

## 2024 a year of joy over house moving

By Ri Sung Ik PT

The year 2024 has witnessed a lot of instances of moving into new houses.

This year the news about house moving has been reported by TV programmes and newspapers one after another throughout the year since the one in the Komdok area, which is turning into a mountain-gorge town unprecedented in history as modern mining villages rose.

People moved into new modern houses at the Kangdong Combined Greenhouse Farm and such happy scenes peculiar to the DPRK unfolded on Rimhung Street in April and Jonwi Street in May.

The news about the ceremonies for moving into

new houses in rural areas was reported almost every day from April to June, and such ceremonies took place in ten days between July 17 and 26 as 14 new rural villages were built and in ten days between September 9 and 18 as 15 others came into being.

There were many days when ceremonies for moving into new houses were held at the same time in a day in lots of rural villages across the country, and such events took place in succession for several days.

The socialist countryside has undergone tremendous changes day after day and month after month, which has struck people with admiration.

The number of rural villages completed throughout the

country has increased in geometric progression this year as compared with the same period of the first and second years of the initiation of the rural revolution programme.

Many farms witnessed the happy events of moving into new houses this year after last year.

Such ceremonies took place repeatedly in the Janggyo Farm in Kangnam County, the Thaephyong Farm in Hyangsan County and the Jangbang Farm in the city of Haeju. The Hyongsan Vegetable Farm in Hyongjesan District in Pyongyang witnessed house moving in March this year and some months after.

As news about house moving was reported throughout the year,

members of many families were provided with houses at the same time to draw the attention of people.

A family received 12 licences for the use of houses in Munam-ri of Pujon County, and parents and children received new houses respectively at the Namyang Farm in Kilju County.

The owners of the new houses kept clean and tidy their nice houses provided by the country free of charge as they conducted the movement for winning the title of a model neighbourhood unit of socialist cultured way of life.

This movement was initiated under the leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea, which has set the fundamental change in the living environment of rural communities as an important

goal of rural development of a Korean style and is being conducted as the work of the masses themselves. It is a patriotic and revolutionary movement to train all the agricultural workers to be genuine communists along with the rapid development of the countryside.

According to data available, more than 210 neighbourhood units won the title of model neighbourhood unit of socialist cultured way of life in rural areas across the country by October after the first winners of the honour came into being in March.

Neighbourhood units Nos. 20 and 22 in Jangchon-ri of Sadong District, Pyongyang, which were the first to be honoured with the title this year, are overflowing with warm affection and the trait

of helping and caring for one another and also do farming well by their concerted efforts.

The agricultural workers, who became owners of new houses and villages like them, kept tidy and clean their excellent new houses provided by the state gratis, and planted many trees of good species, fruit trees, flowering shrubs and ground-cover plants in their yards and villages to add beauty to their villages.

It is the unanimous belief of agricultural workers that only those who keep their houses and villages neat and tidy, bearing deep in mind the benevolence of the Party and the state that provided them with a cradle of happiness, cultivate fields with sincerity and reap a rich harvest.

## Russian ambassador to DPRK hosts reception on occasion of the ratification of the Treaty on Comprehensive Strategic Partnership

KCNA

Russian Ambassador to the DPRK Alexandr Matsegora hosted a reception on December 10 on the occasion of the ratification of the Treaty on Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation.

Present there at invitation were Choe Ryong Hae, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and chairman of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly, Ri Il Hwan, secretary of the WPK

Central Committee, Choe Son Hui, foreign minister of the DPRK, Jong Kyong Thack, director of the General Political Bureau of the Korean People's Army, Kim Yo Jong, deputy department director of the WPK Central Committee, and officials concerned.

Staff members of the Russian embassy were on hand.

Alexandr Matsegora made a speech at the reception.

Saying that they met to celebrate an important event which will play a historic part in the relations between Russia and the DPRK, he noted that the treaty has come into effect as the ratification instruments of the Treaty on

Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the Russian Federation and the DPRK were exchanged on December 4.

He said that Russia and the DPRK have strived for putting the bilateral friendly relations on a level of perfect alliance out of necessity to establish a new global order based on the fundamental interests of the two countries and their peoples, maintenance of peace and security in Eurasia and justice and equality of all countries. And he called for supporting each other and realizing the reciprocal cooperation in all sectors, including politics, the economy, culture and military affairs,

in keeping with the new treaty.

Saying that the meetings of the top leaders of the two countries in Vladivostok, the Vostochny Spaceport and Pyongyang deepened their friendly relations and mutual trust and enriched the genuine fraternal character and militant friendship between Russia and the DPRK, he expressed thanks to the DPRK people's solidarity and absolute support for Russia.

The effectuation of the new treaty between the Russian Federation and the DPRK is a great event that gives pleasure to friends and uneasiness and horror to the enemies, he stressed.

Then, Choe Son Hui made

a speech.

She said that the birth of the new inter-state treaty, which set the strategic path to be followed by the two countries and boosts the conviction in its victory at a time when the DPRK-Russia relations face an important turning point in their development, is a brilliant fruition of the outstanding foresight, political will and decision of the heads of state of the two countries.

The treaty serves as a driving force for realizing the far-reaching plan of the state leaderships of the two countries and the desire of the two peoples to put the bilateral relations on a new strategic level and build

powerful states while firmly defending the regional and global security environment in conformity with the common interests, she noted.

She clarified the invariable stand of the DPRK government to closely and multilaterally cooperate with Russia in all fields in the spirit of the treaty and achieve the lasting development of the DPRK-Russia friendly relations, true to the noble intention of heads of state of the two countries.

She expressed belief that the heroic Russian army and people would achieve victory in their just cause of defending the sovereign rights and security of the country and building an independent multi-polar world by closely uniting around the respected President Putin.

The participants toasted the health of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un and the health of Comrade Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin and the steady development of the traditional relations of friendship and cooperation between the peoples of the two countries.



Russian Ambassador to the DPRK Alexandr Matsegora hosts a reception on December 10.

# Premier Kim inspects Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex, the Taean Heavy Machine Complex and other industrial establishments



Premier Kim Tok Hun (first from the left) learns about the updating of the Sariwon Tractor Parts 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, inspected the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex, the Taean Heavy Machine Complex and the Sariwon Tinning Factory.

Going round the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex, he stressed the

need for it to conduct the trial run of the newly-built energy-saving oxygen heat blast furnace scientifically and technologically, so as to make a substantial contribution to the development of the country's metallurgical industry and the strengthening of the production foundations of the complex, and to steadily raise the practicality and efficiency of the establishment of the overall production process of the complex and its management system in line with the trend

of metallurgical technology development and complete the planned readjustment and reinforcement as soon as possible.

At the Taean Heavy Machine Complex, he said that officials should further improve their leadership abilities to unconditionally carry out the task for the production of custom-built equipment this year and repair industrial buildings in a substantial way.

At the Sariwon Tinning Factory, he called for positively introducing

innovative methods to raise the plating technology to an advanced level and taking practical measures to consolidate the material and technical foundations of the factory.

The field consultative meetings discussed the issue of concentrating efforts and means on strengthening and perfecting the existing production foundation by increasing the technical power of the relevant units and successfully completing the project for putting the production lines on a Juche basis, the issue of boosting the production of iron and steel, lowering the production costs and steadily introducing Korean-style iron-producing technology, the issue of directing steady efforts to improving the working and living conditions of employees, and others.

Meanwhile, the premier learned about the updating of the Sariwon Tractor Parts Factory and discussed such issues as the supply of equipment, and the passing-on-technique and organized relevant work.

## 'Korean clothing practice' put on list of global ICH

KCNA

The 19th Session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of the UNESCO recently held in Paraguay adopted with unanimous approval a resolution on putting the "Korean clothing practice", an element of the Korean nation's excellent cultural heritage, on the Representative List of ICH of Humanity.

The practice, which reflects the Koreans' sentiment,

feelings and ways of life, holds a special place in the excellent cultural heritage created by their ancestors and Korean clothes are widely known worldwide for their distinctive styles and beauty.

Thus five elements of the Korean cultural heritage have been put on the Representative List of ICH of Humanity, namely the folk song Arirang, the kimchi-making practice, *ssirum*(Korean wrestling) and the practice of making Pyongyang cold noodles, plus the Korean clothing practice.

## Projects completed

KCNA

### Sariwon Schoolchildren's Palace inaugurated

The Sariwon Schoolchildren's Palace has newly been built in the DPRK.

An inauguration ceremony of the palace took place on December 10.

Present there were Pak Chang Ho, chief secretary of the North Hwanghae Provincial Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, officials concerned, builders, teaching staff and schoolchildren of the palace.

Kim Il Hwan, vice-chairman of the provincial people's committee, addressed the ceremony.

### Condiments factory inaugurated in Wonsan

A condiments factory has been built in Wonsan, Kangwon Province.

Its inaugural ceremony took place on the spot on December 9.

It was attended by Paek Song Guk, chief secretary of the provincial Party committee, officials and working people in the province and employees of the factory.

Kim Kwang Chol, vice-chairman of the provincial people's committee, made an inaugural address.

### Instant noodles factory inaugurated in Sariwon

The Sariwon Instant Noodles Factory has been built in North Hwanghae Province.

Equipped with modern facilities, the factory ensures hygienic safety in production processes. It has a sci-tech learning space and cultural and welfare facilities needed for the production of goods and cultural life of working people.

Its inauguration ceremony took place on the spot on December 9.

