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Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un sees lunar New Year's Day performance

Kim Jong Un, chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea, chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and supreme commander of the armed forces of the DPRK, on Jan 25 saw together with his wife Ri Sol Ju the performance given in celebration of Lunar New Year's Day at the Samjiyon Theatre in Pyongyang.

Singers of major art troupes gave the performance, including the band of the State Affairs Commission, Samjiyon Orchestra and State Merited Chorus.

They sang in praise of the greatness of the WPK that is demonstrating to the whole world the might and prestige of the country as it ushers in a new era of miracle and change unprecedented in human history by overcoming all ordeals and difficulties facing the revolution.



They staged songs reflecting the feeling of profound reverence and gratitude towards Kim Jong Un who develops the WPK into a mighty guiding force of the revolution and toward the Party as well, and revolutionary songs reflecting the determination of all the Korean

people to go along the road of socialism following the line of self-prosperity under the leadership of the WPK.

The performance ended with narrative poem, orchestral music and male chorus *We'll Travel One Road Forever*.

Kim Jong Un mounted the stage together with Ri Sol Ju to congratulate the artistes on their successful performance.

He expressed his warm thanks to the performers for having sung of the Party and wholeheartedly supported its fighting policy passionately with high artistry.

The performance was enjoyed by Choe Ryong Hae, Kim Kyong Hui, Ri Il Hwan, Jo Yong Won, Kim Yo Jong and Hyon Song Wol.

The audience also included working people and innovators

from major industrial establishments and cooperative farms in Pyongyang, officials and persons of merit in the fields of scientific research, education and public health and artistes of major art troupes.

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EMERGENCY

Nation gets into emergency state against novel CoV infection

The number of cases infected with a novel corona virus is on the rise as the days go by, arousing serious concern worldwide.

According to the Chinese state commission of hygiene and health, the number of pneumonia cases infected with the virus increased to 5 974 and the death toll to 132 in 31 provinces involving autonomous regions and municipalities as of Jan 28.

And 9 239 are suspected of being infected with the bug, while 59 990 are under medical observation.

The secretary of the Wuhan City Committee of the Communist Party of China, at a press briefing

on the prevention of pneumonia infected with the virus on Jan 27, said the number of fever cases getting treatment exceeded 15 000 in the city in a day alone.

The first Canadian suspect was found in Toronto on Jan 25, while infected people were spotted in Russia's Krasnodar, Sri Lanka, Germany and France to be sent to special hospitals. Such cases are also on the steady rise in China's Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan, the US, Japan and elsewhere.

The international community is getting extremely apprehensive as it has been confirmed that 5 million people left Wuhan, the origin of the virus, before the city

was sealed off. Malaysia has taken a temporary measure to prohibit Chinese people from Hubei Province from entering the country in order to prevent the spread of the infection.

In accordance with the government's emergency measure, the hygienic and anti-epidemic system of the DPRK is to be put into an emergency system until the danger of infection disappears.

Accordingly, emergency anti-epidemic headquarters have been formed in Pyongyang, provinces, cities and counties. They are making careful and intensive arrangements to find out and put in quarantine patients and people suspected of carrying the corona

virus in its early stage, secure reagents for medical checkup and diagnosis and drugs and intensify hygienic information activities by further tightening inspection and quarantine at ports, airports and border areas including border-crossing points and by carrying out medical observation and examination of all those who returned from foreign tours and residents as well.

Medical observation of those who were on a foreign tour is being carried on in a responsible manner and detailed arrangements have been made to immediately isolate those who are tentatively diagnosed as having the infection.

Household doctors across

the country make their regular rounds in residential quarters in their charge to find out fever cases and pneumonia patients who are irresponsive to treatment for definite diagnosis, while prioritizing prearrangements for isolating suspects in close contact with anti-epidemic institutions.

Pharmaceutical factories are striving to mass-produce anti-viral medicines including *Arctium lappa* liquid medicine made with locally available materials and relevant institutions are making special arrangements to supply necessary medicines.

KCNA

LEAD

Self-reliance immutable course of development for DPRK

The Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea held in late December last year put forward the line of smashing straight through all the barriers standing in the way of advance for socialist construction on the strength of self-reliance.

Self-reliance is the invariable revolutionary mode and fighting principle of the DPRK which regards independence and self-respect as its life.

The 70-odd-year history of socialist construction in the DPRK constitutes its victorious advance by dint of self-reliance.

The banner of independence by their own efforts the first generation of Korean revolutionaries held up during the anti-Japanese war has been carried on faithfully as the banner of independence and self-reliance in the whole course of laying the groundwork of democracy from scratch after Korea's liberation and of building socialism.

The DPRK laid the solid

foundations of an independent economy by eliminating the centuries-old backwardness and poverty and carried out socialist industrialization on the debris of war, which was so extensive that the hostile forces argued the country could not rise up even after 100 years, in a matter of 14 years, all in the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude.

Today it has held up higher the banner of self-reliance, a declaration of its indomitable will to carry through the cause of building a powerful socialist country by giving full play to the might of self-reliance.

It has no other way of building a socialist power or mode of development than to steadily enhance the capacity of the independent national economy and rely on it.

In the present world rife with the US' high-handedness and arbitrariness no one wants to help the DPRK and no one can do so.

Unless the DPRK steps up the efforts to build up its own

self-development capacity while waiting for the lifting of sanctions, the enemy offensive would grow stronger and finally it would only delay the timetable for a powerful nation building.

Only when it creates more wealth for self-reliance and self-sufficiency, can it completely neutralize the sanctions pressure by the hostile forces and bring earlier the day of victory of socialism—this is the faith of the DPRK.

It has inexhaustible potentials for development which have been increased under the wise leadership of the WPK.

The brilliant victories and achievements it made last year when it was faced with the worst trials and difficulties fully prove how strong the DPRK is and how enormous its potentials for development are.

