Gifts sent to parentless children and elderly at rest homes

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un sent gifts to children and elderly persons at orphanages and rest homes across the country on Thursday. Students at Mangyongdae, Kang Pan Sok and Nampo revolutionary schools were filled with deep emotion and happiness as they received a variety of foodstuffs. The same was the case with children at baby homes, orphanages and primary and middle schools for orphans all across the country. Residents of old people’s and disability care homes extended their warmest thanks to the Supreme Leader who paid his respects at the statues of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il to mark the 29th anniversary of the appointment of Kim Jong Il as the Supreme Commander of the Korean People’s Army on December 24. They paid their respects to the great leaders at their statues as they looked back upon the unyielding exploits they had performed to consolidate invincible military power of the DPRK so as to firmly defend the sovereignty and dignity of the country and nation and demonstrate the might of socialism. Flower baskets and bouquets were placed at their statues and sectional indices of its 80-day campaign goals earlier than the set time. The apatite concentrate output increased 5.9 times over the same period of last year. The Phungnyon Mine hit its campaign target far ahead of schedule. The Jungsan and Yongyu mines also overfulfilled the apatite concentrate production plans by 24 and 2 percent respectively. The Sanpyong Mine produced dozens of tons of phosphate fertilizer more than the plan, while the Jongju microelement superphosphate fertilizer factory hit its campaign target. The Riwon and Namgye mines exceeded all their quotas on all indices by over 40 percent and the Taelonggang Battery Factory produced well over a thousand batteries more than the plan. The Hamhung Youth Electrical Appliances Factory supplied well over a thousand feeder boxes to disaster relief sites and major construction projects in time, while increasing the production of electrical appliances needed at coal and other mines 1.2 times. Over 10 units in the machine industry sector have exceeded their annual production targets, thus raising the productivity by half as compared to previously. The Kusong Machine Tool Factory, Pyongyang Grindstone Factory and Wonsan Ventilator Factory have also carried out their plans.

ANNIVERSARY

Floral tribute paid on Chairman’s supreme commandership anniv

Officials, service personnel and working people across the DPRK laid baskets of flowers at the statues of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il to mark the 29th anniversary of the appointment of Kim Jong Il as the Supreme Commander of the Korean People’s Army on December 24. They paid their respects to the great leaders at their statues as they looked back upon the unyielding exploits they had performed to consolidate invincible military power of the DPRK so as to firmly defend the sovereignty and dignity of the country and nation and demonstrate the might of socialism. Flower baskets and bouquets were placed at their statues and sectional indices of its 80-day campaign goals earlier than the set time. The apatite concentrate output increased 5.9 times over the same period of last year. The Phungnyon Mine hit its campaign target far ahead of schedule. The Jungsan and Yongyu mines also overfulfilled the apatite concentrate production plans by 24 and 2 percent respectively. The Sanpyong Mine produced dozens of tons of phosphate fertilizer more than the plan, while the Jongju microelement superphosphate fertilizer factory hit its campaign target. The Riwon and Namgye mines exceeded all their quotas on all indices by over 40 percent and the Taelonggang Battery Factory produced well over a thousand batteries more than the plan. The Hamhung Youth Electrical Appliances Factory supplied well over a thousand feeder boxes to disaster relief sites and major construction projects in time, while increasing the production of electrical appliances needed at coal and other mines 1.2 times. Over 10 units in the machine industry sector have exceeded their annual production targets, thus raising the productivity by half as compared to previously. The Kusong Machine Tool Factory, Pyongyang Grindstone Factory and Wonsan Ventilator Factory have also carried out their plans.

CAMPAIGN

Plans completed with campaign near to end

As the 80-day campaign for greeting the Eighth Congress of the Workers’ Party of Korea has reached the final stage, more and more industrial establishments have fulfilled their plans in succession in different economic sectors. Dozens of coal-mining and tunnelling units at the Sunchon Area Youth Coal-mining Complex and the Kujang and Anju area coal-mining complexes have accomplished their campaign targets. Over 270 units and hundreds of engine drivers overfulfilled their plans throughout the rail transport sector. Several locomotive corps have exceeded their daily transport quotas by applying appropriate driving methods, while many railway stations increased freight traffic and ensured intensive transport of crucial materials. The Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex has hit its production targets ahead of schedule.

The complex remodelled the dust collection system, improved the quality of molten iron and raised the output per charge, and thus carried out its pig iron production plan and increased the production of rolled steel products. Especially, the steel workshop has overfulfilled its daily plans by over 10 percent every day by introducing a rational working method that can reduce the production cost and shorten the melting time. The Wonsan Youth Power Station has reached its 80-day campaign target at 101.4 percent. In particular, power station units 1 and 2 increased their daily electricity output over 1.3 times by scientifically organizing the management of water and facilities in accordance with the winter conditions and the characteristics of the power station in tiers. The mining industry sector has fulfilled the production quotas on over 10 major and fundamental indices of its 80-day campaign goals earlier than the set time. The apatite concentrate output increased 5.9 times over the same period of last year. The Phungnyon Mine hit its campaign target far ahead of schedule. The Jungsan and Yongyu mines also overfulfilled the apatite concentrate production plans by 24 and 2 percent respectively. The Sanpyong Mine produced dozens of tons of phosphate fertilizer more than the plan, while the Jongju microelement superphosphate fertilizer factory hit its campaign target. The Riwon and Namgye mines exceeded all their quotas on all indices by over 40 percent and the Taelonggang Battery Factory produced well over a thousand batteries more than the plan. The Hamhung Youth Electrical Appliances Factory supplied well over a thousand feeder boxes to disaster relief sites and major construction projects in time, while increasing the production of electrical appliances needed at coal and other mines 1.2 times. Over 10 units in the machine industry sector have exceeded their annual production targets, thus raising the productivity by half as compared to previously. The Kusong Machine Tool Factory, Pyongyang Grindstone Factory and Wonsan Ventilator Factory have also carried out their plans.

