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## Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un cuts ribbon to inaugurate spa resort

A ceremony took place on Dec 7 with splendour to inaugurate the Yangdok Hot Spring Resort.

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, attended the ceremony.

A comprehensive spa treatment service facility and multi-functional sports, cultural and recreational complex conducive to improving public health and leisure activities, the Yangdok Hot Spring Resort is another gift the Workers' Party of Korea presents to the people.

The service personnel of the Korean People's Army and other builders completed the resort as big as a city at a level high enough to represent the nation's hot spring culture in less than a year.

The ceremony was attended by Choe Ryong Hae, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, first

vice-chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and president of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly, and Pak Pong Ju, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, vice-chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and vice-chairman of the WPK Central Committee.

Present there were Kim Yong Nam, Yang Hyong Sop, Choe Yong Rim, Kim Ki Nam and Choe Thae Bok, veteran cadres who have worked for

a long time at the important posts of the Party and the government.

Also present there were Pak Kwang Ho, Ri Su Yong, Pak Thae Dok, Pak Thae Song and Kim Yong Chol, vice-chairmen of the WPK Central Committee, Kim Tu Il, chairman of the South Phyongan Provincial Committee of the WPK, officials of the WPK Central Committee, officials concerned, builders, employees of the resort management station and officials, working people and children in South Phyongan Province

including Yangdok County.

Also seen among the participants were Army General Pak Jong Chon, chief of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army, and other KPA commanding officers and soldier builders.

Choe Ryong Hae made an inaugural speech.

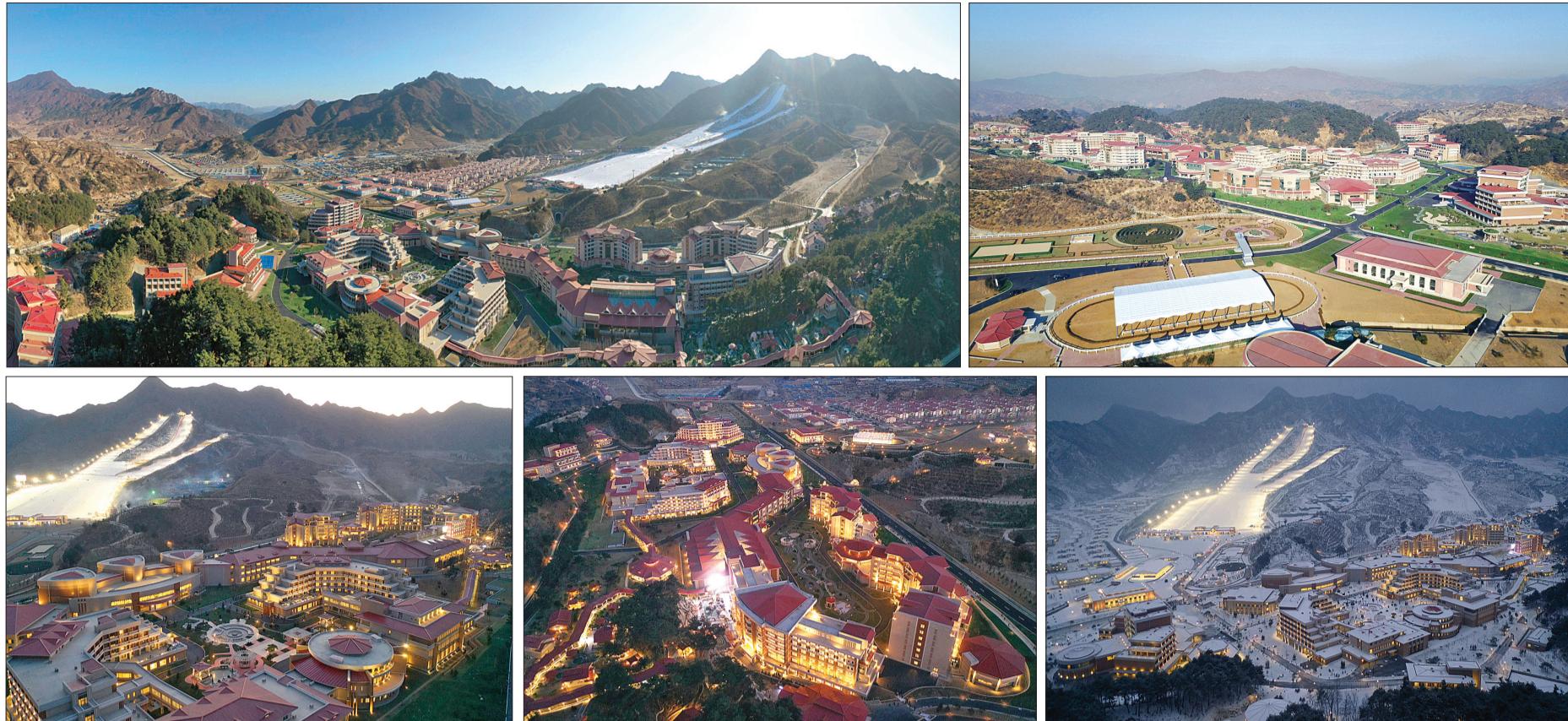
He said it is a significant event heralding the successful conclusion of this year's nationwide efforts and giving great pleasure to the people throughout the country that the hot spring resort

has been built in the Yangdok area in a distinctive style as intended by the Party.

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un proposed the development of a resort where visitors can have hot spring bath and enjoy skiing and horse-riding, which no one had ever thought of, and energetically guided the whole process of its construction so that it was built at the top quality level, he said.

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## Resort: Supreme Leader attends ceremony to inaugurate spa resort

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The successful completion of the resort is a clear manifestation of the might of the single-minded unity of Juche Korea in which the leader and the people overcome any tough challenges with united efforts and a great victory of the line of self-reliance which demonstrated to the world once again that it can achieve steady development and prosperity even in the worst adversity, he noted.

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un cut the ribbon and looked round the resort.

Feasting his eyes on the view of the resort, he said that now it has become possible to bring into reality

the desire of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il who had always been anxious to build a holiday resort for the people in the Yangdok area which has been famous for hot spring.

