

Immortal exploits performed for military buildup

By Pang Un Ju PT

On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of Kim Jong Il's election as chairman of the National Defence Commission of the DPRK (April 9 1993), the Korean people recollect with deep emotion the greatness of the Chairman.

Kim Jong Il successfully settled all problems arising in state building and national defence by proficiently combining politics and military for over half a century after starting his leadership over the Korean revolutionary armed forces with the field guidance over the Seoul Ryu Kyong Su Guards 105th Tank Division of the Korean People's Army on August 25 1960.

During the Arduous March when the country was undergoing terrible ordeals, in particular, he formulated Songun politics as

the main socialist political mode for the first time in history with keen insight into the prevailing situation and the requirements of the developing revolution, and built up the country's overall strength by relying on the enormous military might.

He remarkably boosted the military capability by setting the expanding of the national defence capacity as the primary task in state building and activities.

He identified the KPA as the main force of the revolution and clarified all tasks and ways for army building in the Songun era in a comprehensive way, ranging from the Party's political work to military training, supply service and cultural and leisure activities. Under his wise leadership, the KPA grew up to be a powerful revolutionary army fully possessed

of politico-ideological and military technological power.

He devoted tireless efforts to developing the DPRK's defence industry into an independent one capable of manufacturing by itself military hardware needed for modern warfare and to advancing the country to the status of military giant with great nuclear deterrent.

Just before the DPRK conducted an underground nuclear test in 2006, the US imperialists were being hell bent on unprecedentedly frantic military exercises and arms buildup and intensifying international sanctions against it. Urging it to choose between the future and nuke, they threatened to launch an immediate military strike if it conducted the nuclear test.

But the DPRK carried out the

historic nuclear test in defiance of the enemy's manoeuvres, thanks to the extraordinary courage and nerve of Kim Jong Il, a great brilliant commander born of heaven.

The completely successful nuclear test relying on its own intelligence and technology 100 percent enabled the DPRK to alter the stereotyped global political landscape centred on nuclear powers and more squarely fight against the US, the world's "only superpower".

His wise guidance for developing an independent and modern defence industry enabled the DPRK to become a dignified nuclear weapons state and overpower aggressor forces in the political and military showdown.

It is his greatest exploit that he radically enhanced the position of the country and people and

absolutely guaranteed the prosperity of the country and all generations to come by boosting the military capability of the country.

The Fifth Session of the 12th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK in April 2012, in accordance with the ardent desire and will of the whole Party, the entire army and all the people, solemnly declared at home and abroad that it supplemented the content on holding Kim Jong Il, who increased the country's politico-military strength to the highest level and ushered in a heyday in the building of a powerful socialist country, in high esteem as the eternal Chairman of the National Defence Commission of the DPRK to the Socialist Constitution of the DPRK and adopted it as a decree of the Supreme People's Assembly.

Political philosophy of Korea

By Yun Kyong Il PT

The DPRK confidently advances along the road it chose even in the face of rapidly changing international situation and the world-sweeping malignant virus crisis.

Then how has the country with not so large territory and population been able to steadily maintain, consolidate and develop its line and system despite the hostile forces' hysteric attempts to isolate and stifle it from one decade to the next and from one century to the next and the COVID-19 crisis?

To understand the underlying fundamentals of the fact, let's consider the political ideology and philosophy of the DPRK.

What kind of politics the Workers' Party of Korea which has a nearly 80-year history as the ruling party, the world's longest, and the DPRK government advocate and what kind of political philosophy they follow?

Where politics is the function to guide society, political philosophy is the fundamental factor determining the character of society and its prospects for development.

It is the political philosophy of the WPK and the DPRK government that politics should be the one at the service of the people out and out, the one devotedly serving the masses of the people. As this

philosophy is thoroughly embodied in the whole affair of the Party and the state, making selfless, devoted efforts for the good of the people has been established as Party and national traits in the DPRK.

In socialist Korea, as they have thoroughly embodied their political ideology and philosophy, the Party and the state have been able to make a long drive following up the victory since their establishment, while surmounting all difficulties and ordeals with their root always taken deep among the masses of the people and on the strength of the people's absolute support and trust.

The Korean political philosophy is the invariable guideline which enables it not to hesitate to pay any price and take any pains if it is for the defence of the people's dignity and destiny.

It is the consistent stand of the WPK and the government that the people constitute the foundation of a political party and the pillars supporting a state, that only when they are safe and sound, can the party and the state maintain their existence and develop and that a revolutionary party and state should prioritize and absolutize the matter of taking full responsibility for and care of the people's destiny, lives and future in whatever case.

The DPRK has firmly safeguarded the destiny of its

people from not only the hostile forces' military threats but also the anti-epidemic crisis and natural disasters. The Korean Party and state protected the dignity of the country and the people on the invincible military might, spared no expenses to relieve the victims of unexpected natural disasters of their suffering and reliably saved the people's lives and safety from the sudden health crisis.

Such miraculous facts epitomize the people-first political ideology and philosophy of the Party and the state.

The political philosophy of the WPK and the DPRK is the banner that enables the people to realize all their dreams and ideals.

The Party and the government take it as the absolute criterion in all affairs and activities to satisfy the people's demands and serve their interests. They have always established all lines and policies in accordance with the demands and will of the people and paid primary attention to solving their urgent problems.

It is their steadfast will to take better care of the people when they suffer hardship and to speed up the building of socialism and communism on the strength of the love.

Despite the current ordeals, the construction of modern dwelling houses is being

pushed in the capital city of Pyongyang, the Komdok area and all rural villages across the country and dynamic efforts are being made to regularly supply all the children throughout the country with dairy products and other nutritious foods.

As the Party and the state take the principled stand not to consider any conditions and possibilities and make the slightest concession and compromise in meeting and serving the people's demands and interests, they organize and carry out every undertaking from the standpoint of protecting the people's rights and interests and wage the struggle for promoting their well-being more positively, in a three-dimensional way and on a large scale.

Today, the DPRK is able to administer politics for the people while consistently adhering to its political philosophy as it is led by General Secretary Kim Jong Un who has burning love for them.

It is his noble outlook on the people that we should hold the people in high esteem as much as we do President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il by engraving the people on our mind as the images of the great leaders.

As they are led by the benevolent father who loves the people the most, the Korean Party and state will win victory after victory along with the people.

INSIDE

Kaesong Koryo insam

Kaesong Koryo insam is highly efficacious as it contains essential amino acids and different kinds of vitamins and minerals as well as various glycosides which are needed for long life and good health.

First, it protects the five viscera, has a positive effect on the cerebral and vascular system and stimulates the endocrine glands to promote metabolism.

It helps strengthen the internal organs, enhance the immune function, excite the central nervous system, improve the blood-making and digestive and absorptive functions and others.

It helps metabolism as it accelerates the biosynthesis of protein and fatty acid, lowers blood-sugar levels and promotes cholerisis.

It invigorates the people, relieves them of fatigue, increases their mental and physical ability and enlivens them.

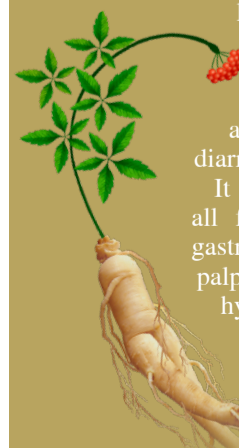
It is especially efficacious for those who recover from illnesses as a tonic and very effective for relieving physical and mental fatigue and overfatigue.

It is widely used for the treatment of various kinds of diseases.

It is popular among patients who have a poor appetite, digest poorly and suffer from chronic diarrhea.

It is widely used as a cure-all for diseases like chronic gastritis, collapse, diabetes, palpitation, sleep disorder, hypotension, anemia, sexual dysfunction, light stroke, hepatitis and others.

And it has a high anticancer effect.



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Premier inspects different sectors in North and South Phyongan

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, inspected different sectors in North and South Phyongan provinces.

Making the rounds of different counties, including Phyongwon, Sukchon, Mundok, Unjon, Yomju, Pakchon and Sonchon, he referred to the need to push the immediate farming work under carefully thought-out plans while putting efforts into early crop farming, take timely steps to prevent drought damage, positively introduce advanced farming methods

and ensure a timely supply of farming materials.