ROUNDUP

Harmonious whole fully demonstrated year round

The harmonious whole of the DPRK has been further strengthened through the struggle for braving difficulties. This year the Korean people fully demonstrated once again the might of their harmonious whole closely rallied around the Workers’ Party of Korea. They launched an offensive for making a frontal breakthrough, true to the great programme for opening up a broad avenue for the victory of the revolutionary cause of Juche and the decision on splendidly celebrating the 75th birthday of the WPK adopted at the Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Seventh WPK Central Committee at the end of last year from its start, this all-people grand march faced difficulties caused by the worldwide health crisis and unprecedented natural disasters that hit the country in succession.

However, the Korean people made great miracles and changes by overcoming the manifold hardships under the wise guidance of the WPK. At major meetings of the Party Central Committee, Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un took important steps one after another to protect the people’s life and security and to heal the flood damage and provide the inhabitants in the flood-hit areas with stable living conditions.
Big stride forward made in cultural construction

The Workers’ Party of Korea set forth important tasks to be tackled in leading a thriving socialist country at its Seventh Congress five years ago.

Since then, the DPRK has made remarkable achievements in education, public health and art and literature.

The Third Plenary Meeting of the Seventh WPK Central Committee in April 2018 discussed and decided on the issue of bringing about a radical turn in science and education, and after the 14th National Conference of Teachers in September 2019, efforts were intensified to develop the country into a talent powerhouse and make all the people well versed in science and technology.

More than 190 technical senior middle schools were established, and progress was made in the efforts to improve vocational technical education and teacher training systems.

Teacher training colleges created and introduced good teaching methods and new teaching aids so as to further improve the quantity of teacher training, while lecturers and researchers at universities across the country came up with valuable scientific research findings.

Teachers made vigorous efforts to enhance their qualifications, with the result that the number of model teachers and academic degree and title holders went up.

The online education system saw a boost in many universities.

As public interest in education grew throughout society, dynamic activities were conducted to better educational conditions and environment.

Achievements were also made in public healthcare.

Modern medical service bases were built and notable successes made in medical treatment and prevention. The DPRK Ministry of Public Health was awarded a prize of the public health sector by the World Health Organization Regional Office for Southeast Asia in September 2016.

Hospitals across the country positively applied advanced methods of diagnosis and treatment in keeping with the latest trends in health care, ensured the domestic production of hi-tech medical materials and apparatuses and researched and developed highly efficacious medicines.

A telemedicine service system was established between the Koryo Medicine General Hospital and provincial Koryo medicine hospitals and a medicine management information system was developed.

The art and literature sector produced lots of excellent works and conducted vigorous artistic activities to encourage the people on a march for a great upsurge.

The DPRK’s acrobatic works were given top prizes at the Idol-2017 World Acrobatic Art Festival, the 16th Wuqiao International Circus Festival in China and other festivals.

Korean sportspersons exalted the honour of the country by snatchling gold medals at international games. Meanwhile, brisk mass sporting activities injected vim into society.

The Yangdok Hot Spring Resort was built and a multifunctional complex for sporting and leisure activities, while Samjiyon transformed into an ideal mountainous city and the areas hit by flood damage this year turned into models of socialist rural civilization.

By Pang Un Ju PT

North Hwanghae Province has completed the construction of the Sariwon Youth Open Air Theatre and Taedon’Do training hall and the project for expanding the capacity of the Kyongam Cement Factory in succession.

Besides, it is pushing ahead with the construction and renovation projects for the Jonghangsan Hotel, Sariwon Schoolchilren’s Palace, North Hwanghae Provincial People’s Hospital, a medical oxygen factory, aviation club and others.

Sindo County, North Phyongan Province, where reed harvest is in full swing, is expected to produce over 10,000 tons of more reeds than the same period of last year.

It reinforced the embankment for over 100-kilometre reed field and finished the cleaning of waterways and built, reconstructed and repaired pumping stations to carry out a dozen-time irrigations of the reed fields.

South Hamgyong steps up dozens of construction projects

Sindo County, North Phyongan Province

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Sindo County, North Phyongan Province

Houses built in South Hamgyong

Sindo County, North Phyongan Province

Sindo County, North Phyongan Province

By Pang Un Ju PT

Dozens of construction projects completed in North Hwanghae

North Hwanghae Province

North Hwanghae Province

Kumgang tourism project

Premier Kim Tok Hun, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers’ Party of Korea, visited Mt Kumgang tourist area to learn about its development.

Looking round the Kosong Port coastal tourist area, Haegumgang seaside park area, sports and cultural area and others, he discussed technical matters arising in correctly reflecting the development of scenic spots in the master plan for the development of Mt Kumgang tourist area and carrying it out.