He was very pleased that he has become able to provide the people with a new field of cultural and leisure activities and that another plan of the Party for making the people enjoy socialist civilization to their heart's content as early as possible has been implemented.

He gave detailed instructions on how to improve service, looking at the working people who had a hot spring bath in the indoor hot spring pool.

In the general ski service building he saw ski equipment in front of a paraphernalia service counter and said that the people would be very happy to enjoy skiing as they have spa treatment.

He went up to the top of the skiing ground by a chairlift and had a big smile on his face as he gazed at the young people skiing down the steep slope.

Then he made his way to the horse-riding park and training ground to see schoolchildren enjoy horse-riding and posed for a photograph with them.

The WPK is the guide ushering the people into modern civilization, the Supreme Leader said, adding that the completion of the Yangdok Hot Spring Resort is the brilliant fruition only the WPK facing all challenges standing in its way with the most correct leadership could bring to.

He was very pleased to provide the people with a new hot spring culture, hot spring civilization, and he was more pleased that the Korean People's Army soldiers have created such civilization with their own hands, he said. It is a miracle which could be performed only by the KPA

that carries out the order of the leader without fail like a strong gust of wind, the KPA has done another proud job for the people and it is flawless, he noted with great satisfaction, and showed warm love for the soldier builders.

The KPA has fulfilled its duty as the creator of the people's happiness and pioneer of civilization, he said, adding that it is a token of the great trust of the Party to call it to such a huge project for creation, the worthwhile undertaking for creating the people's happiness and that it has to heartily respond to the Party's call in the future, too.

That day Kim Jong Un had a photo session with the commanding officers of the units and sub-units of the Korean People's Army who took part in the building of the Yangdok Hot Spring Resort.

*Compiled from KCNA*

## CONSTRUCTION

# Yangdok Hot Spring Resort project completed

Thanks to the "The people are my God" idea and energetic leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea, the remote mountainous area of Yangdok has turned into a splendid hot spring resort.

The Korean People's Army service personnel and other builders worked a construction miracle by wonderfully building in less than a year a comprehensive spa treatment facility and multi-functional sports, cultural and recreational complex which will contribute to improving advanced civilization of the people and public health.

The Yangdok Hot Spring Resort, in which modern service facilities, single- and multi-storey dwelling houses, skiing ground, horse-riding park and others incorporating plastic arts and artistic and greening

techniques and perfect in terms of connectivity and practicality are laid out in a nature- and environment-friendly way, is a model of Korean-style architecture and construction which embodies the Juche-oriented idea of architectural beauty with the people-first and Korean nation-first principles as its core.

The hot spring resort is a proud creation in the new era, which was erected by the noble love for the people and energetic leadership of Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un.

With an intention to ensure the people enjoy cultural and leisure activities to their heart's content while having hot spring bath and doing skiing and horse riding, he studied in depth the distribution chart of hot springs across the country and visited many places

for the development of a hot spring resort.

He visited the hot spring area in Yangdok County in August and October 2018 and chose the Onjong-ri area as the suitable place for hot spring recreation. Then he put forward a plan for building a comprehensive hot spring resort conducive to improving public health and cultural and leisure activities of the people.

He said the resort should be developed at a level high enough to represent the hot spring culture of the country, clearly indicated the correct directions and ways to complete its construction in the shortest time and took measures to send strong building forces and supply enough materials.

The Supreme Leader said that only when the Korean People's Army undertakes the

construction project, can it proceed at a fast pace as planned and desired by the Party.

When he visited the construction site in April this year, he said that the people would like it if a skiing ground was built nearby and solved all problems arising in building it.

The successive field inspections in August, October and November brought about gigantic creation and change, stoking up the enthusiasm for creating a new culture for the people at the construction site.

The Supreme Leader saw up to 2 000 building plans for the resort to make sure that it was built into a model and standard of modern architecture, in which the Juche character, national identity and originality created perfect harmony.

His outstanding leadership

was the driving force behind the successful completion of the project.

KPA officers and men and the South Phyongan and Kangwon provincial populations launched the building project in Yangdok in November 2018, all the builders performed miracles and innovations every day and ministries and national agencies upgraded local industry factories, contributing to strengthening the material and economic foundations of Yangdok County.

The miraculous victory that crowned the efforts of the Korean people this year etched in history the philosophy that the people-first principle, the great idea of self-prosperity and leadership of the WPK are ever-victorious in any tempest and that socialist Korea, in which all the people advance in high spirits single-mindedly united behind their leader, will prosper forever.

*Compiled from KCNA*

## LEAD

# The great life of people's leader

It has been eight years since the whole country was grief-stricken over the demise of Chairman Kim Jong Il (Dec 17 2011).

The revolutionary career of the Chairman was, indeed, a lifetime of the people's leader who devoted his all to them, regarding the idea of "The people are my God" as his lifelong motto.

The beloved country and people were always kept in his mind throughout his life.

He got the greatest pleasure in their joy and found the worth of his life in their happiness, taking hardships as delight for the good of the people.

He made tireless efforts while going on with his field guidance tours throughout the country till the last moment of his life to hasten the day when the Korean people would lead a happy life in a thriving socialist country.

The flames of industrial revolution in the new century, the landmark event of breaking

through the cutting edge and the mushrooming of monumental structures of lasting value were closely associated with his wise leadership and legends of love for the people.

Even in December 2011, the last month of his life, he spent every day with great devotion to his people.

On the first Sunday of the month he visited the Kaeson Youth Amusement Park despite the cold wind to examine every amusement facility favoured by the people. On December 15 he inspected the Hana Music Information Centre and the Kwangbok Area Supermarket. He told officials that despite cold weather he felt warm to see the supermarket filled with products, saying he was very pleased whenever he did something for the people and he found his happiness and joy in theirs.

Even on the last day of his life, he found himself on a people-bound train.

Indeed, his mind was filled with the word "people", which encapsulated his whole life.

Therefore, when they received the sad news about his sudden death, the Korean people wailed bitterly as they could not forget the lifetime of the fatherly leader who made painstaking efforts for the good of the people until the last moment of his life. When the vehicle carrying his bier passed through streets, they crowded round it to turn the streets into a sea of tears.