He acquainted himself in detail with the progress of the projects for modernization and construction of a new production line at the Sinuiju Chemical Fibre Mill and the December 5 Youth Mine and pointed to the necessity to correctly set the direction of main attack and phased targets before making persistent and hurried efforts to finish the projects.

At the Ragwon General Machine Enterprise and the Namhung Youth Chemical Complex buzzing with the efforts to implement the decisions of the plenary meetings of the Party Central Committee, he called on them to increase the production of a variety of highly efficient machines and chemical fertilizers

while steadily carrying out each plan for readjustment and reinforcement so as to honour the Party's grand plan for economic construction and programme for the rural revolution in the new era with substantial achievements.

The consultative meetings held on the spot discussed such issues as of pressing ahead with the work to perfect the overall irrigation system and strictly meeting scientific and technological requirements in fulfilling farming processes, of solving problems arising in reality by enhancing the role of the scientific research sector and of ensuring that relevant units supply items of cooperative production in a responsible manner.

The Premier familiarized



Premier Kim Tok Hun (fourth from right) inspects the Ragwon General Machine Enterprise.

himself with the quality of school uniforms and construction of rural houses

and discussed ways to thoroughly implement the Party's

policies in Ryongchon, Tongnim and Mundok counties.

Journalists Union of Korea convenes Ninth Congress



The Ninth Congress of the Journalists Union of Korea is held in Pyongyang on April 3-4.

KCNA

The Ninth Congress of the

Journalists Union of Korea took place on April 3-4 in Pyongyang.

The congress held a comprehensive and in-depth review of the

work of the union in the period under review and discussed the tasks and

ways to wage a media and ideological campaign to powerfully lead the advance of the era stirring with the implementation of the decisions of the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea and attainment of the grand long-term goals by radically improving the work of the union.

It was attended by delegates selected at journalists union organizations at all levels.

Present there as observers were officials of relevant departments of the WPK Central Committee and the information field of provincial Party committees and officials, journalists and men of the press in the central and local media and relevant sectors.

The platform was taken by Ri Il Hwan, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the WPK Central Committee, executive committee members of the Central Committee of the Journalists Union of Korea, leading officials of the central newspapers, news agency,

broadcast and publication field and exemplary officials, journalists and men of press in the media organizations.

Ri Il Hwan, secretary of the Party Central Committee, read out the instructions of Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the WPK and president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, on improving and strengthening the work in the field of the media.

Pak Tong Sok, chairman of the Central Committee of the Journalists Union of Korea, delivered a report on the first agenda item "Review of the work of the Central Committee of the Journalists Union of Korea".

The meeting discussed the second agenda item "On the revision of the Rules of the Journalists Union of Korea" and the third agenda item "Election of the central leadership body of the Journalists Union of Korea".

A letter of pledge to the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un was adopted amid the enthusiastic applause of the participants at the meeting.

New school year starts at schools with due ceremonies

KCNA

Amid the close concern of parents and other working people, opening ceremonies took place at schools throughout the country on April 1 marking the new school year.

National flag hoisting ceremonies took place before the opening meetings.

Officials from organs of the Workers' Party of Korea and the government and relevant institutions, teaching staffs and students warmly congratulated the new students entering the campuses, as they applauded and giving them bouquets.

After the meetings, the first lessons of the new school year began.



Opening ceremonies take place and the first lessons of the new school year begin at schools throughout the country on April 1 marking the new school year.



RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Spring footwear exhibition catches public eye

By Kim Il Jin PT

The national spring footwear exhibition-2023 was held at the Pyongyang Yokjon Department Store between March 24 and 31.

More than 200 000 pieces of footwear in 930-odd kinds produced by over 40 units including the Ryuwon and Sinuiju footwear factories and Wonsan Leather Shoes Factory were presented to the exhibition held on the theme of "Diversifying footwear in kind, shape and colour, and making them light and solid", along with more than 40 research findings released by the footwear industry.

"The previous show focused on exchanging, sharing and diffusing sci-tech achievements and experience obtained in improving the quality of products between production units. But the recent one was aimed at remarkably improving the quality of shoes through the competition between the producers with the main emphasis put on improving their quality and diversifying their kind," said Ri Myong Chol, deputy department director of the footwear industry management bureau under the Ministry of Light Industry.

The participating units presented new products to meet the present seasonal features of balmy spring.

Exhibits won favour with visitors as they were diverse, elegant, refined, decent and smart in shape and convenient to wear.

Many trainers of new styles were presented. Most popular were the products of the Ryuwon Footwear Factory specializing in the production of trainers.

It displayed over 60 kinds of exhibits.

According to head of its design office, the factory has improved the shapes of shootrees and soles of 56 pairs of trainers for men and women in eight kinds and developed and introduced a new adhesive since October last year to offer greater convenience and higher air permeability.

Just like in the previous exhibition, the best crowd-puller was the booth of the Wonsan Leather Shoes Factory noted for the "Maebongsan" brand.

The factory that has focused on improving quality exhibited over 20 000 pairs of leather shoes and trainers for men and women and children's footwear in more than 90 kinds. What is noticeable is that a stitching method was applied to making the shootree of leather shoes for men and polyvinyl chloride based on emulsion polymerization was used to make trainers for women in order to diversify



The national spring footwear exhibition-2023 is held at the Pyongyang Yokjon Department Store.



PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

the colours and shapes of goods.

The recent exhibition was also characterized by fiercer competition in quality

between producers, said an official in the quality management field. He added that the Sosong Songdo Shoemaking Company,

which has become more popular with many with its "Songdo" brand, exhibited comfortable and stylish shoes of new types.

Eye-catchers also included men's leather shoes of the Sunchon Leather Shoes Factory and trainers of the Sinuiju Footwear Factory.

What producers say

'We will make healthy, functional footwear more'



Our workshop has developed and produced the tourmaline massage slippers.

This non-drug natural treatment product that

promotes health by facilitating the discharge of waste matters from the human body is a functional health product that helps retard ageing of the body, purify the blood and improve the blood flow.

There are reflex areas linked to different organs on the soles of human feet. The stimulation of them activates the functions of relevant internal organs including respiratory, circulatory, digestive and urinary organs and makes the joints at the neck, shoulders, knees and all other parts of the body

move smoothly.

A pair of the slippers generate 500-1 500 anions, and more than 80 percent of them are absorbed through the skin into the blood and lymphatic vessels to spread throughout the body and neutralize hydrogen ions in fluid.

Seeing that our slippers are in great demand, I've made up my mind to develop more footwear contributing to people's health.

Ri Chol Nam, staffer at the Ryonghung Daily Necessities Production Workshop

'I will redouble efforts'

I have learned big lessons from the current exhibition.

Among our various kinds of exhibits, women's injection-moulded boots were in great demand, but some other shoes were unfavourably commented upon. Visitors said they looked fine, but they were inconvenient to wear. And they eagerly wanted us to produce various smart

and light shoes.

Through this exhibition, I've keenly realized that the people's level of demand for footwear is very high and hardened my resolve to redouble efforts to live up to their expectations.

Hwang Yong Gum, staffer at the Unjong Moran Footwear Manufacturer



Seminar, sci-tech presentation held during footwear exhibition

By Yun Ki Song PT

A seminar and sci-tech presentation took place along with a product show during the national spring footwear exhibition-2023.

They were attended by scientists, technicians, workers and members of three-revolution teams in the sectors related to the production of footwear.

"In the sci-tech presentation papers were read and their quality was judged and in the seminar the participants found rational solutions in the course of studying and discussing distributed main proposals. Particularly, focus was given to evaluating sci-tech achievements made in improving the quality of footwear, expanding its variety, modernizing and digitizing shoe production processes, ensuring domestic production of raw and other materials and

recycling used materials and proposals concerning them," said Kim Yong Chol, head of the judging panel of the exhibition.

What drew interest of the participants in the seminar were research hits contributing to the domestic production of raw and other materials for shoe production.

They included findings relating to the improvement of quality of reclaimed rubber using a pressing-type desulfurizing method, a high-performance electrode of titanic concentrate system, the establishment of a new method of forming patterns for sole mould, the manufacturing of a tanning enzyme ensuring the softness of leather, a study for enhancing the external appearance of shoes, a method of manufacturing shoe polish by relying on domestic materials and a method of producing reclaimed rubber by using

far infrared rays.