The DPRK will as ever hold fast to self-reliance and dynamically push ahead with the building of a powerful socialist nation.

By Pang Un Ju PT

machines including conveyor belt, exhaust fan, water filter and perfume injector and in the production of glass bottles and stoppers in different shapes and sizes.

Coal output up for thermal power stations

The Tokchon Area Coal-mining Complex produced over 23 000 tons of more coal than the same period of last year to be supplied to the Pukchang Thermal Power Complex.

The Jenam Coal Mine under the complex turned out several thousand tons of more coal and the Namyang Coal Mine cut hundreds of tons of more coal than planned every day.

The Wolbong, Hyongbong and Toksong coal mines have secured sufficient coalfields by promoting cooperation between shifts and introducing an advanced blasting method.

Innovative ideas employed for construction project

Builders have introduced over a dozen technical innovation plans into the third-stage construction of Samjiyon City.

They include a technique of producing primary and secondary filling materials by using mud and soot, a method of building slab with the help of hook-like jig, a method of making Hume concrete pipes for insertion, a roller-type sand sieve, an articulated grinder, a protective device of three-phase electric motor and a method of building block curing ground

with an underfloor-heating system.

Home-made passenger vehicles run in Pyongyang



Visitors can see new-type trolley-buses and tramcars running along the streets of Pyongyang.

In recent years more than 100 trolley-buses and many tramcars have been produced in a serial way.

Not only their forms and structures but also their performance and quality of fittings have been improved by far as compared to previously.

Subway trains have also been newly developed and they are running along the Pulgunbyol-Puhung line.

Triplet officers

All four children, including triplet daughters, of Kang Haeng Uk living in Sinuiju, North Phyongan Province, serve in the Korean People's Army.

The triplets are officers in the army.

The four are all members of the Workers' Party of Korea, and the youngest triplet had a photograph taken with Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un as she participated in a conference of the KPA last year.

Nationwide

Penguins find their feet in Pyongyang

The number of Humboldt penguins at the Central Zoo in Pyongyang has increased to nine with the recent hatching of two eggs.

According to a zoo official, the chicks weighed 70g each when they broke out of the eggs on Jan 2 and 6.

The Humboldt penguins were presented to Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un by a Russian personage on Aug 5 2013. The endemic species of penguin inhabits the Humboldt Current in the sea off Peru and Chile in South America.

Perfume line added to cosmetics factory



A perfume production line has newly been installed at the Sinuiju Cosmetics Factory.

Researchers and technicians of the factory found out the rational mixing ratio of aromatic essences and carried out several experiments to ensure all technical indexes of perfume such as aroma and durability on high levels.

They also solved technological problems arising in the manufacture and installation of

MACROBIAN

Pride of centenarian



Hyon Pong Hak (pictured) living in Central District, Pyongyang, celebrated her 100th birthday on Jan 17.

She still plays *yut* (four-stick) game, one of traditional folk games, with her descendants and neighbours.

Born in 1920, she is particularly fond of kimchi, walks without the help of others and does needlework and knitting.

According to Ri Myong Ok, doctor in charge of her health, her mental state is as healthy as that of those in their sixties.

She has got a pretty good memory of the past. She recalled those years when she was subjected to maltreatment and contempt as a member of the ruined nation under Japanese military rule (1905-1945) and compelled to skulk around to avoid being taken away for sexual slavery.

Her big pride is that her seven children and 13 grandchildren are university graduates.

Hailing from a poor peasant family in Orang County of

North Hamgyong Province, she learnt the Korean alphabet for the first time at an adult school after Korea's liberation, and her husband studied medicine and worked as a doctor.

She said the biggest dream of her couple was to get their children to study to their heart's content.

Hyon expressed her gratitude to the state for letting her children attend universities free and training them to be a lecturer, doctor and cook. Her grandchildren also work as specialists in different fields after graduating from Kim Il Sung University, Kim Chaek University of Technology, Pyongyang University of Architecture and other leading universities of the country.

She sang two songs, pronouncing the words correctly.

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un sent her a birthday spread on the occasion of her centenary.

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production of fabrics for shirts and tights. Zippers, sewing thread and other materials for the production of school uniforms and bags are also produced in large quantities at the Mangyongdae Revolutionary Site Souvenir Factory, the Sariwon Disabled Soldiers' Sewing Thread Factory, the Phyongsong Elastic Factory and others.

The steady supply of materials enables garment and bag factories across the country to operate at full capacity.

The production of leather shoes and trainers for new students is now at its height at the Wonsan Leather Shoes Factory and other footwear factories.

Organic farming encouraged

Farms in South Hwanghae Province have actively applied organic farming.

The Raerim Cooperative Farm in Jaeryong County produced thousands of tons of fermented manure Sinyang 2 to spread it to paddy and non-paddy fields.

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RECYCLING

Factory turns plastic wastes into goods

"Recycling is a shortcut to reenergizing production," said the manager of the Pyongyang Plastic Building Materials Factory.

It has long been known for its proficiency in recycling as it has revitalized production by using waste plastics.

It consumes two tons of waste plastics every day, which make up 40 percent of materials needed for its normal operation.

"We purchase hundreds of tons of plastic wastes every year from procurement shops in Pyongyang and local areas,"

said the chief of the material supply section.

The factory pays primary attention to sorting raw materials.

"It is pretty hard to sort two tons of different kinds of plastic wastes every day," said worker Han Myong Ok.

They are largely divided into pipes, sheets and linoleum and subdivided into several groups according to their ingredients, and sent to different production processes.

At present, the factory uses them to turn out pipes, buckets, basins, chairs and shuttering

boards.

Especially, the plastic shuttering boards have such high tensile, compressive and bending strength that they are widely used at major construction sites including the Wonsan Kalma coast resort and the demand for them is on the steady rise.