In the past eight years of immense yearning for him, the Korean people keenly realized how great father they had had and believed once again that the socialist system he added brilliance to by dedicating his life is the cradle of their eternal life.

His noble revolutionary career is shining even today in the hearts of all the Koreans.

Hong Jong Mi

## VISIT

# Senior officials visit reconstructed Yangdok county town

Pak Pong Ju, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, vice-chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and vice-chairman of the Central

Committee of the WPK, visited Yangdok county town on Sunday.

Among the visitors were Pak Kwang Ho, Ri Su Yong, Pak Thae Dok, Pak Thae Song and Kim Yong Chol, vice-chairmen

of the WPK Central Committee.

Looking round the exhibits in the room dedicated to education through revolutionary relics, they recollect the noble intention of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il who wrote a history of love for the people through their field guidance for the development of Yangdok.

Having a bird's-eye view of the hot spring sanatorium area in the county town at the observation platform, they realized once again that under the wise leadership of Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un a new field of cultural and leisure activities has been opened up for the people.

They looked round different places which were built in a unique style to demonstrate the level of creation and civilization in the era of the Workers' Party.

Compiled from KCNA



The vice-chairmen of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea look round the recently inaugurated Yangdok Hot Spring Resort in the DPRK's South Phyongan Province.

# Samjiyon elevated to city

The Presidium of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly announced Decree No. 171 on Tuesday on promoting Samjiyon County to a city.

According to the decree, Samjiyon county town is to be divided into four dongs

of Kwangmyongsong, Pegaebong, Ponnamu and Ikkal, and Paektusanmillyong Workers' District is renamed Paektusanmillyong-dong, Rimyongsu Workers' District Rimyongsu-dong, Ohomultong Workers' District Ohomultong-

dong, Sinmusong Workers' District Sinmusong-dong, Phothae Workers' District Phothae-dong and Mubong Workers' District Mubong-dong.

Compiled from KCNA

## REMEMBRANCE

# Great teacher of Juche-oriented arts

Over four decades ago Chairman Kim Jong Il provided guidance for the creation and development of the Korean cinematic art.

In particular, he gave detailed guidance over the whole process of the production of feature film *The Flower Girl*.

The original of the film was its namesake revolutionary opera President Kim Il Sung had created in 1930.

I was a mountain girl fresh from middle school when I was recruited as a film actress and assigned to play the heroine in the new film.

As he referred to the need for a newcomer who had never acted in movies to play the heroine, the Chairman chose me as the lead, saying I was nearly up to the standard as I was naive and simple.

The script dealt with the misfortunes of a farmhand's family that could be found in every rural village in Korea at the time when it was under Japanese military rule. But as I had never experienced the life of the time, I did not know even how to put on straw scandals.

Saying I might be unaware of those things as I led only a happy life, he gave instructions on every detail of scenes from the costume to props and makeup as well as the living of those days.

Under his meticulous guidance, I could perfect my acting with simple and unaffected representation.

As soon as the film was released, it caused a sensation. And in 1972 it won the special prize and medal at the 18th Karlovy Vary International Film Festival in Czechoslovakia.

The box-office success earned me the title of Merited Actress at the age of 17.

The Chairman told me to study, saying without study there could be no further progress, and took a measure for me to study at the then Pyongyang University of Cinematic Arts. Even after my graduation, he gave guidance to the production of several feature films starring me and helped me perfect my acting.



My playing as the lead in a sequel to multi-part feature film *The Nation and Destiny* can be said to be the acme of my career.

At that time, I tried not to miss every detail, working hard to give a lifelike portrayal to every scene.

The Chairman, who had paid close attention to the production of the multi-part feature, was the first to see the sequel when it was completed and praised me on different occasions, saying I attained maturity in acting.

After the film was screened, I received lots of complimentary phone calls and scores of letters.

Whenever I got congratulations and encouragement, I looked back with pride on the days of my acting career I spent under the guidance of the great teacher of the Juche-oriented arts.

Chairman Kim Jong Il was my great mentor and benevolent father who led me step by step along the road of success as a film actress. And as a result, I could be one of the first winners of Kim Jong Il Prize and be honoured with the title of People's Actress.

With the eighth anniversary of his passing drawing nearer, my yearning for him gets more intense and I harden my resolve to repay the favour shown by him.

**Hong Yong Hui**, winner of Kim Jong Il Prize and People's Actress of the Korean Film Studio

# Crucial test conducted

An all-important test took place at the Sohae Satellite Launching Ground late on Dec 7, said a spokesman for the DPRK Academy of Defence Sciences.

He said that the academy reported the successful test

results to the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

The test results will do much to upgrade the strategic status of the DPRK in the near future, he said.

Compiled from KCNA

## LIGHT INDUSTRY

# Sought-after products on increase

The level of demand of the people for consumer goods is growing on a constant basis along with the development of the times.

What kinds of products are most sought-after among the people?

There may be several answers to this question, but the most important point is that people like quality products that rely on local efforts, technology and resources.

This year, light-industry factories and enterprises and various other units made positive efforts to modernize equipment. Of particular note is that they have closely combined the modernization of equipment with the improvement of quality of products.

The Sinuiju Cosmetics Factory renovated toilet set, dyeing material, perfume and plastic container production processes and newly added modern toilet soap production facilities in a little over a year. It put much effort to the establishment of a system that can strictly analyse quality indexes of products. And it continued to update equipment according to the analysis of quality indexes in order to ensure the quality of cosmetics at a high level.

The Pyongyang Children's Foodstuff Factory applies the waste heat of steam generated in production to drying soybeans so as to save much manpower and enhance the drying capacity per unit hour, thus scientifically guaranteeing the quality of raw materials and products.

A dynamic campaign was conducted to share experience, overtake and model after advanced units in the effort to modernize equipment and raise the quality of products.

The competition to modernize facilities and raise the quality of products is by no means a drive prioritizing only the honour of individual unit. It is a technical competition in which everyone helps and leads one another forward and a drive to boost the production of quality goods by drawing on the experience of advanced units.