Present there were Mun

Chang Il, secretary of the North Hwanghae Provincial Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, officials and builders in the province and factory employees.

Kim Il Hwan, vice-chairman of the provincial people's committee, delivered an inaugural address.

### Instant noodles factory inaugurated in Nampho

An instant noodles factory has been built in Nampho Municipality.

The factory, with production lines automated and hygienic safety guaranteed, has modern production equipment in the processes of water purification, instant noodle production and condiment production and cultural and welfare facilities for its employees.

The inauguration ceremony of the factory took place on the spot on December 6.

Present there were Ri Jae Nam, chief secretary of the municipal committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, officials of the municipality, builders and employees of the factory.

Song Sung Chol, chairman of the municipal people's committee, made an inaugural address.

### Sanatorium renovated in Rason

The Chonghak Sanatorium has been renovated in Rason Municipality.

The sanatorium, located at the foot of picturesque Mt Chonghak, is furnished with all conditions and environment for treating various diseases such as chronic gastritis and rheumatoid arthritis by using the Chonghak mineral water.

Sin Yong Chol, chief secretary of the Rason Municipal Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, and officials in the municipality looked round the remodelled sanatorium.

## Carriers launched to transport cement to mountainous counties

KCNA

A fleet of cargo ships was formed to transport cement to the mountainous counties of North Phyongan and Jagang provinces near Lake Suphung amid the vigorous drive for the revolution for regional development and rural construction across the DPRK according to the grand blueprint of the Workers' Party of Korea.

The newly-built cargo ships "Jinhung-1", "Jinhung-2" and "Jinhung-3" and the excavation ship "Jinhung-4" were launched.

A launching ceremony took place on the spot on December 8.

Present there were Kang Jong Gwan, minister of Land and Maritime Transport, Ri Hi Yong, chief secretary of the North Phyongan Provincial Committee of the WPK, officials of the Ministry of Land and Maritime Transport and North Phyongan and Jagang provinces, employees of the Sinuiju Shipbuilding Yard

and the Suphung Maritime Transport Company and working people in Sakju County.

Choe Yong Man, chairman of the North Phyongan Provincial People's Committee, made an address to be followed by speeches.

They said that the formation of the transport fleet in Lake Suphung has made it possible for the areas around the lake, which transported cement and other building materials along the long overland route, to use convenient water transport

and provided practical conditions for accelerating the rural development by making effective use of the regional features.

At the end of the launching ceremony, the cargo ships filled with cement left a port with a loud whistle.



A launching ceremony of the cargo ships for transporting cement takes place on the spot on December 8.

# Long journey of devotion to people

By **Pang Un Ju** PT

In December when a deep yearning for Chairman Kim Jong Il permeates the whole country, the Korean people recollect with profound reverence the long journey of devotion to the people of him who dedicated his whole life to the country and the people.

More than 669 844 kilometres!

This figure, which is equivalent to the travel around the earth nearly 17 times, is the total distance of the field inspection tour made by the Chairman till the last moments of his revolutionary life.

He visited over 14 290 units all his life.

The history of his revolutionary leadership spanning half a century

began with his going among the people and was consistent with love for and devotion to them.

It was his patriotic creed that the country and the motherland are unthinkable apart from the people, and he always cherished his beloved people in his mind.

He formulated the lines and policies by comprehensively incorporating the will and demands of the masses of the people and always shared joy and sorrow with them. And whenever the country was in hard times, he went among the people and gave confidence and courage to them.

His energetic field guidance tour to meet the people brought about miracles and changes in

the annals of the country including the 1960s when a milestone was provided for epochal change in the building and activities of the Workers' Party of Korea and the 1970s and the 1980s of creation and change.

The Korean people still vividly remember the unprecedented forced march for field guidance made by the Chairman at the time when the country suffered severe difficulties.

He unfolded a grand blueprint for building a thriving nation no one had ever imagined during the Arduous March, a hard time for the Korean people when everything was in short supply, and continued a high-intensity forced march for economic construction and the improvement of the

people's living standards.

He visited the construction sites of power stations, metallurgical and machine-building bases, mines, smelteries, light industrial factories, fruit, livestock and fish farming bases again and again despite the severe cold and sweltering heat, leaving his footprints on every nook and cranny of the country.

Everywhere he went he came up with ambitious plans for operations, set high goals continuously and indicated bright ideas and methodology for creating miracles. His energetic leadership brought about great innovations and leaps forward across the country.

Thanks to the long journey of devotion he continued without rest while fighting extreme mental and

physical fatigue, the torch of a new revolutionary upsurge was lit and the flames of industrial revolution in the new century ignited, the dignity and national power of the country were further demonstrated and the dreams and ideals of the people came true.

With a plan to glorify 2012 marking the centenary of the birth of President Kim Il Sung as a year of victory to be specially recorded in the history of building a powerful socialist country, he continued his forced train journey to travel tens of thousands of kilometres and to visit nearly 1 000 units and sow the seeds of prosperity and happiness in the last three years of his revolutionary life.

He also spent December

2011, the last month of his great life, under such strain.

On the first Sunday of December he visited the Amusement Park of Kaeson Youth Park and gave officials valuable instructions, looking round the amusement facilities. He visited a music information centre and the Kwangbok Area Supermarket on December 15 and found himself on the people-bound train on December 17, the last day of his life.

The Korean people will always remember that the long journey of devotion to the people he made all his life led to a powerful socialist Korea and happy life enjoyed by them today and guarantees the bright future and eternal victory on this land.

## Gifts associated with sincerity of world's progressives

By **Kil Chung Il** PT

### Wooden craftwork "House and pine"

It is a gift sent to Chairman Kim Jong Il by the secretary general of the international cultural exchange association in January 1992 on the occasion of the 50th birthday of the Chairman.

Out of boundless reverence for Kim Jong Il, who was leading the socialist cause to victory, he made up his mind to present a gift to him and asked a renowned craftsman to make the

craftwork on the highest level.

The gift represents pine trees, a symbol of longevity, and a cosy house, and is inscribed with the words "To dear leader Comrade Kim Jong Il on the occasion of your 50th birthday".

### Memorial torch tower

The chairman of the Portuguese Central Committee for the Study of Kimilsungism presented the gift to Chairman Kim Jong Il in February 1982 during his visit to the DPRK.

It is said that he made much effort to personally make the model of the tower with the help of a master craftsman.

It reflects his sincere desire to praise the immortal exploits of Kim Jong Il, who was leading the Korean revolution and world revolution along the road of victory with energetic ideological and theoretical activities and gigantic revolutionary practice. The national flag of the DPRK and a picture of the Chollima Statue attached to the tower show in a concentrated

way his conviction that the DPRK was making a vigorous advance in the spirit of Chollima spurred on by the speed campaign under the wise leadership of Kim Jong Il to shine brilliantly as a beacon of hope in the hearts of the world progressive peoples.

As he handed over the gift, he said: "It is the duty of all adherents of Kimilsungism to revere and follow the great His Excellency Kim Jong Il. It is a great honour for me to present this humble gift to him on the occasion of his birthday."

## Revolutionary anecdote

### Ullim Falls tell

By **To Kyong Chol** PT

In August 2001, the Korean People's Army soldiers made a report to Chairman Kim Jong Il on the completion of a project after building a road over the Ullim Pass and discovering Ullim Falls.

Receiving the report on his foreign tour, he was very pleased that he was able to make a present of another scenic spot to the people who turned out in the building of a powerful socialist country. And he visited the area of Ullim Pass soon after returning home from foreign tour.

Following the road along the bends of the pass, he arrived at the entrance of the valley of Ullim Falls and climbed the observation platform.

The scenery of the valley of Ullim Falls is very beautiful, he said. And he was so satisfied he said that he was very pleased that the people would visit it to see the valley of Ullim Falls which present the scenery beyond description.

He looked round the valley of the Ullim Falls that day and said he was very pleased with

the fact that another precious gift was provided for the people, highly praising the feats performed by the KPA service personnel.

Later, a foreign political activist gave vent to his impression after visiting the Ullim scenic spot, saying he had never seen such a mysteriously well-knit natural scenery as the scenic spot of Ullim before.

When such spectacular scenic spots are discovered in our country, they will naturally become the sites for the President's special palace or summer resort and ordinary people cannot even think of visiting them, he noted. But Chairman Kim Jong Il, the great leader of the DPRK, sees to it that scenic spots are discovered and visiting routes and public service facilities built and their landscapes improved by investing a huge sum of money and manpower and makes a present of them to the people free of charge, he said, adding DPRK leader Kim Jong Il is the greatest man in the world who puts forward the people as heaven.



Wooden craftwork "House and pine".



Memorial torch tower.

# Let's go to Mt Paektu



By Jong Chol PT

Study tour groups are streaming to Mt Paektu where the Korean revolution started.

President Kim Il Sung led the arduous and fierce anti-Japanese armed struggle to victory, centring on the mountain, to achieve the historic cause of Korea's liberation and establish the great revolutionary tradition to be reliably carried forward by the Korean people for ever.

According to data available, more than 1 000 officials and working people of dozens of units toured the revolutionary battle sites in the Mt Paektu area in early November, when the study

tour in the winter of this year started.

Teachers and students of the Central Cadres Training School of the Workers' Party of Korea took the lead in the study tour.

Party schools at all levels, including the Pyongyang municipal, ministry of Railways and Nampho municipal Party schools, also toured the sites.

Enthusiasm for the tour is growing in ministries and national agencies as well.