The factory also produces materials for aquiculture and developed coloured plaster using stone dusts from a building stone factory nearby.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

R&D

New methane fermentation accelerator developed

Scientists of the Life Science Faculty of Kim Il Sung University have developed a low-temperature methane fermentation accelerator which helps produce methane gas even in low temperatures.

"Methane fermentation has seasonal limitations as it goes well in hot summer, but comes to no good in low temperatures. After all, the period when methane gas can be naturally produced in a year amounts to only seven months," said key developer Kim Tong Ryul, PhD and associate professor.

The main thing in solving the problem is to get low-temperature microorganisms with high capacity of resolving organic matters.

To this end, the scientists

separated hundreds of kinds of low-temperature microorganisms to select bacterial strains with high organic matter resolving power. And then they established a rational cultivation condition and found out nutritive elements needed for methane fermentation, thus developing a methane fermentation accelerator that can raise the efficacy of methane fermentation even in low temperatures.

According to Mun Hye Gyoung, PhD, when it is applied to the case of methane fermentation that goes wrong due to low temperatures, the accelerator helps shorten the period when methane gas starts generation, increase output and

improve quality.

The result of its application to 1 000-cubic-metre methane fermentation liquid in a unit showed that it produced 50-100 cubic metres of methane gas on a daily basis in winter and increased gas output 1.2-1.5 times more than before in spring and summer.

"It means that the unit produced 50 000-70 000 cubic metres of more gas in a year. The amount is equivalent to 50 000-70 000 kWhs of electricity, or 50-70 tons of coal," said Kim.

The accelerator came first at the 34th national sci-tech festival and was awarded a patent.

By Yun Ki Song PT

ENERGY

Different sources tapped to meet power needs

The South Phyongan Provincial Posts and Telecommunications Management Bureau makes the best use of a variety of energy sources.

A typical example is electricity production based on coal gasification.

"Our province has a favourable condition in which coal mines are placed in a concentrated way as the area is endowed with large coal deposits. That is why most of the city and county post offices in the province generate electricity from coal gasification which is cost-effective and suits the actual conditions of the province," said Kim Yong Dok, chief engineer of the

management bureau.

According to him, the power generation system based on coal gasification usually has a generating capacity of 50 kW.

"The dedusting and desulphurization process can be claimed to be the core in producing gas based on moulded coal briquette. We ensure stabilized electric power by raising the quality of filtered gas," Kim said.

Yun Kwan Chol, director of the Anju City Post Office, said that they are competent enough to maintain communications with electricity they produced by themselves.

Such mountainous counties as Yangdok and Maengsan set

up the power generation system based on wood gasification, while the Jungsan County Post Office ensures communications with electricity produced from methane gas.

The sideline agro-stock farm under the management bureau does animal husbandry and fish farming with the electricity generated from coal gasification.

"As we polish rice brought by neighbouring farms with our own electricity and supply fodder with rice chaff, we don't worry about feed," said Kim Yong Chol, workteam leader of the farm.

By Chae Hyang Ok PT

PIANO

Various types of pianos turned out on order

The Pyongyang Piano Joint Venture Company in Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang, produces various types of high- and medium-class pianos.

"Making pianos in the way of completing one by one by giving finishing manual touches to them—this is the soul of our Pyongyang piano," said Paek Yong Won, director of the company.

According to him, the company-made pianos are very popular with musicians and other users for their clear sound and rich volume, soft hand touch and stable pitch.

After hearing the rendition of a piano made by the company in the performance "The night of culture in celebration of the Day of the Sun" held in Vienna in 2006, an Austrian musician said that the DPRK's 136-type upright piano has good sound quality on a par with that of grand piano and this is another success of the DPRK's piano industry.

Among over 30 000 pianos with PACO and other trademarks made by the company, 14 000

By Yun Kyong Il PT



RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Different types of pianos produced by the Pyongyang Piano Joint Venture Company.

FARMING

Grain output up in cold, wet lands

Workteam No. 1 of the Mabang Cooperative Farm in Cholwon County, Kangwon Province, was appreciated at the conference for reviewing the work in agricultural field in 2019, which took place in Pyongyang on Jan 17-19, as it produced 12.5 tons of rice per hectare on average and 14.7 tons of maize per hectare to the maximum.

This workteam has produced more than 12 tons of grain per hectare in the cold and wet lands in recent years.

In the past, its per-hectare yield was only one ton.

odd pianos were sold to over 20 countries over the world.

"Our company uses such quality woods as spruce, linden and oak growing in the northern alpine area over 1 000 metres above sea level and is working to improve the quality of products by making effective use of world-recognized materials," said Jong Chol Hwa, chief of the technical section.

He said that the company is staffed with proficient technical forces capable of designing and making pianos according to order.

Pyongyang pianos have maintained high quality, which is attributable to the producers' rich experience and high techniques.

The company upgraded its production processes by introducing over 250 inventions and original ideas, and now it turns out over 100 varieties of products in six kinds.

The company's pianos won diplomas at the 10th Pyongyang musical instrument exhibition last year.

By Yun Kyong Il PT

In this regard, workteam leader Ha Yong Suk told KCNA that most of its arable lands were cold and wet ones, but the workteam members turned them into fertile lands through several years of land reclamation.

They have introduced advanced cultivation methods and put more than 2 tons of slaked lime and 40 tons of organic fertilizer per hectare in the fields, she said.

She expressed a resolve to produce 15 tons of grain per hectare this year.

EDUCATION

Extracurricular activities encouraged during vacation

The educational authorities of the DPRK have taken new measures to make students receive extracurricular education to their heart's content according to their aptitudes and talents during this winter vacation instead of giving them homework.

"In the past students of primary and junior and senior middle schools were burdened with holiday tasks, which had certain negative impacts on their physical and mental growth," said Kim Chang Su, department director of the Education Commission.

According to him, summer

vacation will also be extended markedly in order to enable students to have a good rest during the holiday as they acquire knowledge and skills at hobby groups according to their liking or go on a study tour.