A new technique applied to designing and manufacturing a pair of trainers for summer that are superior in moisture absorbability and dehumidification drew particular attention of the participants. Unlike other trainers, they protect the feet and enhance kinetic effects as the sides of their uppers are reinforced with plastic.

The Footwear Institute came up with a method of forming patterns by using a laser-cutter which can produce uppers decoration effects with various shapes of holes, make aesthetically more refined footwear and double productivity. Researcher Ri Yong A said that this technique was introduced into several units.

Many techniques were highly appreciated by participants at the presentation.

Factory noted for green finishing building materials



JON KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Functional paints are produced with local materials at the Pyongyang Jonghyang Building-materials Factory.

By Chae Hyang Ok PT

Finishing building materials from the Pyongyang Jonghyang Building-materials Factory are favourably commented upon at the construction sites of major projects.

With a history of decades, the factory produces all kinds of finishing building materials.

In keeping with the development of the times, it channels efforts into the domestic production of main raw materials with emphasis placed on developing green finishing building materials for green, energy-saving, zero-energy and zero-carbon buildings.

"We work hard to keep abreast of advanced technologies in the global finishing building materials field and apply them in our own way. Special efforts go into collecting, analysing

and managing information of standards," said Jong Ryong Su, manager of the factory.

According to him as technical requirements, test methods and so on indicated by standards are all based on advanced scientific research achievements in the relevant periods, the introduction of advanced standards is just that of up-to-date sci-tech achievements.

The database of the factory contains a great deal of information about building material standards. Based on a theoretically correct analysis of standard information, the factory produces concrete additives, lags, coating materials, sound-absorbing boards, light burned magnesia plywood and paint to suit its specific conditions and by relying on locally abundant raw materials.

The sound-absorbing

board, highly-efficient polymer-cement composite waterproof agent and paint for building obtained national patents.

In particular, different concrete additives including standard, hardening accelerant, anti-freezing concrete water-reducing agents and concrete accelerator are very effective in building skyscrapers as they do not cause the corrosion of concrete-reinforcing bars but boost concrete strength by 1.5 times. Builders say that the application of these additives makes it possible to save tamping process, use large-size shutterings and adopt a pressure construction method, thereby saving much labour and maximizing the speed and quality of construction.

The factory also develops a variety of functional paints good in adhesive

power, anticorrosion, water resistance and glossiness, inorganic heat insulators with good heat-preserving and fireproof features that can easily be applied and light burned magnesia plywood that can substitute for wood.

It has a strict system for examining products by means of dozens of kinds of analytical facilities to measure concrete strength and abrasion, corrosion of reinforcing bar, impact strength, gloss degree and so on.

Many finishing building materials developed by the factory have been used in the construction of major projects.

Last year, organic water paints to cover interior and exterior walls of buildings produced by the factory won the December 15 Medal of Quality that is awarded to the best domestic products.

Production boosted by dint of latest science and technology

By Jong Chol PT

The Pyongyang Building-materials Factory produces many building materials in different kinds bearing the brand of "Umlitae".

The comprehensive finishing building materials producer further improves the quality of building materials, including plastic window frames, sanitary ceramic ware, tiles, terrazzo, coating materials and waterproof plates.

To ensure the quality of products and normalization of production, it pays primary attention to the introduction of advanced science and technology.

Technicians and skilled workers of the factory have constantly applied advanced science and technology to solve the technical problems arising in production and improvement of quality.

To normalize the production of terrazzo, the main product of the factory, its technicians intensified research for domestic production of raw materials and grindstones and recycling of waste material and thus established a new terrazzo reproduction process.

The terrazzo of various colours satisfies the increasing architectural aesthetic requirements for its solidity, diversity and convenience in building work.

The factory newly made a CNC processing machine to produce moulds of sanitary ceramic ware.

Inventions and new ideas by officials, technicians and skilled workers of the factory number dozens.

Recently, the factory has pushed research for domestic production of raw and other materials, thus succeeding in using local raw materials to develop a new glaze material suitable to tile production and laying the foundation for producing tiles high in degree of whiteness and surface finish.

And a computer-controlled printing device has been introduced into the production of tiles for different uses.

"The creativity of able technicians and skilled workers leads to a boost in production. In the future, too, we will steadily increase the variety of products and improve their quality by relying on science and technology," said manager Choe Hyon Ju.



KIM YONG CHAN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Technicians discuss to improve the quality of products at the Pyongyang Building-materials Factory.

Domestic production of supplementary additives realized



RODONG SINMUN

The production of plastic pipes keeps going on a regular basis with local materials at the Chongjin Plastic Pipe Factory.

By To Kyong Chol PT

The Chongjin Plastic Pipe Factory in North Hamgyong Province has developed supplementary additives with locally abundant materials to produce plastic pipes.

The factory started the research into the domestic production of the supplementary additives needed for producing plastic pipes several years ago.

As it needed to make the additives that suit its production conditions, it first buckled down to making a complex heat stabilizer.

The previous stabilizer was not fit for the production

conditions of the factory and therefore was not so efficient.

According to technician Hwang Un Chol, some employees feared that they might be unable to make a new stabilizer as theirs was not a chemical plant, but the factory pushed ahead with the making of it.

Technicians experienced failures several times in the course of developing the additives as sub-standard products were turned out.

They visited several units specializing in the supplementary additives to learn necessary techniques, studied advanced sci-tech books and came to know the

method, thus succeeding in the production of plastic goods.

With the success as a momentum, the factory pressed on with the domestic production of raw materials more dynamically and not only technicians but also workers took an active part in the effort.

Afterwards, it even ensured the domestic production of a plasticizer, which had been made with imported materials, thereby producing good-quality plastic pipes while lowering production costs.

The plastic pipes of the factory win popularity at major construction sites in the province.

University contributes to economic development, improved people's livelihood



Lecturers and researchers push scientific research for economic development and improved people's living standards at Kim Chaek University of Technology.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

Kim Chaek University of Technology conducts scientific research in a big way in order to contribute to developing the country's economy and improving the people's living standards.

In particular, it has pushed large-scale research projects requiring urgent solution at such key economic sectors as metallurgical, chemical,

electric power and machine-building industries.

Among them is the one concerning the building and trial run of a floating-preheating oxygen blast furnace under construction at the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex.

After classifying technical assignments for that, the university arranged a university-wide prize contest.

Lecturers and researchers of different faculties volunteered to undertake

relevant tasks based on their past achievements and experiences. The contest served as an occasion to demonstrate the potentiality of the university's research group.

By relying on such potential, it has assigned research tasks also to new lecturers and researchers and involved postgraduates and even students in the projects.

Several research teams which were formed thus were dispatched to the

Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex and elsewhere.

The one sent to the Ryongsong Machine Complex has buckled down to the examination of the designs for large facilities for the chemical industry, while lecturers and researchers who arrived at the Huichon Precision Machine Factory have set to work on the research for boosting the capacity of tractor by improving the quality of fuel pump nozzle.

The university also strives to introduce technologies conducive to increasing grain output.

One of them is a paddy rice cultivation method using the electrical impulse water treatment technology.

The technology magnetizes water to improve the nourishment absorption of plants. Its introduction into different farms enabled them to remarkably increase per-hectare grain yields. It won the top prize at the

36th sci-tech festival of the university held last February.

Such research projects the university has planned and pushed this year number well over a hundred.

"The 36th sci-tech festival of our university served as a significant occasion of doubling the competitiveness and spirit of exertion of lecturers and researchers," said Kim Yong Min, scientific research tutor of the university.

University focuses on training talents with practical ability

By Ri Sang Il PT

The Sixth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea put forward the task to change the educational structure of the country into the one for providing advanced education and improve the teaching contents and methods in a more rational way, said Paek Jin Gyu, deputy department chief of Kim Chaek University of Technology. "At present, we work hard to carry it out."

First, the university works to reform the educational structure to train more talents who have practical abilities and are able to play a key role in developing science and technology and the economy.

According to Paek, it plans to introduce a new educational management system into two faculties this year.

To this end, efforts are being made to work out the directions of a new educational management system and improve the

curricula of the courses of study for science and engineering talents and the continuous course.

Practical solutions are also sought to such issues of strengthening the academic centralization, improving the education at postgraduate school and providing better educational conditions and environment.