Officials and civil servants of ministries and national agencies including the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of External Economic Relations, officials of the WPK Committee of the Pyongyang Construction

Commission and Party and administrative officials of many units, including the Taesong Ceramic Factory and the Pyongyang Building Stone Factory, participated in the winter study tour of the sites. During the tour, they also studied and held a question-and-answer study contest about the immortal revolutionary exploits performed by the President in all battle sites of the bloody anti-Japanese war and the revolutionary traditions of the WPK.

Officials in the field of revolutionary relics preservation across the country, too, went on the march to Mt Paektu to look round the sites of the bloody battles fought by the anti-

Japanese revolutionary fighters, bearing deeper in mind the firm resolution and unshakable will to follow the road of revolution to the end under the guidance of the Party and intensifying the study of the methodological issues for sprucing up the revolutionary battle and other sites in their original state and preserving them in a scientific and technological way.

Young people from across the country toured the revolutionary battle sites in the Mt Paektu area with a high zeal to glorify the noble name of socialist patriotic youth and successfully carry forward and accomplish the revolutionary cause of Juche pioneered in the mountain.

During the study tour, they had gatherings for hearing impressions about the reminiscences of anti-Japanese guerrillas and question-and-answer study contests.

According to information available, more than 3 000 study tour groups and over 150 000 officials, working people, People's Army men and officers and schoolchildren have toured the revolutionary battle sites in the Mt Paektu area for the past five years since the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un made a field inspection tour of the sites on horseback between November 30 and December 2 in 2019.

The study tourists say, "The winter study tour of Mt Paektu constitutes a shortcut to making the history of the bloody anti-Japanese struggle a real-life experience of people in our era and the eternal breath of the revolution, not letting it remain as lines of the reminiscences or the memories of the old days," and "I've realized exactly how influential climbing Mt Paektu once in the blizzards of winter is instead of reading a book on the faith and will of a revolutionary as many times as possible in a warm room."

The number of the study tourists to the revolutionary battle sites in the Mt Paektu area keeps increasing.



Study tour groups flow to Mt Paektu where the Korean revolution started from across the country.

# Readjustment and reinforcement dynamically pushed to reenergize production

By Kim Il Jin PT

Now, all sectors and units of the national economy step up the implementation of the readjustment and reinforcement projects.

The leading iron and steel producers of the country concentrate all efforts on achieving their readjustment and reinforcement goals.

The Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex carried out technical reconstruction projects of various systems including the modernization of the floating system on the basis of the foundations laid and experience gained in the past, finishing the intensive repair of an energy-saving oxygen blast furnace over a dozen days earlier than scheduled and expanding successes in production. At the same time, it strives to build the foundations to increase the output of rolled steel by pressing on stage by stage with the repair of the oxygen plant to raise the oxygen production capacity a level higher.

Recently, the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex has started the trial run of each system of the energy-saving oxygen blast furnace. The complex now focuses on the laying of the foundations for the production of iron and steel.

To further expand the Juche-based iron-making system the Chollima Steel Complex has already finished the construction work and the building of the industrial water system and ladle refining furnace

in a short period of time and completed the assembly of a continuous casting machine, and is now pushing ahead with the building of a new UHP electric arc furnace and an electrode production base with the capacity of thousands of tons.

The Chongjin Steel Works is now effectively carrying out the overhaul of the large rotary kiln and the Posan Iron Works makes a trial operation of each system and section in collaboration with relevant units after finishing the overhaul of the drying furnace of the pulverized coal system.

The February 8 Vinalon Complex gives powerful impetus to its readjustment and reinforcement.

The complex has undertaken the capacity expansion project for increasing the output of carbide at the final stage. The test run of it is just near at hand.

And the complex finds out methods to raise the production efficiency to the maximum and updates technical indexes after checking the vinalon production system and the whole processes of producing sodium hydroxide and vinyl chloride several times.

The electric-power industry sector also works hard to expand the successes in readjustment and reinforcement.

The Pukchang Thermal Power Complex restored the performance of generator No. 3, which is of key importance in its production,

to its original state and is now stepping up the modernization scheme.

When the Pyongyang Thermal Power Station increases the output of electric power by additionally installing a turbine generator in time, the East Pyongyang and Sunchon thermal power stations overhauled boilers and turbines qualitatively, providing a firm guarantee for the normalization of production.

Hydroelectric power stations in various parts of the country forge ahead with readjustment and reinforcement to boost the power production.

The Thacchon Power Station removed a large amount of sediments to ensure a high water level and the Suphung Power Station repaired the large transformer by its own efforts, supplying quality electricity to various sectors of the national economy.

The Sodusu Power Station technically remodelled parts of generating facilities, contributing to the sustainable and stable development of power production. In particular, it made and introduced different kinds of measuring instruments and several X-type hydraulic turbines to generate more electric power with the same amount of water.

The power distribution stations in provinces, cities and counties work to further perfect the national integrated power control system which was already built.

# Compressor production plans fulfilled

By Ri Sang Il PT

The Ryongsong Machine Complex, which created the Chollima spirit of the new era, carried out its plan for the production of compressors to be sent to different sectors.

According to data available, the complex successfully finished the production of hundreds of efficient compressors for the coal industry till the end of June and recently did the production of an air compressor for the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex, a leading metallurgical base of the country.

The compressor is a large precision machine whose number of revolution is over ten times higher than those of the large compressors which attracted the attention of the

people of the whole country last year.

The completion of the machine has provided a sure guarantee for normalizing the operation of the newly installed energy oxygen blast furnace at the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex to produce larger quantities of iron and steel essential for developing the economy and improving the people's standards of living.

This year the complex has pushed ahead with the production of the air compressor conducive to putting the metallurgical industry on a Juche basis, although its custom-built equipment production assignments increased as never before.

It finished the assembly of the main body of the compressor in a matter of ten

days, which was believed to take more than one month in the past, while holding fast to the definite improvement of the quality of products as a crucial link.

The Songun Foundry produced tens of tons of castings perfect in terms of technology and smooth in shape while applying rational plans capable of steadily shortening the melting time per charge and further improving the method of combustion pattern moulding.

And technicians and skilled workers in the section of large machine tool production of the complex have successfully fulfilled their monthly and quarterly production plans by introducing in succession inventions for processing any large parts flawlessly and by increasing the time of equipment operation.

# Innovations made in custom-built equipment production

By Pak Song Min PT

The Taean Heavy Machine Complex is successful in the production of custom-built equipment for major fronts of economic construction.

This year the complex finished the production of custom-built equipment needed for modernizing the production lines of the Posan Iron Works and manufactured a ladle crane to be sent to the Chollima Steel Complex and a large pressure motor needed for the readjustment and reinforcement of the Hungnam Fertilizer Complex on a high qualitative level.

It also dynamically pushed

ahead with production by dint of a mass technical innovation campaign while ensuring well-knit scheduling of production processes now that the variety and output of custom-built equipment have increased considerably as compared to the previous period.

The processing, assembly and pipe-making sections employed efficient jigs and tools and developed and introduced valuable technical innovation plans to further improve the quality of products and increase productivity.

As the complex finished custom-built equipment production tasks in succession,

a guarantee was provided for major sectors of the national economy to satisfactorily finish readjustment and reinforcement within this year.

The Taean Electrical Appliances Factory under the complex produced and supplied electrical equipment urgently needed by all sectors of the national economy on schedule.

The factory made innovations in the production of electrical equipment day after day while tapping internal reserves, promoting cooperation between production processes and ensuring full operation of equipment.

# Children's commodity exhibition held

By Han Jong Ho PT

A children's commodity exhibition ran at the Pyongyang Children's Department Store from November 29 to December 6.

"The recent children's commodity show of the Pyongyang Children's Department Store, which was held for the third time after 2019, was aimed at further raising the competitive spirit among units to develop and produce larger quantities of goods of diverse kinds and higher quality favoured by children," said Kim Kwang Su, section chief of the Ministry of Commerce.

The exhibition drew at least 220 units across the country. On display there were more than 281 800 goods of 680-odd kinds, including school things, foodstuffs, shoes and toys presented by the Mindulle Notebook Factory,

the Pyongyang Wheat Flour Processing Factory, the Wonsan Leather Shoes Factory, the Hamhung Disabled Soldiers' Essential Plastic Goods Factory and other units.

Many units exhibited goods for children which were developed and produced to suit children's minds and help them develop intelligent faculties.

Shoes for toddlers attracted interest of many mothers of babies. They were made with paper mulberry and hemp papers. The paper mulberry paper is soft to skin, so they are convenient to wear. And unlike ordinary papers, it is tough and has a good keeping quality. So it can be kept for a long time as a souvenir of the family.

The "Alsim(latent energy)"-brand toys gained in popularity again in the exhibition as they did in the past.

A big coloured ball

depicting rainbow and various toys in the shape of dolphin, penguin, raccoon dog, rabbit and chick so fascinated the children and their parents visiting the show that they bought them competitively. Particularly, the newly-exhibited toy dinosaur punchbag was very popular with little boys.

The foodstuff booth was

always crowded with visitors.

Milk cake and milk cream sandwich cake made with pure cow's milk and various kinds of jelly and chips, orange sponge cake and peanut cake made with fruits and wild fruits and other foodstuffs fully reflected the zeal of producers to make foodstuffs more diversely to meet the taste of children by

calculating nutritive values.