He referred to the need to maintain the principle of conveniences and architectural beauty first in the development of Mt Kumgang area into a modern and all-inclusive international tourist and cultural area so that the people can fully enjoy natural beauty.

The field consultative meeting with the discussed measures to properly set priorities in the development project according to the master plan and fully apply the Juche-oriented idea on architecture and construction policy to the design and construction of a world-class hotel, golf course, skiing ground and others.

Premier Kim Tok Hun (centre) inspects the project for the development of the Mt Kumgang tourist resort.

THE PYONGYANG TIMES
Research focuses on sustainable development

The biodiversity institute of the State Academy of Sciences has applied a lot of energies to scientific research on biodiversity for the country’s sustainable economic development.

One of the projects is the study of wetland migratory bird reserves.

“We have undertaken research into ecological resources in over a dozen reserves including the Mundok and Sindo migratory bird reserves over the past five years,” said Yun Chol Nam, director of the institute.

To this end, the institute conducted a survey of animals and plants including water birds and plants in wetland, their habitats and diversity of ecosystem and that of the regular flyways of migratory birds from January to November.

In particular, it carried out a detailed survey of water bird resources in over 30 wetlands.

It was performed according to the AWC, said Ri Chung Song, a section chief of the institute.

The institute also made a detailed survey of the animal and plant species in the main biodiversity priority areas like Ms Paektu, Kumgang and Myohyang in each season to make an estimate of their monthly and annual distribution.

In addition, it performed research to assess the state of habitats in major natural reserves and is now engaged in the project for reasonably setting the boundaries of reserves and increasing their areas by verifying the state of over 20 animal reserves and adding information about them.

PROFILE
Researcher throws himself into machine building

One day 20 years ago, authoritative scientists and technicians of the textile industry got together to discuss the upgrading of shuttle looms at textile mills across the country.

Amid heated debate, a man in his early 30s took the floor.

Referring to the need to introduce a modern elastic staff loom into the textile industry, he said his university would develop it.

The participants in the meeting were deeply impressed by his logical argument proving the feasibility of development of the elastic staff loom that none of them had ever seen.

The speaker was Choe Tong Il (pictured) who was a lecturer of Pyongyang University of Mechanical Engineering at the time.

Back in his twenties, he already drew the attention of the academic world as he scientifically demonstrated the introduction of high-speed textile machines and contributed to increasing the efficiency of production facilities of a textile mill in Pyongyang by 10 percent.

His credo in life is to become a pioneer in scientific research. He always applies himself to the analysis of the global trend of development of textile machines, his major field of study, and the actual conditions of the country’s textile machine industry.

After finishing the postgraduate course he became a lecturer at the university. Though busy with teaching, he worked hard to clearly understand the elastic staff loom.

He and his research team developed the loom for the first time in the country in collaboration with relevant units including the Pyongyang Textile Machine Factory, before introducing it into different textile mills.

After becoming the director of the machine design institute ten years ago, which was newly set up at the university, his first task was to establish an automatic tampon production process at the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill.

At that time, foreign technicians were said to have suggested purchasing the whole equipment they were using, rather than making it.

But the researchers of the institute, keeping their national self-respect, strived to perform the most rational and ideal design.

“The most difficult problem was the thread-knotting machine. The device is the smallest in size, but the highest in degree of difficulty. It is designed to perform eight kinds of movements in 0.2 seconds, including thread reeling, knot making and thread cutting. Although it is smaller than a volleyball, the sophisticated device contains dozens of parts,” recalled Ri Ryong Su, section chief of the institute.

The research team based on great imagination and novel ideas finally set up the tampon production process in which every work is automatically controlled from the feeding of raw materials to the packaging of products.

Recently alone, he succeeded in automating the detonator production process for coal and other mines for the first time in the country, in developing a pneumatic jet loom and the automatic shoes packaging machine for the Ryuwon Footwear Factory and in completing the garter packaging line for the Pyongyang Hosieri Factory.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

COUNTY
Every possibility tapped for local economic growth

“Each local area has enough potential for its development. The point is how to find out and use it,” said an official in Nyoongbyon County, North Phyongan Province.

The county, however, used to produce columns, rails, flower pots and the like.

The demand for processed stone goods constituted an impediment to further development of the county.

“A comparative analysis between our trial product and the processed stone of a local area renewed for stone processing showed that ours is of high quality,” said the manager of the county construction company.

Encouraged by this, the county built a granite production base and equipped it with necessary facilities in a matter of a few months and turned out building stones in all sizes and colours with the stones from rivers.

It used them in sprucing up different units and buildings as part of its ambitious effort to give a total facelift to itself in a characteristic way.

By Jong Chol PT

Biodiversity
A snap of the Mundok migratory bird reserve, which is a wetland.

By Kim Il Jin PT

A snap of a conservation project for the communities of the Hwanghae Province.

By Chae Hyang Ok PT

Forests and rivers brought under conservation

Hoechang County in South Phyongan Province is doing a good job of afforestation.

In the past its mountains were rocky and shallow in soil depth, so the county planted large areas of forests over the past decade.

At present, it is gathering such fruits of oil-bearing trees as pine nuts and black walnuts and such edible fruits as acorns and chestnuts in tens of thousands of hectares of forests and such medicinal materials as fruits of honeysuckle and magnolia in hundreds of hectares of medicinal plant forests.