The Pyongyang Leather Shoes Factory helped the Wonsan Leather Shoes Factory with all sincerity in its efforts to produce natural leather shoes. As the latter has so far produced shoes with synthetic leather, it had no experience of making shoes with natural leather. Technicians of the Pyongyang Leather Shoes Factory went to Wonsan and gave technical guidance to designing and the rest of production processes in

a comprehensive way, helping the Wonsan Leather Shoes Factory's Maebongsan-brand leather shoes gain public favour at the autumn national footwear exhibition-2019.

An undertaking to increase the rate of domestic production of raw and other materials was also pushed briskly.

The Ryongaksan Soap Factory developed liquid soap whose main material is the fruit of *Evodia daniellii Hemsl.*, a natural oil-bearing crop in the country. The foodstuff factory in Changsong County, North Phyongan Province, produced a variety of foods by collecting a great deal of wild fruits and edible greens, while the winery in Chosan County, Jagang Province, turned out wine and other kinds of drinks with grapes, wild grapes, fruit of *Actinidia arguta*, wild pear and some other wild fruits gathered from mountains as raw materials. Sinpho City of South Hamgyong Province expanded the area of five-hectare mussel farm, which was built last year, twice this year and newly set up a process of producing soy sauce with mussel.

In the course of this, more than 110 production lines of some 50 units won the certification of management system this year and well over a hundred pieces of products received the registration certificates of February 2 Products.

**Ri Song Chol**, department director of the Ministry of Light Industry



This year's major exhibitions showcase the developments in the nation's light industry which turns out many commodities with increased diversity, improved quality and enhanced beauty.

# Exhibitions feature development of the industry

A series of exhibitions took place in the DPRK this year, which is of key significance in achieving the five-year strategic goals for national economic development, giving strong impetus to improving the people's living standards.

The spring national footwear exhibition-2019 held in March was followed by the autumn national footwear show-2019, the 30th national consumer goods exhibition and the 12th Pyongyang Department Store No. 1 commodity exhibition.

The national cosmetics show and the international agriculture and foodstuff exhibition were the first of their kinds in the country.

Many units presented lots of products in various kinds to the exhibitions, during which sci-tech presentations were given to provide a window of opportunity to learn valuable technical innovation plans and achievements made in scientific research to develop new products.

Characteristic of all these shows are the incomparably rapid increase in the kinds of products as against before and improved quality of consumer goods popular with a wide range of consumers.

"The first footwear show in October last year taught us again how high consumer demand for homemade products is and what we have to do to satisfy it. So we worked harder to develop products favoured by the people," said Jo Myong Sik, chief engineer

of the Wonsan Leather Shoes Factory, after participating in the spring national footwear show.

The autumn national footwear show drew lots of visitors every day as the exhibits grew more diversified in kind and stylish and had higher quality than the spring event.

"In the previous show actors and actresses and doctors asked for shoes they could wear on stages or at hospitals," said an official of the Sinuiju Leather Shoes Factory. "We have exhibited leather shoes for them and these are in great demand."

An official from the Haeju Leather Shoes Factory said they exhibited flat-sole leather shoes for the old people as they came to know at the spring show that they wanted such ones. They are very popular, he said, adding the factory would focus on making shoes lighter.

From the first days of opening, the exhibitions were crowded with visitors, who felt proud of homemade products which grow more diversified in kind, style, colour and other aspects.

A woman visitor from Mangyongdae District to the footwear show said the Maebongsan-brand shoes were so diversified in kind that it took her an hour to look round them and she bought shoes for her and all other family members as well.

The Sinuiju Cosmetics

Factory presented lotion, cream, nutritive emulsion and many other cosmetics which help brighten face, remove freckles and pimples, screen ultraviolet rays and retard ageing by using natural functional materials.

The international agriculture and foodstuff exhibition in November was an important occasion for stimulating the improvement of the people's living standards and promoting economic and trade dealings, scientific and technological exchanges and multilateral cooperation between nations in the fields of agriculture and foodstuff industry.

Modern multi-purpose farm machines, seeds of good vegetable species, fertilizers, agrochemicals and various kinds of health foods on show attracted interest of many visitors.

Most popular with local and foreign visitors were dozens of kinds of Kaesong Koryo insam products.

At the closing ceremonies diplomas, medals and certificates were awarded to units and products highly appreciated at the exhibitions.

The exhibitions held this year helped raise the profile of the DPRK's light industry units which concentrate on the development and production of goods that meet the taste and demand of its people by regarding public appraisal as the standard of their operation.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

## TREND

# Digital economy and informatization

With the introduction of information technology, people achieve good results in work on the basis of big data which could not be imagined previously.

Face, iris, skeleton and fingerprint recognition and machine translation programs and other artificial intelligence technologies help make human life more convenient and enjoyable.

Products are made after their quality is evaluated by a quality assessing program and everything has gone digital such as clothing, film, song and book, enabling people to lead a better life.

The DPRK has also made marked achievements in digitizing the economy and society.

A solid groundwork has been laid for turning the economy into a digital one.

An information communications network was set up involving the information centre capable of managing major information systems in a unified way and industrial establishments, thereby laying the foundations for managing information systems including the economic management information system in a centralized way and for integrating e-financial settlement, e-commercial service and socialist material exchange market. Projects were carried out for developing and applying major nationwide information systems including those for integrated power management, geographical information, land and environmental information, disaster alarm, rail transport management and statistics collection and perusal, while model integrated manufacturing



systems were established based on integrated bases for informatization.

Information service providers have also been established.

Scientific research has been put on IT basis through the parallel calculation service system and the technology transfer and advisory service system, and sectoral and regional sci-tech diffusing systems have been established with the Sci-Tech Complex as the hub and ministries, national agencies and provincial sci-tech libraries as the bases.

Various education support systems including the online education system have been introduced and projects are under way to build up a dedicated network for distributing film data of high quality and selling tickets based on booking.

The national exhibition of achievements in informatization-2019 showed a strong trend of local enterprises towards the development of the digital economy.