The furniture booth on the second floor lured many visitors as it was decorated mainly with children's furniture including bed and mirror stand and various kinds of toys to make them feel a family atmosphere.

On show there were many functional goods conducive to the growth of children.

The natural supplementary health foods were in great demand as they are not only highly effective in helping children in their growth period grow tall, but also improve digestive functions and make them sleep well.

Also popular at the exhibition were gem cutting craftworks, bags and bedding for children.



Exhibits draw the attention of both children and their parents. WON TONG CHOL/THE PYONGYANG TIMES

# Winners of Communist Mother Honour Prize

## Mother of two hero sons



By Sin Pyol PT

If one of a mother's children becomes a hero, the mother will be proud before society.

But Choe Ok Ae, a woman living in neighbourhood unit No. 86 in Munsin-dong No. 1 of Tongdaewon District in

Pyongyang, takes unusual pride in having brought up her two sons into heroes.

The eldest son became a Labour Hero when he was 38 by successfully completing the design of the climbing path of Mt Myohyang while working as a designer of the Pyongyang Urban Planning and Designing Institute.

The second son is one of the five officers who were awarded the titles of Labour Hero by the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un during his guidance of the Fourth Conference of Company Commanders and Political Instructors of the Korean People's Army.

Choe Ok Ae paid special attention to making her children become kind-

hearted and honest and love and care for their friends in their childhood.

She was always the first to concede in her husband's favour to make their home filled with warm affection. And whenever their children were to go on school trips, she prepared delicious foods for them, telling them to share them with their friends.

She worked as a designer all her life.

Back home after a day's work, she would look after her children before holding out a design again. After her husband, who was a designer like her, died, she invariably worked hard while dealing with all household chores. This served as a good example that taught the

children to tirelessly think and study to fulfil their duties and be upright and devoted to the country.

When her second son, who had become a commanding officer after graduating from a military academy, set out to do various projects for improving the soldiers' dietary life, she carefully examined the designs of the buildings to be built and gave him unstinting advice.

"When I was diagnosed as being unable to serve the army any longer, my mother's strict demand and encouragement inspired me to take up my post again and have the honour of becoming a hero. I want to present my hero medal to my mother," said the second son.

## Patriotic woman places state affairs ahead of family affairs

By Hwang Jong Ryol PT

Choe Jong Sun, resident of Ryonbong-dong in Sunchon, South Phyongan Province, is a patriotic woman who got all of her five daughters to become soldiers.

In their childhood, her daughters were good at their studies and singing. She had a precious dream of bringing them up as scientists and artists.

However, at the news of Chairman Kim Jong Il's field guidance at the Dwarf Pine Post of the Korean People's Army, aimed at safeguarding the destiny of the country and people, on the morning of New Year's Day in 1995, the year after the sudden loss of President Kim Il Sung, she changed her mind and made herself up to raise them to be soldiers.

While paying close attention to their studies and life, she encouraged them to be physically strong and implanted in their minds the preciousness of the country on various occasions.

The children trained their bodies and minds in those days and joined the army one after another after finishing middle school. The number of certificates of enlistment increased and the news came



that they performed their military service well, and thereby her family was called "family of soldiers".

Choe was a hard worker at job and has assisted the army for a long period. She also encouraged her daughters, who had returned home after their demob, to become labour innovators at their work.

To set an example to her children, she did many good things for the prosperity of the country even after retirement and led them to assist the army like her.

Under the concern of their mother who put national defence before their family affairs, they developed a deeper love for the country.

The country invited Choe Jong Sun as a delegate to the fourth and fifth national conferences of mothers and put her forward as a communist mother.

## A model mother for two sons



By Ryom Un Gyong PT

Jon Kwang Nam is a DPRK Hero who died a heroic death after saving his comrades-in-arms in an unexpected situation during a military training. He is the first son of Kim Chun Nyo living in the county town of

Kumya.

Her second son Jon Kwang Ryol also devoted himself without hesitation when he faced an unexpected danger during the period of his military service, to become an honoured disabled soldier.

Hearing about the laudable deeds of them who grew up to be proud sons of the country, the people who know Kim Chun Nyo unanimously say that as like begets like, it is natural for her sons who received excellent family education to perform such heroic deeds.

Whenever Kim remembers her eldest son, she opens his diary, which says:

"Today in the Korean language class the teacher

told us to write sentences with the word 'patriot'. Recalling the names of famous heroes in the country, I was busy writing sentences. After looking at my notebook for a while, the teacher said that patriots are not special people and my parents who do their jobs of keeping the railways faithfully rain or shine are also patriots. I was very glad to hear him saying that my father and mother are patriots, whom I tried to find in other places."

Her sons saw the looks of patriot in their parents and cultivated love for the country.

During the Arduous March, a hard time for the country, Kim Chun Nyo volunteered for service in

the railway workteam to which her husband belonged and worked faithfully taking charge of a railway section.

The devoted service of their mother taught her children how they should live their life without a word.

On the night of the day before they joined the army, Kim Chun Nyo said to them that only those people who devote their all to the work needed for the country can become heroes who lay down their lives for the country without hesitation.

As they did their military service with loyalty keeping the true meaning of her words in minds, her two sons could become laudable sons the country boasts of.

## Unknown 'girl mother'

By Kim Hak Chol PT

So Yun Ok, a woman living in Songgyungwan-dong, Kaesong, is an uncommon mother who began to adopt and bring up orphans in her girlhood more than 50 years ago.

At that time she was distinguishing herself as a girl innovator at a mine in South Hamgyong Province. One day during the morning rush hour, a strange boy looked at Yun Ok attentively.

She asked him why, then he said he remembered seeing her photo pasted on the bulletin board of the mine. The boy who had lost his parents by accident came to the mine village to stay with his distant relatives, but as he failed to meet them, he was on his way back home. After hearing him, Yun Ok could hardly leave him.

Having been living with her two little brothers since their parents died when she was very young, she asked

the boy if he would live with her.

Then he threw himself into her arms.

Yun Ok thus became a "girl mother" at the age of 16. Later, she adopted the children of a miner who died while working with her.

She still went on to work hard as an innovator while looking after five children including her own brothers, and she had the honour of being admitted to the Workers' Party of Korea in her twenties.

Her devotion to and affection for the children were quite sincere. Thus they all grew up well to join the army to defend the country. In those days she married an army officer, and she took maternal care of the soldiers before giving birth to a child.

In the hard times, even after adopting another eight orphans, she would sleep in peace only after giving a handful of rice to any needy person. One day one of her adopted children asked her

why she helped others though they were not well off.

Yun Ok replied, "It is a human being who regards others' pain as his own and helps others in difficulties."

Her true and pure sincerity just served as nourishment for the characters and patriotism of the children.

Her children grew up learning how to support and love the country, as they witnessed her decades of selfless devotion to the orphaned children, and now



they all work hard faithfully and honestly at their posts.

# National short dance contest held

By Ri Sung Ik PT

The national short dance contest took place at the Pyongyang Grand Theatre on November 6.

Presented to the contest, the focus being on national dances, were dance pieces produced by central art troupes, including the Phibada Opera Troupe and the National Folk Art Troupe, and other art troupes from North Hwanghae Province, Nampho and all other provinces and cities.

Kang Ok Ju, an official of the Ministry of Culture, said that the contest was aimed at further developing national music and dance, adding that all participating troupes should sustain the national character and also reflect unique and original ideas in the five to eight minutes' dance pieces.

The jury included the secretary general of the Dancers Union of the Central Committee of the General Federation of the Unions of Korea, officials in the relevant field and dance experts of prestigious central art troupes.

The art troupes put on stage dance pieces, though short but clear in their characteristics.

The South Hwanghae Provincial Art Troupe and other provincial art troupes

depicted the delight in reaping the bumper harvest in their works and the Nampho Municipal Art Troupe showed in a quartet dance with light rhythms a happy house-moving scene unfolded in the era when local areas were changing.

The Kaesong Municipal Art Troupe depicted the

famous Pagon Falls in Kaesong with elegant dance rhythms, and the Kangwon Provincial Art Troupe put on stage a female group dance with light rhythms a happy house-moving scene unfolded in the era when local areas were changing.

Fatherland Liberation War.

In the contest dancers of the Phibada Opera Troupe and the National Folk Art Troupe displayed their features befitting those from prestigious art troupes.

The National Folk Art Troupe depicted in one dance the joy of gathering a bumper harvest with charming and

graceful movements peculiar to the Korean dance to the tune of interesting *Song of Rich Harvest*. And *Fan Dance*, a representative Korean folk dance, performed to the tune of the famous folk song *Yangsando*, added to the artistic quality of the work.

Artistes of the Phibada Opera Troupe staged a lively

and light drum dance in the form of a mixed group dance.

The jury highly appreciated the Phibada Opera Troupe and the Kangwon Provincial Art Troupe in the categories of central art troupes and local art troupes respectively, and the ballet *A Girl Picking Apples* of the Phibada Opera Troupe in the category of ballet.



Scenes of the national short dance contest held at the Pyongyang Grand Theatre. JO RYONG/THE PYONGYANG TIMES

## Famous cooks of Okryu Restaurant

By Pang Un Ju PT

Paek Kun Sil and U Yun Song are the best cooks among those at the Okryu Restaurant, a public catering service base on the banks of the picturesque Taedong River.

### Proficient cook

Paek Kun Sil, who has been working at the restaurant for over 20 years since her girlhood after graduating



Paek Kun Sil

from the then Pyongyang foodstuff and cooking college, is a renowned cook

who can make any dish skilfully.