These measures are now positively responded by teachers, students and their parents across the country.

A teacher said that it provides students with good opportunities to develop their individuality and potentiality during vacations.

In accordance with the new measures, hobby groups that

were limited to math, foreign languages, music, composition, IT, sports and some others have greatly been increased in number as classrooms have been turned into hobby group rooms.

A great variety of hobby groups have come into being, including those of abacus, jigsaw puzzle, rhythm, singing, *jangu* (hourglass drum), badminton, basketball, horizontal bar, skipping rope, track and field, vaulting horse and *ssirum* (Korean wrestling).

By Pang Un Ju PT

Study tour and excursion help children broaden their horizons

Schools across the country are actively organizing field trips and visits to many places in winter vacation to help students experience much more things vividly.

Primary schools mostly choose destinations with amusement facilities to suit the psychology of young schoolchildren and middle schools select factories, enterprises and theatres.

Kim Sol Hwa, teacher at Hasin Primary School, Sosong District of Pyongyang, said she visited the Central Zoo, the Natural History Museum, the children's dream hall at the Sci-Tech Complex and Rungna Dolphinarium with the pupils according to her weekly plan.

"The pupils ask many questions during their visits. Probably many questions arise in their mind as they see many things in reality that they cannot imagine at classes. Field trip is really helpful to their study," she added.

Kim Chol Gwang, teacher at Sangdong Senior Middle School in Wonsan, Kangwon Province, organizes visits of the art group students to various places in the province.

He thought field experience is a must for them to finish during the vacation the production of at least one piece of artwork for the provincial art exhibition and the national sketch festival to be held this year.

I think it is important to organize more diverse field trips and visits than before in order to cultivate the aptitudes and talents of students. So I carefully planned them to many places so that they can broaden their horizons, discuss many things for art creation and practise drawing in the vibrant

reality," he said.

His students have already visited many places including the coast resort, leather shoes factory, furniture factory and Masikryong Ski Resort.

One of his students wrote in his composition after visiting several places in the province:

"Seeing the construction site of Wonsan Kalma coast resort stretching far and wide along the horizon, I was excited and

felt my heart swelling. The builders are excellent indeed as they have constructed many buildings in such a short time, I thought. I am also very proud of our province which produces many things that we use by itself. At the Masikryong Ski Resort I felt an urge to produce a wonderful design of such building or a better one."

By Kim Rye Yong PT



PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES
Students practise the *kayagum*, a kind of Korean harp, at the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace in Pyongyang.



RYANG KUM CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES
Pupils play *paduk*(*go*) at Kinmaul Primary School in Moranbong District, Pyongyang.



HAN KWANG MYONG / RODONG SINMUN
Researchers guard against any local outbreak of the novel corona virus infection at the medical biology institute of the Academy of Medical Sciences of the DPRK.

Hobby groups bloom

"In the past, schools would work out daily schedules for students' vacation with homework and different cultural activities," said Kim Yong Suk, teacher at Puyong Junior Middle School in Haeju, South Hwanghae Province. "From this winter vacation, however, students have been allowed to make their own schedules and many of them chose to do the arts and sports, and therefore our school decided to run many hobby groups accordingly."

Ri Wi Jong, a second-grader at the school, does some math and English revision in the morning and learns to play the accordion and then table tennis for two hours in the afternoon.

The school has hobby groups for accordion, guitar, singing, art, basketball, table tennis, volleyball and badminton.

One month has passed since

the vacation started and Wi Jong has developed a deep interest in accordion and table tennis.

"I always wanted to play the accordion and table tennis better than others, but I could not find enough time to practise them because I had so much homework to do," she said. "Now I'm happy that I can do them all at hobby groups during the vacation."

According to Kim Won Hui, deputy department director at the Education Commission, hobby group activities would give younger students the self-confidence of "I can do it" and elder ones the self-assurance of "I can do it best".

Teachers and parents say that diverse hobby group activities bring students bigger gains than homework during the holiday.

By Kim Kum Myong PT



PAK CHANG BOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES
Girls acquire embroidery techniques at the Pyongyang Students and Children's Palace.



JANG KYONG NAM / THE PYONGYANG TIMES
Kids are in an abacus game at Kaeson Kindergarten under Pyongyang Teachers Training College.

CELEBRATION

Lunar New Year's Day celebrated

Marking lunar New Year's Day, the people from all walks of life visited the plaza of the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun, sacred temple of Juche, to make a bow to the portraits bearing the beaming images of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il.

Lots of working people, youth and students and service personnel paid their respects to the statues of the President and the Chairman and the portraits bearing their smiling images on Mansu Hill in Pyongyang and in other parts of the country.

A basket of flowers sent by Kim Jong Un, chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea, chairman of the DPRK State Affairs Commission and supreme commander of the armed forces of the DPRK, was seen in front of the statues of the great leaders.

Floral baskets were laid at their statues in the names of Party, government and military organs, public organizations, ministries, national agencies, units of the Korean People's Army and the Korean People's Internal Security Forces, and institutions, factories and

enterprises at all levels in Pyongyang.

Art performances were given in Pyongyang and local areas, adding colours to the festive mood.

At the East Pyongyang Grand Theatre, the Wangjaesan Art Troupe gave a dance performance.

The National Acrobatic Troupe gave an acrobatic performance at the Pyongyang Circus Theatre to give joy and optimism to working people,

youth and students.

Artistes, schoolchildren and other children in South Hwanghae and South Hamgyong provinces put on stage a variety of music and dance pieces.

Youth and students celebrated the folk holiday while doing kite-flying, top spinning, shuttlecock game, rope-skipping and other folk games at Kim Il Sung Square and plazas of the Arch of Triumph, Pyongyang Indoor Stadium, Sinuiju, Kanggye

and elsewhere.