**Kim Mun Chol**, vice-president of the Korea IT Corporation

## MOVEMENT

# Young people inject vitality into economic drive

The Korean youth take pride in volunteering to work in youth shock brigades, which play their part in socialist economic construction, so as to dedicate their youthful life to the country.

World-startling feats are being performed at every place where there are youth shock brigade members.

Members of the High-Speed Youth Shock Brigade completed a storey of framework of a hotel in a day at the construction site of the Wonsan Kalma coastal resort, while those of the Cha Kwang Su youth shock brigade

of the Pyongyang Thermal Power Complex finished the general overhaul of four boilers ahead of schedule this year.

Ri Su Bok youth shock brigade members of the Tideland Reclamation Complex of North Phyongan Province work miracles day after day as they undertake all laborious and hard jobs in the Honggondo tideland reclamation, saying there can be no limit in the spiritual strength of young people though there are limits to the power of machines.

Young people who came to the Songnam Youth Coal Mine,

the first youth enterprise in the DPRK, from across the country to boost the production of coal formed a death-defying corps and restored hundreds of metres of a submerged pit by displaying the daring spirit of charge and secured a new coalfield which is deposited with hundreds of thousands of tons of coal.

Members of the Kang Ho Yong youth shock brigade of the Chonsong Youth Coal Mine are making a breakthrough in increasing the production of coal after carrying out the economic plan for three years till Sep 15, and those of the Ri

## SHOW

# Local building materials boom in quality and quantity

The provincial building materials exhibition-2019 took place at May Day Stadium in Pyongyang between Dec 5 and 13.

Presented to the show, which was sponsored by the State Commission of Science and Technology, were more than 66 600 products made by over 830 producers in all provinces and cities under the direct control of the government.

On display at the exhibition were building materials and their production processes presented by the producers in each province and city under the direct control, and objects designed and built with building materials they produced by themselves. Diverse forms of exchanges including the exchange of technologies and products and sci-tech diffusion were given on the sidelines of the exhibition.

The exhibition was held on the theme of "Making better with local resources and technology". It showed well the development aspect of the building materials industry of the country which is making endeavours to contribute to protecting ecological environment and providing the people with good health and better living conditions.

The Rangnang Disabled Soldiers' Essential Plastic Goods Factory exhibited various sizes of plastic pipes and vinyl containers, the Phyongchon Daily Necessaries Factory artificial turf, the Taedonggang Building Materials Factory indoor and outdoor coating materials for various purposes, the Mirim Coloured Roofing Tile Factory earthen roofing tiles made of locally-abundant clay

and the Phyongsung Finishing Materials Company functional filling material.

"The functional filling material is highly resistant to the condition of outer wall, has high water-resisting qualities and good bond strength as compared to other products, is convenient to apply and satisfies the aesthetic need of buildings," said Kim Kuk Chol, technical instructor of the Phyongsung Finishing Materials Company, adding its lifespan is almost similar to that of buildings. "We are also going to develop and introduce a filling material for preventing crack into construction in the near future."

A health-promoting functional building material slate presented by the Pothonggang relief goods production company was the focus of attention of visitors as it helps reduce various processes in the interior execution of building and is good for human health for its air-purifying and anion-generating function, cost effective, light and simple to use.

Other standouts included automatic revolving doors,

into which decorative pattern building materials and an automatic sensor have been introduced, recycled plastic pipe made by reprocessing waste, block made of waste, dining table made from light burned magnesia, water supply pumps of all sizes, circular manhole cover and wire net fence.

Particularly most popular were exhibits, which were arranged in a unique way to represent the real living environment of office and council rooms and dwelling house by using local building materials.

Different kinds of building materials were also exhibited, including wall-decoration panel, blockboard and transporter of sand for the production of roofing tiles from Jagang Province, non-baked cement tile, antibiotic sanitary ware from North Hamgyong Province, outdoor and indoor plastic chair and multi-colour pattern paint from Kangwon Province and artificial stone floor decoration panel from South Phyongan Province.

By Kim Il Jin PT



Visitors examine door handles put on show at the provincial building materials exhibition-2019 held on Dec 5-13.

Su Bok youth shock brigade are pressing ahead with coal production without slackening the spirit of having fulfilled the national economic plan for two years ahead of schedule until September.

"We have doubled our daily plan with the spirit of defending the country which was cherished in the hearts of heroes in war days as the motive power for performing feats. Our shock brigade members have kept it as their faith to live like the heroes in the wartime," said Kang Kum Chol, leader of the Kang Ho Yong youth shock brigade.

Kim Yu Bong youth shock brigade members of the February 8 Jiktong Youth Coal Mine overfulfilled two years' economic plan every year, and this year they carried out the annual plan in three months, two years' plan in six months and three years' plan in nine

months.

Those in the Tukjang Area Coal-mining Complex are making innovations every day to become youth innovators and youth heroes in the ongoing campaign to create the Mallima speed.

"We have completed our economic plan for two years by the end of last August and are running a straight course to hit the tunnelling target for three years while making a socialist emulation drive between shifts," said Chae Chung Song, head of the Cha Kwang Su youth shock brigade.

The youth shock brigade movement that is conducted briskly in all industrial establishments and coal mines throughout the country is adding vitality to socialist economic construction.

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

## GEOPARK

# Registration of Mt Paektu area as global geopark in progress

The National Geopark Committee of the DPRK is stepping up the preparations for registering the Mt Paektu area as a global geopark.

As to this, *The Pyongyang Times* reporter Kim Rye Yong interviewed Kim Myong Gon, member and contact person of the National Geopark Committee of the DPRK, and Pak Song Chol, professor, PhD and lab chief of the institute of geology of the State Academy of Sciences.

*In connection with the Mt Paektu area's eligibility as candidate for a global geopark, would you explain its geological features?*

Pak Song Chol: Mt Paektu is a composite volcano which was formed in the course of several rounds of volcanic eruptions after the first outburst in the Miocene epoch of the Cenozoic era. It has a unique geological structure which is not found in volcanoes of other countries including the world-famous Deccan basaltic plateau in India, the Columbia basaltic plateau in the US and the volcanoes in Kamchatka of Russia and the Japanese archipelago.