The leader of the cooking workteam has devoted all her thinking, passion and labour to processing dishes.

So, she swiftly presents any foods, be they meat, vegetable and fish dishes, which are perfect in flavour and pleasing to the eye, once she picks up necessary materials.

Since two years after she began to work as a cook, she has taken part in various cooking festivals and cuisine contests every year to take first place more than ten times. She invented new tasty dishes like sturgeon fin soup and sturgeon tendon soup.

"Cooking is art and science. Excellent dishes come of much effort and sincerity devoted to processing," Paek always tells her workteam members.

According to her fellow cooks, Paek has the special ability to make mung-bean pancake, one of the four famous foods of Pyongyang favoured by the Korean people. They say they are no match to her in making yellowish and crisp mung-bean pancake

that tastes and smells nice.

She was awarded the title of master cook in March 2023.

### Master hand at fish dishes

U Yun Song in his early forties has unusual skills in fish cooking.



U Yun Song

His yardsticks for dishes are those that are good for digestion, that fully satisfy nutritional requirements and that are appealing to the eye.

His specialities include cold steamed sturgeon, soy sauce steamed sturgeon, roast eel, cold steamed catfish and rainbow trout hard-boiled with fragrant vegetables.

Among them, soy sauce steamed sturgeon is in great demand.

The food is prepared by pouring the warm oil sauce soaked with the aroma of Welsh onion over a slightly-salted and steamed sturgeon and served by garnishing it with coriander. It is an haute cuisine with the unique mixed flavour of soy sauce and coriander penetrating into the white tender flesh.

Saying that it is one of the cooking recipes to keep the standard time in steaming the fish, U Yun Song added that if the time is exceeded even a bit, sturgeon flesh becomes tough to spoil the taste.

He has won several top diplomas and gold medals at annual cooking festivals since 2013.

In April this year, he presented lobster jelly and fruit salad to the 27th national cooking festival to be highly appreciated by the jury.

## Fort in Suan scientifically elucidated as having been built in period of Koguryo

KCNA

Researchers of the Academy of Social Sciences carried out an in-depth survey of the Tudaedong Fort in the area of Ryonghyon-ri, Suan County, North Hwanghae Province.

The fort looks like a gourd in plane figure and its walls are 1 500 metres in circumference. After vertically cutting an incline of a mountain and evenly levelling the bottom, well-trimmed basalt stones were stuck in the outer face construction method with the mountain ridge as the support.

Each basalt stone of the walls sticks out at the middle of the front, its four corners are roundish and its root is pointed, which shows that it is a typical stone of Koguryo fort. It is 25-30cm wide, 22-30cm high and 35-40cm long.

As for the wall-building style, the lower part was erected in tiers from the bottom to the third-tier and the upper stones were laid slightly backward to

build high walls. Rubble stones were placed at the quadrangular pyramid-shaped roots of the wall stones to prevent them from coming out.

This is a fort-building method peculiar to the Koguryo Kingdom. The fronts of the red roofing tile pieces bear cord patterns with the back having hemp cloth patterns. Researchers confirmed that the roofing tiles are the same as those discovered in the Taesongsan Fort. Such research findings prove that the Tudaedong Fort is a typical fort from the Koguryo period.

In the course of intensifying research, based on the historical data on the discovered relics and the names of places around the Tudaedong Fort area, scholars and researchers scientifically ascertained that the fort was built in the early 5th century, the period of Koguryo.

The relic is an element of valuable national cultural heritage showing more clearly the mightiness and cultural excellence of Koguryo.

## Popular novelist on theme of war

By To Kyong Chol PT

Ho Mun Gil is famous as a writer of novels on the theme of war.

Though he is in an advanced age of over 70, he is still very energetic in his



Ho Mun Gil is lost in contemplation for a new work.

work of writing novels.

His novels, which advance the plots in depth with vivid description and strong dramatic effect on the basis of true facts, always win popularity with readers as soon as they are published.

Typical of them is the novel "Battle Area without the Sound of Gunfire," which portrays a woman reconnaissance officer who fought bravely behind enemy lines during the hard-fought Fatherland Liberation War as the heroine.

"It has been over 70 years since the sound of gunfire ceased on this land. But the brilliant feats performed by the heroes who devoted their youth and lives to the country are

still vividly remembered. My wish that the younger generation would faithfully carry forward their soul motivated me to write the novel," Ho said.

He said when he met Heroine Ro Nam Gyo, the prototype of the heroine in the novel, more than 20 years ago, she was over 90 years old at that time. The hair of once a beautiful woman reconnaissance officer, who had infiltrated deep into the enemy's secret service and terrified them, turned grey already.

When she first met the writer, she refused to tell him about her story, hearing that he was going to write a novel with her as the main character. A woman of a determined character, she did not put hers on a par with the brilliant feats of her fallen comrades-in-arms. The writer said to her that she had a duty



Some of the books written by Ho Mun Gil. WON TONG CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

to tell posterity the feats of the preceding generations.

As a result, the feats and careers of the unknown heroes in the enemy rear she vividly remembered were written down as a novel.

The novel was completed in two volumes.

Readers were impressed by the strong will and unwavering faith of the heroes who fought to defend the country at the risk of their lives, escaping a series of mortal dangers among the enemy.

Ho Mun Gil's four-volume novel "Historic Confrontation" with DPRK Hero Song Si Baek as the model is also one of the best sellers.

It is characterized by

the complex plot showing the resourcefulness and dynamic nature of the hero who frustrates every step of the sinister schemes of the enemy for armed invasion of the DPRK as he freely crisscrosses behind the enemy line and the broad framework of the story with many characters from all social strata. In the course of studying a large amount of materials, the writer set the theme of his novel as the historic confrontation between defenders and aggressors, not simply a spy theme.

In the creation of the novel the hero was the writer himself.

While trying to embodying

all the personalities and intellect of the real hero, he continued his thinking and study and finally represented the personality of the hero as a man of firm faith.

He also wrote over a dozen novels on the theme of war, including the long real-life story "Treasured Sword of a Brilliant Commander" which clearly showed the decisive role of the leader in the war. An influential veteran writer, he produced many works including short stories, true-story literatures, scenarios and scripts of TV dramas and many-act plays.

A winner of Kim Il Sung Prize, he still works hard to create new works enjoying love of the people.

## War veteran devotes her whole life to children's literature

By Ri Myong Jun PT

Rim Kum Dan is a Kim Il Sung Prize winner and war veteran who is still devoting her all to the creation of juvenile literature.

The world of juvenile mind is strongly depicted in her works.

So, when adults read her works, they return to juvenile mind and remember their childhood.

Her works, which are composed of such poetic words as "the flower ribbon I wear", "one star, and I" and "grunting policeman", still leave deep impressions.

"The mind of cherry blossom", "Our elder sister's pretty hands", "You're sweeter" and other works are children's songs and poems she created at the age of 80. Her home is frequented by her "little friends". She says that she looks back upon her past life as she sees the cheerful appearance of the children.

"I am over ninety. Though I am as old as an aged tree, I live and produce works with the same mind as those flower buds."

In her childhood she had a dream of becoming a writer.

The fairy tales told by her mother and read by her teacher guided this girl living in a mountain village to the world of literary creation. As she wished she enrolled at Kim Il Sung University.

Later, she worked as a writer of the juvenile

literature panel of the Central Committee of the Writers Union of Korea and produced many juvenile poems and songs.

Everyone likes her works depicting good heart, truth of life and beautiful ideals.

"She still keeps burning creative enthusiasm like youth. With such enthusiasm, she portrays schoolchildren's minds so truthfully that readers do not believe she is in such an advanced age," said an editor who has worked for a long time with

her.

"I want to write even one more work for the children, whom the country treasures so much, in my remaining days so that they grow up as honourable persons," said Rim Kum Dan.

Both walls of her home are covered with the photos she posed for with other participants in the national conference of war veterans in the presence of the respected General Secretary Kim Jong Un, participation certificates, diplomas and commendations.



War veteran Rim Kum Dan and her "little friends".  
RODONG SINMUN

## The Girl on the Swing and producer couple

By Ri Sang Il PT

Among the famous songs favoured by the Korean people is folk song *The Girl on the Swing* created decades ago.

The song writer is Choe Ro Sa and composer Kim Jun Do, and they are wife and husband.

Here is the story about how the song was produced.

During the Fatherland Liberation War, Choe Ro Sa served as a girl nurse at a field hospital of the Korean People's Army.

One day, a soldier was rushed to the hospital. Unexpectedly, the wounded soldier was Kim Jun Do, who had studied at Kim Il Sung University with her before the war. Choe was in charge of Jun Do and cared for him deeply. Kim recovered from the injury and left for the front.

Later, Choe and Kim returned to the university according to the measure taken by the country to recall all soldiers who joined the army as they studied at universities and had an emotional reunion.

They studied hard, holding pens in their hands instead of guns. Then one day Choe was in the jaws of death owing to a sudden illness. Kim Jun Do took her on his back and rushed to the hospital, crossing over several steep mountain passes.

As a result, Choe Ro Sa could have a narrow escape from death.

They fell in love with each other as they saved one another from death, and finally tied the knot.

Kim, who had an unusual sense of music from his childhood, had once taken part in a schoolchildren's art performance when he was a schoolboy. He became a composer of the then National Folk Art Theatre after graduating from the university as he was much more attached to music than his major, linguistics. Choe began to work at the National Art Theatre as a full-time writer.