With national sentiment and flavour of the Koreans overflowing throughout the country, working people from all walks of life spent a good time, having photos taken, singing folk songs, dancing and playing *yut* (four-stick) game, *janggi* (Korean chess) and other folk games in streets, villages and families.

Okryu and Chongnyu restaurants and Pyongyang Noodle House in Pyongyang,



A scene from the dance performance given by the Wangjaesan Art Troupe at the East Pyongyang Grand Theatre as part of lunar New Year's Day celebrations.



CHAE MYONG RIM / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Schoolchildren have a good time during the lunar New Year holiday as they play folk games at Kim Il Sung Square.

EATERY

Rice-cake soup house draws diners

Changgwang Street in the heart of Pyongyang is lined with restaurants serving various Eastern and Western dishes.

Asked which restaurant is the busiest nowadays, Kim Kum Ok, staffer in charge of service at the Changgwang Public Catering Service Management Bureau, replied it is the Rice-cake Soup House.

"I think more people come to our eatery than before as it is time around the lunar New Year holiday. Rice-cake soup is made at families, but our soup has a special traditional flavour," said So Hyon Gyong, chief of the soup house.

Rice-cake soup that is made by boiling sliced rice cake in meat soup is one of the winter foods peculiar to Korea. It is known as a must on lunar New Year's Day.

In olden times, it was called "thangbyong" or "chomsebyong" in the meaning that people grow older by one year as they eat a bowl of rice-cake soup every year. Hence the custom of saying "How many bowls of rice-cake soup have you had?" when asking children their ages.

The restaurant puts much effort to making rice-cake bars properly in order to preserve

the traditional flavour of the soup.

So Hyon Gyong said that the right mix of rice and water makes a rice-cake bar not too hard or soft and that there is a knack of enhancing the taste of the soup in cutting a bar into slices in the willow leaf shape and parboiling them.

The cooks of the diner deftly put the slices into the simmering salt water, then poured cold water on them and parboiled them again before putting them into cold water, reminding the viewer of a stunt. "If you fail to be punctual in each process, you will fail to make tasty rice-cake soup. It requires much practice and an acute sense as well," said one of the cooks.

"I'm a regular diner at this soup house as its soup is savoury and the rice cake is gummy and smooth," said Kim Ok Gyong.

Chicken, pheasant and pork are used to prepare the soup.

There are two methods of cooking the soup. One is to put rice-cake slices first and pour boiling meat soup over them and another one is to boil the meat soup with the slices.

It makes your mouth water to see the soup with a garnish of an egg pancake, toasted laver and

RECREATION

Laughters ring out at amusement park in winter

Despite midwinter, the Kaeson Youth Amusement Park is always packed with visitors who come to experience unusual joy there.

"I have come here again, unable to forget the delight coming after fear, though I felt the sentiment whenever I came here," said Rim Chol Hyok who visited the amusement park on a holiday.

According to him, he had previously dreadful experience after riding Power Surge, allured by those who screamed with delight. But when fear disappeared, he said, he wanted to ride the amusement facility once again.

As if proving his words, some young men and women and schoolchildren who screamed as they enjoyed different facilities in the park, hurriedly ran towards other facilities as soon as the facilities stopped.

Hong Myong Il, operator of Z-Force, said that when he

sliced pepper.

The restaurant also serves the cake made of frozen potato, *nochi*, or a fried glutinous rice cake mixed with malt, and fancy rice cake mixed with wormwood and carrot.

By Kim Rye Yong PT

started to work as an operator of the facility, he could not operate it at full capacity in consideration of the riders' horror.

According to Won Son Hui, a service woman who works with him, Hong works hard to control the operation mode and speed to suit the psychological features of riders.

The Z-Force sends riders up to the top of the tower in an instant or slowly and then suddenly sends them down. It moves again though it tends to stop, and lifts them in a moment to make the riders impossible to distinguish the sky from the

earth when they give a sigh of relief.

"It will be disagreeable to others, but I find my delight in seeing riders making screams and fretting themselves what to do. Even the maidens wearing tearful faces burst out laughing and express greetings of thanks to me when the amusement facility stops and safety belts loosen," said Hong.

Every visitor is filled with excitement.

"Though the weather is cold, my whole body burns with joy," said a visitor.

By Ko Kwang Yon PT



RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

People amuse themselves riding Z-Force at the Kaeson Youth Amusement Park in Pyongyang.

PROFILE

Woman cobbler loves her job

It is not easy to work for decades in a job many do not take readily.

Ri Ok Hui, however, has been working as cobbler at the Sariwon City Public Service Management Station in North Hwanghae Province for nearly three decades.

The 61-year-old started mending shoes in her early 30s.

At that time she was a workteam leader at a county soybean paste and sauce factory, so after moving to Sariwon following her husband who was promoted to a provincial-level official, she hoped to work at a foodstuff factory.

But her husband Ri Ho Song asked her to work as cobbler as residents in the city felt inconvenience since there were not enough shoe repairers there.

Therefore, she became cobbler out of deference to her husband with a high social position and also from a sense of duty. But it was not an easy job.

By mistake, the beginner hammered her fingers to get them swollen and cut her hand with a knife to bleed.

She had her blind mother-in-law and adopted orphans to support.



"What distressed me the most was to see customers dissatisfied with my poor workmanship, rather than handling household affairs. I feared I wouldn't be able to do my job properly. And my children complained about my job," recalled Ri Ok Hui.

She would walk a long way to collect used tyre or rubber as materials were insufficient.

"In a Korean language lesson, our teacher got us to write a composition about our pride in our mothers. But I presented to the teacher blank paper. And I often vexed our mother, asking her why she mended shoes though our father was a provincial official," said her daughter Ri Hyo Yong.

But Ri Ok Hui drew great encouragement from customers who were pleased with the mended shoes and appreciated her work and she came to regard her job that she began from a sense of duty as an absolutely necessary and excellent thing that brings pleasure to people.