With the educational structure being reformed, the university also directs efforts to renewing the teaching contents and methods so that students can acquire all-round knowledge, in-depth knowledge of their majors and practical ability.

Faculties press on with the work to put educational contents on a practical, general and modern basis and explore the ways to introduce research-oriented teaching and study methods, speeding up the planning of curricula.

The university also attaches particular importance to refurbishing the general experimental education hall.

Boy, once desirous of being doctor, becomes academician in electronic engineering

By Ri Jang Chol PT

The semiconductor institute of Kim Chaek University of Technology is one of the units which play an important part in boosting production in various sectors of the national economy.

In recent years alone it has developed a variety of electronic devices with locally available raw materials and by relying on new production methods and introduced them into various sectors. They include a custom sensor, output device, rectifier for control, power semiconductors for various purposes, digital temperature relay, digital thermal regulator, water gauge, and flowmeter.

Last year it built an integrated power generation management system at Orangchon Power Station Unit 3, contributing to its completion.

These successes are attributable to the painstaking efforts of its director Pak Yong Thaeck. Born to a doctor's



RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Pak Yong Thaeck, director of the semiconductor research institute of Kim Chaek University of Technology, tests newly-developed electronic sensors.

family in Chongjin, North Hamgyong Province, Pak had originally dreamed of becoming a doctor like his father.

But one day before finishing middle school, he changed the course of his life to engineering.

That day he went to a machine factory for practical training with other students, but they could not do it properly as it was poorly equipped

with electronic equipment. Referring to the importance of the subject of electronic engineering that day, his physics teacher said the country could develop when it had many scientists and technicians pioneering innovations in this field.

From then on, the word "electronic engineering" was always at the back of his mind and gradually he became interested in the subject.

Hardening his resolve to become a scientist in the field without fail, Pak enrolled at the electronic engineering faculty of Kim Chaek University of Technology and concentrated his effort on study.

As a postgraduate student he consolidated his scientific and theoretical basis for undertaking high-tech research projects independently.

Later, he became a researcher of the then semiconductor integrated circuit institute and published a valuable dissertation to earn an advanced degree. And he continued to carry out important research projects.

With the passage of time he climbed the career ladder to its deputy director for scientific affairs and director, while maintaining his scholastic attitude.

As a result, the institute achieved successes in research one after another.

Among them are the development of advanced-level electronic products including 300A solid-state relay using semiconductor, single- and multi-channel temperature display, 200A power rectification element, position detection device, resistance-type pressure sensor and semiconductor pressure transmitter.

In the course of it, the institute received thanks, words of praises and high appreciation from Chairman Kim Jong Il and General Secretary Kim Jong Un dozens of times and Pak became an academician, professor, PhD and Merited Scientist.

More TV viewers tune in to animations on historical themes

By Pang Un Ju PT

The Korea Animation Studio produces cartoon films on the theme of history in succession.

Early this year, a newly-produced animation *Prince Hodong and Princess of*

Rangnang (parts 1 and 2) was screened at the cinemas and on TV to become a box office hit.

"I could hardly control the strong impulse to see it as soon as possible when I heard the news on TV that the first two parts of the animation,

Prince Hodong and Princess of Rangnang and *Princess of Rangnang*, were newly adapted and produced. I saw it at the cinema when it was premiered and its plots and subplots were constructed so interestingly that I was reluctant to leave the place. I am so much looking forward to seeing next parts soon."

said Kim Jong Chol, worker of the Kumsong Youth Publishing House.

"I am really pleased that *Prince Hodong and Princess of Rangnang* that I had seen at the age of nine was newly produced as a multi-part animation after 33 years. It gives a vivid portrayal of the times from the buildings centuries ago to lifelike moves of the main characters, clothes, properties and background scenes," said Han Yong Sun, an employee of the film and stage art studio.

Prince Hodong and Princess of Rangnang had already been produced as a single-part animation on the basis of the historical fact and televised in the 1990s.

"We could not simply follow the contents of the old story about *Prince Hodong and Princess of Rangnang* which had already been well known to the people. New plots and subplots had to be constructed to make it a multi-part animation on the theme of the love story between Prince Hodong of Koguryo and a princess of Rangnang which contributed

to the unification of the country in order to attract interest of the audience and make them feel it truly original," said director Im Jong Son.

In Part 1 Prince Hodong, hero of the animation, falls in love with a girl who saved his life in a battle to destroy bandits infesting the border areas between Koguryo and Rangnang and found the toy pinwheel he had lost, a legacy left by his mother, without knowing that she was Princess of Rangnang.

In Part 2 Hodong goes out to the border area to meet Songra, his friend, who returns to Koguryo with a secret about the enemy, unexpectedly meets again the girl who left him without saying goodbye a few days ago and gives up on her as he comes to know that she is a woman from the enemy country. And Songra is rescued from a dangerous situation with the help of Princess of Rangnang, but is killed because of a mistake made by Hodong.

The TV audience are waiting for the next parts with great curiosity. "Ko Jumong" is another blockbuster cartoon film dedicated to King Tongmyong, the founder king of the first feudal state of Korea who had built the framework for powerful Koguryo. It has long been popular with all the local people, men and women, old and young.

On the basis of historical facts the producers racked their brains to develop a variety of plans for representing the relationship between Jumong's father Haemosu and mother Ryuhwa, the process of his growth and personal characters of his son Ryodal and constructed interesting plots and subplots.

"Forty-two parts of Ko Jumong have so far been produced and televised. All of us like to see the animation very much. It helps us have a better understanding of the history of our country and develop patriotism. What the next parts would be like is most expected," said Han Jong Guk, student at a senior middle school in Pothonggang District.



PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Artists work on later parts of *Prince Hodong and Princess of Rangnang* at the Korea Animation Studio.

Course of creation of The Boy General



By Ri Sung Ik PT

The Boy General is an animation favoured by all, irrespective of age and sex in the DPRK.

Four years have passed since Part 100, the last one of the animation, was produced. The film is still on TV as a favourite one of the people as it left a strong impression on them with its excellent combination of distinctive plots, clever artistic fiction and action and satirical scenes.

While collecting news materials at the Korea April 26 Animation Studio, a reporter from *The Pyongyang Times* had a chance to know many details about how the animation was created as a 100-part one.

From previous 50 to 100 parts

The animation was created and produced as a 50-part one in the 1980s and 1990s. At that time the film was the highest in audience rating as it depicts well the patriotism and self-sacrificing spirit of the hero Soeme and other boys of Koguryo who display their wisdom and valour in the battles to repulse foreign

aggressors.

"One November day nine years ago the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un unexpectedly visited our studio. Asking if we could revive the dead Hobi as we had to produce more sequels of the animation, he gave us the task to make the animation up to Part 100 with firm determination as it was awaited by our people and children and taught how to settle the matters arising in creating the new sequels," recalled Kim Hyo Jun, deputy director of the studio.

True to his instruction, the creators produced later stories of the main characters of the animation by focusing on the truth that patriotic devotion to the country and nation should be invariable through generations and fighting continues as long as there are enemies.

As the new sequels had to be created some time after the former were finished, the creators drew up according to the logic of life various events in such a way as to be well linked with the former plot of the film.

Soeme, the hero of the animation, gets married

and has a son and the son follows in his footsteps and defends the country. Hobi, Soeme's old enemy who is a competitive and ugly "major figure", also gets married and has twin sons, which makes the dramatic structure of the film more interesting. And shockingly, Nalsae betrays his country, captivated by the daughter of the chief of the enemy troops. Meanwhile, Hobi's mother Suap and other new characters and relations between them are naturally depicted.

In contact with historians of the Academy of Social Sciences, the creators extended the realm of the theme of the film, vividly portrayed the then situations of Koguryo and its neighbouring countries and their customs and costumes in keeping with the historical facts and added vividness to scenes and made classic and modern beauties well matched by harmoniously combining 3D and background pictures and montages and computer music.

Unlike the first 50 parts of magnificent colour tones, the new parts were made dark a

bit in colour tone to enable the audience to fully feel the truthfulness and depth of the story.

As soon as they were televised, the new parts created a sensation among viewers and writers O Yong Rim and Ri Yong Chun received many letters from young people and schoolchildren across the country.

"Whenever receiving letters reflecting their impressions of the animation and encouraging us to create better animations, I felt an obligation to live up to the viewers' expectations without fail and a great pride of being a creator of *The Boy General* as well," recalled section chief Ri Yong Chun.