They wanted to represent the stirring reality of the country, which was rising up from ashes in the period of postwar reconstruction, in their songs. But it was not an easy job to find the seed of a work which would give people delight and suit the national sentiment.

One spring day in 1956, Choe went to a farm village on the outskirts of Pyongyang to help farmers transplant rice seedlings with her friends. At the rest time she took out her notebook and pencil.

Such fantastic scenery of the countryside she saw as the gentle breeze blew on the balmy spring day, the vast blue sky, the swinging site full of joy of the girls who finished rice transplantation and orioles flying in the sky gave her uncontrollable excitement for creation, and she wrote lyrics at a go.

Choe returned home and showed her lyrics to her

husband, who just began to compose a piece of music for them moving his shoulder up and down. But his wife showed regret. Some parts were not so interesting. The couple sat together and pooled wisdom overnight to create a song.

They polished up and completed it and it was the song *The Girl on the Swing*.

At that time the song, which was sung by a folk singer for the first time, was widely known to the whole country through the radio.

However, they could not imagine that the song they created would be a famous song of the times.

Chairman Kim Jong Il praised it as one of the songs which were very popular among the Korean people as it represents the optimistic sentiments of life and happy and worthwhile life of the girl farmers enjoying the holiday, saying that if the song was well orchestrated, the people would like it more.

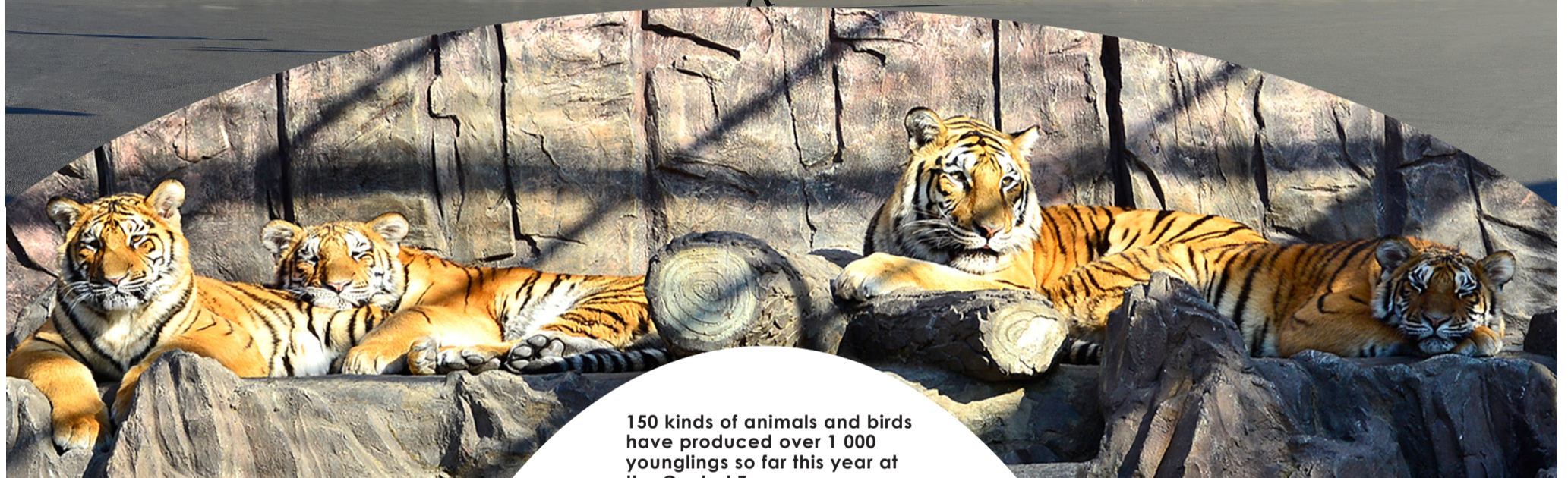
The orchestral music *The Girl on the Swing* thus produced was widely acclaimed by the people.

The song left a deep impression on the audiences not only at home but also at the international music festival.

Half a century has passed, but the folk song *The Girl on the Swing*, which is still widely sung on the stages of art performances and in the life of the people, brings back fond memory of its creators.



# Animals multiply at Central Zoo



150 kinds of animals and birds have produced over 1 000 younglings so far this year at the Central Zoo. PAK KWANG HUN/ THE PYONGYANG TIMES

By Ri Sung Ik PT

**M**ore than 150 species of animals have brought forth over 1 000 younglings this year at the Central Zoo, a base for cultural and leisure activities of the people.

The most pleasing news is that Korean tigers have had a litter of eight cubs this year.

“They reproduced three in March, four in July and another one in October,” said Kim Sun Ok, Merited Keeper at the tiger house of the zoo, describing it as an unprecedentedly happy event.

At present, visitors to the zoo are pleased to see little cubs frolicking around, climbing up and down man-made rocks in the house.

An Asiatic black bear gave birth to a female cub. The cub weighed about 500 grams, but is now dozens of kilograms.

Gift animals, a source of pride of the Central Zoo, also brought forth many younglings.

According to senior official Hyon Sun Il, 40-odd species of them reproduced over 120 younglings.

A rare parrot was hatched in January and a pet dog gave birth to two male puppies, each being about 110 grams in weight and about 10 centimetres in body length at birth. In April, a filial generation of lemur procreated a

baby.

In particular, a Humboldt penguin, recognized as a species difficult to breed, reproduced a youngling.

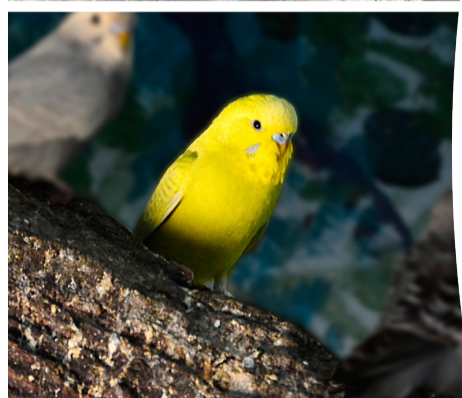
Newcomers also settled down at the Central Zoo this year.

Among them are a pair of *Haliaeetus albicilla* presented to General Secretary Kim Jong Un by the director of the Moscow Zoo in April and some 40 other animals in 19 species presented by the zoo.

The employees at the house of birds of prey remodelled the environment and conditions according to ecological features of the “new residents” in a short period, based on an in-depth study of their ways of life and breeding, and those at the house of small animals made painstaking efforts to understand the eating habit of a rare kind of deer mouse and solved the feed problem according to the specific conditions of the zoo.

Hyon attributed such successes in increasing breeding rate to the efforts of all employees who created good living environments for animals, improved their nutrition and conducted anti-epizootic work in a scientific and far-sighted way.

The “new residents” at the Central Zoo add more pleasure to visitors to the zoo, especially schoolchildren.



# 'The deployment of the US Space Force in the Asia-Pacific region is the end product of Washington's attempt at regional hegemony'

Ri Song Jin, a researcher of the National Aerospace Technology Administration (NATA) of the DPRK, on December 6 issued the following article, titled "The deployment of the US Space Force in the Asia-Pacific region is the end product of Washington's attempt at regional hegemony":

The US aggressive attempt to contain its strategic rivals and establish military supremacy in the Asia-Pacific region is becoming more conspicuous in space, too.

A typical example is the fact that the US held a ceremony of founding the US space force in Japan at the Yokota Air Force Base on December 4.

The US Indo-Pacific Space Commander tried to deceive the international community, building public opinion that this is an inevitable measure to contain the "military threats" from the DPRK, Russia and China.

But the offensive mission of the US Space Force and its continuous expansion into the overseas region clearly prove that such military moves are not aimed at coping with someone's "threats".

As already recognized by the Pentagon's senior officials, the mission of the US Space Force is not only to monitor the situation of the conflict on the earth, but also to neutralize the enemy in case of the space-based military operations and to make the forces deployed

in space part of the US war capabilities.

The number of the US Space Force, which had been more than 200 in the early period of its foundation in 2019, has increased over 40 times in just three to four years and the development and test of various weapons for space warfare are being accelerated according to the ever-increasing space force budget.

The US, after setting the Asia-Pacific region as the first overseas stationing place of the offensive space force, formed the Indo-Pacific Space Command in November 2022 to deploy its first space field forces in the puppet ROK region in December that year and organized the US space force

in Japan this time.

The true purpose is clear.

The purpose is to rapidly turn outer space, a common asset of the whole mankind, into a battlefield in case of emergency, preemptively secure the space-based strike capability against independent sovereign states in the region and hold an absolute military edge with the involvement of vassal forces by intensively deploying space field forces in the Asia-Pacific region.

This is proved by the fact that the US space force in the puppet ROK has frequently joined Ulji Freedom Shield and other joint military exercises to master capability for operation in contingency of the Korean peninsula

and the US and Japan in November conspired to expand the inter-state space cooperation including the development of low-orbit satellite under the pretext of coping with the "threat" of ultra-supersonic missiles from other countries.

Obviously, the deployment of the US Space Force in the Asia-Pacific region is part of Washington's moves to seek hegemony, and it is another new factor of instability that draws the military tension in the region closer to the real danger of armed conflict.

The gravity of the situation lies in the fact that the possibility of a military conflict in the region is rapidly expanding into space beyond the existing military operation sphere, including

the ground, sea and air, due to the irresponsible behaviour of the US.