Hwanghae Province.

The locals say that as forests grow thicker, factories run at full capacity and in turn the output of consumer goods gets larger.

The same is the case with Yonthan County in North Hwanghae Province.

Industrial establishments in the county built their own tree nurseries to create forests of economic value with such highly economical plants as black chokeberry, mulberry and magnolia in hundreds of hectares of medicinal plant forests.

In the middle part of Korea, the county would suffer much flood damage in the rainy season as thousands of hectares of arable land were inundated.

The county developed a design for an embankment in consideration of the highest precipitation and completed the bank revetment project for the Piryu River. It expanded the junction of several streams by dozens of metres to prevent flooding there.

Each ri has carried out a conservation project for medium-sized and small rivers every year to keep earth from being washed away and prevent forest destruction and inundation.

Unsan County of North Phyongan Province also controls the textile industry, he said his university would develop it.

“Built we an embankment to drain away rainwater even if hundreds of millimetres of rain fall in an instant,” said an official of the county’s people’s committee.

This year the county removed hundreds of thousands of cubic metres of unwanted materials from river bottoms, repaired dams, built over 200 metres of earth dam and cleared waterways.

It has been freed from cold-weather damage and improved irrigation conditions as it built strong dike, straightened winding river courses, expanded narrow river sections and dredged rivers.

By Choe Tong Il PT

Footwear Factory and in the county building stone sources.

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By Jong Hwa Sun PT
A campaign has dynamically been pushed in recent years in various sectors of the national economy to recycle scrap materials and domestic waste. The Third Session of the 14th Supreme People’s Assembly of the DPRK held in April adopted a law on recycling to ensure the sustainable development of the economy and protection of ecological environment. The law enforcement regulations were issued to encourage recycling, paying premiums for such products and giving preferential treatment to their production units.

Practical measures have also been taken to conduct recycling under unified guidance. Recently, the government took a measure to ensure industrial establishments would use the profits made from the recycling of waste and by-products for their management and technological development. What is important here is to draw up a recycling development strategy properly so that the recovery and reproduction would form a close link.

To this end, steps are now being taken to set up standardized facilities in the workplaces, public places and residential quarters, collect and sort a large amount of scrap materials and domestic waste into kinds and reuse waste paper, plastic waste, waste rubber and others that are in abundance and that require less investment before anything else. The introduction of science and technology into recycling is an important matter in pressing on with it on a long-term basis. National priority projects related to recycling have been fixed realistically on an annual basis and industrial establishments are now eager to apply new technologies in line with their actual conditions.

It is also important to promote recycling in combination with the development of green economy on the principle of environmental protection and in a far-sighted way. We are now faced with a task of grasping the actual situation and coordinating the entire process properly to ensure all sectors and units establish a regular production system and conduct recycling as required by the relevant law.

We will organize and supervise the work for recycling more carefully to give a much-needed boost to the national economy.

**By Jong Im**, department director of the State Planning Commission

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**Waste processing gains momentum**

The Ryuwon Footwear Factory in Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang, is effectively recycling by-products from the cutting and injection processes in footwear production.

“We set the recycling of by-products of synthetic leather that had been dumped previously so as to recycle them in the production of sole. The sole can help satisfy quality indexes and reduce production costs by 10 percent. The factory also mixes the certain amount of vinyl chloride with insole by-products from its insoles production process and EVA plastic ones and heat-treats them to make the insoles of shoes. The insoles can be used in different purposes of footwear production as they are similar to paper fibre ones in terms of its quality. It is now recycling 90 percent of by-products. The factory is now working on research to make paper fibre insoles with wastepaper and the process to recycle raw materials for the pasting of shoemaking.”

**By Jong Hwa Sun**

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**More units introduce recycling**

Different factories and enterprises across the country are briskly engaging in the work of recycling. The Pyongyang Building-materials Factory contrived and introduced new methods for ensuring the domestic production of raw materials for tile production, thus overfulfilling the tile production plan of the 80-day campaign by 50 percent.

The Pyongyang General Electric Cable Factory 326 recycled hundreds of tons of waste in some 10 kinds this year alone as it produced a great number of aluminium rods from scrap aluminium and high-purity aluminium from low-purity one. The Taedonggang Battery Factory reclaims lead from waste batteries to prevent environmental pollution and reduce production costs. It turns out lead for battery by building a new electrical resistance furnace, and has established a new dry-type refining process to increase the purity of recycled lead.

“The Haeju Kumgang Youth Smeltery completed a process for sodium bicarbonate production. The Myongchon Essential Plastic Goods Factory produced tens of thousands of metres of plastic pipes. The Rangnang Disabled Soldiers’ Essential Plastic Goods Factory recycles waste plastic bottles to use them as raw materials for plastic bottles. The Wonsan and Kangso footwear factories and many other units properly organized the work of recycling all sorts of by-products and waste so as to reenergize production. In particular, the Wonsan Leather Shoes Factory solves the problem of raw materials for production by using different kinds of idle and available materials like plastic and rubber waste and old boots. Now it produces soles, boots, slippers and even winter shoes from idle materials."

**By Chae Hyang Ok**

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**Factory turns waste into goods**

The Pyongyang Plastic Building-materials Factory is benefitting substantially from recycling.