She would call on skilled hands to acquire skills and devoted all her thoughts and wisdom to shoe repair as she disassembled and reassembled the shoes of her husband and children time and again.

In the course of this, she increased the shoe repair indexes to more than 30 and repaired tens of thousands of pairs of shoes.

She provided people with mobile, order and delivery services and offered war veterans and disabled soldiers repair service free.

In recognition of her devoted and unassuming service the state conferred on her the title of Merited Welfare Service Repairer and Central Meritorious Person of Socialist Patriotism.

She also received a gold ring bearing the name of Chairman Kim Jong Il.

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

DOG

Family spreads Phungsans of good breed

"The pups of our Jinphungsan have spread all over the country," said Sin Tong Suk living in neighbourhood unit No. 52 in Taesong-dong of Sariwon, North Hwanghae Province.

According to Sin, her family members began to breed Phungsan 10 years ago and produced over a dozen pups every year to send them to all parts of the country including Pyongyang and Nampho, to say nothing of North and South Hwanghae provinces.

Locals call her family a "Phungsan raising folk".

The call representing their affection for the family who have been breeding the dog named Jinphungsan, the only

one of its kind, in the village since some years ago has now become a synonym for respect and affection towards the family that spreads the national dog and pride of the nation.

Phungsan dogs have received particular love of the Korean people since olden times as they are clever, swift and tenacious and they have widely been known even in neighbouring countries.

Sin Tong Suk regards it as a civil obligation to breed and spread the indigenous dog.

There are a lot of sources of pride in Jinphungsan. As she has good ears, Jinphungsan recognizes the sound of footsteps and mobile phone of her master and rushes out to greet her owner.

Since she eats nothing before the owner gives food, she once starved all day long for the owner's carelessness. The dog transmits her intention to her owner by regulating her howling tone.

Her puppies are known as master hunters.

"Myong -

phungsan of Sin hunts so well that it killed over 30 wild boars in three years," said Paek Jong Ryol living in Thosan County of North Hwanghae Province.

According to Paek, when they detect wild boars and other games, Phungsan dogs, unlike ordinary hounds, do not bark but rush into target animals like an arrow to bite their throat until they breathe their last.

"The main thing in widely breeding Phungsan dogs of good stocks is to properly preserve their lineage," Sin said, adding that she makes Jinphungsan mate with the ones that won the annual Phungsan dog show to produce young.

After weaning the puppies are sent to different regions.

Quoting a folk idiom "One is glad to send away one's pigs, but sad to send one's dogs", Sin said that she would tour various areas to see Phungsan pups or make a phone call to those who have taken puppies from her to know about their growth.

"Love for Phungsan is the unanimous feeling of all the Korean people, I think. Our family will work hard to widely spread the dogs," said Sin.

By Choe Yong Nam PT



CHOE YONG NAM / THE PYONGYANG TIMES
Sin Tong Suk (left) and her son in Sariwon, North Hwanghae Province, stroke Phungsan, national dog of the DPRK.

NURSERY

Kindergarten known for raising music prodigies

"The audience was quite mesmerized by their charming performance." "I have seen the bright future of the DPRK through the wonderful performance."

These are what the organizers of the 16th Moscow Meets Friends International Festival held in Moscow of Russia late last year said after seeing Korean children's *oungum* quartet.

The six-year-old children from the DPRK were extolled by the audience as they distinctively represented Korean folk song *Arirang* and the quodlibet of Russian songs with the clear, elegant, soft and original tone and diverse techniques of the national musical instrument of *oungum*.

They were all from Kyongsang Kindergarten in Pyongyang.

By Song Jong Ho PT



KIM YONG CHAN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES
Children of Kyongsang Kindergarten rehearse an *oungum* quartet.

FISHING

Angler enjoys midwinter fishing

Probably catching fish by opening a hole in the frozen river gives people a taste for angling in winter.

"Angling is the most cheerful amusement, I think," says Kim Chon Ho, an old man living in Pulgungori-dong No. 1, Pothonggang District, Pyongyang.

Ordinary people may say they are "out of their mind", but many anglers spend the whole day standing on the ice from early morning in the dark till late in the evening.

They all have an urge to go out to the middle of the river and catch a big fish if the rivers are frozen deep.

Kim Chon Ho has frequently ridden on the winner's podium at the annual anglers' competition of Pyongyang.

According to him, after his retirement, he developed an interest in angling and has never "laid down" his fishing rod even a day for eight years since then.



"It is interesting to catch a fish with a fishing rod, but the pleasure of pulling the fishing-line while feeling the fish pull at the hook hanging down below the hole on the ice really beggars description," he says.

Kim admits that as fishes do not eat much feed in winter, it is not easy to catch fish, but he says he would not return home empty-handed if he finds the place where fishes are wintering or the way they are moving.

He seems to have got the knack of it.

By Ri Sung Ik PT

RELATIONS

DPRK-Vietnam friendship reaches new heights

Jan 31 was the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the DPRK and Vietnam.

The relationship between the two countries was forged and strengthened in the joint struggle against the imperialist aggression and for the accomplishment of the cause of socialism.

The DPRK has given positive material and moral support and encouragement to the Vietnamese people in their efforts to achieve the country's complete victory and reunification, defend the gains of the revolution and

build socialism, while Vietnam has rendered support to the just cause of its counterpart.

Today, the bilateral relations of friendship have reached new heights.

Last year, Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un paid an official goodwill visit to Vietnam and affirmed his will to further develop the bilateral relations of friendship and cooperation as required by the new era and work together in the struggle for providing the peoples of the two countries with well-being and future.

Vietnamese President Nguyen

Phu Trong said that the nation always remembers and is thankful to the DPRK for having rendered great support to the struggle for the independence of Vietnam and national liberation, expressing his stand to always attach importance to the bilateral relations and bolster up the relationship between the two Parties and the two countries in the interests of the peoples of the two countries and for regional peace and stability.