The volcanic eruption in Mt Paektu was much stronger than others with its strongest eruption in the past 2 000 years being VEI>7 like that of Tambora in

Indonesia in 1815.

Moreover, the volcano is of great geological research value as it has potential danger of eruption.

Besides, in the Mt Paektu area natural elements exist in unique correlation among them, such as diverse flora and fauna associated with alpine natural environment, hydrologic dynamics originating from Lake Chon and soil that was formed by the combination of pumice eruption and alpine plants. The area is also blessed with scenic spots with curious and mysterious spectacles.

Korean experts recently conducted a field survey as part of the preparations for registering the area as a global geopark and confirmed 35 sites showing unique geological features.

*How do you estimate the state of preservation and the level of economic and cultural development of the Mt Paektu area?*

Kim Myong Gon: Mt Paektu which has been regarded as the ancestral mountain of the Korean nation is associated with the history of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle which was organized and victoriously led by President Kim Il Sung, saviour of the nation. Therefore, the area has been preserved

especially well to draw lots of tourists from home and abroad.

At present, the area is a revolutionary battle site special reserve, nature reserve and international biosphere reserve (registered thus in April 1989), and the Mt Paektu Geopark Management Committee conducts positive activities to preserve it properly.

Pak Song Chol: Samjiyon City in the Mt Paektu area has turned into a model of modern mountainous city this year and it will give a fresh impetus to the economic and cultural development of the area.

*How is the registering work going?*

Kim Myong Gon: The preparation for registration that started at the recommendation of UNESCO in 2016 is progressing apace.

The application dossier was completed and submitted to the UNESCO last month.

We hope that our application dossier will be positively evaluated through the on-desktop review by UNESCO and GGN (Global Geopark Network).

In that case, we should pass the field evaluation process by GGN experts, possibly in summer next year in consideration of the climate condition in the Mt Paektu area.

## PROFILE

## Scientist dreams to make his country better known

"My father wanted me to become a famous scientist. So I, as a child, decided to realize his wish," said Jong Kwang Hyok, researcher of the faculty of physics at Kim Il Sung University.

Born into an ordinary family in Hamhung, South Hamgyong Province, Jong made his name as a child prodigy.

His mother Kim Jong Ok recalled that the son always buried himself in books.

"My first teacher was my father and he was more like a strict teacher than a caring father," said Jong.

His father was an economist at that time and tutored Jong every day in the hope of bringing up his mathematically gifted son as a scientist.



Jong laid solid foundations of his scientific knowledge at the math geniuses' class of Hamhung Middle School No. 1 and, later, at the faculty of physics and post-graduate school of Kim Il Sung University.

He specialized in optics in the university course.

During his post-graduate course, he published a study paper entitled "Analysis of interference pattern by wavelet transformation" which was the

first of its kind in the country and received a master's degree.

Recognized as a competent physician, he went on with his study as a research student at the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) in Italy.

"Most of the research students at the centre, a world-class research institution, were from developed countries including the US and France," said Jong, adding he studied hard saving every bit of time to keep the dignity and honour of a Korean scientist.

In those days, he came to realize the importance of theoretical physics and understand the world of cross-disciplinary sciences in the course of studying his major

## DIABETES



## Toward world without diabetes

"The Diabetes Committee of Hospitals Association of Korea left an indelible mark in giving hope to diabetics and raising the public awareness of the disease," said Chairman Sin Pong Chol as he addressed the meeting held in celebration of the 10th anniversary of the DCoHAK on Dec 5.

He extended heartfelt thanks to the government, committee members, volunteers and international cooperation organizations including the International Diabetes Federation for their close interest and endeavours.

According to the estimates of the federation, there are more than 400 million diabetics around the world and the number is expected to rise to 642 million by 2040, which means that one out of ten adults would suffer from the disease by then.

In the DPRK, too, diabetes is rated as a serious disease with significant morbidity and disability rate.

The DCoHAK has made strenuous efforts to build a diabetes-free society under the nationwide support.

It set the primary and secondary prevention of diabetes, assessment of resistance to insulin, diagnosis and treatment of diabetic nervous disorder, and application of traditional medicine to the treatment of secondary diabetes as the priority research project and renovated the treatment of the disease on a scientific basis to become a trustful companion of patients in the prevention and management of diabetes and relevant complications.

It has realized the integrated management of diabetes within the boundary of the primary medical service on the basis of the universal and complete

field of study by combining it with biology and chemistry.

He often recollects Dr. Ali Hassanali who rendered unremitting assistance to him though they had different nationalities.

He contributed several study papers to prestigious international academic journals.

In the closing days of his research course, he contributed to the first-ever elucidation of the cohesive mechanism and optical property of amyloid protein and earned a doctorate.

The section chief of the doctoral thesis deliberation committee highly appreciated Jong's research findings on human ageing and dementia that had remained as a global challenge, saying that the effect of solvents including water

free medical care system of the country in order to apply the most effective method to reducing diabetes with lower cost.

In particular, it ensures that the annual nationwide epidemiological survey becomes an opportunity for teaching people the hygienic information about diabetes and ways to prevent and manage the disease, and organizes diabetes-related hygienic information activities in different ways on such occasions as World Diabetes Day (Nov 14). Recently, a mobile app was developed to support the prevention and management of diabetes.

It is paying much heed to improving the quality of medical service for the residents in the disaster-stricken areas and persons of disabilities and to laying material and technical foundations for providing the public with easy access to diabetes care.

"When the diabetes care ward under construction is completed, it will not only provide more rooms for hospitalization but also play an important part as a base for large-scale prevention, advocacy and propaganda as well as research into diabetes," said Sin.

The DCoHAK is briskly conducting sci-tech exchange and collaboration activities with international organizations and societies including the IDF.

It became a member association in the Western Pacific Region of the IDF in 2013 and won a full membership of the federation in 2014. It is promoting cooperation in the fields of academic exchange, professional training and joint programmes.

By Pang Un Ju PT

on the outbreak and progress of dementia was explained for the first time with the application of methods used in condensed matter physics.

The director of the ICTP said that he did not know the DPRK's basic education was at such a high level while praising Jong's thesis as an excellent one.