Episodes of creators

It is said that when Hodu and Sodu, twin sons of Hobi and his wife Somi, showed up for the first time in the film, viewers were quite interested in the twins.

One day, well after midnight, O Yong Rim got a call from a young man, who asked him whether he could conclude the animation with Hobi's twin sons coming

over to the side of Koguryo educated by Chungmu, son of Soeme. It was an awkward question.

When the writer asked the young man why he wanted it, the latter replied that after seeing every new part of the animation together, his factory colleagues joked about him and his brother, likening them to Hodu and Sodu as they, too, were twins.

"Then I had to dissuade the young man, explaining him carefully about the cognitive and educative significance of the animation," said the scriptwriter.

It was O who created the twin sons of Hobi in the animation scenario and Ri Yong Chun, another scriptwriter created the passage in which Hodu, one of the twins, is killed.

One day, during the creation of the film, Ri Yong Chun had a snatch of sleep with a dream in which Hobi appeared and said, "Mr O, I am Hobi. Thank you very much for sending twin sons to this great general. By the way, Yong Chun, you rascal! Why are you so eager to kill my twin sons? Here, get this arrow." Yong Chun was hit

Janggu master wins great admiration



RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

By Hwang Jong Ryol PT

Kang Chol (pictured), 67-year-old artiste of the National Folk Art Troupe, is a *janggu* (hourglass drum) master enhancing flavour of Korean national music.

With a 40-odd-year-long career as an entertainer, Kang was originally a *tanso* (Korean short bamboo flute) player.

At 13 he was enrolled at the then Pyongyang University of Music to learn to play the flute, one of national musical instruments. So lecturers worried that he would fail to play the instrument which demands agile virtuosity and is rich in expression.

"To play *tanso* well, the player should have regular teeth. But my teeth were not so. However, I made strenuous efforts," Kang Chol recalled.

His efforts bore fruit. In his thirties he distinguished himself in not only major performances at home but also those abroad to contribute to fully demonstrating the developing national music of the country.

With the passage of time he was nearing sixty past his prime.

"As I grew older I felt that I was no longer physically good enough to play *tanso* as adroitly as before," he said.

Though reluctant to leave the stage and give up playing the instrument, he had no other choice but to train reserve *tanso* players. Then, suddenly, he thought of *janggu*, one of national percussion instruments.

Janggu was a basic means of accompaniment in national music.

Kang Chol said that a new hope captured his heart.

He started a fresh life with *janggu*. Playing the instrument did not require adroit performance unlike *tanso* but as there is nothing easy to do, he found it difficult to master over 10 techniques of playing *janggu*.

After a few years of efforts, he stepped on the stage again in 2016, when he was sixty, to perform in percussion instrumental play *Song of Mt Maebong*, winning great admiration from the audience.

After his debut as *janggu* player, he created various forms of works based on national percussion instrumental play in succession and guided the performance of the works and would personally perform on the stage.

"As the days go by his affection for national music seems to grow stronger. Whenever I see him engrossed in creating works and guiding the performance of the works, I wonder if he is really an old man nearing seventy. His passion is worth emulating indeed," said Nam Un Ha, small-sized *haegum* (Korean fiddle) player.

Everyone respects him as he is modest, passionate and talented.

Artists and officials of the National Folk Art Troupe hope that he will continue to create works winning great acclaim from audiences.

Artistic motivational team of celebrities

By Han Kwi Hun PT

There is an artistic motivational team with a distinctive name in the DPRK. Its members are meritorious persons who were awarded the titles of Merited Artiste and People's Artiste. They stage dynamic performances at the sites of socialist construction across the country.

Therefore, people call it artistic motivational team of meritorious stars.

Distinctive team

Members of the team played leading or minor parts in the five revolutionary operas including *The Flower Girl*, *The Sea of Blood* and *The Story of a Nurse*, which were created in the 1970s when a heyday of art and literature was opened up in the DPRK, and earned fame at home and abroad.

People still remember them. And their familiar voices began to be heard again at sites of grand socialist construction over a decade ago.

It was in December 2011 when all the Korean people writhed in agony over the unexpected demise of Chairman Kim Jong Il.

Ryu Yong Ok, who starred in *The Flower Girl* as Kkotpun and played the part of Kap Sun in *The Sea of Blood*, recalled that she could not fall asleep in those days.

No one blames us pensioners for spending our remaining years in comfort, but we are artistes who grew under the care of the Chairman, she thought. And she was determined to give strength and courage to her grief-stricken fellow countrymen.

With the resolve, Ryu visited her former colleagues to share her opinion and everyone positively responded to her plan.

The artistic motivational team was born thus and they started the motivation activity the

following year.

500 performances

Over the past ten-odd years, the team of meritorious stars gave over 500 rounds of performance for a total of hundreds of thousands of persons at ministries, national agencies, factories, enterprises, coal mines, power stations, farms and major construction sites.

Amid the playing of the melody of *We Will Be Loyal to You Generation after Generation*, the presenter said: "Hello, everybody. As he launched the revolution in art and literature decades ago, the great General Kim Jong Il would greet new dawn at the site of creation. In the course of leading the revolution, he trained us as famous artistes proficient in any creative and production tasks." The performance beginning this way has always received great acclaim from the audience.

Song of Chollima Pioneers is a song reflecting the fighting spirit of the Korean working class who demonstrated the spirit of

heroic Korea on the ruins of the three-year-long Fatherland Liberation War during the postwar reconstruction. "When the song was selected, I could hardly suppress my excitement. As I sang the song, I felt as if the Chollima era opened up before my eyes once again," said Merited Artiste Kim Son Hwa.

They selected perfect songs and all of them devoted all their passion to practice drills for boosting the artistic level of each song.

For example, Kim Son Hwa saw the videos recording the events of those years dozens of times for truthful representation.

In order to perform her song well, Ri Jin Hui, who starred in *The Story of a Nurse*, recollected 1 000 rounds of performance of the opera and read the fuzzy register containing the memoirs of the then artistes who left for the Supreme Headquarters with confidence in victory behind enemy lines during the Fatherland Liberation War. As a result, she sang the immortal classic *Where Are You, Dear*



RODONG SINMUN

The artistic motivational team of meritorious stars stages a chorus at the construction site for 10 000 flats in the Hwasong area in Pyongyang.

School good at music education

By Kim Hak Chol PT

Toksong Primary School in Phyongsong City attached to Phyongsong Teachers Training College is well known for having produced many music prodigies thanks to its active encouragement to music education.

"All the music group members of the school are good at singing and dancing and can play more than three kinds of musical instruments," said Choe Yong Ae, headmistress of the school.

According to her, nearly 20 such members performed in singing and *janggu* (an hourglass drum) beating *Motherly Party Is Always Close*

by the provincial New Year celebration performance and their performance struck all audience with great admiration.

People who have seen a performance by music group members of the school unstintingly praise them, referring to them as music prodigies able to not only sing folk songs but also beat *janggu* and other percussion instruments and play xylophone, piano, *oungum* and so on.

What is amazing is that such good performers do not number merely a few at the school.

The audience noticed that teachers of the music group must have made strenuous efforts to train such prodigies.

Kim Yong Ok, one of the teachers, says it is a duty of not only an educator but also any member of the nation to put much effort into national music education.

While teaching her pupils Korean tunes, she explains them the origins of the tunes and their advantages, telling them relevant interesting anecdotes to suit the psychology of the little children, and thereby instills in them the pride of being members of the Korean nation.

Meanwhile, she directs efforts to teach rhythm lessons so that the pupils can master not only singing and tunes but also dance rhythms peculiar to the nation. "We cannot notice the passage

General? so well that the audience was deeply moved.

People's Artist Son Tac Won, who was an accomplished singer and also a famous film actor who played the part of Claus, chief of the American intelligence service in south Korea during the war, in feature film *Unknown Heroes*, sang songs with his characteristic artistic representation and sonorous voice until the last days of his life to leave deep impression on the audiences.

Their performances have strong appeal.

"It was an excellent performance. It was an earnest appeal, not simple songs. It inspires us to usher in an era of miracles like the past Chollima era," said Kim Yong Nam, chief of staff of the High-Speed Youth Shock Brigade participating in the second-stage construction project for 10 000 flats in the Hwasong area in Pyongyang.