At present, the Vietnamese people are striving to attain the "goal for rich people and a prosperous, democratic, fair and

civilized state" under the banner of socialism, closely rallied around the Communist Party of Vietnam in the face of intricate international situations.

The world's leading rice producer and exporter, Vietnam continues to increase agricultural production while systematically expanding state investment in the agricultural sector.

It set a goal to increase state investment in the development of modern science and technology and train over a million technical personnel.

The DPRK values the relationship between the two countries which have always supported and cooperated with each other in the struggle for socialism, and wishes Vietnam greater successes in socialist construction.

By Min Chol PT

continue to make a greater contribution to joint security for some months or years so as to cement the alliance.

Experts describe the remarks as a signal demanding Japan increase the cost of the US military presence in the country.

"Joint security" is also meaningful as it relates to not only Japan's security but also the US'.

The dispatch of Japan's Maritime SDF to the Middle East entered the full-scale practical stage late last year, and if it is fully realized the US Navy will have a reliable allied army in the Mideast waters and the regional situation is likely to arise as a world problem.

Experts comment that the much-hyped "strong and steady Japan-US alliance" will only compel Japan to act on US demand.

By Om Ryong PT

for habitation or stopover and, especially, the Mundok migratory bird sanctuary in South Phyongan Province, was listed as one of the Ramsar wetland sites and East Asian Australasian Flyway network sites.

The DPRK is conducting various activities for the survey of and research into wetland ecosystem, the establishment, protection and management of wetland reserves and the rational use of wetland resources.

By Choe Yong Nam PT



BY COURTESY OF THE NATURE CONSERVATION UNION OF KOREA
Flocks of migrant birds fly over the coastal area in Ansong-ri, Onchon County, Nampho.

COMMENT

What's behind 'strong alliance'

On Jan 12, Japan and the US staged a military exercise supposedly to jointly repulse the enemy that landed on a solitary island at the Narashino drill ground in Japan's Chiba Prefecture.

According to *Tokyo Shimbun* newspaper, the Japanese defence minister told journalists that the US troops also took part in the drill and he reconfirmed the solidity of the bilateral alliance.

The Prime Minister and chief of the Cabinet Secretariat of Japan on recent public occasions eulogized the alliance as a "stout pillar for defending peace in Asia, Indian-Pacific and the rest of the world".

Abe proceeded to point to

the need for the partnership to develop into a pillar defending security in outer space and cyberspace in a show of his intention to buckle down to diversifying the alliance.

There is a reason why Japan hypes the "strong and steady alliance" at home and abroad.

In the past two years, the insular country dreamed of entering the international arena as a dignified normal state. But the situation did not develop as it wanted. It has completely been excluded from the trend and handling of the rapidly changing regional situation.

Therefore, Japan wants to take the initiative in the control of the regional situation even by provoking territorial disputes in

surrounding islands and to build a military power with the help of the "reliable guardian".

The US has also kept pace with Japan on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the bilateral security treaty.

It dispatched over 80 troops to the exercise involving more than 600 members of the Ground Self-Defence Force and the American chargé d'affaires in Tokyo relayed a congratulatory message from President Trump to Abe in a celebratory function.

The US chief executive in the statement issued on Jan 18 said it was essential to further bolster up and strengthen their alliance, adding he was convinced that Japan would

WETLAND

Wetland protection ensures future of mankind

February 2 is World Wetlands Day.

According to information available, nearly 120 000 species of plants and animals are living on wetlands worldwide and more than 40 percent of the total living species inhabit there.

And three billion people around the world live by relying on wetlands. Considering that the profit to be gained by humans from the natural environment is 100 percent, it is said that the share taken by wetlands accounts for 45 percent.

However, wetland destruction persisted in recent years, resulting in a sharp reduction of wetlands.

An international environmental organization said that the wetlands on the earth saw a 35 percent decrease in the period between 1970 and 2015, and over 24 000 hectares of wetlands

are destroyed and lost each year. Such a reduction is posing serious threats to living creatures inhabiting wetlands, producing negative effects on biodiversity conservation.

The reduction of creature species due to wetland destruction, or the reduction of biodiversity, is not merely a matter confined to the extinction of a few species of creatures, but a serious problem destroying the balance of the world's ecosystem and, furthermore, posing a real menace to human existence.

The theme for this year's World Wetlands Day is "Wetland and biodiversity", and the ecosystem requires mankind to proactively turn out in wetland protection.

The DPRK's ecosystem is very rich as it is blessed with rivers and streams, especially Taedong,

Chongchon, Amnok and Tuman rivers, as well as Lake Chon on Mt Paektu and other lakes and reservoirs, coastal lakes and rice paddies.

Hundreds of thousands of migratory birds fly to the east and west coasts of the DPRK

Briefly

Russia

Russian defence ministry denounces US

The Russian defence ministry in a recent statement strongly criticized the US for its persistent armed provocations that violate international law, infringe the sovereignty of nations and threaten regional stability and security, saying the US is straining the situation in the Middle East.

China

President Xi calls for protecting people's lives

Chinese President Xi Jinping in a meeting of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on Jan 25 said the centralized and unified leadership of the Party central committee should be strengthened under the grave situation of the infectious pneumonia caused by a novel corona virus.

If the Chinese go through difficulties with firm conviction and execute preventive and curative medical care scientifically, they will emerge victorious in the campaign against the epidemic, he noted.

Japan

Most Japanese say nay to constitutional revision

According to the Jiji news agency's nationwide survey conducted on the constitutional revision in Japan between Jan 10 and 13, the respondents who opposed the revision under the Abe regime accounted for 45.9 percent, or a 4.6 percent increase as compared to the survey result of August last year.