The reality in which the US is getting frantic with space militarization by massively deploying space force into the Korean peninsula and its vicinity urgently requires the DPRK to firmly ensure the strategic security balance in the region by putting spurs to grasping all the military moves of the hostile forces in space and taking timely measures for action.

The DPRK will deter any military provocation of the hostile forces and firmly defend the security interests of the state and peace and stability in the region by exercising more thoroughly and perfectly the right to self-defence.

## Genuine human rights and social system



**Pak Hui Chol**, professor, PhD and director of the Law Faculty of Kim Il Sung University

December 10 is the day of human rights. Human rights are the rights that man should have as a social being. Therefore, people should be given equal rights in disregard of sex, skin colour, language, political view and belief, property status, standard of education and occupation.

But now many people in the world fail to have elementary human rights and are subject to human rights abuses and

oppression.

In a society based on individualism, broad sections of working masses are not granted even elementary rights to existence and the lives of people are under threat due to extreme misanthropy, racial discrimination, gun-related crimes and all other social evils. In particular, women, children, elderly and disabled persons who should be under public protection are being humiliated and ill-treated. Hegemony-seeking

forces abuse the expression "guarantee of human rights" to serve the purpose of interfering in the internal affairs of sovereign states and infringing upon the human rights of other peoples.

Genuine human rights are only realized and guaranteed by social system under which politics for the people is administered.

In the DPRK, where the people are masters of everything, all lines and policies are worked out and implemented on the principle of thoroughly guaranteeing the independent rights of the masses.

Under such a socialist human rights system, the Korean people substantially enjoy all rights that should

be enjoyed as social beings, including the rights to work and rest, education and medical service, to say nothing of political freedom and rights.

In the elections of deputies to provincial (municipal), city (district) and county people's assemblies held in November 2023, 99.63 percent of registered voters took part in the voting, and 27 858 workers, farmers, intellectuals and officials were elected deputies. As can be seen from the elections, the working masses, including workers, farmers and intellectuals, exercise their rights with dignity by freely participating in the exercise of power and state administration.

In our country, people's laughter and happiness are the symbol of the socialist system and the standard of the evaluation of national power, and the overall work of the Party and the state is directed and subordinated to providing the people with well-being. The slogan "Everything for the people and everything by relying on them!" typifies the people-first politics of the Workers' Party of Korea.

All the rights the Korean people enjoy are fully guaranteed by the socialist law.

Our socialist law gives top priority to the interests of the people and is worked out based on them, and provides the masses with independent rights in practice. In recent years alone, many laws have newly been adopted, including the law on childcare and the law on talent education, which make substantial contributions

to ensuring human rights. Various laws were amended and supplemented including the Law on Election of Deputies to People's Assemblies at All Levels which legally guarantee the DPRK's human rights mechanism.

That is why the Korean people regard Korean-style socialism centred on the masses of the people as their life and soul and devote themselves to the prosperity of the country, which guarantees the dignity and rights of social beings.

The people-oriented policies of the DPRK for genuine human rights will be steadily expanded and strengthened and greater progress will be made in the guaranteeing of human rights of the Korean people as the building of a powerful socialist country is dynamically pushed forward.

### BYWORD

## Revolution in education in new century

The educational revolution in the new century is being pushed dynamically.

The goal of this revolution is to train all the students into reliable builders of a powerful country and make all the people well versed in science and technology so as to turn the DPRK into an educational power in the

21st century.

The DPRK has always attached importance to the educational issue.

The issue of children's pencils was put on the agenda for the meeting of the provisional government, which was established immediately after Korea's liberation. The education work continued to be

carried on even during the Fatherland Liberation War in the 1950s, which can be said to be a showdown between rifle and A-bomb.

The DPRK regards education as a more important state affair at the present time which calls for making a leap forward by dint of science and guaranteeing the future by

dint of education.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un set forth the policy of bringing about a radical turn in education in the new century in his work "Let Us Glorify Ours as the Country of Education and a Power of Talents by Bringing about a Revolution in Education in the New Century" in August 2014.

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# Worst human rights violator in the world

By Choe Yong Nam PT

The behaviour of the United States styling itself a "human rights champion" is drawing strong condemnation from the international community.

The US has opposed again the UNSC resolution calling for an unconditional ceasefire in the Gaza Strip of Palestine and immediate provision of essential services and humanitarian aid for civilians. It is its sixth sole exercise of veto since the occurrence of the Gaza crisis in October last year.

Then why does the US reject every resolution of the UNSC for achieving a ceasefire in Gaza?

It is to attain without fail its goal of dominating the Middle East with Israel as an instrument.

To this end, the US has been providing Israel with a huge amount of money and various kinds of deadly weapons since October last year, promising the security support would continue as long as the US existed. Last September, alone, it gave Israel military aid worth US\$8.7 billion.

Israel, backed by the US, has made air raids on Gaza almost every day and killed a great number of innocent residents by bombarding even refugee camps, schools and hospitals.

Since Israel launched the military operations, the death toll of the Palestinians has reached over 44 000 and the number of the injured more than 104 200. In particular, well over ten thousand children have died and a large number of other children have gone missing or become disabled and orphaned.

The most urgent issue facing the international community in the human rights field at present is to protect the right to life of the Gaza residents who are at the crossroads of life and death.

However, the US pretends ignorance of this.

As regards other countries, it would bustle about, adopting human rights resolutions and imposing sanctions based on fabricated evidence and submitting such information to the International Court of Justice, but concerning the Gaza crisis, it is just

looking on.

Rather, it is engrossed in patronizing and shielding Israel, contending that the current catastrophe was caused by terrorist attacks by the Palestinian Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas).

What cannot be overlooked is that although a larger number of journalists were killed in Gaza in the past one year than in the Second World War and the Vietnam War and more than 320 humanitarian workers and over 1 000 medical workers were dead, the largest number ever in history, the US still keeps mum about that.

Such US behaviour clearly reveals that it is not truly interested in the protection of human rights, though it poses as a "human rights judge".

The selective and two-faced US-style "human rights", variable according to its own interests, are nothing but a means of implementing its hegemony-seeking policy and a tool for aggression and interference in others' internal affairs.

The US has no right to talk about human rights.

# Japanese plunder of Korea's underground resources

By Choe Song Jun PT

Recorded in the Japanese imperialists' history of aggression against Korea are the crimes of plundering Korea of its resources by relying on its vicious predatory colonial system and oppression. Among them is its plunder of Korea's underground resources.

The Japanese imperialists, who worked out a policy of plundering its underground resources on a large scale in the initial days of their occupation of the country, proclaimed the "Korean Mining Act" in December 1915 as part of their bid to implement it.

The act stipulated it as a principle to allow the one who applied for the mining right first, except for a specific area or minerals. Based on their "survey data of mineral deposits", the Japanese informed their capitalists of the promising fields and important minerals in advance and let them apply earlier than others, thus enabling them to monopolize the mining rights in the major mining areas.

It also specified that foreigners, other than

Japanese, cannot newly have mining rights while attaching the condition that the mining rights are granted only to companies corporate. Consequently, the national capitalists of Korea, whose establishment of companies was already restricted due to the "company act" announced by the Japanese imperialists, could not have the right to manage mines.

In addition, it defined that the mining rights already owned remained valid even if a new law was enforced, thereby legally guaranteeing the ownership of the mining rights which the Japanese capitalists had seized already. And it granted the Japanese capitalists the authority to dispose of the land in the relevant development areas at will.

After creating favourable conditions for its capital's penetration into Korea through the act, Japan plundered Korea's underground resources on a large scale on this basis.

Only the gold plundered by Japan during its occupation of Korea amounted to 400 tons.

In order to address iron shortage caused by the expansion of the war of

aggression, it also produced iron on the spot and transported it instead of massively shipping away iron ore. In this way, Japan took away nine million tons of pig iron and steel from Korea in 1944 alone.

It also shipped away en masse such minerals as coal, lead, zinc, copper, nickel, magnesite, manganese and graphite. In particular, it granted a privilege to the Korean Magnesium Metal Co, Ltd, the Japanese Magnesite Chemical Industries Co, Ltd and others to plunder large quantities of high-grade magnesium. Such plunder increased from 2 410 tons to more than 157 740 tons between 1935 and 1944.

Japan forced the Koreans into slave labour as it used their labour for the plunder of natural resources of Korea. The hard work for more than ten hours a day and poor labour safety conditions caused accidents at any time and the lack of sleep threatened the lives of people every minute and killed a lot.

The Korean people will never forget the outrageous atrocities committed by Japan, but make it pay dearly for them.

# What is constitutional amendment for?

By Sin Pyol PT

A rally demanding the constitutional amendment to specify the existence of the Self-Defense Forces recently took place in Tokyo, Japan.

In the rally, the Japanese authorities talked about "peace" and "defence" and insisted on specifying the existence of the SDF in the constitution and deleting paragraph 2 of Article 9, which stipulates the waiver of the right to possess combat capabilities, in order to defend the country.

It is not the first time that Japan tried to revise the constitution.

Such attempt is the revelation of the deep-rooted militaristic ambition of the Japanese authorities to perfect legal and institutional mechanisms for reinvasion and its conversion into a military power.

The current Japanese constitution that came in force in 1947 renounces war forever and denies the country armed forces and the right to belligerence. The UN Charter, regarding the war criminal state of Japan as an enemy state, stipulates the responsibility to prevent new aggression by the enemy state.