Their songs are reverberating as a march of struggle across the country where all the people are out for the overall development of socialism.

Department store frequented by citizens

By Kim Hak Chol PT

People often visit Pyongyang Department Store No. 1 as it has convenient traffic conditions and satisfies the customers' demand for goods.

The store building goes well with such structures symbolizing the capital city as Kim Il Sung Square, the Grand People's Study House, Mansudae Art Theatre and Pyongyang Students' and Children's Palace. And metro, trolley bus and other mass transport means are concentrated there around the department store to accommodate the people's traffic convenience, and there is a huge car park.

Visitors turn their steps toward the department store with fresh feelings while commanding a bird's-eye view of wide plaza, structures rich in plastic arts and national character and refreshing fountain site.

"I often visit Pyongyang Department Store No. 1 to purchase commodities. In the recent few years, the counters of foodstuff,

shoes, clothes and hygienic products have further been widened along with lots of commodities," said Jang Un Hui living in Mirae-dong, Phyongchon District, Pyongyang.

At present, many people visit it on a daily basis to buy goods, and thousands of kinds of commodities are on sale a day. According to manageress Pak Yong Sil, most commodities are domestically produced, adding that the store is making every possible effort to bring supply in step with demand.

She said various kinds of foodstuff and daily necessities are in great demand in particular.

Purchasers happily smile as they buy goods at the counters of foodstuff, cosmetics, hairpins and hygienic products, footwear and hosiery.

"It is the psychology of housewives to save even a little in the financial expenditure of families. This department store brings benefits to my husband and children and I. Convenient traffic conditions, good quality of goods and their



reasonable prices are all satisfactory," said Ko Yong Sil living in Jongsung-dong No. 1 of Moranbong District, Pyongyang.

Luxury goods, ornaments, fine art works, stuffed specimens and musical instruments of the department store are also favoured by consumers.

The department store keeps paying attention to innovating its management method and improving its service environment.

Customers purchase a variety of goods at Pyongyang Department Store No. 1.



PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

'Our family pocketbook' and 26 years

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

The cosy Ryonggul Shop is situated at the foot of a mountain in Ryonggul-ri, about 12km away from Sangwon county town.

The shop's exterior, which is familiar with residents, goes well with the landscape of farm village and various commodities fully satisfy the needs of residents.

In this shop there is So Yong Ju (pictured) who is called by the locals "our shop chief" and "mistress of the ri".

She has kept "Our family pocketbook" for 26 years.

She started her career as a saleswoman of the shop when the country was experiencing hardships.

She had waited in vain for customers to visit the shop with poor appearance and scanty commodities.

After hearing from farmers that they did not like to go to the shop because it had not necessary articles, So contemplated the meaning of the words that a saleswoman is the servant of the people,

not a person who simply sells things.

Therefore, she made "Our family pocketbook" and registered all the families in the ri in the pocketbook before acquainting herself in detail with the living of the locals.

The pocketbook contains hundreds of families in the ri, birthdays, occupations and positions of residents and the supply of ordered and other goods for each household.

"Though the commodities she supplies are not so big, residents value them since her efforts reflect sincerity to serve the people," said Kim Chang Sik, an official of the Ryonggul Farm.

He added that she does not regard the shop as a service base for merely selling and buying goods, but as a sacred workplace where the state's policy of love for the people is implemented, though it is a small shop in the farm.

She rebuilt the shop as required by the times and did lots of good things for residents. A teachers'



counter also came into being in the shop accordingly.

She has taken good care of life of war veterans, disabled soldiers, bereaved families of fallen soldiers in the ri as her own flesh and blood, supplied materials when there are wedding ceremonies or old persons' birthdays and provided new clothes for babies.

"Our family pocketbook' she has kept for 26 years does not contain only one household. It is just her family. She adheres to her service principle of subordinating herself to residents," said Kim Chang Sik.

Nameless supporters' list in construction site

By Ryom Un Gyong PT

Many working people and young university students come to the second-stage 10 000-flat construction site in the Hwasong area in Pyongyang to conduct the night support shock brigade and service activities.

Their deeds are being recorded in the voluminous list of supporters.

However, there are no names of those who displayed such good deeds in the list.

"Everyone refuses to write their names in this list. Since so many people do not like to leave their occupations and names, though conducting the night support shock brigade and service activities, lots of virtues are not being recorded and the number of working people conducting the activities of night support shock brigade is innumerable," said Choe Hyon Ju, a staffer of the Pyongyang municipal

50 000-flat construction headquarters.

The list contains the deeds of so many people including members of the night support shock brigade who volunteer to do good things for builders, working people visiting to encourage builders with many letters and aid materials and people who provide welfare services for the builders, including washing and haircut.

"They regard it as their due duty. Sometimes, such deeds are known and recorded through builders, not by the performers of good deeds," said Pak Jong Chol, section chief of the construction headquarters.

Volunteers who want to contribute to the country even a bit say in unison that as they work harder, the country will get more prosperous and their happiness will bloom.

"We haven't come to the construction site to gain our fame. Because all the work we do is to bring us happiness and hasten it," said Ryang Yong Ho,

an official of the Central Committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea.

He said that everything seems to him like a dream when his younger brother nestled in Songhwa Street which was newly built last year, adding that whenever he thinks of gratitude and excitement at that time, it gives him fresh strength and so he comes to the Hwasong area.

Kim Yun Hui, a staffer of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs who has devoted herself to the project for building 50 000 flats in Pyongyang for three years, said that she would tell her beloved children that the street is permeated with their mother's sweat whenever passing through the street with them in the distant future.

The supporters' list at the second-stage construction site is becoming thicker day by day as it has become a national trait to work hard to repay the favour shown by the Workers' Party of Korea.

KAESONG KORYO INSAM

a speciality of Korea

By Ri Sung Ik PT

Kaesong Koryo insam is one of the world-famous specialties of Korea. It was called *sincho* for its mysterious medicinal effect and *hyolsam* in a sense that it gives people blood, referring to its price. It is named insam as its roots are in the shape of human. The plant which grows itself in mountains is called *sansam* and the cultivated plant insam. Insam has been known as a famous medicine which is highly effective in ensuring long life, giving perpetual youth, boosting physical strength and lightening the body since olden times. Therefore, it has long been used as a major material for preparing medicines in Korea. As nourishing foods for patients who became weak and suffered illnesses, the Korean people boiled well chicken with insam, glutinous rice, the bulb of garlic and others put inside the belly or steamed it with only insam in it. Famous among them is insam liquor, which is made by soaking insam in alcohol. According to scientists, insam is good for the prevention and treatment of diabetes and other endocrine and metabolic disorders and for relieving fatigue as it acts strongly to kill cancer cells and arrest their spread and helps build up immunity. Saponin in it, in particular, is effective against cancer and for preventing damage from radiation and retarding ageing, they say. In this sense, the old saying

"A root of insam is better than a pound of gold" is not an overestimation. The Kaesong area in central Korea emerged as the centre of insam cultivation and processing as it had favourable geographical conditions for the cultivation of insam including natural features and climate and developed commerce. It has been called Kaesong Koryo insam since it was exported to other countries in the period of Koryo between 918 and 1392. The custom of cultivating and using insam has been registered as a national intangible cultural heritage element of the DPRK and its cultivation and processing methods are continuously handed down through generations. Insam

plots, large and small, covered with sunshades are still a common sight in the Kaesong area. Now the Kaesong Koryo Insam Processing Factory produces dozens of kinds of insam products which are popular at home and abroad with Kaesong Koryo insam, local speciality, as the main ingredient, including round steamed-and-dried Kaesong Koryo insam, Kaesong Koryo insam compound nutritive powder, Kaesong Koryo insam honey and Kaesong Koryo insam tonic. Kaesong Koryo insam products, foodstuffs and cosmetics were highly appreciated at international commodity exhibitions in the past as they were of high quality and good for health.