It has been producing a variety of goods with plastic waste as raw materials for several years. “Our factory’s flagship products are plastic pipe and bucket,” said manager Kim Yong Ok, the selection of raw materials takes an important share in the whole process. For instance, she said, it is hard to guarantee the quality when 100kg of plastic waste collected to make pipes contains only 100g of another kind of plastic. Moreover, given the collected plastic waste may contain some that have been recycled for several times, the product quality largely depends on how they are separated and what kind of additives are applied, she added.

The factory classifies plastic waste according to the quality of materials and recyclability before sending them over to the production processes. “We barter some of our products for plastic waste to recycle. It not just makes effective use of plastic waste but also saves costs and protects the environment,” said workteam leader Kim Song Jun.

**By Kim Kum Myong**

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**Recycling technology is applied to production at the Rangnang Disabled Soldiers’ Essential Plastic Goods Factory in Pyongyang.**

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**Workers produce insoles with by-products at the Ryuwon Footwear Factory in Pyongyang.**
SURGERY

Surgical team garners reputation in heart operation

The cardiovascular surgery department of the Okryu Children’s Hospital has carried out over 410 rounds of heart operations so far this year, enhancing its reputation as a competent medical team.

The medical team has 20-odd-year-long experience in cardiovascular operations. They have solved another knotty problem this year to extend the range of their operations to patients with a body weight of lower than 5 kilograms.

“It is most desirable to operate on patients with congenital cardiovascular diseases when they are newborns,” said department director Ri Chol Jin. “We were only able to operate on children who weighed more than 6kg. However, we succeeded in an operation on a baby weighing 4.7kg, who was suffering from large ventricular septal defect complicated with severe pulmonary hypertension.”

The department also invented efficient medical facilities and appliances by themselves in order to improve their treatment effects. They brought out over 30 valuable inventions such as ring-type traumatic suture needle, fibrotic materials with valve, pericardial retractor for right thoracotomy, which can help reduce the operating time by half and shorten the period of recovery yet with less medications.

“The secret of our achievement is the unity of all members of the department,” said Ri, adding the groups in charge of surgery, narcosis, intensive treatment and extracorporeal circulation were of one mind in the treatment and technical innovation.

“Next year,” he continued, “we will try with greater efforts to complete treatment methods for two diseases which remain as last bottlenecks in cardiovascular operations.”

By Kim Rye Yong PT

GARMENT

Tailor shop provides customers with warmth

Now, as winter sets in, a lot of customers are coming to get their winter suits made at the Kaeson Tailor Shop under the Moranbong District Tailor Shop Group.

“Many people used to go for winter clothes in dark colours in the past, but now they seem to have developed a liking for bright and warm colours,” said manageress Kang Kyong Hui. The shop makes bespoke clothes for women in orange, red and pink colours and those for men in blue, brown and grey. However, to provide warmth is more important than colour to winter clothes. The shop adds collars, lapels and tucks in various shapes to the neck, waist and sleeves to provide additional warmth and elegance.

With rich experience and consummate skills, the cutters at the tailor shop choose the type, colour, material and pattern of the clothes in consideration of the physique, occupation and even characteristics of the customers, and recommend the best design for them.

“As no two people may have the same characteristics and physique, the clothes that suit each person should be different,” said needle worker Sim Mi Ran, adding they make every piece of clothes with great devotion.

“I am already feeling warm at the thought that I can wear clothes made at this tailor shop,” said Son Kwang Song from Phyongchon District, Pyongyang, who visited the shop to order a winter coat.

The shop also makes suits, plain clothes, close-buttoned jackets and Korean traditional clothes.

“Many customers send us photos of themselves wearing clothes made at our shop as a token of their appreciation,” said the manageress. “Whenever I receive thanks from customers, I feel really proud of our work and come to think that we should further improve our service.”

By Ri Sung Ik PT

MUSICAL INSTRUMENT

National instruments improved

The National Institute of Musical Instruments have updated thungso (Korean bamboo flute) and komungo (Korean lute), national classical instruments.

“We have expanded the compass and volume of both the instruments so that any modern music can be easily performed,” said Ri Thae Hyon, deputy director of the institute.

Previous thungso was only used to play pentatonic classical music and old folk songs. Typical examples are Sinaw or Arrirang, pentatonic thungso music pieces, which reflect well the national sentiment with enchanting and pathetic timbre.

The institute expanded the scale into twelve while preserving the timbre peculiar to thungso, widened compass and volume by updating sound holes according to it and shifting the position of pith of a reed and newly installed caps over the sound holes to provide convenience for performance. It increased the original four strings of komungo to six, used staples instead of the previous additional string that had been used to fasten strings and added three more fixing bridges so that modern music could finely be performed.

By Kwon Hyeong Song PT

HARMONICA

Young actress steals the show

“A harmonica recital played by Kim Un Sim steals the show. Her technical skills are well worth seeing as she plays the harmonica with different timbres and tones.

“Her solo always thrills the audience as she skillfully plays harmonicas with different timbres and tones.

“A harmonica recital performed with six harmonicas with different timbres and tones by displaying untiring efforts and passion.

“Good ear and respiration. Her skills have further been polished at the artistic motivational team.

Finally, she completed her recital performed with six harmonicas with different timbres and tones by displaying untiring efforts and passion from exhaustion or rigidity on my wrists. However, seeing well-delighted people from my performance always refreshes me. I will work hard to be an actress who lives up to their expectations,” said Kim Un Sim.