"At first, I thought that I fulfilled my dream by carrying out my father's wish, but now as a scientist, my new dream is to make the world know about the DPRK and I still have a long way to go for it," said Jong.

The 31-year-old was registered as an ICTP member this year on the recommendation of foreign scholars.

By Chae Hyang Ok PT

## ANNIVERSARY

# Exodus of Koreans from Japan marks 60 years

It has been 60 years since the mass repatriation of Koreans in Japan was realized. The world hailed it as an "exodus of Koreans from capitalism to socialism".

In the wake of Japan's defeat in the Second World War and Korea's liberation on August 15 1945, Korean compatriots in Japan hurriedly got aboard the ships heading for their homeland.

However, Japan resorted to every means to obstruct their return home. The Japanese reactionaries even massacred thousands of them by sinking their navy ship *Ukishimamaru* by an explosion on August 24 1945.

Many of compatriots who went to south Korea leaving the cursed alien land were compelled to return to Japan as they could not bear to live in their native places where foreign occupation forces styled themselves masters and treachery was rampant.

The Japanese government opened negotiations with south Korea in 1951 and forced south Korean citizenship on Koreans in Japan regardless of their opinions to forcibly send them

back to the south.

President Kim Il Sung, in his report at celebrations marking the 10th anniversary of the founding of the DPRK, stated that the fellow countrymen in Japan have the legitimate right to return to their country and it is the national duty of the Korean people to provide them with all facilities to start a new life after their return to their homeland.

Encouraged by his statement, the Koreans in Japan turned out in a vigorous struggle for realizing their repatriation. Their widespread struggle aroused support and sympathy among the world's people including the Japanese. The progressive political parties, social organizations and personages in Japan urged the government to attend to the issue of the Koreans' repatriation with sincerity.

International democratic organizations and peoples around the world voiced active support and solidarity to the just struggle of the Koreans in Japan. Therefore, the Japanese authorities were compelled to consent to the talks between the Red Cross organizations of the

DPRK and Japan in Geneva, Switzerland, and the agreement on realizing the repatriation of Koreans in Japan was signed in August 1959 in Calcutta, India.

Meanwhile, a reception committee for the repatriates was formed in the DPRK to go ahead with the preparations.

"Everywhere, I could see examples of the DPRK government's measures of compatriotism for the returnees," said a Japanese personage visiting the DPRK at the time. "A six-storey apartment building has been built in Pyongyang for repatriates to move in and lodgings and workplaces prepared for them by an agricultural cooperative near the capital city. Classes are being formed in consideration of including Korean students from Japan and, accordingly, labs and practice rooms are being enlarged at Kim Il Sung University and other universities and

colleges."

"Every December, I recollect the unforgettable day when the repatriation ship carrying the first batch of returnees set sail for the homeland," recalled a Korean residing in Japan. "Looking at the ship sent by President Kim Il Sung entering the foreign port by a wharf, we shouted in tears 'Homeland comes!' and hurrah."

The first repatriation ship departed from the port of



The photo shows a ship carrying repatriates from Japan anchored at a port of the DPRK amid the enthusiastic welcome.

## REVIEW

## Year of cooperation and solidarity around the world

The complicated year of 2019 is coming to a close.

This year has witnessed the strengthening of inter-governmental, regional and international collaboration and cooperation.

The DPRK approached the issues of inter-Korean relations and the relationship with the US on the principle of independence and bolstered up friendship, cooperation and solidarity with socialist countries and many other countries that are friendly to it.

The top leaders of the DPRK and China exchanged visits to strengthen the bonds of friendship and the DPRK-Russia summit meeting and talks were of great significance in cementing the bilateral strategic and traditional ties. Besides, the DPRK expanded and developed friendship and cooperation with Cuba, Vietnam and many other countries.

China improved cooperative relations with countries in Asia, Africa and Europe. Early in November alone, it agreed with Namibia on promoting the development of comprehensive and strategic

cooperative relations. On the other hand, it fostered cooperation and solidarity with different countries through such international organizations as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and BRICS, while resolutely reacting to the encroachment upon its sovereignty by the US.

Russia worked hard to deepen communication and practical cooperation with the DPRK, China, Belarus and other strategic states and opted to promote unity with such countries as India and Cuba and enhance regional cooperation and international collaboration.

For example, it expanded relations of economic cooperation with different countries on different occasions including the 23rd international forum held in St Petersburg. It also strived to bolster up regional and international collaboration by taking an active part in international meetings including that of the Eurasian supreme economic council, the summit of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Russia-Africa summit that

were held in October and the meeting of the council of heads of government of Shanghai Cooperation Organization members and the BRICS summit that took place last November.

Iran made endeavours to resolve the Mideast issue, asserting that it should be settled through cooperation among regional countries.

Cuba led the efforts to ensure national and regional stability and development as it boosted strategic partnership with the DPRK, China and Russia and enhanced cooperation and solidarity with ALBA member nations.

In addition, international cooperation and solidarity have been built up through different international meetings this year, including the summit meetings of the African Union and the League of Arab States and the ministerial meetings of the Non-Aligned Movement and G77.

The international community will further cooperative efforts for the development of humankind and establishment of a new international order.

By Min Chol PT

## HUMAN RIGHTS

## Genuine rights need to be respected

December 10 is World Human Rights Day.

On Dec 10 1948, the UN General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with an aim of preventing human rights abuses.

The declaration was of great significance in championing human rights and preventing abuses worldwide.

It has been 71 years since the adoption of the declaration, but genuine human rights have not yet been provided on the earth.

For example, women's human rights are severely trampled down in Japan.

Women taking most of part-time jobs are subjected to constant sexual assaults in their workplaces, but they have no place to complain about them in fear of dismissal.

The aged people are in a more miserable plight. Distressed by their hard life, they reportedly commit crimes regarding prison as a good shelter for their board and lodging for free. It is a common practice that children lose their lives under the ill-treatment of their parents.

It is the same case with the human rights situation

Niigata on December 14 1959 with 972 compatriots on board and arrived at the home port in the spotlight of the world on December 16.

