offensive by the US cannot change the pledge. Cuba ensures the party's political guidance over economic work and employs a popular method of work. According to *Granma*, the official organ of the party, President Miguel Diaz-Canel, at the meeting for the review of the 2021 work of the ministry of economy and planning on March 3, emphasized that they should make 2022 a year of creating a universally favourable environment by shoring up the country's economy. He noted that the target can be achieved only when all people make efforts with talents and intelligence and a normal living environment is provided by conducting the anti-pandemic work more strictly, and that it is essential to ensure the party's political guidance over economic work. The Cuban President also noted that it is important to strictly guard against bureaucracy and employ a popular method of work in all affairs. Bureaucracy in administration should be rejected, self-government of counties enhanced and a measure taken to increase the amount of supply to satisfy the demand of people, he said. Cuba is also developing the economy with science and technology as a driving force. At the aforesaid meeting, the President noted that it is important for leading officials to explain the current economic situation to scientists and producers through regular contact and talks and seek the way to overcome difficulties together with them. On March 1, the Cuban minister of industry, through national TV, said that today Cuba is actively promoting the work to make

United States—main culprit of 'national proliferation financing risk'

PROVIDED TO THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Recently, the US Treasury Department picked on our country and several other countries in its "2022 National Proliferation Financing Risk Assessment", claiming that these countries are posing "proliferation financing threat" by conducting financial activities for the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs). This is indeed a graphic example showing the brazenness and impudence of the US. It is quite preposterous that the US, which makes military expenditure accounting for almost 40% of the global military expenditures and holds the unquestioned lead in arms export, is talking about other's proliferation of WMDs and proliferation financing. The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute of Sweden revealed in its 2020 Report on Global Military Expenditure that the military expenditure of the US ranks the top in the world every year and that in 2020, too, when the US underwent severe economic crisis and financial difficulties due to COVID-19 crisis, it increased by 4.4% as compared to 2019. In December 2021, the US passed its defense budget bill for the fiscal year 2022 which runs into US\$ 768.2 billion. In this regard, the local media reported that the US not only maintains

including Syria and Yemen. In 2016, *The Washington Post* carried a shocking article on the incident where Saudi Arabia killed dozens of children in a moment by using chemical weapon against a school in Yemen, commenting that it was related to the white weapons to maintain its military supremacy. This has resulted in intensive arms race and ceaseless conflict and dispute among the nations and the states in the regions into which the arms have poured. It is well-known to the world that the US, which had found pleasure in fattening on the windfall gained by arms sale to both the belligerent parties during World Wars I and II, is now replenishing its purse by selling arms to anybody, regardless of friend or foe, for the sake of pecuniary interest. And it is still bringing in a large number of weapons to the areas in conflict such as Iraq, Afghanistan, including Syria and Yemen. In 2016, *The Washington Post* carried a shocking article on the incident where Saudi Arabia killed dozens of children in a moment by using chemical weapon against a school in Yemen, commenting that it was related to the white phosphorus shell, a chemical weapon provided by the US. White phosphorus shell is officially recognized as a dangerous chemical weapon which releases white smoke at the moment of explosion and catches fire quickly to burn to the bone every living creature nearby, turning them into ashes. In connection with the above-mentioned report, high-ranking officials of the US Defense Department admitted its provision of white phosphorus shell to Saudi Arabia in the past, but refused to mention the exact date and amount of its provision. *The Washington Post* also exposed in July 2016 that the US continued to export the cluster bomb to Saudi Arabia despite its prohibited usage, and that Saudi Arabia was indiscriminately using the bomb in the air raid against Yemen. These days, the US is further worsening the Ukrainian crisis with its large-scale military aid to Ukraine. The above facts fully substantiate the reality that the US is the very proliferator of WMDs and the main culprit of "national proliferation financing risk". The US, before making fuss about "proliferation financing threat" by somebody, should stand trial first for its crimes of threatening global peace and stability with its global arms race and proliferation of WMDs.

Briefly

China 13th NPC meets for fifth session

The 5th Session of the 13th National People's Congress of China took place between March 5 and 11 at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. President Xi Jinping, leading officials of the Communist Party of China and the state and delegates attended the meeting. At the session, Premier Li Keqiang made a report on the work of the government. The meeting adopted important resolutions and ratified the national socioeconomic development plan and the central budgets for 2022.

Iran Seyed Ali Khamenei calls for increasing defence capability

Iranian Islamic revolution leader Seyed Ali Khamenei on March 10 called for strengthening national defence steadily. He said that the country that desires independence and resistance against pressure from outside forces should be strong; otherwise, it would be subject to humiliation and live in constant fear of the avarice of the outside forces.

Serbia President declares: Serbia will not join NATO

Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic, at a rally on March 13, stated that Serbia would maintain military neutrality and not join NATO. Referring to the unnecessaryness of Serbia's accession to NATO, he said the country would develop its army while remaining neutral. The present Serbian government pursues a policy of strengthening its armed forces for safeguarding its airspace and territory by relying on no one but its people, he noted.