By Han Kwi Hun PT

Musicians perform a cardiovascular operation at the Okryu Children’s Hospital in Pyongyang.

Designers discuss how to improve dressmaking at the Kaeson Tailor Shop.

Employees evaluate the tones of musical instruments using a program at the National Institute of Musical Instruments.
Constitution committed to people’s rights and interests

December 27 is the Constitution Day of the DPRK. The Korean people commemorate the auspicious day when the legal framework of the socialist country was established.

The constitution of a country is the most fundamental law that reflects the political character of the country. As the Socialist Constitution prescribes, the guiding ideology and characters of the DPRK, the principles the state should uphold in the domains of politics, the economy, culture and military, the missions and principles of activity of national agencies and the rights and duties of citizens reflect the popular characteristics of the country. According to the articles of the Socialist Constitution related to the economic and cultural rights of citizens, for example, all able-bodied citizens may choose occupations in accordance with their wishes and skills and work according to their abilities in stable working conditions and are paid in accordance with the quantity and quality of their work. They also have the right to relaxation, which is ensured by the establishment of working hours and the provision of holidays, paid leave, accommodation at health resorts and holiday homes at state expense and by a growing network of cultural facilities. The constitution also stipulates that they are entitled to free medical care, and all persons who are no longer able to work because of illness or physical disability and seniors and minors who have no means of support are all entitled to material assistance from the state.

This right is ensured by the free medical care system which covers the whole population and other social security systems.

The Socialist Constitution which was adopted on December 27, 1972 has been amended and supplemented on several occasions to further strengthen its popular characteristics.

The Fourth Session of the 13th Supreme People’s Assembly of the DPRK decided to name it Kim Il Sung-Kim Jong Il Constitution in order to hand down the undying exploits of the great leaders who drew up and developed the constitution of the people.

The Korean people take it as the greatest pride and happiness to have this constitution.

Hong Chol Hwa, director of the Law Institute of the Academy of Social Sciences

When unprecedented natural disasters hit the country in succession causing heavy damage throughout the country, the WPK came up closer to the people who were suffering difficulties and took all necessary measures to provide them with a stable life. Korean People’s Army soldiers and the elite divisions of Party members from the capital city were dispatched to the disaster-stricken areas and houses furnished with all household goods provided to flood victims gratis. As a result, they expressed their gratitude to the country full of excitement and joy.

The reality, in which the people are grateful to the devotion and love shown by the Supreme Leader and the leader expresses his thanks to them for leading a healthy and joyful life, made “thanks” the most meaningful word of the year.

By Kim Rye Yong PT

R&D

Father and daughter pioneer cross-disciplinary science

When he mentioned the heartfelt, sincere word in a hoarse voice, all the Korean people wept silent tears, saying it was the Supreme Leader who should receive their grateful thanks.

In fact, “thanks” is a common word so much used in everyday life in the DPRK, but its meaning was much more amplified this year as it was eventful and difficult.

It is the most important Party and state affair in the DPRK to defend the life and security of the people and provide them with happy living. Therefore, a state infectious disease prevention system was already declared in it before COVID-19 caused a world health crisis and the pandemic prevention was the number one issue in Party and state activities.

December 27, 2020 marks the 75th anniversary of the Workers’ Party of Korea and it was celebrated by the whole Korean people with happy living. Therefore, it was the Supreme Leader who took all necessary measures to provide them with a stable life. Korean People’s Army soldiers and the elite divisions of Party members from the capital city were dispatched to the disaster-stricken areas and houses furnished with all household goods provided to flood victims gratis. As a result, they expressed their gratitude to the country full of excitement and joy.

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By Kim Rye Yong PT

Mineral Koryo medicines have been developed in the DPRK in recent years, which prove surprisingly effective in the treatment of diseases.

Their developers are Chon Chun Chu, head of the Koryo medicine pharmaceutical laboratory of the Koryo Medicine Production Management Bureau of the Ministry of Public Health, and his daughter Chon Song I.

Chon had worked for a long time in the mineral production sector as a mineralogist. In the period he came to know that some minerals have powerful cellular tissue activating, staunching and anti-inflammatory effects. So, he embarked on research into a new cross-disciplinary science which combines mineralogy and medicine.

He assiduously studied medical science research materials and reference books, while intensifying research into minerals to be used as medical materials.

At that time his daughter graduated from Pyongyang University of Medical Sciences and joined in his research. To her, mineralogy was not unfamiliar as she had grown up seeing his father dealing with a variety of mineral samples.

Chon and his daughter travelled to rugged mountains and hills and deep valleys across the country together to find out minerals with special medical effects for over 10 years. And they worked day and night to conduct component analysis of the collected samples and their basic pharmacological tests and continue research into treatment methods. Their house gradually turned into a laboratory filled with mineral analysis apparatuses and reagents.

Their painstaking efforts began to bear fruit: they were awarded a patent in 2016 for the mineral haemorrhoids ointment they invented. This year they unveiled a mineral tablet for the treatment of gastric ulcer to obtain another national patent.

“I took the mineral gastric ulcer tablet for a month and had a medical check-up. It showed all were negative,” said a worker at the Rangnang Disabled Soldiers’ Essential Plastic Goods Factory, who had suffered from gastric ulcer for years.