Cuba

Cuban FM voices support for Venezuela

The Cuban foreign minister in an article on his Twitter account on Jan 20 expressed the invariable stand of the Cuban government to support the Bolivar revolution, saying that the US will be unable to check Cuba's support for and solidarity with Venezuela by dint of any lies.

Iraq

Iraqis call for US withdrawal

In response to an Iraqi clergyman's appeal for a million-strong protest action against the stationing of US forces, thousands of people on Jan 24 called for withdrawal of the US troops.

TABLE TENNIS

Korean women paddlers qualify for 32nd Olympics

DPRK women table-tennis players, Kim Song I, Kim Nam Hae, Cha Hyo Sim and Pyon Song Gyong, qualified for the 32nd Olympics in the 2020 ITTF World Team Qualification Tournament.

The qualifiers for the Olympics, which opened in Portugal on Jan 22, drew men

and women players from over 30 countries and regions including the DPRK, India and Sweden.

KCNA

ELDERLY

Senior citizens eagerly involved in sporting activities

Aged people doing sports are seen everywhere in Pyongyang.

Kim Yong Gil, staffer of the Central Committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea, said that most of the visitors to sports parks were young people until a few years ago, but more and more old people come there today.

In the past, children generally prepared fishing rods or other simple amusement equipment for their parents when they were old enough to retire from their work. But at present they hope that their old parents spend their remaining years happily as they present them with badminton rackets and small amplifiers so that they can play badminton and dance at parks.

The Central Committee of the Korean Federation for the Care of the Aged hosts the badminton tournament of elderly citizens in Pyongyang every year to mark the International Day of Older Persons with an aim to encourage the older persons' zeal for sports.

Last year, men aged between 60 and over 70 and women aged

from 55 to over 67 were allowed to take part in the tournament. Among them, Ri Sang Hun, 79-year-old man living in Kyongnim-dong of Central District, and Song Jong Ok, 71-year-old woman from Puksac-dong, Moranbong District, were the oldest among others.

There were some couple players among the aged contestants. Yun Jong Su and his wife Pak Sun Hui won the men's and women's singles respectively, while Im Se Hyok

and his wife Hwang Song Hui entered the rankings in the mixed doubles to draw the attention of spectators.

Ra Min who had competed in last year's tournament together with his father Ra Hyon said that it became a routine for his father to run on Moran Hill and play badminton in a sports park every early morning and evening, adding sports give his father youthfulness.

By Ri Myong Jun PT



RI SUNG IK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES
Aged people play badminton on Moran Hill in Pyongyang.

RELICS

Buddhist image from early Koryo period unearthed

A research team of the History Faculty of Kim Il Sung University and the Archaeology

Institute of the Academy of Social Sciences has discovered a stone Buddhist image from



A stone Buddhist image (left) and relics unearthed in Songhyon-ri, Onchon County, Nampho.

the period of Koryo Kingdom at Songhyon-ri of Onchon County, Nampho City.

The stone Buddhist image made by processing white granite consists of body part, which is 235cm high, 84-91cm wide and 22-26cm thick, and a stand made of a pentagonally trimmed monolith which is 140cm long in the facade, 113cm wide in the flank and 23-24cm thick.

During the excavation, fragments of roof tiles and pottery, iron arrowhead, metallic currency and other relics from the period of Koryo were also found.

Scholars estimate it as the image of Yaksayorae, given that the Buddha tucks a gallipot up in his hands.

The survey and analysis results showed that the Buddhist image was erected in the early period of Koryo, or the early 10th century AD.

By Jong Chol PT

TRAINING

System in place to train reserve players



A player jumps to shoot during the men's basketball match for the recent 46th Sobaeksu Prize national schoolchildren's games.

The laudable achievements made in the past 20 years are unthinkable apart from the well-knit reserve player training system in the country.

The country has worked to make sports mass-based and part of everyday life since its liberation. Everybody is encouraged to take an active part in sports activities to build up physical strength and the schoolchildren with aptitude for sports are selected and trained as reserve athletes.

Those with brains, good physical preparedness and suitable physical constitutions are selected, and basic technical education is intensified to systematically train promising reserve players.

Many schoolchildren hone different sports skills according

to their hobbies and liking at juvenile sports schools, sports groups of primary, junior and senior middle schools and football classes of schoolchildren's palaces and halls across the country.

They gain experience and improve technical skills through the annual national games of juvenile sports schools, schoolchildren's sports contest and other tournaments.

The training system has borne good fruit, making locals optimistic about the prospect of the country's sports development. It is evidenced by good successes made last year at the Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships and other international events.

KCNA

ACUPUNCTURE

Hot-needle therapy widely applied

Pyropuncture is a branch of acupuncture the Koreans created and developed through centuries of clinical practice.

The alternative medicine cures diseases by sticking red-hot needles into relevant regions or acupoints to a certain depth.

Records about pyropuncture are found in such Korean medical classics as *Hyangyakjipsongbang* (Collection of Remedies of Traditional Medicine of Korea), *Uibangryuchwi* (Manual of Traditional Medicine of Korea) and *Tonguibogam* (Encyclopedia of Traditional Medicine of Korea).

Initially, it was mainly applied to calcaneal diseases.

"Pyropuncture has a wide application in clinical practice as it combines medical effects of both acupuncture and moxibustion. Though originally

used in the treatment of simple ailments, it is now applied to more than 200 diseases," said Yu Jang Chun, head of the Koryo treatment lab of Phyongsong University of Medical Science.

The acupoints and regions are selected in the same way as in acupuncture, except for some surgical indications. But it is a common practice to select focuses and painful points.

The hot needles are, as a rule, inserted and pulled out instantly, but sometimes they are left stuck in the skin for a while.

The depth of sticking is slightly different according to symptoms, constitutions, ages and anatomical structure of the regions.

Pyropuncture was inscribed as an element of national intangible cultural heritage in 2015.

By Kil Chung Il PT