However, Japan has never abandoned its militaristic ambition but pursued a path towards a military power since its defeat.

Since its advent, the Liberal Democratic Party has been tenaciously carrying out manoeuvres to legalize the building of a military power and overseas aggression, advocating a breakaway from the post-war system and the constitutional revision. It has also taken every opportunity to clamour for the alteration of constitutional interpretation in order to possess the capacity to attack enemy bases and exercise the right to collective

self-defence, and even drew up and circulated a draft amendment to the constitution.

In 2015, it lifted the constitutional restriction on the scope of SDF's activities by railroading the security-related law allowing the exercise of the right to collective self-defence and legalizing the overseas dispatch of troops. At the end of 2022, it formulated a new national security strategy, a national defence strategy and a defence programme and added to them the possession of the counterattack capacity, i.e. the capacity to attack enemy bases, so as to make it a policy.

Japan, which styled itself a "pacifist state", though nominal, under the cloak of the current constitution, has taken off the mask and is now hell-bent on the arms buildup and the moves to become a military power.

Consequently, Japan's organic law, stipulating the eternal renunciation of war as the exercise of state power, threat with armed forces or the use of armed forces, the denial of ground, naval and air forces and other combat capabilities to it and the disclamation of its right to belligerence, has now become a mere show.

The true intention of the Japanese authorities who are attempting to revise the nominally existing constitution is clear. It is to rush along the road of reinvasion.

As to this, even Japanese experts are lamenting that, if the constitution undergoes regressive revision, the country would be regarded as a hostile nation and subjected to rebuke and pre-emptive strikes by regional countries and would finally perish.

But such lamentation is lost on the Japanese reactionaries as they are steeped in the militaristic ambition.

Reinvasion leads to self-destruction.

# Russia censures US and West for aggravating regional situation

Russia strongly denounced and rejected the US' and some Western countries' attempt to transfer nuclear weapons to Ukraine, taking a strong stance against it.

A vice-foreign minister of Russia revealed that the transfer of nuclear weapons to Ukraine is an act of expanding the conflict to a level beyond control. He warned that such an act means the breakdown of the overall non-proliferation and arms control mechanism.

The vice-chairman of the Security Council of the Russian Federation stressed that transferring nuclear weapons to Ukraine is the same as attacking Russia and roundly criticized it as being

quite absurd to plan to transfer nuclear weapons to a country which is at war with the nuclear power.

The press secretary for the Russian President and spokesperson for the Russian Foreign Ministry also denounced it as a totally irresponsible and extreme act that some officials of the US and the West demand the return of nuclear weapons taken out of Ukraine to Kiev. They noted that Western countries should give careful consideration to Russia's recently changed nuclear doctrine.

Contributed to The Pyongyang Times

# Briefly

Russia, Belarus

**Supreme state council of Russia-Belarus union state meets**

There was a meeting of the supreme state council of the Russia-Belarus union state in Minsk of Belarus on December 6.

It was attended by Russian and Belarus presidents.

Asserting that the Western countries are plunging the world into a global dispute by constantly aggravating the situation in Ukraine, Russian President Vladimir Putin said that the treaty on security guarantee between Russia and Belarus envisages the mobilization of all armed forces including Russian nuclear weapons if necessary.

Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko said that the primary task facing the allied state is to implement a unified economic policy and ensure equal rights of citizens and that Russia and Belarus are rising up to an unprecedentedly high level of strategic partnership and cooperative relations in the military field.

Russia

**Foreign Ministry closes Polish consulate general**

The Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced the closure of the Polish Consulate General in St Petersburg on December 5.

The ministry reportedly sent the Polish side a memorandum demanding that its Consulate General in St Petersburg discontinue activities from January 10 2025 as a countermeasure to the closure of the Russian Consulate General in Poznan by the Polish authorities.

Iran

**Armed forces are ready to cope with any threat**

The Supreme Commander of the Iranian Army in his speech at a ceremony held at a military academy on December 9 stressed that the armed forces of his country are ready to cope with any threat.

Iran does not depend only on the army, he said, adding that in other words, all the people and service personnel defend the interests of the country together.

Europe

**ECB rates financial situation of European countries as serious**

The European Central Bank recently published an evaluation report on the unstable financial situation of European countries.

The report said that as the economic situation worsens, the debt crisis of the countries in the euro zone is deepening to pose a threat to the financial stability.



Kim Il Gyong (left), Ri Suk (middle) and Ri Won Ju (right) who established new world records. RODONG SINMUN

# DPRK weightlifters prove successful at 2024 IWF World Championships

KCNA

**D**PRK player Pang Un Chol bagged a gold medal at the 2024 International Weightlifting Federation World Championships.

The championships, being held in Manama, Bahrain, brought together more than 470 excellent men and women players from over 90 countries and regions including the DPRK.

On December 6, Pang Un Chol took the first place by lifting 154kg in jerk of the men's 55kg category.

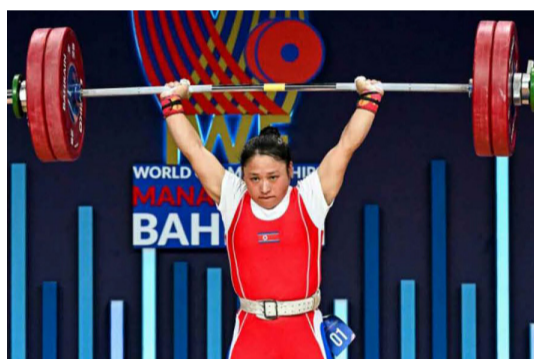
Meanwhile, Won Hyon Sim earned three silver medals in snatch, jerk and total of the women's 45kg category.

On December 7, Pak Myong Jin came first and bagged three gold medals in the men's 61kg category by lifting 132kg in snatch, 173kg in jerk and 305kg in total.

Ri Song Gum lifted 91kg in snatch, 122kg in jerk and 213kg in total in the women's 49kg category, taking the first place in jerk and total and finishing runner-up in snatch.

The DPRK players are expanding their successes as they collect gold medals day after day at the 2024 IWF World Championships.

On December 8, Kang Hyon Gyong lifted 100kg in snatch, 126kg in jerk and 226kg in total to earn three gold medals in the women's 55kg category.



Ri Song Gum



Ri Chong Song



Pak Myong Jin

Ri Won Ju and Pak Pyol bagged three golds and two silvers in the men's 67kg category.

Ri Won Ju lifted 146kg in snatch, 190kg (new world record) in jerk and 336kg in total to come first in jerk and total, while Pak Pyol raised 150kg in snatch, 182kg in jerk and 332kg in total to take first place in snatch and second place in jerk and total.

DPRK players established new world records and won gold medals one after another at the 2024 International Weightlifting Federation World Championships, bringing honour to the country.

Kim Il Gyong lifted 108kg in snatch, 141kg in jerk (new world record) and 249kg in total (new world record), and thus won three gold medals in the women's 59kg category on December 9. She is now holding world records in snatch, jerk and total in the women's 59kg



Kang Hyon Gyong



Ri Ryong Hyon

category.

Meanwhile, Ri Ryong Hyon lifted 152kg in snatch, 197kg in jerk and 349kg in total and came first in jerk and total in the men's 73kg category.

The DPRK players has so far bagged 17 gold medals from the beginning of the championships.

DPRK weightlifters are registering brilliant successes in the

2024 International Weightlifting Federation World Championships every day.

On December 10, DPRK players set new world records in two categories of the women's 64kg event and bagged three gold medals and three silver medals.

Ri Suk lifted 115kg in snatch, 149kg in jerk (new world record) and 264kg in total (new world

record) and thus came first in jerk and total and second in snatch. Rim Un Sim took the first place in snatch with the lift of 116kg and the second place in jerk and total with the lift of 140kg and 256kg.

Meanwhile, Ri Chong Song bagged three gold medals in the men's 81kg event, with the lift of 166kg in snatch, 205kg in jerk and 371kg in total.

## Yew in Mt Oga, living monument

By Choe Yong Nam PT

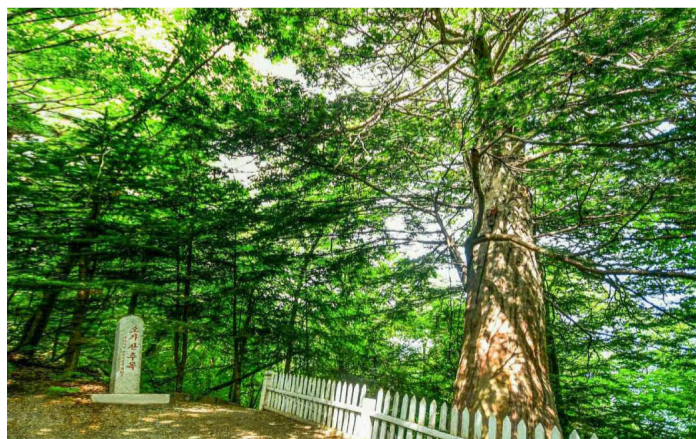
**T**here is a natural primeval forest in the Ogasan Nature Reserve and there grows a

yew in Mt Oga, which can be claimed to be the oldest tree.

The 1 100-odd-year-old tree is 16.5 metres tall, 4.1 metres round at the root neck,

3.6 metres round at the chest height and about 7 metres wide at the crown.

It is the tallest and oldest tree among the yews in the country.



The tallest and oldest tree among the yews in the country is in the Ogasan Nature Reserve. RODONG SINMUN