Their developments are also producing good therapeutic effects in clinical practice.

After being dosed with their mineral Koryo medicines against incurable injuries, cancer of the rectum and cervical cancer, patients became free from inflammation and the wounds were skinned over and the bad granulation tissue which was hard to remove by means of operation was cleared among them.

“Their inventions are really innovative,” said O Yong Chol, head of the traumaic surgery department of Pyongyang Municipal People’s Hospital No. 2.

They, father and daughter developers, received several diplomas at the Pyongyang international health and sports science and technology exhibition in 2018 and were highly appreciated at the national sci-tech festival and inventions exhibition.

“We have gained extensive experience on the way of pioneering a new cross-disciplinary science which combines mineralogy and medicine. We are confident that such diseases as cancer would not remain incurable in the future if scientific research into minerals is intensified still further,” said Chon Chun Chu.

By Choy Yong Nam PT

Pegae Hill with a ski slope in the City of Samjiyon.

By Choe Yong Nam PT
JAPAN

Another revelation of deep-seated hostility towards DPRK

Shortly ago, the Japanese authorities have excluded students of Korea University from the application of the "emergency subsidy program for students" related to the world pandemic crisis.

Such a cruel measure has shocked the international community and even Japanese citizens feel shame for it. Representatives of Japanese university professors issued a statement calling for impartial support. This was approved by hundreds of university professors.

The discrimination and persecution by the Japanese authorities against the overall educational system for Koreans in Japan are a fascist outrage aimed at preventing Koreans of younger generations from carrying forward their movement in Japan by stamping out the democratic national education.

Their moves to stamp out the national education, which have been made since Japan’s defeat in World War II, are getting ever nastier and crueller.

The Japanese authorities didn’t recognize the establishment of Korean schools in an attempt to nip in the bud the development of national education. In 1949, they dissolved 348 Korean schools by enforcing the “law on closure of Korean schools”.

Afterwards, they forced assimilation education on Koreans in Japan and pursued cruel national discrimination against the Korean students.

They do not provide subsidies for the Korean schools for no reason though Koreans in Japan are obliged to pay taxes like the Japanese. They have even imposed taxes on the donations offered by Koreans to Korean schools in a bid to disturb their efforts for improving the educational environment.

Their ceaseless moves to obliterate national education have inflicted untold damage on the Koreans in Japan.

As the Koreans in Japan are the direct victims of Japanese military rule, and their descendants, the Japanese authorities have legal and humanitarian responsibilities for guaranteeing their human rights and encouraging the development of their national education.

Notably, the Koreans' right to national education is in full compliance with the World Declaration on Human Rights, the international convention on economic, social and cultural rights and other international laws accepted by Japan and its domestic laws.

Japan seeks to trample down the future of the movement of Koreans in Japan and do harm to the DPRK, far from dropping the foolish way of thinking to satisfy the ordering of education for attaining its disgusting diplomatic and political purposes. This is the true colours of Japan.

Japan should abandon its despicable policy hostile to the DPRK and moves to obliterate national education, being aware that the guaranteeing of national education for the Korean students is a sincere approach to the proper settlement of its crime-ridden past.

By Song Jong Ho PT

Growing discrimination against Koreans in Japan

On March 10, Japan’s Saitama City authorities excluded the kindergarten of Saitama Korean junior middle school only from the supply of masks for local sanatoriums, nurseries and kindergartens.

The Korean right-wing gangsters on May 10 thronged to Korea University with placards and the likes, which read “Korea University is a murderous university”, “Tokyo Metropolis should cancel the incorporation of the university” and others, viciously slinging mud to the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan and the university.

On September 2, Japan’s Supreme Court turned down the claim of damage suit for the illegality of discrimination against the Korean school by the Japanese authorities filed by the graduates from Aichi Korean middle and high school in 2013, saying the government decision to exclude Japan-based Korean schools from state subsidies to high schools is legitimate.

The Japanese government is trying to stem the growing discrimination in the country by setting up a database of the names of students attending Korean schools.

By Min Chol PT

ENVIRONMENT

Carbon dioxide emission emerges as pressing issue

The UN Secretary-General has recently underlined the need to declare a climate emergency worldwide. The world, regardless to the fact that carbon dioxide emissions causing global warming have amounted to 34 billion tons this year.

Experts warned that the density of carbon dioxide will pass the limit of 1.200ppm in 2104 if no measures are taken. According to research data, about 1 000-2 000ppm of carbon dioxide density is high enough to remove clouds and raise the temperature by 8 degrees centigrade at maximum.

In the latest report of this year, the International Energy Agency said the amount of carbon dioxide emitted last year was 27 billion tons and the energy reached about 33 billion tons, which was similar to that of 2018 when the amount of emission marked a record high. Abnormal weather conditions caused by global warming destroy ecosystem and pose serious threats to human existence and activities.

Sultry weather, heat waves and dry weather reduce grain output in the agricultural sector and flood, forest fire and other natural disasters occur to cause human and materials losses.

Today, the reduction of amount of carbon dioxide emission is a pressing task for mankind.

Many countries are making positive endeavours to develop and use natural energies in place of fossil fuels.