Insam widely used in Koreans' dietary life

By Pang Un Ju PT

Today, more and more people use insam in their dietary life following the trend of preventing diseases by bringing health-promoting medicinal materials closer to life, rather than taking medicines after contracting illnesses. In Pyongyang there are restaurants serving distinctive dishes made with Kaesong Koryo insam, including thick chicken soup, glutinous rice-cake spread with honey, oxtail soup, steamed eggs, broiled shrimps, a dish seasoned with vegetable juice, trepang pickled in vinegar, seasoned turbo, nutritious gruel and white kimchi. The thick chicken soup, in particular, has a pronounced flavour and aroma as it is made with the recipe of the Kaesong area, the place of origin of insam. The Koreans have long taken insam decoction and used as restorative foods *samgyethang*, or a dish of chicken hard boiled with insam, glutinous rice and the whole bulb of garlic in its stomach without applying salt, and thick chicken broth which is made by steaming a chicken with insam in its stomach in a pot. They also took insam hard boiled in glucose syrup or honeyed water, insam tea and insam liquor. Among them, the thick chicken broth is usually taken by the Koreans and insam liquor is famous worldwide. A restaurant specializing in *samgyethang* on Thongil Street in Pyongyang is popular with diners. According to one of its employees, the speciality of Kaesong produces the best medicinal effects when it is made by hard boiling a four- or five-month-old chicken stuffed with astragalus, dates, glutinous rice and a six-year-old insam. "The material is brought to the boil over strong heat and then stewed over low fire for about an hour. Then the ingredients of insam come out to blend in well with different components of chicken. The aroma that comes at that time stimulates the appetite of diners," she said. O Hyon Nam, a regular customer of the restaurant living in Ragwon-dong of Pothonggang District, Pyongyang, said *samgyethang* invigorates him remarkably and enables him to pass winter without catching cold. Ri Myong Ok, a retired cook living in Jangchung-dong No. 1 of Songyo District, Pyongyang, said the restaurant's recipe of *samgyethang* is unique.



Insam and health-promoting soup.



Steamed insam rice cake.

Japan's crime seen through its forcing Korean students to go to battlefields

By Choe Song Jun PT

After militarily occupying Korea in the past century (1905-1945), the Japanese imperialists, regarding all the Koreans as expendables for the war, drove them to battlefields by applying all kinds of draconian laws. Young Koreans including students were no exception. As Japan expanded its war of aggression to the continent, there was a severe lack of troops. To solve this problem, it took large numbers of Koreans to battlefields. The "regulations on primary school" the Japanese made public on March 31 1941 was a typical fascist education law

to prepare Korean boys as cannon fodder in their war. As a concretized version of the "ordinance on primary schools" adopted on February 28 1941, all of its contents focused on giving the Koreans militaristic education. In 1943, primary schools included even military training in curricula, thus making all subjects militarized. At that time, the Japanese forced young pupils to carry rifles and conduct practical military drills like march-past and firing and even to do training for cavalry battles and handle machines every afternoon. Other articles of the "regulations" were aimed at giving Korean boys militaristic education. The crimes mentioned above

are the tip of the iceberg showing the wrongdoings committed by the Japanese imperialists against the Korean nation during their military occupation spanning over 40 years. This notwithstanding, Japan does not yet admit their past sins even after a lapse of decades, but clings to national chauvinism. The heinous moves of the Japanese authorities to obliterate the Korean nation are intolerable. Japan must apologize to the Korean nation for all sorts of misfortunes and sufferings it inflicted and make reparations for them. It is just Japan's bounden legal and moral responsibility and unavoidable duty.

proclaimed an act on the student soldier system in order to draft Korean students into battlefields. And when the act was met with outright rejection by Korean students and people from all other walks of life, the Japanese threatened and blackmailed Korean students and resorted to violence, while preaching them to be soldiers by dint of all kinds of publications. They overdrove the students who had been taken away that way, before using them as bullet-shields once battles began. As a result, a large number of them were killed after suffering all kinds of grinding toil. The crimes mentioned above

OPINION

Japan's missile deployment to invite disaster

By Choe Yong Nam PT

The international community is getting more energetic in their efforts to improve global ecological environment and provide favourable conditions for the living of human beings. Shortly ago, the Bangladeshi government issued an order to prohibit the use of disposable plastic goods at all institutions. As is well known, it takes a long time for plastic waste to degrade and such substances have a negative influence on ecological environment and is therefore regarded as one of the serious challenges around the world. In order to solve this problem, Bangladesh has taken measures to ban the use of disposable plastics in

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Recently, the Japanese Defense Ministry set up a new camp of the ground self-defence force on Ishigaki Island, Okinawa, and deployed the "Model 12 surface-to-ship guided missile" and "Model 03 intermediate-range surface-to-air guided missile". As a result, the ground self-defence force's camps have been set up on the three westernmost islands of Nansai Islands. According to media, it is fairly likely that the US-made cruise missile "Tomahawk" with the range of 1 250km and the "Model 12 surface-to-ship guided missile", the range of which will increase to more than 1 000km, will be deployed on these islands in the future as part of Japan's moves to possess the "capability for counterattack".

Considering that the shortest distance between Taiwan and Nansai Islands is 110km, we may well guess the purpose of the recent missile deployment. When these missiles are deployed at the western end of Nansai Islands, the Chinese mainland will be placed within Japan's firing range, to say nothing of the eastern coast of China. Japan takes every opportunity to justify its military build-up as it spreads false rumours like "Taiwan emergency is Japan emergency" and "Today's Ukraine is tomorrow's East Asia" and clamours against a "threat from China".

Last February, it was revealed that the US suggested that Japan deploy the intermediate-range missiles to enhance its capability for "defence against China" in the eastern and southern seas of China. In this regard, *The Global Times* then wrote that this project will pose a serious threat to the countries in the region and that China has the right and capability to make strategic moves to counter all latent provocations. China also warned that if the US forces in Japan and the Japanese "self-defence forces" interfere in the Taiwan issue, they will be faced with its resolute counterattack and those immobile islands will be identified as easy targets to be demolished. The local residents are raising their voices of protest and concern, saying they need no missile bases on Ishigaki Island and Okinawa would be reduced to battle site again. The protests further emphasize the dangerous and wrongful nature of Japan's missile deployment there. Japan had better remind itself that its attempt at possessing the "capability for counterattack" will only incur security crisis upon its own islands and should refrain from such foolish act of presenting itself as the US' cannon fodder in future.

Such horrible crimes as parricide are commonplace in the country as people do not hesitate to kill even their relatives to serve their own interests. Shortly ago, a man set his home on fire to burn his parents and grandmother to death in Nagano, a husband killed his wife in Sapporo and a builder beat his fellow worker to death in Shizuoka. Use of violence against and maltreatment of children and other inhuman acts are being committed ceaselessly.

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International efforts for protecting ecological environment

Having initiated a trial run of two electric motorcycles in February, the country has recently opened a facility for electric motorcycle users for the first time. On March 23, the Singaporean transport authorities approved the trial operation of the facility for charging or replacing batteries of electric motorcycles. Accordingly, they will reportedly test the use of electric motorcycles, batteries and charging equipment with the facility for 12 months at the most. Nigeria is also trying to protect the ecological environment. The Nigerian minister of environment said that despite the enormous benefits of forests, the country suffered great economic

losses from forest destruction, land washout, flood, drought and desertification caused by prolonged increase in deforestation. To solve the problem, it newly organized the national forest credit fund management board for afforestation of the country and to ensure sustainable environment. The mission of the management board is to positively tap financial resources to make the most of forests in the prevention of climate change. The protection of ecological environment is not confined to a certain country, but can bear fruits only when all countries of the world take part in it. The international effort for creating a clean global environment will be further intensified in future.

no more than a scrap of packing paper for embellishing the US' much-touted "public welfare" and "equality of all" and now the racial discrimination that has been handed down to its posterity is rather "flourishing". Today, discrimination against Afro-Americans is not limited to any one or two areas but is prevailing throughout the US society. The average income of black people is 43.8% of white people's and the average property of black families is a tenth of white families'. At schools, white students call black students "Negro" and they play a game of marking price on black students and holding a "slave" auction. Black people are also subjected to racial discrimination in public health services. Owing to the morbid hatred and rejection by the white doctors, the Afro-Americans are 3 times and 1.9 times more likely to be infected and killed by COVID-19 and the death rate of black pregnant and lactating women is

2.6 times as much as their white counterparts' as compared with the year 2021. The discriminative acts against the nonwhite people occurring almost every day in the US clearly demonstrate to the world that the US society is the breeding ground of human rights obliteration and barren land of human rights. Martin Luther King who was the leader of black people in the US said that they wished the racial discrimination would soon be terminated forever in the US society and this country would awaken sometime and truly realize his admonition that it is a self-evident truth that all people will lead a life of equality. Half a century has passed since then, but his desire still remains unfulfilled. All the facts prove that racial discrimination is an inevitable consequence of anti-popular social system of the US and in the country, an "exemplary human rights state" on the verge of explosion, genuine human rights can never be ensured.