Later, cargo-passenger ships *Mangyongbong*, *Samjiyon* and *Mangyongbong-92* were built to ensure homecomings and visits of Koreans in Japan. Until February 1991, over 100 000 Koreans returned to the socialist motherland from Japan in 187 batches.

Today, the Koreans in Japan are enjoying a dignified life under the guidance of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan, an organization of overseas Korean citizens.

By Om Ryong PT

By Choe Yong Nam PT

WMC

# Korean students rank first at world memory championships

DPRK students acquitted themselves in the 28th World Memory Championships held in China from Dec 4 to 8.

The championships brought together more than 500 men and women players from over 40 countries and regions.

They competed in 10 events including 15-minute memory of abstract diagrams, 30-minute memory of binaries, five-minute memory of numbers, one-hour memory of cards, 15-minute memory of faces and names and five-minute memory of historical events. And renewed world records are to be registered in the Guinness Book of World Records.

Ryu Song I won seven gold medals in the one-hour memory of numbers, five-minute memory of numbers, memory of calling numbers, 30-minute memory of binaries and others.

Kim Su Rim and Jon Yu Jong obtained four gold medals in the one-hour memory of cards,



Triumphant students pose at Pyongyang International Airport after returning home on Wednesday from the 28th World Memory Championships.

five-minute memory of cards and other events.

As a result, the DPRK students bagged 11 gold medals, lifted three gold trophies and renewed world records in four events.

With the final tally of 28 medals including eight silvers and nine bronzes, they topped

the country standings.

Ryu Song I, Jon Yu Jong, Kim Su Rim, Ri Song Mi, Jon Kum Phyong and Kim Ju Song were awarded the International Grand Master of Memory, the top prize of the championships.

*Compiled from KCNA*

## ACCOMMODATION

# Hostel adds new colour to sports village

A hostel for sportspeople was built in the Sports Village of Chongchun Street, Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang.

According to Ri Jong Guk, staffer in charge of management, the hostel which started its operation last August would help coaches and players do training and play matches while residing near the training ground.

Seeing the hostel which was built in a distinctive style in an area covering 1,279 square metres, passersby say that the emergence of a "big podium"

adds beauty to the scenery of the village where gyms stand in rows.

"The appearance of the hostel reminds us of the winners' podium. It mirrors the mind of locals wishing for only victory, I think. Therefore, I don't waste training time even a day," said Kim Hye Jong, player of the Amnokgang Sports Club.

The V-shaped hostel is divided into two blocks with the central part as its axis, forming the shape of stairs. Block A is dedicated to male players, while Block B is for female athletes.

The five-ring emblem which

is symbolic of the Olympic Games is seen on the wall of the entrance hall.

"The emblem reflects noble sportsmanship to boost friendship, unity and cooperation and achieve peace and social progress," said Ri Jong Guk.

There is a shop for the sportspeople on the ground floor.

According to attendant Kim Pom Hyang, the shop sells sports goods and daily necessities and it is favoured by sportspeople as they can purchase necessary sporting apparatuses and other goods in the hostel.

The hostel is provided with laundry and drying rooms.

"Whenever players visit us with basketfuls of training uniforms soaked with sweat, we smilingly hope they would win gold medals," said Choe Jong Hui, worker of the laundry.

There is a training ground covered with artificial turf on one side of the park in the front yard.

"I am very happy that I can jog early in the morning while having fresh air," said Jong Chol Guk of the Taeryonggang Sports Club.

*By Kwon Hyo Song PT*



PAK CHANG BOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES  
The V-shaped hostel for sportspeople built in the Sports Village on Chongchun Street, Pyongyang.

## WEIGHTLIFTING

# Athletes win gold medals at 2019 IWF World Cup

DPRK weightlifters Pak Jong Ju and Ri Song Gum won gold medals in the 2019 IWF World Cup that began on Dec 10 in China.

The event brought together more than 110 men and women players from more than 20 countries and regions including the DPRK, Uzbekistan and Romania.

On Dec 10, Pak Jong Ju jerked 175kg in the men's 67kg category and Ri Song Gum 118kg in the women's 49kg division to take the first place respectively.

Ri came third in the snatch and finished runner-up in total

standings and Pak won the third place in total.

O Kang Chol bagged a bronze medal in the men's 73kg snatch.

On Dec 11, Rim Un Sim snatched 112kg and jerked 138kg to win three gold medals with a total of 250kg in the women's 71kg category.

In the women's 59kg event Choe Hyo Sim took the first place in the snatch and finished runner-up in the jerk to come first in total, thus bagging two gold medals.

*Compiled from KCNA*

## ICE SPORT

# Ice hockey event held for Osandok Prize Games



RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

A scene from the women's ice hockey match between Taesongsan and Sajabong held as part the Osandok Prize Games.

The ice hockey tournament of the Osandok Prize Games kicked off at the Ice Rink in Pyongyang on Dec 5 amid the interest of experts and fans.

The men's event brought together the sports clubs of Taesongsan, Pyongyang Railway Bureau, Ministry of Fisheries, Jangjisan, Sajabong and Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex, while women's event drew the teams of Taesongsan, Ministry of Fisheries, Sajabong and Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex.

According to new rules, if two teams tie in a game, the match is to go into extra time to decide a winner, said Paek Yong Nam, department director of the Ministry of Physical Culture and Sports.

That day, there was a match between Sajabong and Ministry of Fisheries.

The ministry team opened the scoring with three-men combination in the 2nd minute.

Sajabong players tried to

mount counterattacks as they strengthened defence, but failed to make up for loss.

In the women's match between Taesongsan and Sajabong on Dec 10 the former outrivalled the latter.

Every team has so far had two matches and men of Taesongsan, Ministry of Fisheries and Pyongyang Railway Bureau and women of Taesongsan have notched six points respectively to lead other teams.

"All the teams have achieved remarkable progress as compared to before. For example, whereas the ratio of the numbers of goals scored to those of attacks of Taesongsan was at the 40 percent level in previous games, it has now reached 60 percent," said Ro Min Gyu, official of the Ministry of Physical Culture and Sports.

The tournament will last until Dec 21.

*By Ri Sung Ik PT*