According to information of the UN, the capacity of generating natural energies has increased four times in the world in recent ten years. The world’s capacity of generating such natural energies as solar, wind and geothermal powers was reportedly 414GW in 2009, but it increased to 1 650GW in 2019 which accounted for 12.9 percent of the total electricity output.

Thanks to the benefits of natural energies, two billion tons of carbon dioxide emissions were inhibited in 2018. Therefore, different countries work hard to harness them.

By Om Ryong PT

Briefly

China

Xi refers to poverty relief

Chinese President Xi Jinping said in a letter published on December 14 that the Communist Party of China and the Chinese government have set a goal to provide its people with a happy life, and rural areas and people living in them have got out of poverty this year thanks to the continuous efforts made in the past eight years.

Mongolia

President clarifies stand to stabilize people’s livelihood

The Mongolia President said on December 14 that the government would lower living expenses on a nationwide scale until early June next year, describing it as an important measure for providing its people with more conditions of life in connection with COVID-19.

India

Modi calls for directing efforts to space programme

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi referred to a series of measures the Indian government has recently taken to promote national space programme, saying that this field requires more telematics talents.

Cuba

Vice-president points to energy priorities

The vice-president of the Council of Ministers of Cuba said at the National Assembly of People’s Power on December 17 that solar power stations in the middle area of the country and the Mariel special development zone generated large quantities of electricity and the bio-power station started operation this year. Power production by natural energies is a primary task for economic development, he noted.

East Africa

National post-cooperation

Defence ministers of the East African countries decided on December 18 to scale up the East African Rapid Reaction Forces from 6 000 to 7 000 so as to promote regional peace and stability.

CIS

Leaders committed to synergy in many fields

The council of heads of the CIS member states of the Commonwealth of Independent States held a videoconference on December 18.

The meeting discussed the issues of collaboration between the CIS members in the fight against the pandemic and of strengthening cooperation in all domains including politics, the economy and military.

THE PYONGYANG TIMES

CONGO

Country of tropical forests

The Republic of Congo is located in mid-western Africa on the Atlantic coast.

Colonized by France in 1886, the country became independent on August 15 1960 within the French community. Its name is derived from the namesake river.

The Congo River is the next biggest to the Amazon in terms of catchment area in the world.

The two thirds of the Congolese territory is covered with tropical forests, which are remarkably dense particularly in the northern area. Grass savannah stretches over its southern area.

Tall trees form forests also in the north-eastern plains. The riverside of the southern area is wooded to unfold spectacular scenery on the savannah. The tropical forests are inhabited by elephants, chimpanzees and other animals. There are nature parks in different parts of the country which contribute to protecting precious animal and plant recurses.

The equatorial country has a high temperature all the year round and a high rainfall as well.

The Congo focuses on developing the timber industry.

By Min Chol PT

Many wood-processing factories have been built to satisfy the domestic demand for timber and the country is a big wood exporter.

Close attention has been directed to upgrading relevant equipment, ensuring the timely transport of logs to processing plants and creating forests of economic value.

The DPRK established diplomatic relations with the Republic of Congo at ambassadorial level on December 24 1964.

By By Min Chol PT

THE PYONGYANG TIMES
Sin Kum Dan secures a place in athletic history

Perhaps, people would not believe that an athlete reset the world’s track and field records 11 times. But it is a fact. Sin Kum Dan of the DPRK, who was brought into sudden prominence in the 1960s, was called the “queen of the world’s athletics circles” by renewing the world’s records 11 times during her playing career.

She was born to an ordinary railway worker’s family in Riwon County, South Hamgyong Province, in 1938. After finishing the middle school course, she started to work at the Huichon Machine Tool Factory. It was in a factory-wide sports contest held on August 15 that year to mark the day of national liberation from Japanese military rule.

A story about her was published by a newspaper, and she was picked to the Amnokgang Sports Club afterwards. She competed in the national track and field contest to break new records at 200m, 400m and 800m races to breast the tape before others. While working as a track and field coach at the Amnokgang Sports Club later, she trained many sports aces including the one who topped the rankings at the Asian athletics games in 1987 and devoted her all to the development of the sport. She is now over 80, and the people keep loving memory of her along with the high decorations she received including Kim II Sung Prize and the title of People’s Athlete.

FOOD

Clam dish of Wonsan

Wonsan boiled rice with clam meat is a special dish prepared with shellfish from the East Sea of Korea. Clam meat is well known for its distinctive flavour as well as rich content of such nutrients as proteins, fat and vitamins. The speciality of Wonsan, a coastal city of the DPRK, is not only famous for being cooked with savoury and nutritive clams but also for its unusual recipe.

To make the dish, some red pepper is boiled down in oil until it smells hot. And then, 200 grams of bite-sized clam meat, red and green pepper, smashed leek and garlic, ginger, wine, salt and pepper are put into the saucepan, followed by 80 grams of rice and sesame oil. The pan is heated until the food picks up flavour, and then it is put into shells of clams over which clam soup is poured. You then shut the shells and wrap them with the leaves of leopard plant or perilla to steam them for about 40 minutes.

The dish tastes hot and spicy but not fishy. The rice is well cooked and oily and preserves its original shape. It may have different flavours depending on what kind of leaves are used for wrapping.

Wonsan boiled rice with clam meat is palatable and appetizing as all the ingredients and elements blend in well with each other, such as colour, smell, taste, chewiness and even the sight of clam shells.

By Pang Un Ju PT