Philippines Government censures West's attitude

The Philippine government on March 10 criticized the West's irresponsible attitude to climate change. The Finance Minister of the country said that the US and other Western countries polluted the earth most for the past 170 years and are still polluting it and disclosed that such countries do not perform their responsibility to check climate change.

WHO Continued vigilance against pandemic called for

The World Health Organization on March 16 called for not relaxing vigilance against the worsening COVID-19 crisis worldwide. Last week alone over 1.1 million people were reported to the WHO to have been infected with the disease. The WHO director general expressed concern over the situation, saying the figure means that the number of the infected reported to the organization is only the tip of the iceberg.

BYWORD Educational revolution

The DPRK is kindling the flames of a radical improvement in education under such slogans as "Let us entrust our future to education!" and "Let us make education the one that can take care of our future!"

The Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea emphasized the need to set it as the main objective of the educational revolution in the new century to train all schoolchildren as genuine revolutionary talents, competent and creative talents and reserves of socialism by developing education into the most superior and ideal one to which we can entrust our future.

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BOXING CHAMP SETS DREAMS HIGHER



Pang would enter the training ground with a dream of becoming a world champion with her powerful punch.

By Sim Chol Yong PT

A DPRK boxer became a world boxing champion by beating all her rivals in the 51kg-category event of the 2018 World Women's Boxing Championships. She is Pang Chol Mi (pictured) at the Kungangsan Sports Club. Last year she was selected as one of the top ten players of the country.

The girl, who began boxing at Jongju City Juvenile Sports School, is well-grounded in

the sport. She would enter the training ground with a dream of becoming a world champion with her powerful punch.

While playing at the sports club, she put her heart and soul into daily training and did the training matches like in real bouts with different types of rivals to become capable of beating every opponent.

Besides her daily training task, she trained further in accordance with her own plan to possess various punching

techniques.

At last she began to distinguish herself at competitions at home. Then she won the women's 51kg-category event of the Ulan Bator Cup International Boxing Tournament held in Mongolia in 2017, won a world championship in 2018 and an Asian championship by winning the women's 51kg-category event of the Asian male and female boxing championships in 2019.

Later she kept training harder, and her strenuous efforts bore fruit in succession.

Last year she won the women's 51kg-category boxing event of the Mangyongdae Prize Games held in celebration of the Day of the Sun. And in the run-up to the national championships she applied for the 57kg-category boxing event of the competition.

Though some experts predicted she would fail, Pang was triumphant in the event.

Tasik, traditional Korean food

By Sin Pyol PT

Tasik, a traditional Korean food, is a kind of patterned sweet cake made with dough of flour and honey or sugar water.

Its name varies according to its main material, for example, date *tasik*, chestnut *tasik*, sesame *tasik* and pine pollen *tasik*.

As an inherent national food of long history, the cake is sweet and aromatic.

The food has different patterns such as flower and fish according to moulds.

Korean ancestors usually ate the cake as a festive food along

with various drinks, and children enjoyed it as a snack.

Date has long been used as fruit good for the health of the weak. In Koryo medicine, traditional Korean medicine, the fruit has been used as emollient, diuretic, tonic, muscle and flesh relaxant and cure for hyperaesthesia, cough, pus and pains all over the body.

For this reason Koreans made and ate date *tasik* a lot.

It is also distinctive in colour, taste and aroma.

Chestnut was much used to make the cake as the fruit is tasty and sweet. The fruit contains as much protein as white rice along with plenty of glucide.

Sesame seeds were also used to make the food, which is quite delicious because of the harmonious combination of the seed's pleasant taste and the sugar water's sweetness.

Pine pollen, too, was used to make the cake. Korean ancestors knew the pollen is good for the persons with weak internal organs and helps stand the heat, hence the food, which is yellow and aromatic.

It is made in the same way as other kinds of the cake, except that the pollen is soaked in tepid water so as to remove pine smell from it before being dried and kneaded with sugar and honeyed water.



Chestnut *tasik*, one of the traditional Korean foods.



Riwon ballstones.

Natural monument—Riwon ballstones

By Yun Ki Song PT

Riwon ballstones are distributed on the seashore of the Rahung workers' district in Riwon County, South Hamgyong Province.

Along the coast on both sides of the mouth of the Phohang River there are cliffs which were formed with the hard quartzite layer belonging to the Jikhyon group from the Mesoproterozoic. And at the foot of the cliffs there is the abrasion platform which was formed by coastal erosion.

Lumps of quartzite, which originally fell into the sea due to weathering, wore due to the incessant action of waves to become oval and smooth ballstones.

Riwon ballstones are white or yellowish white in colour and oval in shape.

The stones became known as they were used as balls for grinding mills or crushers and are also used for decoration of structures.

The natural ballstones rare to be found on earth are a natural monument of great significance in both scenery and scientific study.