Iranian deputy chief of security council critical of West's neocolonial moves

Briefly

China
FM spokesman decries Japan's history distortion
A spokesman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry criticized Japan for distorting history at a press conference on March 29. Answering questions as to the fact that the Japanese Ministry of Education and Science recently deliberated on and adopted the primary school textbooks concealing the crimes Japan committed during its colonial rule, he disclosed that to obscure facts and attenuate and evade past crimes by playing with words is a favourite trick the country often uses to deny and distort its history of aggression and fact. He stressed China strongly demands that Japan take heed of the concern of its neighbouring countries in Asia and the international community and educate younger generations about a correct view on history.

Russia
Deputy chief of security council critical of West's neocolonial moves

Dmitri Medvedev, vice-chairman of the Security Council of Russia, vehemently condemned the West's neocolonial moves in a meeting on March 30. Although the colonial system collapsed, its dangerous vestiges still exist, he said, asserting Western countries that are accustomed to thinking based on the logic of their "particularity" and world supremacy are displeased with the building of a multipolar world.

Iran
US reconnaissance plane forced out from territorial airspace

The Iranian navy said that they checked a US reconnaissance plane's attempt to violate Iran's territorial airspace on April 2. The navy detected reconnaissance plane EP-3E belonging to the US Navy which illegally intruded into the airspace of the country. The US reconnaissance plane was driven out of the airspace after taking a strong warning from the Iranian navy.

IOC
President rejects West's double standards

The President of the International Olympic Committee denounced the West's attempt to bar Russian and Belarus players from participating in the Olympic Games. Speaking at a press conference on March 30, the IOC President censured Western countries for having no regard for the majority opinion and disregarding autonomy in the Olympic movement.

COVID-19
Global situation
According to a foreign news report, 684 340 314 persons contracted novel coronavirus, 6 834 080 died of it and 20 197 247 were undergoing medical treatment in the world as of 24:00 on April 5.

'75 years of improving public health'



Kim Won Il
Deputy department director of the Ministry of Public Health

When the United Nations was founded after the end of WWII, its member nations discussed the issue of setting up an international organization related to public health. The World Health Organization was established on April 7 1948 to meet their demand and April 7 was set as World Health Day in 1950. The WHO's objective is to help all people enjoy the highest standard of health. In the past, the organization provided its member nations with technical cooperation in the field of public health and coordinated cooperation between them to prevent and treat diseases, trained health workers and positively promote research into medical science and public health,

contributing to protecting and improving lives and health of humankind. The WHO also fully discharged its mission and duties to control and manage the spread of COVID-19 which swept the world. For this reason, the UN special agency has set "75 years of improving public health" as the theme for World Health Day of this year marking its 75th anniversary, calling on all member nations to direct efforts to the development of public health. The DPRK gives priority to public health for protecting the lives of people and improving their health and directs a great deal of energies to it. The Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea

held in December 2021 set the main direction of public health for 2022 to providing a sure guarantee for further raising the quality of medical service for the people and assigned the task of concentrating efforts on further consolidating the material and technical foundations of the public health sector. In March the DPRK laws on public health and medical service and others were amended and supplemented with contents which are helpful to protecting the lives of people and improving their health. Projects have been undertaken to build and rebuild all provincial, city and county hospitals of the country, pharmaceutical, medical appliances, medical supplies and Koryo medicine

pharmaceutical factories and preventive and curative medical institutions at all levels. A series of measures have also been taken to build up the ranks of health workers and ensure the domestic production of raw and other materials and medicinal plants needed for the production of medicines and essential medical supplies. And popular and advanced medical service systems including the section doctor system, first-aid service system and telemedicine are run in a more effective way to further improve the quality of medical service for the people. Besides, such events as national sci-tech presentation and exhibition of the anti-epidemic and public health sectors-2022 are widely encouraged to build a solid material and technical foundations of the anti-epidemic and public health sectors by increasing public interest in medical science and technology. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the DPRK's accession to the WHO.

BYWORD

Self-sufficiency

The Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea stressed that the main seed and theme of the new five-year plan for national economic development are, as always, self-reliance and self-sufficiency. Self-reliance is and will always be the invariable

treasured sword for the advance, development, victory and prosperity of the Korean revolution. As they have speeded up the general onward march for a new victory in socialist construction in the face of unprecedented challenges and

difficulties, the Korean people have more firmly engraved in their minds the truth that nothing is impossible for them whatever the ordeals they may face when they advance holding aloft the banner of self-reliance and self-sufficiency.

Today, with the resolution to achieve self-sufficiency in everything, they perform world-startling new miracles and make fresh innovations by turning out as one in the efforts to implement the five-year plan put forward at the Party Congress.

CIVIL SERVANTS' GAMES OF THE YEAR HELD

By Han Kwi Hun PT

The Sports Contest of Officials of National Agencies-2023 took place successfully amid the great expectations and interest of the people arousing enthusiasm for mass-based sports activities.

The contest was palm-sweating all along for both players and spectators as the total rankings changed a lot according to results of each competition and each match.

The final competition of the recent sporting event was the Taekwon-Do competition of group 4, which was held at the Taekwon-Do Hall on Chongchun Street in Pyongyang on March 29.

Group 4 consisted of 12 teams including the Korean Central News Agency, the Radio-Television Broadcasting Committee of the DPRK and the Foreign Languages Publishing House.

Teams of four men and three women competed in such events as team pattern, individual pattern, demonstration and special techniques.

In the team pattern event which was held before others, the FLPH took the first place by displaying rhythmic and flawless movements in high spirits. The KCNA and the Kumsong Youth Publishing House were placed second and third respectively.

Players of the FLPH and the KCNA took the first places in the men's and women's individual patterns respectively after exhibiting the high Taekwon-Do skills they have honed through day-to-day training.

The two teams have been vying for the first place in the Taekwon-Do event every year. Since their scores were very close, the special techniques, the final event, drew serious attention of the spectators.

As the result of this event was to decide the final winner, the players had to undergo great stress.

A female player of the FLPH gave in to the stress and failed in power breaking. Therefore, the KCNA took the first place in the Taekwon-Do event.

The State Planning Commission, the Korean Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries and the Unha Trading Administration took the first places in the Taekwon-Do events of groups 1, 2 and 3 respectively.

In the bowling competition of group 4 held at the Pyongyang Gold Lane on March 29, the Cheyuk Sinmun Offices, the FLPH and the KCNA took the first three places respectively.



Snapshots from Taekwon-Do team pattern (above) and power breaking (below) of the Sports Contest of Officials of National Agencies-2023.

PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES



Historical relic

Pyongyang Bell

By Choe Song Jun PT

There is the Pyongyang Bell with nearly 300-year history between the Taedong Gate and Ryongwang Pavilion on the banks of the picturesque Taedong River in Pyongyang.

As one of the best bells in Korea, it has been regarded as the pride of Pyongyang since early years for its beautiful shape and solemn sound.

Cast and completed in 1726, it is a grand, harmonious and well-balanced bell.

It is 12.914 tons in weight and 3.1 metres high and its mouth is 1.6 metres in diameter.

A Buddhist image, image of Four Devas, cloud patterns and the bell's name are carved on the bell.

Especially, the hook of the bell is in the shape of two dragons and their heads are represented delicately and

vividly.

It shows that the contemporary casting technology was very high in those days.

The sound of the bell, which was inseparably connected with the life of Pyongyang people and served as an important defence signal means in repulsing foreign aggressors, disappeared after the Japanese imperialists occupied Korea militarily in the early 20th century.

However, the Pyongyang Bell came to produce sound again after the birth of a new Korea.

President Kim Il Sung made sure that the bell was tolled at 00:00 on January 1 1946, the first new year's day after Korea's liberation, adding to the Koreans' excitement and delight over the liberation of their country.

At present, the Pyongyang Bell is well preserved under the state's concern.

